

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.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

An ultimatum has been delivered to Finland that unless the Finns cease military operations by 3/12 H.M. Govt. will declare a state of war with Finland. However, the date has already been postponed to 5/12 and may be postponed again. Instructions were issued today regarding the treatment of Finnish ships in the event of war.

A fire occurred on the surface of the water at Rosyth this afternoon, apparently due to fuel oil, but little or no damage was caused to any of H.M. ships or the dockyard.

Yarmouth was closed on account of fog from 0905A to 1315A today.

At 2300 today 3 M.T.Bs on patrol near Kwinte Bank Buoy had a brief engagement with 6 E-boats. No casualties and little damage are reported.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked Hamburg, Emden and Ostend. Aircraft which were unable to reach Hamburg attacked several ports in N.W. Germany.

2 Hudsons of Coastal Command this evening attacked shipping in Kristiansand (North) harbour and obtained direct hits on 2 vessels at the quayside. A 2500 ton vessel was hit off Egersund this afternoon.

Enemy Air Operations.

Nolso lighthouse was considerably damaged by air attack at 1320 today. An hour earlier a small merchant ship was slightly damaged in the Faeroes.

/Fishing ...

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations - contd.

Fishing trawler ST. LEONARD was attacked at 1320 today 20 to 25 miles N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W from Rona's Voe, and was abandoned.

ROSS (minesweeper) was attacked at 1730 and 1737 a mile N.E. of Aberdeen and returned to Aberdeen with damage caused by a bomb which passed through her fore peak and side without exploding.

S.S. LORD BYRON reported enemy air attack at 1840 5 miles S.E. of St. Govans L.V.

S.S. VESTLAND was damaged when Convoy M.H.48 was attacked at 1900 about 28 miles S.W. by S. of Bardsey Island.

S.S. CAMBRIA (Irish Mail Boat) reported being attacked in Dublin Bay at 1800 G.M.T. today.

Mining.

WESTMINSTER reports that an aircraft dropped two parachute mines, one of which exploded, about 2115, 14 miles south of the Outer Dowsing.

The Humber was closed on account of anticipated enemy minelaying, at 1950.

S.S. KIRSTEN MAERSK reports aircraft dropping mines at 1930A today in 52° 11' N. 5° 16' W.

North Atlantic.

The urgent necessity for sinking S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC justifies the risk of sinking other French ships in error. The Admiralty today gave permission for CLYDE to be used in place of the Dutch S/M O.24. If the ship sails in convoy the chance of misadventure will be accepted.

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE reported at 1746Z today that she had sunk an enemy raider resembling ELANDSFONTEIN in 27° 53' S. 3° 55' W. The enemy ship, which did not open fire, scuttled herself, and DORSETSHIRE considers she was fuelling at least two U-boats when first sighted. For this reason DORSETSHIRE did not close the ship's boats.

\*PYTHON. Gen: Supply Ship.

Mediterranean.

Force B, after proceeding to Malta left again yesterday morning with Force K. to reach by dusk a position approx. 33° 40' N. 19° 20' E., in order to destroy an enemy convoy, assisted by A.S.V. Wellington. At 2330/30 C.S.7 detached Force K. to intercept a merchant ship reported by A.S.V. Wellington; and the ship, S.S. ADRIATICO (believed to be carrying artillery stores and ammunition) was sunk by Force K. at 0330/1 in 32° 52' N. 20° (735' E.) At 0940/1 aircraft reported a destroyer and a tanker off Kerkenah Bank. Force K. intercepted and sank the tanker (MANTOVANI carrying about 10,000 tons of petrol &c.), which was already damaged by attack by Blenheims but proceeding S.E., and also sank the destroyer ALVISE DA MOSTO. Force K. suffered no damage or casualties.

V.A. Malta reports that when Force B. and Force K. are refuelled only 7000 tons of fuel will remain. He suggests that Force B. should escort BRECONSHIRE to Alexandria and that SYDNEY STAR, AJAX and CLAN FERGUSON, all 16 knots speed, should also make the passage. Force B. could escort BRECONSHIRE and tankers back to Malta.

(RADIO)

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

It is reported that the Russian Black Sea Fleet is now based on Novorossisk and Tuapse. The cruisers VOROSHILOV and CHERVONNAYA UKRAINA are both reported to have been seriously damaged by air attack.

After patrol by D14 off Derna (see 30/11) JACKAL was hit by an aircraft torpedo at 1300 in 32° 15' N. 24° 41' E, but arrived at Alexandria under her own power.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

A state of emergency was proclaimed in Malaya today.

U-Boat Campaign.

An aircraft attacked and severely damaged a submerging U-boat at 1225 today in 46° 55' N. 11° 52' W. ZULU and SIKH were ordered to proceed to investigate.

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Destroyers  
for  
Gibraltar.

My 1001A/30. Admty. 2246A/30.  
My 0135A/1st. In order to retain "H" Class destroyers in Western Approaches, further propose (a) FOXHOUND sail with W.S.14 breaking off to Gibraltar to relieve the 2nd H. (b) ANTHONY or ACTIVE whichever is ready first, sail about mid December to relieve the 3rd H. (C.in C. W.A. 1142/1 to Admty.).

Swedish  
shipping.

In accordance with your 1658/15/11 and A.C.O.S. 1714/18 HORTEN was put on Skopen Fiord patrol and was damaged by air attack on 19/11 being relieved by "Y.C.37" who was similarly damaged on 20/11. The first Swedish ship did not arrive until 21/11. Request therefore that I may be kept informed as accurately as possible of expected time of arrival at Skopen of Swedish ships in order that H.M. ships may not be unnecessarily exposed to air attacks. It is understood Swedish ships transmit their position by W/T each 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1723A/1 to Admty.).

Ultimatum  
to Finland.

Ultimatum has been delivered to Finland that unless Finns cease military operations by 3/12, H.M.G. will declare that we are in a state of war with Finland. Date has been postponed until 5/12 and further extension is possible.

2. Instructions have already been issued through Colonial and Dominions Authorities that any Finnish ship in a British port is to be detained at once by administrative methods.

3. Upon war being declared -

(a) All Finnish ships in British ports are to be detained under armed guard and reported.

(b) Subject to (c) any Finnish ship encountered at sea is to be sent into a British port under armed guard.

(c) In order to minimise interference with U.S. cargoes any Finnish ship bound for, repeated for a U.S. port should be allowed to proceed unless there are grounds for suspecting that the Master does not intend to proceed to his correct destination.

(d) Ex Finnish ships transferred to flag of any American state:-

(i) lying in a British port when war is declared should be detained pending further instructions if still manned by Finnish crew;

(ii) are, not, repeated not, to be intercepted at sea without special instructions.

4. Dutch are being asked to take parallel action. (A.C.N.S(T) 1727A/1).

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia.

Oil stock  
at Murmansk.

Your 2230C/27. Concur.  
(4th S.L. 1150A/1 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Russian  
shipping.

Your 1532D/28/11. Required movements of  
Russian ships will be signalled twice weekly.  
(D.T.D. 1728A/1 to Ad. Miles).

Defence of U.K.

Falmouth  
A/A defences.

Your 1609/26/11. C.in C. Fighter Command, has  
decided to move in one additional battery  
Heavy A.A.  
(D.of L.D. 1536A/1 to C.in C. Plymouth).

Movements.

Sail HIGHLANDER, HESPERUS to Gibraltar at best  
speed after fuelling. Route.  
(C.in C. W.A. 0135A/1 to F.O.I.C. Londonderry).  
Arrived fuelled and sailed HIGHLANDER and  
HESPERUS. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1145A/1).

RAMILLIES.

Scapa departure RAMILLIES, ESCAPADE, and  
WHEATLAND. (A.C.O.S. 0943A/1).

ROBERTS.

Your 2312A/30. Monitor must be (?under escort)  
at all times at sea and available escort must  
be used at your discretion. My 1659A/30 part 2  
last sentence is cancelled. If imperative to  
remain more than 24 hours necessary permission  
must be obtained from local authority.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1037/1 to (?) ROBERTS).

H. 31.  
H. 50.

At 2000A/3 intend to sail H.31 escorted by  
Z5 from Rothesay to arrive Lough Foyle at  
0900A/4. S.of A. 8 1/2 knots. F.O.I.C. Greenock  
is requested to arrange fighter protection.  
N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail H50  
escorted by Z5 to arrive Rothesay a.m. 5th.  
(Capt. S.7 1051A/1 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

O.14.

Intend to sail O.14 from Scapa Flow at 1630/1  
for Dundee escorted by LEICESTER CITY until  
joining convoy W.N.12 in 058° 32' N. 002° 46' W.  
at approx 1815/1st. Capt. S.9. is requested  
to arrange escort for O.14 on leaving convoy  
off Dundee.  
(A.C.O.S. 1125A/1 to Capt. S.9.).  
Sailed O.14 from Scapa in accordance with my  
1125/1. (A.C.O.S. 1635A/1).

/A.M.C.....

1. 12.1941.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. -Contd.

A.M.C.  
movements.

Following forecast of A.M.C's leaving U.K. corrected to 1/12. (S.O.W.P. 1240/1).

P.511.  
P.551.

Report whether you have met Submarine P.511 and P.551. (C.in C. W.A. 1408A/1 to DANEMAN). Report your position. CUTTY SARK will R/V you in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900A/2. T.B.R. remain in force until further notice. (Capt. S.3. 1701A/1 to P.511). (1) Intend to sail CUTTY SARK at 1930A/1 to R.V with P.511 in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900A/2 and escort her to Holy Loch. (2) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation for the return passage Holy Loch. S.of A. 10 knots. (Capt. S.3 1741A/1). Comply with my 1741A/1. Report when P.511 is met. (Capt. S.3. 1743A/1 to CUTTY SARK). Sail not later than 2000A today for escort duties given in para 4 (B) of H. L.S.77. (Capt. S.3 1814A/1 to CUTTY SARK). Sailed CUTTY SARK in accordance with my 1741A/1. (Capt. S.3. 2111A/1).

1st M/S  
Flotilla.

BRAMBLE, SPEEDY, SEAGULL arrived Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1415C/1).

Information  
FOR JACOB VAN  
HEEMSKERCK  
YORK CITY.

3 tugs towing floating cranes escorted by 2 trawlers and 2 M.L's. bound to Clyde may be met during night. (C.in C. W.A. 1451A/1 to HEEMSKERCK).

TUNA.

WHITE BEAR and TUNA will arrive at 1100A/2. (WHITE BEAR 1625A/1 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

P.36.

On completion of exercise in S ea at about 1600/3 P. 36 is to proceed through 050° 05' N. 2°W. 50° 12' N. 1° 18' W. to R/V position 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. at 0815A/4. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1849/1).

Escort for  
CLEOPATRA.

Your 1959/30. Regret no destroyers are available from Home Fleet for this duty. (C.in C. H.F. 1917A/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols.

Weather permitting carry out the following patrol operation tonight.

- (1) 4th M.T.B. Flotilla patrol 'E'.
- (2) 1st M.T.B. Flotilla patrol 'A'.
- (3) 6th M.G.B. Flotilla position 51° 40' N. 2° 50' E. taking up patrol 'O' by 0630/2 if no previous contact is made.

M.T.B's may attack surface vessels without challenge to eastward of 2° 30' E.

(C.in C. Nore. 1120A/1 to BEEHIVE).

Your 0940A. M.L's. 146 (S.O.) 148 and 152.

N.T. 7  
W.D.

Your 1127A (1) M.G.B's (L) 327 30, 321 QE and one and 2 (11) M.G.B's. (L) 320 S.O. 329 QE 4A (iii) M.L's 206 S.O. 224 and 339.

Patrol to be fixed at approximately dusk.

(N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1450A/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Departures M.T.B. 30, 32, 34, M.T.B. 18, 71, 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1632A/1).

Departure M.G.B's. 64 and 63.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1724A/1).

BERWICK  
ON SLOW  
OFFA  
ICARUS.

BERWICK's 1709C/29. On completion of operation, ON SLOW is to be detached to Hvalfjord.

2. ICARUS is to proceed to Scapa on relief by ON SLOW.

(C.in C. H.F. 1541A/1 to BERWICK).

BERWICK, ON SLOW, OFFA sailed from Murmansk.

Admiralty pass to all addresses except Admiral Miles.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1545/1 to Admty. Reptd.

C.in C. H.F. C.S.10. SHEFFIELD, HAZARD).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Vaaro and P.R.U. of Trondheim, Aalesund - Bergen in operation.

(C.in C. Rosyth 1109/1).

Bombing operations.

From day 28/11 to day 30/11 inclusive there were no operations. On night 30 Nov./1st Dec.

102 A/C reached Hamburg and dropped bombs, including several 4,000 lbs. causing several fires. A/C unable to reach the primary dropped their bombs on Westerland/Sylt, Lubeck,

Friedrichstadt, Kiel, Bremerhaven, Wilhelmshaven, Cuxhaven, Heligoland, Norderney Seaplane Base, and Schleswig.

33A/C bombed Emden, starting large fires, and 2 A/C attacked the docks at Ostend. (H.Q.B.C. 1620/1).

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Enemy Air Activity.

SKERRIES  
attacked  
on 30/11.

Master of S.S. SKERRIES. At 1220 B.S.T./30/11 when SKERRIES was 5 miles E. of Coningmore Rock she opened fire on unidentified Aircraft which attempted to fly over Vessel. She fired 4 H.E.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

SKERRIES  
attacked  
on 30/11.  
-Contd.

12 Pdr. Shell 100 rounds .308 and 100 .303.  
The A/C flew away towards Eire. It was  
Seaplane Type and had a white vertical stripe  
on tail plane. Master considers that this  
plane was in vicinity during last attack and  
appeared to be doing spotting at that time.  
This is the third consecutive time this  
vessel has been attacked.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1119A/1).

Convoy  
P.W. 72  
MACBRAE  
KNOLL on  
28/11.

British Steamship MACBRAE and Norwegian Steamship  
KNOLL report engaging enemy aircraft in 5°  
20' W. 50° 29' N. whilst sailing in P.W. 72  
at 2130A/28. No bombs dropped. Aircraft hit  
with machine gun fire.  
(N.O.I.C. Newport 1215A/1).

CAMBRIA  
attacked.

AAAA de GLV. Dublin Bay CAMBRIA attacked.  
(Seaforth Radio 1800 G.M.T./1).  
Following received.  
Addressed Admiral Plymouth.  
From Lands End Radio.  
Intercept 1812 G.M.T.  
De CAMBRIA. AAAA Seaplane last seen heading  
south from 2 miles West of Kish 1810/1.  
(C.in C. W.A. 1920/1).

ROSS  
damaged.

ROSS attacked, bombs and machine gun, at  
1730/1 and by machine gun at 1737, position  
one mile N.E. Aberdeen. ROSS now proceeding.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1837/1).  
Returned Aberdeen under own steam. Bomb  
damage. (C.in C. Rosyth 1938/1, F.O.I.C.  
Aberdeen 2003/1).  
Cancel my 1721/1. Returned Harbour.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2004/1 to A.C.O.S.).

LORD BYRON.

AAAA 5 miles S.E. St. Govans L.V.  
(LORD BYRON 1840/1 de GLD, C.C.O. Plymouth  
1943/1).  
Intercept 1835 G.M.T. AAAA 3 miles South  
east St. Govans L.V. de LORD BYRON. 1935/1.  
Lands End Radio.  
(C.C.O. Plymouth 1939/1).

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War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Bristol Channel.

Confirmation of enemy minelaying.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) Bristol Channel and Flatholm. One 28/11.  
(D.M.S. 1151A/1 to Air Ministry).

Operation "Tincture"

Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m./6 in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9.  
(D.M.S. 1357A/1 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Search by M.S.9.

62 1/2% search of QZS 117 and 151 completed over 18 1/2 cable front.  
One Acoustic mine exploded in 51° 38.2' N. 1° 45' E. by BRIDPORT.  
(M/S 9. 1445A/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Harwich

Explosion reported in vicinity B.8 at 0640. Two green mines detonated at 1250 in 51° 43.9' N. 01° 03.6' E.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1457A/1 and 1833A/1).  
Further to last para my 1457/1. One green mine detonated by sweeper at 1250/1. Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2331A/1).

Thames Estuary.

Two magnetic mines detonated at 0410/1 and 0640/1 respectively. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1511/1).

Humber.

Humber is closed to navigation. Enemy minelaying. Anticipated time of opening 1130 tomorrow.  
(F.O. Humber 1950/1).  
Following twelve mines were exploded on 30/11 by L.L. trawlers. Details.  
(F.O. Humber 2319A/1).

Off Outer Dowsing.

My 2100. A/C dropped two parachute mines. One exploded, one fell in position 174° Outer Dowsing 14 miles. (WESTMINSTER 2115/1).

Enemy Intelligence.German Main Units.

Latest known positions.  
(D.D.I.D. 1135A/1) See Lion Copy.

Three destroyers.

A report, graded B.2. received that three German Destroyers passed Hellefiord (61° 36' N. 04° 58' E.). at 1300Z/1 course north.  
(D.D.I.C. 1906A/1).

/Brest.....

HOME COMMANDS  
Enemy Intelligence

1. 12. 41  
Monday

10.A.

SECRET

M E S S A G E 1135A/1 December

OUT

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

Date. 1. 12. 41.

NAVAL CODE (L One)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

German Main Units

TIRPITZ LÜTZOW EMDEN SCHLESSEN	} } } }	At Kiel, alongside 29th November.
GNEISENAU SCHARNHORST PRINZ EUGEN	} } }	At Brest in Dry Dock 26th November.
ADMIRAL SCHEER LEIPZIG	} }	At Swinemunde 30th November.
NURNBERG		At Flensburg 30th November.
SEYDLITZ		At Bremen completing 29th November.
HIPPER		Left Kiel between 24th October and 9th November - probably in Baltic.
KÖLN		At Gdynia 29th September. Probably still in Baltic.
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN		At Hamburg 29th November.
GRAF ZEPPELIN		Left Stettin between 30th September and 15th November probably for Gdynia.

1135A/1.

D.D.I.D.  
(Green Line 8)

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)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim Admiralty House  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.T.D. (4)

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

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. -Contd.Brest.

Brest 1540/1/12. Preliminary interpretation of photographs show all three major units in usual positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1950A/1).

Navigational.Yarmouth.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0905A/1).  
Port is now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1315A/1).

White Sea  
Approaches  
A/S Nets.  
SHEFFIELD.

Repeats 1735A/14/10, 2008A/27/10, and 1530A/27/11  
(Admty.1535A/1 to SHEFFIELD).

Casualties & Defects.

TETRARCH  
KOOLGA

VERDUN's 2341/30 is passed for information. Begins:- Grimsby trawler TETRARCH sunk after colliding near 20T Buoy with KOOLGA who has three survivors. Names. Other 9 of crew missing. Have searched area without result KOOLGA holed in fore peak proceeding to Methil. 2341A/30/11. Ends.  
(C.in C. Rosyth 0918/1).

STRAIDE.

F.O.I.C. Belfast's 1656A/28/11 and 0903A/29/11. STRAIDE not arrived Oban. 14 Groups headquarters also state not arrived Kyle. Lighthouse keeper McArthurs Head Lighthouse reports not seen passing in Sound of Islay.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1158A/1).  
N.O.I.C. Oban's 1158A/1. Arrived Lochalsh.  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 1258/1).

STINGRAY

My 0915/1. STINGRAY returned to Douglas with engine defects.  
(N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 1230A/1).

VENOMOUS

Sailed VENOMOUS in tow of Harbour Tugs for Ardrossan. Thence for docking at Troon A.M. tomorrow. E.T.A. Ardrossan 1600.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1304A/1).

LADY ROSE.  
M/V 199 tons.

(LADY ROSE) dragged ashore during gale on night 28/29. Boiler room frames fractured and extensive A/S damage suffered. Frames are being repaired by H.M.S. HECLA but A/S defects are too extensive to be undertaken here. Ship will be ready for sea in about

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

LADY  
ROSE  
-Contd.

3 days. Intend sailing her direct to St. John's N.F.  
(A.C.I.C. 1307N/1).

DANEHILL  
(Harbour  
patrol  
motor boat)  
sunk.

Regret to report loss of A/P M/B DANEHILL due to fire and subsequent explosion when taking in petrol at 1500 today. Casualties, which include ratings from other vessels named, are as follows. Names. (N.O.I.C. North Shields 1826/1).

BESTUM  
(Damaged by  
A/C 22/11).

Arrivals Tugs KENIA and LADY BRASSEY towing S.S. BESTUM, salvage vessel FOREMOST 18 in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2224A/1).

Shipping & Convoys.

Times of  
sailings  
from  
Liverpool.

Your 2301A/25/11. Concur. (A.C.O.S. 1250A/1 to C.in C. Rosyth). <sup>653</sup>

W.S.14.

Admiralty's 0029A/26. <sup>685A</sup>  
(i) VANQUISHER, S.O., WITCH, VOLUNTEER are to escort ABOSSO from Liverpool to arrive Clyde dawn 6th.  
(ii) RAMILLIES, VANQUISHER, WITCH, VOLUNTEER are to sail.  
(a) From Clyde to arrive Milford Haven A.M. 7th  
(b) From Milford Haven to arrive position (x) at 1200Z/10.  
(iii) Route subject to concurrence of C.in C. Plymouth (?) QZF 18 thence to position (x).  
(iv) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is to arrange fuelling of destroyers at Ponta Delgada in accordance with Admty. 1250B/4/8. (C.in C. W.A. 1421A/1).  
On completion of escort duty with B.B.7 POZARICA is to be sailed as convenient to R/V at 1330A/6 with W.S.14. off Bar Light Vessel and act as A/A escort to Oversay R/V. (C.in C. W.A. 1826A/1).

Your 1421A/1. Concur in route. (C.in C. Plymouth 2208/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

F.N564  
EMPIRE CLIFF.

Your 1231/28. EMPIRE CLIFF not arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1449/1).

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. -Contd.

P.W.74.

BROCKLESBY is to remain with P.W.74 and escort tankers to Milford Haven. Remainder of group 'B' to proceed in execution of previous orders. Tankers now at Falmouth to join at 'D' buoy. BROCKLESBY pass to CORNELIAN.  
(C.in C. Plymouth 1502/1).

Convoy escorts.

Owing to the reduction of the 15th D.F.  
1. Escort groups (PCWO2) will each consist of trawlers without any specific destroyer as from 1/12.  
2. The destroyers will provide additional escort for important convoys.  
3. To implement this it is requested the earliest information may be given of intended sailings of category II ships so as a destroyer may be made available.  
4. It is recognised this may cause delay to certain ships.  
(C.in C. Plymouth 1518/1).

Kirkwall.

Pass to N.C.S.O's. Examination vessel has been withdrawn from North Eastern entrance to Wide Forth 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.  
(D.T.D. 1705A/1).

O.S.12.

Your 1354A. O.S. 12 not met after search, WELLINGTON in company. P.C.S. 034° 20' N. 028° 05' W. 037° 13'.  
(GORLESTON 1930Z/1 to F.O.C.N.A.).

B.B.6 H.

YORK CITY's 2000A/1. <sup>N.T. W.D.</sup> Owing to possible enemy mines laid convoy keep clear to starboard of 052° 24' N. 005° 13' W.  
(C.in C. W.A. 2152A/1 to HEEMSKERCK).

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.SCOTTISH  
defect.

Regret must leave patrol with leaking boiler tube. Can remain here about 2 hours for relief. (SCOTTISH, 0730A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
F.O.C.N.A.'s 1550 and 1741/30. Relieved by  
\*IMPERIALIST. E.T.A. 0430/2nd, passing coast wise. (SCOTTISH, 2115Z/1 to F.O.C.N.A.) (By W/T)  
F.O.C.N.A.'s 1550 and 1741/30. Relieved by CAPE TRAFALGAR. E.T.A. 0430/2, passing coast wise. (SCOTTISH 2115A/1 to F.O.C.N.A., by W/T and T/P).

*\* See next page.*CYCLAMEN.

Arrived Ponta Delgada 0815 G.M.T./1st.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0903/1 to S.O.I. Gib).

S/M  
torpedoes.

Admty. 1219A/29. For 1720B/6 read 1040B/16.  
(D.T.S.D. 1105/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SERAFIN  
TOPIC.

Your 1813A and your 1924A/29. Unless risk of sinking French shipping can be accepted consider task of identification (?imposes) (?unjustifiable) responsibility on C.O. of a Dutch S/M. (F.O.C.N.A. 1112A/1 to Admty.)

Your 1112/1. Urgent necessity for sinking this ship with her cargo of rubber justifies some risk being taken. No objection to CLYDE being used instead of the Dutch submarine. If ship is sailed in convoy, submarine must do her best and the chance of misadventure will be accepted.

(1st S.L. 2231A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1336A/30th (Not to Admty. but Admty. 1924/29 to F.O.C.N.A. refers). Further particulars from photographs (details). (Capt. S.8. 1340A/1 to S/M O.24).

ZULU.

Sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1601A/28. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1220/1 to C. in C. W.A., rep. Admty. S.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A.)

\*C. in C. W.A. 1426A/1 (instruction to proceed to position of damaged U-boat.) My P. C. and S. 050° 01' 014° 42' 148° 20, delayed by Head Sea. If no further A/C reports are received by 2000 intend to resume passage Gibraltar. Admiralty's 1249A, 5572 3157. (ZULU 1700A/1 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Your 1700A/1. Concur. (C. in C. W.A., 1931A/1 to ZULU). \* P.29.

Salvage Tug  
Azores.

My 1041/20. Still unable to obtain definite reply re SALVONIA. Fear this means request will not be approved. (N.A. Lisbon 1230/1 to Admty.)

JAY.

Arrived and bunkered. (V. Consul, Horta, 1303/1 to Admty.)

/IMPERIALIST...



War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

IMPERIALIST.

Departure H.M.T. IMPERIALIST for Y.3.  
(V.A.C.N.A. 1543A/1 to Admty.) *See previous page.*

M/V.

One Merchant Vessel 215, 15, 100, 140, 53° N.,  
12° W., 26. (HAREBELL, 1415/1 to Gibraltar  
C.C.O.).  
*? Not identified.*

LEGION.

ISAAC  
SWEERS  
(refits)

Admty. 1655A/26/11 is cancelled.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1544A/1 to S.O. Force H rep. F.O.C.N.A.  
etc.)

French  
Shipping.

French CARIMARE in ballast, CAPITA<sup>IN</sup>ME ARMAND  
Laden, PESGAGEL Laden, ALFRED light, escorted  
by LA TOULONAISE, passing eastbound. (S.O.I.  
Gib. 1545A/1 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

LONDONDERRY.

Arrived Ponta Delgada 1730 G.M.T./1st.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1630/1 to S.O.I. Gib.)

CASTILLO  
FIGUERAS.  
(Spanish).

Sailed 30th. Informed loaded 4 aeroplanes here,  
destination believed to be Spain. (Las Palmas  
1700/1 to Admty.)

A/C,  
Tangier.

Hurricane force-landed on beach 3 miles south  
of Spartel 1620. Pilot safe. Do what you can.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1736A/1, to Consul-Gen., Tangier)

LUCY  
ESSBERGER.

Alleged that (1) German Tanker LUCY ESSBERGER is  
fuelling U-boat inside harbour between 2300 and  
0100 night and (2) that a launch is supplying  
other German ships present with considerable  
quantity of foodstuff for re-distribution to  
U-boats. Please comment after careful consider-  
ation and enquiry. What is LUCY ESSBERGER's  
cargo? (S.O.I. Gib., 1808A/1 to Consul, Cadiz,  
rep. N.A. Madrid).

REGENT.  
URSULA.

Onward route. REGENT through J 038° 35' 006°  
00' E., K 037° 20' 000° 00' L. 035° 40' 002° 45'  
W. M. 035° 40' 005° 00' W., adjusting speed to  
pass through K at 0200/6 and L 0700/7 to arrive  
Gibraltar 0900/8.  
URSULA through N 038° 05' 006° 00' E., P 036°  
55', 000° 00', L and M adjusting speed passing  
through P at 0200/7 L at 0700/8 to arrive  
Gibraltar 0900/9. S/M to report on crossing  
005° E. if unable to comply with above time  
within one hour. S.B.R. arranged. S/M change  
wireless watch at 0001/6 to normal watch on  
Gibraltar broadcast shifting to read M.S.  
routines. All times zone minus 1. (F.O.C.N.A.  
2208A/1 to REGENT, URSULA)

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

O.21.

Admty. 1858A/22/10. Intend to sail O.21 for U.K. on 6th. Time and position of crossing (? 045°) N. will be signalled later. O.21 will carry 6 torpedoes. (F.O.C.N.A., 2236A/1 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN  
lost.

Regret to report that DUNEDIN has failed to return from patrol in Area H.34 C. and must be considered lost. U-Boat presumed in view of German claim to have sunk 'D' Class in Atlantic. (2) DUNEDIN failed to answer signals P.M./24 and 25th. BRIDGEWATER who was on patrol 300 miles from Freetown was ordered to search probable area which she reached on 28th. (3) CANTON was also ordered to search to N.E. from St. Paul's Rocks Area commencing on 26th then to R/V with BRIDGEWATER in position 2° N. 26° 55' W. P.M./28 and to continue search till P.M./30. Nothing has been sighted. (4) DEVONSHIRE continuing search in conjunction with her patrol of Area H.34 C for enemy surface units. (C. in C. S.A., 0155N/1 to Admty.) My 0155N/1/12. Presumably owing to sailing at very short notice ship failed to comply with App. 23 - 2 - 3A and neither ledger or copy of Cash Account was left at Freetown before proceeding to sea. Information as to changes in officer and ratings borne which are known to have taken place locally since 30/9 is being collected and will be reported as soon as possible. (C. in C. S.A. 1703N/1 to Admty.)

DERWENTDALE.

HOXA and ROMEO escorting R.F.A. DERWENTDALE arrived. DERWENTDALE proceeded in accordance with N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103Z/26. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 0403Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

/O.S.....

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

O.S. Convoy  
Routes.

Your 1439A/30/11. Concur with these proposals.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1204N/1 to Admty.)

Durban  
Sector  
System.

A.M. 2329A/23/11. If not already done N.L.O.  
Durban should start organising the Sector System  
for that port. It should be in operation by 10/  
12. (C. in C. S.A., 1303N/1 to F.O.I.C.  
Simonstown).

Raider  
sunk by  
DORSETSHIRE.  
(PYTHON. Ger:  
Supply Ship.)

One enemy supply ship or raider sunk in 027°  
53' S. 003° 55' W. 6 boat loads of survivors  
plus further 5 boats seen in position close by.  
Strongly suspect U-boat present. Do not intend  
to close boats. Suggest one of escort of W.S.12X.  
be diverted. Weather calm (weather report).  
(DORSETSHIRE, 1746Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)  
DORSETSHIRE 1746Z/1 is passed to you. Strongly  
support DORSETSHIRE's suggestion that Opnav be  
asked to divert some of escort of W.S.12 X. to  
rescue survivors and (?detain). (C. in C. S.A.  
1745N/1 to Admty.)  
Your 1746Z/1. Keep well clear to westward during  
the night. You may be required to direct escort  
ship to which you refer to position using your  
aircraft. Report further details of encounter.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1755N/1 to DORSETSHIRE)  
My 1746Z/1. On sighting DORSETSHIRE, enemy  
made off at high speed leaving behind 2 power  
boats and 3 cutters full of stores and fuel.  
When stopped later by warning shot enemy made  
C.S. smoke, abandoned ship and scuttled by 2  
heavy explosive charges and fire. Survivors are  
in 15 boats and one raft estimated by aircraft  
about 500 in number. Consider ship was a raider  
with strong resemblance to ELANDSFONTEIN and  
without doubt was fuelling at least one or two  
U-boats when first sighted. Ship did not fire  
on DORSETSHIRE. Am resuming courses and speeds  
in compliance with your 1251N/30 passing through  
029° 00' S. 002° 30' W. at 0001Z/2 when course  
will be altered to search for L.36 as ordered.  
(DORSETSHIRE, 2050Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Proposed.....

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.Proposed.  
Search for  
Enemy ships,  
and A/S  
operation.

If it is thought possible that another supply ship is in area South of St. Helena or approaching (? it) from the northward intend to direct Cdre. Com. S.A. to organise a comprehensive search as soon as calm area in that vicinity. With Oiler ARNDALE and ECHODALE this Force could keep the sea for quite a month. I could send DERBYSHIRE from Cape to join Cdre. Com. S.A. unless required for onward escort of W.S.12 X. I am satisfied that ROYAL SOVEREIGN after fuelling at Pointe Noire Bay can make passage with W.S. 12 Z to Durban. It is for consideration whether ASTER and MARGUERITE should not work with this force in hope of destroying U-boats before they become a threat at Cape. (C. in C. S.A. 1809N/1 to Admty.)

Whale  
Catchers.

Your 2220/10. Propose that  
(A) Storing and provisioning arrangements for all whalecatchers proceeding beyond Capetown should be undertaken by M.W.T.R., Capetown, who is agreeable. Previous experience with similar vessels has shown that it is not advisable for them to be dealt with by Dockyard in view of differences between Naval and Merchant Shipping practice and of resultant accounting chaos.  
(B) Fuelling arrangements to be undertaken by R.N. Request information whether, by terms of charter, fuel is an Admiralty liability or should be supplied commercially. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1950B/1 to Admty.) Reply: 2112A/3.

ASTER.  
MARGUERITE.  
ECHODALE.

E.T.A. position D. with ECHODALE 1300Z/6. ASTER, MARGUERITE assuming W/T organisation for area Q at 1400Z/2. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/1, 007° 34' S. 015° 20' W. 176° 8 knots. Weather. (ASTER, 2050Z/1, to C. in C. S.A.)

Shipping  
Diversion.

Pass to Senior N.C.S.O. Capetown. N.C.S.O. Capetown's 1040Z/30. Add to A.M. 2331A/30. "Ships which will cross 05° E. before 10/12 are also still to be routed South and West of 30° S. and 15° W". (D.T.D., 2055A/1 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

SEVERN.

SEVERN will adjust speed to arrive position F at 0730A/9/12 (My 1955N/30/11, not to SEVERN). (C. in C. S.A. 2201N/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B.

R/C suggests Italian U-boat may pass north westward between THUNDERBOLT and TRUSTY during next 24 hours probably aft 0001B/2 and to eastward UPHOLDER after 0001B following day making for Taranto. It is to be attacked if identity can be definitely established. (V.A. Malta, 0009B/1 to S/M's on Patrol).

Libya.

Military Situation Reports, Cositrep 24, 25, 26. (C. in C. M.E. 0100/1, 1647/1, 2247/1) See Lion Copy.

Enemy M/V.

Ship C with one destroyer now expected approach Benghazi from N.E. about dawn today Monday. Other M.Vs. have probably turned back. (V.A. Malta, 0130B/1, to C.S.7.).

RAMB IV ashore.

Following received begins:- Admiral Plymouth. Received 0238/G.M.T. from RAMB IV to G.B.X.Z. Am ashore at Ras El Mehl, about 60 miles East of Tobruk. Require Tug. Master, Hospital ship. Not re-broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0339/1 to Admty.)

RAMB IV ashore off Ras El Mehl. Destroyers should save life but not tow. ST. MONANCE is being sent. (C. in C. Med., 0716B/1 to Capt. D.14)

Following received Alexandria W/T from RAMB IV. Am afloat and proceeding on voyage, only apparent damage Fore Peak making water, expect can control. Master. T.O.R. 0800. (Nore W/T. 0732/1 to Whitehall).

Cancel my 0716/1. RAMB IV afloat and proceeding. (C. in C. Med. 0820/1 to Capt. D.14).

P.C. and S. at 1500. 032° 08' N. 025° 10' E. 117° 14 knots. Towing probably unnecessary. (Capt. D.14, 1451/1 to C.S.15, C. in C. Med.)

DELPHINIUM.

Your 1748/30. DELPHINIUM sailed 0630/1 direct. E.T.A. Beirut 1100C/2. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0836B/1 to N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports).

Enemy M/V's.

Position of enemy 2 merchant vessels 43.43 N., 11.11 E. 306° 8. (Med. A/C Call Sign DO7 (Duty J) 0855/1 to Med. A/C)

/D.14.....

# MOST SECRET

1917

MESSAGE 0100/1st December IN

MOST SECRET

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 1.12.41  
Recd. 0205

CIPHER

Addressed: The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry).  
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

15321. 0/32812 cipher 30/11 MOST SECRET

Cositrep No.24.

Officer decipher.

1 Ref. Cositrep No. 23 para. 1. Initial German converging attacks from north east by 21 Armd. Div. on Bir el Hamed and from South west by 15 armd. Div. on El Duda repulsed. Later attack on El Duda by estimated fifty five tanks and one infantry bn. captured position but enemy were subsequently driven out by counter attack. 22 Armd. Bde. operated against right flank of, 15 German Armd. Div. Ariete Div. Sat. tight area 443398.

2. Morning 30 Nov. Ariete Div. moved north to reinforce 21 German Armd. Div. Reported but not confirmed that 4 Armd. Bde. engaged it successfully.

3. LRDG patrol reports two Italians killed seven captured on road Derna-Mechili.

4. Evening 29th November. Western Desert extension cut by bombing at mile 89 also some damage to railhead station yard, extent unknown. Line relaid by 0800 hrs. 30th November. First train due leave railhead 1200 hrs.

Air.

5. Ref. Cositrep 23 para. nine. Read " and sweeps" after "escorts" in first sentence. Substitute "destroying" for "damaging" in second sentence.

6. Night 29th/30th November fifteen Wellingtons attacked Benghazi Harbour and shipping, bombs bursting mole. Five Wellingtons bombed Berna landing-grounds. Bombs burst on flare path and among aircraft taking off. No movements seen on roads. Weather clear.

7. Day November 30th. Bombers. Maryland Squadron started large fire in believed stores dump El Aden.

8. Fighters. Fighter patrols two squadron strength maintained over Tobruk area throughout day to prevent enemy air interference with operations our troops and cover our bombers.

9. No's 3 Australian and 112 Squadrons intercepted thirty dive-bombers and fighters with M.E.109 top cover North-West of El Gobi forcing bombers to jettison in open desert. In ensuing fight Tomahawks destroyed nine

/Italian

Italian fighters one dive-bomber and damaged ten dive-bombers four fighters. Four Tomahawks down but all pil reported safe. One reconnaissance M.E.110 also destroyed by Hurricanes near Menastir

0100/1st

Recd. from War Office a.m./1st.

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e.d.

c  
69

# MOST SECRET

vo-  
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roye

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1647/1st December

Date 1.12.41

IN

From C. in C. Middle East

Recd. 1945

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry)  
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

15574

O/32976 cipher 1/12/41. MOST SECRET

COSITREP No. 25.

1. 4 and 22 Armoured Bdes. amalgamated into composite Bde. to be known as 4 Arm. Bde.
2. 30 Nov. intense fighting continued on main front El Duda-Sidi-Rezegh-Bir El Hamed with enemy endeavouring to sever Tobruk corridor with attacks from North East and South East. Morning 4 Arm. Bde. area 440401 repulsed attack from West by 24 tanks. Later they attacked Ariete Div. to East and destroyed sixteen out of forty Italian tanks. Ariete withdrew northwards towards B Gambut chased by two column Support Gp. each with one Sqdn. 11 H.
3. Remaining Sqdns. 11 H. operating 30 Nov. between Bir Chieta and Sidi Rezegh. K.D.G. on line Sidi Rezegh-Bir El Gubi-Gabr Schiahebi area 4254. S.A. Arm. cars with A/tk guns ordered to move 30 Nov. from Bir El Gubi to harass road West of Acroma. H.C., 7 Arm. Div. Gabr. Fatma 4437.
4. Afternoon 30 Nov. 1 S.A. Bde. believed area 438402 on way to join N.Z. Div.
5. 11 Ind. Inf. Bde. now under command 7 Arm. Div. ordered to move Gabr Saleh.
6. Enemy in frontier area resisting stoutly. 4 Ind. Div. ordered to attack enemy strong point North West of Libyan Omar morning 1 December some progress made but situation not yet clear. 5 Ind. Inf. Bde. ordered to take over front area Capuzza from 5 N.Z. Bde. Mobile columns now organised by 4 Ind. Div. to prevent enemy supplying from Bardia.
7. Ref. COSITREP No. 24 Para. nine. Enemy casualties in fight 30 Nov. confirmed at three dive bombers, twelve fighters destroyed, ten dive bombers five fighters damaged. Three Tomahawks lost all pilots safe. Reconnaissance M.E.110 reported destroyed near Monastir was damaged.
8. Day 30 Nov. Reconnaissance. Ninety plus aircraft reported on Barce Derna Martuba landing ground.
9. Bomber. Afternoon. Full bomber effort directed against enemy H.T. east of El Adem. Three Blenheim squadrons bombed about two hundred M.T.



dispersed South of El Duda. Hit several, damaged or overturned at least fifteen. Two Maryland Squadrons attacked M.T. South of Sidi Rezegh blowing up a number and setting others on fire. Hurricane bombers attacked M.T. on El Adem El Duda road destroying several.

10. Fighter. Over two hundred and fifty fighters sorties as sweeps and bomber escorts over battle area. Only engagements those reported in Para. seven. Four Beaufighters shot up Martuba landing ground destroying two aircraft damaged nine. Ammunition dump also hit and casualties inflicted.

11. Enemy action. One J.U.88 shot down during evening attack on railhead area South of Sidi Barrani.

1647/1  
Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.  
Received from War Office 2358/1

- |                         |                               |
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| W.D.                    | A.C.A.S.(I) Air Ministry      |
| Duty Capt.              | War Room Air Ministry         |
| Hd. of M.               | Duty Capt. Admiralty (2)      |
| D.T.S.D.                | Secretary of State, Foreign   |
| E.P.S.                  | Office.                       |
| D.D.I.C.                |                               |
| N.I.D. Pay.Cdr. Wilson. |                               |

AFF

# MOST SECRET

19E

2247/1 Dec.  
IN

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

From C.in C. Middle East.

Date 2.12.41.

Recd. 0110.

CYPHER

Addressed The War Office (pass Air Ministry) repeated  
C.in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

15639. 0/33127 cipher 1/12/41. MOST SECRET.

COSITROP No.26.

1. Night 30th November enemy attacked in strength from S.W. with tanks and Inf and captured Sidi Rezegh. 1 S.A.Bde had been ordered to attack pt 175 439404 and to recapture Sidi Rezegh but did not succeed.

2. Morning 1 Dec very heavy fighting continued. 15 German Armd Div renewed attack from S.W. and captured Bir El Hamed. 4 Armd Bde with estimated strength one hundred tanks counter attacked first light 1 Dec towards Pt 175 from S.E. and by 1200 hrs appeared to be in N.Z. Divisional area where position was very confused.

Air

3. Ref COSITROP No.25 part eleven. Raid on railhead area evening 30th November made by eight J.U.88's. One shot down by night fighters. No damage reported.

4. Day 1st December. Fighter. Offensive patrol by Hurricanes of Royal Naval and Tomahawks of 250 Squadrons engaged twenty J.U.88's escorted by twelve M.E.109's and G.50's. They destroyed one J.U.88, three G.50's, probably destroyed two M.E.109's, two G.50's, damaged two M.E.109's. Two Tomahawks missing. 3 Australian Squadron shot down reconnaissance J.U.88 south east of Maddalena.

2247/1

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P. (2)

D. O. D. (H)

D. D. O. D. (H)

D. C. D. (F)

D. D. O. D. (F)

D. H. I. (4)

D. H. A. D.

D. of L. D.

I. P. (2)

W. D.

D. C.

Head of M.

War Distributions

S. of S.

C. I. G. S.

V. C. I. G. S.

D. M. C. & 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.

D. T. S. D.

E. P. S.

D. D. I. C.

N. I. D. 10

(Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)

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. C. Air Ministry.

P. S. to S. of S. Air Min. (2)

A. C. A. S. (I) Air Ministry.

Air Ministry, War Room

Duty Captain Admiralty (2)

Sec. of State, Foreign Office

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. -Contd.D.14  
patrol.

My 1218B/30. Para. A. Turn westward so as to repeat patrol off Derna by 0300/2, carrying out A/S search sweeping of route of A.T.I. convoy (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 2149/29 refers), paying particular attention to Ras al Melh (Ras El Mehl?) to Tobruk area after dark tonight, 1st.

Return Alexandria on completion Derna patrol as ordered in para A.

(C.in C. Med. 0939/1 to Capt. D.14).

My 0939B/1st. C.S. 15 carry out interception of patrol off Derna tonight 1st/2nd. Capt (D) 14 proceed as (?in) Capt. (D) 14 1300 (corrupt group). (C.in C. Med. 1403B/1 to C.S. 15. Capt. D.14).

Enemy  
destroyer.

My 0925B/30. Similar destroyer P.C. and S. 036° 01' N. 023° 06' E. 264° 24 knots. Weather report. (TALISMAN 1123B/1 to Capt. S.1.

UPHOLDER  
THRASHER.

After 0800B/2 operate:- UPHOLDER in area H within 25 miles of Colonne, THRASHER in area K east of 018° 20' between 039° 00' and 040° 00'. (V.A. Malta 1128B/1 to UPHOLDER, THRASHER).

Enemy  
Unit.

P.C. and S. of enemy (?DAIL) vessel 33.45 N., 22.30 E., 030 675 T 1 - 2 - 0. (A/C 203 Sq. duty M. 1135/1 to 201 Group).

EGELAND  
ashore.

Following from Sub. Lieut. Enja, for C.in C. Royal Norwegian Navy: H.M.N.S. EGELAND run ashore Palestine Coast, full of water with heavy list. Further details when available. Cdr. Scoff-Hansen now at Haifa. (C.in C. Med. 1151/1 to Admty.).

Movements.

Arrival 30/11 GRIFFIN, HERO, HASTY, NIZAM, HEYTHROP, M.L. 1048, M.L. 1051, AVON VALE, Greek destroyer IERAX, Greek S/M TRITON. Departures 30 /11 TRUANT, JERVIS, KIPLING, JACKAL, JAGUAR, HERO, HASTY, NAIAD, EURYALUS, CHAKDINA, PEONY, FLAMINGO, Fleet tug ST. ISSEY, YARRA, (?Greek S/M PROTEUS), ? (KHEIR) DINE, HILMI, HEYTHROP, AVON VALE, SOUTHERN SEA, THORGRIM, Greek destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. Arrivals 1/12 SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN MAID. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1205B/1).

UNIQUE

UNIQUE leaves Malta p.m./1 for Area G 037° 30' 016° 05' - 350° - 49 - 30. (Capt. S.10 1207B/1 to V.A. Malta).

*See next page*  
/My.....

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.UNIQUE  
- Contd.

My S.H.M. 2154/27/11 (N.T. in W.R.) UNIQUE left Malta P.M./1 for area G. (Capt. S.10, 1817B/1 to P.34).

Russian  
Black Sea  
Fleet.

My 1550/30. N.L.O. Black Sea also reported Black Sea Fleet is now based on Novorossisk and Tuapse, also that U.S.S.R. Cruisers VOROSHILOV and CHERVONNAYA UKRAINA had both been (?seriously) damaged by bombs. Russians still hold Sevastopol, all remainder of Crimea believed to be in German hands. Message was corrupt but date of (? despatch) probably 25/11. (C. in C. Med. 1211B/1 to Adty.)

ABBAZIA.  
(Italian).

My 1255/25 report from several sources including C.X. that (A) ABBAZIA at Piraeus, Crew refuse to sail to Istanbul. (B) Italian Crew generally reluctant to sail to Aegean. C.20. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1218B/1 to S.O.I. Med.)

1st S/M  
Flot.

My 1121B/1st. Propose that Capt. (S) 1 resumes operational control of 1st Flotilla from 0800B tomorrow Tuesday. (V.A. Malta, 1219B/1 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Fuel,  
Force B.

Your 1251B/29. When Force B and Force K are refuelled only 7,000 tons of fuel will remain. To save your Force from Alexandria meeting BRECONSHIRE I suggest that Force B escort her all the way to Alexandria. It is for consideration whether SYDNEY STAR, AJAX, CLAN FERGUSON, all 16 knots speed, should also make passage. Force B. could then escort BRECONSHIRE or and tankers back to Malta. (V.A. Malta 1257B/1 to C. in C. Med.)

Jibuti.

Re terms of surrender. (C. in C. M.E. 1420/1 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

OLYMPUS.

(1) OLYMPUS reports at 0536Z/29 fired 2 torpedoes at unescorted northbound ship of about 3000 tons in 037° 49' 011° 57', missed. (11) Minesweepers sweeping South from Levanzo Island 20 miles. (111) After 24 hours leave each watch intend sailing OLYMPUS P.M./3 for Gibraltar direct. (Capt. S.10 1535B/1 to Capt. S.8).

/A/S.....

# MOST SECRET

21<sup>A</sup>

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1420/1st Dec.

IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 1.12.41.

Recd. 1730.

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office.

## IMPORTANT

15546. 32867 cipher 1/12.

Following from Minister of State. My telegram No. 31261 of 26th November Jibuti. Following received from C. in C. East Africa. No. O/3/28 of 28th November begins. Your 31260 and 31261 of 26/11.

One. We must draw clear distinction between (A) terms offered Governor in event of negotiations principal object of which is use of Port and Railway and (B) terms of surrender which may be unconditional or subject to reservations. Surrender seems more likely at present time.

Two. In event of negotiations vide para. one (A) I consider no comparison with Syrian Armistice terms possible. Former were result of successful operations. If negotiations with principal object of obtaining use Port and Railway opened consider we must accept retention French Sovereignty in Colony and must be prepared to compromise.

Three. My remarks on your proposals in your 31261 therefore as follows.

(a) French Tps. should be repatriated with their arms less those whose retention in Colony is agreed to vide para. 4(a) your 3560. Surplus war materials to be destroyed.

(b) Note Navy require to take over all cable W/T Stations and telephone communications but consider French Administration must be allowed to retain means of communication with Vichy subject to all messages being sent in Clear. Release of British or Free French persons now in captivity also that financial question should be considered in advance.

(d) Agree enemy Aliens should be interned with proviso that women and children of those over age should be repatriated with Vichy French.

1420/1.

Received from War Office 1105/2/12.

1st Lord.	W.O. circulation:
1st S.L.	S. of S.
3rd S.L.	C.I.G.S.
4th S.L.	V.C.I.G.C.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.O. & P.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.P. (2 copies)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.D.M.O. (O)
N.A. 1st S.L.	M.O. 1.5.11.
P.A.S. (S)	D.M.I.
D.O.D. (F)	D.D.M.I. (I)
D.D.O.D. (F)	M.I.3.
D.C. (2)	M.I.L.
D.D.I.C.	D.D.I.P.
D.N.I. (4)	Spears Mission (Mr. Somerville Smith)
D. of P. (2)	No. 20 Military Mission
D.A/S.W.	Major Morton, 10 Downing Street
D.S.D.	Mr. Coulson, Cabinet Offices
D.M.S.	Mr. Lloyd, Colonial Office.
Hd. of M. (2)	Mr. Mack, Foreign Office.
D. of L.D.	Mr. MacKereth, Foreign Office.
D.T.D. (2)	Mr. Caecia, Foreign Office.
W.D.	C.N.S. Admiralty.
Ad. Chalmers.	C.A.S. Air Ministry
I.P. (2)	D. of Plans, Admiralty.
	D. of Plans, Air Ministry
	Colonel Jacob.
	Admiral Chalmers, Admiralty.
	Mr. Morrison, M.E.W.

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.A/S Sweep  
by 7 D.F.

Take GRIFFIN, DECOY, HOTSPUR under your orders. Leave 0600/2 to carry out anti-submarine sweep westward along coastal shipping route passing 025° 30' about 1800/2. Proceed thence establishing patrol approx. 30 miles N. of Derna by 0300/3 to intercept enemy as in my 1218B/30 para. 1. Close Derna at dawn and then withdraw N.E. and return to Alexandria. Fighter codeword "Frank". (C. in C. Med., 1555/1 to Capt. D.7).

SALZBURG.

B.2. report states arrived Piraeus A.M. 25/11, discharged horses and mules, and sailed again P.M./25 escorted by a destroyer. (D.S. 818).

LANCE.

Docked for rudder repairs. Anticipate complete 6/12. (A.S., Malta, 1642B/1 to C. in C. Med;)

M/V  
attacked.

1 tanker 7,000 tons, positions at 0740 and 1002 hours. (H.Q. Malta 1803/1).  
6 Blenheims sent to attack 1105 hours from mast height 112° Melita 65 miles. 2 Bombs bounced off superstructure 2 others hit funnel.  
(H.Q. Malta, 1818/1)

Destroyer  
and 2  
M/V's sunk  
by Force K.

Am returning to Malta for fuel. Have sunk one destroyer, one 8,000 ton (?tanker) and one 6,000 ton merchant ship all (?Southbound). My P.C. and S. are 034° 05' N. 012° 48' E. 040° 17 knots. (S.O. Force K, 1900B/1 to V.A. Malta, C.S.7).

Blenheim  
Sweep  
cancelled.

Ref. my A.233 T.O.O. 1456/1 (N.T. in W.R.) 4 Blenheims will not carry offensive sweep off coast of Ras-El-Tin to 021° 40' E. tonight. (201 Group 1904B/1 to Med. Fleet at Sea, etc.)

Free French  
Craft,  
Zeila.

Your 0043/22/11. These are the craft referred to in Admty. 1215/5/11 and consist of 2 motor launches ABEILLE and HERON both now at Zeila. HERON is being transferred to Aden. Motor launch REWAM, and RASLI, which is a small tug, are also at Aden. These two latter were captured in Gulf of Tajura. As regards message quoted F.O.C. Red Sea Force states no inshore patrol has been established or is contemplated. (C. in C. Med. 1911B/1 to Admty.)

/APHIS.....

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

APHIS.  
M/L's.

APHIS and Motor Launches operating off coast returning before daylight. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 1927B/1 to Capt. D.14).

Air Attack  
on C.S.15.

201 Group 1456B/1 (N.T. in W.R.) Have been heavily engaged, possibly Blenheims, request they may be recalled. (C.S.15, 2101/1 to C. in C. Med.)

Your 2101/1. Not Blenheims. Offensive aircraft sweep has been cancelled. (C. in C. Med., 2144B/1 to C.S.15).

ERICE  
(Italian)

Sent out S.O.S. at 2040/1 from 38.00 N., 11.30 E. (D.S. 819, 2/12).

U/B's

My 1218B/30. Para. C. Further 2 N. of 032° 00' N. 023° 20' E. (C. in C. Med., 2147B/1 to C.S.15)

KONDOURIOTIS.

Greek destroyer KONDOURIOTIS on passage from Mersa Matruh to Alexandria tonight. (R.A. Alexandria 2226B/1 to D.14, C.S.15, D.7).

Movements.

Arrivals 1/12 AJAX, NEPTUNE, KIMBERLEY, KINGSTON. Departure UNIQUE. (V.A. Malta, 2240B/1 to Admty.)



War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.SPRINGTIDE.

Request you will sail SPRINGTIDE to Singapore forthwith. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1550A/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

MAUNA KEA.

Have you any news of American MAUNA KEA due Calcutta 20/11 from Suez?  
(D.T.D. 1824A/1 to N.C.S.O. Calcutta).

VELEBIT.

Report received from native woodman in North Andaman. Islands announces the presence of 6 survivors from Yugoslav VELEBIT, 4153 tons. Believed this ship was sunk by a raider in Indian Ocean on about 26/6/41. (D.S., 818, 1/12).

China.BENALDER.

Your 1708/29/11. BENALDER arrived Singapore 18/11 reported in N.C.S. Singapore 0459/18/11 to Fairmiss. Ship will remain in Singapore for another two weeks. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0731Z/1 to Admty).

Situation  
Japan.

Following for C. in C. Far East, Adm. Layton and Adm. Phillips, (R) Cdre. Hong Kong, from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.49.  
U.S. - Japanese Talks in Washington have broken down but apparently are not finally broken off. Kurusu has not left Washington. The President has handed Mr. Kurusu a note, couched in general terms, re-asserting principles about integrity of China, equality of treatment, respect of engagements, abandonment by Japan of Tripartite Pacts etc. The modus vivendi described in my 2138A/29 was abandoned, largely because of hostility to it shown by Chiang Kai Shek. On 28th U.S. Naval and Military Authorities sent out a telegram which placed their forces in the first state of readiness. Mr. Hull told Lord Halifax on 29th that situation had not changed but that he felt pretty sure Japan would take some early action under pressure from extremists. Mr. Roosevelt has been informed that it may be necessary for us to take action to forestall Japanese landing on Kra Isthmus and asked whether we can expect American support in that event. His reply is not likely to be received before Monday, 1/12 at earliest. Mr Kurusu is seeing Mr. Hull at 1000 today but nothing is known about subject to be discussed. (1st S.L., 1356A/1 to C.O.I.S. Singapore)

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.DUC  
D'AUMALE,  
BAHRAM.

Your 1251R/29 (N.T.) DUC D'AUMALE and BAHRAM entered Gulf of Paria 29 and 30/11 respectively destination Carapito.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0947Q/1 to S.O.(I) Kingston)  
*See also next page*

Shipping  
Route.

Your 1513N/28. Do not consider this is necessary unless more definite reports of enemy activities are received. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1020A/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

T.C.16,  
T.C.17.

Request reply to my 1917A/18. A.M.1907A/20 refers 2. As we have had to send destroyer reinforcements to the Mediterranean it would be particularly helpful if U.S. authorities could escort these convoys. (V.C.N.S. 1136A/1 to B.A.D.) Your 1917A/18 your 1907A/20 and your 1136A/1. Opnav agreed escort T.C.16 due to leave Canada 14/12 provided:-  
(i) That it is combined with U.S. troop convoy leaving New York 12/12.  
(ii) That British escort relieves at a point far enough W. and N. to conform to route of U.S. troop convoys to Iceland(C)  
(iii) That omission of U.S. escort for C.T.8 is accepted.  
(iv) That it is understood a definite decision cannot be given now about T.C.17 but it is anticipated it can be similarly managed in connection with U.S. troop convoy due to leave New York about 20/1. Request your remarks concerning these proposals.  
(B.A.D., 1933R/1 to Admty) Reply 1744/3.

U.S. Asiatic  
Fleet.

Disposition Asiatic Fleet 1700 G.C.T. 30/11/1941.  
Balik Papan. 8 destroyers, Destroyer Tender BLACK HAWK, MARBLEHEAD (light cruiser). En route Balik Papan from Manila (28/11 - 2/12) HOUSTON (heavy cruiser), Oiler PECOS, Seaplane Tender LANGLEY (old aircraft carrier).  
Manila. 5 Destroyers, 27 submarines. Cruiser LOUISVILLE escorting PRESIDENT COOLIDGE and the SCOTT depart Manila 28/11, go through Molucca Strait and Torres Strait to arrive Honolulu on about 15/12. Cruiser BOISE conveying CAPE FAIRWEATHER, AMERICAN LEADER, PRESIDENT GRANT, JOHN LYKES, DONA, departed Honolulu 18/11 to arrive Manila 4/12, 1100 G.C.T.  
Forces are thus disposed for fuelling with no immediate plan for any change.  
(B.A.D., 1255R/1 to Admty C. in C. China etc). Contents my 1255/1 were passed to B.A.D. Washington at personal direction of U.S. C.N.O. It is not anticipated this information will be given regularly to B.A.D. Washington, but U.S. C.N.O. assumes that C. in C. China is informed of such movements by C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

*x not identified.**x not identified.*

/If....

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Asiatic Fleet.  
Contd.

If you require regular information of U.S. Navy disposition in Far East special arrangements must be made. Communication through Ghormley appears the best method. (B.A.D. 2035R/1 to Admty).

Minimum Speed for Atlantic Passenger Ships.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. No merchant ship, whether in convoy or not, which is unable to maintain a speed of 12 knots under normal weather conditions is to be permitted to carry more than 12 passengers when passing through the Atlantic (defined for this purpose as westward of Cape Town and eastward of 60° W) without special permission from the Admiralty. Masters of ships carrying more than 12 passengers bound for destinations in the Atlantic are to be warned that, in the event of the speed of their ship unexpectedly falling below 12 knots during a voyage, they are to report the fact to the N.C.S.O. at their last port of call prior to entry into these waters. In such cases Admiralty approval is to be obtained before a vessel is permitted to proceed into Atlantic Waters whilst carrying more than 12 passengers. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1339A/1 to A.I.G.19 and 26).

Convoy Diversion Code.

Your 1040Z/30, affirmative. (Opnav, 1411/1 to Admty).

Martinique Intelligence.

French DUC D'AUMALE departed Fort De France 28/11 for Caripito and Laguaira, French tanker BAHR<sup>AM</sup> departed same date for Caripito to take on fuel oil for St. Thomas, French WYOMING arrived Fort De France 28/11. (Opnav, 1438Z/1 to Admty rep. C. in C. A.W.I. etc)  
*See previous page.*

O.N.41.

Unit 4.1.5 composed of MAYO (SO) **BABBITT**, LEARY, SCHENCK and NICHOLSON. designated O.N.41 escort. (Opnav, 1450Z/1 to Admty).

S.C.58.

Task Force No.4.1.12 ST. LAURENT (S.O.) NASTURTIUM, HEPATICA, MOOSEJAW, WINDFLOWER, P (? IC) TOU, BUCTOUCHE, TRILLIUM. (2) Wabana, Nil. (C.C.N.F., 1623Z/1 to Com Task Force 4 Admty etc)

Communication with U.S.

Your 2019R/25. Grid Signal is now being passed in Type X. American Embassy has requested Opnav to pass groups to you for retransmission to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa as soon as direct T/P line available. Request commencing date. (D.T.D., 1746A/1 to B.A.D.)

War Diary.

1.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

COAST  
MERCHANT.

Your 1517/30. U.S. COAST MERCHANT arrived  
Portland Oregon 17/11.  
(D.N.I. Ottawa, 2002Z/1 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

THALATTA  
~~HERE~~ (long)  
(overdue).

My 1515R/30. Ship arrived today Monday.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 2054/1 to Admty etc).

Australia.

PARAMATTA.

R.A.D. Med.'s 1914B/29. Request advice when news  
can be published in Australia. In view of  
advice going to next of kin and probability of  
rumours spreading following SYDNEY announcement,  
considered early publication desirable.  
(A.C.N.B., 0333Z/1 to Admty).

New  
Minesweepers.

Request all BATHURST Class minesweepers building  
on Imperial account when completed may now be  
sailed to Singapore to work up with 21st  
Flotilla. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1559A/1 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

- 1442 G.M.T./30. Following received from R.C.A.F.:-  
U.S. Fortress R-46 reported sighting what appeared to be S/M diving at 1442 GMT/30, 50° 45' N., 55° 52' W. Visibility at time poor. Circled over area but nothing further seen.  
(C.C.N.F., 0125Z/1, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.)
- ? 30/11. Add to my 1552A/30/11. (N.T. in W.D.) In 47° 16' N., 03° 20' W., steering 180° 14 knots. U-boat was 500 tons.  
(F.O.S. 1009A/1 to Admty.)
- Estimated approx., positions of U-boats.  
(D.D.I.C. 1419A/1, 1420A/1.)
- 1045/1. A man employed at R.A.F. Station Greian Head reports seeing 1 unknown S/m. 237° Greian Head 2 miles 220° at 1045/1. Visibility poor. No shipping in vicinity.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1444/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Oban.)
- 0300/24. Fishing trawler COLLEAGUE G.N.53 skipper Donald Mackay reports having sighted unidentified S/M without lights on surface at 0300/24/11, 20 miles W 1-2 S from Cape Wrath, speed 12 knots, steering towards RHU STOER.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1622A/1, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
1000. Transit aircraft reported U-boat in vicinity of Corunna at 1000/1. Course and speed not observed.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1858A/1, to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked.

- By A/C 30/11. Your 0007/1. (Not circulated in Admiralty. Requested P.C. and S. of enemy S/M.)  
At 2125A P.C. and S. (?245°) Spartel 14,060° 15 knots. Submarine disappeared after depth charge attack by A/C.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0105A/1 to Capt. D.19.)  
My 2145/30 (N.T. in W.R.) and my 0105A/1st to Capt.(D) 19 only. Depth charges from A/C were dropped 15 and 20 feet from S/M which heeled over and disappeared. Oil was still appearing when A/C left vicinity 2½ hours later. M.L. has arrived in vicinity of oil patch.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0130A/1 to Groups 1 and 2.)

War Diary.1.12.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.By A/C 30/11.  
Contd.

1 Swordfish attacked U-boat position 245 Spartel 12 at 1940. 2 depth charges dropped, near misses registered. U-boat covered in spray, heeled over to port, and disappeared. Large patch of oil appeared. A/C stayed 2½ hrs dropping flares over position. Nothing further sighted, left M/L over oil patch. (200 Group, 1840/1, to Air Min.)

By A/C  
1145.

Whitley A/C T/502 attacked U/B on surface at 1145/1 in 47.25 N., 12° W., 257 Ushant 290, co. 255° 6 knots. Attacked with D./C's and M/G. (D.S. 819, 2/12.)

Am over enemy S/M in 46.55N., 11.52W.

(A/C T 1148/1. T.O.R. 1215, to 19 Group.)

Enemy S/M previously reported was on the surface on a course of 255°. Speed 6 knots.

(A/C T. 1203/1 to 19 Group.)

Have attacked enemy (unknown) with depth charges. Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack. Oil and air bubbles seen.

(A/C T., 1225/1, to 19 Group.)

Proceed at best speed through 046° 55' N., 011° 52' W., where aircraft attacked a submerging U-boat and severely damaged it at 1225/1, air co-operating.

(C. in C.W.A., 1426A/1, to ZULU, SIKH.)

Details of air attack. (Chivenor, 1840/1 to 19 Group.) See Lion Copy.

By EXMOOR,  
28/11.

C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) EXMOOR (B) 1812/28/11. (C) 047° 53' N., 015° 51' W., (D) 3 (E) 1831. (EXMOOR, 2001A/1, to Admty., etc.)

By EXMOOR  
1/12.

C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) EXMOOR. (B) 1235/1/12. (C) 035° 55' N., 006° 48' W. (D) 5. (E) 1323. (EXMOOR, 2002/1 to Admty., etc.)

By A/C 2155A.

1 submarine bearing 270° distance 10 miles. (A/C using Call Sign, 2155A/1, to Gibraltar W/T.) Details, see 0922A/2.

*Useful sort of signal!*

29<sup>A</sup>

*No date*

*No time*

*No position*

SECRET

MESSAGE

1840/1 December

IN

From CHIVINOR.

Date 2.12.41.

*No number or sign of the  
P/L BY T/P*

Recd. 0040

Addressed. 19 Group. Repeated H.Q.C.C., Admiralty (O.I.C.),  
15 Group, 17 Group. Limavady

FORM ORANGE

When on CO 248 degs at 4500 ft A/c sighted U-Boat on surface at distance of 2 miles on bearing of 045 degs green, closed throttles and dived from out of sun and turned 90 degs at 1000 ft. to starboard, when A/c was at 50 ft. and about 100 yards distant on reciprocal track of U-Boat 6 D.Cs were released in one stick, three bursts were seen forward of U-Boat the others as follows, one right on bows, one on port midships and one on starboard quarter, rear gunner saw U-Boat completely obliterated by upheaval of water which lasted four or five seconds, A/c then turned to port and made 1 1/4 circle attacking U-Boat on a track of 360 degs with machine gun fire from both front and rear turrets, tracer was seen to hit conning tower on each of 5 similar attacks and a man was seen to dive into the conning tower. U-Boat submerged showing 1/2 conning tower and was in this position 5 or 6 minutes practically stationary, it then disappeared completely, and slight traces of oil were seen. 5 or 6 minutes later a large gout of oil and air bubbles about 50 yards across came bursting to the surface and remained until A/c left the vicinity. 15 minutes later the conning tower reappeared for about 30 seconds, three or four hundred yards 180 degs from the gout of oil. A Streak of oil joined these two positions. Nothing further was seen and 10 minutes later A/c left the vicinity having reached prudent limit of endurance

Note .....

Note when U-Boat disappeared the first time a flame float was dropped on its last sighted position.

1840/1

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim Admiralty Hse
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- O.I.C. (4)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.A/S.W.
- I.P. (3)
- V.D.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- M. (2)



War Diary.

2.12.1941  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The protection of shipping in the Western Approaches during the coming winter is causing the greatest anxiety owing to the completely inadequate number of our long range patrol aircraft. The Admiralty are asking if the U.S. can help.

Yarmouth was closed for a short time this forenoon, on account of fog.

Harwich was closed at 2021 A.

Ex. U.S. S/M P.551 arrived at the Clyde today.

It is reported that an enemy auxiliary cruiser of about 3000 tons passed Hellefiord (61° 36' N. 4° 58' E.) at 1330Z today northbound escorted by 3 patrol craft, 4 M.T.B's and aircraft. It is possible this may be an E boat depot ship.

Mining.

Tanker BRITISH CAPTAIN in Convoy F.S.661 was mined and sunk this morning in 52° 13' 10" N. 1° 54' 41" E. (east of Aldeburgh) S.S. EMPIRE CHIVALRY'S compasses were rendered useless by explosion close to the above position.

Owing to fog preventing minesweeping Avonmouth, Newport and Cardiff were closed this afternoon until 1100/3. Further mines were exploded in the Bristol Channel today. Ports east of and including Barry were closed at 1602 today.

North Atlantic.

CLYDE returned to Gibraltar at 1730 A and sailed at 2100 to relieve O 24 off Oran. CLYDE has on board the ex. First Officer of S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Capt. D.19 is making a search of position 253° Cape Spartel 14, with 4 destroyers.

In a summary of A/S operations between 30/11 and 2/12, F.O.C.N.A. states that endless chain patrols in the Straits by 12 corvettes and destroyers have failed to establish contacts. 4 aircraft contacts were made and 3 led to attacks.

South Atlantic.

Orders were given today for BIRMINGHAM and DORSETSHIRE to patrol to intercept any German surface units which may be approaching from the Cape Horn area to recover survivors of the raider sunk yesterday by DORSETSHIRE. ASTER and MARGUERITE are to search for survivors' boats which may have a U-boat in company.

Mediterranean.

15th C.S. patrolled off Derna last night without encountering the enemy.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

In bad weather last night, with 7/10 cloud at 2000 feet. Wellingtons dropped over 17 tons of bombs on Benghazi Harbour, Derna town and landing ground, and other objectives. No shipping was seen in Benghazi or Derna, but 4 small ships were off the coast south of Benghazi.

Air operations were severely restricted by weather today, but 1 Maryland Squadron bombed Bardia.

The Union Govt. is to be asked, in view of activities in the Mediterranean, if they will agree to the 4 vessels of 22nd A/S Group remaining there.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Opnav reports that at 0230Z today naval aircraft sighted 9 submarines in 13° 10' N. 110° 0' E. course south.

Orders have been given that the withdrawal of British ships north of Hong Kong is to be expedited; ships over 4000 tons are to leave Hong Kong to the southward; and no ship is to leave Singapore to the north eastward without special permission, except to ports in Malaya or Borneo. No Dutch ship is allowed to sail northward of the N.E.I. without permission of the Dutch C. in C.

There are now no Japanese ships in the Atlantic or Indian Oceans. All outward sailings from Japan to the Americas have been cancelled except one evacuee ship. No Japanese ships are reported in N.E.I. or the Philippine Islands. Sailings of French vessels to and from French Indo China are reported suspended, probably until arrangements for escorts have been made. It is thought that the movements of vessels carrying special cargoes of rubber, which have sufficient cruising range to reach French West Africa without intermediate ports of call will probably continue. It is reported that S.S. PERSEE (ex PIERRE L.D.) will load a large shipment of rubber at Saigon.

PRINCE OF WALES (Flag of C. in C. Eastern Fleet) <sup>and REARSE</sup> arrived at Singapore today.

America and West Indies.

Polish destroyer GARLAND arrived at Halifax today with heavy weather damage, her magazine flooded and A/S gear out of action.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U/Boat Campaign.

S.S. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA reported being chased by a submarine at 0616 today in 35° 20' N. 29° 58' W. (about 200 miles S.S.W. of Fayal, Azores). At 0623 she reported being gunned in 35° 14' N. 29° 52' W. At 0520 G.M.T. today a message was intercepted saying that she had been torpedoed in 35° 14' N. 29° 52' W.

Naval aircraft attacked 2 U/Boats near Cape Spartel this morning and one last night. A moonlight A/S search by Sunderlands was carried out last night, and 2 Catalinas with 4 destroyers carried out an A/S search east of Gibraltar.

*10. 62 / 581*  
*Det. Vanga left Porto Delgado*  
*on 3<sup>rd</sup> of search for survivors but*  
*found none.*  
*The mch. arrived base town on 14/12*  
*report killed by U-boat on 2<sup>nd</sup>.*  
*200 m SSW of base.*

2.12.1941  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.CLEOPATRA  
Power Trials.

Your 1959/30 and C. in C. H.F. 1917A/1. Trials may be carried out without surface escort, but fighter escort is essential, and trials are not to take place without it.

(V.C.N.S., 1644A/2 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

*See also p. 36*

ROCKROSE for  
S.A. Command.

My 1504A/25. For SNOWFLAKE read ROCKROSE. (C. in C. W.A., 1744A/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

*See also p 43.*

S/M's in  
Biscay Area.

In order to give the greatest possible latitude to aircraft for night A/S operations, and subject to the provisions of paragraph E, it has been decided after consultation with C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. and H.Q.C.C.

A. Within 6 days each side of full moon submarines are to be kept clear of an area bounded on the south and east by the coasts of France and Spain, to the north by latitude 49° N. and to the west of line joining positions 49° N. 10° W., 46° N. 10° W., 46° N. 06° 30' W. and a point on the Spanish coast in longitude 06° 30' W.

B. At periods other than 6 days each side of full moon submarines may be routed through and/or patrol in the area referred to in para. A provided they always dive by day and submerged bombing restrictions only are asked for.

C. Submarines on passage may proceed on the surface at C.O.'s discretion when to the South of 46° north if routed to the west of 12° 30' W. between 43° N. and 46° N.

D. Submarines routed to the eastwards of limit referred to in para. C are to proceed submerged by day when to the north of 43° N.

E. Submarines may however be ordered to operate in any part of the Bay of Biscay at any time should the operational situation require it.

(F.O.S. 1911A/2.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.Proposed  
diversion  
of A/C to  
Eastern  
Atlantic.

Personal from First Sea Lord to C.N.O. The protection of our shipping in the Western Approaches during the coming winter is causing us the greatest anxiety because our resources in long-range patrol aircraft are completely inadequate. We have sufficient short-range aircraft, which have proved the effectiveness of air escort as a deterrent to submarine attack and have driven the enemy to operate mainly beyond their range.

/For.....

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with U.S.A.Proposed  
diversion  
of A/C to  
Eastern  
Atlantic.  
(Contd.)

For the zone 400 - 600 miles from our shores in which the enemy is likely to operate with greatly increasing force this winter, we require at least 108 initial equipment Catalinas or aircraft of equivalent range. We have at present only 37 Catalinas and the expected deliveries from U.S.A. and Canada to June 1942 will not suffice to replace wastage, let alone expand this force. We are thus compelled to leave convoys without air protection for 85% of their time of passage through this zone.

I would be most grateful if you would consider this problem from the broad viewpoint of the balance of strategical needs and decide whether it would be expedient to divert, at least temporarily, further long-range aircraft or units to the Eastern Atlantic for a purpose so vitally important to the common cause.  
(1st S.L., 0356A/2 to Opnav.)

Co-operation with Russia.Technical  
information  
required.

1. The following is a list of information which it is desired to obtain from the Russians. Request you will endeavour to obtain the answers to all or any of the questions as opportunity offers. Questions apply to Russian material unless otherwise stated. Details.  
(A.C.N.S.(W), 2046A/2.)

Movements.P.511.

Following received from P.511. Begins. My position very uncertain possibly about 30 miles south of Barra Head, course and speed 200°, 6 knots. T.O.O. 1818A/1st. Ends. P.511 ordered to R/V with you as in my 1741A/1st this order was passed to her at 1905A/1st.  
(Capt. S.3, 0405A/2 to CUTTY SARK.)  
After reaching R/V and provided visibility permits carry remainder of search for P.511, returning to R/V every 2 hours at the even hour commencing search to south westward.  
(Capt. S.3, 0820A/2 to CUTTY SARK.)  
No transmissions have yet been heard from you on 500 kc/s or 375 kc/s. Transmit P.1's on 500 kc/s at 1030A and every hour afterwards for 3 minutes and P.2's on (? 375) kc/s at 1015A and every hour afterwards until you are located.  
(Capt. S.3, 0822A/2 to P.511.)

/If P.511...

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.P.511.  
Contd.

If P.511 is not met before dark remain in the vicinity of Barra Island for night returning to R/V at dawn. Carry out search in neighbourhood of R/V commencing 1000A/3 and returning to R/V every 2 hours. (Capt. S.3., 1621A/2 to CUTTY SARK).

(a) Report your estimated P.C.S. (b) Make P ones on 500 kc/s for three minutes at 1830A and hourly thereafter until ordered to stop in order that D/F bearings may be obtained.

(c) Attention is called to H.D.3 35 dated 27/9/41 number 1145 and 1119 which might be of assistance to you. (Capt. S.3., 1623A/2 to P.511)

My 0937A/2. My position 020° Eilean Trodday Light 11 miles. Course as necessary to pass through the Minch speed 9 knots. If weather favourable may be able to make Clyde on fuel remaining. (P.511, 1845A/2 to Capt. S.3.)

P.511 was approx: in 57° 36' N., 6° 45' W., at 2141A/2. Probably proceeding south unescorted and may be met during dark hours.

(C. in C. W.A., 2240A/2 to Escorts S.C.55).

R/V 0900A/3 in 240° Skerryvore 8 miles. Then proceeding Holy Loch, calling Londonderry for fuel if required. (Capt. S.3., 2359A/2 to P.511)

CLEOPATRA.

My 1010/30. Sailed escorted by WHITSHED and VANITY. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0920/2)

Arrived CLEOPATRA escorted by WHITSHED, and VANITY. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1715/2). See p.34

MIMOSA.

MIMOSA sailed for St. John's N.F. with Admiral Muselier on board.

(A.C.I.C., 1023N/2).

B.P.T.33.

Subject to arrival of Tug EMPIRE BASCOBEL tomorrow propose she should proceed with B.P.T. 33 in tow for Scapa leaving Dockyard at 0800/5. Anticipated speed with tow will be approximately 5 knots. If tug arrives Thursday propose sailing be delayed till 0800 Saturday.

(S.T.O. Devonport, 1120/2).

MANXMAN.  
WELSHMAN.

When MANXMAN is ready request you will sail her to Scapa.

2. On MANXMAN's arrival please sail WELSHMAN to Port Z.A. to clean boilers. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1156A/2 to R.A.M.)

Admiralty's 1156/2. Intend to sail MANXMAN for Scapa A.M./3. (R.A.M., 1507/2).

/TEMPEST....

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

TEMPEST,  
PERIWINKLE.

My 1654A/30 and 1709A/30. TEMPEST and PERIWINKLE sailing delayed 24 hours due to fog. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1203A/2).

RAMILLIES.

RAMILLIES escorted by ESCAPE and WHEATLAND arrived Clyde. WHEATLAND sailed for Scapa. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1226A/2). ~~See~~ also p 56

FORTUNE.

Sailed FORTUNE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2229A/28. E.T.A. Gibraltar 2304A/5. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1316A/2).

P.551.

Arrivals DANEMAN and S/M P.551. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1316A/2).

P.38.

When ready P.38 is to carry out 2 days A/S practices at Dartmouth and is then to proceed on second working up patrol in area between 49° and 50° N., and between 13° and 15° W., returning to Portsmouth about 21/12. (F.O.S. 1744A/2).

STURGEON,  
TRIDENT,  
SEAWOLF,  
SEALION.

It is intended to sail STURGEON early in January and TRIDENT shortly afterwards to relieve SEAWOLF and SEALION in Northern Waters. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to sail SEAWOLF and SEALION to Holy Loch for onward passage to Portsmouth about mid January. (F.O.S., 1759A/2).

NELSON.

NELSON docked in No. 3 dock 2/12. (A.S. Rosyth, 1820/2).

SOUTHERN  
PRINCE.

When ready for sea SOUTHERN PRINCE should be sailed for Port Z.A.  
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange the necessary escort. (D.O.D.(H), 1840A/2).

Operations.

Middel  
Diep  
Patrol.

Arrivals M.T.B.s. 30, 32, 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1021A/2).

Kwinte Bank  
Patrol.

Arrivals M.T.Bs. 18, 71, 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0951A/2).



War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

M.T.B.  
engagement  
with E-boats.  
M.T.B. 71  
damaged.  
M.T.B. 100  
damaged.

At 2300/1 M.T.Bs. 18, 100, 71 on patrol close to Kwinte Bank Buoy sighted 6 E-boats on N.E'ly course, speed about 20 knots. Brief action at 200 to 300 yards ensued while M.T.Bs. disengaged to N.W. hits were observed on Enemy but no noticeable effect from incendiary .303" ammunition fired by M.T.B.18. Enemy replied with cannon guns hitting M.T.B.71 in petrol compartment and 100 in engine room both causing fires which were extinguished quickly. No casualties reported.

M.G. Bs. 64 and 63 on patrol to Northward endeavoured to intercept but failed to make contact.

M.T.B.s. 34, 30 and 32 on patrol at S.W. end of Middel Diep saw nothing. From this it is possible that the Enemy made for Zeebrugge or Flushing. (C. in C. Nore, 1440A/2).

SEALION  
Patrol.

SEALION sailed for patrol off Tana Fiord between Meridian 027° 30' E., and 028° 50' E. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1441C/2).

H.F.  
Destroyer  
Exercise.

My 1236N/2. Home Fleet destroyers have cancelled exercise owing to (?weather). (A.C.I.C., 1801A/2).

UNA  
Patrol.

F.O.S. 1322A/24. Para 2. Sail UNA accordingly to patrol in Biscay West Zone routed to comply with F.O.S. 1911A/2. (F.O.S., 1912A/2).

Operation  
"Familiar".

TUNA reports operation "Familiar" carried out on 16 and 17 November 12 miles off Rost and from Traenen for 25 miles on course 41° with negative result. (F.O.S., 2321A/2).

CORMARSH  
(sunk  
29/11).

Is now known to have been sunk by a torpedo and not by a mine. (D.S.819).

Enemy Air Activity.

ROSS  
(damaged  
1/12).

My 2004/1. 250 Kilo bomb passed through fore peak, cutting both anchor cables, then out starboard side without exploding. No other damage and no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1108/2).

/ST.....

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.ST. LEONARD  
attacked on  
1/12.

(Fishing Trawler) Attacked by Enemy A/C at 1320/1 in position 20 to 25 miles N1/2W from Rona's Voe. Two near misses, one within 10 feet of port quarter filling after cabin. Skipper, doubtful of engine room bulkhead, abandoned ship 15 to 17 miles N. by W. from Rona's Voe at 1600/1. Skipper and crew of 9 uninjured brought to Scalloway in Trawler BRACONBUSH. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1258/2).

SMIRIL.

1 enemy aircraft attacked Faeroes S.S. SMIRIL 300 tons off Skaaleyig Sandø at 1240 today. 4 bombs were dropped and machine-gun fire. 1 military casualty, slight damage. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1621A/2).

Nolso  
Lighthouse

My Q1621A/2. At 1320 today enemy A/C attacked Nolso Lighthouse. No casualties reported, but considerable damage. Kabelen and Borin Light, Fog signal, and radio beacon cannot operate. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 2021A/2).

VESTLAND  
(Norwegian,  
1934 tons).

Attacked in Convoy M.H.48 at 1900/1 about 28 miles S.W. by S. of Bardsey Island. Steering gear damaged. No casualties. (D.S.819).

B.B.7.  
attacked.

3 attacks by 2 Aircraft between 2000 and 2040. No Bombs dropped. No damage. (POZARICA, 2042A/2)

Mining.Convoy F.S.661  
BRITISH  
CAPTAIN,  
(British  
Tanker, 6968  
tons) sunk.

Departure tug LADY BRASSEY to assistance Tanker (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0847/2).  
Departure Tug SUPERMAN to assist. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0852A/2).  
BRITISH CAPTAIN in F.S.661 mined near 54C buoy at about 0730/2, sank at about 0900/2 in 52° 13' 10" N., 01° 54' 41" E. KITTIWAKE taking 52 survivors to Harwich. One seriously wounded in WOLSEY, one missing.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1025/A/2) Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1300A/2).

/Yarmouth....

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.Yarmouth.

One acoustic mine exploded at 0710A/2 in 52° 15' 40" N., 1° 57' 40" E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1427A/2).

St. Georges Channel.

Vessel KIRSTEN MAERSK reports A/C dropping mines, two by parachute. Position 52° 11' N., 5° 16' W. at 1930A/1. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1454A/2).

Sweep of Faeroes passage.

Area swept since recommencing operation on 30/11. Details. Mines cut 14. (S.O. 4th M/S. F. 1510A/2).

Bristol Channel.

Exploded two red magnetic mines off Mumbles Light House. First at 0952A/2. Second at 0959A/2. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1520A/2). Owing to fog preventing minesweeping, ports of Avonmouth and Newport and Cardiff are closed until 1100/3. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1602A/2).

N.P.18A.

Intend to carry out operation N.P.18A tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1609A/2). My 1609/2. N.P.18 cancelled owing to fog. (V.A. Dover, 2257A/2).

Thames Estuary.

2 magnetic mines detonated at 0610/2 and 1026/2 respectively. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1646/2).

EMPIRE CHIVALRY, damaged.

EMPIRE CHIVALRY's compasses rendered useless by mine explosion in 052° 14' N., 001° 56' 30" E. and making water slowly. Have ordered TURQUOISE to lead her into Harwich. (WOOLSTON, 1745/2).

Enemy Intelligence.Invasion Exercises.

My Telegram No. 1251 November 20th. Invasion exercises were carried out at Stettin with about 6 lighters of same type on 20/11 and again on 22/11. Large lighters of similar type were exercising at Gdynia same date. No particular significance is attached to this.

2. The landing craft reported in my R.S.648 of 22/11 had recently returned from landing operations at Osel. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1541/2).

N.I.D. Comment. Reports have already been received and promulgated that invasion exercises are continually being carried out in the Baltic. The German attack on Osel Island took place at the end of September.

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.Cruiser.

Reported that auxiliary cruiser of about 3,000 tons passed ~~ROXBOROUGH~~ (61° 36' N., 04° 58' E) at 1330Z/2 Northbound escorted by 3 patrol craft, 4 M.T.Bs. and aircraft. It is possible this may be an "E" Boat depot ship. (D.D.I.C., 1627A/2).

Navigational.Yarmouth.

Port closed due to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0911A/2).  
Port now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0952A/2).

Wreck Buoy  
off Cromer.

Commodore of F.N.566 reports wreck buoy in 52.55.06 N., 01.31.00 E., light extinguished. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1130/2).

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2021A/2)

Miscellaneous.Burning Oil  
on Water.

At 1425 today a fire started on the surface of the water alongside VERDUN. This fire soon became a fierce blaze and spread rapidly, apparently due to fuel oil on the water, to "P" Jetty and the floating dock containing LEEDS. The fire was promptly tackled, was under control by 1450 and out by 1500. Little, if any, damage has been caused to any ship or the dockyard. This is due to the expeditious manner with which the fire parties and tugs tackled the fire. An enquiry is being held as to the cause of the fire (C. in C. Rosyth, No. T.O.O. Recd. 2001/2).

Casualties & Defects.ROXBOROUGH.

Your 1229/30/11. Request both sets of sided torpedo tubes be removed from ROXBURGH before sailing. All work of preparation for installation of centre line torpedo tubes will be undertaken in U.S.A. and tubes will be put in place on return of ship to U.K. (D. of D. Bath, 0522A/2 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

/R. J....

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.R. J. CULLEN.

Propeller gone. Position is 058° 06' N., 030° 30' W., at 1000.  
(Portishead Radio, 1545G.M.T./2).

WELWYN.

(Torpedo recovery wooden steam drifter) Was in collision with BRIGADIER approx. 2 miles N.E. of Fidra at 1515 today. WELWYN was able to proceed to Anstruther but reports considerable damage to port side, and skipper does not consider vessel seaworthy. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1734/2).

VAILLANT.

Your 1045/29/11. Work on VAILLANT should be given same priority as merchant ship repairs. (S. of C., 1759A/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Shipping & Convoys.F. S. No. 662.

Anchored in fog between 19C and 20 Buoy. (QUANTOCK, 0235A/2).

H. X. 161.

Not met. Am hove to in position 058° 30' N., 023° 05' W., 140°, 5 knots. VETERAN and LEAMINGTON in company. (DOUGLAS, 1000N/2).

F. N. 567.

My 1755/1. No ships sailed from Humber owing to Port being closed. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1107A/2). Am anchoring with F.N. No. 567 2 miles South East of 62F buoy. (LIDDESDALE, 1204A/2).  
F.N. No. 567 proceeding. (LIDDESDALE, 1431A/2).

Routes of  
Ships for  
Poole.

For N.C.S.O's. (i) Ships routed for Poole from West are to leave Q.Z.S. 293 in position:-  
(a) 50° 33' 24" N., 01° 51' 30" W., and proceed to position  
(b) 50° 38' 54" N., 01° 51' 30" W., and thence by the Poole Searched Channel to the Poole Bar Buoy in position 50° 39' 24" N., 01° 55' 11" W.  
(2) Ships routed to Poole from the Needles are to proceed from N.2 Buoy in Q.Z.S. 284 (50° 36' 48" N., 01° 41' 00" W) to position (b) above.  
(D.T.D., 1220A/2 and 2336A/2).

O. N. 41.

O.N. 41 Inform Commdre. and ship named that destination of EMPIRE LIGHTNING is changed to St. John, N.B. (C. in C. W.A., 1254/2 to VANOC-)

W. S. 14.

Orders for Escorts. (C. in C. W.A., 1518A/2, 1519A/2, and 0215A/3) See Lion Copy.

/B.B....

**MOST SECRET**

42 A

~~MOST SECRET~~

IN

15181/2nd. December.

FROM: C. in C. Western  
Approaches.

Date: 2.12.41.  
Recd: 2228.

Naval Cypher A1 by W/T.

ADDRESSED: N.O.I.C. Cardiff. N.O.I.C. Belfast. N.O.I.C.  
Liverpool. N.O.I.C. Greenock. N.O.I.C.  
Londonderry C. in C. South Atlantic.  
F.O.C.N.A. Admiralty C. in C. Plymouth.  
H.M.S. RAMILLIES. H.M.S. CROOME H.M.S.  
CELICIA H.M.S. POZARICA R.A.M. N.O.I.C.  
Milford Haven. Capt. (D) Liverpool.  
Capt. (D) Greenock. H.M.S. WHITEHALL H.M.S.  
WASHINGTON. H.M.S. NORMAN. H.M.S. NESTOR  
H.M.S. BRADFORD S.O. Force H. Group 15.  
ULSTER QUEEN BEAUFORT H.M.S. BADSWORTH  
H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C. F.O. Newfoundland Force.  
R.A. (D) H.F. S.O.W.P. V.A. 2. H.M.S. NEWARK  
H.M.S. LANCASTER H.M.S. WESTCOTT. H.M.S.  
SHERWOOD.

452. Convoy W S 14. Admiralty O108A 26, 1710A  
28 and 1647A 1. None to all addressees.

1. (a) Anti aircraft escort for Bristol Channel  
portion and main convoy ULSTER QUEEN.  
(b) A/A escort for Liverpool portion from Bar  
Light Vessel to position A. H.M.S. POZARICA  
in accordance with my 1826A.
2. Anti-Submarine escort.  
(a) Liverpool Portion H.M.S. \*WHITEHALL H.M.S.  
\*WITHERINGTON. *\*deleted 3/12. See p. 77*  
(b) Clyde portion H.M.S. NESTOR H.M.S. NORMAN  
H.M.S. FOXHOUND  
(c) Joining from Londonderry in position A.  
H.M.S. WESTCOTT H.M.S. BEVERLEY H.M.S. SHERWOOD  
H.M.S. LANCASTER H.M.S. NEWARK H.M.S. BADSWORTH  
H.M.S. CROOME, BEAUFORT.
3. S.O. Anti-Submarine escort H.M.S. NESTOR.
4. (a) H.M.S. BADSWORTH and BEAUFORT are to escort  
convoy to Freetown fuelling at Ponta Delgada as  
arranged by N.O.I.C. Londonderry.  
(b) BADSWORTH is subsequently to proceed to  
Gibraltar as ordered by C. in C. South Atlantic and  
is then to come under the orders of F.O.C.N.A.  
(c) H.M.S. NESTOR H.M.S. NORMAN H.M.S. FOXHOUND  
and H.M.S. CROOME are to part company in position

W and/

2.

W and proceed to Gibraltar in accordance with Admiralty's 1647A 1st. On arrival H.M.S. FOXHOUND and H.M.S. CROOME are to come under the orders of F.O.C.N.A. If it is necessary to detach H.M.S. CROOME earlier she is to report convoy and her own position course and speed when well clear of convoy.

(d) ULSTER QUEEN and H.M.S. WHITEHALL are to be detached in company at prudent limit of endurance and return North Channel subsequently proceeding to Belfast and Londonderry respectively

(e) Remaining destroyers are to remain with convoy till prudent limit of endurance H.M.S. NEWARK and H.M.S. LANCASTER returning to base H.M.S. WESTCOTT H.M.S. BEVERLEY and H.M.S. SHERWOOD to Londonderry.

5. Request you sail ship accordingly

6. All available C.Os to attend respective convoy conference.

1518A/2.

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

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

42 VC

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

1519A/2nd. December.

Date: 2.12.41.  
Recd: 1945.

Naval Cypher A1 by Cable.

ly  
ADDRESSED: N.O.I.C. Liverpool. N.O.I.C. Greenock. N.O.I.C. Londonderry, Repeated Admiralty, Capt. (D) Liverpool Capt. (D) Greenock. H.M.S. RAMILLIES. H.M.S. CILICIA H.M.S. WHITEHALL H.M.S. WITHERINGTON. H.M.S. WESTCOTT. H.M.S. FOXHOUND H.M.S. NORMAN H.M.S. NESTOR. BEAUFORT.

453. Convoy W S 14 my 1518A 2nd (i)  
H.M.S.\*WITHERINGTON from Londonderry is to rendezvous with Liverpool portion at Bar light vessel at 1330A 6th.

(ii) H.M.S.\*WHITEHALL H.M.S.\*WITHERINGTON are to leave convoy when Clyde portion joins and are to fuel at Londonderry and rejoin as soon as possible.

(iii) H.M.S.\*WESTCOTT and BEAUFORT are to proceed from Clyde to Londonderry after main conference and refuel before joining at position A.

1519A/2.

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

\* Deleted 3/12 - See 677

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



42D

# MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E    0215A/3 December    IN

From C. in C. Western  
Approaches.

Date    3/12/41  
Recd.   0317

P/L BY T/P.

---

Addressed F.O.'s i/c Cardiff, Belfast, Liverpool,  
Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, C. in C. South Atlantic,  
F.O.C.N.A. Repeated Admiralty, C. in C. Plymouth,  
C. in C. Home Fleet, R.A.D.H.F., V.A.2, S.O.W.P.,  
S.O. Force H, RAMILLIES, CILICIA, R.A.M., F.O.I.C.  
Milford Haven, Capt. D Liverpool, Capt. D Greenock,  
H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C., 15 Group, ULSTER QUEEN, WHITEHALL,  
WITHERINGTON, FOXHOUND, NORIAN, NESTOR, BEVERLEY,  
SHERWOOD, WESTCOTT, BADSWORTH, CROOME, BEAUFORT,  
NEWARK, POZARICA, LANCASTER.

467. My 1518A/2 delete C.C.N.F. in address and  
insert C. in C. Home Fleet.

Para. 2 for A/A escort read A/S escort.

Para. 4(E) after SHERWOOD insert WITHERINGTON.

0215A/3

Advance copy Ops.

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

✕ Escorts for Convoy W.S.4.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

B.B.7.

Owing to possible enemy minelaying convoy keep clear to starboard of position 052° 24' N., 005° 13' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1523A/2).

S.C.55.

SYLVIA DE LARRINGA has broken degaussing Coil. Request any change in destination. (FOXHOUND, 1545Z/2).

MALANCHA.

Admiralty's 1810A/30.

- (1) for SNOWFLAKE read ROCKROSE.
- (2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail JASMINE to arrive Londonderry dawn 6th and Fuel.
- (3) N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to sail ROCKROSE. S.O. and JASMINE to R/V with MALANCHA as arranged by N.C.S.O. Clyde.
- (4) ROCKROSE and JASMINE are to escort MALANCHA speed 13½ knots to Freetown by route which is being signalled.
- (5) If corvettes require to fuel at Ponta Delgada, ROCKROSE is to report on reaching latitude 46° N., stating minimum fuel required by each corvette and expected time of arrival.
- (6) ROCKROSE and JASMINE are to come under orders of C. in C. S.A. on arrival at station. (C. in C. W.A., 1601A/2).

P.Q.6.

Following ships arrived to date. DEKABRIST draft when fully bunkered 28 feet, ELONA draft 26 feet. EMPIRE MAVIS draft 21 feet, IERNE, MOUNT EVANS having lost four packing cases overboard, others damaged. Fuelling and watering of ships is being considerably delayed owing to continuous heavy gales. (A.C.I.C., 1741N/2-).

W.P.74 S.  
MARIE.

MARIE departed from W.P. 74 S. of Poole Bay but has not arrived. Possibly anchored awaiting tide. (N.O.I.C. Poole, 1801/2).

H.X.160.

Met as arranged average speed 7.91 knots. Extremely bad weather throughout voyage. One straggler all ships now arrived except MOUNT RHODOPE which joined S.C.55. (D.T.D., 1825Z/2, to Opnav).

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Raiders.

Intelligence. (D.D.I.C., 1925A/2 to Cs. in C. etc.) See Lion Copy.

Service Personnel.

Maximum numbers to be embarked in any one A.M.C. (4th S.L. 2220A/2 to Cs. in C. etc.) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

French Shipping.

Passing Gibraltar 0830/2 westbound. (D.O.R. 4/12.)

North Atlantic.SCOTTISH.

Arrival SCOTTISH. (V.A.C.N.A. 0636A/2 to Admty.) (Reported leaking boiler tube 1/12.)

CLYDE.

Return to Gibraltar direct forthwith at best speed. (F.O.C.N.A. 0940A/2 to CLYDE.)  
 Your 0940A/2 understood. My P.C. and S. at 1100A are 036° 10' N. 003° 12' W. 268° 16 knots (weather report).  
 (CLYDE 1003/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
 Have recalled CLYDE and intend sailing her again at 2100/2 to relieve Q24. CLYDE will take ex first officer of SERAFIN TOPIC on patrol.  
 2. On relief by CLYDE intend Q24 to proceed to patrol off Naples in area 040° 00' N. 013° 00' E.-80 - 110.  
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/2 to Admty.)  
 My 1510A/2. CLYDE arrived 1730A sailed 2100A/2.  
 (F.O.C.N.A. 2116A/2 to Admty., C. in C. Med. etc.)

CYCLAMEN.  
LONDONDERRY.

CYCLAMEN, LONDONDERRY left Ponta Delgada 0015 and 1100 G.M.T./2 respectively. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1002/2 to S.O.I. Gib.)

D.19 search.

Am carrying out thorough search of position 253° Cape Spartel 14 with 4 destroyers and will persist. (Capt. D.19, 1011A/2 to F.O.C.N.A. rep. S.O. Force H.)  
 New R/V 270° Spartel 5 at 1800.  
 (Capt. D.19 1358A/2 to LEGION.)

/SERAFIN TOPIC ...

M E S S A G E 1925A/2 December.  
**MOST SECRET** OUT.

To: C. in C. Home Fleet 514 Date: 2 12 41

44 A

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.195.  
New Zealand Naval Board.761.  
Britman.723.  
F.O.C. North Atlantic.616.  
C. in C. South Atlantic.650.  
N.O.I.C. Simonstown.206.  
R.A. South America Division.588.  
C. in C. America & West Indies.386.  
Australian Commonwealth Naval Board.214.  
C. in C. China.505.  
C. in C. East Indies.51.  
ALUSNA.  
SPENAVO.

NAVAL CYPHER (D).

From Admiralty.

NITE. AIDAC

A.M. 2229A/25.

H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE sank supply ship or raider in 027 degs. 53' S. 003 degs. 55' W. at 1746Z/1. Ship cast adrift boats containing fuel and provisions and endeavoured to escape. On warning shot being fired made smoke and scuttled. (PYTHON - Supply Ship.)

2. A.M. 2229A/25. Para.2. Ship again sighted by A/C almost certainly 45 (B).

3. SILVERWILLOW reported ship illuminated by star shell in 32 degs. 04' S. 06 degs. 00' East about 0001/24/11. Impossible to grade, but neither U.Boats nor DORSETSHIRE's victim thought to have been in area.

4. Now assumed H.M.A.S. SYDNEY sunk in 026 degs. 31' S: 111 degs. 00' E. evening 19th November, probably by torpedo. Raider was 41(G) STEIERMARK. Six 5.9 guns, above and underwater torpedo tubes. Left Germany December 1940 attacking ANTONIS, BRITISH UNION, AFRIC STAR and with 10(E) EURYLOCHUS. Rendezvous with NORDMARK then attacked CRAFTSMAN, NICOLAOS D.L. rendezvous with 16 (C) and ALSTERUFFER about 19th May in South Atlantic. Attacked VELEBIT, MAREEBA, STAMATIOS G. EMBIRICOS in Indian Ocean.  
\* KORMORAN.

5. MARY LIVANOS arrived.

6. Unknown ship made QQ West of Karachi about 0850/28/11, but no ship overdue yet.

7. Report of unidentified ship on 31st October off Chilean Coast 42 degs. 30' S. Difficult to grade but in view of A.M.2035A/7/10 Para. 6 might be supply ship.

8. Admiralty appreciate that one raider is still in Pacific and possibly another in Indian Ocean. Supply ships also possibly at sea.

1925A/2.

for D.D.I.C.

(Green Line 8)

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

P.T.O.....

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

N.I.

44B

# MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET~~ ~~M E 2 2 1 2 7~~

OUT.

2220A/2. Dec.

Date: 2.12.41.

- To: C. in C. East Indies, 55.
- C. in C. China, 511.
- C. in C. America and West Indies, 393.
- C. in C. South Atlantic, 660.
- C. in C. Mediterranean, 592.
- F.O.C. North Atlantic, 626.
- Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, 216.
- New Zealand Naval Board, 763.
- F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy, 279.
- C. in C. Western Approaches, 495.
- R.A.3.B.S.4.
- N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 198.

## Naval Cypher X.

From Admiralty.

The following are the maximum numbers which may be embarked in any one Armed Merchant Cruiser:-

2. When on voyage having their terminal ports in U.K., Canada, Gibraltar or Freetown -

(a) In W.S., C.T. and similar convoys, or independently with special escort, no limitation.

(b) Independently without escort or in trade convoy, 150 of each service.

When on voyage other than as defined in para. 2. no limitation.

4. Addressees pass to service authorities and S.T.O.s on their stations.

2220A/2.

D.O.D. (F)

Approved 4th S.L.

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

GB

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.SERAFIN TOPIC  
0.24.

SERAFIN TOPIC remains your object. She is to be sunk even if in convoy, the risk of hitting other ships is accepted.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1108A/2 to 0.24.)  
Carry out phase 2 leaving patrol off Oran at 0001/4 and proceed through (d) 036° 50' 001° 00' E. (e) 037° 20' 004° 00'. (f) 037° 36' 007° 00'. (g) 038° 10' 009° 00' thence direct to patrol area. Proceed on surface by day when west of 007° E. passing through (f) at 0700A/5. W.M.P.12, cancel paras. 11 and 12. CLYDE relieves you off Oran, will not pass east of 000° 40' before 0001/4. Capt.(S) 10 pass to OLYMPUS.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1408A/2 to 0.24 rep. OLYMPUS, CLYDE, S.O. Force H. etc.)

JAY.

Repairing steering gear damaged in heavy weather expected sailing 7/12. Portuguese Authorities have granted extension of time.  
(R.O. Horta, 1305/2 to Admty.)

HURWORTH  
RANGITATA.

Intend docking HURWORTH to change propeller and make good defects. Time required 3 days. Sailing RANGITATA with VIDETTE and HURWORTH probably on 5/12.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1314A/2 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A.)

MARSDALE.

MARSDALE patrol F.X.2. Situation 2007A/2.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1426A/2 to A.I.G.65.)

OLYMPUS.

Your 1119B/2. Onward route for OLYMPUS (r) 039° 00' 007° 00' E. (s) 038° 35' 002° 00' E. (t) 036° 20' 002° 15' W. Adjust speed to cross 000° 00' at 0400/9 and arrive at Gibraltar 0900. OLYMPUS to report on crossing 002° 00' E. if unable to comply within one hour of above time. Capt.(S) 10 pass to OLYMPUS.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1506A/2 to N.O.I.C. Malta, rep. S.10, Force H. etc.)

ZULU.

Excessive vibration developed at 1415 in star-board shaft indicating propeller or "A" bracket trouble. No defect has been located in - board. Vibration is so excessive that Port shaft can only be used. Maximum speed at present 16 knots. My position is 42° 57' N. 14° 44' W. SIKH in company.  
(ZULU, 1530A/2, to S.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Capt. D.19.)

/ZULU ...

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.ZULU contd.

ZULU 1530/2. Request ZULU be docked on arrival. (S.O. Force H. 2132A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Fuel,  
Funchal.

Your 1949/1. I have been assured by Captain of the Port that any reasonable requirements for bunkering British and Allied ships will be met, e.g., should a convoy arrive requiring 2,000 - 3,000 tons of coal this would be supplied should stocks be available. On this understanding arrangement would be more advantageous to British Govt. than by having a formal undertaking to maintain a reserve of 1,000 tons thereby possibly limiting supply to this amount.  
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1630/2 to N.A. Lisbon.)

CLAN MACINNES.

Assumed that on arrival of CLAN MACINNES with 2 M.L.C. referred to in C. in C. S.A. 1403/23/11 and 1321/23/11 the proposed unloading trial will be carried out. 2. Request you will state in due course name of small cargo vessel you propose to use for this purpose and period for which she will be required.  
(D. of S.T. 1851A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S  
Operations.

30/11 - 2/12.

(i) At 2130/30 Swordfish attacked S/M on surface 245° Spartel 14. Two depth charges exploded very close to S/M which heeled over and disappeared. Oil was still appearing when A/C left vicinity 2½ hours later. Original contact obtained by A.S.V, attack carried out from 30 feet.  
(ii) At 2122A/1 Swordfish reported A.S.V. contact in 300° Spartel 9. Contact faded, nothing sighted.  
(iii) At 2155/1 Swordfish reported A.S.V. contact in 270° Spartel 10. S/M subsequently attacked from 30 feet, both depth charges exploding, one close to stern. S/M pitched violently and appeared to stop suddenly, S/M then submerged. No oil sighted.  
(iv) At 0405A/2 air striking force sighted S/M in 340° Spartel 13 on surface. Attack from 50 feet was carried out as stern was disappearing. Both charges exploded close to the submarine. Nothing further seen.  
(v) At 0530A/2 surface attack was made in 336° Spartel 10. Contact reported undoubtedly S/M. No apparent result.  
(vi) At 0755 Swordfish attacked S/M which submerged in 253° Spartel 14. Depth charges dropped from 250 feet failed to explode. Destroyers subsequently swept area without result.  
(vii) Endless chain patrols in Straits by 12 corvettes and destroyers have failed to establish contacts.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2248A/2 to C. in C. Med.)



War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.OMAHA.  
SOMERS.Left San Juan 1/12, E.T.A. Pernambuco 11/12.  
(D.O.D.(F) 0033A/2 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)ALCANTARA.Leave patrol in J.33 and proceed to Trinidad.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0121N/2 to ALCANTARA.)→ DORSETSHIRE.Report P.C. and S. and percentage of fuel  
remaining.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0859N/2 to DORSETSHIRE.)AGORA.  
Accya.Ref. A.M. 1202A/28, apart from question of  
ability of ~~AGORA~~ to deliver approx. 10,000 tons  
of Cocoa in 4 days, M.W.T.R. points out certain  
delay at Lagos while marshalling ship and raises  
the question of ship with cargo for ~~AGORA~~. Accya.  
(R.N.O. Lagos, 0916Z/2 to C. in C. S.A.)MEMPHIS.  
DAVIS.Depart Pernambuco 3/12 for patrol to 15° N.  
26° W., returning Pernambuco 13/12.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1206A/2 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)Proposed  
Search for  
Enemy Ships.Your 1809N/1. (A) Very glad to receive your  
suggestion. (B) We have carefully considered  
whole question and do not believe there is  
another supply ship in South Atlantic at present.  
(C) Most probable action for Germans to take is  
to divert a blockade runner to pick up these  
crews. No information about any of these at  
the moment, but most likely lines of approach  
are from direction of Cape Horn or down from  
Central Atlantic. (D) Suggest therefore that  
a search to S.W. of boats' area, keeping well  
clear of the submarines, would be worth while  
a limited time. (E) Please do as you wish  
about DERBYSHIRE, but we would prefer you to send  
MARGUERITE and ASTER down to Cape focal area as  
soon as practicable, as undoubtedly one or two of  
the submarines have already been refuelled.  
(1st S.L., 1242A/2 to C. in C. S.A.)→ DORSETSHIRE.Steer 270° S. of A. 17 knots.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1427N/2 to DORSETSHIRE.)

/Liaison ...

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Liaison  
with U.S.N.

Request the position as regards direct communication with U.S. Naval Authorities and forces at sea may be clarified. In particular

(A) What authorities are entitled to address signals to Opnav please? Your 2017/20/11 refers.

(B) Are paras 24, 25 and 26 of SP 02376 in force? Should I have communicated DORSETSHIRE's 1746/1 direct to Opnav, escorts of W.S.12 X and/or Commandant 15th Naval District, Balboa?

(C) Who is Spenavo please? Your 2341/1 and 0144/2 refers.

(2) Ref. minutes of 26th meeting Trade Protection Committee para 26, request clarification of first sentence since if this is read literally direct communication is not permissible. Presume remark refers to requests for action to be taken and not to passing operational information.

(C. in C. S.A. 1455N/2 to Admty.)

WARTENFELS  
(?) German.

German ship probably WARTENFELS reported to have left Madagascar date and destination unknown.

(C. in C. S.A. 1541N/2 to S.A. Stn.)

CUMBRAE.  
HOXA,  
ROMEO.

Intend H.M. ships CUMBRAE (S.O.) HOXA and ROMEO to sail for Nairobi in company p.m./3. S. of A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Kilindini a.m./11. Routed as in my 1400Z/19/5.

(N.O.I.C. Durban 1543Z/2 to C. in C. E.I. etc.)

W.S.12 X.

Following is portion of signal T.O.O. 0851/29/11 from Opnav to Admiralty. (Begins) "6 American Transports escorted by QUINCY, VINCENNES, and 6 destroyers proceeding along prescribed track at 14 knots. Estimate arrive Capetown 10/12. Oiler CIMARRON in company." (Ends)

(D.O.D.(F) 1629A/2 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A.)

STANLEY.  
CLAN MACINNES.

STANLEY's steaming limited to 4½ days due to abnormal water consumption. Have ordered her to proceed to Bathurst to locate defects and to complete with water. CLAN MACINNES remaining with S.L.94 pending further instructions re onward routing should STANLEY be unable to rejoin by p.m./5. (?Passed to) STANLEY.

(VANSITTART, 1802Z/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

/ASTER ...

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.ASTER  
MARGUERITE  
DORSETSHIRE  
BIRMINGHAM  
ECHODALE.

ASTER and MARGUERITE are to fuel from ECHODALE on 4/12.

(2) (Corrupt group) and Corvettes are to be in position (E) 018° 00' S. 013° 00' W. at 0800Z/5 or as soon after as possible and are to approach this position on a course 176°.

(3) DORSETSHIRE is to pass through 030° 00' S. 008° 00' W. and then to R/V with ECHODALE at 0800/5 and complete with fuel. (4) ASTER and MARGUERITE are to be detached p.m./5 so as to arrive at vicinity of position F. 027° 53' S. 003° 55' W. by 1000Z/8 to search for survivor boats which may leave a U-boat in company.

(5) R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM is requested to patrol an area about 350 miles to S.W. of F. until necessary to leave for R/V with

DORSETSHIRE. (6) DORSETSHIRE is to R/V with R.A.S.A.D. at 1200Z/7 in 025° 30' S. 010° 00' W.

(7) Unless available intelligence makes it undesirable BIRMINGHAM and DORSETSHIRE should close to within flying distance of position F. early a.m./8 and search that vicinity with aircraft to assist Corvettes. (8) BIRMINGHAM should then fuel from ECHODALE, DORSETSHIRE continuing patrol of area referred to in para (5). Object of this patrol is to intercept any German surface units which may be approaching from Cape Horn area to recover survivors. (9) ECHODALE may be retained if necessary for one further fuelling and then ordered to Freetown. (10) Foregoing instructions should obviate necessity of ships to break W/T silence.

(C. in C. S.A. 1829N/2 to R.A.S.A.D. and ships named.)

My 1829/2. It may be expected that U-Boats will be in the vicinity of any boats sighted. Destruction of these is your first objective. Subsequently the following action should be taken.

(A) Power boat and boats loaded with fuel and supplies should be sunk, having first removed occupants.

(B) A reasonable number of prisoners should be taken from remaining boats but ships should not be overcrowded.

(C) Operation of picking up prisoners should be carried out by one corvette at a time with others screening.

(D) British merchant seamen prisoners may be among survivors. Survivors rescued should be cross questioned on this point.

(C. in C. S.A. 2145N/2 to ASTER, MARGUERITE.)

CHALLENGER.

Ref. Hydrographer letter H.02051/41, 20/6, anticipate ready to leave Bathurst 1/1. Request port of destination in U.K. Request mail may be diverted to U.K. after 4/12. (CHALLENGER, 1858N/2 to Admty.)

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.22 A/S  
Group.

Your 1937B/24. In view of activities in the Mediterranean it is important to retain the four vessels of 22nd A/S group lent by Union Govt. This efficient group is rendering very valuable service and Their Lordships fully endorse C. in C., Med's 1744B of 26/11. Request you will approach Union Govt. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2026A/2 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

KAJAK  
(Esthonian)

My 1441Z/30. Am now informed KAJAK will load for Vladivostock. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2131Z/2 to Admty.)

COMMANDANT  
DOMINÉ.

1. Request B.N.L.O. may be appointed to COMMANDANT DOMINÉ. At present I can only communicate with British authorities in M.N. Code.  
2. Expect to dock 5/12 at Simonstown. (COMMANDANT DOMINÉ, 1200B/2 to Adm. Comdg. F.N.F.L.)

Mediterranean.LUISE  
BORNHOFEN.  
(German)

Intercepted message 27/11 states Portuguese Ministry of Marine has given orders for this ship at Horta to be supplied with coal necessary to manoeuvre in an emergency. (D.S. 819, 2/12.)

MARIA  
GIOVANNI.  
(schooner)

Ran aground in enemy territory 10 miles W. of Tabruk on 23/11. C.O. and crew reported from Rome to have been taken prisoners. (D.O.R. 2/12.)

Force K.

Arrivals 2/12. AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY. (V.A. Malta, 0810B/2 to Admty.)

HEYTHROP.  
AVON VALE.

Join (corrupt group) in 32.21 N., 25.10 E. at 0930B/2. (V.A. Malta, 0948/2 to HEYTHROP, AVON VALE.)

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 6 M/Vs, 2 Destroyers, 3 (E.A), 35.15 N., 11.50 E., 170°, 12. (A/C G., 1020/2 to Hal Far.)  
P.C. and S. of enemy, 6 M/Vs 5,000 tons, 2

/destroyers ...

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. cont: -

Enemy Units - contd. destroyers, (Position as 1020/2). One Junkers 3 Macchi escort.  
(A/C call sign 9 F.T.G. 1021/2 to Hal Far.)

URGE. Leaves Malta p.m./2nd for Area E, 037° 00', 015° 21' - 350° - 057° - 20.  
(Capt. S.10, 1023B/2 to UNIQUE, P.34; 1025B/2 to Capt. S.1.) (Cancelled 1823/2.)  
*See p. 54*

AJAX. Intend docking AJAX 3/12 for bottom clean.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1044B/2 to C. in C. Med.)

OLYMPUS. Leaves Malta p.m./3rd passing 038° 15' 009° 00' about 1900B/5 with same orders as in my 1051B/30.  
(V.A. Malta, 1119B/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy Destroyers. 2 enemy destroyers 034° 05' 022° 03' course 000° 15 knots at 1015B.  
(Capt. S. 1, 1141B/2 to S/Ms on patrol.)

Benghazi bombed. Night 30/11 - 1/12, weather good. Wellingtons dropped over 20 O.S. bombs on Benghazi Harbour starting large fires on base of Cathedral Mole railway sidings and among nearby buildings, other bombs burst on Central Mole and caused explosions on Liana Point. 1 bomb fell either on or very near ship in harbour. A 4-engined aircraft was destroyed on Barce Aerodrome. Benghazi - Tolmeita and Barce - Derna Roads also bombed and machine gunned.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1159/2.)

ADRIATICO.  
IRIDIO  
MANTOVANI.  
ALVISE DA  
MOSTO.  
sunk by  
Force K.  
1/12. Following preliminary report from S.O. Force K. At 2330/30 Force K. was detached by C.S.7 to intercept M/V reported by A.S.V. Wellington. Wellington homed Force K. on to target which was sunk at 0330/1 in 032° 52' N. 020° (? 35') E. Ship was ADRIATICO.  
2. Officers and 19 ratings including Army person picked up. At 0940/1 received aircraft report of one destroyer and one tanker off Kerkenah Bank. Intercepted and found tanker damaged but proceeding S.E. Sank tanker and destroyer, IRIDIO (MANTOVANI (ship) and ALVISE DA MOSTO) in 33° 45' N. 12° 30' E. at 1815/1. Destroyer blew up after gallant action, no survivors. Picked up 3 Officers and 21 ratings from tanker, including Army personnel. (W.D. Note.- See also H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1840/2.)

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. cont: -

ADRIATICO.  
IRIDIO  
MANTOVANI.  
ALVISE DA  
MOSTO.  
sunk by  
Force K.  
1/12. contd.  
P.31 attack  
on enemy cruiser.  
~~copy~~. 24/11.

3. Cargo of ADRIATICO believed to be artillery stores and ammunition. Cargo MANTOVANI was 3,000 tons Benzine, 3000 tons Petrol gas oil and remainder Naptha.\*

4. No damage or casualties to Force K.

5. P.31 reports in 039° 20' N. 017° 33' E. at 1720B/29 fired at 2nd ship in line of 3 cruisers. 3 explosions at correct time interval, followed 3 minutes later by a very heavy explosion. All hydrophonic effect from target then ceased. After this enemy cruiser force was delayed several hours which suggests cruiser may have been sunk and a relief cruiser brought from Taranto. Consider that had ship hit been a destroyer she would have blown up immediately.  
(V.A. Malta, 1143B/2 to Admty.) \* See also p. 54.

YARRA  
FLAMINGO  
HEYTHROP  
AVON VALE.

Unless otherwise ordered by N.O.I.C. Tobruk. On arrival of "Local" off Tobruk entrance YARRA, FLAMINGO, HEYTHROP, AVON VALE return to Alexandria through Z, R, B, A, detaching HEYTHROP and AVON VALE to proceed independently. (Alexandria C.C.O., 1251B/2 to YARRA.)

SULLBERG  
(German)

Arrival 1st.  
(Valencia 1300/2 to M. of W.T.)

LISBOA  
(German)  
GRETE  
(Danish)

Arrival 2nd LISBOA. Complete loading oranges expected sailing tonight for Marseilles. Departure 1st GRETE for Marseilles with oranges. Flying Danish colours Master and Officers Danish and German, crew Spanish. (Valencia, T.H.I. 1300/2 to M. of W.T.)

Russian Ships  
From Black  
Sea.

Message 1636/25/11 from Adm. Miles. I am arranging to send up Lieut. Cdr. Seligman R.N.R. to assist. This will give you Oliphant, Harkness, and Seligman which should ensure no ship sailing without a British Officer. Admty. pass to N.A. Ankara.  
(C. in C. Med., 1325B/2 to N.A. Ankara.)  
Adm. Miles 1636/25/11. I am doing everything possible to provide officers so that there will be one in each of the Russian ships but suitable people are very difficult to provide. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles.  
(C. in C. Med., 1331B/2 to Adm. Miles.)

/Your 1621D/25 ...

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. cont.:-Russian  
Ships from  
Black Sea  
contd.

Your 1621D/25 para.(3). Only available British Officer sailed in MIKOVAN. Reliable pilots with recent previous successful experience of exactly similar operation in British ships will sail in 3 tankers. *see p.55*

(2) Admty. pass Adm. Miles.

(A.N.A. Istanbul, 1502B/2 to Adm. Miles.)

1. Russian Commercial Attache has received instructions from (?group omitted) Minister of Commerce that portion of oil cargoes of tankers to be discharged Turkey, balance to be taken south.

2. Russian N.A. has telegraphed C.N.S. that in his opinion operation will be made more hazardous if ships carry cargoes, particularly aviation petrol, and has recommended all oil be discharged here. I agree as safety of ships is first consideration and request if possible you put forward similar views.

3. Apart from above Turks think all oil in present three tankers is for them and would be upset if some is now reloaded. This might lead to less assistance from them. I would emphasize that Turkish authorities are being most helpful in assisting arrangements for passage of ships south.

4. Admiralty pass to Adm. Miles.

(A.N.A. Istanbul, 1718B/2 to Adm. Miles.)

U/B.

Turkish Naval Reports sighting German Submarine, 30/11, no time given, position 39° 22' N. 25° 48' E. approx.

(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1329B/2 to S.O.I. Med., S.I.)

Turkish  
Port  
Defences.

Please pass following to N.A. Ankara (for Adm. Kelly) Your 1243/27. I fully agree that matters are in a muddled state. I am sending you by letter a complete review of situation as regards defence of South Anatolian ports. Plans of Alexandretta defence have been delayed, as I am not in agreement with initial Admiralty proposals and am awaiting a reply to points I have raised. T.O.O.1335B/2. (Ends)  
(C. in C. Med., 1337B/2 to Admty.)

D.7.  
Search

My 1555B/1. Cancel patrol off Derna. Carry out A/S search on shipping route Rasel Mehl-Tobruk during the night 2nd/3rd and continue North search eastwards to longitude Mersa Matruh during daylight/3.

You may be required to patrol off Derna night 3/4th.

(C. in C. Med., 1604B/2 to Capt. D.7.)

/Greeks ...

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Greeks and  
HUNT  
Destroyers.

Admty. 1737/6/11. Greeks are asking to visit HUNT class out here to gain experience. Will ships turned over to Greeks be fitted complete as are those in our own service? If so, are there any restrictions on showing all fittings including R D/F to Greek Officers concerned? (C. in C. Med., 1604B/2 to Admty.)

Need for  
A/S Vessels.

Shortage of small A/S vessels here continues to be acute. Understood there are in South Africa 8 or 10 trained A/S Whalers manned by Seaward Defence Force. Request I may approach Director Seaward Defences direct with a view to obtaining a group to work in Mediterranean in addition to those already here. They could return very quickly if required but in meantime would be invaluable here. (C. in C. Med., 1630B/2 to Admty.)

Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 1659/2 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

CLAN CAMPBELL  
CLAN LAMONT.

CLAN CAMPBELL, CLAN LAMONT escort SALVIA sailed 1730/2, E.T.A. Port Said 0700/3. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1736B/2 to N.O.I.Cs Port Said, Syrian Ports.)

URGE.

Cancel my 1025B/2. URGE sustained fuel leak. (Capt. S. 10, 1823B/2 to Capt. S.1.) See p. 51

S/Ms for  
Turkey.

Object of passage of submarines ORUC REIS and MURAT REIS to Turkey is their safe and timely arrival at their destination. 2. Enemy warships may be attacked if encountered but not other enemy units nor convoys. These are, however, to be reported if practicable. 3. ORUC REIS is expected to leave U.K. about mid-December and MURAT REIS later. (Head of M. 1823A/2 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Air attack on  
MV IRIDIO  
MANTOVANI  
1/12.

4 Blenheims attacked bombs and machine guns 1 10,000 Tanker escorted 1 D/R 4 Cant 50ls, see my I.266, 1450 hours, 004° Zuara 72 miles. Ship down by stern almost awash and front end high out of water, ship stationary, as attack went a few crew jumped overboard but majority were in boats 500 yards away having abandoned ship. After first attack 8 500 lb S.A.P. bombs dropped mast height, 1 hit amidships, 2 near misses. Tanker left badly damaged, subsequently sunk by Navy. Prisoners state

/ship ...



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1659/2nd December

From:- C.in C. Middle East.

Date. 3.12.41.

Recd. 0120

CipherAddressed:- The War Office, (Pass to Air Ministry),  
repeated C.in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

15961. 0/33343. cipher 2/12.

Cositrep No.27. Officer decipher.

1. Very heavy fighting continued throughout 1 December in area Bir El Hamed - Zaafran - Sidi Rezegh in which enemy succeeded in splitting junction of N.Z. Div. with Tobruk garrison and forcing 4 Armd. Bde. to withdraw south. Tobruk still hold El Duda but Bir El Hamed and Sidi Rezegh remain in enemy hands.

2. N.Z. Div. less 5 N.Z. Bde. elements in Tobruk being withdrawn to Bagush to refit. Night 1/2 Dec. 7 Armd. Div. on line Tigh El Abed from frontier to Gabr Saleh thence due west to Belchoufus area 4136. From here they are continuing to exert maximum pressure on enemy L. of C. Acroma - Gazala - Timi and harass enemy moving south of escarpment.

3. 30 Corps now consists of 7 Armd. Div. and 22 Gds. Bde. Gp. 1 S.A. Bde. Gp 11 Ind. Inf. Bde. Gp. in area south of Gabr Saleh. It is to be joined later by remainder 4 Ind. Div. on relief by 2 S.A. Div. 22 Armd. Bde. reforming further south.

4. Night 1/2 Dec. 5 N.Z. Bde. patrolling west from Menastir. 4 Ind. Div. clearing up in area Bardia - Sollum - Sidi Omar - Sidi Azeiz. Enemy still hold Bardia defended position area 504365 and area Sollum Halfaya.

AIR/...

AIR

5. Night 30 Nov. 1 Dec. Heavy Wellington attack Benghazi started fires at base of Cathedral Mole. Railway sidings and buildings in vicinity. Explosions on Juliana Point. Possible hit on ship. Other bombs on Central Mole. Four - engined aircraft hit on Barce aerodrome. Main roads Benghazi, Tolmeta and Barce - Derna bombed and machine gunned. One Wellington missing second crash landed. Weather good.

6. Day 1 Dec. Reconnaissance reported one hundred and twenty aircraft on Derna, Martuba, Tmimi landing grounds.

7. Bomber. Four Blenheim squadrons with fighter escort bombed enemy M.T. A.F.V's and tanks south of Sidi Rezegh at midday. Details obscured by cloud at 6,000 feet, but large fire started among vehicles with pall of smoke. In afternoon Maryland squadron with fighter escort attacked about three hundred M.T. north of Sidi Rezegh. Bombing very effective, many vehicles destroyed and fires started. One Blenheim squadron bombed dumps inside Bardia perimeter causing very violent explosions and large fires.

8. Fighter. Further to Cositrep 26 para: four. Our fighters very active throughout day. Sweep by two Hurricane Squadrons engaged 18 plus M.E.109s destroying 3, damaging 1. 4 Hurricanes down, one pilot safe. One of our fighters missing

1st Lord N.I.D.10 1659/2

1st S.L. D.P.D.

4th S.L. Copies circulated by War Office:-

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

M.O.5 (for action).

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

S.of S.

Col. Jacob

D.O.D.(F)

C.I.G.S.

C.A.S. Air Min. (2)

D.D.O.D.(F)

V.C.I.G.S.

D.of Plans. Air Min.(2)

D.D.I.C.

D.M.O.& P.

Plans 3 Air Ministry (2)

D.N.I.(4)

D.D.M.O.(0)

D.O.O. Air Ministry (1)

Hd. of M.(2)

M.O.1.5.6.

D.M.C. Air Ministry

D.of P.(2)

D.D.I.P.

Duty Group Capt. Air Min.

D.C.(2)

D.M.I.

P.S. to S.of S. Air Min.(2)

D.N.A.D.

D.D.M.I.(I)

A.C.A.S. (I) Air Min.

E.P.S.

M.I.3.14

Air Min. War Room

I.P.(2)

D.A.F.V.

Sec. of State, Foreign Off

W.D.

D.C. Admiralty (2)

D.P.(2)

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air attack  
on IRIDIO  
MANTOVANI  
1/12 contd.ship was making water fast and sinking and was stopped as result Air Action, excellent pictures being sent to Air Ministry.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1840/2.)  
(~~IRIDIO - MANTOVANI, 1840/2~~)THUNDERBOLT  
TRIUMPH.THUNDERBOLT is to leave patrol p.m./4 and return to Alexandria through following positions- 036° 24' 020° 28', 034° 32' 022° 54', 033° 44' 026° 18' - adjusting speed to pass through second position about 1800B/5 and arriving in sanctuary at ?(06)00B/8. TRIUMPH is to take over patrol in area Q.1 in addition to area Q from 0001B/5.  
(Capt. S.1, 1905B/2 to S/Ms named.)JACKAL  
damaged.JACKAL hit in steering compartments by aircraft torpedo at 1300/1 in 032° 15' N. 024° 41' E. has now arrived Alexandria under own power. Propellers and shafts appear undamaged but after compartments flooded and steering gear out of action. No casualties.  
(C. in C. Med., 1906B/2 to Admty.)A. MIKOJAN.Have you any news of U.S.S.R. Icebreaker <sup>A.</sup>MIKOJAN which is reported as having passed from Istanbul to Aegean Sea on 28/11? 2. This ship is urgently required at Archangel, request details of her speed and endurance.  
(D.T.D. 1926A/2 to S.B.N.O. Suez.) See p. 53UPHOLDER.Torpedoes expended. E.T.A. 1701B/3. My P.C. and S. 037° 15' 016° 28' 215° 9.  
(UPHOLDER 2001B/2 to V.A. Malta.)

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Motor Boats. Your 2248/27. Regret no boats are available on this station.  
(C.in C. E.I. 0532Z/2 to C.in C. Med.).

DAUNTLESS. N.A. Lisbon is being asked if DAUNTLESS may visit Marmagoe 8/12 for 24 hours.  
(C.in C.E.I. 0756Z/2 to Admty.).  
Cancelled C 1144/3.

CARTHAGE Sailed, escorting VARELA.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0954Z/2 to Admty. etc.).

R.A.3 B.S. 1. Flag of Rear Adm. S.S. Bonham Carter hoisted in RAMILLIES at 0900/2.  
(R.A.3. 1638A/2 to Admty. rep. C.in C. H.F. C.in C. W.A. etc.). *See p. 37. (Home Commands)*

China.

Orders to shipping.

Following orders given for British ships and Allied ships under British control on China Station.  
(a) Withdrawal of all ships north of Hong Kong to be expedited.  
(b) Ships over 4000 tons to leave Hong Kong to southward.  
(c) No ship to leave Singapore to N.E. without special permission except to ports in Malaya or Borneo.  
(2) No Dutch ship is allowed to sail northward Netherlands East Indies without permission Dutch C.in C.  
(C.in C. China 0353Z/2 to C.in C. E.I. A.C.N.B. C.in C. A.W.I.).

Hong Kong Precautions.

Kowloon Inf. Bde. and supporting Artillery on Gindrinkers Line with one Coy. Inf. on Frontier from 22/11. Portion Coast Arty. and A.A. at immediate and from 30/11, remainder at one hour. Beach defence guns at three hours. Hong Kong Inf. Bde. skeleton manned remainder at six hours. Frontier training camps cleared except that for volunteers. Volunteers not mobilised but at six hours' notice. Navy. Lyemun boom closed. North shore boom being laid. Navigation lights except gap rock doused. British ships being unloaded of any foodstuffs. Question of siege rationing of

/services.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong  
Kong  
Precautions  
-Contd.

services and civil populace now under consideration. Local Frontier situation normal. (G.O.C. Hong Kong 0400/2 to C.in C. Far East).

Eastern  
Fleet  
Command.

At 0030Z/3/12. Adm. Sir Tom Phillips will assume command of Eastern Fleet which will till further orders comprise following units: PRINCE OF WALES (Flag) REPULSE, REVENGE, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, JUPITER, VAMPIRE. (2) Commands and Administration of remaining ships and establishments of China Station will continue to be carried out, by V.A. Sir G. Layton till further notification. (C.in C. China 0801Z/2 to China Stn.).

BOUGAINVILLE  
(French).

Arrived 30/11.  
(A.C.G. Saigon 0855Z/2 to D.of S.T.).

Japanese  
Intelligence.

F.E.W. 59 serial 215 to B.A. Tokyo. Japanese preparations as F.E.W. 58 continue. No aircraft French Indo China approx. N. 120 S. 180 including 90 heavy bombers in south (corrupt groups) Troops south 2 divisions and mechanised formation north 2 possibly 3 divisions. Majority of second fleet comprising 12 modern cruisers 28 destroyers now in Formosa - South China Area. 9 submarines sighted 100 miles north of Camranh Bay 2/12 course S. In spite of apparent deadlock Japanese Cabinet decided on 1/12 to continue Washington conversations. (Singapore 0951Z/2 to Admty.).

Japanese  
Situation.

Chiefs of Staff No. J.I.C.I. (1st S.L. 1526A/2 to C.O.I.S. Singapore, for Adm. Layton and Adm. Phillips ) See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

CARADOC.

Your A.W.I. 939/70 dated 10/10. Anticipated that CARADOC will return to U.K. for leave and adjustment of complement on completion of refit. Ship may be reduced to complement authorised by A.M. 2217/3/10. Ratings so released are to be returned to U.K. at first opportunity if not required by B.A.R.M. for manning other ships returning to U.K.

/Junior.....

MOST SECRET.

**MOST SECRET**

O U T.

To C.O.I.S. Singapore. ~~DECC. S. 12. 41.~~  
Repeated Cdre. Hong Kong, 408.

Naval Cypher O.T.T.

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.      AIDAC.

C.O.I.S. Singapore for Admiral Layton and  
Admiral Phillips.

Following for C. in C., Far East, Admiral  
Layton and Admiral Phillips, (Repeated) Cdre.,  
Hong Kong, from Chiefs of Staff No. JIC.1, 2.12.41.

Political.

Washington conversations appear to be resuming.  
But for the present we have nothing to add to  
information in F.O. telegram No. 421 of 30th Nov.  
and C.O.S. No. FE 49 of 1st December.

JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPPING.

There are now no Japanese ships in the Atlantic  
or Indian Oceans. The last Japanese ship in an  
American port sailed from Chile on the 29th November.  
All outward sailings from Japan to the Americas have  
been cancelled except that of the TATSUTA MARU which  
is scheduled to leave Yokohama today for Los Angeles,  
Balboa and Panama to pick up Japanese evacuees. No  
Japanese ships are reported in ports in the  
Netherlands East Indies or the Philippine Islands.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Sailings of French vessels to and from French  
Indo-China are reported suspended. This is thought  
to be only a temporary measure pending arrangements  
for suitable escorts.

The movements of vessels carrying special cargoes  
of rubber like the PERSEE (ex PIERRE L.D.) which have  
sufficient cruising range to reach French West Africa  
without intermediate ports of call, will probably  
continue. The PERSEE at Saigon will load a large  
shipment of rubber according to reports.

1526A/2

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

C.

War Diary.

2.12. 1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

CARADOC  
-Contd.

Junior ratings recently joined who can be spared for A.W.I. pool should be withdrawn now. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0035A/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

DUC D'AUMALE  
(French).

Left Carapito westward bound 2/12. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0911Q/2 to S.O.I. Kingston).

Positions.

H.M. and Allied ships at 1800 G.M.T./2. (D.O.D. (F) 1107Z/2 to Opnav) See Lion Copy.

PUEBLA  
(ex ORINOCO)

German ship ORINOCO renamed PUEBLA Mexican Flag sailed Tampico 29/11 for Vera Cruz. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1014R/2 to Admty. etc.).

KING  
MALCOLM.

Your 1724A/8/11. S.C. 50. Request verification of local report that KING MALCOLM subsequently arrived safely. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1430Z/2 to Admty.). Reply 1241/3.

Japanese  
S/M's and  
Transports.

Information supplied by C.in C. of Asiatic Fleet (0730Z/2) indicates the presence of 3 type 1-61 submarines bearing 070 from Saigon distant 180 miles in cruising formation headed south at 15 knots. Also there are 21 transports anchored in Camranh Bay with 6 planes patrolling over them. (Opnav 1453Z/2 to Admty.).

BYT.1. -  
BYT.5.

Following from B.A.S.R. Your 1042/27. (Details) (b) Estimated sailing dates are as follows: BYT 1 10/12 BYT 2 31/12 BYT 3 9/2 BYT 4 10/3 BYT 5 10/4, but are liable to alteration. Further signal concerning possible crews from M.of W.T. will be made. (B.A.D. 1455R/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

PANDORA

Ref. 1720/30 from Admty. and 1755/11 and my 1704/21. PANDORA is expected to sail from New London for Halifax p.m./15. Request C.in C. A.W.I. will route vessel and that C.O.A.C. and C.C.N.F. may inform PANDORA of movements of own ships and arrange T.B.R. 30 miles either side of her route informing PANDORA of arrangements made PANDORA will be keeping W/T Watch in accordance with A.F.O. 'S' series 1 sec. A.C. table 2 (iii) para (b). (B.A.R.M. 1500R/2 to C.in C. A.W.I. etc.).

/U.S. Troops....

MOST SECRET

OUT

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE

1107Z/2/December.

To: - OPNAV.

Date 2.12.41.

Repeated SPENAVO.

SPECIAL U.S. SETTINGS.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Estimated positions of H.M. and Allied ships  
at 1800 G.M.T. 2nd December.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
CORINTHIAN	40 N 27 W	069	9
MARSDALE *	35 N 43 W	-	-
DESPATCH	29 N 50 W	284	14
CIRCASSIA	43 N 60 W	300	14
LIVERPOOL.	43 N 43 W	062	18
DEVONSHIRE *	03 N 28 W	-	-
DORSETSHIRE	30 S 00 W	110	20
BULOLO. *	25 S 40 W	-	-
BIRMINGHAM	30 S 19 W	080	17
ASTURIAS	24 S 41 W	224	14
ALCANTARA *	18 S 35 W	-	-
PRINCE ROBERT	24 N 178 W	095	15
DIOMEDE	)* Galapagos area.	-	-
Oiler ORANGELEAF			
BELMONT.	54 N 27 W	260	15

\* On patrol.

1107Z/2.

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

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. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	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)	D.G.D.
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.T.D. (2)
D.O.D. (H)	N.I.D. 10.
D.D.O.D. (H)	A.E. (3)



War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

U.S. Troops  
for  
Surinam.

U.S. Destroyers BARNEY and BLAKELEY escorting  
S.S. YARMOUTH with 600 U.S. troops for  
Surinam sailed 1/12.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1509/2 to Admty.).

PRUDENT,  
MACBETH.

PRUDENT towing MACBETH at 1400/29 in 4625 N.  
3910 W. 270 (27?)° one knot. Later report timed  
0400Z/30 states steamer's cable parted.  
PRUDENT endeavouring to heave in tow rope and  
take ship in tow again. Wind force 10. Am  
anxious regarding PRUDENT fuel. If assistance  
required suggest FOUNDATION FRANKLIN now in  
this vicinity be sent.  
(C.C.N.F. 1515Z/2 to C.O.A.C.).  
At 1715Z/2 PRUDENT reported with MACBETH in  
046° 32' 039° 00'. S.W. gale. Drifting. 8 days  
fuel remaining. PRUDENT ordered to return to  
St. John's N.F. for fuel. C.O.A.C. Halifax  
requested whether FOUNDATION FRANKLIN can be  
diverted from present duties to go to MACBETH  
vide N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F. 1457Z/2 to N.C.S.O  
Halifax N.S.  
(C.C.N.F. 1912Z/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.O.A.C.  
Halifax. etc.).

ALCANTARA.

C.in C. South Atlantic 1111/23. Forthwith, but  
request early information of E.T.A.  
Ship should arrive wearing Red Ensign and meet  
pilot 2½ north of Cape Henry at 0800 zone 5  
time. (B.A.R.M. 1546R/2 to Admty.).

S/M  
SURCOUF.

Your 1642/30. para. (B) approved.  
2. C.in C. S.A. is requested to indicate approach  
route.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1748A/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

MARSDALE.

MARSDALE is to leave patrol 1200A/5 for Halifax  
passing through (a) 040° 00' N. 050° 00' W. and  
south of Sable Island, E.T.A. a.m./10.  
(S.O.W.P. 1750/2 to Western Patrol).  
My 1750A addressed Western Patrol. Request  
MARSDALE may be supplied with approx. 600 tons.  
each fuel oil and fresh water. (2) MARSDALE  
should leave Halifax for patrol 15/12. Patrol  
area will be signalled.  
(S.O.W.P. 1752A/2 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

/DEVONSHIRE.....

War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

DEVONSHIRE.

Your 1724/29 DEVONSHIRE can be taken at Navy Yard Norfolk at once. Job No. S.242 request information when ship may be expected. She should meet pilot 2½ miles N. of Cape Henry at 0800 zone time on day of arrival. (B.A.R.M. 1750R/2 to Admty.). Postponed - see Adty. 2342/3.

Long range  
R/C A/C for  
Western  
Approaches.

Personal for First Sea Lord from Admiral Little. Your 0356A 2nd. to Admiral Stark. While Catalinas would come within province of U.S. Naval Authority "other aircraft of equivalent range" could only be land type belonging to U.S. Army Air Services. Harris informs me that there is at present a considerable and acrimonious dispute between U.S. Services over desire of U.S. Navy to acquire long range heavy bomber types for (?sea) reconnaissance and he foresees if Stark is advised to use your message in this domestic dispute it may create bad feeling here and result in accusations by U.S. Army that we are taking sides. Moreover it is not clear from your signal whether you propose U.S. aircraft with U.S. crews or release of more U.S. aircraft to be operated by us. In view of above consideration I suggest that we should also make this request from Chiefs of Staff as a whole to Joint Board rather than ostensibly a personal matter between you and Stark and therefore fraught with dangerous local complications. Stark already has message.

(B.A.D. Washington 1815R/2 to 1st S.L.).

ILLUSTRIOUS  
FORMIDABLE.

Your 2030A/27. As dates of departure of ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE differ by only 2 days request I may be given early information if there is any likelihood of destroyers being late at R/V so that if you consider this to be desirable FORMIDABLE can be sailed in time to make use of same escort as ILLUSTRIOUS. (B.A.R.M. 1822R/2 to Admty.).

S.E. Pacific  
Force.

Continuing 2053/10/11. Programmes. (Opnav, 1915/2 to Admty. etc.). See Lion Copy.

Vichy  
Intelligence

Meter Casablanca 29/11. A.1 ILE D'OUESSANT and ILE DE NOIR MOUTIER arrived. Dakar 29/11. A.1. MEDIE TWO, C.M. ARMAND BLANC arrived. Dakar 1/12 A.1. Convoy with BRESTOIS, STRABON, \*IFORT, \*ARCHAMBAULT cleared southwards. JAMAIQUE and ARCTURUS arrived from Casablanca with several hundreds Senegalese troops for demobilisation. (B.A.D. 1941R/2 to S.O.I. Freetown).

*\*not identified.*

# MOST SECRET

60 A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1915/2nd December

IN

From Opanav.

Date 3.12.41.

U.S. (X) BY CABLE

Recd. 0715.

Addressed Admiralty, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. America  
and West Indies, C.C.N.F.

Continuing my 2053/10 November South East  
Pacific Force.

RICHMOND departed Balboa 28th November passing  
through following points

1200 G.C.T.	29th	04 04	North	78 53	West
	30th	00 07	North	81 33	West
Dec.	1st	01 11	North	86 12	
	2nd	Arrival Seymour Galapagos 1100 departing 1300			
	3rd	00 42	North	86 05	West
	4th	01 52	South	82 00	West
	5th	04 50	South	85 43	West
	6th	07 21	South	81 37	West
	7th	11 23	South	84 17	West
	8th	13 05	South	79 45	West
	9th	17 10	South	82 24	West
	10th	15 08	77 55	West	
	11th	19 18	South	75 22	West
	12th	22 17	South	79 18	West
	13th	25 35	83 08	West	
	14th	29 12	South	79 43	West
	15th	33 08	South	76 32	West
	16th	Arrive Valparaiso 0900 departing 20th			
	21st	29 35	South	76 25	West
	22nd	25 10	South	74 28	West
	23rd	22 34	South	78 52	West
	24th	18 12	South	76 45	West
	25th	18 00	South	81 43	West
	26th	14 25	South	78 28	West
	27th	13 36	South	83 20	West
	28th	10 20	South	86 56	West
	29th	06 30	South	84 02	West
	30th	10 18	South	81 03	West
	31st	Arrive Callao 0900 departing Jan. 2nd 0900			
Jan.	3rd	11 10	South	82 30	West
	4th	06 26	South	83 39	West
	5th	03 54	South	87 42	West
	6th	01 20	South	83 44	West
	7th	04 05	North	81 00	West
	8th	Rendezvous Trenton			
	9th	Arrive Balbao 0800.			

Trenton/.....

# MOST SECRET

60 B

- 2 -

TRENTON 28 November amended to 10 18 South 86  
00 West.

Nov. 29th 05 57 South 88 00 West  
30th 05 57 South 83 15 West  
Dec. 1st 02 24 South 86 30 West  
2nd Arrive Seymour Galapagos 1100 departing 1300  
3rd 02 10 North 86 45 West  
4th 05 12 North 81 38 West  
5th Arrive Balboa 0800. 29 Dec. depart Balbao.  
30th 03 37 North 80 35 West  
31st 00 35 North 84 17 West  
Jan. 1st 02 15 South 88 10 West  
2nd 03 20 South 83 31 West  
3rd 01 07 North 81 42 West  
4th 05 57 North 81 32 West  
5th Arrive Balboa 0800.  
7th Depart Balboa  
8th Rendezvous RICHMOND.

2 destroyers of Panama Naval Coastal Frontier  
continue patrol as before.

1915/2

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

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H).  
A.C.N.S.(F).  
A.C.N.S.(T).(2).  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.D.(H).  
D.D.O.D.(H).  
D.O.D.(F).  
D.D.O.D.(F).  
D. of P.(2).  
D.N.I.(4).  
D.A/S.W.  
I.P.(2).  
W.D.  
Duty Captain (2).  
Head of M.  
D.D.I.C.  
E.P.S.  
D.T.D.(2).  
D.T.D.(M).  
N.I.D.10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson).  
Admiral Bailey.  
A.E.(3).

**MOST SECRET**

60c.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

Date 3. 12.41

From War Registry

CORRECTION

OPNAV's 1915/2 re RICHMOND.

Read as follows:-

" December 3rd 00 42 North 86 05 West." ✓

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.D. (H)  
D.D.O.D. (H)  
D.O.D. (F)  
D.D.O.D. (F)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.A/S.W.  
I.P. (2)  
~~W.D.~~  
Duty Capt. (2)  
Head of M.  
D.D.I.C.  
E.P.S.  
D.T.D. (2)  
N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson  
Admiral Bailey  
A.E. (3)

FP

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -Contd.O.N.42.

Unit 4.1.16 composed of SOREL, NANIMO, MAYFLOWER, KENOGAMI, PRESCOTT, LETHBRIDGE, DUNVEGAN, designated escort.  
(Opnav 1949Z/2 to Admty.).

GARLAND  
damaged.

Your 2027A/20/11 GARLAND arrived Halifax a.m./2 with heavy weather damage. Magazine flooded and anti-submarine out of action. Ship will be docked 4/12 when hull damage and time required for repairs will be signalled. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2056z/2 to Admty.).

DUNEDIN  
survivors.

U.S. merchant ship NISHMAHA picked up 72 men on 27/11 from DUNEDIN which was torpedoed and sunk on 24/11. Five died since. NISHMAHA has been directed to land survivors, some of whom require medical attention, at Trinidad. NISHMAHA position 007° 30' N. 038° 50' W. at noon 2/12. Course 283° speed 9 knots. (B.A.D. 2107R/2 to Admty. C.in C. A.W.I. N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

Australia.CAP DES  
PALMES.

Repeat to F.N.F.L. London from B.N.L.O. CAP DES PALMES will sail from Papeete 2/12 at 2200 G.M.T.  
(Consul Gen. Papeete, 0217Z/2 to Admty.).

SYDNEY  
PARAMATTA.

Message of sympathy at loss. SYDNEY was a most gallant ship with a record that will live in Naval history, and we can find some consolation in the fact that she ended her career by freeing our ocean lifelines of a serious menace. PARAMATTA's work, too, has been of great service to our common cause.  
(1st Lord 2306A/2 to A.N.N.B.) Acknowledged 1018Z/2.

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA.

Following has been read - SSSS 35° 27' N. 20° 00' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA, sighted submarine. (Liverpool W/T 0521/2).

Position 35° 24' N. 29° 57' W. (Lands End Radio 0530/2, T.O.R. 0635/2).

Following has been read:- SSSS 35° 20' N. 29° 58' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA chased. (Liverpool W/T 0616/2, T.O.R. 0720).

Following from Cape Race Radio, Begins:- SSSS 35° 14' N. 29° 58' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA chased 0615/2 (Ends) Signed O.I.C. (Halifax N.S., 0624 G.M.T./2).

Following has been read:- SSSS 35° 24' N. 29° 52' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA gunned. (Liverpool W/T 0624/2 de GLD T.O.R. 0726/2).

Intercept 0530 G.M.T. SSSS 35.24 N. 29.58 W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA sighted submarine 0630/2. (C. in C. Plymouth, from Lands End Radio T.O.R. 0634/2).

Intercept 0623 G.M.T. SSSS. 35.14 N. 29.52 W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA gunned. (Lands End 0723/2 to Adm., Plymouth, 44 Group, T.H.I. 0738/2 to D.O.N.C. Whitehall).

Following from Land's End Radio. Intercept 0823 G.M.T. de CNW (Tanger Radio) to C Q: ship inconnu demande assistance, 35.14 N. 29.57 W. (or 29.58 W.) not re-broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0924/2 to Admty.)

Captain of port Ponta Delgada intercepted message stating MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA torpedoed \* 035° 14' N. 029° 52' W. at 0520 G.M.T./2nd. Portuguese ~~DES~~ VOUGA being sent to search. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1032/2 to S.O.I. Gib).

*\* report erroneous DEL 17/12*

Submarines Reported.

0405. 1 submarine bearing 340° from SPA 13 miles. (A/C 0405/2 to Gibraltar W/T).
- 0521Z. Ref. Admty. Message A.F. position 35° 27' N. 29° 57' W. at 0521Z/2. (D.D.I.C. 0645Z/2).
0755. 1 Submarine bearing 253° position SPA 14, submerged. (A/C Y, 0755/2, 0845/2 to Gib. W/T).
- 0230Z. 9 submarines sighted by naval aircraft in 13° 10' N. 110° 00' E. at 0230Z/2 course South, speed 10. (Opnav, 0945/2 to Admty.)
- 0724A. At 0724A D/F bearings located U-Boat probably in Huelva Bay. (F.O.C.N.A. 1257A/2 to Capt. D. 19, Groups 1 and 2, IMPERIALIST).

/Estimated....

War Diary.2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs. (D.D.I.C. 1435A/2, 1436A/2).

1803Z.

D/F bearing at 1803Z/2nd. Enemy unit probably U-boat estimated 071° 05' N. 024° 00' E. unreliable fix. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2325C/2 to BERWICK).

Submarines Attacked.By A/C  
1/12.

A/C 2155A/1. RDF contact at 3 miles S/M identified at 1½ on surface travelling fast course 90° Sparte1. Smaller U-boat than encountered last night. First D/C dropped half a length astern, second D/C dropped alongside stern 15 feet out of height 30 feet. S/M remained on surface about 20 seconds after dropping of second D/C. S/M then crash dived apparently under control, no oil observed but circle of white foam and one large air bubble. (F.O.C.N.A. 0922A/2 to Admty.)

By A/c.My 1015 (N.T. in W.D.). Have attacked enemy with bombs dive and estimate nil hits. (? 1030/2 to 201 Group).  
My 1030. Enemy has altered course to 270 approx. Am returning to base. (? 1050/2 to 201 Group H.Q.)By A/C  
and  
STORK.

Aircraft's 0405/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) S/M was sighted at ½ mile on surface at high speed on course 160. Swordfish attacked from 50 feet as S/M dived. One D/C 15 feet from stern and one abreast of conning tower 20 feet to starboard. At 0530 (? STORK) obtained a good contact in vicinity and carried out two attacks. Hunt continues. Aircraft's 0755/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) Aircraft reported S/M submerged. A/C attacked from too high and D/Cs did not fire. Course of S/M, N.E. Destroyer sweeping area. (F.O.C.N.A. 1300A/2 to Admty.)

Report on A/S operation 30/11 - 2/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 2248A/2) See North Atlantic.

/By.....



War Diary.

2.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By A/C  
2155/1.  
0403/2.  
0755/2.

Swordfish attacked U/Boat at 2155 in position 270° Spartel 20. Another U/Boat was attacked at 0403, position 340° Spartel 15. Another U/Boat attack was made at 0755, position 255° Spartel 142. Results of attack not yet assessed. (200 Group, 1930/2).

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Yarmouth was closed from 0725A to 0855A on account of fog. Harwich was reopened at 1115A today.

C. in C. Home Fleet considers that, with 3 of his Cruisers required for the Russian Convoys and KENT detailed for special service, the chances of intercepting any Enemy Unit endeavouring to break out into the Atlantic are dangerously low, and he asks that every effort may be made to carry out frequent air R/C of enemy ports.

C. in C. Portsmouth points out that, unless PUCKERIDGE re-joins his Command before the beginning of FERNIE's refit on 15/12, there will be only 2 destroyers available for C.E. and C.W. convoys and no margin in case of breakdown.

The Tanker DIE DENHOFFEN laden with 6,000 tons of oil is reported to have left Oslo today for North Norway and Finland.

The Tuskar Light was reported extinguished at 1325A today.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today or tonight on account of weather. Coastal Command aircraft attacked shipping successfully off the coast of Norway.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Owing to fog the Thames Estuary approach channels were not swept by 0730A today.

Owing to fog preventing minesweeping Barry and all ports east of Barry will remain closed until 1100/4. S.S. MACLAREN was sunk today in 51° 21' 21" N. 3° 17' 17" W. after the position had been swept this morning.

North Atlantic.

French  
Liner  
Convoy.

A French Convoy consisting of the large liners ERIDAN, 9,928 tons, PROVIDENCE, 11,996 tons and PORTHOS, 12692 tons, and one tanker, with a destroyer of the SIMOUN class, passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1315 today.

Special A/S searches by surface vessels and aircraft from Gibraltar were carried out today.

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE, which C. in C. S.A. had intended to pass through 30° 00' S., 08° 00' W. and then to R/V with ECHODALE to refuel was at midday today ordered by Admty. to proceed to Capetown forthwith. She is to be detached temporarily from S.A. Station to escort Convoy W.S.12X. to Suez and return, taking the place of AUSTRALIA.

Admty. hope to send another 8-in cruiser from home, but at present at least 2 are out of action with rough weather damage.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Destroyers.

Changes in the distribution of destroyers, consequent on the decision to reinforce the Mediterranean, were outlined by the Admiralty tonight.

A/S vessels.

C. in C. Med. points out how low his strength is in small A/S vessels, the total for the entire station being 28 plus 11 M.L.'s for escort work. He considers that 5 more A/S groups are urgently needed on the station, one of which should consist of corvettes.

Submarines.

Capt. S.1. and Capt. S.10 have resumed operational control of their respective flotillas.

A/S Sweep.

Capt. D.14 was tonight ordered to take HERO, HASTY and HAVOCK under his orders for A/S sweeps alongside convoy routes, to reach 25° 30' E. at 1800/4.

Air Operations.

All air operations from Malta were cancelled today owing to bad weather.

Libya and Western Desert.

As the enemy are reported to be running supplies by caiques landing in the area Marsa Lucch and Sollum Bay, Capt. (D) 7 was at midday today ordered to investigate if conditions permit, but not to expose his force unduly to gunfire from Bardia battery.

Mines have been laid by aircraft in the entrance of Raz Makhabez, 33.09 N., 11.42 E., which was thought to be Tripoli (Africa). A fourth mine was dropped 25' W. of Tripoli. Pilots are unable to supply more exact detail.

East Indies.

AUSTRALIA.

Owing to the Far East situation and the loss of SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA is to be released from the escort of Convoy W.S.12X. and is to proceed towards Fremantle. Her future movement will be decided at the coming conference at Singapore.

/DAUNTLESS.....

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies-Contd.

DAUNTLESS.

Admty. have cancelled their order for DAUNTLESS to remain in the East, and she is to continue her passage towards U.K.

Eastern Fleet.

Battleships.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet considers that the arrival of further capital ships at Singapore cannot well be delayed, and is anxious to begin fleet training of battleships. He considers REVENGE and ROYAL SOVEREIGN should join him at Singapore as soon as the latter can arrive, about 20/12, and proposes that she should be released from escort work at the Cape. (She is at present with W.S.12Z). He also suggests that advantage be taken of the passage of WARSPITE through the station to give an appearance of strength by keeping her at Singapore for about a week.

Command.

see p 57

Adm. Sir Tom Phillips assumed command of Eastern Fleet at 0050Z today. It comprises at present REPULSE, REVENGE, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, JUPITER, VAMPIRE.

PRINCE OF WALES

America and West Indies.

INDOMITABLE, which arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, on 25/11 from U.S.A., is to remain at Jamaica until further orders and continue working up.

Arrangements for DEVONSHIRE to repair at Norfolk, U.S.A., have been postponed for operational reasons.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. CLAN MACBEAN reported being attacked by U/B at 1510 today in 24.42 S., 06.09 W., or in the latitude of Walvis Bay.

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Availability of Destroyers.

It will be advisable to boiler clean BERKELEY starting 0800/5, ship being out of action for this purpose from that time until 0800/11. This will leave BLENCATHRA and FERNIE available during that period.

2. The refit of FERNIE has been approved by Admty. 1921/29/11 to start on 15/12. If ship is taken in hand before PUCKERIDGE rejoins only two destroyers will be available for C.E. and C.W. Convoys leaving no margin in case of breakdown.

3. Request information whether absence of PUCKERIDGE is likely to be prolonged and if refit of FERNIE should be delayed accordingly. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1013A/3 to Admty.)

2 Destroyers for Force H.

Request you will sail 2 "Vees" or "Towns" as soon as possible to join Force H.

2. BADSWORTH and CROOME must also be sailed with W.S.14 as already arranged.

3. CROOME cannot be regarded as a relief for HARVESTER but "H" class destroyers are to return to Western Approaches on relief by (a) FOXHOUND (b) ANTHONY (c) ACTIVE.

(V.C.N.S. 1352A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

4th M/L Flotilla.

F.O.i/c. Portland's 1250/27. The 4th M.L. Flotilla now based at Troon is re-allocated to Portland. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail available boats as soon as possible remainder being sailed when ready.

(D.D.O.D.(C), 1546A/3.)

Tobermory M.L. facilities.

Your 1735/22/11. From a preliminary survey 4 M.Ls. can be berthed at Trots at Tobermory. Detailed proposals for moorings are being prepared. Nearest fuel supply is at Oban, but a tank installed at Tobermory or at Salem in Loch Sunart would be preferable.

(R.A.C.F., 1818/3 to Admty.)

23rd M/L Flotilla.

A.L.N.017444/41 of 25/11/41. The 23rd M.L. Flotilla is allocated as relief flotilla. Request you will nominate four boats to each division and forward proposals for training programme and for any re-arming that may be necessary.

(D.D.O.D.(C), 1947A/3 to R.A.C.F.)

Destroyer Movements.

Summary of Destroyer Movements consequent on decision to reinforce Mediterranean Destroyers. Details.

(A.C.N.S.(F), 2216A/3.) See Lion Copy.

/State.....

# MOST SECRET

70A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2216A/3rd December

OUT

Addressed C. in C. Western . Date 3.12.41  
Approaches. 535.

C. in C. Home Fleet. 538.

F.O.C.N.A. 653.

F.O. Force H. 165.

V.A. Malta. 317.

C. in C. Mediterranean. 634.B.1.

C. in C. South Atlantic. 690.

NAVAL CYPIER (D).

From Admiralty.

The following is a summary of destroyer movements consequent on the decision to reinforce Mediterranean destroyers. Where it differs from previous signals it is to be considered as over-riding them.

(A) LEGION  
ISAAC SWIERS  
MAORI  
SIKH  
ARROW  
FORTUNE

To be known temporarily as Group I, are to be sailed through the Mediterranean when ordered by Admiralty, see Admiralty 1656A/3 (not to all addressees).

(B) NESTOR  
NORMAN  
GURKHA  
ZULU (if ready)

to be known temporarily as Group II, will be sailed through the Mediterranean as ordered by Admiralty, when the requisite number of destroyers at Gibraltar have arrived - about 18th December.

(C) LANCE and LIVELY now with Force "K" are to form part of Mediterranean Fleet forthwith.

(D) As it is probable that some U-Boats will remain in the Western Mediterranean, it is desired that Force "H" should have available about twelve destroyers to act as a screen. To effect this the following arrangements have been made:-

LAFOREY )  
LIGHTNING )  
HARVESTER ) are at Gibraltar now  
EKMOOR )  
BLANKNEY )

HESPERUS/



HESPERUS            )  
 HIGHLANDER        ) should arrive 4/12

WHITEHALL           )  
 CAMPBELLTOWN       ) are due 8/12 (see p. 73)

CROOME is due about 16/12.

Two destroyers of the Gibraltar Force are required to be kept available to make up the twelve.

E. The Brazilian H's are required in Home Waters for convoy escorts. They will be relieved:

HARVESTER by FOXHOUND about 16/12  
 HIGHLANDER by ACTIVE about mid-December  
 HESPERUS by ANTHONY about end of December.

F. HURWORTH and BEAUFORT are to escort W.S.14 from Freetown to the Cape and thence to the Mediterranean at best speed.

G. BADSWORTH after escorting W.S.14 to Freetown is to rejoin Western Approaches via Gibraltar.

2216A/3.  
 D.O.D. (F) (164).  
 Approved A.C.N.S. (F).

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

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.State of H.F.  
Cruisers.

The state of Home Fleet cruisers is as follows.  
 (a) KENYA and CUMBERLAND require taking in hand for weather damage repairs. Probable time required for KENYA 8 days, CUMBERLAND not yet in.

(b) NORFOLK has a hull weakness and if she meets bad weather damage requiring docking is almost certain to develop.

(c) Other cruisers available are SUFFOLK, BERWICK, KENT, ARETHUSA, EDINBURGH, and SHEFFIELD of which both SUFFOLK and EDINBURGH need a refit.

2. With 3 cruisers constantly required for P.Q. and Q.P. convoys and KENT for special service, it will be impossible even without any further commitments to maintain more than one cruiser on each patrol; and in these circumstances chances of interception are dangerously low.

3. Request every effort may be made to carry out frequent air reconnaissance of enemy ports. (C. in C. H.F., 2335A/3 to Admty.)

RAMILLIES.

Although C.O. RAMILLIES informed me he was satisfied his ship was adequately worked up to make (? A) passage (? with me) I do not consider RAMILLIES can be regarded as a real protection to a convoy, nor that she should proceed where there is likelihood of meeting enemy force or aircraft until she has had enough time to work up both fighting efficiency and better control. (C. in C. H.F., 2344A/3 to Admty.)

Visit of  
Norwegian  
C. in C.  
to Troon.

In view of Admiralty's 1546A/3, request visit of C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy to Troon on 5/12 may be cancelled. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2358A/3.)

Co-operation with Russia.A/S Trawlers.

Are STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE now at Murmansk the first two of nine to be transferred to Russians.  
 2. If not when may they be expected. (Ad. Miles, 1754B/3.)

Movements.ORUC REIS.  
MURAT REIS.  
(Turkish)

Request you will sail ORUC REIS and MURAT REIS on completion of working up to Gibraltar for onward passage through to the Eastern Mediterranean.

2. Delivery port has not yet been decided. (D.O.D. (H), 0054A/3 and 1353A/3.)

/LOWESTOFT.....

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.LOWESTOFT.

Detach LOWESTOFT to Rosyth when situation permits.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1002/3 to LIDDESDALE.)

Floating  
Crane.Arrived floating crane in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN, STALWART and DANUBE VI escorted by AQUAMARINE, SPHENE and M.L.205.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1128A/3.)B.P.T.33Intend to sail tug EMPIRE BASCOBEL towing B.P.T.33 escorted by CORNELIAN from Plymouth a.m./5th for Scapa. Estimated speed 5 knots. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange to relieve CORNELIAN a.m./7th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1233/3.)KENYA.  
BEDOUIN.  
INTREPID.My 1057N/26/11. If Captain Egipko is on board or if there is other reason to do so KENYA is to call at Scapa. Otherwise proceed direct to Rosyth. BEDOUIN and INTREPID proceed to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1438A/3 to KENYA.)P.39.My 1551A/8/11 and my 1312A/20/11.  
(a) In view of our intensified A/S air effort by night in Bay of Biscay area and of enemy increased U-Boat activity in vicinity of Gibraltar P.39 is to carry out her 2 working up patrols from Gibraltar,  
(b) If convenient it is suggested these should take form of anti-submarine patrol within say 300 miles off Gibraltar.  
(c) Capt. (S) 3rd S.F. is to sail P.39 for Gibraltar accordingly when ready.  
(F.O.S., 1506A/3.)UNA.(1) Intend to sail UNA escorted by WHITE BEAR at 1600A/5 for position 050° N. 006° 30' W. E.T.A. 1900A/7.  
(2) Thence WHITE BEAR return to Holy Loch.  
(3) Thence UNA proceed to dive by day through the following position for Patrol in Bay of Biscay West Zone.  
(4) UNA will leave Patrol area after dark 14/12 and proceed diving by day through 044° N. 009° W. to position 043° N. 010° 30' W. E.T.A. 0800A/15.  
(5) Thence UNA proceed to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.  
(6) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation as follows.  
(Capt. S.3., 1633A/3.)

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

P.36. My 1849/1. Postponed 24 hours. Same route.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1701/3.)

WHITEHALL.  
CAMPBELTOWN.

WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN are to be sailed tomorrow to Milford Haven. After refuelling at Milford Haven ships are to be sailed to Gibraltar proceeding best speed consistent with endurance and weather conditions.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1734A/3 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)  
Report immediately in accordance with C.A.F.O. 726/41.  
2. Para. 2 (a) Milford Haven. (b) 5th December.  
(c) Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1924A/3 to Admty.) *See p 90 B*

P.511.

Arrived CUTTY SARK and P.511. (*through Foyle - see p 98*)  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1830A/3.)

H.31.

My 1051A/1. Sailed H.31 and Z.5.  
(Capt. S.7, 2044/3.)  
Anticipate you will meet H.31 escorted by Z.5 proceeding Clyde Londonderry tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2217A/3 to HEARTSEASE, AMAZON, MARNE.)

Operations.Patrols.

M/S and A/P patrols for 3/12 as in my 1014/2 except for M.S.T.PATTI, ARLEY.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1027A/3.)  
No patrols tonight Station.  
(N.O.I.C. Dover, 1559A/3 to BLENCATHRA.)  
Patrol tonight (1) 3 M.L.'s on Q E (8)  
(C. in C. Nore, 1650A/3.)

Trials with  
WESTCOTT.

My 1250/26. Owing to poor progress today it may be necessary to continue trial seven on 5/12. Request S.7 may arrange for area Inchmarnock North and South to be available.  
(C.A/S. E.E., 1843A/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Interception  
of Enemy  
Units.

State of H.F. Cruisers. Chances of interception are dangerously low.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2335A/3.) See Policy.

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Thames  
Estuary.Owing to fog the approach channels have not been swept.  
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 0730A/3.)Bristol  
Channel.Exploded red magnetic mine at 0954A/2 in position 51° 26'18" N. 03° 49'30" W.  
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 0955A/3.)  
Owing to fog preventing minesweeping, Barry and all ports east of Barry will remain closed until 1100/4.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1018A/3.)Minefield  
off Bodo.Controlled minefields are reported at both ends of Hjartoy Sund off Bodo. Graded B.3.  
(D.D.I.C., 1214A/3.)MACLAREN  
(British,  
2330 tons)  
sunk.(2) MACLAREN sunk in 51° 21'21" N. 3° 17'17" W. Position was swept this morning.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1352A/3.)Humber.Humber is open to navigation.  
(F.O. Humber, 1519A/3.)Operation  
N.P.18A.Intend to carry out operation N.P.18A tonight.  
(V.A. Dover, 1602A/3.)  
M.Ls. 101 - 103 carrying out N.P.18A. Expected time of departure 2300, expected time of return 0430/4.  
(V.A. Dover, 1736A/3.)Operation  
Q.O.Operation Q.O. postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1748A/3.)Exploded red mine 1439A/3 in 013° 2 miles from Watchet Pier Light.  
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1820A/3.)Enemy Intelligence.Norwegian  
shipping.Tanker DIE DENHOFEN with 6000 tons oil left Oslo today for North Norway and Finland.  
Graded A.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1731/3.)Ships off  
Calais.One large and several small enemy vessels have been detected by R.D.F. passing Calais westwards at 1935 speed 12 knots.  
(V.A. Dover, 1958A/3.)  
My 1958A/3. These vessels have now entered Boulogne.  
(V.A. Dover, 2151A/3.)

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Yarmouth.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0725A/3.)  
Cancel my 0725A/3.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0855A/3.)

Harwich.

My 2021/2. Port is now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1115A/3.)  
Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1756A/3.)

Faroos.

Borin light and fog signal out of action.  
(Hydrog, 1237A/3.)

Tuskar  
Light.

Tuskar Rock Light House reported extinguished.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1325A/3.)  
No.1884 Tuskar Rock light and fog signal  
unreliable.  
(Hydrog., 1650A/3.)

Wrecks off  
58A Buoy.

Commodore of F.N.567 reports lights on Dan  
Buoys marking wrecks close East and West of  
58A buoy not seen in good visibility at  
0600/2.  
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1554/3.)

Varne.

No.7 lightbuoy replaced in charted position.  
N.E. Varne Light buoy relit.  
(V.A. Dover, 1931A/3.)  
(Hydrog., 2244A/3.)

Casualties and Defects.R.J.CULLEN.

O.N.39. TENACITY escorted by WINDERMERE has  
been sailed from Iceland to assist R.J.CULLEN.  
(D.T.D. 0645Z/3 to Opnav.) *See 4/20 p. 90.*

WEREWOLF.

(N.A.B.) Broke adrift from her moorings during  
gale 25/11/41 and became a total loss.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1141/3.)

WELLARD.

Cancel my 1005Z/3. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Repaired safety valve  
ineffective necessitating further delay.  
Earliest possible sailing time 1900Z/3.  
(WELLARD, 1205A/3.)

/EMPIRE....

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.EMPIRE  
CHIVALRY,  
(Damaged  
2/12.)

Departure Tug LADY BRASSEY to assistance of EMPIRE CHIVALRY.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1431A/3.)  
EMPIRE CHIVALRY anchored Platters 1640.  
Extensive superficial and hull damage, not serious. Water in vessel under ships own control. Master states does not require salvage assistance if he can proceed port of repair immediately.  
(Ad. Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1830A/3.)

BLAIR  
NEVIS,  
(Damaged  
24/11.)

Chief Salvage Officer reports unable to obtain sufficient buoyancy under existing conditions to justify risk of towing vessel to Humber. Tugs detached for this duty can be dispensed with. Salvage operations in hand with ultimate aim to save ship and cargo. Request all possible tugs 0800 Thursday to tow vessel up onto beach whilst fixing ground tackle as salvage operations will take several weeks. 1455A/3. Ends.  
Propose HEADSMAN and SCOTSMAN be retained until vessel is beached.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, ? T.O.O./3.)

BLACKWATER.

Capt. i/c Port Edgar's 1736/3 is passed for information begins.  
BLACKWATER grounded forward at 0935/3 and fractured a frame in approx. position 260° Hen and Chickens Buoy south 1½ cables whilst carrying out S.A. sweep of R.S.C.M. 064A.  
Ends.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1850/3.)

BRITISH  
CAPTAIN.  
(Mined 2/12)

Departure Tugs DIVERSION and KROOMAN at 1411A, with Salvage Officer to wreck BRITISH CAPTAIN, vicinity 54C buoy.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2031A/3.)

Shipping and Convoys."Skipper"

My 1549/2. "Skipper" postponed owing to fog.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0858/3.)

F.N.69

Following is an extract of my 0946A. F.N.69 delayed owing to fog. Propose to cancel this convoy.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0950A/3.)

S.D.17,  
BRIGHTON.

Proceed to Greenock with S.D.17 and make arrangements to comply with my 1631/2.  
(R.A.M., 1014/3 to BRIGHTON.)

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.O.N.41.

O.N.41 sailed 2200/2 to join convoy OZARK (U.S.) Ocean route (U) Nantucket Light Vessel via Ambrosi Channel to New York. E.T.A. 15/12. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 1023N/3.)

O.N.S.47  
ROXBOROUGH.

A.M. 1826A/29/11. ROXBOROUGH will be available to sail with O.N.S.47. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1258A/3.)

O.S.12.

O.S.12 report P.C.S. and number of ships in company. If Convoy is split report escorts present with each Section. Also report what action is being taken on Admiralty's 1131A/3. (C. in C. W.A., 1439A/3 to Escorts of O.S.12.)

W.S.14.

Intend sailing Bristol Channel Section from Barry Roads at 1330/5 to Belfast, E.T.A. 1630/6, and therefrom at 0230/7 to Oversay R/V in accordance with your 1825A/1 and Admiralty O108A/26. Escort ULSTER QUEEN. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1507A/3 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1518A/2.

- (i) Delete all reference to WHITEHALL.
- (ii) Cancel para. 4(d) and substitute new para. 4(d) as follows:  
ULSTER QUEEN, WESTCOTT, and WITHERINGTON are to remain with convoy till prudent limit of endurance and return to North Channel in company. ULSTER QUEEN proceeding Belfast and destroyer to Londonderry.
- (iii) Para. 4(e) delete WESTCOTT and WITHERINGTON. (C. in C. W.A., 1848A/3.)

State of RAMILLIES.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2344A/3.) See Policy.

F.S.662.

Do not arrive at 51 buoy before 0730. Anchor in swept channel between 51 buoy and B.8 and await further orders.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2211A/3 to QUANTOCK.)  
Between 54 F and 54 E, F.S.(No. 662 has anchored visibility  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile..  
(QUANTOCK, 2355A/3.)



War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.JAY

Horta reports JAY delayed by damage to steering gear in heavy weather. Portuguese Authorities have granted extension. Expected to sail 7/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 0014A/3 to Admty. C.in C. S.A.).

O.21.

Admty. 1838A/22/10. On what date will O.21 leave Gibraltar for Dundee. (F.O.S. 0026A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).

French Shipping Spanish troops and cruiser.

Gibraltar 2/12 0830 French Survey Ship SENTINELLE, BONIFACIO, light, deck cargo eight motor lorries, PARAME full deck cargo casks, three motor cars, KERMARIA, LA BLANCHE II, French Auxiliary Trawler MIRPASSE, Westbound. Ceuta departure 2/12 1100 CIUDAD DE ALGECIRAS for Algeciras with large numbers of troops. 2/12 1930 Spanish Cruiser in 042°. Cape Espichel ten miles steering 350° 10 knots. (S.O.I. Gibraltar T.H.I. 0215/3).

French Convoy.

French convoy of three large liners and one tanker escorted by one destroyer 270° Spartel 2, eastbound.

(WISHART 0915A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).

My 0915A/3. Liners are ERIDAN, PROVIDENCE and PORTHOS, destroyer is French Destroyer SIMOUN class. (WISHART 0928A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).

French convoy of 4 large merchant ships and one destroyer passed Gibraltar eastbound 1315. (F.O.C.N.A. 1336A/3 to CLYDE).

My 2037/2 (N.T. in W.D. ) but presumably T.H.I. 0215/3 refers). For Spanish Cruiser read

minelayer Vulcano class. Gibraltar 1315 French destroyer L'ALCYON French ships PORTHOS, PROVIDENCE, ERIDAN, all laden, tanker RHEA full eastbound. (1829A/3 from S.O.(I) Gib. to Adty. C.in C. Med.)

FORTUNE

Your 1620A/2. FORTUNE sailed 1316A/2.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1034A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).

EUGENIO C (Italian)  
JOAO PESSOA (German)

Arrival 2nd EUGENIO C, proceeding to Castro Urdiales to load iron ore. Departure 2nd JOAO PESSOA, sailed last night, destination believed to be Nantes.

(Consul, Bilbao, 1224/3 to Admty.).

Fuel Funchal.

Your 1630/2 Portuguese Admiralty would welcome some form of Gentleman's agreement which from my knowledge of them would be scrupulously observed. (N.A. Lisbon 1616/3 to N.C.S.O. Funchal).

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

A/S Operations. U. 2248A/2. Request following information may be signalled:-  
(1) Heights and ranges at which A.S.V. contact was made.  
(11) Methods of approach.  
(111) Any other points of interest.  
(D.S.D. 1845A/3 to F.O.C.N.A. ) Reply 1302/5.

Flights  
over  
Spanish  
zone.

Your 1045, not to Admiralty. As far as can be ascertained no British aircraft flew over Western Coast, Spanish zone on 30/11 or 1/12 but were flying in vicinity outside territorial limits.

(ii) On 1/12 Hurricane force-landed on beach in Tangier zone due to engine failure. As aircraft was in dangerous state the pilot endeavoured to set it on fire and having failed in this he asked another Hurricane to do it for him. This was effected with due regard for safety of local inhabitants. After satisfying himself in this respect he left area.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1900A/3 to Consul General Tangier).

H.G. 76.

Can date of sailing H.G. 76 be given please in view of impending commitments for escort and berths in Admiralty harbour.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2030A/3 to Admt. ) Reply 1231/5.

GRELHEAD  
sunk.

Following from Vice Consul Melilla (begins) GRELHEAD sunk off Punta Legri midnight first. Fear only two survivors, details later. (Ends).  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 2330A/3 to Admt.).  
British 4274 tons, on passage from Gibraltar to Melilla (D.O.R.5/12). Independent from Melilla for U.K. with ore. (D.S. 823).

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE

Well done.  
(1st S.L. 0053A/3 to DORSETSHIRE).

STANLEY

E.T.A. Bathurst 0630Z/3.  
(STANLEY 0059Z/3 to C.in C. S.A.).

BIRMINGHAM.  
DORSETSHIRE.

Your 1559/2 (1829N/2 intended). Though reluctant to break W/T silence I consider this plan would leave BIRMINGHAM dangerously short of fuel, estimated under 10%, if reasonable A/S precautions are taken, particularly as oilings at sea may be delayed by weather. Suggest you might consider BIRMINGHAM, after patrolling till

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.BIRMINGHAM,  
DORSETSHIRE.  
Contd.

P.M./6 (as in?) para. 5, proceeding to Cape to fuel, (?returning to) patrol area by 12th. If you think fit, DORSETSHIRE could proceed forthwith to fuel at Cape, returning to assist Corvettes to search. This would obviate possible delay in fuelling at sea and would enable both Oilers to be withdrawn from area of possible submarine activity.

(R.A.S.A.D., 0533Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)  
ASTER pass to ECHODALE. In view of R.A.S.A.D's. 0533Z/3 amend my 1829/2 as follows. Para.6. add BIRMINGHAM should then proceed to fuel from INITIATIVE (As received- ? ECHODALE intended). Para. 7. delete D. Reference BIRMINGHAM para. 8 delete the reference to BIRMINGHAM and INITIATIVE (ECHODALE?) Add new Para 8 A. After fuelling DORSETSHIRE on 15/12 INITIATIVE (ECHODALE?) is to proceed to position D, my 1045N/26/11 and my 1817N/28/11 refer.

(C. in C. S.A., 0945N/3, to R.A.S.A.D.)  
Cancelled, see 1327/3).

Your 1829/2. DORSETSHIRE is to proceed to Capetown forthwith. A.M.2322/1 refers.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 1257A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)  
Proceed to Capetown forthwith.

(C. in C. S.A., 1235N/3 to DORSETSHIRE).

My 1235N/3 was by Admiralty direction. Suggest BIRMINGHAM proceed now to Northward with a view to fuelling from ECHODALE in position (e) vide my (1)829N/2nd Para 2.

(C. in C. S.A., 1314N/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

ASTER pass to ECHODALE, cancel my 0945N/3 and para 3 and 6 of my 1829/2. (C. in C. ,SA.1327N/3 to R.A.S.A.D. etc).

Your 1314N/3 My 0533Z/3. Weather permitting BIRMINGHAM can arrive position (e) in daylight 5th. Unless air co-operation for corvette search is considered essential and cannot be delayed till DORSETSHIRE could return (about 9th) would much prefer BIRMINGHAM to fuel at Cape after patrol, vide my 0533Z/3. Following considerations influenced this opinion;  
(a) Likely delays in fuelling particularly outside calm area. (b) Danger from submarines vide Admty. 1357A/3 and CLAN MACBEAN 1310/3 especially to unescorted oilers and during fuelling operation. (c) If diverted to Cape BIRMINGHAM would carry out air R/C of F on 6/12. BIRMINGHAM has only one serviceable aircraft. Pending your instructions shall continue towards E in case you still wish BIRMINGHAM to fuel from ECHODALE. (R.A.S.A.D., 2341Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

/DUNEDIN.....

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DUNEDIN  
survivors.

Following has been received. (Repeats B.A.D. 2107R/2). (D.C., 0745A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)  
*See also p. 110.*

NORSEMAN.

3/12 NORSEMAN to work in 002° 24" S., 041° 07" W. (Maranhao, 0942/3 to M. of W.T.)

ORIZABA  
W.S.12 X.

Fuel consumption of ORIZABA in W.S.12 X has been reported as in excess of original estimate. 2. Request F.O.I.C. Simonstown investigate on arrival whether she has safe margin to continue with convoy as far as Aden. If so she should refuel at that port en route to Suez and on return passage. (D.O.D. (F), 1329A/3 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

W.S.12 X  
and U/Bs.

Admty 1721A/24/11 and B.A.D. Washington's 2145R/26/11 is it yet known please if U.S. Destroyers will escort W.S.12 X out of Capetown and if so how far to the eastward? (C. in C. S.A., 1549N/3 to Admty).

A/C  
Recognition.

Admiralty 1112A/29/9/41. Report if Merchant Vessel/Aircraft Recognition Procedure is proving of value. (D.S.D., 1645A/3 to Cs.in C. S.A., E. I. China).

HOXA.  
ROMEO.  
CUMBRAE.

My 1543Z/2 HOXA and ROMEO sailed 1644Z/3. (2) CUMBRAE delayed for final adjustment will sail 0600Z/4 E.T.A. Kilindini A.M./12. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 1646Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

\*AUSTRALIA.  
DORSETSHIRE.

\* *See also next page.*

1. Owing to situation in Far East it is necessary to release AUSTRALIA from her present convoy escort. Her future movement will no doubt be decided on at the Conference shortly to be held at Singapore. Pending further instructions AUSTRALIA is to be sailed towards Fremantle. 2. DORSETSHIRE is to be detached temporarily from S.A. Station to provide escort for W.S.12 X from Capetown to Suez and return. (1st S.L. 1655A/3 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.) A.M. 1655A/3. I am sorry that it has been found necessary to remove DORSETSHIRE temporarily from your Command. 2. At this stage we cannot weaken our forces in the East and must send AUSTRALIA to replace SYDNEY. 3. Your recent successes should, temporarily at least, have reduced the danger from raiders on your station. 4. I am anxious to send you another 8" cruiser from home as soon as possible but recent rough weather damage has put at least two out of action and this transfer cannot at present be considered. (1st S.L., 1659A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

/COMMANDANT....

82

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.COMMANDANT  
DOMINE.

Your 1210/30. COMMANDANT DOMINE will be docked at Simonstown on 5/12 for examination of propeller shafts which are vibrating badly estimated time required four days. Date of readiness for sea will be reported later.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1826B/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

Spanish  
suspect  
cargoes.

A report from secret sources states that Spanish ships homeward bound receive cargo on high seas from coasting vessels bringing cargo from Punta Arenas Chile and Patagonia. Further reported that Spanish ship EOLO which left Buenos Aires 25/11 for Las Palmas may have taken additional cargo while at sea. Ships had navicert for 6974 tons maize, 50 tons linseed and 300 tons lentils. Secret sources have informed London. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2026Z/3 to Admty).

Whale Catchers. Your 1930B/1. (a) Agree (b) Government liability but fuel to be supplied from commercial stocks. (D. of S.T. 2112A/3 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

AUSTRALIA.

Capt. Supt. Simonstown 0941/1. AUSTRALIA will undock p.m./5 and be at 4 hours notice for steam. After carrying out firing practices and fuelling ship will be ready for service a.m./8. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2133Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.) *See previous page*

Mediterranean.Force K.  
AURORA.  
PENÉLOPE.  
LIVELY.

Well done again. (1st S.L., 0123A/3 to S.O. Force K).

PROTECTOR.

PROTECTOR arrived Aden 2/12 in tow of EMPIRE KANGAROO. Request instructions for onward passage. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0802Z/3 to C. in C. Med)

1st S/M F.  
10th S/M F.

Capt. (S) 1 and Capt. (S) 10 have re-assumed operational control of their respective flotillas. (V.A. Malta, 1023B/3 to S/Ms. on Patrol).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Convoy  
A.T. 2.

Convoy A.T.2 is to consist of fast section of convoy CHANTALA, WOLBOROUGH, <sup>STET</sup>ORISTA, slow section of convoy, LESBOS, DARIEN (2) and 3"A" Lighters. If weather unsuitable A Lighters should sail separately with trawler escort. Convoy A.T. 2 is to be prepared to sail P.M./4. (C. in C. Med., 1127B/3 to All concerned in "Aggression").

Benghazi  
Derna  
bombed.

Night Dec. 1/2. Weather bad with 7/10 cloud at 2,000 feet. Wellingtons dropped over 17 tons bombs on Benghazi Harbour, Derna Town, and landing ground, and M.T. on roads, results mainly obscured. No shipping in Benghazi or Derna but 4 small ships near coast South of Benghazi. Day 2/12. Rain and very low cloud throughout day severely restricted operations.

Destroyers  
Attacked.

1 Blenheim attacked 2 Destroyers steering west 80 miles N. of Apollonia. No hits. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1146/3, 1233/3).

D.7.  
Patrol.

My 1604B/2. Patrol off Derna not required. Carry out prearranged further anti-S/M searcharea Ras Al (El) Melh - Tobruk tonight 3/4 so as to be east of 025° 30' E., by 0600/4 and return to Alexandria. Report indicates that enemy may be running supplies by Caiques landing in area Marsa Lucch and Sollum Bay. Investigate this if conditions permit but do not expose your force to gunfire of Bardia battery unduly. (C. in C. Med., 1217B/3 to Capt. D.7).

Convoy A.T. 2.  
(Slow).

"Aggression" Convoy A.T.2. (Slow) DARIEN. (2) Lighters "A" 100, "A" 9, "A" 4 joined by LESBOS from Mersa Matruh, escort YARRA, FLAMINGO, SOUTHERN ISLES, SOUTHERN MAID, sailing 1600/4 through Shoulder buoy then 031° 04' N., 029° 07' E. F. 0500/5, A. 1430. B. 0145/6 K. 1100 position 032° 22' N., 024° 35' E., at 1600, 032° 07' N., 024° 11' E., S. Tobruk boom 2145/6. Code name "Bosom". Request fighter protection daylight/5 also 6th if available by then S. of A. estimated at 6 knots but convoy to make best speed possible, times are therefore approximate only. (Alexandria, C.C.O. 1219B/3 to S.O. Force I).

U/B.

My 1329/2. Submarine sighted noon. Subsequently Turkish Air R/C failed to locate. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1222B/3 to S.O.(I) Med., and S.1).

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.COETLOGON  
French.Departure 2nd Sete.  
(Barcelona, 1243/3 to M. of W.T.)Need for  
A/S Vessels.

My 1147/1. Low Mediterranean strength in small A/S vessels. 28 such craft and 11 M.Ls. for escort work and Patrols for the whole station a most unfavourable figure compared with even quite small ports in U.K. I consider that 3 more A/S Groups are urgently needed, of which one should consist of Corvettes. My 1630/2 (re obtaining A/S Whalers from S. Africa) provides a quick means of meeting above requirement, and I trust Their Lordships will give the matter their urgent consideration. (C. in C. Med., 1245/3 to Admty).

Libya.

Enemy Intelligence (C. in C. ME. 1300/3 to W.O.) Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 1550/3 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Mining.

Your 0930B/2 (N.T. in W.R.) 3 Mines were laid in the entrance of Raz Makhabez 033° 09' N., 011° 42' E., which was thought to be Tripoli, the real target. The Fourth Mine was dropped 23' not 25' West of Tripoli. Pilots are unable to supply more exact detail and orders have been issued in accordance with your above mentioned signal. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1335B/3 to C. in C. Med).

TRITON.

Greek S/M TRITON sailed at 1600B/3 through 031° 56' N., 030° 15' E., 031° 59' N., 031° 05' E., 031° 54' N., 032° 20' E., thence to Port Said arriving 0830B/5. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1354B/3 to DELPHINIUM).

S.S. SURCOUF  
(intercepted  
25/11).

C.C.S.O. Aden's 1502/29 and your 1106/2. Master of SURCOUF, 1 French N.O., and 1 P.O. have been detained under surveillance in military camp. They are not prepared to consider joining Free French. Request instructions for their disposal. Though not in strict custody, legal adviser to Aden Govt. is doubtful as to legality of their detention but I consider it undesirable to allow them full freedom in Aden. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1354Z/3 to Admty). Reply 1338/4.

/Boom....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1300 3rd Dec.

IN

From: C. in C. Middle East

Date 3.12.41.

Recd: 2230

Cipher

Addressed: The War Office.

16434 I/33641 cipher 3/12.

Our 1/33640 of 3rd Dec. Most Secret: Part Three. One. Notes on armies. A.3 Battalion identified in 65 motorised Infantry regiment Trieste division. Composition at least one Mortar company 81 mm one Anti Tank Company 47/32 mm and 73 and 78 Troops 20 mm.

B.1. Lorried troop Naval shore based is Blackshirt organization paid and administered by Naval H.Q. Benghazi. Strength about 46 men three 102/35 mm guns and two machine guns. Troops left its guns Benghazi and Derna during our January advance and was reformed Tripoli into mobile unit commanded indiscriminately by Naval Blackshirt or artillery officers.

C.82 Autonomous troop 20 mm was formed at Artillery regiment depot Pesaro June 1940. Arrived Libya April 1941 for A.A. role Benghazi then Derna till sent forward November. Composition Four sections each with second Lieutenant senior N.C.O. two Breda 20 mm guns each operated by N.C.O and six men total strength including H.Q. personnel 85 all ranks. Transport twentyone lorries eight carrying Breda guns and crews one or two carrying ammunition remainder for personnel and supplies.

Two. Personalities. Divisional General Fedele Deglorbis temporarily commanding Savona Division during Maggianis absence sick. Colonel Francesco Aveta now commands 16 Infantry Regiment. Colonel Lovera Di Maria G.S.O.1 Italian Liaison Staff German Africa Corps captured. End of part three.

1300/3.

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

1st Lord

D.N.I.(4)

Recd: from W.O. 0035/5. Dec.

1st S.L.

D.S.D.

2nd S.L.

D.N.A.D.

3rd S.L.

D of L.D.

War Office Distribution

4th S.L.

D.A/S.W.

5th S.L.

D.M.S.

M.I.3b. (for action)

V.C.N.S.

I.P.(2)

D.D.M.I.(I)

A.C.N.S.(H)

W.D.

M.I.3. 3b 14 (3) JIC (3)

A.C.N.S.(F)

D.C.(2)

Admiralty (War Reg)

A.C.N.S.(T)

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.C.D.(H)

D.T.D.(2)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.T.D.(2)

D.O.D.(F)

D.T.D.(2)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.T.D.(2)

MOST SECRET

D.D.I.C.



# MOST SECRET

84B.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1550/3rd December IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 3.12.41  
Time 1745

CIPHER

Addressed War Office (Pass to Air Ministry) repeated  
C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

16162 0/33723 cipher 3/12/41. MOST SECRET

COSITREP NO.29.

1. Bad weather has hampered air and ground operations.
2. Only noticeable enemy movement has been south from El Adem towards Bir El Gubi.
3. Columns from Support Group continue to harass enemy on Trigh Capuzzo and road Bardia-Tobruk patrols from 5 N.Z. Bde at Menastir 5040 along Tobruk road and from 5 Ind. Bde. at Capuzzo along Trigh Capuzzo.
4. Small enemy vessel entered Sollum Harbour morning 2 Dec., and was driven out by M.G. fire from Sollum barracks.
- Air.
5. Night 1/2 Dec. Wellingtons dropped seventeen tons bombs on Derna landing ground and harbour Benghazi harbour M.T. at Barce and on Derna Cirene road. Bad weather prevented observation results but fires started on landing ground at Derna where buildings near harbour also hit. Bombs among M.T. at Barce no results Benghazi and on Derna Cirene road. No shipping seen Benghazi or Derna. Four small ships seen near coast south Benghazi.
6. Day 2 Dec. Bomber. Bad weather with low cloud throughout day curtailed operations. One Maryland Squadron bombed Bardia dumps hitting three buildings. Four Blenheim Squadrons sent to bomb column moving El Adem to Bir El Gobi forced to return.
7. Fighter. Limited number sweeps and escorts. Majority recalled owing to weather. Three Tomahawks missing. Hurricanes from landing ground 125 shot up El Brega and Jedabya landing grounds morning and afternoon destroying one unidentified aircraft damaging one German four Italian bombers nine Italian Fighters. 3 petrol tankers destroyed south of Jedabya one Hurricane missing.

.....8.

8. Enemy action three M.E.110 reconnoitred only Saleh area one of them attacking our troops with effect

1550/3.

Advance Copy 1st Lord 1st S.L. A.C.N.S. (F)  
D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C. N.A. 1st S.L.

Received from W.O. PM/3rd December.

1st Lord.	War Office Circulation.
1st S.L.	S. of S.
2nd S.L.	C.I.G.S.
3rd S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
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)	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. (H)	Col. Jacob.
D.D.O.D. (H)	C.A.S. Air Ministry. ? (2)
D.O.D. (F)	D. of Plans, Air Ministry (2)
D.D.O.D. (F)	Plans 3. Air Ministry (2)
D.N.I. (4)	D.O.O. Air Ministry
D.N.A.D.	D.M.C. Air Ministry.
D. of L.D.	Duty Group Captain Air Ministry.
D.A/S.W.	P.S. to S. of S. Air Ministry (2)
D.M.S.	A.C.A.S. (I) Air Ministry.
I.P. (2)	Air Ministry War Room.
W.D.	
D.C. (2)	Duty Captain admiralty (2)
Hd of M.	Secretary of State Foreign Office.
D.T.S.D.	
E.P.S.	
D.T.D. (2)	
maf. N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)	
D.D.I.C.	
D.P.D.	

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Boom Defences  
Turkey.

Your 1715B/15/11/41. Arrangements being made for shipment of additional mooring chains and staples for local manufacture of concrete clumps for Bosphorus Boom. Anchors and additional chain will be included in shipments for Dardanelles Boom. Hydraulic cutters expected to be available for shipment end of December. (D.B.D., 1419A/3 to A.N.A. Istanbul) Re equipment. (D.B.D., 1700A/3 to A.N.A. Istanbul).

Aden-Suez  
Shuttle  
Service.

Understand from H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East message 1356/28/11 not addressed to you that scheme proposed in A.M.1157/19/11 is agreed. Air Ministry have been consulted and equipment will be forwarded. (D.T.D., 1531A/3 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Air  
Report.

Kerkennah Pantelleria R/C sighted 1340 hours French convoy, (See my I.267) East Kerkennah 5 miles course 220° 8 knots. 3 M/Vs. 4,000 tons, 1 M/v 2,000 tons, 2 Tankers 5,000 tons, 1 D/R possibly SIMOUN Class. 1343 hours, 1 small French war vessel (corrupt group) 3 miles course N.W. Night 2/3 December, very bad weather, 8 F.A.A. aircraft Weather R/C Catania returning bombed railway line Noto. Results unobserved. 3/12 all operations cancelled, bad weather, deluge of rain. (R.A.F., Malta, 1621/3 to Air Ministry).

D. 14  
Sweep.

Take HERO, HASTY, HAVOCK under your train 4th and carry A/S sweeps alongside convoy routes to reach 025° 30' E., at 1800/4. Further orders will be given. Derna patrol may be required a.m. on 5th. Fighter code "Faith". (C. in C. Med., 2045B/3 to Capt. D.14).

Destroyers.

Summary of movements consequent on decision to reinforce Mediterranean destroyers. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2216A/3 to Cs. in C. etc). See Policy. Full text in Lion Copy only. (p. 70A)

/Situation...

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Situation  
report 172.

My 2130/30. Force B made no contact. Force K as in V.A.M.s 1143/2.

2. 15th C.S. returned to harbour having patrolled off Derna night 1/2 without encountering enemy. D.14 with four destroyers also patrolled off Derna night 30/1, JACKAL being damaged by torpedo as in my 1906/2. D.7. and four destroyers now operating between Tobruk and Bardia to intercept possible enemy supply traffic

3. Western Desert. Convoy A.T.1. has arrived Tobruk. Further convoy being sailed tonight 3/4. APHIS unable to bombard owing to bad weather. RAMB 4 grounded at Ras el Melh 60 miles East of Tobruk at 0630/1 but was refloated continued to Tobruk and has now returned Alex. damage probably not serious. (N.I. in W.D.)

4. Submarines. My 1946/22. <sup>(N.I. in W.D.)</sup> Cruiser was torpedoed by UTMOST range 1500 yards in position 3<sup>37</sup> (2nd figure missing) 48' N., 15° 32' E., at 2312/21. Heavy explosion resulted and every indication that cruiser sank. Second successful attack by SOKOL was at 2340/21 in position 36.35 N., 21.28 E., target one destroyer and three merchant ships. One ship considered sunk.

7. Levant. Minesweeper EGELAND aground in 31.27 N., 34.22 E. Attempts in progress to salvage. (C. in C. Med., 2231B/3 to Admty).

TRUSTY,  
PERSEUS.

TRUSTY leaves patrol P.M./4 and proceeds to Alexandria through 037° 26' 020° 10'. 034° 36' 021° 50' 033° 26', 026° 02', thence direct to end of searched channel. Adjust speed to pass through second position at approx. 0500B/6 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/9. PERSEUS is to take over patrol of Area P in addition to P.1. from 0001B/5. (Capt. S.1., 2317B/3 to TRUSTY, PERSEUS)

Axis  
Shipping.Depart. 2nd LISBOA Marseilles with oranges.  
Depart 3rd ESPIGUETTE loading pyrites for Genoa.  
Depart. 3rd ATLAS loading oranges.  
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2400/3 to M. of W.T.)

War Diary

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

DAUNTLESS.

Cancel Admty. 0104/29. DAUNTLESS is to continue her passage towards U.K. (1st S.L. 0122A/3 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Cancel my 0756/2. Visit of DAUNTLESS has been cancelled.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1144Z/3 to Admty.)  
Following programme is intended for passage of DAUNTLESS through East Indies Station :-  
Colombo, leave a.m./4/12; Seychelles, p.m./8 - a.m./10; Mombasa a.m./13 - a.m./15, thence to South Africa port as arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown. (ii) Fuel capacity is 87% of normal for D. Class.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1700Z/3 to Admty.)

PRESIDENT DOUMER.

My 0914/15/11. <sup>AT 1132</sup> PRESIDENT DOUMER now sails 15/12. (P.S.T.O.I. 0738Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

B.P.29  
B.P.30.

B.P.29 now consists of TALMA, LANCASHIRE, VARSOVA, RAJULA, ETHIOPIA, TAKLIWA, DEVONSHIRE. My 1230/1/12. B.P.30 CAP ST. JACQUES, KHEDIVE - ISMAIL, EKMA, ISLAMI, ~~RONKA~~ <sup>ROHNA</sup>.  
(P.S.T.O.I., 0754Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

GLASGOW.

Departure 0620 G.M.T., GLASGOW.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 1105Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

SPRINGTIDE.

U1550/1/12. SPRINGTIDE is delayed by repairs to compressor which will not be completed until 7/12 at earliest. 2. Programme will be reported in due course.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1710Z/3 to Admty.)

VELEBIT  
STAMATIOS G.  
EMBIRICOS.

Now known that Yugoslav VELEBIT, 4153 tons, was sunk by Raider 41 between Ceylon and Sumatra probably on 26/6. Same raider sank Greek STAMATIOS G. EMBIRICOS, 3941 tons, about 26/9 while on passage from Mombasa to Colombo.  
(D.S. 820, 3/12.)

China.

U.S.  
Liaison.

Your 1727/28. Concur C. in C. China's 0211/22 and will discuss with Admiral Hart.  
(C. in C. Eastern Fleet, 0201Z/3 to Admty.)

/SI-KIANG ....

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

SI-KIANG  
(French)

Arrived 2nd.  
(Manila, 0217Z/3 to M. of W.T.)

Force G.

Force G. arrived Singapore 2/12.  
(S.O.I. Singapore, 0218/3 to Admty. etc.)

Nancowry  
Defences.

Admty. 2026/20/11 and C. in C. East Indies 1550/25/11. Intend to instal gun defence in Western entrance. This will entail retaining CLAN FORBES and (?Force ?Q) (?Colombo) for longer period. Estimated time will be signalled on completion of further R/C about to be carried out.  
(C. in C. China 0511Z/3 to Admty.)

ALBERT  
SARRAUT.  
(French)

Departure 3/12, Shanghai, of non-enemy Merchant Ships, and a complete copy has been sent to D.T.D. Admiralty.  
(Saigon 0820Z/3 to M. of W.T.)

RAMILLIES.  
REVENGE.  
ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.  
RESOLUTION.  
WARSPITE.

Ref. 1637/8/11 (Hush, N.T. in W.D.) para.6 from S.O. Force G, and C. in C. E.I. 1316/30/11, para 2. When making this proposal ?I was under the impression that RAMILLIES would sail from England shortly after ROYAL SOVEREIGN. As she has not yet sailed and in view of situation I feel that arrival of further capital ships at Singapore cannot well be delayed till she reaches this station.  
2. Local rumours put round by Japanese that our Eastern Fleet cannot contain more than 1 or 2 capital ships.  
3. Also of very great importance to commence Fleet training of battleships.  
4. I consider that REVENGE and ROYAL SOVEREIGN should join me at Singapore as soon as latter can arrive about 20/12 and propose that she should be released from escort work at the Cape now and proceed via Mauritius, Addu Atoll and Ceylon.  
5. Consider also that advantage should be taken of passage of WARSPITE through the station to give appearance of strength by keeping her at Singapore for about a week, and request I may be informed of her probable date of arrival.  
6. Request intended date of sailing of RAMILLIES and RESOLUTION.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1015Z/3 to Admty.)

/Japanese ...

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.Japanese  
Minelayer.

Following received from Dairen telegram No.123 of 2/12. Shanghai please repeat to S.O.(I) (Grp. undec.). My Soviet colleague informs me 28/11 he saw a minelayer in Dairen harbour. She bore the name ZYOZAN MARU, tonnage about 1500, mounting 3 guns apparently 3" and carrying 28 mines on deck.  
(Tokyo 1342/3 to F.O.)

N.I.D. Comment: No ship name ZYOZAN can be traced but it may be ZYUZAN, a 2,000 ton ship built for the American Great Lakes, now owned by the Japanese Kokoku Steamship Co.

America and West Indies.H.X.161.

Opnav received following from Comtask Unit 4.1.6 at 1655Z/2, contacted one of relief escorts H.X.161. They will concentrate and relieve in morning.  
(Opnav, 0255/3 to Admty. etc.)

H.X.163.

H.X.163 designation 4.1.3, BENSON (Senior), NIBLACK, TARBELL, EDISON, N.P. JONES.  
(Opnav 0430/3, 2319/3 to Admty.)  
My 0430/3, delete TARBELL add H.M.S. EFFINGHAM.  
(Opnav, 1215/3 to Admty.)

*1940*

ORANGELEAF  
defects.

ORANGELEAF quite unfit for sea. Permanent repairs can be effected here and will take not less than 8 weeks. Temporary repairs would be so extensive as to be little short of permanent and not recommended. Board of inquiry being held. For consideration whether F.E.O. or E.M. should fly from Bermuda to inspect without delay.  
(Capt. i/c Jamaica 1108R/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Your 1108R/3. Permanent repairs are to be taken in hand forthwith. Engineer Officer will not be sent from Bermuda. Services of E.O. of INDOMITABLE or ILLUSTRIOUS are to be obtained if considered necessary.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1842Q/3 to Capt. i/c Jamaica.)

KING MALCOLM.

S.C.50. Your 1430Z/2. No further news of KING MALCOLM. Ship reported missing.  
(D.T.D., 1241A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/R.J. CULLEN ...

War Diary.3.12.1941  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.R.J. CULLEN,  
O.N. 39.

O.N.39. TENACITY escorted by WINDERMERE has been sailed from Iceland to assist R.J. CULLEN. (U.S. C.N.O., 1250/3 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet etc.) R.J. CULLEN, Commodore's ship in O.N.39, reported at 1645/2 that she had lost her propeller. (D.O.R. 3/12.) *See p. 75.*

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1002/21/11. INDOMITABLE is to remain at Jamaica until further orders and continue working up.  
(1st S.L., 1358A/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MIMOSA.

Your 0123N/2 (N.T. in W.R.) is MIMOSA escorting O.N.(B) or is she making passage independently? If latter request E.T.A. St. Johns Newfoundland. (C.C.N.F. 1413Z/3 to A.C.I.C.)

REX.  
ROMA.  
(Italian)

Intercepted letter quotes night report dated 25/11, from Overseas News Agency, Zurich, indicating that REX, ROMA have been pressed into service by Nazi insistence for maintaining communication lines to Libya. Report states majority of crew of 463 are Germans. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1439/3 to C. in C. Med.)

DUNEDIN  
survivors.

Your 2107R/2. (1) Most important that news of survivors should not leak until possible for Admty. to inform next of kin. Request names may be signalled at earliest moment and all steps taken to prevent any publication pending Admiralty announcement.  
(2) Request information may be obtained from survivors whether they consider any more boats still unaccounted for.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1440A/3 to B.A.D.)

Jap  
shipping.

There are now no Japanese ships on west coast South and Central America. Last sailing NARUTO MARU from Tocopilla 29/11 for Yokohama. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1520R/3 to Admty. etc., amended 1158R/6.)

Shipping  
Diversions.

Ref. A.M.1748A/5/9. As from 15/12 amend para. 5 (1) letters NO to read 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. (D.T.D. 1532A/3 to Gs in C. W.A., and A.W.I. etc.)

/MEROPE ...



War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.MEROPE.

French Tanker MEROPE departed Tampico 28/11 for Cienfuegos.  
(Opnav, 1708Z/3 to Admty.)

T.C.16  
T.C.17.

Your 1933R/1. Request you will inform Opnav that we accept these proposals and much appreciate U.S. co-operation.

2. A further signal suggesting detailed arrangement follows.

3. Request you will ask Opnav to issue necessary instructions to T.C.16 as regards route, R/V with U.S. Convoy and M.O.M.P. (V.C.N.S. 1744A/3 to B.A.D.)

Convoy T.C.16 carrying Military Personnel will leave Halifax for U.K. on 14/12.

(AME) 2. Convoy is composed of S.S. PASTEUR, speed 23 knots, destination Clyde, S.S. CUBA and S.S. LETITIA speed 15½ knots destination Liverpool.

3. Escort to vicinity of Iceland (C) will be provided by U.S. in conjunction with a U.S. Troop Convoy.

4. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail ships to join U.S. Convoy leaving New York on 12/12 for Iceland (C) as directed by Opnav. Opnav has been requested to issue necessary directions for R/V of the two convoys.

5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail 4 destroyers to fuel at Iceland (C), meet convoy at M.O.M.P. and escort to U.K.

6. Opnav has been requested to indicate suitable M.O.M.P. which it is suggested should be in approx. 63° N. 24° W. and to inform Admty. of route and E.T.A. at M.O.M.P.

7. Admiralty will promulgate route from M.O.M.P. to U.K.

(V.C.N.S. 1812A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. W.A.)

SURCOUF.  
(French s/m.)

A.M.0605/28/11 and your 1642/30/11. If personnel for SURCOUF do not arrive before she must sail for Halifax, request you will arrange for her to call Bermuda on her way to Freetown to pick them up.

(D.O.D.(F) 1917A/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Your 1750/2. Regretted that for operational reasons it has been necessary to postpone DEVONSHIRE's repairs.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2342A/3 to B.A.R.M.)

War Diary.

3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

CAP DES PALMES. Departure 2/12. CAP DES PALMES Suya 8/12.  
(Consul Gen. Papeete, 0230Z/3 to Admty.  
D.N.I. Wellington 2252M/3 to Admty., S.O.  
Wellington 2337M/3 to F.N.F.L. London,  
Commandant, Defence, Noumea.)

War Diary.3.12.1941.  
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

CLAN MACBEAN. Following has been read: SSSS 24° 42' S., 06° 09' W., CLAN MACBEAN. Torpedo sighted. (Freetown W/T, 1310/3.) Steer for position 005° W., of S., thence direct to P. (C. in C.S.A., 1500/3, to CLAN MACBEAN.)

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. Portuguese destroyer VOUGA left Ponta Delgada search for survivors from MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA, sunk a.m./2nd, 250 miles S.W. Island San Miguel. (torpedoed 2/12.) (N.A.Lisbon, 1528/3, to Admty.)

FJORD. From Aguilas to Gibraltar, was sunk, believed torpedoed at 1930/2 off Estepona. Further details will be signalled when known. (F.O.C.N.A. 1748A/3, to Admty.) (D.O.R.4/12.) Norwegian, 4032 tons. Position off Southern Spain.

GRELHEAD. Sunk off Punta Negri 1/12 (see North Atlantic, no mention of U/B.)

Submarines Reported.

1200. Eire authorities report sighting of S/M on surface at 1200/3, 8 miles west of Rossan Point Donegal. F.O.i/c Belfast is informed. (N.A.Dublin, 1315/3, to Admty.)

1310. Ref. Admty., message A.F.24° 42' S., 06° 09' W., at 1310/3. (Freetown W/T 1317/3, to Admty.) (D.D.I.C. 1525Z/3, to G.B.M.S. Area 6 A.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs. (D.D.I.C. 1356A/3, 1357A/3.)

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

An enemy merchant ship passed through the Straits of Dover last night and entered Boulogne. In the anticipation that she will sail again tonight down Channel 4 M.T.B's and 3 M.G.B's from Dover patrolled near Bullock Bank Buoy from 1800 today, while BERKELEY and 4 M.L's, as well as one M.T.B. and two M.G.B's from Portland, were also ordered to endeavour to intercept her.

The monitors ROBERTS and EREBUS are on their way to Gibraltar (for the Mediterranean) escorted by SCARBOROUGH and FRITILLARY.

Rosyth was closed at 2210 on account of low visibility.

At 2045 last night in visibility of not more than 7 cables, 3 M.T.B's and 2 M.G.B's intercepted several enemy vessels off Gris Nez. Two M/V's were sighted, and also one Trawler which was severely damaged. Our forces were heavily engaged by gunfire and all were damaged. M.T.B. 218 seriously. But all returned safely to Dover with one rating killed and one officer and two ratings wounded.

⊕ SS. DERINDJE, Sprengtrichter 168, Vorpostenboote  
1809, 1812, 1813.  
MTB 218, 219, 221  
MGB 324, 328.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today or tonight, on account of fog. Coastal Command aircraft carried out successful attacks on shipping off the coast of Norway this morning and this evening.

Mining.

One Mine was exploded by Sweepers today off Spurn Point and two in the Bristol Channel; and explosions were reported near S.G.2 Buoy in Milford Haven and also off Portslade.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Fuel,  
Funchal.

Reference to a "gentleman's agreement" between himself and the Captain of the Port, Funchal, in regard to fuelling is made by N.C.S.O. Funchal in a telegram today.

South Atlantic.

Minesweepers.

Asking for 6 more minesweepers to be allocated to his station, C. in C. S.A. states there are only 4 L.L. sweepers for West African ports to cope with a S/M minelaying effort which has occurred once and might occur again.

Mediterranean.

6 Blenheims bombed and set on fire a M/V about 100 miles N.E. Derna today.

4 Blenheims today attacked San Giovanni, the Italian terminus of the Messina ferry, and ferry boats, with some effect.

A Malta aircraft reported at 1634 today having bombed and set on fire an enemy vessel in 34° 30' N. 23° 47' E.

There are reports of a considerable number of escorted French ships passing down the coast of Tunis to Sfax. It is suspected that these ships are carrying war materials destined for Tripoli. Special air R/C is to be carried out at an early date.

Admty. today ordered 3 officers of SURCOUF (intercepted 25/11) to be detained at Aden. The Legal Adviser, Aden Govt., was doubtful as to the legality of this, but Admty. state it can be justified as a reprisal for the detention of British personnel by Vichy.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

There are strong indications that Vichy S.S. PERSEE late PIERRE L.D. will sail from Saigon tomorrow with NIVOSE and escorted by the sloop AMIRAL CHARNER.

U-Boat Campaign.

Survivors of the ASHBY who arrived in boats at Fayal today reported their ship torpedoed and sunk at 1715 G.M.T. 30/11, 170 miles S.S.E. of Flores Island.

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Portsmouth  
Destroyers.

Your 1013A/3. Refit of FERNIE should be carried out as already arranged provided 2 HUNTS are available for escort duty when refit is due to begin. (A.C.N.S. H. 1647A/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

LIVERPOOL.

Whilst in hand for completion of refit the equipping LIVERPOOL for service in Arctic Waters should be advanced subject to no delay in date of completion. (D.O.D. H. 1654A/4 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

PANTHER.  
PALADIN.

On completion of satisfactory trials request you will sail PANTHER and PALADIN for Scapa to work up. (D.O.D. H. 1658A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Co-operation with Russia.Whalers  
for  
Russia.

Your 1754B/3. Para. 1. No. Para. 2. All nine whalers are expected to sail during December January in P.Q. convoys. (A.C.N.S. H. 1811A/4 to Ad. Miles).

Russian  
Shipping  
Movements.

My 1728A/1. Serial No. 1.A.MIKOJAN sailed Bushire 23/11, arrived Karachi 30/11. DEKABRIST arrived Iceland 25/11 for P.Q.6. (D.T.D. 1813/4 to Ad. Miles).

Movements.ROBERTS.  
EREBUS.

Am proceeding independently with EREBUS. SCARBOROUGH and FRITILLARY in company. At 0001Z/4th my P.C.S. are  $055^{\circ} 42' N.$   $015^{\circ} 23' W,$   $202^{\circ}, 6.$  (ROBERTS 0026Z/4).  
Your 1430A/4. ROBERTS and EREBUS escorted by SCARBOROUGH and FRITILLARY are now proceeding in company to Ponta Delgada. E.T.A. 11/12. ROBERTS is being ordered to report E.T.A. Ponta Delgada and at R/V which you are requested to arrange after ships have fuelled. (C. in C. W.A. 1621A/4).  
EREBUS 1140Z/3. Situation noon. Speed made good of 5 knots gives EREBUS one day's spare fuel. Respecting margin required these are arrangements for boiling sea. Propose tanker from Azores or elsewhere be ready to meet in position latitude ( $? 40^{\circ}$  or  $41^{\circ}$ )  $30' N.$   $25^{\circ} 25' W.$  at 1000N/10. Failing Oiler could BEVERLEY supply oil to EREBUS. Gear required for stirrup method 620 feet of 3 and a half or 5 inch hose with jack stay and stirrup. Additional escorts important. C. in C. W.A. 1546A/4. Am continuing as in my 0026/4 as this results in the greatest economy of fuel. E.T.A. 12/12. (ROBERTS 1916Z/4).

/NORMAN.....

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.NORMAN.

A.M. 1216A/1. NORMAN will not now be required to sail until p.m./8th. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0043A/4 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

CAMPBELTOWN.  
WHITEHALL.

Intend sailing CAMPBELTOWN at 1300A/4 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1734A/3. Speed 15 knots. E.T.A. 0900A/5. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0645A/4). My 1734A/3. Route for WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1058A/4).

→ H.50.

Intend sailing H.50 escorted by Torpedo Boat Z.5. from Lough Foyle 2000A/4th arriving Rothesay 0800A/5. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1058A/4).

A.M.C.'s.

My 1240/1st. Delete MONTCCLARE. (ii) Add CHESHIRE for Freetown. (S.O.W.P. 1100A/4).

P.36.

My 1849/1 and 1701/3. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1431/4).

P.37.

Intend sailing P.37 escorted by STELLA PEGASI from Scapa at 1700/5 in accordance with F.O. (S) 0114A/3 as amended by F.O.(S) 1316A/3. (A.C.O.S. 1550A/4).

P.511.CUTTY SARK.

P.511 arrived Lough Foyle with insufficient fuel to reach Londonderry and Battery Down. Owing to difficulties in supplying even small quantity of fuel in Lough Foyle delay occurred before she could reach Londonderry. Intend sailing both ships from Lough Foyle at 1000A/5. Fighter protection will be arranged. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1629A/4).

→ H.50.

Sailed Z.5 and H.50. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1945A/12).

P.35.

(1) Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE from Holy Loch at 1400A/5 to R/V with P.35 in vicinity of Tay South East approach buoy at 1000A/7. (Capt. S.3. 2153A/4).



War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagement  
off  
Gris Nez.  
M.T.B. 218  
seriously  
damaged.  
M.T.B's  
219, 221.  
M.G.B's  
324, 328  
damaged.

My 1958A/3 and 2151A/3. Coastal Forces attacked off Gris Nez. Preliminary reports show that attack was unsuccessful and that no ship larger than 2000 tons was sighted. It is hoped that air reconnaissance of Boulogne will be possible today.

(V.A. Dover 0155/A/4).

My 0155A. At 1913/3.

R.D.F. detected four enemy vessels one larger than the others 6 miles east of Calais steering westwards at 12 knots. M.T.B's 218, 219 and ~~220~~ supported by M.G.B's 324 and 328 were despatched and, despite visibility of not more than 7 cables, made a skilful interception off Gris Nez at 2045.

2. M.T.B.'s attacked from inshore side a vessel of about 2,000 tons. Low visibility seriously hampered the attack and no hits are claimed. M.G.B's report sighting a vessel of 5,000 tons with two small of 1500 tons and a trawler, all of which they engaged. Severe damage was inflicted on the trawler. All boats came under a considerable volume of enemy fire.

3. A second force of M.T.B's 44, 45, 47, and 48 was also despatched to attack South of Boulogne but were denied an opportunity as enemy vessels entered Boulogne at 2130. These M.T.B's were then ordered to patrol west of Boulogne and M.G.B's 324 and 328 sent to join them. They were recalled at 0130/4 as there was no further enemy movement.

4. M.T.B. 218 was seriously damaged having all forward compartments flooded and W/T out of action but eventually reached harbour at 0225/4 after a search by M.T.B. 219 and M.L's 142 and 293 had proved unavailing in the low visibility. M.T.B's 219, 221 M.G.B's 324, 328 all received some damage. Casualties one rating killed and one wounded in M.G. B. 324. One officer in M.T.B. 218 and one rating in M.T.B. 221 wounded. None of wounded are serious cases. (V.A. Dover 1126A/4).

Interception  
of M/V.

1. An enemy merchant ship passed through the Straits of Dover last night and entered Boulogne. It is anticipated that she will sail again tonight to proceed down Channel.

2. V.A. Dover is requested to arrange for available M.T.B.'s and M.G.B.'s to intercept enemy leaving Boulogne.

3. A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command is requested to arrange interception by aircraft between Fecamp and longitude 1° W.

/4.....

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception  
of M/V. -  
Contd.

4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange with C. in C. Portsmouth for torpedo armed M.L's from Portland to intercept enemy if attempting to enter Cherbourg.

5. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to consider provision of Destroyer support for the M.L's if practicable. (A.C.N.S. H. 1428A/4). M.L's 155, 157, 160, and 177 are to be placed under BERKELEY's orders joining her outside Portland Breakwater at 1830 today. (C. in C. Plymouth 1534/4). 0815/5 BERKELEY and M.L's 155, 157, 160, 177 Portland Portsmouth. 1930/4 - 1000/5, M.T.B. 51, M.G.B. 51 and 56 Portland on patrol. 2000/4 - 1000/5, 3 A/S trawlers patrolling between St. Helens and Beachy Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1607A/4). M.L's 140, 143 on O.D. 6 and 7 combined. Four M.T.B's and three M.G.B's patrolling vicinity of Bullock Buoy. Expected time departure 1645. Time of return uncertain. (V.A. Dover 1642A/4). A.M. 1428. M.T.B's 44.45.47.48 and M.G.B's 41. 324 and 328 will be on patrol in vicinity of Bullock Bank Buoy from 1800 today. (V.A. Dover 1643A/4). Proceed at 0930/5 to Portsmouth via Needles Channel, to act temporarily under orders of C. in C. Portsmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1654/4 to TYNEDALE).

Denmark  
Straits  
Patrol.

→ Scapa arrival CUMBERLAND. (A.C.O.S. 0316A/4).

Patrols.

The following cruiser movements are to take place.

(a) SUFFOLK leaves Hvalfjord P.M./6 for patrol "White".

(b) NORFOLK leaves patrol "White" A.M./7 for Hvalfjord.

(c) ARETHUSA leaves patrol "Black" A.M./6 for Hvalfjord and returns to Scapa after fuelling bringing passengers from ONSLOW and mail.

→ (d) CUMBERLAND leaves Scapa p.m./6 for patrol "Black".

(ii) It is intended that BERWICK should proceed to Hvalfjord as soon as practicable after 10/12 and that SUFFOLK should then return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1917A/4).

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.EMPIRE  
CHIVALRY.  
(Damaged 2/12)

At 1727/2. EMPIRE CHIVALRY mined in 052° 14' N. 001° 56' 30" E. Heavy explosion causing extensive superficial and hull damage, not serious. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0015A/4).

N.P.18A.

My 1602A/3. Operation has been postponed owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 0144A/4).

Thames  
Estuary.

Cancel my 0730A/3. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1030A/4).

Bristol  
Channel.

Exploded Red Mine 1425A/3 in 255° 1.7 miles from Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1040/4).

Milford  
Haven.Two explosions in the vicinity of S.G.2. buoy were reported as having taken place at 0315/4. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1153/4).  
2 Red Mines detonated by Sweeper at 0909A/4 and 0925A/4 respectively. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1230A/4 and 1224A/5).Harwich  
Area.(1) At 1101/1 one Red Mine exploded by Sweeper in 51° 36' N. 1° 43' E. Details.  
(M/S 9 1608/4).Operation  
"Tincture".

My 1357A/1 amend date to read P.M. December 8th. (D.M.S. 1627A/4 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Operation  
Q.O.

Operation Q.O. will not take place tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore 1834A/4).

Explosion  
off  
Portslade.

An explosion, from direction unknown, was heard by coastguards at Portslade and Shoreham at 1533/4. Vibration was felt at Portslade, but not at Shoreham. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1835 /4).

Spurn  
Point.

At 0917 today M/S drifter with "Skid" detonated a red magnetic mine in 277° S, P.P. one point six miles. (F.O. Humber 2030A/4).

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.E-boats.Possibility of E-boats Yarmouth Area.  
(C. in C. Nore 0055A/4).Tanker.Tanker Norwegian flag bearing 090° position  
57° 15' N. 12° 25' W. (A/C Duty M. 1255/4 to  
H.Q. 15 Group).German  
petrol to  
Arctic  
Coast.Germans are reported to be sending 450 tons petrol  
per week by train from Oslo to Trondjhem and  
Narvik, whence it is being transported to Kirkenes  
and Petsamo in small craft. Graded B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm 1621/4).O.I.C. Comment: This is the first evidence that  
small craft are being used for this traffic. The  
amount carried, 450 tons, is only a small portion  
of the 3,500 tons of oil fuel estimated enemy  
weekly requirements at Kirkenes and Petsamo.*Note: It was requested by N.I.D.1. on 12/12/41 that this comment  
might be deleted.*Navigational.Harwich.Port is now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0815A/4).54A Buoy.No. 54A light-buoy damaged and light extinguished.  
Reported to be about half a mile to Southward  
of assigned position. (Hydrog 1449A/4)Barrels  
Buoy.Light on Barrels light and whistle buoy off  
Carnsore Point reported extinguished. (F.O.I.C.  
Milford Haven 1719/4).Rosyth.Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 2210/4).Casualties and Defects.BRIGHTON.R.A.(M)'s 1014/3. Asdic dome is leaking slightly  
will probably necessitate docking.  
(BRIGHTON 0947N/4).CORONIA.(Kite balloon trawler) Arrived Oban with all  
blades broken off port propeller. No spare  
available. Vessel cannot be slipped at Gallanach.  
Able to proceed on one engine. Request instruc-  
tions. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1630A/4).

/DAWN.....

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.-Contd.

DAWN.

(N.A.B.) In collision with water boat RUISSEAU at 1618 today in Methil Docks. DAWN is not considered seaworthy. No apparent damage to RUISSEAU. (N.O.I. C. Methil 1712/4).

SHEARWATER.

SHEARWATER delayed by defects. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1726A/4).  
My 1726A/4. SHEARWATER sailed. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1845A/4).

CALDWELL.

CALDWELL left convoy independently for Iceland at 0500Z. He suffered minor damage during gale and parted rigging. Mast may have gone. Request he be told to report. VANOC has been hove to and will probably be late unless weather moderates. (VANOC 2000Z/4).

NORFOLK.

My 2555A/2. (B) The following are the particulars of defects of NORFOLK. Details.  
2. Temporary repairs carried out by Lyness. Eventually about 10 days in dock will be required for permanent repairs including repairs to breakwater but ship cannot be spared at present.  
3. Damage was caused by heavy weather on structure previous to strain by near miss bombs about 28/5/41. (C. in C. H.F. 2006A/4).

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.14.

A.M. 0108A/26. W.S.14 sailing postponed to 8/12. 2. BERGENSFJORD will not sail.  
3. Bristol Channel portion of convoy will be ready on 5/12 and should be sailed to Clyde to await sailing with main portion. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0047A/4).  
Admty. 0108A/26 November, para. 4. The W/T call sign for Section D ships if separated from main convoy will be F.P.D.7. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1115/4).  
Admty. 0047A/4. After escorting Bristol Channel portion to Clyde, ULSTER QUEEN is to fuel and is to be sailed as required by N.O.I.C. Liverpool to escort ship from Liverpool to join main convoy at position A subsequently complying with my 1848A/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1226A/4).  
A.M. 0029A/26, A.M. 0108A/26, and A.M. 0047A/4. As sailing of convoy is postponed RAMILLIES will join convoy in position "X" at 1200Z/12.  
Request you will adjust sailings from Clyde and Milford Haven accordingly. (D.O.D.(H) 1310A/4 to RAMILLIES).

/My.....

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.W.S.14.  
- Contd.

My 1507A/3. Amend destination to read Clyde E.T.A. Greenock 2100/6. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1437A/4).

Admiralty's 0026A/25, 0029A/26 and 2030A/27 November, and B.A.R.M's 1822R/2 December. Cancel para. one of A.M. 0026A/25.

2. Owing to delay in sailing of convoy from U.K., destroyers will not now reach the Azores until P.M./14, where they will fuel.

3. ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE should be sailed in company to R/V with destroyers in approx. 45° N. 30° W. at about noon 17th.

4. C. in C. W.A. is requested:

(a) To arrange R/V and onward routing to U.K.

(b) To augment the escorts for the last part of the route. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1456A/4).

A.M. 1810/30th November and C. in C. W.A. 1601/2.

S.S. PALACIO (speed 11½ knots) with a cargo of petrol should be sailed from Clyde in company with S.S. MALANCHA.

2. Ship is part of convoy W.S.14D.

(D.O.D.(H) 1909A/4).

All vessels in W.S.14 should be watered to capacity before sailing and Masters instructed in writing that no water in excess of the quantities given on the respective certificates will be issued at Freetown unless justified by causes outside the Master's control such as mechanical breakdown or delay to convoy. If necessary daily consumption per head must be reduced below the six gallon limit on the voyage from Freetown to South Africa. Please pass to Military Authorities (D. of S.T. 2325A/4 to D.S.T.O. Greenock).

W.P.B.76.

Delayed by fog. BEDFORDSHIRE only will R/V with BROCKLESBY. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1300A/4).

Q.P.4.

Admty. 1807A/30/11 and S.O.1st M/Fs 2135C/7/11. LEDA, SEAGULL, STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE will form Ocean Escort Q.P.4. in addition SHEFFIELD. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1347C/4).

P.Q.5.

Your 1628Z/3. Request you arrange arrival of convoy at Ice Edge as early as possible P.M. 7th. Icebreakers STALIN and LENIN will meet. Undesirable for escort fuel at Archangel. Lights and beacons arranged Admiralty pass to all addressees except S.B.N.O. North Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2208C/4 to SHEFFIELD).

/S.L. 92.....

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

S.L.92.

Warmest congratulations on the success of your first homecoming convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1805A/4 to Commodore Dibben, R.N.R.)

O.S.15.

S.S. STRATHNAVER independent may be met approaching from S.W. during the night she has been warned of your vicinity. (C. in C. W.A. 1821A/4).

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.REGENT.

Your 2208A/1. 48 hours early at all positions.  
(REGENT 0001B/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Your 0536A/4 (N.T. in W.D.) My position 037°  
(? 15') N. 001° (? 45') E. at 0830B. Day  
run 170 miles.  
(REGENT 0857B/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Your 0857B/4. Adjust speed to pass through  
(L) at 2100/5 (M) 1100/6 and surface in  
position 147° Europa Point 15 to arrive off  
Europa Point not later than 1745. Essential  
to adhere to times ordered. Report if unable  
to do so owing to Air Patrol. Shift wireless  
watch forthwith. My 2208A/1 refers.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1108A/4 to REGENT.)

D.19 Sweep.

Your 0810A. Sweep towards St. Vincent  
returning to your area by dark.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1023A/4 to Capt. D. 19.)

DEPTFORD  
ARROW.

(1) DEPTFORD and one corvette to enter harbour  
at 1600. (2) ARROW proceed 1800 and assume U  
patrol.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1135A/4 to STORK, ARROW.)

TARN.  
(attacked by  
S/M 4/11.)  
(What Oiler.)

Copy of official report by Capt. French Tanker  
TARN is being sent by Bahrein. Following are  
important points.  
(1) Visibility at time of attack was fairly good.  
(2) TARN was 4½ miles north of Ras El Amouch.  
(3) After being called upon to stop Capt. of  
TARN opened fire first "in accordance with  
instructions to attack and to signal presence  
of all submarines seen within 20 miles of  
African Coast".  
(4) Although Nationality of S/M was not  
definitely recognized Capt. signalled he was  
being attacked by a British S/M.  
2. No definite information of Nationality of  
S/M has yet been obtained but rumours are current  
in Algiers that it is now believed to have been  
Italian.  
(Consul Gen. Tangier, 1225/4 to S.O.I.Gibraltar.)  
N.I.D. Comment - French Tanker TARN reported to  
Toulon on 4/11 that she was being attacked by a  
British submarine in 36° 40' N. 2° 30' E. Vessel  
has since been reported as having arrived at  
Algiers. No British submarine was in vicinity  
at time of attack.

BRADFORD.

Your 2245A/24/11, para.3. Request R/V for  
BRADFORD. Intend sailing her tomorrow 5th to  
fuel (?Ponta Delgada) 9/12 prior to meeting.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1230A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

*see next page.*  
/SEVERN ...



War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

SEVERN.

Ref. 2359N/2 from S.O.(I) Freetown. Request exact time of sailing of SEVERN and confirmation E.T.A. in position (f).  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1354A/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

S/M O.21.  
BRADFORD.

My 2236A/1. Netherlands S/M O.21 sails 5th approx. time of passing through 043° 00' N. 009° 40' W. 0200A/8 shifting W/T watch at that time. F.O.(S) is requested to signal onward route and bombing restrictions.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1436A/4 to Admty.)

O.21 leaving Gibraltar 1100A/5th escorted by BRADFORD as far as 008° W. (route) O.21 will dive by day on 6/12 between (B) and (C) thence proceeding to (D) (E) and 43° 00' N. 09° 40' W. on the surface, 12 knots.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1620/4 to S. and A., N.A. Stn.)

Your 1436A/4. Request O.21 be routed to pass through position L. 43° N. 13° W. at about 0600A/8 thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion to position M. 46° N. 13° W. thence submerged by day through position N. 49° 30' N. 11° W. to

R/V on 10/12 in vicinity Bishops Rock and proceed thence to Holy Loch as ordered by S.3. 2. T.B.R. arranged 25 miles either side of line joining positions L and M. from 2000/7 to 1200/9 S.B.R. 25 miles either side of line joining positions M and N from 0001/8 to 2359/10 and line joining positions N and Bishops Rock from 1800/8 until further notice. *See also next page.*

UNA

3. UNA leaves 50° N. 06° 30' W. at about 1900/7 submerged by day through 49° 20' N. 10° 30' W. 46° N. 10° 30' W. and 45° N. 09° W. for patrol between latitudes 42° N. 09° W. for patrol between latitudes 44° N. and 45° N. between longitudes 09° W. and 07° W.  
(F.O.S. 2153A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ELISABETH  
HENDRIK  
FISSER.  
(German)

Left Savona 3/12 for Sete and Valencia, 5,300 tons ammonium sulphate. Spanish CARANZA statutory list E.T.A. Genoa from Valencia 10/12 shipments Norwegian destination.  
(D.N.I., 1509/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE  
O.24  
OLYMPUS  
REGENT  
URSULA

Estimated positions of submarines 1900/4, all proceeding submerged by day (A) CLYDE off Oran (b) O.24 037° 20' 004° 00' E. through 037° 36' 007° 00' thence 073°. (c) OLYMPUS 037° 45' 011° 36' through 038° 15' 009° 00' thence 296°. (d) REGENT 037° 15' 000° 30' E. through 037° 20' 000° 00' thence 234°. (e) URSULA 037° 53' 005° 00' E. 256°.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1636A/4 to S/Ms named.)

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.0.21.

My 0026A/3 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 2236A/1 0.21 is to proceed to Holy Loch in first instance for fitting of new tripper and torpedo discharge trials with new torpedoes.  
(F.O.S., 1653A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See previous page.*

Fuel,  
Funchal.

Your 1616/3. A gentleman's agreement definitely exists between Captain of the Port and myself. For your private information, stocks of coal as signalled in weekly return to (?S.O.(I) Gibraltar) 1/12 are 3431 tons, including nominal Portuguese Government reserve 3075 tons and commitments 228 tons. In addition there are 3000 tons American coal reserved exclusively for Swiss Govt. ships now being discharged ex Greek ship MOUNT LYCABETTUS (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1659/(4?) to N.A. Lisbon.)

URSULA.

Your 1108A/4 and 2208A/1. My position 1900A/4 037° 42' 004° 00' E. Permission is requested to pass points P and L 24 hours early to arrive Gibraltar 0900A/8.  
(URSULA, 1853A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation  
"Justice".

If executive signal "Carry out operation Justice" is received from Admiralty S.S. MALANCHA and S.S. PALACIO escorted by JASMINE and ROCKROSE are to proceed to Gibraltar passing through (C) 45° N. 23° W. if not already reached, thence (G) 38° N. 20° W. (H) 35° 30' N. 15° W.  
2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange for such additional escort as he considers necessary.  
3. If executive signal in para 1 is not received by 1200Z/12 ships and escort are to continue to Freetown in accordance with C. in C. Western Approaches 1601/2 (not to all addressees.)  
4. F.O.C. North Atlantic is requested to arrange for early onward passage to Freetown of ROCKROSE and JASMINE if they call Gibraltar.  
5. N.O.I/c Londonderry pass to ROCKROSE and JASMINE.  
(D.O.D.(F) 2243A/4 to F.O.C.N.A., ROCKROSE, JASMINE.)

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Minesweepers. Would it be possible for say six of the motor minesweepers shown on pages 14 and 15 of blue list of 18/9/41, to be allocated to this station? Understand they are LA SA. There are only 4 LL Sweepers for the West African Ports to cope with a S/M minelaying effort which has occurred once and might occur again. (C. in C. S.A., 0017N/4 to Admty.)

Lagos.

Need for aircraft assembly organisation in addition to Takoradi. (C. in C. S.A. 0031N/4 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

BIRMINGHAM  
ASTER  
MARGUERITE  
ECHODALE.

ASTER pass to ECHODALE. R.A.S.A.D. 2339Z/3 (N.T. in W.R.) BIRMINGHAM is to proceed Simonstown to fuel. \*ASTER and \*MARGUERITE are to fuel from ECHODALE and then proceed Simonstown pass through position F. ECHODALE is then to return to Freetown. Route will be signalled. \* See also p 110  
(C. in C. S.A., 0235N/4 to R.A.S.A.D. etc.)  
Your 2341Z/3 and my 0235N/4. At your discretion I should like BIRMINGHAM to carry out aircraft R/C of area round position F on 6/12 from as long range as possible informing DERBYSHIRE and ASTER of result if any. BIRMINGHAM then to proceed to Simonstown for fuel. On occasion of breaking W/T silence P.C. and S. should be reported.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1257N/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)  
My 2145N/2. Should a U-boat be sighted at a distance you should approach bow on in order to conceal silhouette and simulate German recognition signal as follows with a view to delaying submarine diving until you are within effective gun range:- (a) Fire simultaneously one white and one red or green rocket. (b) Flash the single letter F several times on 10 inch S P at U-boat. Should U-boat reply the single letter Y is then to be flashed several times.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1425N/4 to ASTER, MARGUERITE.)  
My 0235N/4. When 100 miles clear of ECHODALE report (A) Time ECHODALE proceeded in accordance with my 1135N/4/11. (B) Anticipated time of arrival vicinity of position F.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1427N/4 to ASTER.)

/AUSTRALIA ...

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

0031N/4th December. IN

Date 2245

Recd. 5.12.41.

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Naval Cypher X by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty.

598. It seems evident that the trend of the war will necessitate increasing the number of aircraft shipped to Takoradi for onward flight to Middle East. Latter port is already working to capacity and any hold up such as is occurring now due to strike will cause subsequent overloading quite apart from delays.

If the hold up is prolonged it may even be necessary to temporarily slow down the rate at which aircraft are being shipped to Takoradi.

Understand from A.O.C. Western Approaches that a Bellman Hanger is being erected Lagos for assembly of aircraft should Takoradi be blocked or otherwise rendered unusable.

Consider, however, from the shipping point of view problem needs tackling in a bigger way and would suggest that Air Ministry be asked to consider setting up an aircraft assembly organisation at Lagos not as an alternative to Takoradi but in addition thereto. Ships carrying aircraft could then be divided between the two ports.

0031N/4

1st Lord	P.A.S. (PR)	D. of P. (3)
1st S.L.	O.D. (5)	I.P. (3)
5th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	W.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.N.A.D.	
A.C.N.S. (F)	Air Branch	
A.C.N.S. (T)	M. (6) for action	
Secretary	D.T.D. (4)	
Navl Secy.	D.A.L. (2)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.A.M.R.	

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.AUSTRALIA.

In view of A.M.1655/3 cancel my 2133/3 (N.T. in W.R.) It is hoped to advance AUSTRALIA's date of readiness for service.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0507Z/4 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty.)  
My 0507/4. AUSTRALIA will sail from Simonstown p.m./5 in accordance with A.M. 1655/3.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1513/4 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

CUMBRAE.

My 1646/3 (N.T. in W.R.) CUMBRAE sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0632Z/4 to C. in C. E.I. etc.)

STANLEY  
S.L.94.

Arrival a.m./3, departure 1700, STANLEY for convoy S.L.94.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0837N/4 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

DUNEDIN  
survivors.

Your 2107R/2. Could NISHMAHA be asked for position she picked up survivors?  
(C. in C. S.A. 1227N/4 to B.A.D.)  
W.D. Note.- Answer already given on this point by B.A.D. 1157R/4 to Admty., see American and West Indies. Admty reply 1113A/5.  
My 1729/28. Survivors of DUNEDIN were picked up by U.S. merchant ship on 27/11 but I have not yet got the position. You should continue search in conjunction with patrol in case there are some more.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1531N/4 to DEVONSHIRE.)  
W.D. Note.- 2107/2 from B.A.D. Washington refers.

Orders to  
DERBYSHIRE.

DORSETSHIRE sank a\*German supply ship in position (f) 027° 53' S. 003° 55' W. at about 1700Z/1/12.  
2. Some 500 survivors got away in boats and it is thought U-boats may be in company with these.  
3. ASTER and MARGUERITE from about 016° 20' S. 013° 00' W. are proceeding to pass through vicinity position (f) arriving there 8/12 and carrying out search for boats then proceeding to Simonstown. *See p. 109.*  
4. DERBYSHIRE is to proceed to patrol area to South Westward (f), keeping at least 200 miles from this position.  
5. Object interception German blockade runner which might be diverted from Cape Horn area to rescue survivors.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1453N/4 to DERBYSHIRE.)

\*PYTHON.

/DAUNTLESS ...

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

DAUNTLESS.

Your 1700/3. After Mombasa DAUNTLESS should call Durban and Simonstown to fuel. DAUNTLESS is requested to report date from Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1517Z/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

ALCANTARA.

B.A.D. Washington's 1546R/2. Proceed direct to Newport reporting E.T.A. Cape Henry. (C. in C. S.A., 1807N/4 to ALCANTARA.)

U/Bs.

Positions in S.A. (C. in C. S.A., 1839N/4.)  
See U-Boat Campaign.

ALBATROSS.

My 1301N/14/11 your 1314/12/12 (sic) and my 1853N/1/12. ALBATROSS can be taken in hand at Gibraltar. Propose VIDETTE accompany RANGITATA to vicinity of Bathurst and after fuelling, escort ALBATROSS to Gibraltar. (C. in C. S.A., 1845N/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KAJAK  
(Estonian)

Your 2131Z/2. S.S. KAJAK. No objection. (D. of S.T. 1933A/4 to S.O.I. Montevideo.) Your 1441/30/11 and 2131/2. Voyage is approved as vessel is destined ultimately for Russia. Report under what flag KAJAK sails. (D.E.W.D. 1951A/4 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

S.T.10.

Departure 4/12 with S.T.10, BRIDGEWATER, WILD SWAN, FREESIA, CLOVER, NIGELLA. (S.O.I. Freetown 2325N/4 to Admty. etc.)

Mediterranean.

IRIDIO  
MANTOVANI.

Now known that the Italian tanker hit by A/C and finally sunk by AURORA and Force K. on 1/12 off Kerkenah Island was IRIDIO MANTOVANI, of 10,542 tons, instead of 6500 tons as first reported. (D.S. 821.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Enemy  
Destroyers  
TRUSTY.

3 Italian destroyers GRECALE class in 037° 43'020° 22' at 0810B/3 course and speed 310° 26 knots. Torpedoes missed in close attack. Consider torpedoes run under northbound light athwart ships. (weather report). TRUSTY 0002B/4 to Capt. S.I.)

Libya.

Military Situation Reports.  
(C. in C. M.E., 0040/4, 1725/4 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

Iraq - Syria.

From M.E. Defence Committee. Inadequacy of communications Iraq - Syria. Proposal.  
(C. in C. M.E., 0245/4 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

T.A.1.  
→ FARNDAL.

T.A.1 fast sailing 1800/5. Cancel my 1334/5 and proceed (? Mersa Matruh) to await orders from S.O. Force I. (R.A. Alexandria, 0326B/4 to FARNDAL.)

HASTY  
defects.

Have developed serious vibrations. Am returning to harbour.  
(HASTY 0805B/4 to R.A.D. Med., Capt. D.14.)

A. MIKOTAN.

Your 1926Z/2. No news of <sup>A</sup>MIKOTAN.  
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1005B/4 to Admty.)

Enemy M/V  
bombed.

G.25. One merchant vessel F.J.G.N. 1637 050 7. (Med A/C duty J. 1100/4 to 201 Group) Position indecipherable, but see 1346/4. Have attacked enemy E Y with bombs dive and estimate 3 near misses. Am returning to base. (Med A/C duty J. 1140/4 to 201 Group.) R/C aircraft reports sighting enemy M/V in 034° 16' N. 023° 37' E. course 050° speed 7 knots T.O.O. 1100/4. (V.A. Malta 1346B/4 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Movements.

Arrival 3/12 HEYTHROP, AVON VALE. Departure 3/12 ERIDGE, FARNDAL Greek S/M TRITON. Arrival 4/12 FLAMINGO, YARRA. Departure 4/12 JERVIS, HERO, HAVOCK.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1138B/4.)

/Derna ...

**MOST SECRET** 0040/4th December.  
MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Middle East. Date 4.12.41.  
CYpher. Recd. 0220

Addressed The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry)  
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.  
MOST IMMEDIATE

16322. 0/33917 cipher 3/12/41. MOST SECRET

COSITREP No.30.

1. Area North of escarpment between Bardia defences and grid 482 reported clear of enemy 2nd December little activity inside Bardia defences. Patrol reports meeting German armd. cars area Gambut. Italian troops reported area Bir Coleta night 2/3 December presumably Ariete Div.

2. Morning 3rd December our mobile columns have instructions to gain and maintain contact with enemy. Enemy M.T. reported moving east along Trigh Capuzzo. Approximately fifty M.T. had reached Sidi Azeiz and approximately one thousand M.T. were following few miles behind harassed by our mobile columns.

3. Enemy strength unknown reported digging in at Bir El Gubi.

4. Dispositions L.R.D.G. patrols morning 3rd December one and half patrols proceeding Jalo to co-operate with 'E' force. One patrol returning Siwa for supplies from raids on coast north of Agodabia. One patrol raiding road Tobruk-Derna. One and half patrols standing by to co-operate in future operations.

5. 3rd December, 2 S.A. Divisions moving forward to take over from 4 Ind. Div. in Halfaya-Capuzzo area. Royal Dragoons moving to forward area.

6. 4 Armd. Bde. has 100 tanks and 22 Armd. Bde. about 40.

0040/4.

Advance copy A.C.N.S.(F), D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C. War Office circulation:- N.A. 1st S.L.

- S. of S. D.M.I. D.O.O.A.M.(1)
- C.I.G.S. D.D.M.I.(I) D.M.C. A.M.
- V.C.I.G.S. M.I.3.14. Duty Group Capt. A.M.
- D.M.O. & P. D.A.F.V. P.S. to S. of S. A.M.(2)
- D.D.M.O.(O) Col. Jacob A.C.A.S.(I) A.M.
- D.F.(2) C.A.S.A.M.(2) Air Ministry War Room.
- M.O.1,5.6. D. of Plans A.M.(2) D.C. Admiralty (2)
- D.D.I.P. Plans (3.A.M.(2) Sec. of State, F.O.

- t Lord A.C.N.S.(F) D.D.O.D.(F) W.D.
  - t S.L. A.C.N.S.(T) D.O.D.(H) D.C.(2)
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  - S.L. A.C.N.S.(W) D.N.I.(4) D.T.S.D. D.P.D.
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  - S.L. D. of P.(2) D. of L.D. E.P.S.
  - C.N.S. D.O.D.(F) I.P.(2) N.I.D.10 Pay Cdr. Wilson
- Recd. from A.M. a.m./4.



**MOST SECRET**

112<sup>B</sup>

**MOST SECRET**

**M E S S A G E**

1725/4 Dec.  
IN

From C.in C. Middle East.

Date 4.12.41.

Recd. 2015.

**CIPHER**

Addressed The War Office (pass to Air Ministry) repeated  
C.in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

16525. 0/34141 cipher 4/12. MOST SECRET

COSITREP No.31.

1. 13 Corps report all quiet night 2/3 December enemy pressure on corridor decreasing.
2. 3 December three Italian tanks destroyed area 418389. Patrol from 30 Corps reported fifty seven enemy tanks area 440400. Enemy concentration known to have been engaged area Bir ?Chleta no details.
3. TAC/R indicates fresh digging in area south of Sidi Rezegh-El Aden.
4. R.E. 30 Corps destroyed 65 disabled enemy tanks and estimated further 25 sufficiently badly damaged to require no further demolition.
5. 38 Ind. Inf. Bde. at Matruh under Eighth Army 150 Inf. Bde. moving from Delta to come under orders Eighth Army. N.Z. Div. less 5 N.Z. Bde. reforming Bagush. 1 S.A. Div. less 1 and 2 S.A. Bdes. reforming Matruh. Eypforce area extended to Bagush incl.

AIR

6. Dec. 2. Reconnaissance reported thirty aircraft Benina. Fifty five aircraft Jedabya.
7. Fighter. Beaufighters shot up Barce aerodrome destroying one aircraft probably destroying twenty damaging six. One aircraft also seen to crash land.
8. Dec. 3. Bomber. Bad weather with low cloud continued. Three Blenheim squadrons effectively bombed enemy M.T. concentrations along Trigh Capuzzo with many hits on M.T. and A.F.Vs. Hurricane bombers also attacked M.T. north east of Sidi Rezegh with good results. Bombers reported heavy concentration M.T. five miles south west El Aden and five or six thousand M.T. widely dispersed south east of Sidi Rezegh. Other operations cancelled owing to weather.

9.....

(9)

9. Fighter. Sweeps and bomber escorts over battle area met no enemy aircraft.

1725/4

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

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- D.C.(2)
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- D.P.D.
- D.A/S.W.

- S. of S.
- V.C.I.G.S.
- C.I.G.S.
- D.M.O. & P. Received from War Office at 2245/4.
- D.D.M.O.(O)
- D.P.(2)
- M.O.1.5.6.
- D.D.I.P.
- D.M.I.
- D.D.M.I.(I)
- M.I.3.14.
- D.A.F.V.
- Cabinet War Room.
- Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)
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- Air Ministry War Room
- S. of S. Foreign Office
- Duty Captain (Admiralty)

WO 21 SECRET

F/NA

From C. in C. Middle East.  
CIPHER.

**MOST SECRET**

Date 4.12.41  
Time 1105

Addressed War Office. Repeated C. in C. India.  
General Iraq.

IMPORTANT

16445. O/33844 cipher 3/12. MOST SECRET

Following from M.E. Defence Committee. See Troopers cable 88558 (M.O.5) of 6/9 to Mideast.

1. Recent events have shown inadequacy present lateral communications Iraq-Syria. Railway along Northern frontier Syria depends on Caprice of neutral and position makes defence difficult.

2. Apart from need for improved lateral communications it is desirable to establish base in central position in Syrian Desert from which an armoured force could operate in support of our forces in Syria or Iraq. Tonnage of commodities required at this base will be considerable.

3. Alternatives are railway Karbala-Rutbah or fleet 10 ton lorries.

4. Advantages of lorries over railway are (A) might be provided in nine months against fifteen to eighteen months for construction railway (B) More flexible and could be used elsewhere (C) Would require five ships only against twelve required for railway material.

5. Disadvantages of lorries are (A) Transporters will be needed for track vehicles (B) Will require additional workshop facilities (C) Diversion of production from elsewhere.

6. On balance consider for short term policy best solution is 10 ton lorry pool the location of which can be decided later. Estimate of lift required 1000 tons for which 680 ten-tonners will be necessary. Consider this estimate sufficiently firm and request immediate approval to policy and earliest provision of the 680 lorries.

0245/4

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F). D.D.I.C.  
Received from War Office 1250/5th December

- |              |                  |                               |               |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st Lord.    | D.A/S.W.         | War Office                    | Circulation:- |
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| D.N.A.D.     |                  | Gen. Musprat, India Office    |               |
| D. of L.D.   |                  | Mr. Drummond, India Office    |               |
|              |                  | Mr. Wilcox, Treasury          |               |

**MOST SECRET**

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Derna  
Patrol,  
D.14.

My 2045B/3. Carry out Derna patrol commencing about 0300/5. Italian destroyers were observed to arrive Derna from N.W. about 0700/2 and left about 0800 after jettisoning cargo. Conduct your patrol accordingly. Dawn R/C by Blenheim A/C in Derna area is being arranged. W/T frequency 6540 Kc/s per sec. If nothing sighted leave area by 0800/5 make detour to N.E. and proceed to carry out A/S sweep in area North of Sidi Barrani. Conserve fuel to enable Derna patrol to be repeated night 5th/6th if required. (C. in C. Med., 1152B/4 to Capt. D.14.)

S.S.  
SURCOUF  
officers.

Your 1354/3. These men are to be detained for the time being. This can be justified as reprisal for detention of British personnel by Vichy. (Hd. of M., 1338A/4 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Soviet Ships  
from Black  
Sea.

Following is a repetition of my 1356B/4. Addressed A.N.A. Istanbul, rep. Adm. Miles, Admty, N.A. Ankara (Begins) Your 1718/2. Consider oil cargoes in tankers should most certainly be discharged in Turkey, there is no necessity to bring any balance (?at all). T.O.O. 1356B/4 (ends). Admiralty pass to Adm. Miles and N.A. Ankara. (C. in C. Med., 1402B/4 to Admty.)

Sfax air  
R/C.

Following from Chiefs of Staff to Cs. in C. M.E. and Med., rep. V.A. Malta, A.O.C. Malta. There are reports of a considerable number of escorted French ships passing down Tunisian coast to Sfax. As it is suspected that these are carrying war materials destined for Tripoli, air R/C of Sfax harbour and roads leading from there to Tripolitanian border should be carried out at an early date. The presence of an undue amount of shipping in Sfax or movements of road traffic towards Tripolitanian border should be reported immediately. (1st S.L. 1415A/4 to C. in C. Med.)

UPHOLDER  
P.31  
Reports.

UPHOLDER reports at 0754/27/11 in 37.50 15.40 fired 4 torpedoes at 7000 ton laden westbound tanker escorted by 2 destroyers, speed thought largely under-estimated, torpedoes missed.

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.UPHOLDER  
P.31  
Reports -  
contd.

(2) At 0437 sighted 3 cruisers and about 5 destroyers steering 030°, UPHOLDER 050° on port bow. While closing, (? enemy) altered straight towards UPHOLDER, dived for attack by periscope but frustrated by moon setting.

(3) At 0501B/1/12 in 39.13 17.29 fired 4 torpedoes by asdic at rear ship of these cruisers but sound subsequently indicated range too close, enemy passing nearly over head. Prolonged effort to pass enemy report failed.

(4) P.31 reports at 1705/29 in 39.20 17.33, when deep keeping listening watch with sea (?pivot), heard H.E. North Eastward and came to periscope depth.

*Cruiser Hit*  
*29/11.*

(5) At 1719 fired dispersed salvo A at centre ship of 3 southbound cruisers escorted by NAVIGATORI class destroyers, range 4500, course 165°, speed 20 knots. Result torpedoes hit at 3' 10", 3' 25", 4' 05" from firing first. Course accurately estimated from destroyer passing overhead.

(6) Salvo consisted of 3 Mark VIII, 1 Mark IV, set to 8 and 10 feet 40 knots, no destroyer observed between P.31 and cruiser on firing but conditions rough and observation difficult.

(7) Slow H.E. heard in direction of target until 1726 when explosion occurred of 3 times intensity of torpedo detonations, when H.E. ceased abruptly.

(8) Remaining ships proceeded at high speed. P.31 made periscope observations 1800 but too dark to see, then withdrew (? preparatory to) reloading. Considerable A/S activity by SPICA class torpedo boats in centre of Gulf of Taranto during latter half of patrol.

(Capt. S. 10, 1620B/4 to Capt. S.1.)

Russians  
Black Sea.

Adm. Isakov left by air this morning for Sevastopol. I do not think he is to be C. in C. Black Sea but has gone to investigate the situation on the spot. (Adm. Miles, 1621D/4 to Admty.)

OITUZ  
and 1 ship  
sunk (?).

C.2 report states that in addition to the Roumanian PELES and REGELE CAROL, already reported sunk by Russians in Black Sea. OITUZ, 2630 tons, and another Roumanian ship, name not specified, have been sunk. (D.S. 821, 4/12.)

M/V hit  
by A/C.

Have attacked enemy vessel with bombs level and estimate one hit. Ship on fire. Position of enemy is 34° 30' N. 23° 47' E.  
(A/C 45 Sq. duty L, 1634/4 to 201 Group.)

/Balloons ...

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Balloons  
in M/Vs.

Request information on recent experience of flying Mark VI balloons from merchant ships. Particularly request information on armament. (A.H.Q. Egypt, 1714/4 to Air Min.)

Black Sea.

Situation report. Military situation at Sevastopol satisfactory (? although) town is continually shelled. Certain German units have been (? replaced) by Roumanians. (2) Enemy digging in on Kerch Peninsula and (? fortifying) coast. No apparent (? intention) at present to cross Straits. (3) Black Sea fleet inactive. No further damage. (4) Tuapse slowly (? becoming) organized as base. (N.L.O. Black Sea 1714/4 to Admty.)

San Giovanni  
attacked.

4 Blenheims out to attack train ferry boats at San Giovanni, Italian terminus Messina ferry. No ferry boats when 1 aircraft attacked 1 2000 ton V. off Messina, no hits. Large tugs ferrying from Italy across Straits machine gunned, crews jumped overboard. Remainder attacked railway sidings San Giovanni. (H.Q. Malta, 1750/4.)

THRASHER.

Establish patrol by dawn 5th in vicinity of 039° 30' 017° 30'. (S.1, 1915B/4 to THRASHER.)

Intelligence  
Areas.

Your 1204/20. Concur in division suggested. Steps now being taken to provide extra staff requested in F.O.C. N.A.'s 2246/17. Change in Intelligence area will not be made until increase in establishment has been effected. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2307A/4 to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.B.A.10.

NEVASA with troops and stores for Aden and Suez sailed 0200Z/4 due Aden 0900Z/9 routed through N. 016° 45' 059° 45' O. 013° 45' 050° 50' knots 13 (13) (16) Independent, 1.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0206Z/4 to Admty.)

GLASGOW.

Arrival at 0200Z/4.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0220G/4 to Admty., etc.)

DAUNTLESS.

Colombo departure 0430Z/4.  
(S.O.I. Colombo, 0532Z/4 to Admty.)

REVENGE.

Departure REVENGE.  
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0651Z/4 to Admty., etc.)

Flying Boats.

Your 1144Z/18/10. Air Ministry state that in view of deliveries of American flying boats falling far short of expectations they now have little hope of augmenting long-range R/C air forces on East Indies station before late 1942. If Far Eastern War breaks out reallocation of all air R/C forces would of course be undertaken.  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1746A/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

3rd B.S.,  
Ammunition.

Your 0620Z/1 (N.T. in W.D.) Not understood why REVENGE did not embark 6 months practice in conformity with standing orders nor why omission to do so was not reported on proceeding abroad. (2) Expenditure of service ammunition not exceeding 24 rounds is approved. (3) Distribution of 15" practice ammunition is:- Singapore 16. E. Mediterranean nil. A.S.I.S. - Kheti 37. (4) RAMILLIES, ROYAL SOVEREIGN and RESOLUTION each carry 6 months allowance of practice all natures.  
(A.C.N.S. (W), 1810A/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

Italians,  
E. Africa.

Chiefs of Staff telegram 146 re repatriation of Italians from East Africa. Expected that Italian Govt. will make available GIULIO CESARE, DUILIO, SATURNIA, VULCANIA and 2 tankers from Metropolitan Italy. Details of arrangements. (Hd. of M., Approved 1st Lord, 2006A/4 to F.O.C.N.A., C's in C. S.A., E.I., etc.)  
(See Lion Copy.)

**MOST SECRET**

116A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2006A/4th December OUT

To: F.O.C.N.A. 678  
C. in C. Med. 668  
C. in C. South Atlantic 686  
C. in C. East Indies 92  
F.O.I.C. Simonstown 231  
F.O.I.C. Red Sea  
N.O.I.J. Aden  
Repeated: C. in C. Eastern Fleet 121.

Date 4.12.41

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From Admiralty.

Chiefs of Staff telegram No. 146 (not to all addressees) regarding repatriation of Italians from East Africa.

2. Expected that Italian Government will very shortly make available GUILIO CESARE, DUILIO, SATURNIA, VULCANIA and two tankers from metropolitan Italy for this purpose. All ships will call at Gibraltar. Final destination of liners in the Red Sea will be as arranged by C. in C. Med. in consultation with G.O.C. in C. East Africa. It is estimated that rate of embarkation will necessitate liners remaining at ports of embarkation for about three weeks. Instructions regarding movement of tankers from Gibraltar will be issued in due course.

3. All arrangements should be made on assumption that GUILIO CESARE and DUILIO will have to complete with bunker fuel from Admiralty stocks at Gibraltar. SATURNIA and VULCANIA will do so from commercial stocks of diesel fuel at St. Vincent.

4. Arrangements are being made by F.O.C.N.A. to supply one officer qualified to check navigation, 1 midshipman, 2 W/T personnel, 1 coder and 1 signaller to each of these 6 ships. Governor and C. in C. Gibraltar is arranging for a military guard to be embarked in each ship.

5. For security reasons it is desirable, if possible, that liners should not at any time call at Capetown or Durban nor at Aden, and certainly not at Freetown. The endurance of liners is known to be such that they would not require to bunker between the Atlantic Islands and the Red Sea. Italians have, however, indicated that they will require lubricants en route. These are not available at St. Vincent and must be taken on board together with necessary water and provisions at a South African port as arranged by Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic in consultation with the Government of the Union of South Africa. Quantities of lubricants required are thought to be available and separate instructions regarding supply of these will be made by authorities concerned in London. It is understood that there should be no difficulty in railing these to Port Elizabeth or East London.

6. On the return voyage liners will require to refuel at Kilindini to enable them to reach their next bunking port which will probably be St. Vincent.

7.....



# MOST SECRET

- 2 -

7. According to Italians water capacity of liners is such that they will require to take on board at a South African port approximately 7,000 tons, and in the Red Sea area - possibly at Massawa - approximately 11,000 tons. These quantities should be verified by F.O.C.N.A. on arrival of ships at Gibraltar, and Commanders-in-Chief concerned informed accordingly. Supply difficulties are fully appreciated and should be cut to absolute minimum. Italians also state it will be necessary to embark some 2,500 tons of mostly perishable food stuffs. These it would appear will have to be taken on board at one of the South African ports.
8. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange:-
- (a) for inspection of the ships at Gibraltar and to verify that no arms of any kind whatsoever are carried or fitted on board any of the six ships;
  - (b) that all but essential W/T receiving and transmitting sets are dismantled and offices sealed;
  - (c) that no portable W/T sets, cameras or cinema projectors are carried;
  - (d) that the S.B.N.O. in each ship is supplied with Naval Code and current and next edition of S.P.02350 series;
  - (e) that a Call Sign from spare call signs 21-26 in S.P.02182(2) is allocated to each ship. A safe should be provided for each ship in order to ensure the safety of codes and documents;
  - (f) a supply of eye-letted and weighted bags for disposal of S.P's and C.B's in use in the event of emergency.
9. Ships are to maintain W/T watch on G.B.M.S. organisation.
10. Ship-shore traffic is to be made on commercial frequencies.
11. Censorship instructions will be issued separately.
12. No visitors are to be allowed on board these ships.
13. No unauthorised contact between any of these ships and the shore is to be allowed.
14. (a) The position, course and speed of the liners and tankers should be reported to all concerned at noon daily and any unusual occurrence at any time.
- (b) Expected time of arrival are to be reported in ample time to allow, if necessary, of diversion.
  - (c) The sighting of any hostile ships or raiders is to be reported, care being taken that this is not done until well clear.

**MOST- 3 SECRET**

15. F.O.C.N.A. is to arrange that the Masters of these six vessels sign a statement to the effect that they will, at all times, during the period that these ships are being employed on repatriation of Italians from East Africa and the transport of fuel, carry out without question, the instructions of the British Officers and guards on board and of the various British authorities concerned with the repatriation.

16. While it may be assumed that the conduct of the Masters of these ships will be entirely proper, it must be expected that the Italians will employ agents in these ships in the guise of members of the ships' company. Every precaution is, therefore, to be exercised at all times and particularly when ships are either in port, approaching or leaving port, or if at any time they are likely to be in the vicinity of Naval units or convoys.

17. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue the necessary orders to the Senior Officer of each of the six ships.

2006A/4

for Head of M. (808)

Approved 1st Lord.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th 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) for (Col. Spraggett)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

Duty Captain (2)

D.P.S. (2)

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

D.N.I. (4)

Head of M. (20) (M.04429/41) for M. of W.T. (Mr. A.L. Moore)

M. of W.T. (Mr. R.C. Geddes)

Petroleum Dept. (Hon. M. Bridgeman)

F.O. (Mr. Mackereth)

M.E.W.

War Office M.O.11.

Dominions Office

Colonial Office

India Office

M. Books

M. 36

M. 38

D.S.D.

D. of S.

D.T.D. (2)

D. of L.D.

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

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

**MOST SECRET**

From War Registry.

Date: 5.12.41.

In MOST SECRET message 2006A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.  
C. in C. Mediterranean etc. (Chief of Staff telegram  
No 146) correct paragraph 7 as follows

For 25 thousand read two thousand five hundred

It is confirmed message was correctly transmitted

for H.W.R.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
4th 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) for Col. Spraggett.  
D.O.D.(F)  
D.D.O.D.(F)  
Duty Capt.(2)  
D.P.S.(2)  
N.A. 2 S.L.(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
Head of M.(3) (M.04429/41)  
D.S.D.  
D. of S.  
D.T.D.(2)  
D. of L.D.  
D.A./S.W.  
I.P.  
W.D.  
D.D.I.C.  
E.P.S.

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.French  
Shipping.Following is an extract from a Fairmiss  
Telegram:- KHAI DINH (S.L.1940).  
ALAMARTINE (S.L.1939).  
(? 0355Z/4 to M. of W.T.)Port  
Defences.Particulars of defence material available.  
(D. of L.D., 2027A/4 to C. in C. E.F.)  
See Lion Copy.ENDEAVOUR.Your 0501Z/19/11. Request confirmation of  
fitness for Service before C.O. and instruments  
are sent out. Due to leave U.K. about mid-  
December.  
(Hydrographer, 2151A/4 to C. in C. China.)PERSÉE,  
NIVOSE.  
AMIRAL  
CHARNER.There are strong indications of PERSÉE late  
PIERRE L.D., accompanied by NIVOSE and escorted  
by AMIRAL CHARNER, sailing from Saigon 5/12.  
(D.N.I., 2251A/4 to C's in C. China, E.I., etc.)U.S. Liaison.Your 0201/3. Assume you will link this matter  
up with C. in C. China's 1315/16/11.  
(Head of M., 2305A/4 to C. in C. E.F.)MARECHAL  
JOFFRE  
(French)Departure Manila.  
(N.C.S.O. Shanghai, 2356/4 to M. of W.T.)America and West Indies.PRINCE  
ROBERT.Ref. N.O.I.C. Hong Kong's 0315Z/19. PRINCE  
ROBERT arrived Honolulu on schedule.  
(C.O.P.C., 0526Z/4 ? to Admty., etc.)S.C.56.Estimated that Commodore and 11 ships escorted  
by RESTIGOUCHE, BITTERSWEET and CHICOUTIMI will  
be about 18 hours late at M.O.M.P. Two  
corvettes are being detailed to meet this  
portion.  
(D.T.D., 0731Z/4 to Opnav.)

# MOST SECRET

564 117A

MESSAGE

MESSAGE

2027A/4 December.

OUT

To. <sup>Cin CEF.</sup> F.O. Force G. 122.  
Repeated ~~C in C~~ China. 17525  
C in C East Indies. 93.

Date 4.12.41.

## NAVAL CYBER (X) D.

From Admiralty.

**NITE** Following particulars of available defence material are for your information in case you wish to establish any new base.

### 2. Boom Defence

(a) Material for 5 cables A/T double for Addu Atoll arrived Trincomalee 21.11.41. in BARON SEMPLE.

(b) About one mile A/S, A/B ex KIRRIEMOOR offloaded Ceylon originally planned for Suda Bay.

(c) A/S booms for Addu Atoll shipped in FORTH BANK, KINNA II and BUTESHIRE, all now at or near Ceylon.

(d) 18 cables A/S for Nancowry in U.K. awaiting shipment. You may consider that this boom is not urgently required and that material could be diverted elsewhere.

(e) Boom Vessels on passage for Addu Atoll, Nancowry and Singapore. BARMILL, JAN DE WAELE, PRINCE DE LIEGE, TEAL, reported Capetown 10.11.41. BARBOUR, BARONIA, BARSTOKE, GRAF VAN LINDEREN reported Walvis Bay 23.11.41.

### 3. Indicator Loops and H.D.A.'s.

(a) Personnel and equipment for 3 indicator loops and 1 H.D.A. await shipment in U.K. to Ceylon.

(b) Personnel and equipment for 4 indicator loops and 3 H.D.A.'s will be shipped in January to Trincomalee.

(c) No Admiralty Cable ship available. EMILE BAUDOT could be sent from U.K. and would take 3 months to reach Ceylon. Possibility of obtaining services of American Cable ship, should be considered and British technical advice could be provided.

### 4. Controlled Mines

MOST SECRET

117B

( 2)

(a) Sufficient available in Ceylon after completion of Nancowry for one Control Station covering a front of 2 miles. Personnel to be arranged locally.

(b) Control Station with sufficient other stores to cover a further front of 2 miles but no personnel leaving U.K. shortly.

5. Proposed ~~siting~~ of any new defences should be reported to enable redistribution to be arranged.

2027A/4.  
D of L.D. (187)  
Approved by 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. (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.N.I. (4)  
D.S.D.  
D of L.D. (L.D.002999/41)  
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.B.D.  
D.D.O.D. (M)  
D.T.M.

MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

117C

Date. 5.12.41.

From War Registry.

In Admiralty message 2027/4 December, concerning  
defence material, the address should read:-

C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Repeated, C. in C. China.

C. in C. East Indies.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. ((F)  
A.C.N.S. (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.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)  
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.  
D.B.D.  
D.D.O.D. (M)  
D.T.M.

**MOST SECRET**

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.DUNEDIN  
survivors.

Your 1440/3. U.S. Authorities do not wish NISHMAHA to break W/T silence. Suggest vessel be boarded on arrival at Trinidad to obtain further information and to request master to warn all on board to be reticent.  
(B.A.D., 1157R/4 to Admty.)

DUC D'AUMALE  
(French)

Arrived La Guaira from Caripito 3/12.  
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1257R/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SNOWBERRY.  
ARROWHEAD.

Halifax departures SNOWBERRY and ARROWHEAD in accordance with C.C.N.F's 1315Z/27.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1458Z/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.)

Task  
Force 3.

Following are standard patrol routes of U.S. Task Force 3.  
(a) When southbound from Caribbean Sea area pass through 010° N. 053° W. Equator at 035° W. to Recife.  
(b) From Recife through 005° S. 033° W. 015° N. 026° W. 010° N. 030° W. 005° S. 033° W. or Recife.  
(c) When northbound to Caribbean Sea area pass through 005° S. 033° W. 007° 20' N. 054° 40' W. to Trinidad.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1619Q/4 to S.O.I. Kingston, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

SURCOUF.  
(French s/m.)

Leave Bermuda on completion of practice on 7/12 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax. Keep normal watch on Louisburg broadcast throughout, shifting to read W S routine. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to arrange T.B.R. informing SURCOUF of arrangements made.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1623Q/4 to SURCOUF. Amended 1242Q/6.)

W.S.12X.

A.M. 1721/24/11 para. 2 (b) and your 2145/26/11. Request you will confirm it is intended that U.S. Destroyers will escort W.S.12X out of Capetown and if so how far to the Eastward.  
2. DORSETSHIRE is providing cruiser escort from Capetown instead of AUSTRALIA previously detailed. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1648A/4 to B.A.D.)  
Your 1648A/4. Navy Dept. are prepared to give destroyer escort to W.S.12X for 24 hours out of Capetown. All ships escorts are urgently required for other service and Navy Dept. therefore request stay of convoy in Capetown be reduced to the absolute minimum required for refuelling and re-victualling.  
Please confirm.  
(B.A.D., 1807R/4 to Admty.)

/DIDO...



119

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.DIDO

Owing to thick weather DIDO sailed without doing S. Amo? (corrupt group) trials.  
(B.A.R.M., 1800R/4 to Admty.)

B.Y.T.1.

Your 2033R/3 and your 1527R/4. Request salvage tender B.Y.T.1 may be sailed for Trinidad by most direct route via Yucatan Channel.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1902Q/4 to B.A.D.)

WEST CHETAC.

Your 1151B/28 (1155 intended) WEST CHETAC verbally ordered to call at Capetown. U.S. Navy Dept. recent broadcast orders all Merchant Ships proceed to Durban which orders may have been followed by WEST CHETAC.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2011Z/4 to S.O.I. Capetown.)

Suspicious Ship.

Unidentified armed merchantman seen by Pan-American Airways Pilot 1015/4, 16° - 12' N. 94° - 36' W. course northwest. Information in Dept. shows Norwegian armed SAMUEL BAKKEL 4700 tons and ~~BRITISH~~ SALVADOR 1100 tons in this vicinity.  
(Opnav, 2053Z/4 to Admty.)

Martinique Intelligence.

Fort De France 29/11, B.2. French <sup>(Naval)</sup> Tanker VAR left Fort De France 28/11 for Caripito to take on 8,000 tons fuel oil of which she is to discharge 5,000 tons at St. Thomas.  
(B.A.D., 2107R/4 to S.O.I. Kingston.)

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Following is intended programme for Netherlands G.T.S. VAN KINSBERGEN. Leave Curacao 10/12 visit St. Martin, Saba and St. Eustatius, proceed thence Trinidad to fuel arriving 16/12.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2132Q/4 to Admty., etc.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1358A/3. Visit of an aircraft-carrier would be of great value to training of observers at R.N.A.S. Piarco. If working up and subsequent programme permits suggest INDOMITABLE should spend 2 days at Trinidad before sailing for Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2142Q/4 to Admty.)

Routes for Returning Ships.

Proposed to instruct ships which for any reason have to return to U.K. when West of 10° W. from outward convoys to proceed on their reverse route and report position and speed by W/T. This instruction is intended to facilitate air protection and plotting. Request your remarks on advisability of a similar procedure for ships returning from H.X. and S.C. convoys.  
(D.T.D., 2230A/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/STRATHMORE..

War Diary.

4.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

STRATHMORE.

S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1242R/4.  
Request reason why STRATHMORE was sailed  
direct to U.K observing numbers exceeded those  
allowed by A.M. 1936/25/9, substance of which  
passed to you in my 1406Q/8/10. Request  
Admiralty state whether diversion to Halifax  
for convoy is desired.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2242Q/4 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)  
Reply: 1019/6.

War Diary.4.12.1941.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MIGUEL DE  
LARRINAGA.  
(torpedoed  
2/12.)

My 1032/2 Portuguese Destroyer VOUGA returned to Ponta Delgada. Nothing sighted. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1104/4.) Reported torpedoing of GKXJ MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA.

ASHBY.  
(torpedoed  
30/11.)

4/12, arrived in ships' lifeboats Chief Officer and 32 crew ex S.S. ASHBY. Reports torpedoed 1715 G.M.T. 30/11, 170 miles S.S.E., Flores Island. No information Master and 16 crew, but all believed to have been (? lost). Also believed secrets sunk with ship. From Vice Consul: With co-operation Capt. of Port and Capt. of Portuguese Destroyer LIMA, latter generously took with him Chief Officer 29 men and will transfer this evening to Portuguese CARVALHO ARAUJO which left earlier for Lisbon via Ponta Delgada. 3 seamen detained in hospital Fayal, believe not serious cases. Following reported missing (list). (V.C., Fayal, T.H.I., 2355/4.) Outward bound in ballast from Middlesboro' to Freetown. Had been in O.S.12. (D.S., 823, 6/12.)

Submarines Reported.Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.  
(D.D.I.C. 1327A/4, 1330A/4.)South  
Atlantic.Recent D/F bearings as assessed at Freetown indicate: (1) U-boat within 60 miles of 022° S., 011° W., at 1831Z/2 Southbound, 65% reliable. (2). One within 100 miles of 025° S., Greenwich Meridian at 2120Z/2, 80% reliable. (3). One within 80 miles of 026° S., 004° W., at 1936Z/2, 70% reliable. (4). One within 100 miles of 020° S., 028° W., at 0223Z/2, 60% reliable. (5). One within 80 miles of 016° S., 011° W., at 0439Z/2, Southbound, 60% reliable. (6). One within 120 miles of 022° S., 006° W., at 2237Z/3, 65% reliable.  
(C. in C.S.A., 1839N/4, to S.A. Stn.)  
\* 1632N/4

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Rosyth was reopened at 0652 today. Harwich was closed on account of fog from 0746A to 0924A.

The enemy merchant ship which entered Boulogne on the night 3rd/4th is now thought to be possibly an Armed Raider and is expected to proceed tonight to Cherbourg. In order to intercept her accordingly the destroyer TYNEDALE with M.L's 155, 157, 160, and 177 will patrol tonight to the northward of Cape Barfleur, while M.T.B. 51 and M.G.B. 314 will be operating off Cape de la Hague in case the enemy tries to proceed beyond Cherbourg. M.T.B's 219, 47, and 48, with M.G.B's 324 and 330 will also be patrolling near the Bullock Bank Buoy from 1800 today until midnight.

Severe frosts having made it necessary to sail LEDA from Archangel at 1450C today for Murmansk, direct W/T communication with Archangel is interrupted and is not expected to be re-established for 48 hours. S.B.N.O. North Russia considers that it has now become essential to instal remote reception equipment at Polyarno.

WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN left Milford Haven at 1553A today for Gibraltar.

SEAWOLF left Murmansk at 1439C for a patrol off Kongsfiord between 29° and 30° 20' E.

C. in C. H.F. reports that RODNEY has had only 21 days leave since the outbreak of the war and proposes to relieve her by RENOWN.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today and tonight. Coastal Command aircraft carried out successful attacks on shipping off the Frisian Islands and the Dutch coast.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Enemy minelaying is suspected in the main channels north and south of Sheringham Buoy. C. in C. Nore gave orders this morning that the main channels are to be swept as early and frequently as possible.

North Atlantic.

Pending further information, Convoy H.G.76 is to be held at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. considers there are 4 U-Boats in the area where supply ship was sunk on 1/12, 2 of which might have fuelled from her. Apparently they are expecting another supply ship south of St. Helena, perhaps a fruit ship from a French port. Patrols are to be maintained accordingly and CILICIA will be detached from W.S.14 and routed to Freetown west of Verde through H.34

Mediterranean.

Libya &  
Western  
Desert.

Capt. D.14 (JERVIS) with HERO, ~~██████~~ and HAVOCK carried out the Derna patrol early this morning. Dawn R/C by Blenheims was carried out in the Derna area. After leaving the patrol D.14 carried out an A/S sweep off Sidi Barrani.

/A U-Boat....

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Libya &  
Western  
Desert.  
(Contd.)

A U-Boat sighted heading for Bardia from N.W. is thought to be carrying supplies for the garrison. Capt. D.14 was at 1237B/5 ordered to attempt to intercept, leaving the area at 0600/6 to return to Alexandria.

Owing to the weather, an offensive sweep by Blenheims off Derna tonight was cancelled at 1559B/5.

Malta.

26 enemy aircraft approached Malta between 2007/4 and 0457/5, of which 4 crossed the coast. Bombs demolished 11 houses and caused civilian but no Service casualties.

Owing to operational difficulties it is not intended to fly any additional naval aircraft to Malta from the west until a modern carrier is available at Gibraltar.

CHAKDINA  
sunk.

Armed Boarding Vessel CHAKDINA was sunk by aircraft torpedoes at 2135/5 in 32.11 N., 24.30 E., when returning to Alexandria with about 300 British wounded and 100 prisoners. FARNDAL and THORGRIM rescued about 200 survivors.

East Indies.Air  
Forces.

Responsibility for the operational control of air forces in Iraq, Persia, the Persian Gulf and Arabia is defined in an Air Ministry telegram today.

Search  
for U/B's,  
Laccadives.

As reports from Marmagoa indicate the possible presence of U/B's or supply ships, C. in C. E.I. intends to search for unauthorised ships in the Laccadive Islands and the neighbourhood of Goa. He has withdrawn GLASGOW from her escort duty in Bay of Bengal. R.I.N. is being asked to lend LAWRENCE, now at Cochin, to co-operate. DIPAVATI, local defence vessel, will shortly resume A/S patrol off Marmagoa itself.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Aircraft  
Training.

U.S. Navy Dept. has agreed that aircraft from British aircraft carriers may be landed at the North Atlantic station, Norfolk, Va., for training and maintenance.

CIRCASSIA.

Is to leave Halifax a.m./6 to establish a patrol in square H.32 B. to intercept an enemy supply ship.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.L.Cs  
for Dover.

Request 3 A.L.C. may be allocated so as to arrive Dover 12/12 and that their personnel may be the same as for November period. (V.A. Dover 1016A/5.)

M/L Flotilla  
for Troon.

A.M.1546A/3. Request an M.L. Flotilla, preferably H.D.M.Ls, may be allocated to Troon as soon as possible. Tentative arrangements to share this base with R.A.F. have recently been made. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1048A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Destroyer  
Allocations.

1. Following is an extract from R.A.D. 1132/20/11, begins. "Admiralty's 1327A/1st November. For convenience of administration propose that Admiralty approval be asked for transfer of 'A' Class Destroyers to W.A. Command to take place on 1/12/41 irrespective of dates of completion of refit. Ends."  
2. In view of Admiralty's 2216A/3 request Admiralty will issue necessary instructions. (C. in C. W.A. 1113A/5.)

M.G.B.501.

On completion of trials M.G.B.501 is allocated for special operations conducted from Admiralty in collaboration with local Naval authorities and not to the 16th M.G.B. Flotilla. Admiralty will keep operational authorities and R.A.C.F. informed of requirements for this boat and R.A.C.F. is requested to arrange for her maintenance. (D.D.O.D. (C.) 1845A/5 to R.A.C.F.)

HENRIETTE.  
ESTRELLA DEL  
MAR for  
Grimsby.

A.L. M/M.S. 0677/41. In view of minelaying by E. Boats in Nore Command following changes in "LL" trawler dispositions are made now. To join 137 M/S group at Grimsby. HENRIETTE from Granton, ESTRELLA DEL MAR from Cardiff on completion of trials. Authorities are to sail ships accordingly. (D.M.S. 1851A/5.)

SCOTT.

My 1043A/29/11. SCOTT is now required to arrive Scapa 17/12. (D.O.D. (H.) 1918A/5 to R.A.M.)

*Scapa - See p. 129*

/RODNEY ....



War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - contd.RODNEY  
RENOWN.

Your 1812A/15/10 and your 1819A/30/10. RODNEY has had only 21 days leave since the outbreak of war, the last occasion being 7 days December 1940. Subject to no change in the situation propose to relieve RODNEY by RENOWN and to release RODNEY for leave and to change guns about 27/12. (C. in C. H.F. 2301/5 to Adty.)

Forces for  
H.F.

A.M. 1603A/26 para.2. Cancel ships to be allocated and substitute :-  
 C. in C. W.A. - 2 Corvettes, 1 HUNT.  
 C. in C. Plymouth - 2 HUNTS.  
 C. in C. Portsmouth - 2 HUNTS one of which may be WHEATLAND.  
 C. in C. Nore - 2 Leaders or Veas fitted with S.A. Sweep.  
 C. in C. Rosyth - Nil  
 2. Cancel A.M. 2038A/25 and A.M. 2039A/25. These vessels will not be required but work in hand for fitting for cold weather is to be completed. Allocations to 43rd and 44th Groups are cancelled and they are to revert to normal duties on completion.  
 (1st S.L. 2335A/5.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Communications. Severe frosts have made it advisable to sail LEDA. Naval wireless set not yet arrived. Request name of ship in which despatched. Have ceased wireless watch in accordance with my 1650C/24 and on 16 Kcs/sec. Watch on 5000 Kcs/sec. will be kept for 1st hour of every watch communication with ship. Request all fixed service traffic be passed via Murmansk or direct through Air Ministry or War Office until alternative arrangements made. Hope to resume direct service within 48 hours. Admiralty pass to all addressees except S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
 (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1201C/5 to Adty. Reptd. C. in C. H.F., SHEFFIELD, 1st M/S Flotilla.)  
 It has now become essential to instal remote reception at Polyarno. Request immediate despatch of 1000 yards run of coaxial cables with matching units complete for erection of remote receiving aerial. Request shipment in ocean escort of next P.Q. Convoy.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1348C/5 to Adty.)

Naval  
Armament  
Stores for  
Russia.

In P.Q.4. Details.  
 (D.D.A.S. L. 2019A/5.)  
 See Shipping.

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Scapa  
Blockships.A.L. M/LD 02655/41 of 29th September to  
A.C.O.S. only.

(1) It is considered here that CAROLIA THORDEN will make a better block to the North of Pontos than INVERLANE. As it is understood that she will be ready in the middle of January it is proposed to sink her here and keep INVERLANE as spare. (2) As no provision has yet been made for a barge to fill the gap South of Pontos, and as I have doubts whether a barge would stay there, I propose to use COLLINDOC on arrival for this position. Request approval. (A.C.O.S. 1203A/5 to Adty.)

Movements.H.50.Arrived H.50 and Z.5. (Rothsay)  
(Capt. S.7. 0914A/5.)MEYNELL  
VIVACIOUS.Return to Sheerness independently.  
(C. in C. Nore 0937A/5 to MEYNELL, VIVACIOUS.)ALERT.Departure at 0845A, T.H.V. ALERT with S.I Light Float in tow and Trawler escort LORD PLENDER.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0945A/5.)WHITEHALL.  
CAMPBELTOWN.C. in C. W.A. 1734A/3. Arrived WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1019A/5.) Sailed WHITEHALL, CAMPBELTOWN in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1734A/3 and 1058A/4. Intended speed of advance 13 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1553A/5.)P.36.Your 1849A/1 and 1701/3 arrived.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1036A/5 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)SALTASH.Intend sailing SALTASH for Thorshavn 1900/6.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1132/5.)H.44.Sheerness arrival H.44 at 1124.  
(C. in C. Nore 1210A/5.)QUEENS CROSS.QUEENS CROSS departed Fort William 1146/5 towing barges LYME BAY and STRATULA for Greenock calling Oban for onward routeing.  
(ST. CHRISTOPHER 1234A/5.)

/LEDA ...

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

LEDA.

Sailed LEDA for Murmansk. E.T.A. 0900C/7.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1450C/5.)  
Under LENIN's instructions anchoring Lebedin  
Island Reach in company with Russian convoy.  
T. of D. unknown. S.B.N.O. Archangel pass  
to S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
(LEDA 2229C/5 to S.B.N.O. Archangel, Rptd.  
SHEFFIELD.)

SCOTT.

Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1458A/5.) *See p. 126.*

P.35.

(1) Intend to sail P.35 escorted by LA CAPRIC-  
IEUSE passing Bell Rock 1230A/7, thence through  
Minches to position 270° Bishops Rock 7 miles,  
E.T.A. 1700A/11. (ii) Thence P.35 dives by  
day to position 046° N. 012° 40' W., thence on  
the surface at C.O's discretion to 043° N.  
012° 40' W. E.T.A. in last position 2359A/14.  
Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. *See p. 137*  
(Capt. S.9, 1533A/5) see Capt. S.9 1207A/6.

ROBERTS  
EREBUS.

Your 1916/4. Continue towards Azores and  
report situation at 1200Z/6.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1555A/5 to ROBERTS.)

UNA.

UNA escorted by WHITE BEAR left Clyde 1640A/5  
Southbound through Irish Sea 8½ knots for  
position 50° N. 06° 30' W. and may be met during  
the night.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1701A/5 to VANQUISHER, etc.)  
Sailed UNA escorted by WHITE BEAR in accordance  
with S.3's 1633A/3.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1722A/5.)

P.37.

Sailed P.37 escorted by STELLA PEGASI in  
accordance with my 1550/4.  
(A.C.O.S. 1718A/5.)

RODNEY.

S.R.C's 1258/41. Propose RODNEY should arrive  
at Bar Lt Vessel before dark on January 1st  
and anchor for the night. Proceed up harbour  
at 1000/2nd and secure at Princes Stage. Leave  
Stage for Cammell Lairds Basin at 1045/3rd.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1958/5 to RODNEY.)

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Interception  
of M/V from  
Boulogne.

Sailed 0935 TYNEDALE. E.T.A. 1500.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 0958/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
 My 2046A/4. M.T.B.51 and M.G.B.56 returned  
 0925A/5. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1008A/5.)  
 Departures M.Ls 341 and 283 for Dover for onward  
 routing to Falmouth and Portland respectively  
 speed of advance 14 knots.  
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1105A/5.)  
 HORNET's 1740/4. M.T.B. 220 sailed.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1128A/5 to V.A. Dover.)  
 Intend to sail M.G.B.314 for Portland at  
 1330 today, passing Needles Channel at 1410.  
 E.T.A. 1700. (HORNET 1215/5.)  
 M.Ls 155, 160, 157, 177 arrived.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1217A/5.)  
 A.M. 1428A/4. This operation is to be repeated  
 tonight. (A.C.N.S. H. 1224A/5.)  
 Anchor at Yarmouth. You will be joined by  
 4 Motor Launches. S.O. will bring operation  
 orders for tonight.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1327A/5 to TYNEDALE.)  
 M.L.155 S.O., 157, 160, and 177 which you are  
 to take under your orders will R/V with you  
 at Yarmouth. Sail at 1530 to carry out a  
 patrol to northward of Cape Barfleur. Object  
 is to destroy a merchant vessel, possibly an  
 armed raider, which is expected to proceed from  
 Boulogne to Cherbourg tonight. TYNEDALE should  
 engage escort while M.L. attacks main target  
 with torpedoes. TYNEDALE's Force is not to  
 operate to westward of longitude 001° 45' W.  
 unless in contact with the enemy. TYNEDALE's  
 Force return to Portsmouth on completion of  
 operation. If nothing is sighted during the  
 night, leave Patrol Line so as to be within  
 30 miles English coast by 0830. M.T.B.51 and  
 M.G.B. 314 will be operating off Cape Dela  
 Hague to intercept enemy if he proceeds beyond  
 Cherbourg. Code word for fighter protection  
 "Match".  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1343A/5 to TYNEDALE.)  
 Arrival M.Ls 341 and 283.  
 (V.A. Dover 1531A/5.)  
 My 1327A/5. Proceed via Solent to St. Helens  
 Road. Motor Launch will join you about 1830.  
 Proceed as soon as orders are received.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1603A/5 to TYNEDALE.)  
 Your 0958/5. Arrived TYNEDALE 1635.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1640A/5 to C. in C.  
 Plymouth.)  
 M.T.Bs. 219, 47, 48. M.G.Bs 324, 330 will be  
 on patrol in vicinity of Bullock Bank Buoy from  
 1800 to midnight today.  
 (V.A. Dover 1900A/5.)  
 Your 1333A/5. M.G.B.314 and M.T.B.51 sailed  
 at 2107. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2120A/5.)

/East ...

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

East Coast Patrol.

Intend that WINDSOR and QUORN sail for Humber at 1600A/5th carrying out following patrol. WINDSOR number 5 buoy to (?Hearty) Knoll and number 5 buoy to Newarp latter patrol only after 0100/6. QUORN Q.Z.S. 286 to southward of number 5 buoy. Ships to leave patrol so as to pass number 7 buoy northwards at 0300/6. Capt. (D) 16th D.F. Concurr. (WINDSOR 1146/5.)

SEAWOLF Patrol.

SEAWOLF sailed for patrol off Kongsfjord between meridian of 29° E. and 30 20 E. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1439C/5.)

Operation "Kitbag".

Operation "Kitbag" will take place night of 10/11 or 11/12 December. Request coastal command offensive operations in this particular area be restricted to normal for 48 hours before and suspended during operation. Request fighter protection in accordance with my 1811/2. Capt. (D) 3 will report time of sailing from Sullom Voe. Return route as in Captain (D) 3's 94/001 of 4/12. (C. in C. H.F. 1951A/5 to C. in C. Rosyth, Reptd. Capt. D.3.)

Unknown Operation.

Intend sailing M.G.B.319 and M A/S B 36 at 1200/6 to Falmouth for operation. Orders follow by hand. Speed 20 knots. E.T.A. 1600/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2221/5.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 0950/4 by Sweepers in 231°. Knob Bell Buoy 8 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0914/5.)  
One magnetic mine detonated at 1718/4 by M.M.S. in 070° Nore Light Vessel, 1.1 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1646/5.)

East Coast Main Channels.

Enemy minelaying suspected in main channels north and south of Sheringham Buoy. Main channels are to be swept as early and frequently as possible. (C. in C. Nore 0931A/5.)

/Humber ...

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Humber. Please add to my 2319A/1. (Mines exploded on 30/11) At 1500 in 124° 58 A Buoy 0.9 miles red outside near. (F.O. Humber 1216A/5.)

N.P.7A. Intend to carry out operation N.P.7A tonight. (V.A. Dover 1217A/5.)

Operation Q.O. Nine M/S and two M.Ls sail from Harwich 0800/6. Start sweeping in N. 3624 at 1345, finish in N. 6338 at 1515. Leave N. 6338 at 1545 N. 1806 at 1845. (C. in C. Nore 1830A/5 to 11 Group.)

Navigational.

Rosyth open. Cancel my 2210/4. (C. in C. Rosyth 0652/5.)

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0746A/5.)  
Port opened. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0924A/5.)

Technical.

Identification Marks. After 0001 G.M.T/15 S.O. 02298 (2) is to be brought into force on Home Stations. Identification marks will only be displayed in the event of invasion or when specially ordered. S.P.02298 is to be retained on board as a reserve edition and should be marked accordingly. S.P. 02298 (2) is not yet fully distributed on foreign stations. (D.S.D. 1856A/5.)

Casualties and Defects.

CORONIA. My 1630A/4. If spare port propeller can be obtained for CORONIA, vessel can be beached at Oban and work carried out here. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1050A/5.)

MALLOW. A.M. 2008A/4. Request arrangements be made to tow MALLOW to Belfast. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1113A/5.)  
Capt. D. Londonderry's 1113A/5. Subject to Admiralty approval rescue tug CAROLINE MOLLER could be used to tow MALLOW to Belfast when recalled from Lough Foyle about 7/12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1438A/5.)  
Your 1438A/5. Admiralty concur that CAROLINE MOLLER should be used to tow MALLOW to Belfast. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to sail ships as convenient. (C. in C. W.A. 2330A/5 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)  
/P.511 ...

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects -contd.P.511.  
CUTTY  
SARK.

Departure of "Silent" postponed. P.511 has grounded in Lough Foyle.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1247A/5.)  
My 1247A/5. Will attempt to refloat P.511 at high water about 2100 tonight.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1539A/5.)  
My 1247A/5. P.511 refloated. Sailed codeword "Silent". E.T.A. 0800A/6.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry 2225/5.)

M.L.148.

My 1411. M.L.148 returned to harbour with engine defect.  
(F.O. Humber 1445/5.)

JASMINE.

My 0949A/4. JASMINE delayed by defects. Intend sailing 1030A/6 speed 14 knots. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 2330A/6.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1540A/5.)

MASTADONTE.

<sup>N.T. m w 3.</sup>  
Your 1400A/29/11 which has been passed to F.O.I.C. Glasgow. Damage to MASTADONTE's funnel has proved extensive. Tug proceeds up river to Glasgow for repairs a.m. tomorrow.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1735A/5.)

CATTISTOCK.

Have struck wreck in position 052° 54' 50" N. 001° 31' 30" E. Speed reduced by excessive vibrations.  
(CATTISTOCK 2340A/5.)

Shipping and Convoys.W.P.76.

CLEVELAND is to pass the Gate at 1400 to R/V with BROCKLESBY in 270° Eddystone 7.5 miles at 1530 and take over escort of W.P.76. On relief BROCKLESBY to proceed to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1106/5.)

LESTO.  
BARANDA.

Intend sailing LESTO and BARANDA escorted by LORD AUSTIN to Kirkwall at 1600 tomorrow for onward routeing to Barry Roads and Leith respectively. Speed 8 knots routed as in my 1131A/30/11. E.T.A. daylight 8th. Request Air Escort from 0930/7 in same estimated position. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1116A/5.)

/Convoys ...

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.Convoys  
U.R.  
R.U.  
O.N.  
O.N.S.

C. in C. W.A. 2205A/30/11 Para 3, and D.T.D's Trade protection Sub-committee Meeting on 27th November 1941, Items 1 and 2. Propose that these convoys be designated U.R. sailing to Iceland and R.U. sailing from Iceland.

2. To sail from Loch Ewe two days after O.N.(S) convoy sail from Liverpool.

5. R.U. convoy to be sailed 48 hours after the U.R. convoy has arrived at Reykjavik by order from A.C.I.C.

6. C. in C. W.A. to route both convoys.

7. It is further proposed that all O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys should normally be routed in future South of Barra instead of through the Minches.

8. The East Coast ships for these convoys to be routed to Oban to form the Oban section of the main convoy.

9. In the event of the submarine or air situation requiring it, these O.N. convoys can always be diverted up the Minches without any dislocation of arrangements.

10. Rescue ships on these O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys to be normally escorted across to the eastbound H.X. or S.C. convoy by corvettes, though occasions will undoubtedly arise when it will be necessary to send them to Iceland if the convoys were delayed by weather, escorted by one corvette or with the Iceland portion of the H.X. or S.C. convoy, after making contact at M.O.M.P.

(C. in C. W.A. 1213A/5 and 1307A/5.)

H.X.160.

Many congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. the ships of your convoy H.X.160. MOUNT RHODOPE eventually arrived in S.C.55.

(C. in C. W.A. 1450/5 to Vice-Admiral F.A. Marten)

S.C.55.  
MOUNT PARNAS.

MOUNT PARNAS (Greek) arrived Methil in W.N.13. Ship left Sydney C.B. in S.C.55. Two days out lost convoy due to fire which broke out in stokehold. Subsequently met very heavy weather and was driven to northward ship sustaining damage, came through Fair Island passage and decided to make for Aberdeen for repairs was picked up off 30 Buoy by escort of W.N.13.

(N.C.S.O. Methil 1708/5.)



War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.41.  
EXPLORER.  
P.Q.7.

Your 1628D/28. S.S. EXPLORER now on passage to Iceland (C) in O.N.41 due about 7/12 will be sailed in first available convoy probably P.Q.7 leaving Hvalfiord on 15/12 and due Archangel about 26/12.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1743A/5 to Ad. Miles.)

P.Q.4.

Details of naval armament stores for Russian authorities are as follows. Bills of lading and vouchers charging stores to rear Admiral Miles are being forwarded to you and you are requested to obtain receipts from the Russian Authorities on arrival of the stores.  
(D.D.A.S. L. 2019A/5 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

S.C.56.

SHERIDAN and TOLKEN in company. Have relieved ORILLIA. Remainder of A portion very scattered and unable to collect themselves owing to inability to communicate with \*TARBERT, escort vessel, and large errors in position. MONTGOMERY and NARCISSUS joining me, remainder joining B portion. Canadian escort leaves B portion at 1900Z/5. Position doubtful, course 117°, speed 8 knots.  
(BEAGLE 2101Z/5.)

\* Not identified? Signal Sta.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BRADFORD.

Your 2245/24/11 my 1230/4. Sailed BRADFORD to fuel Ponta Delgada.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1108/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

REGENT.

Keep sharp lookout for U-Boat. One destroyer patrol north and fore 20 mile East Gibraltar will keep north of  $035^{\circ} 50'$  and west of  $004^{\circ} 40'$  after 0400A/6. Aircraft co-operation by night. Bombing restrictions arranged.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/5 to REGENT.)  
My 1110A/5. For (? 1) read 3.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1706A/5 to REGENT.)

O.21.

My 1436/4 sailed O.21.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1132A/5 to Admty., etc.)

→ SEVERN.

Adjust speed to cross latitude  $035^{\circ} 10'$  N. not earlier than 0730A/9 and R/V with escort in position (F) at 1400A/9.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1136A/5 to SEVERN.)

H.G.76,  
delayed.  
Search.

Your 2030/3 and A.M. 1835/26/11. Pending further information convoy H.G.76 is to be held at Gibraltar. You will be given 2 days warning of date of sailing.  
2. A.M. 1943/4 indicates the desirability of a re-orientation of your search. Suggest for your consideration that the modern destroyers and Long-range aircraft should operate in the more distant areas leaving the closure of the Straits to be maintained by the remainder of your A/S Forces and aircraft as at present.  
(V.C.N.S., 1231A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A.S.V.  
Contact.

Your 1845A/3. 1. 800 feet. 5 to 6 miles. This height being best compromise between visual and A.S.V. requirements.  
2. At first contact course is altered to keep target on bow and enable final approach to be made up moon. This permits of necessary identification and estimation of target movement with little chance of being sighted.  
3. Final approach was made as for deck landing.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/5 to Admty.)

JAY.  
→ SEVERN.

JAY in Fayal. Situation 2002A.  
(ii) SEVERN estimated about 23.33 17.55 through 25.25 17.30 thence  $050^{\circ} 12'$ .  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1328A/5 to A.I.G.64.)

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.P.35.

(i) Intend P.35 to pass through 043° 00' N. 012° 40' W. at 2359A/14, proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar.

(ii) W/T Watch.

(iii) S.P's carried.

(iv) P.35 is painted grey with pendants in white on conning tower.

(Capt. S.9, 1545A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.) See p. 129.

→ URSULA.

Your 1108A/4 and 2208A/1 and my 1853/4 passed via Rosyth at 1954A/4. My position 1800A/5 037° 16', 001° 36' E. permission is requested to pass point P and L 24 hours early to arrive at Gibraltar 0900/8. Weather report.

(URSULA, 1746A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AUDACITY.

My 1804A/28/11. In view of short period that AUDACITY can now be operated with convoy H.G.76 and O.G.77 intend to sail her for U.K. as extra escort to H.G.76.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1758A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

→ URSULA.

→ Your 1746/5.

Your 1954/4 not received. Remain on patrol within 15 miles of position P leaving to conform with my 2208A/1. U-Boats patrol your vicinity. CLYDE on patrol within 30 miles African Coast. Own aircraft on A/S patrols to longitude 000° 45' W. Shift W/T watch forthwith.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2310A/5 to URSULA.)

U/B's.

Sighted and attacked.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1800/5, 200 Group 1800/5.)

See U-Boat Campaign.)

UNA.

UNA sails from patrol after dark on 14/12 through 044° N. 009° W. for position 043° N. 010° 30' W. E.T.A. 0800A/15, thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. for Gibraltar.

(II) W/T watch.

(III) UNA is painted grey with light grey figures on conning tower.

(IV) S.P's carried.

(Capt. S.3, 2145A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

STORK.  
JONQUIL.

STORK, JONQUIL are to leave harbour at 0900/6 and rejoin Group 2. One Corvette is to return to harbour when STORK joins.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2229A/5 to WISHART, STORK, JONQUIL.)

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.ECHODALE.  
ASTER.  
MARGUERITE.

Your 0427N/4 (1427N/4 intended.)  
 (a) ECHODALE parted company at 1645N/4 in 016° 45' S. 012° 50' W.  
 (b) ASTER, MARGUERITE, E.T.A. position (F) 1200N/7, speed 12½ knots.  
 (c) Intend approach (F) through position 023° 00' S. 006° 30' W. looking for survivors from CLAN MACBEAN.  
 (ASTER, 0001Z/5 to C. in C. S.A.)  
 ASTER 0001Z/5. If BIRMINGHAM has sufficient fuel I would prefer that she is not far from F while corvettes are passing through area on 7th.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 1017N/5 to S.O. S.America Sqdn.)

D.E.M.S.  
Ammunition.

Propose following stock D.E.M.S. ammunition be kept at Umbogintwini Depot. (Details).  
 If approved request ammunition be shipped to Durban to arrive March 1942.  
 (A.S. Simonstown, 0931B/5 to Admty.)

Enemy  
Supply  
Ships.  
Patrols.

Movements of U-Boats in South Atlantic as disclosed by D/F bearings show 4 in area where supply ship was sunk on 1/12. 2 might have fuelled from this ship and it seems that the other 2 fuelled about 19/11 in the vicinity of 010° N. 036° W.

2. This appears to indicate U-Boats are expecting another supply ship in area south of St. Helena shortly perhaps, a fruit ship sailed from French port vide Admty. 1812A/23/11.
3. Intend to maintain a patrol in Area South of St. Helena as long as possible, but until BIRMINGHAM gets back from Cape about 13/12 only DERBYSHIRE will be there.
4. A patrol further north, say in St. Paul's Rock area, also seems very important. Intend to keep DEVONSHIRE there to limit of endurance deferring repairs in ? U.S.A. and reinforcing her with CANTON shortly. Could C. in C. A. & W.I. provide patrol further westward, say in H 32 B?
5. Could CILICIA be detached from W.S.14 and be routed to Freetown west of Verde through H 34 to keep patrol going. I could also defer CARNARVON CASTLE and/or ALCANTARA proceeding U.S.A. for refit if this is considered desirable.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 1059N/5 to Admty.)  
 Your 1059N/5. Concur that 4 U-Boats are probably in this area now, and that a supply ship may be expected shortly.
2. CILICIA will be detached from W.S.14 - as required by your para. 5.
3. It is not considered that prospects of interception in the "H" area justify delaying ALCANTARA or CARNARVON CASTLE.  
 (A.C.N.S. (H), 2331A/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

/DUNEDIN....

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.DUNEDIN  
survivors.

Your 1227/4. From B.A.D. Washington's 2107/2 the estimated position of rescue would appear to be about  $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N.  $21\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W. on 27/11.  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1113A/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

CONSBRO.

No reply having been received to my 1505N/22/11\* intend to sail CONSBRO to Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1118N/5 to Admty.)  
\* (N.T. in W.R.)

Shipping  
Diversions.

Your 1714A/21/10. Please confirm Admiralty will divert shipping from Walvis Bay. No diversion received here for STAR OF CAIRO or SOULIOTIS (Greek).  
(C. in C. S.A., 1130N/5 to Admty.)

SURCOUF.  
(French s/m.)

Admty. 1748A/2 para. 2. Request SURCOUF be sailed via Freetown.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1139N/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ILEX.

Further investigation confirms that the seizure is in the starboard H.P. Turbine and that this must be opened to ascertain the cause, in view of F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1251B/3 (N.T. in W.D.) intend to manufacture lifting gear locally which it is estimated will take about 14 days.  
(N.L.O. Durban, 1250B/5 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

BALTAVIA.

My 1128N/3. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> State of discipline in this ship is bad. Consider this is additional reason for her returning to U.K. where I recommend she should be paid off. Air Mail letter follows.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1305N/5 to Admty.)

WEST CHETAC.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1155/28. WEST CHETAC arrived Capetown.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1505B/5 to Admty., etc.)

COMMANDANT  
DOMINE.  
CEDARDALE.  
CARTHAGE.

Simonstown departure 1200 G.M.T./5 Free French Sloop COMMANDANT DOMINE by inshore route for Durban. S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. p.m./8.  
(2) Capetown departure 0955 G.M.T./5 R.F.A. CEDARDALE by route R.1 for R/V with CARTHAGE outer end of Durban searched channel 0800 G.M.T./9. Thence in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 1500/1. E.T.A. Mauritius a.m./16. S. of A. 10 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1648Z/5 to Admty. etc.)  
(Note: See Amendment 1623Z/6.)

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.SEVERN.

Your 1350A/4/12. (1354A/4 intended.)  
SEVERN sailed 0800N/2/12. E.T.A. position  
(F) 0730A/9/12. My ? 2213N/2/12 refers.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1831A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Whale  
Catchers.

Your 2220A/10/11 extract obtained from R.A.S.  
A.D. BUSEN 7 sailed in 1st group by order of  
Salvesen Agents, South Georgia, before names of  
catchers contained in above message could be  
passed to South Georgia. South Georgia requests  
information as regards BUSEN 6.  
(N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1853Z/5 to Admty.)

AUSTRALIA.

Simonstown departure (?13)00 G.M.T/5 AUSTRALIA  
to eastward in accordance with Adty. 1655/3 S.  
of A. 15 knots, routed through following positions  
(k) 028° 10' S. 045° 10' E. (l) 024° 00' S.  
064° 00' E. (m) 024° 00' 090° 00'.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1657Z/5.)

Mediterranean.TRUSTY  
R. of P.

Unsuccessfully (attacked) One Italian Destroyer  
GRECALE Class in 037° 46' 020° 25' at 1217B,  
steaming mean course 135° speed 18 knots.  
Gyro failure. 54 charges. My 1401B/28.  
Enemy approx. route follows. 198° Vardiani  
light 1 mile, thence to 270° for 3.8 miles to  
position 259° Vardiani light 4 miles, thence  
course 185° for 7 miles, thence course 155°.  
Weather report.  
(TRUSTY, 0006B/5 to Capt. S.1.)

Libya.

Military Situation Reports.  
(C. in C. M.E., 0202/5, 2337/5 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

U/B.

U-Boat in 036° 15' N. 022° 45' E. estimated  
050° 5 knots. Weather report.  
(TALISMAN, 0301B/5 to Capt. S.1.)

LESBOS.

Unless visibility improves send whaler to lead  
LESBOS to convoy.  
(S.O. Force I, 0913B/5 to YARRA.)  
Detach FLAMINGO and one SOUTHERN to return to  
Mersa Matruh as escort for LESBOS to sail as  
ordered by S.O. Force I.  
(R.A. Alexandria, 1325B/5 to YARRA.)  
Sail at 1700/5 with LESBOS through route ordered  
for "Bosom" estimated S. of A. 5½ knots E.T.A.  
Tobruk 0330/7 Code Name "Bosom 2". Fighter  
protection required daylight hours 6/12.  
(S.O. Force I, 1514B/5 to FLAMINGO, SOUTHERN  
MAID.)

/On arrival ...

**MOST SECRET**MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0209/5th DecemberINFrom C. in C. Middle East.  
CIPHER.Date 5.11.41  
Recd. 0525Addressed War Office (Pass to Air Ministry). Repeated  
C. in C. Mediterranean.MOST IMMEDIATE16629. 0/34362 cipher 4/12 MOST SECRET

Cositrep No. 32. Most Secret Officer decipher.

1. Dawn 4 December 11 Ind. Inf. Bde. attacked Bir el Gobi from west. Nine Italian tanks and fifty seven M.T. so far reported destroyed. 0900 hrs. Tac/R reported column two hundred M.T. and eight tanks moving N.W. from El Gubiz.
  2. 4 December Mobile column 30 Corps engaged fifteen tanks and M.T. six miles north of el Gubi two Italian tanks knocked out. Another enemy column heavily shot up areas F 400383 and 420386 column scattered and withdrew N.W.
  3. Column five hundred M.T. unofficially reported moving east along Trigh Capuzzo morning 4 with twenty tanks protecting southern flank engaged by support group Yary area Bir Chileta. Enemy tanks engaged our outpost 456401 no further news.
  4. Morning 4 December 5 N.Z. Bde. engaged enemy column west of Menastir forty Germans killed many vehicles destroyed sixteen P.O.W.s taken two guns captured our casualties nine wounded. Remnants enemy pursued west.
  5. IRDG destroyed enemy M.T. park Sidi Saleh SP 7503.
  6. H.Q. 2 S.A. Div. Sidi Omar H.Q. 4 Ind. Div. ten miles S.W. of Gabr Saleh.
  7. 4 Ind. Div. captured 59 guns all types in Sidi Omar operations.
- AIR.
8. Night 3/4 December. Bombers. Heavy Wellington and Albacore attack on El Aden area started several large fires visible from Tobruk.
  9. Morning 4 December. Fighters. On information from Army that enemy bombers were in the habit of attacking our armoured divisions at certain points and times each day, a sweep by two South African squadrons effected an interception near El Adem with results. Six JU 87s destroyed one JU 87 and one G50 probably destroyed five JU 87s damaged. We suffered no casualties in combat but two Tomahawks collided on return and the pilots are believed to be prisoners.
  10. Sweeps by two Tomahawk and two Hurricane squadron intercepted about seventy JU 87s ME 109s G 50s and possibly MC 202s near El Adem and Sidi Rezegh. Majority of JU 87s jettisoned bombs. One JU 87 one ME 109 two MC 202s three G50s destroyed one ME 109 one G 50 three MC 202s probably destroyed three ME 109 three MC 202s damaged one Tomahawk two Hurricanes missing.

Pass /.....

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

Pass copy to Air Ministry.

0202/5

Received from War Office 0855/5th December.

- |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Lord.                | <u>War Office Distribution:-</u>    |
| 1st S.L.                 | S. of S.                            |
| 2nd S.L.                 | C.I.G.S.                            |
| 3rd S.L.                 | V.C.I.G.S.                          |
| 4th S.L.                 | D.M.C. & P.                         |
| 5th S.L.                 | D.D.M.O.(O).                        |
| V.C.N.S.                 | D.P.(2).                            |
| A.C.N.S.(F).             | M.O.1.5.6.                          |
| A.C.N.S.(I).             | D.D.I.P.                            |
| A.C.N.S.(H).             | 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).               | Cabinet War Room.                   |
| D.D.O.D.(F).             | Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices).       |
| D.O.D.(H).               | C.A.S. (Air Ministry)(2).           |
| D.D.O.D.(H).             | D. of Plans (Air Ministry)(2).      |
| D.N.I.(4).               | Plans 3 (Air Ministry)(2).          |
| D.N.A.D.                 | D.D.O. (Air Ministry).              |
| D. of L.D.               | D.M.C. (Air Ministry).              |
| I.P.(2).                 | P.S. to S. of S. (Air Ministry)(2). |
| W.D.                     | Duty Group Captain (Air Ministry).  |
| D.C.(2).                 | A.C.A.S.(I) (Air Ministry).         |
| Head of M.               | Air Ministry (War Room).            |
| E.T.S.D.                 | S. of S. (Foreign Office).          |
| D.D.I.C.                 | Duty Captain (Admiralty).           |
| E.P.S.                   |                                     |
| N.I.D.10 Pay.Cdr.Wilson. |                                     |
| D.P.E.                   |                                     |
| D.A/S.W.                 |                                     |

DF

MOST SECRET



# MOST SECRET

1408

M E S S A G E

2337/5 December.  
IN.

From C. in C. Middle East. Date. 6.12.41.

Recd. 0530.

CIPHER.

Addressed War Office, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

16870 0/34693 cipher 5/12.

COSITREP No. 34. Officer decipher.

One. Ref. COSITREP No. 33 par one. Tobruk. 4 December attack renewed by enemy infantry supported by heavy bombardment and enemy succeeded in gaining footing. Counter attack by 4 Borders and inf. tanks recovered some of lost ground. Fifteen of our inf. tanks hit during action mostly by 88 m.m. guns. Night operations were staged to recover disabled tanks. Preliminary report from Tobruk on these operations states our infantry reoccupied ground without opposition.

Two. Night 4/5 December considerable enemy shelling of El Adem Road as far north as 427 grid line but F.D.L.S. reported quiet. Our arty. replied. Ground report indicates considerable movement from North to South area Sidi Rezegh. T/C/R investigating morning 5th December.

Three. Ref. COSITREP No. 33 Para. Two. El Gubi area confirmed 5 December total fifteen Italian tanks and one hundred and fifty M.T. accounted for, four hundred Italian P.O.W. two medium batys. and five A.Tk. guns captured. Fifty five thousand gallons enemy fuel destroyed, fifty sup ly lorried and large amount ammunition captured.

Four. Total P.O.W. in Tobruk now fifty three officers and approximately two thousand five hundred O.Rs. of whom approx. forty per cent are German.

Five. Air. Nothing to add to COSITREP No. 33.

War Office pass copy to Air Ministry.

2337/5.

Received in War Reg. 0740/6 December.

1st Lord. D.of P. (2)	War Office circulation:-
1st S.L. I.P. (2)	Cabinet War Room. S. of S., C.I.G.S.,
4th S.L. W.D.	Col. Jacob. (Cabinet Offices), V.C.I.G.S.,
5th S.L. E.P.S.	C.A.S. (Air Ministry) (2) D.M.O. & P.
V.C.N.S. D.N.A.D.	D. of Plans (Air Ministry) (2) D.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F) D.P.D.	Plans 3 (Air Min.) (2) M.O. 1, 5, 6.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.O. (Air Min) D.D.I.P.
D.O.D. (F)	D.C. (Air Min.) D.M.I.
D.D.O.D. (F)	P.S. to S. of S. (Air Ministry) (2)
Duty Captain. (2)	Duty Group: Captain. (Air Min.)
D.D.I.C.	A.C.S. (1) (Air Min.) D.D.M.I. (1),
D.N.I. (4)	Air Ministry War Room. M.I. 3.14.
Hq. of M. (2)	S. of S. (Foreign Office) D.A.F.V.
	D.C. (Admiralty) D.D.M.C. (0)
	Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty
	War Room)

141

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. contd):LESBOS.  
(Contd.)

On arrival off Boom turn back with SOUTHERN ISLE and reinforce FLAMINGO sailed as in S.O. Force (I) 1514/5.  
(Alexandria, 2035B/5 to YARRA.)

A/C  
Services.

Your message 25/11 (N.T. in W.R.) B.O.A.C. H.Q. Cairo assure me that many of their aircraft en route to Lagos and to Cairo via Malta have called at Lisbon since 1/10. Those on former route still continue but latter route is temporarily in abeyance. Would much appreciate if active steps could be taken to remedy present state of affairs as French Squadron is beginning to think we have promised something we cannot put into force.  
(C. in C. Med., 1001B/5 to Ambassador, Lisbon.)

Russian  
Tankers  
from Black  
Sea.

Visiting Istanbul re Russian ships Russian N.A. informed me Russian Minister of Commerce authorizes only 12,500 tons of oil products be discharged Turkey remainder to be all British. Very desirable H.M.G. and Adm. Miles impress on Russian Govt. we want oilers, not oil, and Turks require oil very badly; amount already delivered has had excellent effect. Urgently regard instructions to this effect be sent Russian Representatives in Turkey. Russian N.A. now states arrival second batch oilers has been postponed until first lot have been disposed of, and one of first batch cannot be discharged until authority is received from Moscow.

(Adm. Kelly, 1217B/5 to Admty.)

Thank you for your 1331B/2. Russians fully appreciate situation and are most grateful for your help. 2. I have already expressed views in your 1356B/4 to the Russians.

(Adm. Miles, 1676D/5 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy  
Ships.

Aircraft report 7000-ton ship one mile N.E. of jetty (corrupt group) 2 - 250-ton ships inside harbour 1030/5.

(N.L.O. 8th Army, 1236B/5 to C. in C. Med.)

U/B,  
Bardia.

U-Boat has been sighted heading for Bardia from northwest. It is thought she may be carrying supplies to garrison and may arrive p.m./5. There may also be one leaving from there. Attempt to intercept p.m./5. Leave area 0600/6 and return to Alexandria.

(C. in C. Med., 1237B/5 to Capt. D.14.)

/A/C Sweep.....

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.A/C Sweep,  
Derna.  
(cancelled)

Blenheims will carry out an offensive sweep off Derna tonight. Will not attack east of 023° 00' E. Swordfish will not carry out search from Fuka to 024° 10' E. tonight 5th/6th.

(201 Group, 1254B/5 to Med. Fleet at Sea.)  
My 1254/5. Owing to weather conditions Blenheims will not carry out sweep off Derna tonight.  
(201 Group, 1559B/5.)

Malta  
Supplies.

Middle East Supply Centre 1255/5 to Govr. Malta.  
See Lion Copy.

P.34.

Leave patrol p.m./6 routed as in your sailing orders to arrive Malta 0730B/8.  
(Capt. S.10, 1301B/5 to P.34.)

Cruiser  
torpedoed  
by P.31  
29/11.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41.  
(a) 29/11/41.  
(b) 3 Cruisers escorted NAVIGATORI Destroyers southbound. Weather rough detected by Asdic when deep. Fired at centre cruiser by periscope 100 track daylight dispersal salvo from a range rather over 4,000 yards. Observation impossible 40 minutes later owing to darkness. (c) P.31. (j) 3 hits target H.E. persisting very slowly for 7 minutes then loud explosion H.E. stopping. Remaining vessels continued, cruiser probably sunk.  
(Capt. S.10, 1306B/5 to Admty.)

O.24.

Assume patrol in area O, 038° 38' N. 012° 58' E. 360 10 10. U-Boat may be expected to approach from West.  
(Capt. S.10, 1317B/5 to O.24.)

UPHOLDER.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41. Details of unsuccessful attacks 27/11 on 7000-tons westbound laden tanker south of Spartivento Cape and 2/12 on 3 northbound cruisers escorted by 5 destroyers 20 miles north-east Cape Colonne.  
(Capt. S.10, 1343B/5 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrivals 4/12, DECOY, NAPIER, HOTSPUR, GRIFFIN, DELPHINIUM. Departures 4/12, CHANTALA (corrupt group) FLAMINGO, HEYTHROP, WOLBOROUGH, AVONDALE, Motor Launch 1023. Arrived and sailed 4/12 SOUTHERN ISLES, SOUTHERN MAID, COCKER. Arrival 5/12 ST. ISSEY.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1527B/5 to Admty, C. in C. Med.)

/LANCE .....

**MOST SECRET**

142A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1255/5th Dec.

IN

From Middle East Supply Centre. . Date 5.12.41.

Recd 1730.

Addressed Governor of Malta, repeated Ministry of War Transport No.507 MAST MIDES (also for Admiralty, Air Ministry & Colonial Office) Saving to C. in C. Mediterranean and Rear Admiral in Charge Alexandria and Colonel Barron.

IMMEDIATE.

Following telegram is agreed by Middle East.

Your COSUP telegram No.1435.

1. Your paragraph 2 (a) (1) concur, but note S.M.S. greatly passes demands for kerosene and benzine to army for transmission to Shell.

2. Your paragraph 2 (a) (2) concur. All repeat all requirements will be met by army from April 1st 1942 onward. Army will increase their demands from that month accordingly.

3. Your paragraph 4. As army will be providing for your requirements from April 1942 (with our assistance for cereals and sugar) immediate problem is to ensure that your requirements to March 31st can be met. Column 4 of paragraph 4 of your telegram refers. To do this, following action required:-

(a) Flour and wheat. Only 2,000 and 8,000 tons respectively are held by Maltese Shipping Committee at Alexandria. All shipments notified up to end of January have been allocated against urgent needs of other territories and shipments are lagging behind in connexion((sic)? consequence). To ensure delivery to Malta, request Ministry of War Transport arrange additional (repeat additional) shipment 8,000 tons of flour and 14,000 tons of wheat as soon as possible. Ministry of War Transport is requested to state action taken. Our telegram No.509 to Ministry of War Transport only amplifies this.

(b) Benzine and kerosene. There are difficulties in supplying quantities indicated at short notice. Our immediately following telegram No.1 addressed to C. in C. Mediterranean repeated to the other addressees of this telegram refers. In the meantime, army will endeavour to keep 1,000 tons of each oil in tins or other suitable containers ready for shipment at short notice.

(c) Coal.....

- 2 -

(c) Coal and gas coal. Assume Admiralty will continue to supply. Request Rear Admiral in Charge Alexandria ensure quantities mentioned in Governor's telegram are kept available.

(d) Approximately 250 tons of edible oil now held by Malta Shipping Committee. Army will loan further 1,000 tons before March 31st 1942.

(e) Sugar. Sufficient sugar now held by Malta Shipping Committee.

(f) Only 20,000 cases of tinned milk available here. Request Governor of Malta ask Crown Agents for the Colonies to ship further 20,000 cases as soon as possible, and inform us of action taken.

(g) Matches. Sufficient available.

(h) 1,000 tons of soap now held by Malta. Army will provide additional 400 before March 31st.

(i) Preserved meat and tinned fish. None available in Middle East. Propose Crown Agents for Colonies arrange shipment of 90,000 and 60,000 cases respectively as soon as possible, and inform us of action taken.

(j) Lard, margarine, butter and cheese. Malta shipping Committee hold sufficient quantities of these.

(k) Coffee. Malta Shipping Committee holders of about 250 tons. Army will provide further 150 tons before March 31st.

(l) Tea, rice. Malta Shipping Committee have none. Army will provide 65 and 270 tons respectively before March 31st.

(m) Fodder. See paragraph (6) below.

(n) Cement. Army will maintain 2,000 tons at Alexandria.

(o) Gas coke and foundry coke. Remarks as paragraph (c) (repeat c) above.

5. Referring again to your paragraph 2 (a) (2) bulk and co-ordinated orders on Crown Agents for the Colonies can thus be cancelled, except for special orders for tinned milk, meat and fish, which are mentioned above and which should come as soon as possible. These orders will not (repeat not) require repetition, for the army will be making provision from April 1942.

(6) Fodder....

# MOST SECRET

- 3 -

6. Fodder. About 5,000 tons available now in warehouse, composed mainly of beans 3,500 tons, and cotton seed 1,000 tons. Before March 31st we can probably provide maize and cotton seed and possibly some carobs from Cyprus and also beans. Army are providing 2,000 tons of dari seeds about the end of January. In what proportions would you like the balance of 14,500 (repeat 14,500) tons to be composed? The more maize and cotton seed you can accept, the better it will be, viewed solely from the point of view of transport. To assist in identification, please refer in future to fodder as food for livestock.
7. Your paragraph 5 (1) and (2) noted. Sub-paragraph (3). Army will give all possible assistance when refrigerated ship is sent to Malta. Consider it reasonable to expect that such a ship will be provided before end of March and do not (repeat not) recommend that orders for preserved meat should be doubled, especially in view of world shortage of this commodity. Sub-paragraphs (4) to (9) noted.
8. In view of action being taken as a result of paragraph (4) above, Barron is taking no further action (repeat no further action) on your telegram No.1735 November 28th addressed to him only.
9. The main difficulty, apart from providing cereals and white oils, is to get sufficient cargo into Alexandria port area in order to load ships within the notice which may be given by Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean. Internal transport problems, especially during the present operations, are very great, but the authorities here will do their best to ensure that stocks are maintained at Alexandria at satisfactory level.
10. Future demands. Essential to assist Middle East in arranging supplies that only one (repeat one) demand for all S. and T. items should come from Malta in future. This means that normal monthly commandeth (sic) S. and T. demand should in future first be referred to the Governor of Malta who will add bulk and co-ordinated items and then telegraph to Middle East and confirm by letter to Secretary of Malta Shipping Committee. This will mean that items 7 to 20 (repeat 7 to 20) in paragraph (4) of the Governor's telegram will cover requirements of the whole fortress, as is the case of other items quoted. Telegram will thus include all commandeth S. and T. requirements which are neither bulk nor co-ordinated. Note. Carrying system will not cover naval needs which, however, are small and need not affect the principle proposed at the beginning of this paragraph.
11. These demands should be made five months in advance. Essential, therefore, that demands for April should be telegraphed to Middle East as quickly as possible. Demands

for.....

for May should be telegraphed January 1st, and so on.

12. Malta please state whether these proposals are acceptable. If so, place necessary orders on Crown Agent for the Colonies (paragraph 5), telegraph us report on fodder (paragraph 6) and confirm in accordance with (10).

1255/5

1st Lord	Received from Ministry of War Transport
1st S.L.	at 1924/7
3rd S.L.	Ministry of War Transport Distributions:-
4th S.L.	Sir J. Foley.
5th S.L.	Sir V. Thomson.
V.C.N.S.	Sir Wm. Goode, KBE. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	Sir M. Turnbull
A.C.N.S. (T)	Mr. T.G. Jenkins.
A.G.N.S. (F)	Mr. E.H. Nicholson.
L.C.N.S. (W)	Mr. W.J. Arkell.
N. 1st S.L.	Mr. A.A. Evans (4)
N. 2nd S.L. (2)	Mr. T.H. Hughes.
N. 3rd S.L. (H)	Mr. G. Peat
N. 4th S.L. (H)	Mr. H.C. Trench (action)
N. 5th S.L. (F)	Mr. J.W. Barron.
N. 6th S.L. (F)	Mr. G.P. Christopher.
N. 7th S.L. (4)	Mr. W. Graham.
N. 8th S.L.	Mr. J.G. Graham.
N. 9th S.L. (S.W.)	Mr. R.I. Metcalfe.
N. 10th S.L. (2)	Mr. W.G. Truby.
N. 11th S.L.	Captain Berkeley (WCO) (21) and for
N. 12th S.L.	Colonial Office.
Head of H.	Miss Hambro (MEW)
D.T.S.D.	U.K.C.C. (10)
E.P.S.	Mr. C.S. Williams.
D.T.D. (2)	F.S.R. (4)
D.T.D. (M)	Mr. B.E. Bellamy.
N.E.D. 10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)	Maj. A.D. Henderson (W.O.)
D.G.D.	W/R Admiralty (2)
D.D.T.C.	Air Ministry (Adastal House, Kingsway)
	W.T.R. (4) Tel Ext. 2697.

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.LANCE.

A.S. Malta's 1642B/1 not to Admiralty. LANCE in dock reveals abnormal corrosion of number of rivet points. (Details). Consider vessel should dock for examination in 3 months time or earlier if rivets necessitate it.  
(A.S. Malta, 1602B/5 to Admty.)

A. MIKOJAN  
attacked by  
A/C and E/B.

Russian ice breaker<sup>A</sup> MIKOJAN under command Lieut. Harkness has<sup>A</sup> arrived Famagusta. Vessel attacked by night off Kastelorizo by E-Boats and torpedo A/C. Slight damage one wounded. Enemy obviously prepared for ships coming south and I would stress necessity defensive armament, which MIKOJAN did not possess. Please inform Adm. Miles.

(N.A. Ankara, 1737B/5 to Admty.)

- A. MIKOJAN due Port Said about 6/12 to transit canal without delay and be sailed for U.K. N.O.i/c. Port Said is to report particulars of speed and (? endurance) to S.N.O. Red Sea repeated N.O.i/c. Aden, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty.  
(C. in C. Med., 1815B/5 to S.B.N.O. Suez, etc.)

Malta  
Raid.

Night 4/5. 2007 to 0457 hours, total 26 raiders approached, 4 crossed coast. Bombs land, sea, some identified as German. Aircraft not identified. 11 houses demolished. 1 civilian killed 2 injured. No other damage.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1740/5.)

Sfax  
Air R/C.

Your 1415A/4. Railway route Zuara to Tunisian border exists but lines not laid. No line on Tunisian side or sign of intended construction. No signs movement Zuara Tunisian border today. Zuara (? to) Tripoli under cloud. Movement in Sfax will be watched and reported, also movement to Zuara from there.  
(A.O.C. Med., 1830/5 to Admty.)

Russian  
Front.

Estimate of dates the Germans may reach Caucasus.  
(N.I.D.16 to C's in C. Abroad 1926A/5.)  
See Lion Copy.

Movements.

Summary 224.  
(C. in C. Med., 1947/5.) See Lion Copy.-

/Aircraft ...



1926A/5, December.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

Date. 5.12.41.

143A

To: C. in C's Abroad.  
 Eastern Fleet. 130.  
 Mediterranean 711.  
 East Indies, 113.  
 South Atlantic. 736.  
 China 538.  
 America & West Indies. 437.

NAVAL OFFICER (D)

From Admiralty.

In an attempt to estimate the extent to which the Russian front is likely to be stabilised this winter and the date by which the Germans are likely to reach the Caucasian oil fields, the following conclusions have been reached:-

1. It seems likely that after mid-December large scale operations will be confined to the Southern Sector of the Russian front.

2. The drive into Caucasia, which has received a set-back, is likely to be renewed as soon as the Germans can do so. If they can stage a powerful and immediate counter-attack they may hope to regain Rostov by 15th. December. In these circumstances they might, under favourable conditions, reach Maikop by late January and Grozni by mid February.

3. If, however, the front is stabilised in the North and Centre, the Russians may be able to increase their armed forces in the South.

The Germans may thus be unable to make any deep penetration into Caucasia without first safeguarding their flank by securing a line even as far east as the Upper Don and the lower Volga. Should this be necessary it would drastically retard the above time-table.

1926A/5.  
 for N.I.D. 16.  
 Approved C.N.S.

1st. Lord. D. of P. (3)  
 1st. S.L. O.D. (5)  
 V.C.N.S. Ops. (3)  
 A.C.N.S. (H) M. (for W.O. and A.M.) (4)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) D.N.I. (4)  
 Parl. Sec. O.I.C. (2)  
 Secretary. I.P. (5)  
 N.A. 1st. S.L.

W.D.  
 A.C.O.  
 Ad. Hopman Hodgo!  
 File X.

**MOST SECRET**

1947/5 Dec.

143 B

~~MOST SECRET~~

~~MESSAGE IN~~

From C.in C. Mediterranean.

Date 6.12.41.

Recd. 1019.

NAV/L CODE L.2 SECRET BY W/T

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet repeated N.O. i/c Port Said, S.O. Force I, Force I, B.N.O. Tobruk, Air H.Q. Western Desert, 202 Group, N.O. i/c Palestine, Ports, N.O. i/c Syrian Ports, N.O. i/c Cyprus, H.Q. Middle East, F.O.C. North Atlantic, 201 Group H.Q. Palestine and Transjordan, N.O. i/c Alexandria, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, Captain S.I., R.A.(D) M.F.

IMMEDIATE

Movements summary 224. Part A. Greek Destroyer IERAX due Alexandria a.m. 6th from Haifa. H.M.S. ERICA escorting 3 merchant ships due Alexandria 1100 6th from Port Said. H.M.S. PEONY proceeding Port Said to Beirut. H.M.S. SALVIA leaving Famagusta p.m. 6th for Haifa and Port Said with merchant ships. H.M.S. SALVIA with 2 motor ships due Alexandria 6th. H.M.S. FAREHAM sweeping Tripoli then Beirut.

2. Part B. H.M.S. BRECONSHIRE, H.M.S. KINGSTON, H.M.S. KIMBERLEY, leave Malta 1700/5 due Alexandria night of 7/8. H.M.A.S. HOBART H.M.S. GALATEA H.M.S. GRIFFIN H.M.S. HOTSPUR leave Alexandria 1300/6th to join H.M.S. BRECONSHIRE 0700/7 and escort to Alexandria. H.M.S. KANDAHAR H.M.S. JAGUAR leave Alexandria 0600/6 to patrol North of Derna night of 6/7 thence to Malta. Route in my 1151/5.

3. Greek Destroyer PANTHER and Greek Destroyer NIKI leave Alexandria 2100/5 due Mersa Matruh 0800/6 then operating within 12 miles coast and East of 024 degrees 30' East during the night of 6/7, and subsequent nights as ordered by S. Force I. H.M.S. JERVIS H.M.S. HERO H.M.S. HAVOCK operating off Bardia night of 5/6 thence to Alexandria.

H.M.S. FARNDALE H.M.S. ERIDGE and convoy T A one leaving Tobruk 1800/5th position T at C715/6th to Alexandria (3 corrupt groups). 3 B lighters left Tobruk 1730/5th due Mersa Matruh 1500/6th through D. H.M.S. HEYTHROP H.M.S. AVON VALE with A T two. (Incompletely received - Remainder being obtained). See next page.

1947/5

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

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

**MOST SECRET**

143 C

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1947B/5th December IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 6.11.41  
Recd.1854

NAVAL CODE L2 BY CABLE

Addressed: Mediterranean Fleet. Repeated S.O. Force I,  
N.O.I.C. Port Said, N.O.I.C. Palestine Ports,  
Force I, N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, B.N.O. Tobruk,  
N.O.I.C. Cyprus, Air H.Q. Western Desert,  
202 Group H.Q. Middle East, F.O.C.N.A.,  
201 Group, H.Q. Palestine and Transjordan,  
N.O.I.C. Alexandria, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H,  
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, Capt. S.I., R.A.(D) M.F.

IMMEDIATE

H.M.S. FARNDALE H.M.S. ERIDGE and convoy TA 1  
leave Tobruk 1800 5th through T for Tar at 0715/6th to  
Alexandria 0700/7. 3 "A" lighters left Tobruk 1730 5th  
due Mersa Matruh 1500/6th through D for Dog. H.M.S. HEYTHROP  
H.M.S. AVON VALE with AT 2 fast due Tobruk 0500/6th.  
H.M.A.S. YARRA with AT 2 slow due Tobruk 2145/6th.  
H.M.S. FLAMINGO with LESBOS due Tobruk 0330/7th. Escorts  
then to Alexandria. Hospital ship GDZP (SOMERSETSHIRE) due  
Tobruk 0900/6th passing 20 miles north of (?Daz) r z AZZAZ  
6th of Tobruk nights 5th and 6th 7th.

4. Part C. H.M.S. AJAX, H.M.S. NEPTUNE,  
H.M.S. LIVELY operated covering H.M.S. BRECONSHIRE as in my  
1151/5th.

5. Part D nil.  
N.O.i/c Haifa pass to H.Q. Palestine and  
Trans-Jordan.

1947B/5.

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

Note This is the final part of C.in C.  
Mediterranean's 1947/5/12, parts 1 & 2  
of which have already been circulated

1st Lord

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(T)

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.of P. (2)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

D.A/S.W.

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

E.P.S.

Hd. of M.

D.S.D.

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Aircraft  
and Supplies  
for Malta.

V.A. Malta's 1213/19/11. Owing to operational difficulties it is not intended to fly any additional Naval aircraft to Malta from the West until a modern carrier is available at Gibraltar.

2. It will not be possible to ship either engines, large spares or equipment to Malta from the West for a considerable time.

3. Arrangements made for immediate despatch to Malta in an H.M. Ship of following items (list).

(Hd. of Air Branch, 2142A/5 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, A.O.C. Med.)

CHAKDINA  
sunk.

My 2135 (N.T. in W.R.) FARNDALE, THORGRIM, picking up survivors. ERIDGE proceeding Alexandria with KIRLAND.

(FARNDALE, 2236/5 to C. in C. Med.)

[W.D. Note:- CHAKDINA sunk by A/C torpedoes 2135/5. See C. in C. Med. 1756B/6.]

SOTRA searching for CHAKDINA survivors until 0700/6.

(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2318B/5 to C. in C. Med.)

TRUSTY.  
THUNDERBOLT.

My 2317B/3 and my 1905B/2. (? Amend) route as follows: TRUSTY after passing 034° 36' 021° 50' proceed through 034° 36' 025° 25' thence direct arriving at Sanctuary 0530B/9. THUNDERBOLT after passing 034° 32' 022° 54' proceed through 033° 22' 027° 54' thence direct to arrive at Sanctuary 0600B/8.

(Capt. S.1, 2355B/5 to TRUSTY, THUNDERBOLT.)

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.WINDSOR  
CASTLE.

Your 1645/25/9 and my 0502/3/10. Request report of anticipated date of completion of WINDSOR CASTLE. (D.S.T., 0204A/5 to P.S.T.O. India).

*Reply: above 11.*

Marmagoa  
possible  
U/Bs.  
Search.

- (1) Reports from British Consul Nova Goa on recent activity off Marmagoa indicate that possibility of submarines or Axis supply ships being in that neighbourhood cannot be ignored.
- (2) British Consular officers and Harbour Masters at Marmagoa who are eye-witnesses are convinced of presence of a submarine on several occasions at night between 10/11 and 29/11. Although I do not entirely share their convictions the evidence is sufficiently strong to necessitate a search being made for unauthorized ships in Laccadive and in neighbourhood of Goa.
- (3) I have accordingly withdrawn GLASGOW from her escort duty in Bay of Bengal, ERINPURA and intend to arrange a search of Laccadive Island by air and ship forthwith. F.O.C.R.I.N. is being asked to lend LAWRENCE now at Cochin to join the search, and local defence vessel DIPAVATI will shortly resume A/S patrol off Marmagoa itself.
- (4) At end of October it was reported Japanese LIMA MARU was hanging about vicinity Bombay and East coast of India. No further news of her received, but should such a vessel be met during search she would be sent in for search under Prize Manual article, 101.
- (C. in C. E.I., 0826Z/5 to Admty).  
Departure GLASGOW at 0930/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0938Z/5 to Admty etc).

Air  
Forces, Iraq,  
Persia.

Provisional instructions contained in our X.408 (2330/16/9) are cancelled. Following definition of responsibility for operational control of air forces and responsibility for development of air facilities in Iraq, Persia, Persian Gulf and Arabia has been agreed with India Office and is to take effect at once. A.O.C. Iraq under general direction of A.O.C. in C. Middle East will be responsible for operational and administrative control and development of all air forces and air facilities in Iraq., Persian Gulf, Arabia excluding Aden Protectorate, and in Persia up to an Eastern Boundary line which follows Meridian 60° E. Northward to Persian Coast thence to Kerman (exclusive to India) and thence to Meshed (inclusive to India) R.A.F. India will continue to afford assistance for development of Karachi - Aden Air Route as far as boundary of Aden Protectorate and Army will continue to carry out their normal duties in respect of development and maintenance of air facilities in area in which C. in C. India is responsible.  
(Air Ministry, 1708 G.M.T./5 to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E)

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN,  
W.S.12 Z.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet 1015/3, para. 4.  
Can you provide alternative cruiser escort for  
W.S.12 Z? (A.C.N.S. (F), 2318A/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

C. in C.  
Eastern Fleet.

My 0801/2. C. in C. Eastern Fleet will take  
over command and administration of China  
Station at 0030Z/10 and flag of Vice Admiral  
Sir G. Layton will be struck at sunset that day.  
(C. in C. China, 0313Z/5).

Japanese  
Warships.

Saigon 3/12 arrived one cruiser, 4/12 arrived  
one destroyer KAMIKAZE class.  
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0317Z/5 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

World  
Control of  
Shipping.

Your 1631R/26 and N.S.H.Qs. 2238Z/26. Proposals  
generally concurred in, subject to following  
remarks. (D.T.D. App. V.C.N.S., 0146A/5 to  
B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

DIDO  
ammunition.

Your 1932A/27/11. DIDO embarked 920 boxes 37 mm.  
ammunition for transport to Middle East.  
In view of urgency of this requirement DIDO  
landed the following Q.F. 5.25 ammunition to  
provide additional stowage for 37 m.m. packages.  
Replacement of shell and fuzes will be required  
when ship arrives on station.  
(B.A.R.M., 0850R/5 to Admty).

Task Force 4.

My 1623Z/1. Delete TRILLIUM.  
(C.C.N.F., 1329Z/5 to Com Task Force 4, Admty).

Martlets  
ARCHER.

Your 2030/27, para 4, it is hoped that all  
Martlets will be brought by the 3 ships. ARCHER  
can accommodate 12. (B.A.R.M., 1604R/5 to Admty).

/Landing....

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0146A/5 Dec.

OUT.

To B.A.D. Washington 769  
 repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 234

Date 5.12.41.

NAVAL CYPHER(X) D

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Your 1631 R/26 and N.S.H.Q.'s 2238Z/26 - Proposals are generally concurred in, subject to the following remarks on your 2238 Z/26.

Para. 2 (a) Agree. It would appear however that with the bringing into force of new scheme considerable readjustment of present VESCA and CHATFOLD systems will be necessary.

Para. 2 (b) Agree. This would form the subject of separate discussion between M. of W.T. and U.S.N.C.

Para. 2 (c) Agree. This applies particularly to routeing policy laid down in Admiralty Message 0001/1st May, a copy of which should be given to C.N.O. as soon as possible if not already done. It is considered most important that U.S. flag ships should hold same sets of Signal Books and instructions as those issued to British and Allied Merchant Ships. Success of re-routeing depends mainly on high degree of security of communications to and from Merchant Ships. As U.S. flag ships will when in eastern half then require to be re-routed by British Authorities it will much simplify matters if you can persuade U.S. authorities to adopt our codes and recoding tables.

Not considered necessary that new instructions affecting any area be agreed between Admiralty and C.N.O. before issue so long as each keeps the other fully informed beforehand of any changes contemplated.

Para. 3 (a) and (b) Agree. But not considered necessary for U.S. Liaison Officers to be appointed to every N.C.S. Office in U.K. or for British Officers to be similarly appointed to every office in U.S. The offices to which Liaison Officers are appointed should be mutually agreed upon and would be the principal routeing ports.

Para. 3 (c) Suggest this would lead to unnecessary duplication. It would be more economical if by mutual arrangement U.S. authorities would establish routeing offices in such ports to which a British Liaison Officer would be appointed.

Para. 3 (d) Agree.

Para 4. Presume on taking over U.S. would wish movements of all U.S., British and Allied Merchant Ships in their areas be reported to Washington. Request you will ascertain U.S. requirements in order that any necessary modifications to present VESCA and CHATFOLD systems may be considered.

Para. 5. It is essential this point should be made clear to U.S. authorities. All routeing authorities both British and U.S. should be authorised to give ships through routes from one port to another even though the latter lies outside the national area. Not considered necessary for routes to be approved by both sides before issue, provided intended routes are in accordance with the policy in force and are signalled immediately to Admiralty and U.S. authorities. This is without prejudice to special arrangement proposed for Pacific routeing as given in your memorandum M.O. 83/41 dated 30th October

Para. 6. /.....

Para. 6. Agree.

Request early information if it is proposed to adopt U.S. grid system of routing in the Atlantic. You should point out that it is most undesirable to operate two different systems in one ocean, and we would prefer to adhere to our system in this area.

0146A/5.  
Director of Trade Division.  
172.  
Approved V.C.N.S.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (J)
- Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.O.D. (H)
- L.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.C. (2)
- D.N. 1. (4)
- D.A/S.W.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Hd. of M.
- D. of S.T.
- E.P.S.
- D.D. I.C.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson)
- Admiral Bellairs
- Admiral Bailey.

E.D.



War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Landing of  
Aircraft in  
U.S.A.

Navy Dept. has agreed that aircraft from British aircraft carriers may be landed at the North Atlantic Station, Norfolk, Virginia, for training and maintenance which includes accommodation of repair and operating personnel. Number of Squadrons which could be based will depend on immediate situation and number of aircraft and personnel comprising each British Squadron. If it is ever intended to make use of this permission it is requested I may be given all advance notice possible. (B.A.R.M., 1610R/5 to Admty).

CIRCASSIA.

Leave Halifax a.m./6 and proceed best possible speed to establish patrol in square H.32 B. Object interception of enemy supply ship. Report anticipated date of arrival on patrol. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1712Q/5 to CIRCASSIA).

WARSPITE.

Approx. anticipated programme for WARSPITE  
Leave U.S.A. 10/1 arrive and leave Singapore 12/2 (fuel 750 tons), arrive Trincomalee 16/2 leave 20/2 (fuel 800 tons) arrive Suez 4/3. (B.A.R.M., 1720R/5 to C. in C. E.F. Admty.etc).

DESPATCH,  
DIDO.

Bermuda arrivals DESPATCH, DIDO, H.M.C.S. ELK and VISON. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1733Q/5 to Admty).

PRUDENT  
towage of  
MACBETH.

PRUDENT returned St. John's N.F. having left MACBETH in 047° 58' N., 034° 25' W., noon/3 drifting E.N.E. average speed 2 knots. PRUDENT reports that towing ship to the westward is almost impossible in prevailing weather and recommends MACBETH should be towed to nearest U.K. or Northern Ireland port. Can tug be sent from U.K. to salvage this ship as PRUDENT most urgently required in St. John's N.F. area? PRUDENT reports MACBETH still able to make W/T. (C.C.N.F., 1819Z/5 to Admty).

IROQUOIS,  
MACBETH.

S.S. IROQUOIS has arrived St. Johns reporting she was diverted by Admty 1200/3. Ship was bound to New York for repairs and to load cargo. Repairs cannot be carried out here. Master however thinks that since ship has seaworthy certificate and is fitted with deep sea towing gear Admiralty may have had towing job in mind. Was ship sent in connection with S.S. MACBETH who is still drifting, see my 1912Z/2?. Rescue tug PRUDENT has just returned St. Johns now refuelling. (C.C.N.F., 1843Z/5, 1943Z/5 to Admty). Reply 1018A/6.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S.C. 59.

(i) Task unit 4.1.14 BURNHAM (S.O.) CHILLIWACK, NAPANEE, ALGOMA, TRILLIUM, DRUMHELLER, SUMMERSIDE.  
(ii) Wabana, Nil. (C.C.N.F., 1916Z/5 to Admty etc) See also 1529/6.

Finnish  
Ships.

Your 1259/2 to A. and W.I. Station only.  
Following is disposition of Finnish and ex-Finnish Ships in Ottawa Area. At Sea.  
Norfolk 24/11 ODDVAR 11 (Fin) Botwood Nfld. 3/12.  
Cardenas 27/11 KUURTANES (Fin) New York Blank.  
New York 26/11 WIPUNEN (Fin) Matanzas Cuba..Blank.  
(P.K.) Blank ROLFSSBORG (ex Fin. now British) Halifax 18/11.  
Santa Cruz 25/11 PANDIA (ex Fin. New York now Pan.) Blank.  
Louisburg?us 19/11 DELAWARE (ex Fin. now Pan) Galveston 2/12.  
Norfolk 15/11 ex ATLASI (Fin. now ATLASFRI Pan). Guadiloupe, Blank.  
Trinidad 26/11 ex SIGGY (Fin.) Mobile now HONDU (Honduras). 2/12.  
Buenos Aires 22/11 ex MATHILDA THORDEN (Fin.) now AMAZON (Pan). Boston Blank.  
Boston Blank in port, five Finnish Ships AAGOT Baltimore, ADVANCE Philadelphia, ANNEBERG Halifax, AURORA Norfolk, SAIMAA New York. Six ex-Finnish Ships. Old name. New name Location CAROLUS now British Halifax. ERICUS now British HAMILTON inlet Labrador. KEMI, OLIVIA (Pan). Boston. KOURA, CARIBE (Cuban) New York. KURIKKA now Panamanian New York. MARISA THORDEN now Panamanian Baltimore.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2013Z/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

GARLAND  
defects.

My 2056Z/2. GARLAND A/S defects and hull damage (details) will be completed P.M./9. Docking has also disclosed slack bushes in both "A" brackets. Work would require two to three weeks to complete and would entail delay in completion of other ships. Propose therefore to sail AGAMEMNON, CALIFORNIA and GARLAND P.M./10. Request route. (C.O.A.C., 2020Z/5 to Admty).

O.N. 43.

Escort Unit 4.1.6 composed of WOOLSEY, ROE, LEA, MACLEISH, DUPONT, BERNADOU, designated. (Opnav, 2108/5 to Admty).

CLARKIA.

My 2252Q/4 proceed to Jamaica to attend on INDOMITABLE. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152Q/5 to CLARKIA).

/W.S.12 X...

War Diary.

5.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

W.S.12 X.

B.A.D. Washington's 1807/4. N.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to reduce period of stay of W.S.12 X. at Capetown to a minimum. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1536/28/10 applies.

2. W.O. are signalling separate instructions to Capetown to ensure that length of stay is only governed by time taken to refuel and revictual. (D.O.D. (F) 2319A/5 to B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

S.C.58.

St. John's N.F. 5/12/1941. Arrivals ALYSSE Ex. S.C.56, PRUDENT ex MACBETH. Departures ST. LAURENT, HEPATICA, BUCTOUCHE, NASTURTIIUM, PICTOU MOOSEJAW, WINDFLOWER to S.C.58. (C.C.N.F., 2319Z/5 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

SYDNEY.  
PARAMATTA.

Your 2308A/2. Acknowledgment of message of sympathy of Board of Admiralty. (A.C.N.B., 0439Z/5 to Admty).

U.S.15.

My 1400M/21/11, D. of S.T.s. 0328A/22/11 (0327/22 intended) May Tank Brigade 3600 be accommodated in U.S.15 making total New Zealand personnel for despatch late February 6260? (N.Z.N.B., 1020M/5 to A.C.N.B.)

Noumea.

A.M.1334A/5 (N.T. in W.D.) Visit to Noumea proposed in F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT 0800/25/11 should be included. (D.O.D. (F) 2149A/5 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.FJORD  
(sunk 2/12).

CAFO 770/40. My 1748A/3/12.  
 W/T books in Wireless Office, remaining C.B's in Chart Room and Masters cabin. All went down with ship which sank within 90 secs. in approx. 40 fathoms off Estepona Light. Compromise possible although unlikely. 2. 20 survivors, total crew 34 including 4 British. Master, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer lost. 3. Following only British members of crew arrived Gibraltar 4/12 (list). Remaining survivors at La Linea. 4. Ship believed sunk within territorial waters. Master known to have stressed importance of this. Survivor (estimate?) within swimming distance of shore. 5. Second Mate, Third Engineer and W/T Operator only Officers saved. 6. Information from W/T Operator. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058A/5 to Admty.)

MIGUEL DE  
LARRINAGA.

My 1528/3. Portuguese Destroyer VOUGA has returned to Ponta Delgada having found nothing. Left Ponta Delgada a.m. today for Lisbon. (N.A. Lisbon 1109/5 to Admty.)

CLAN  
MACBEAN.

ASTER's 0001Z/5 (see South Atlantic) Have you any definite information that CLAN MACBEAN has been sunk? (D.T.D. 1546A/5 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1216/7.

Submarines Reported.

0057.

By D/F Bearing estimated that Italian U-boat is within 200 miles of 031° 00' N. 034° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0057A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

2355/4.

Sunderland sighted U-boat at 2355A/4 in 36° 24' N. 9° 13' W. course 240°. (F.O.C.N.A., 0901A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

1206C.

By D/F at 1206C/5 U-boat in vicinity of 071° 09' N. 027° 40' E. (2) SEAWOLF sails 1430C/5 for zone 4.A by route B and parallel 071° 40' N. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1244C/5 to SEALION).

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats.  
(D.D.I.C. 1418A/5, 1419A/5).

/1340.....

War Diary.5.12.1941.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported-Contd.

1340. PPP Am over enemy S/M in position 268 SPA 55. (A/C F. of No. 202 Sqn. 1340/5 to Gibraltar W/T) Enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted. Surfacing then dived. (A/C F. of No. 202 Squadron 1350/5 to Gibraltar W/T).
- 0906Z. Bearing by D/F at 0906Z/5, position of enemy U-boat was  $071^{\circ} 09' N.$   $027^{\circ} 40' E.$  unreliable fix. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1245C/5 to Admty.)
- Gibraltar  
A/C. Aircraft sighted U-boats as follows (a) Sunderland at 2555/4th in  $036^{\circ} 24' N.$   $009^{\circ} 13' W.$  No attack. (b) Catalina at 1340/5 in  $268^{\circ}$  Spartel 55 (? miles). No attack. (c) Hudson at 1520/5 in  $036^{\circ} 40' N.$   $010^{\circ} 02' W.$ , attacked with 2 depth charges. Dark oil appeared. (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/5 to Admty, 200 Group 1800/5 to Air Min.)
1839. 1 submarine bearing  $264^{\circ}$  from Spartel 12 miles. (A/C 202 Sqn., Duty V., 1839/5 to Gib. W/T).
- 2130Z. U.S.\* Destroyer CLEMSON reports S/M sighted  $60^{\circ} 36'$  from position  $06^{\circ} S.$   $55^{\circ} W.$  course  $180^{\circ} 5$  knots. Time approx. 2130Z. (B.A.D., 2215R/5 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)
- 2031Z. By D/F at 2031Z/5. Position of Italian U-boat was approx.  $48^{\circ} N.$   $10^{\circ} W.$  Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2251A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C.)

Mediterranean. See Foreign Stations, Mediterranean.\* See plane Tender  
(C.B. 1815)

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

At 0230 today M.T.B's 219, 47, and 48, which at 0120 had been ordered to intercept four M-class Enemy Minesweepers steering westwards off Calais, sighted 3 of the Minesweepers about 3 miles N.N.E. of Gris Nez. M.T.B. 219 fired torpedoes at 1000 yards without success, M.T.B. 47 was ordered to abandon the attack, and M.T.B. 48 had a missfire and was later driven off by heavy 4-inch and M.G. fire. Numerous star shells, probably fired from the French shore, were clearly seen from Dover during the engagement; and M.G.B's 324 and 330, which had also been ordered to intercept, did not get into action. Our M.T.B's suffered no casualties but were all slightly damaged by shell splinters. The Minesweepers entered Boulogne at about 0430.

S/M P.511, which grounded yesterday in Lough Foyle, reached the Clyde safely at 1434A today.

The German official communique at 1300 today stated that two British S/M's had been sunk off the coast of Norway. The only possible S/M to which this claim could refer appears to be SEALION which is operating off Tana Fiord, but SEALION is safe.

Mining.

In view of indications that minelaying by surface craft and E-Boat operations may shortly begin to interrupt the passage of the P.Q. and Q.P. convoys to Russia, C. in C. H.F. has been asked to obtain from Flag and Commanding Officers with Russian experience their opinions as to what help we may hope to obtain from the Russian Naval Forces based on the Kola Inlet and White Sea.

The mine-clearance operations off the Nore by the 13th M/S Flotilla were abandoned today on account of the weather.

8 Red Mines were exploded by L.L. Trawlers off the Humber yesterday, and 2 more today.

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

DEVONSHIRE is to leave patrol and return to Freetown when her fuel remaining is down to 30%.

Whilst his cruiser force is reduced by DORSETSHIRE being detached for escort duty. C. in C. S.A. proposes to use BIRMINGHAM for a patrol of the calm area south of St. Helena provided Admty. considers her absence from the Plate trade route can be accepted in present circumstances. He wishes to keep a patrol in the calm area so long as U-Boats are operating south of 20° S.

With reference to the report of a U-Boat in 5° 50' S., 34° 28' W. at 2130Z/5, it is ascertained today that no Brazilian submarine was in this position.

C. in C. S.A. is concerned at the extent to which Western Approaches escort vessels use R/T when on the South Atlantic Station.

Mediterranean.M/V sunk  
by REGENT.

On arriving at Gibraltar today, REGENT reported having sunk by gunfire Italian S.S. ERICE, 2350 tons, northbound, in 37.52 N., 11.52 E. at 2025/1.

Cruiser  
attacked  
by P.31.

F.O.(Submarines) considers there is strong evidence to support the claim of P.31 of having sunk one cruiser on 29/11, and suggests an Admty. message of congratulations.

Air attack  
on Naples.

20 Wellingtons attacked the arsenal at Naples from 1930 to 0042 last night and obtained hits on objectives including the torpedo factory and marshalling yards and the I.M.A.M. airframe works.

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Air Operations.

A/S Trawler KINGSTON CYANITE reported to Alexandria at 1715/6 that she was being bombed by 2 aircraft.

Malta was raided between 1945 and 0448 last night by about 20 bombers, probably JU.88's of which 8 crossed the coast and dropped bombs, causing civilian damage and slight casualties.

Libya Convoys.

There is evidence which suggests that Axis tankers or ships shelter in French convoys whilst en route to Tripoli.

East Indies.

W.S.12Z.

On the release of ROYAL SOVEREIGN from the Cape area to proceed to Singapore, C. in C. E.I. proposes to use EMERALD to escort W.S.12Z (16 ships with troops and supplies for Middle East) from Durban onward, and COLOMBO from vicinity of Mombasa.

Note: Later, orders were given for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to remain with W.S.12Z at least as far as the Seychelles, since it is not known what scale of attack the Japanese will bring on to our convoy routes.

Laccadives.

GLASGOW left Colombo today to search the Laccadive Islands on 8/12 and 9/12, LAWRENCE assisting on 8/12. Opportunity is being taken of this patrol to exercise coastal defence aircraft of India in co-operation with H.M. ships at sea.

China.

Japanese Convoys.

Two Japanese convoys were reported by aircraft R/C early today, one of 25 ships, escorted by 6 cruisers and 10 destroyers in 8° 00' N. 106° 08' E. at 0516Z/6;\* the other of 10 ships, escorted

/by 2 cruisers...

\* This report could not be received direct at Singapore and delay in communication occurred.



War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.China.Japanese  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

2 cruisers and 10 destroyers, in 7° 40' N., 106° 20' E., at 0530Z/6, both steering 270°. A small force of 3 vessels was in 7° 51' N., 105° 00' E., at 0442Z/6, course 310°. C. in C. China considers this may indicate that all forces will make for Kohtron.

Vichy  
Ships.

Admty. directed at 1106A/6 that the clearance of Vichy ships from British ports should be refused pending further instructions. C. in C. China was given discretion to defer this action until the arrival of any more cargoes actually en route for Hong Kong or Singapore from Indo-China.

U-Boat Campaign.

Mediterranean. An A/C from 201 Group, Alexandria estimates having hit a U/B with a bomb which caused a large explosion at 1140/6 in 32° 32' N. 25.08 E., and claims the destruction of the boat. C. in C. Med. reports the U-Boat to have been damaged.

U.S. Destroyer DECATUR believes she made a sound contact on a U/B in 51.54 N., 41.53 W. at 0912 G.M.T./6. An attack was made, but contact was not regained.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Guide  
for S/M  
C.Os.

Rapid expansion and consequent decrease of submarine and patrol experience of young Commanding Officers render necessary a narrowing of latitude allowed them in framing their ships organisation at sea in war particularly as about 1/3rd have little experience of trying areas.

I want methods of our most experienced and successful commanding officers formulated and passed on. I need your assistance in producing a comprehensive guide to this end in the form of a very early report which should include organisation and patrol routine stressing the changes found necessary as result of war experience and also hints and tips that have proved useful and will help young C.Os. It is not intended to bind new C.Os. too rigidly but I should require justification by them for departure from principles that will be promulgated after co-ordination of your reports.

(F.O.S., 1216A/6 to Captains S.)

Administration  
of  
Destroyers.

Arrangements to be made by C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H., and C. in C. W.A.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1603A/6) See Lion Copy.

3 A.L.Cs.  
for Dover.

Your 1016A/5. It is regretted that owing to other commitments it is not possible to allocate these craft during December.  
(Adviser on Combined Ops. 1951A/6 to V.A. Dover)

GLIMMAREN  
BARDALAND  
(Swedish).

GLIMMAREN and BARDALAND have sailed from Goteborg routed through 062° N., 003° E., due Faeroes A.M./8. If encountered on this route ships should not be molested.  
(F.O.S., 2152A/6 to P.37).

Co-operation with Russia.

Oerlikon  
Equipments.

Reference the 50 Oerlikon equipments being supplied to Russia essential that users be informed (1) The cartridge cases must be greased all over with a suitable low temperature grease before loading into magazines.  
(2) Trials are in progress, but ammunition has not yet been tested below minus five degrees Fahrenheit and the possibility of missfires, hangfires and short recoils below this temperature cannot be discounted.  
(D.N.O. Bath 1645A/6 to R.A. Hermon Hodge).

# MOST SECRET

1603A/6th December.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT.

To: C. in C. Western Approaches, 626. Date 6.12.41.  
 C. in C. Mediterranean, 737.  
 S.O. Force H, 188.  
 Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet, 590.  
 F.O.C.N.A. 721.  
 R.A.D.(Home Fleet) 438.  
 R.A.D. (Med.) 170.  
 Capt.(D) Greenock  
 Capt. D. Liverpool  
 Capt. D. Londonderry.

Naval Cypher (D) and Naval Cypher A One Time Table

From: Admiralty.

C. in C. Western Approaches' 1113A/5 and A.M.2216A/3 neither to all addressees.

C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to make the following administrative arrangements.

- (a) For Groups I and II on their arrival in Mediterranean after leaving Force H.
- (b) For LANCE and LIVELY forthwith.

2. S.O. Force H is requested to make similar arrangements for EXMOOR, BLANKNEY, CROOME, WHITEHALL, CAMPBELTOWN, FOXHOUND, ACTIVE and ANTHONY now or on joining Force H if not already joined.

3. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to
- (a) continue present administrative arrangements for Brazilian "H" Class.
  - (b) make arrangements for the administration as from 1st December 1941 of "A" Class destroyers allocated to his Command until they join other Commands.

1603A/6.  
D.O.D.(H)

- 1st Lord
  - 1st S.L.
  - 2nd S.L.
  - 3rd S.L. D.N.I.(4)
  - 4th S.L. D.S.D.
  - 5th S.L. D. of L.D.
  - V.C.N.S. D.N.A.D.
  - 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.O.D.(H) D.D.I.C.
  - D.D.O.D.(H) E.P.S.
- D.T.D.(2)  
N.I.D.10 (Payr.Cdr.Wilson)

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

Message 1737B/5 from N.A. Ankara re Russian Icebreaker MIKOLAN has been passed by War Registry to Admiral Miles with T.O.O. 2000A/6. (H.W.R. 6/12).

P.Q. and  
Q.P.  
Convoys.

There are indications that minelaying from surface craft and E-boat operations may shortly commence to interrupt our supplies to the Russians. It is therefore under consideration to invite the Russian naval authorities to accept more responsibility for the safety of P.Q. and Q.P. convoys in the vicinity of the northern Russian ports.

Request you will obtain from Flag and Commanding Officers who have experience of the Russian convoys and Russian ports their opinions as to the assistance we might reasonably hope to obtain from the Russian naval forces based on the Kola Inlet and the White Sea. (V.C.N.S., 2239A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Communications. Your 1201C/5 and Admiralty 608.AZ/4/11. Is watch on port wave still being maintained at Archangel for use by ships arriving at that port. (D.S.O. 2257A/6 to S.B.N.O. Archangel, repta. SHEFFIELD).

Movements.

SCOTT. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0940/6).

BERWICK,  
OFFA. E.T.A. 0200A/7 OFFA in company. Boom 0245. Request lights as follows. If weather does not moderate intend to remain at sea for night. (BERWICK, 1056A/6 to A.C.O.S.)

RUBIS. Dundee arrival. (Capt. S.9., 1105A/6).

P.35. My 1533A/5. Amend para. 2 to read: dive by day to position 048° N., 008° W., thence to 046° N., 012° 40' W. (Capt. S.9., 1207A/6). Add to my 1207A/6 thence on the surface at C.O. discretion to 043° N., 12° 40' W. E.T.A. in last position 2359A/14. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (Capt. S.9., 1355A/6).

ONSLOW. E.T.A. 0715Z/7 from South East. Have no passengers on board. (ONSLOW, 1233Z/6 to A.C.I.C)

/KENYA....

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

KENYA.

Arrival C.S.10 in KENYA.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1345/6).

P.38.

Intend to sail P.38 passing Needles at 1615/7  
diving by day to patrol in the area given in  
F.O.(S) 1744A/2. Routed as follows.  
(Capt. S.5., 1407A/6).

P.511.

Arrival S/M P.511 escorted by CUTTY SARK.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1434A/6).

LESTO,  
BARANDA.

My 1116A/5. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1602A/6).

RAMILLIES.

Intend sailing F.O.C.3rd B.S. in RAMILLIES  
escorted by VANQUISHER, WITCH, and VOLUNTEER  
passing Clyde boom 1330A/8, to arrive Milford  
Haven boom 0930A/9. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1716A/6).

*See also p.163*

Operations.

- Operations  
(A) "Anklet"  
(B) "Archery".  
(C) (Haid on  
Vaagso.)  
(D) (Lofoten Is.  
Norway.)

Your 2243A/1. (N.T. in W.D.) It has been  
decided that Operation "Anklet" is to be carried  
out as soon as possible in the form recommended  
in your signal. It is estimated that the whole  
force will not be ready to sail from Scapa be-  
fore 19/12.

2. It is requested you will report the names  
of Home Fleet ships taking part. Ships from  
other commands will be provided in accordance  
with A.M. 2335A/5. One Submarine TIGRIS is at  
present available. It is hoped to arrange a  
second. The Belgians will be PRINCE ALBERT  
and PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE. Oilers  
BLACK RANGER and GRAY RANGER. Store and  
ammunition ship GUDRUN MAERSK. Tug JAUNTY.  
Surveying ship SCOTT.

3. Operation "Archery" will take place simul-  
taneously. (1st S.L., 0019A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Iceland-  
Faeroes  
Patrol.  
(CUMBERLAND).

My 1917A/4. Para (D). Postpone 24 hours.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1023/6).

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

A/S Exercises.

My S.M. 00477 dated 4/12/41. Owing to the exceptional circumstances at Londonderry, and having discussed the matter with N.O.I.C. Londonderry, I am prepared to allow night A/S exercises to take place there as follows.  
(a) S/M to be restricted to diving along a line between 55° 18' N., 6° 49' W., and 55° 21' N., 7° 03' W. (b) S/M to be at a safe depth. (c) S/M to be marked by an illuminated towed buoy. (d) Hunt to be limited to 60 minutes. I have informed N.O.I.C. Londonderry that, as far as S/Ms are concerned, he may proceed with night A/S exercises under these conditions. (F.O.S., 1034A/6).

M.T.B. Engagement off Gris Nez.

At 0120/6 R.D.F. plotted four vessels of varying size about 4 miles northeast of Calais steering westwards at 12 knots. M.T.Bs. 219 (S.O.), 47 and 48 with M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 were despatched to intercept, having recently returned from patrols as in my 1900A/5. With westerly wind force 4, state of sea was such that operations were just practicable although boats took over much spray.

2. S.O. appreciating that bright moonlight made an undetected approach impracticable, steered to intercept and attack at best speed. At 0230 3 miles N.N.E., of Gris Nez three enemy vessels rather larger than trawlers were sighted 2,000 yards distant on port bow. Enemy opened a heavy fire with 4 inch, some of it fused shell, and heavy machine gun fire, there being also numerous star shell probably fired from shore. This was clearly visible from Dover.

3. S.O. led in and fired torpedoes from 1000 yards without success. M.T.B.47 was ordered to abandon attack owing to unsuitability of target. M.T.B.48 had a miss fire and was driven off by gunfire in later attempts.

4. M.G.Bs. having steered more to westwards were three miles distant from the engagement. As they closed they met M.T.Bs. retiring and so did not get into action.

5. Enemy vessels which were later shown by information to be 4 M Class minesweepers entered Boulogne about 0430.

6. No casualties but some slight damage from shell splinters to MT.Bs. (V.A. Dover, 1102A/6)

Patrol.

Night 6/7. 3 A/S Trawlers patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 returning to St. Helens at dawn. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1503A/6).

/Exercise....

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.Exercise L.4.

A.M. 2005A/4 and Force 110's 0/459 of 6/12. Intend that following ships take part in Exercise L.4. during week beginning 15/12 provided they are available: KEREN, KARANJA, WINCHESTER CASTLE, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, BATORY, MACHARDA and SILVER SANDAL. (C.Q.II, 1750/6 to Admty).

British Air Activity.Patrols.

A/S crossover patrols by Catalina A/C commencing first light/6.

1. 62° 05' N., 08° 40' W. - 62° 15' N., 08° 37' W., - 62° 27' N., 11° 50' W., - 62° 37' N., 11° 43' W.

2. 62° 37' N., 11° 43' W - 63° 36' N., 14° 05' W., - 63° 40' N., 13° 50' W., - 62° 30' N., 12° W. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0004/6).

Ops. 2946/12. Two Catalinas of 209 are to return to U.K. leaving Gibraltar one hour before dawn 7/12 and to fly A/S reconnaissance en-route according to information available at F.O.C.N.A. After departure of Catalinas two replacement Sunderlands will leave U.K. to fly similar R/C en route Gibraltar. (H.Q.C.C., 1530/6 to 200 Group).

Mining.N.P.7 A.

Operation N.P. 7 A postponed owing to deterioration of weather.  
(V.A. Dover, 0513A/6).

White Sea Approaches.

Your 2212C/4. Request if practicable LEDA sweep channel daylight tomorrow and R/V with me off Gorodetski P.M. when further orders will be given. (M/S 1., 0937C/6 to S.B.N.O. Archangel) Your 0937C/5. LEDA not yet cleared of ice. Hope sail her shortly. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1044C/6 to M/S 1). See also p. 164.

Operation Q.O.

Operation abandoned, weather unsuitable. E.T.A. 1320. (S.O. 13th M/S F., 1051A/6). Owing to weather operation Q.O. will not take place tomorrow. Next date on which tides are suitable is about 16/12. (C. in C. Nore, 1744A/6).

/Sweeps....

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Sweeps in  
Dover Area.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/6.  
By S.A. and L.L. Trawlers. Q.Z.S. 258, Q.Z.S. 191  
and in Q.Z.S. 190 and 269 between Dumpton and  
Dover. Negative results. Q.Z.S. 238 from C  
one buoy and alternative route as in my 1931/5/  
10 by Oropesa and S.A. trawlers in progress.  
(V.A. Dover, 1249A/6).

LANCASTER.

Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1610/6).

Humber.

The following eight mines were exploded on 5/12  
by L.L. Trawlers. Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 1615A/6).  
2 Red mines exploded today by L.L. Trawlers at  
1249 and 1300 respectively. Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 1903A/6).

Thames  
Estuary.

2 S.A. mines and 1 magnetic mine detonated on  
1/12 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness  
1701/5.)

Navigational.

Dover W.  
Light Buoy.

No. 1 Light Buoy Light extinguished. W. Buoy  
off station. Request Q.Z.H. (V.A. Dover, 0936A/6)  
59 Q.Z.H. Dover Area. W. light buoy missing.  
(Hydrographer, 1430A/6).

Iceland.

Request state of light and radio beacon North  
and East Coasts Iceland.  
(N.C.S.O. Archangel, 2200C/6).

Technical.

Flame  
Thrower  
Trials in  
PATRIE.

It is desired to carry out preliminary firing  
trial of flame thrower installed in PATRIE  
at sea by day during normal operation of ship  
on 8/12. If satisfactory it is desired to  
arrange a trial with aircraft co-operation on  
December 10th for Admiralty staff departments and  
petroleum warfare department. For this trial  
PATRIE should sail not earlier than 1100.  
D.M.W.D. will advise A.V.G.O. direct regarding  
details of aircraft co-operation if C. in C.  
will allocate an area and time for trial.  
(D.M.W.D., 1239A/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Oiling....



War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical. - Contd.

Oiling at  
Sea.

Your 2145A/16/11 and Admiralty 1210A/1. 600 feet British type flexible hose will be ready by 19/12. It is desirable that preliminary trials of this equipment should be made without delay prior to trials in Atlantic in DALE Class Oiler completing January/February 1942. BLUE RANGER is available on Clyde for this purpose which it is proposed should be carried out under your direction if you concur. (D. of Stores, 1606A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

ABEILLE 21.

ABEILLE 21 ashore on Lismore. Require immediate assistance. (Port Patrick, 0641/6). Tug ABEILLE 21 on passage Ayr to Scapa grounded on Lismore Island and has lost propellor. Vessel has been refloated and being towed to Oban. Reported not making water. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1115A/6).

MALLOW.

Your are required to tow MALLOW from Londonderry to Belfast A.M. tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0914A/6 to CAROLINE MOLLER) C. in C. W.A. 2330A/5. Intend sailing MALLOW in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER from Lough Foyle at 2200A/6. Weather permitting. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1314A/6 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

LEVERNBANK.

N.O.I.C. Stornoway's 0727A/6 and my telephone conversation. Request service of FREEBOOTER to assist M/V LEVERNBANK ashore S.W. of Ewe Island. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1003A/6 to F.O.I.C. G) LEVERNBANK ashore W. of Ewe Island. Ship heading S.S.E. listing 25 degrees to port in dangerous position. Request Salvage Officer immediately. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea., 1231A/6). Your 1003A/6. Approved. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1235A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea). Position very dangerous and weather extremely bad. Further report will be made when possible to board ship. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1316A/6). Your 1231A/6. Representative of Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Company has left for Loch Ewe. Salvage Tug RANGER will be sailed as soon as available. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1407A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

/BURDENNA....

War Diary

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BURDENNA IV  
(Water Boat).

Grounded Aird Point during gale. Salvage will be attempted when weather moderates. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1011A/6).

EMPIRE  
BASCOBEL.  
(Tug).

My 1233/3/12. Delayed with defects. Anticipate sailing about 9/12. (C. in C. Plymouth 1056/6).

LOOSESTRIFE.

(Corvette) Cancel my 1032/5. <sup>N.T.A.W.D.</sup> Engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1124/6).

R.J. CULLEN.

Position 058° 40' N., 024° W., (corrupt group?) 110° speed 6 knots, R.J. CULLEN in tow. Intend making Lough Foyle. (TENACITY, 1400/6).

VERITY.

Asdic out of action oscillator shaft broken. Nothing can be done on board. Hove to in 059° 21' N., 009° 46' W. Not in contact with N.S.43. (VERITY, 1800A/6). My 1800A/6. Suspect Dome may be missing. (VERITY, 1952A/6).

PROWESS.

Tug KENIA left harbour 1140/6 to assist M.V. PROWESS. Entered harbour 1228/6 with PROWESS in tow. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1846A/6).

NAROCZ.

S.S. NAROCZ anchored 5 cables East of 54 F. Buoy with defective steering gear. (MALLARD, 2045A/6). Departure DIVERSION to assist NAROCZ. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2245A/6).

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.14.

Z.8. Will not now be included in W.S.14. (D. of S.T., 0922A/6). NORMAN will not now sail with W.S.14 owing to defects. (D.O.D. (H), 1630A/6). On satisfactory completion of repairs request you will sail GURKHA for Milford Haven to arrive not later than 1200/9. 2. GURKHA will be required to sail from Milford Haven as extra escort for RAMILLIES breaking off with destroyers for Gibraltar in accordance with A.M.1710A/28/11. (D.O.D. (H), 1632A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth).  
*See p. 158*

/Permission...

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.W.S.14  
Contd.

Permission is requested to include SILVERWALNUT speed  $14\frac{1}{4}$  knots in convoy W.S.14 as ship will not be ready to sail in O.N.44. Destination Singapore with government stores and explosives. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1650A/4).

C.W.60.

My 1210A/4 and 1730A/4. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1017A/6).

P.Q.5.

Your 1101C/6. LEDA reported at 1254C/6 that she is not yet clear of river and awaits Ice breaker. If possible LEDA is to R/V with me in Swept Channel a.m. tomorrow and escort P.Q.5. to Archangel then returning to Murmansk with SEAGULL arriving a.m./10. If R/V is not possible LEDA is to await arrival of P.Q.5. at Archangel. (1st M/S.F., 1340C/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia). *See p 160*

P.Q.  
Convoys.

Russian Naval Authorities have protested against frequent alteration in estimated arrival of convoys in (?North) Archangel. In case of P.Q.5 there have been 3 different times of arrival at point (?being) given which have varied as much as 36 hours. I consider that these complaints are justified. As whole work of moving our convoys in and out, shifting our ships from discharging to loading berths, and breaking in and out of Russian convoys carrying stores and ammunition to their Northern front at present devolves almost entirely on solitary ice breaker LENIN, such alteration involves entire dislocation of LENIN programme and severely disturbs the organisation of Port Archangel and Molotovsk which under present conditions is already very difficult. Request C.O.s. Escorts, and Commodores of convoys may be warned of necessity for adhering closely to programme as originally promulgated. Admiralty pass to all addresses.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1801C/6 to Admty).

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Submarine  
Routeing.

Request acknowledgment my 2155A/4 with particular reference to position L. (F.O.S. 1038A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

URSULA.

U-boats believed patrolling in vicinity Alboran Island.

(2) To avoid own night patrol do not cross 004° 40' W. before 0730A/9 thence proceed on surface direct to Gibraltar. Bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/6 to URSULA).

Fuel for  
Spanish  
Navy.

My 1100/28/11. Minister of Marine is pressing for reply. (N.A. Madrid, 1345/6 to Admty.)

Spanish  
Demonstration.

A fixed (as received, ? group omitted) was laid out by Spaniards position 309 (corrupt group) 4 at 1600 and about 8 rounds fired presumably as a demonstration. Wind N.E. 2 10 30. 42 80. (SCOTTISH 1800A/6? to F.O.C.N.A.)

ERICE sunk  
by REGENT.

REGENT arrived, reports sinking by gunfire Italian S.S. ERICE, 2350 tons, Northbound, in 037° 52' N. 011° 52' E. at 2025/1. (ii) Stay of at least 4 days required at Gibraltar to make good defects. F.O. (S) pass to Capt. (S) 5. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850A/6, 1910A/6 to Admty.)

Spanish and  
French  
Ships.

1631/5 Spanish minelayer MARTE escorting Spanish transport CASTILLO-FIGUERAS in position 265° Cape Spartel 60 miles, steering towards Cadiz. Gibraltar 6/12, 0900, French survey vessel ESTAFETTE, French armed trawler W.45, French ships FORT-DE-DOUAMONT, STRASBOURGEOIS, MAROC, all laden, THISBE deck cargo field kitchens, French trawler MONTCASSEL, AUGUSTE-DENIS Westbound. 1445, French armed trawler W.67 French ships TROPIQUE, THESEE, MONTAIGNÉ, PORT-DE-BOUC all full, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1927A/6 to Admty. etc.)

OLYMPUS.

Am crossing 005° 00' E. Request permission to pass 000° 00' at 0700/8 and arrive 0900/10. (OLYMPUS, 2235A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S Operations F.O.C.N.A. 2314A/6. See U-boat Campaign.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ALCANTARA.

Your 1807N/4. If stores for ALCANTARA are at Trinidad request permission to call there on passage to Newport News. N.O.I.C. Trinidad please advise accordingly. (ALCANTARA 0015Z/6 to C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad) Approved (C. in C. S.A., 1240Z/7).

F.J. WOLFE  
distress.

Request information whether distress message 1058/5 (N.T. in W.R.) from F.J. WOLFE intercepted by St. Lucia radio has been correctly cancelled in code. (C. in C. S.A., 1142N/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Use of  
R/T.

I am concerned at the extent to which Western Approaches escort vessels use R/T when on the South Atlantic Station. Grateful if you would instruct your escort vessels that the normal rules of W/T silence are fully applicable to R/T when on S.A. Station. Such orders are already in force for my escorts vide SACI. F.O.C.N.A. 1656/2/10~~4~~ refers. (C. in C. S.A. 1146N/6 to C. in C. W.A.)  
/ 1556/2/11?

Suspicious  
tanker.

On 5/12 pilot South Africa Airways sighted 2 masted grey ship with funnel aft apparently tanker anchored within a mile offshore from Santrosa near Porto Alexandria, nationality unknown. Identify if met. (C. in C. S.A. 1158N/6 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

ECHODALE.

Cancel instructions to proceed Freetown. Proceed direct to Point Noire. On arrival discharge to BULLMOUTH as much of your remaining cargo of fuel oil as that ship can take then proceed to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1216N/6 to ECHODALE).

*Cancelled 7/12. See p. 197*

DEVONSHIRE.

Leave patrol and return to Freetown when fuel remaining is down to 30% and report when you do so. (C. in C. S.A., 1225N/6 to DEVONSHIRE).

CANTON.

Proceed when ready to patrol H.54 C. Object interception of possible enemy supply ships Southbound. (C. in C. S.A. 1241N/6 to CANTON)  
Cancelled, see 2013/7.

Security  
measures.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1307B/6. See Lion Copy.....

/Withdrawal.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1307B/6th December IN

From F.O.i/c Simonstown

Date 10.12.41.

Recd. 0927

Naval Cypher X by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic.

560. My 1412/11th October and C. in C. South Atlantic  
2030/3.

Following action has been taken as result of meeting.

(A) All private guests are prohibited from H.M. Ships and merchant ships.

(B) Crews of incoming ships are warned by agents in addition to examination service of dangers of talking.

(C) Photographic permits to be introduced for access to docks area and issues further restricted.

(D) One shipping agent to act as liaison authority with R.N. on security matters.

(E) Charts required by merchant ships as result of diversion to be arranged by R.N.

(F) Shipping firms to pay particular attention to making their staffs security minded.

2. Many other potential sources of leakage were discussed but did not result in any definite conclusions. Publication of the news of ships refitting in the U.S.A. was considered a factor undermining security sense of public.

1307B/6

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

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War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.Withdrawal of  
DORSETSHIRE,  
BIRMINGHAM.

Thanks for 1659A/3. I quite understand the position. (2) Whilst my cruiser force is reduced I propose using BIRMINGHAM for patrol calm area South of St. Helena provided Admty. considers her absence from Plate trade route can be accepted in present circumstances. My 1059N/5 and A.M. 2331A/5 refer. (C. in C. S.A. 1247N/6 to Admty.)

Patrol of  
Calm Area.

My 1059/5. So long as U-boats are operating south of 020° S. I want to keep a patrol in calm area south of St. Helena. Now that DORSETSHIRE has temporarily left the station I shall have to use BIRMINGHAM for time being as I do not consider armed merchant cruisers sufficient. I realise your station work will suffer to some extent but I am afraid it cannot be helped. If you can arrange for your armed merchant cruisers to fuel without use of oiler ARNDALE suggest you keep her for fuelling BIRMINGHAM but further west than position given in your 0408/29/11. (C. in C. S.A. 1441N/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

U/B  
Report  
4/12.

Your 1043/6. No Brazilian Submarine in North Brazil and no information. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1501Z/6 to S.O.I. Montevideo). See U-boat Campaign.

Boats from  
sunk  
Raider.

My 2145N/2. There might be as many as 4 U-boats in the vicinity of boats. (C. in C. S.A., 1533N/6 to ASTER, MARGUERITE).

Movements.

My 1648/5 which is being passed to HECTOR (A.M.C.). Para. 2 for CARTHAGE read HECTOR (A.M.C.). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1623Z/6).

ASTER.  
MARGUERITE.

If (?nothing) seen in vicinity of position F steer due E. spreading by day ships ten miles apart to longitude of 005° E. thence to Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A., 2311N/6 to ASTER, MARGUERITE).

German  
ship.

My 1112/29/11. (Report of sailing of German ship from Diego Samez). Ship stated to carry mica and probably graphite and to be armed. Graded A.3. (S.O.I. Capetown 2323/6 to Admty. etc.).

/CARNARVON.....

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON  
CASTLE.

Departure 1040/6. CARNARVON CASTLE.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 2345N/6 to Admty. C. in C.  
A.W.I. etc.)

CANTON.

Departure 6/12 CANTON on patrol.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 2355N/6 to Admty. R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

CHAKDINA  
survivors.

My 2236. THORGRIM left area for Alexandria at  
2315/5 with about 60 survivors. FARNDALE leaves  
area 0030/6 with 141 survivors, none seriously  
wounded, to rejoin ERIDGE and KIRKRIB (?KIRKLAND).  
(FARNDALE, 0010B/6 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

German  
Shipping.

Departure 5th German SULLBERG - Gandia in ballast.  
Expected sailing 6th Marseilles with oranges  
ATLAS. Expected sailing 6th OTTO LEONHARDT for  
Genoa, with pyrites, turpentine and oranges.  
(Valencia, T.H.I. 0530/6).

Enemy Units.

Following is a repetition of my 0745B/6 addressed  
C. in C. Med. A.S.V. Wellington reports one  
destroyer and one 4,000 ton ship (type unidentified)  
in 39.21 N. 19.38 E. course 140° 15 knots at  
0410B/6 (Ends). (V.A. Malta, 0831B/6 to C. in C.  
Med., rep. C.S.7, S/M's on Patrol, KANDAHAR).

P.31.  
attack on  
cruiser.

S.10 1306B/5. There is strong evidence to  
support claim of one cruiser sunk. Suggest  
following signal be made to P.31. "Their Lordships  
congratulate you on your important success".  
(F.O.S. 1036A/6 to Admty.)

Enemy A/C.

Following has been read. 1 enemy aircraft shadow-  
ing convoy "Screw" in 31.44 N., 26.29 E.  
(A/C using call-sign ACU 1040/6 to Alexandria W/T).

/Libya.....



War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Libya  
ships  
sheltering  
in Vichy  
convoys.

17951 I/34449 5/12. (1) Southbound convoy 6 ships previously sighted N.E. of Kerkena course 170 again sighted 1340/2 East of Kerkena course 220. Escort believed French destroyer and escort vessel. Ships now estimated as 3 freighters 4000 tons. 1 at 2000 and 2 Tankers at 5000. Malta considers convoy probably French. Sfax must be approached from South because channel between Sfax and Kerkena too shallow for approach from north for laden ships this size. (2) Combined bulk storage capacity Sfax and Gabes believed only 5000 tons oil fuel at most. Capacity these two tankers approximately 13000 tons. Neither town has export able to fill two such tankers. Insufficient French Naval units at present in Sfax to justify arrival tankers. (3) Suggest possible axis tankers (or ships) sheltering in French convoys whilst en route Tripoli. Tankers could reach Tripoli at dusk 3/12. (C. in C. M.E. 1045/6 to W.O.)

U/B.

Attacked and claimed sunk by A/C. (1135/6, 1140/6, 1315/6, 1335/6). See U-boat Campaign for these and other U/B signals.

PROTECTOR.  
Aden.

N.O.I.C. Aden 0802/3. Request you reply. (C. in C. Med. 1136B/6 to Admty.)

Russian  
Oilers  
from Black  
Sea.

My 1217/5. Have seen Russian commercial N.A. He (?advocated) orders to discharge whole of cargoes of present three oilers at Istanbul. (2) Admty. repeat to Adm. Miles. (Adm. Kelly, Istanbul 1243B/6 to C. in C. Med.)

Hungary.  
Roumania.  
Finland.

A state of war will exist with Hungary, Roumania, and Finland from 0101 B.S.T./7/12. (Malta W/T 1336A/6 to UPRIGHT).

NEREUS.

Greek S/M NEREUS leaves vicinity of Alexandria at 1700B/6 and proceeds through 33° 12' 29° 00', 34° 43' 26° 10' and thence direct to within 20 miles of 25° 22' 34° 58' where she should arrive during the night of 9th/10th. (Capt. S.l., 1511B/6 to C. in C. Med.)

/Destroyers.....

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Destroyers.

C. in C. W.A. 1113A/5 and Admty. 2216A/3.  
Administrative arrangements for reinforcements.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1603A/6) See ~~Lion Copy~~ *Policy*.

KINGSTON  
CYANITE.

Bombed by 2 aircraft. (KINGSTON CYANITE,  
1715/6, to Alexandria W/T).

→ THRASHER.  
TRIUMPH.

Leave patrol p.m./7 and return to Alexandria  
as follows: TRIUMPH through 036° 10' 021° 26',  
034° 28' 025° 16', 033° 22' 027° 54', thence  
direct adjusting speed to pass 2nd position about  
1900B/8 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/11. THRASHER  
through 038° 00' 018° 50', 035° 00' 021° 20',  
034° 24' 025° 40' thence direct adjusting speed  
to pass 2nd position approx. 2300B/9 and arrive  
Sanctuary 0530B/13. (Capt. S.1, 1715B/6 to  
THRASHER, TRIUMPH).

Enemy A/c.

1 Aircraft bearing 040° from me. My position  
280° 15 miles from Ras el Tin (Alexandria).  
(DECOY 1717/6 to Alexandria).

Malta Raid.

Night 5/6. 1945 to 0448 hours, total approx.  
20 bombers, probably Ju. 88's approx. 8 crossed  
coast. Bombs land, sea. 5 houses demolished  
2 slight civilian casualties.

Naples  
bombed.

20 Wellingtons attacked arsenal Naples. Over  
target 1930 to 0042 hours. Hits arsenal causing  
large fire black smoke up to 5000 feet. 4000  
lbs. and smaller H.E. on torpedo factory, fire  
started still burning when last aircraft left.  
4000 lbs 150 yards off target increasing fires  
already burning. Other hits and explosions  
marshalling yards, I.M.A.M. Airframe works.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/6).

ESPIQUETTE.  
(French).

Departure 5th Marseilles.  
(Valencia T.H.I. 1750/6 to M. of W.T.).

S/M's  
THUNDERBOLT.  
TRUSTY.  
TALISMAN.  
→ THRASHER.  
TRIUMPH.

Eastern Medn. S/M movements summary 60.  
Estimated Noon pos. 7/12. Estimated Noon pos. 8/12  
032° 22' 027° 54'. Due Alexandria a.m./8  
034° 36' 025° 12'. 032° 56' 027° 24'.  
036° 30' 020° 44'. Off Argostoli.  
039° 30' 017° 30'. 037° 38' 019° 08'.  
Off Navarin 034° 50' 022° 52'.  
(Capt. S.1, 1751B/6 to Med. Fleet).

/CHAKDINA.....

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.CHAKDINA  
sunk 5/11.

CHAKDINA sunk by aircraft torpedoes at 2135/5 in 052° 11' N. 024° 30' E. when returning to Alexandria with about 300 British wounded and 100 prisoners of war. FARNDALE and THORGRIM have rescued about 200 survivors. (C. in C. Med., 1756B/6 to Admty.)

C.S.7.  
KANDAHAR.  
JAGUAR.

My 1528/6 (N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C. Med. 1151/5 (N.T. in W.D. Further R/C blank. If nothing sighted be in dead area by daylight tomorrow and meet KANDAHAR and JAGUAR as convenient.  
2. A.S.V. is not being sent to your area tonight.  
3. Repeated R/C will be carried out tomorrow on assumption that target is 24 hours late.  
4. If this is blank return to Malta.  
(V.A. Malta 1802B/6 to C.S.7.)

Enemy  
Shipping  
Losses.

My 1725A/7/9 (to C. in C. Med. only).  
Copies of reports of Enemy Shipping Losses Assessment Committee are being sent to you. Figures issued to Press will be based on these reports. To keep in line with this policy, it is requested that press communiques issued in Middle East immediately after any success should not contain details of tonnage sunk or damaged unless the facts are indisputable. Similar instructions being issued to A.O.C. Med. (Hd. of M. 1809A/6 to C's in C. Med., E.F., E.I.)  
*Amended by Admty 2106A/4/10/42, q.v.*

Balloons.

Your A.112, 28/11 to Admty. Arrangements are now being made for despatch of necessary equipment for Aden Suez Balloon Shuttle service. Request you inform Naval authorities concerned.  
(Air Min., 1830 G.M.T./6 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

PORPOISE.

At 0001B/8 establish patrol in area Q within 30 miles Pylos Light Navarin. Remain East of 021° 45' until 0200B/8.  
(Capt. S.1, 1917B/6 to PORPOISE).

Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E. 2018/6 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

UPRIGHT.  
UNIQUE.  
P.34.

Exceptional vigilance is necessary against U-boats, majority southbound passage of Straits probably at night. (Capt. S.10, 2121B/6 to S/M's named).

**MOST SECRET**~~MESSAGE~~ ~~2010, 311~~ ~~ber~~ IN

MOST SECRET

Date 7.12.41

From C. in C. Middle East.

Recd. 0020

CIPHER

Addressed: The War Office. (Pass to Air Ministry)  
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

17153. 0/34902. cipher. 6/12. Most Secret.

Cositrep No. 35.

1. Frontier area. 5 Dec. column 3 S.A. Bde. operating from south of Menastir shelled Bardia. Columns from this bde. operating westwards. 5 N.Z. Bde. now area Capuzzo. N.Z. Div. Cav. Regt. area Sidi Azeiz with columns operating along Trigh Capuzzo. Armd. Cars from 6 S.A. Bde. operating to west of Sidi Omar. 6 S.A. Bde. operating against enemy Nezuat Ghirba. 4 S.A. Bde. area Sciadi covering railhead depots.

2. 30 Corps area 5 Dec. 5 Ind. Inf. Bde. joined H.Q. 4 Ind. Div. area 4335. 7 Ind. Inf. Bde. and C.I.H. moving to 30 Corps area. Column operating west and north west of Bir Boud area 4639 returned with one hundred P.O.W. having destroyed sixty enemy M.T. and one F.S.D. Evening 5 Dec. enemy counter attacked 11 Ind. Inf. Bde. north of Gobi but were repulsed. 11 Ind. Inf. Bde. shot down three Stukas.

3. Our Mobile Columns operated throughout 5 Dec. harassing enemy with great success especially on Trigh Capuzzo and in area Sidi Rezegh - El Adem where he is concentrated.

4. 5 Dec. Tobruk report four hundred infantry and one hundred and fifty M.T. engaged south El Duda by our arty. H.Cs. and aircraft, heavy casualties inflicted and column scattered in confusion. Our troops area El Duda shot down two Stukas 5 Dec. Ref. Cositrep No. 34 para. 1. Confirmed ground lost 4 Dec. reoccupied without opposition night 4/5 Dec.

5. Stop Press. R/T report from H.Q. 30 Corps at 1100 hrs. states battle in progress area twelve miles north of Gubi between 4 Armd. Bde. and 15 German Armd. Div. 21 German Armd. Div. believed twelve miles north west of Gubi. 2 S.A. Div. operations to clear up in frontier area appear to be progressing satisfactorily

AIR

6 Day 5 Dec. Reconnaissance. One ship 2000 tons off Derna. 55 aircraft Gazala. Fifty mostly fighters Martuba, seventy Derna. One thousand M.T. dispersed twenty miles west of El Adem. Over one thousand M.T. south of El Adem of which five hundred moving south west.

7. Bomber.

**MOST SECRET**

7. Bombers Two effective attacks by Hurricane Bombers on M.T. and troops on Trigh Capuzzo. Severe dust storms prevented medium bomber operations.

8. Fighter. Nineteen Tomhawks of 112 and 250 Sqdns. intercepted thirty five dive bombers escorted by thirty mixed fighters about to attack our troops South east of El Adem. Majority of dive bombers jettisoned bombs. Tomhawks destroyed seventeen dive bombers, three fighters, probably destroyed three dive bombers three fighters, damaged one dive bomber four fighters. Four Tomwhawks missing. In two further fighter engagements involving respectively two squadrons Tomhawks two squadrons Hurricanes and total about twenty German and Italian fighters, one German fighter destroyed one Italian three German fighters damaged two Hurricanes missing

9. Night 5/6 December. Low cloud and rain cancelled heavy bomber operations.

2018/6.

Received from W.O. 0625/7th December.

Advance Copy N.A. 1st S.L. D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st Lord.                  | War Office Circulation             |
| 1st S.L.                   | S. of S.                           |
| 2nd S.L.                   | C.I.G.S.                           |
| 3rd S.L.                   | V.C.I.G.S.                         |
| 4th S.L.                   | D.M.O. & P.                        |
| 5th S.L.                   | D.D.M.O. (0)                       |
| V.C.F.S.                   | D.P. (2)                           |
| A.C.F.S. (H)               | M.O. 1, 5, 6.                      |
| A.C.F.S. (F)               | D.D.I.P.                           |
| A.C.H.S. (T)               | D.H.I.                             |
| A.C.H.S. (W)               | D.D.H.I. (I)                       |
| H.A. 1st S.L.              | M.I. 3, 14.                        |
| D. of P (2)                | D.A.F.V.                           |
| D.O.D. (H)                 | Cabinet War Room.                  |
| D.D.O.D. (H)               | Col. Jacob. (Cabinet Offices)      |
| D.O.D. (F)                 | C.A.S. (Air Ministry) (2)          |
| D.D.O.D. (F)               | D. of Plans (Air Ministry) (2)     |
| D.N.I. (4)                 | Plans 3. (Air Ministry) (2)        |
| D.S.D.                     | D.O.O. (Air Ministry)              |
| D.N.A.D.                   | D.M.C. (Air Ministry)              |
| D. of L.D.                 | P.S. to S. of S (Air Ministry) (2) |
| D.A/S.W.                   | Duty Group Captain (Air Ministry)  |
| D.G.D.                     | A.C.A.S. (I) (Air Ministry)        |
| I.P. (2)                   | Air Ministry War Room.             |
| W.D.                       | S. of S. (Foreign Office)          |
| D.C. (2)                   | Duty Captain (Admiralty)           |
| Hd og M.                   | Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty      |
| D.T.S.D.                   | War Room)                          |
| E.P.S.                     |                                    |
| D.T.D. (2)                 |                                    |
| H.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr Wilson) |                                    |
| D.D.I.C.                   |                                    |

M.F.

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.W.S.12 Z.  
EMERALD  
COLOMBO.

Your 2318/5. (i) Escort can be provided from Durban onward and EMERALD has been detailed with orders to arrive Durban a.m./13. COLOMBO will provide onward escort from vicinity of Mombasa.

M.A.3.

(ii) My 1316/30/11 para.2 (b), DERWENTDALE is being escorted to Mombasa where she joins convoy M.A.3 leaving 8/12.

(C. in C. E.I., 0454Z/6 to Admty.)

Search of  
Laccadives,  
GLASGOW.  
LAWRENCE.

My 0826/5 (i) GLASGOW leaves Colombo 6/12 for Laccadive 8th and 9th, with LAWRENCE assisting on 8/12. (2) I do not consider our purpose would be best served by a warship showing itself ostensibly off Marmagoa but GLASGOW will be on patrol off Goa between 014° (740') N. and 016° N. on 10/12 keeping outside 200 fathom line.

(3) Opportunity is being taken to make use of this patrol to exercise Coastal Defence aircraft of India in co-operation with H.M. ships at sea.

(4) GLASGOW return Colombo 12/12.

(C. in C. E.I., 1334Z/6 to Admty.)

IPSWICH.Have you any news of American IPSWICH due Vizagapatam 29/11 from Suez?  
(D.T.D. 1835A/6 to S.O.I. Colombo.)China.Japanese  
Convoys.

Aircraft R/C reports one convoy of 25 ships with escort of 6 cruisers, 10 destroyers in 8° 00' N. 106° 08' E. at 0316Z/6. Second convoy of 10 ships escorted by 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers in 7° 40' N. 106° 20' E. at 0530Z/6. Both convoys steering 270°. Small force of three vessels in 7° 51' N. 105° 00' E. at 0442Z/6 ?course 310°. This may indicate that all forces will make for Kohtron.

(C. in C. China, 0745Z/6 to C. in C. A.F., N.Z.N.B., Admty. etc.)

My 0745/6. No further information and aircraft not now in touch but search continuous.

(C. in C. China 1431Z/6 to C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, C.Z.M. Admty., etc.)

Japanese and  
French  
Shipping.Following is Saigon's Vesca 174 in accordance with your 0342/2. Arrival 22/11 SYDNEY MARU; 25/11 ALBERT SARRAUT, TAI SEUN HONG. Departure 26/11 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL ALEXANDRE VARENNE, Macao; SI-KIANG, Manila.  
(S.O.I. Singapore 0955Z/6 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.Movements.

Singapore arrival 6/12 ELECTRA, JUPITER, MANOORA.  
 Departure (?) 6/12 DANAE for escort duties.  
 O.16 and K.17 for patrol. Penang departure  
 6/12 DRAGON for escort duty.  
 (S.O.(I) Singapore 1003Z/6)

Vichy  
Shipping.

Clearance of Vichy ships from British ports  
 should be refused pending further instructions.  
 Masters should be informed that they cannot be  
 permitted to sail whilst the present tension  
 with Japan continues. Decoux is to be informed  
 of the circumstances. You have discretion to  
 defer this action until the arrival of any more  
 cargoes actually en route for Hong Kong or  
 Singapore from Indo China.  
 (Head of M. Approved by 1st Lord, 1106A/6 to  
 C. in C. China, Cdre Hong Kong.)

Japanese  
Air Bases.

Following addressed C. in C., Far East, Adm.  
 Layton and Adm. Phillips, repeated Cdre., Hong  
 Kong, from Chiefs of Staff No. J.I.C.2. C.2  
 report American origin dated Hanoi 1/12 states  
 two additional air bases have been completed  
 on Island Phu Kok and two at Tani. A/A defences  
 are being installed.  
 (War Cabinet Office, 1255A/6 to C.O.I.S.  
 Singapore.)

Hong Kong  
Evacuation.

Following policy being carried out as regards  
 despatch of ships building, equipment, plant.  
 (a) Bangors. My 1536/3 refers (re equipment  
 for Bangors to be carried in ULYSSES).  
 (b) Standard ships. EMPIRE DRAGON launches  
 today, will load own machinery, boilers, equipment  
 and leave in tow of ST. ?DOMINIC as soon as ready,  
 about 6 days. (c) Plant and material from  
 commercial dockyards earmarked for evacuation.  
 All preparations being advanced as much as  
 possible, loading of materials commencing shortly,  
 plant being got ready. It is not intended to  
 despatch unless orders are received for coasters  
 to sail. Should situation improve shipbuilding  
 work can then be resumed with little delay.  
 (d) R.N. Dockyard. Machinery and equipment for  
 Fairmiles 300 tons degaussing cable, plant,  
 stores etc. as for (c). (e) Necessary ships for  
 (c) and (d) are alongside. (f) European and  
 some Chinese personnel will be sent with (b) (c)  
 and (d).  
 (Com. Hong Kong, 1513H.I/6, to C. in C. China.)

Australian  
corvettes.

As an expedient intend to complete armament to  
 following scale from local stocks. MARYBOROUGH  
 and BENDIGO one 2 pounder Mark VIII and two machine  
 guns each. BURNIE and GOULBURN one Holman and  
 four machine guns each. Machine guns include two  
 supplied to each ship from Australia.  
 (R.A. Malaya 0732Z/6.)

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.MACBETH.

Following received from LIVERPOOL. S.S. MACBETH was sighted 1430 G.M.T./3 in 046° 54' N. 034° 25' W. Reported bound for Boston, had been lying derelict for 14 days and that Naval tug had left her to refuel. Unable to investigate further owing to reported presence of S/MS in this area (Admty 1356/3.). Shipping intelligence summary issued by C. in C. A. and W.I., gave ship of this name as being ex Italian IDA ZO. (Ends) T.O.O.1127Z/5.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0304A/6 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. amended 1128A/6.)

C.C.N.F.'s 1819/5. Request you will sail tug ZWARTE ZEE with A/S escort to assistance of MACBETH.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 0723A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

ZWARTE ZEE is to be fully provisioned and sailed for Moville, Lough Foyle, p.m./7 to await A/S escort to approx. 047° 48' N. 034° 25' W.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1347A/6 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

Your 1819Z/5 and A.M.0723A/6. Request H.M. Tug PRUDENT may return to MACBETH as soon as possible with orders to tow her towards Clyde. Dutch Rescue Tug ZWARTE ZEE is being sailed from Campbeltown to assist in search for MACBETH and if possible take over tow from PRUDENT. Should be grateful if Opnav would pass this message to Comdr. Task Force No.4.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 1458A/6 to C.C.N.F.)

Intend to sail ZWARTE ZEE for Greenock to complete with oil fuel at 1800A/6. E.T.A. 2200A/6.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1625A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Sailed ZWARTE ZEE in accordance with my 1625A/6.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1805A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

DUC D'AUMALE  
(French).

Departure 5th for Martinique 7th.  
(La Guayra, 0815/6 to M. of W.T., S.O.I. Kingston 1252R/6.)

IROQUOIS.

Your 1843Z/5. IROQUOIS destination Aruba for cargo. Diversion broadcast evidently misread. (D.T.D. 1018A/6 to C.C.N.F.)

STRATHMORE.

Your 2242/4. Diversion to Halifax not desired. (D.O.D.(F) 1019A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

EXETER  
(American)

Following from C.C.S.O. American EXETER sailed 0800/6. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1108Q/6 to Admty.)

/TURECAMO BOYS ...



War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

TURECAMO BOYS. N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F, reports American Tug TURECAMO BOYS (tug) sailed St. John's N.F. 15/11 bound for Greenland with CHEROKEE. Unreported since parting company with CHEROKEE in gale night of November 16th to 17th.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1519Z/6 to Admty.)

S.C.59. My 1916Z/5. S.C.59. Task Unit 4.1.14, add ST. CLAIR.  
(C.C.N.F. 1529Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

ODVAR II  
(Finnish) C. in C. A. and W.I. 1259Q/2/12. Finnish ODVAR II approached Botwood Newfoundland 3/12 but did not enter. Ship is still at sea unreported.  
(C.C.N.F. 1553/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

ODENWALD. Re capture of tanker\*ODENWALD. Detailed report giving track chart, disguise details of cargo names of crew has been received and is being forwarded. ODENWALD intended to R/V first at Orade 040° 19' N. 039° 09' W. at 2300/18/11 and secondly at Orfe 045° 29' N. 020° 42' W. at 2100/22/11. First R/V apparently urgent the time for R/V being described as Musszeit. After second R/V ship was to go to Bordeaux.  
(B.A.D. Washington 1615R/6 to Admty.)  
O.I.C. Comment. The German merchant vessel sunk by KENYA on 3/10 in 43° 26' N. 24° 30' W. had a U/B in company. It is possible the above R/Vs were for meeting U-Boats to provide escort into the Bay of Biscay. \*ODENWALD is not a tanker but had a valuable cargo of rubber.

T.C.16. A.M.1812A/3 and A.M. 1604A/6. Convoy T.C.16 should be sailed from Halifax N.S. on 15/12 to join U.S. convoy as directed by Upnav.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1708A/6 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

ALIAKMON  
NAMARIB. Have you any news of Greek ALIAKMON due Sydney C.B. 26/11 from O.N.35, and American NAMARIB due New York 27/11 from Trinidad?  
(D.T.D. 1836A/6 to D.N.I. Ottawa) Reply 1827/7.

/DIDO ...

War Diary.

6.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

DIDO.

Your 1732A/10/10 and DIDO's 1415R/17/11.  
Provided working up practices are not interfered  
with by weather DIDO will be ready to leave  
Bermuda 12/12. Request confirmation that she  
should proceed direct to Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1842Q/6 to Admty.)

CIRCASSIA.

Your 1712Q/5. CIRCASSIA sailed 1907Z/6,  
departure delayed due to dense fog.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1926Z/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

F.J. WOLFE.

Has F.J. WOLFE arrived, if so report if Q Q Q Q  
sent 1058A/5 was correctly cancelled in code.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1932Q/6 to S.N.O. Curacao)  
Reply: 1105/7.

Japanese  
Moves,  
Indo-China.

Following for 1st S.L. President has informed  
Ambassador that U.S. Authorities are publishing  
what information they have regarding threatening  
moves of Japanese Troops and ships off Indo-  
China in order to prepare public mind for  
possible developments. President asks whether  
we can do the same and after consultation with  
me Ambassador has authorised publication tonight  
in Washington of substance of C. in C. China  
0745Z/6.  
(B.A.D. 1951R/6 to Admty.)

Finnish  
Ships.

My 2013Z/5. Disposition Finnish ships.  
PUERTO TARAFA CUBA 5th December for New York.  
Correction my 2013Z/5. For CARCORBE read CARIBE.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1958Z/6)

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

- 2242Z/5. By D/F at 2242Z/5. Position of Italian U-boat was 46° N., to 47° N., 14° W., to 15° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 0021A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C.)
- 2200 G.M.T/5. From D/F bearings German submarine was (? at) (Med.) or near Bardia at 2200 G.M.T./5.  
(Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0138B/6 to C. in C.Med.)
- 0105 G.M.T. Following received from Aircraft. One S/M (Med.) on surface in 033° 53' N., 023° 30' E., course 090° speed 12 knots at 0105 G.M.T.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0455B/6, to C. in C. Med.)
- 2130Z/5. A report of U-boat in 5° 50' S., 34° 28' W., course 180°, speed 5 knots, at 2130Z/5 has been received. Was any Brazilian Submarine in this position, or is any further information available.  
(D.D.I.C. 1043A/6, to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)  
Following from B.A.D. Washington. (Begins.)  
U.S. Destroyer CLEMSON reports Submarine sighted 060° 36 miles from 006° S., 035° West, course 180° 5 knots, time approx., 2130Z/4 (? 5)(Ends).  
Could this have been Brazilian submarine?  
(C. in C.S.A., 1055N/6, to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)  
Your 1043/6. No Brazilian Submarine in North Brazil and no information.  
(N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1501Z/6.)  
U.S. Destroyer reports S/M sighted 060° 36 miles from position 006° S., 035° W., course 180° speed 5 knots at 2130Z/5. No Brazilian S/M known to be in this position.  
(C. in C.S.A., 2335N/6, to S.A. Stn.)

Alboran.

U-boats believed patrolling in vicinity of Alboran Island. (2) To avoid own night patrol do not (?cross) 004° 40' W., before 0730A/9 thence proceed on surface direct to Gibraltar. Bombing restrictions arranged.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/6 to URSULA.)

P.M./5.

British Air-Ways Pilot reports unusually large oil patch 10 miles W. N. W. Burling Island P.M/5/12.  
(N.A.Lisbon, 1200/6, to Admty.)

/Following .....

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Contd.

Following received. Addressed Gibraltar.  
Am over enemy submarine in 36.19 08.50. Enemy  
S/M previously reported was sighted on surface  
and observed to submerge when first sighted.  
Was on course 130°. Estimated speed 15.  
(A/C call sign M.9.H.V. 1238/6.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.  
(D.D.I.C. 1411A/6, 1412A/6.)

1310B/5.  
(Med.)

2 U-boats P.C. and S., 031° 56' 015° 39' 130°  
12 at 1310B/5.  
(P.34, 1700B/6, to Capt. S.10.)

1340B/6.  
(Med.)

At 1340B/6 one S/M 246° Stamphani Island  
75 miles, course south, 10 knots.  
(V.A. Malta, 1745B/6, to Med. Fleet.)

Mediterranean.

Exceptional vigilance is necessary against  
U-boats, majority Southbound, passage of  
Straits probably at night.  
(Capt. S.10, 2121B/6 to UPRIGHT, UNIQUE, P.34.)

2200.

FFF Course 135° speed 6 knots.  
(A/C J. No. 202 Sqn., 2200/6, to 200 Group.)  
LLL One S/M 36° 40' N., 08° 58' W.  
(A/C J. No. 202 Sqn; 2215/6 to 200 Group.)  
TTT Enemy Submarine previously reported has  
dived.  
(A/C 202 Sqn., 2220/6, to 200 Group.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

(Mediterranean)

Following has been read. Am over enemy  
submarine in position 28.33N., 25.08 E.  
Course and speed of submarine 334°, 8 knots.  
(A/C call sign K7TY 1135/6.)

By A/C.

(Mediterranean.)

My 1130. (N.T. in W.D. 1135 intended?) have  
attacked enemy with bombs level and estimate  
one hit.  
(A/C Call sign K7TO 1140/6 to 201 Group.)  
(W.D. Note. C. in C. Med. 2137B/7 gives  
position as 32.32 N., 25.08 E.)  
N.Z - Wreckage seen one bomb caused large  
explosion, anticipate total destruction.  
(A/C, call sign K7TO 1315/6 to 201 Group.)

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.By A/C.  
(Mediterranean.)  
(Contd.)Suggest you inform 2 destroyers in position  
TK2Y 57° 40' 118 25 at 1110.  
(A/C Call sign K7TO, 1335/6 to 201 Group.)By A/C.  
(Med.)Position, course and speed of one enemy  
submarine 32.40N., 25.05 E., 315° - 7.  
Have attacked her with bombs dive and  
estimate no hits.  
(A/C K7T, 1510/6 to 201 Group.)By A/C.Am over enemy submarine in 36° 52' 09° 25'.  
(A/C Call Sign M9HB. 1545/6, to Gibraltar  
W/T.)  
Enemy submarine previously reported was  
sighted on surface and observed to submerge -  
when first sighted was on course 305°.  
(A/C Call Sign M9HB 1553/6, to Gibraltar W/T.)  
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth  
charges and estimate no hits.  
(A/C M9HB 1555/6 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
My 1545, correct Lat. 3645 IND was stationary.  
(A/C Call Sign M9HB, 1642/6, to Gibraltar W/T.)By U.S.  
DECATUR.U.S. Destroyer DECATUR believes she made sound  
contact on S/M in 051° 54' N., 041° 53' W.,  
at 0912 G.M.T./6. Attack delivered. Contact  
not regained, continuing search.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 1700Z/6, to C. in C.A.F.(U.S.)  
Admty., etc.)By HELIOTROPE  
26/10.HELIOTROPE's report dated 2/11 of attack  
on U-Boat on 26/10. Request you will commence  
a Board of Inquiry into the failure of depth  
charge drill resulting in the probable escape  
of a U-boat.  
(C. in C.W.A., 1734A/6, to F.O.C.N.A.)By VETCH.VETCH attacking Submarine in approximate  
position 285 Tarifa 15.  
(STORK 2235A/6, 2332A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
(Considered non-sub., see 7/12. Position 36-03N.,  
5.52 W. (D.S.824.)

/By A/C's.....

War Diary.6.12.1941.  
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. Contd.By A/C's  
5-6/12.

- (1) A/S Operations 5/6 Dec.  
At 1831A/5 Swordfish sighted periscope and oil track in position 264° Sparte1 12' course 100°. Attacked with depth charges, large oil patch 300 yards across appeared subsequently.
- (2) No sighting or contact during night of 5/6.
- (3) At 1238A/6. Catalina sighted S/M on surface in 36.19N., 08.50 W., course 130° S/M dived and was attacked with four depth charges. No results seen.
- (4) At 1545A/6 Catalina sighted S/M on surface in 36.45N., 09.25W., course 305° S/M dived and was attacked with depth charges. No results seen.
- (5) Destroyer preceded by Catalina sweeps to Westward in vicinity of 36° N., to about 9° W. (F.O.C.N.A., 2314A/6, to Admty.)

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Great Britain declared war on Finland, Hungary and Rumania at 0101 B.S.T. today.

Hostilities commenced today between Japan and the British Commonwealth, U.S.A. and Netherlands.

At 2143A the Admiralty ordered the commencement at once of hostilities against Japan.

HOME COMMANDS.

It is believed that 5 Enemy Z-class Destroyers, some probably carrying Mines, together with one or two E-Boat Flotillas are now in northern Norwegian waters; and 8 Junker 88 aircraft were reported today in the White Sea approaches.

BERWICK arrived at Kirkwall from the North, ONSLOW arrived in Iceland, and OFFA at Scapa.

NORFOLK returned to Iceland at 1550 from the Denmark Strait Patrol where she found much ice.

C. in C. Nore has ordered that, from tomorrow, 2 Fleet Minesweepers are to meet the northbound Convoy at 51 Buoy and sweep ahead of it to 5 Buoy, where they are to await the southbound Convoy and sweep it similarly to 51 Buoy. When possible, also, one of the escorting Destroyers is to operate her S.A. gear.

Subsequent to O.N.45 the sailing of ships for Iceland (C) in O.N. Convoys is to be discontinued and these ships will be sailed from Loch Ewe in separate convoys, designated U.R., with trawler escorts, the cycle being 5 days. The return convoy from Iceland to U.K. will be designated R.U.

Enemy Air Operations.

An enemy R/C aircraft flew over Archangel and Dvina Estuary today. S.N.O. Archangel reports that A.A. fire was "pitiful" and the Russian aircraft could not go up as their oil was frozen. The safety of our merchant vessels under these conditions is seriously jeopardised.

/S.S. AELYBRYN ...

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations - contd.

S.S. AELYBRYN was attacked at 1300 today 20 miles West of Girdleness whilst driven eastward by gale, causing her to lose touch with Convoy E.N.16. The ship was undamaged and had one casualty.

A fire was started by incendiaries near Grimsby Docks at 1910 today, but the attack failed to develop and there are no reports of H.E.

Mining.

There are indications that minelaying from surface craft and E-boat operations based on northern Norwegian or Finnish ports against our ships in North Russia may shortly commence. The Admiralty have asked S.B.N.O. Murmansk what help the Russians are likely to give.

In Convoy F.N571 the British GREENLAND, 1281 Tons, was mined and sunk off Cromer at 0025A today, and at 1217 the British WELSH PRINCE, 5000 Tons in the same convoy was mined off No.59 Buoy and, having submerged by the bows, will probably become a total loss.

One Red Mine was detonated today by Trawlers in the Bristol Channel, where the British SEVERN TRANSPORT, 119 Tons, struck a Mine outside the swept channel; and 9 magnetic Mines were exploded in the war channels off the Humber.

South Atlantic.

Merchant ships have been warned that survivors, probably armed, from the German raider sunk on 1/12 are believed to be in about 15 boats, probably accompanied by U-boats. If seen they are to be given a very wide berth and reported by W/T. There are D/F indications that 2 or more U-boats are proceeding northwards from the raider's position.



War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Naples was again bombed by Wellingtons last night and fires were started in the dock area, west of the railway station and the marshalling yards.

Naval Albacores last night dropped 250 lb. bombs including a proportion of delay fuses up to 36 hours in Bardia harbour, to interfere with its suspected use by enemy small shipping. Malta was raided by about 18 enemy aircraft last night without damage.

FLAMINGO was hit by A/C in the engine room at 1700B today in 32.16 N., 24.21 E. after 2 attacks, and was taken in tow by YARRA, (she eventually reached Tobruk.)

TRUANT secured hits on an Italian merchant ship of the RAMB class entering Suda Bay at 0848 today.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

Convoy A.T.1 has been unloaded and sailed, and A.T.2 has arrived at Tobruk.

CHANTALA, armed boarding vessel, was mined in harbour at Tobruk at 1740 today and sank later.

The 2nd S.A. Division reported a large scale movement of enemy troops seawards from Halfaya Escarpment today, and it was thought they might be attempting an evacuation by sea tonight.

APHIS successfully bombarded a road 13 miles west of Tobruk for  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours last night.

East Indies.

QUEEN MARY was ordered by the Admiralty at 2338A/7 to be detained at Trincomalee pending further instructions from C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Japanese submarines are expected in the Indian Ocean.

/At ...

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - contd.

At 2140Z C. in C. E.I. ordered merchant ships in area 3 to seek refuge in port. (But see 8/12.)

China.

It is reported in the Press that Imperial Headquarters Tokyo announced p.m. today that Japan had entered into a state of war with Great Britain and the U.S.A. in the Western Pacific.

C. in C. E.F. Adm. Phillips arrived back at Singapore at 0230Z/7. Admty. have asked for an early report on the agreement reached with C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

Japanese Convoys. No further contact with the Japanese Convoys reported yesterday has been made. Visibility is reported as poor. One Catalina operating off S.W. Coast Cambodia has made no report and is now overdue. A Hudson which reported a cruiser and transport in 08° N., 102.30 E. at 1835/6 was fired at.

Instructions to shipping. At 1822Z today merchant ships in area 4 were instructed to seek refuge in port; at 2042Z these instructions were extended to ships in area 3B.

PETEREL. At 1151Z/7 C. in C. China informed S.O.I. Shanghai that Admty. had no objection to the discontinuance of the river gunboat PETEREL as W/T link, and asked him to arrange for her towage if possible to Hong Kong. According to Press reports, however, PETEREL was sunk by a Japanese battery on the south bank of Whangpo River early today.

/Shanghai ...

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - contd.

Shanghai.

Press messages state that after sinking PETEREL Japanese marines stormed into the International Settlement and seized control, setting up machine gun posts at all road crossings.

Landing at  
Kota Bharu.

It was reported at 1746Z/7 that an attempted landing at Kota Bharu, 06° N., 102° 10' E., in the N.E. corner of Federated Malay States was being made from 3 or 5 ships. (See 8/12.)

Singapore  
Raided.

Singapore Island was raided by 18 aircraft at 2030Z/7. There was no damage to ships or naval establishments. (See 8/12.)

At 2247Z C. in C. E.I. was ordered to send REVENGE to Colombo at best speed and EXETER was ordered at 2249Z to leave her convoy and proceed at best speed to Singapore.

Philippines.

A U.S. submarine is claimed by the Japanese to have been sunk at Palawan today and a 15000 ton Transport in Manila Bay.

America and West Indies.

In consequence of the loss of 2 battleships and heavy casualties to aircraft at Hawaii by Japanese attack today the U.S.C.N.O. is considering transferring back from the Atlantic to the Pacific 3 battleships of MISSISSIPPI class, A/C carrier YORKTOWN, 9 destroyers and 36 patrol planes. The Pacific Fleet has now only 6 effective battleships, the U.S.C.N.O. considers that the proposed transfer of destroyers will only slightly if at all affect the strength of escorts with H.X. convoys, since 5 destroyers are now operating with the MISSISSIPPI class battleships and 4 are working with YORKTOWN.

/Survivors ...

ON which day did the Pacific War begin—Sunday, Dec. 7, or Monday, Dec. 8? By striking the opening blows on both sides of the International Date Line almost simultaneously Japan has put historians in a dilemma.

Pearl Harbour was attacked at 7.55 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, Dec. 7, by local (Hawaiian) time. At Washington (Eastern Standard Time) it was then 1.25 p.m. and in London 6.25 p.m. (G.M.T.).

In Malaya the Japanese landed at Kota Bahru at 1.30 a.m. (Malayan time) on Monday, Dec. 8, and bombed Singapore at 4.15 a.m. According to London these attacks took place on Sunday evening, Dec. 7, Kota Bahru being invaded at 6.10 p.m. and Singapore bombed at 8.55 p.m.

When Pearl Harbour was attacked it was 1.45 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 8, in Singapore. When Malaya was invaded it was 7.40 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, in Pearl Harbour.

### **Juggle with Time**

By Tokyo time 15 minutes elapsed between the attack on Kota Bahru at 3.10 a.m. and the attack on Pearl Harbour at 3.25 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 8.

From these simple facts it is clear that the attack on Malaya actually preceded that on Pearl Harbour by 15 minutes. Yet by the local calendar's date Pearl Harbour was attacked on the 7th and Malaya on the 8th.

By metropolitan time in London and Washington both attacks occurred on the 7th, though by metropolitan time in Tokyo both attacks were launched on the 8th.

One day the Japanese will probably argue from this that we were the aggressors.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. contd.

Survivors  
from  
DUNEDIN.

From 67 survivors of DUNEDIN landed at Trinidad by American NISHMAHA, it appears that the cruiser was struck by 2 torpedoes at 1326 G.M.T./24/11 in 3° N., 26° W., and listed 35° within 5 minutes. The first torpedo wrecked the main W/T office, so that no distress signal was received.

WINDFLOWER.

Corvette WINDFLOWER was sunk after a collision in fog with S.S. ZYPENBERG at 1250Z today in 46.19 N., 49.30 (or 42) W. ZYPENBERG was damaged and NASTURTIUM was also damaged whilst in attendance on the wreck.

New Zealand.

U.S.A. at  
War with  
Japan.

Opnav reported at 1925 today that hostilities with Japan commenced with an air raid on Pearl Harbour at 1830Z. Considerable damage appears to have been caused and there are reported to be 3000 casualties, half of them fatal. It is stated that the old, modernised battleships OKLAHOMA capsized and TENNESSEE caught fire; one destroyer in dock was blown up and another set on fire. A minelayer also was set on fire. Airfields were attacked and damage was caused. Japanese submarines and aircraft were attacked and one submarine and at least 2 aircraft are reported to have been destroyed. U.S. Forces proceeded to sea with aircraft carriers.

On 15/12 the U.S. Secretary of the Navy reported that the warship losses were as follows:-  
Sunk: battleship ARIZONA; 3 destroyers CASSIN, DOWNES, SHAW; minelayer OGLALA, target ship UTAH.  
Capsized but can be righted, battleship OKLAHOMA.

U-Boat Campaign.

Catalina A/C attacked a U/B in 36.04 N., 07.33 W. with depth charges at 0140/7 and estimated one hit.

Fulmar A/C attacked with machine guns a U/B at 1240/7 in position 230° Spartel 25.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CONQUEROR.

CONQUEROR has been allocated to A.C.O.S. for duty in the Faeroes area. On conclusion of special trials at Clyde she is to be sailed as requested by A.C.O.S. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1334A/7). *See next page*

RODNEY.  
RENOWN.

Your 2301/5. Approved. (1st S.L. 1550A/7 to C. in C. H.F.) *See p. 127*

Ships for service with H.F.

My 2335A/5. Ships allocated are to be stored and victualled to capacity. Particular regard should be paid to sea stock victualling as fresh meat and vegetable supplies are unlikely to be available. 2. C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for H.F. ships. (D. of P. 1737A/7).

Japan.

Commence hostilities against Japan at once. (1st Lord 2143A/7) (A Message, Home and Abroad, 888A).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian convoy.

Russian Convoy of 5 M/V's escorted by 2 Russian Minesweepers left Archangel 1600C today, speed of advance 8 knots. From Terskyslantorlov they will steer for Kanin Yields. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1706C/6 to SHEFFIELD, 1st M/S F.)

Russian help with Convoys.

There are indications that minelaying from surface craft and E-boat operations based on Northern Norwegian or Finnish ports may shortly commence. It is therefore under consideration to invite the Russian naval authorities to accept more responsibility for the safety of P.Q. and Q.P. convoys in the vicinity of the northern Russian ports. Request you will signal your views on the assistance we might reasonably hope to obtain from the Russian naval forces based on the Kola Inlet and the White Sea. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1820A/7 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

/A/C.....

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia-Contd.

A/C over Archangel.

An enemy R/C aircraft flew over Archangel and Dvina Estuary today and presumably took photographs of loading and discharging berths, M/V's, and LENIN. A.A. fire was pitiful and (? no) Russian fighter aircraft in support of ground owing, it is stated, to oil being frozen. 8 German bombers were also reported in the neighbourhood of Gorodetski about 50 miles distant from P.Q.5. Safety of our merchant vessels both in port and at sea is under these conditions seriously jeopardized and you may consider it a fitting moment to represent to Russians your concern that no interception or counter-attack was operative. Admiralty pass to S.N.O. North Russia. (S.N.O. Archangel 2200C/7 to Ad. Miles).

Movements.

GOSSAMER.

GOSSAMER hove to in 066° 15' N. 004° 12' W. in Northerly gale and low visibility since 0130A/7. Russian merchant ship apparently continuing on course 185°. Whereabouts of HUSSAR not known. (GOSSAMER 0850A/7).

P.41.

Intend to sail P.41 for Clyde 1500A/9. E.T.A. 1100A/10. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1053A/7).

HUSSAR.

GOSSAMER's 0850A/7. Approx. position 065° 26' N. 005° 40' W. No ships in sight. Oil fuel remaining 40%. Course and speed 180°, 10 knots. (HUSSAR 1130A/7). Have had to heave to under hand steering twice to free jammed steering engine. Intend remaining hove to in approx. 064° 24' N. 005° 45' W. until weather moderates and more accurate position obtained. Last fix 1100/5. Request if possible D/F bearing from a ship in harbour. Weather unchanged starless. Keeping stability by flooding tanks. (HUSSAR 1815A/7).

CONQUEROR.

Sheerness arrival CONQUEROR at 1205. (C. in C. Nore 1230A/7). *See previous page*

ONSLow.

Arrived 0845. (A.C.I.C. 1311N/7).

/SHEFFIELD.....

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

SHEFFIELD.  
HAZARD.  
HEBE.

*(Murman'sk)*  
E.T.A. 1030C/8 HAZARD and HEBE in company. Your 2114C/30. Intend to pass M.Z. at 0600C/8 on course 280° speed 10 knots. Request Group X.2200 to 2400, and Group Y and R 0400 to 0900. (SHEFFIELD 1332C/7 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

BERWICK.

Kirkwall arrival. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1354A/7).

P.38.

S.5's 1407A/6. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1616A/7).

WALKER.

1. My 1408A/6 and 1153A/7. Intend to sail WALKER from Needles 0930/8 for Barrow routed Q.Z.S. 293 and 180° Start and Lizard 5' and thence by standard routes. Speed 20 knots weather permitting till dark then 18 knots. E.T.A. 1230/9. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1743A/7). *See also p.194*

NORMAN.

A.M. 1119A/7. Intend sailing NORMAN for Southampton passing Clyde Boom 0930A/8, routed by Irish Sea standard route as modified by C. in C. W.A. 1257A/2/10 thence by Q.Z.S. 292 180° Lizard 6 miles, 180° Start Point 9 miles Q.Z.S. 293 and 284. E.T.A. Needles 1200A/9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1756A/7). *See also p.193.*

OFFA.

Scapa arrival 1053 OFFA. (A.C.O.S. 1802/7).

KENT.

*N.T. in W.D.*  
Your 1116A/7th. Intend following route. *(to Murman'sk)*  
Speed of advance 18 knots. E.T.A. 1100C/12. Approaching position M.Z. on course 238° 18 knots. Request following lights and D/F beacons. Request any information concerning shipping or (? Units) likely to be encountered. (KENT 2001A/7 to C. in C. H.F. Passed to SHEFFIELD, M.S.1.)

Operations.

Iceland-  
Faroes  
Patrol.  
(CUMBERLAND.)

My 1023A/6. Para. D. Postpone until further orders. (C. in C. H.F. 1006A/7).

/Operation....



War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.

Operation  
"Anklet".  
(Raid on  
Lofoten Is.  
Norway.)

Your 0019/6. Ships provisionally selected for operation "Anklet".

ARETHUSA, SOMALI, TARTAR, MATABELE, ASHANTI, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK.

(C. in C. H.F. 1228A/7).

A.M. 1603A/26 and A.M. 2335A/5 and C. in C. Plymouth's 1340/27.

PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE speed 22 knots carrying military personnel are required to leave Clyde to arrive Scapa A.M. 17/12.

2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail KRAKOWIAK and KUJAWIAK to arrive Clyde 15/12 to provide escort.

3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships as necessary to comply with para. 1.

(D.O.D. H. 1307A/7).

A.M. 1603A/26 and A.M. 2335A/5, and C. in C. Portsmouth 1027A/29.

GUDRUN MAERSK carrying stores and ammunition will be ready to leave Liverpool for Scapa p.m. 14/12. Speed 13½ knots.

C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail PUCKERIDGE to Liverpool to provide escort as required by C. in C. W.A.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ships as necessary to arrive Scapa a.m. 17/12.

(D.O.D. H. 1336A/7).

(a) TIGRIS detailed for operation "Anklet" orders for which will be issued at Scapa by R.A. (D) H.F.

(b) TIGRIS is to leave Holy Loch 10/12 for Scapa and on arrival there will come under the orders of R.A. (D) H.F.

(c) TIGRIS to be prepared to be absent U.K. from date of leaving Scapa about 15/12 till about 26/1 by which date she must arrive Newcastle for refit.

(d) No base facilities after leaving U.K. except fuel. If more torpedoes required TIGRIS will be ordered to return to Dundee for them.

(F.O.S. 2222A/7 to Capt. S.J.)

Exercise  
L.4.

Your 1750/6. Concur providing that landing craft allocations for current operations, as arranged by V.A.C.T.C., are not interfered with.

2. Above is however subject to the same ships not being required for an operational exercise starting on 12/12. Final decision cannot be given until 9/12. (E.P.S. 1300A/7 to C.Q.2.)

/Denmark.....

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.Denmark  
Straits  
Patrol.

On 6/12 there was a 40 mile clear passage off minefield but at 0130Z/7 NORFOLK ran into heavy loose ice just forming in calm weather in position 067° 22' N. 024° 50' W. and had to return to North Eastward. Any gale likely to clear passage again. On 4/12 edge of thick ice was North of 067° 37' N. 028° W. NORFOLK has patrolled short beat in or near gap. (C.S.1. 1452Z/7 to SUFFOLK).

Unknown  
operation.

My 2221/5 and 1244/7. <sup>"Review"</sup>~~REVIEW~~ returned to harbour owing to sea conditions. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1536/7 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

NORFOLK.

C.S. One in NORFOLK arrived 1550. (A.C.I.C. 1653N/7).

Combined  
Exercise.

Following from Adviser on Combined Operations. Begins PRINCE LEOPOLD 1412A/6. Suggest this request be granted. (Ends). (Adviser on Combined Ops. 1547A/7 to V.A. C.T.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.White  
Sea.

8 JU. 88 reported in the vicinity of Gorodetski. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1300C/7 to SHEFFIELD, BRAMBLE).

A/C over  
Archangel.

Enemy R/C plane over Archangel 1300C today. (?Russian) A.A. fire poor. No Russian fighters went up owing to (?frozen) oil. 8 Junkers 88 reported vicinity of Gorodetski 1300C today. Admiralty pass to S.N.O. North (? Russia). (S.N.O. Archangel 1836C/7 to Adty.)

Mining.Convoy  
F.N.571.  
GREENLAND  
(British,  
1281 Tons)  
sunk.

GREENLAND sank after floating for 4 hours in position 055° 13' 54" N. 2° 6' E. Proceeding Yarmouth with 13 survivors. Am informed 4 men adrift in ship's life boat but cannot find them. They may have been picked up by convoy. (LADY PHILOMENA 0025A/7).

Tug DIVERSION landed thirteen survivors from GREENLAND. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth 0745/7).

/Ship's.....

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Convoy  
F.N.571.  
GREENLAND  
(British,  
1281 Tons)  
sunk,  
- Contd.

Ship's boat with 4 men reported in 052° 16' 30" N. 002° 09' 30" E. Detach escort vessel to pick them up. LYSANDER is at position. (C. in C. Nore 0905A/7 to WALLACE).  
GREENLAND with F.N.571 was damaged presumably by mine near 54C buoy at about 1830/6 and sank later. (C. in C. Nore 1025A/7).  
My 1025A. Four survivors picked up from ship's boat by KITTIWAKE proceeding Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1429A/7).

Convoy  
F.N.571.  
WELSH PRINCE  
(British,  
5000 Tons)  
damaged.

WELSH PRINCE mined 5 cables 110° from 59 Buoy. Have survivors on board. Ship has both anchors down remaining afloat. Request tugs immediately. Am standing by. (MALLARD 1217A/7).  
Departure Tug SABINE at 1455 to assist WELSH PRINCE. (F.O. Humber 1535A/7).  
Your 1450A/7. Remain with WELSH PRINCE. Salvage officer will be sent in 2nd tug. (C. in C. Nore 1557A/7 to MALLARD).  
WELSH PRINCE in F.N.571 mined 5 cables 110° from 59 buoy, now has fore part aground in 53° 23' 40" N. 00° 58' 55" E. Ship probably total loss. Entire crew of 49 on board MALLARD will be landed at Humber. Six of crew have minor injuries. (C. in C. Nore 2239A/7).

SEVERN  
TRANSPORT  
(British,  
119 Tons.)

L Mined in about 51° 27' N. 3° 4' W. Ship out of swept channel. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1701A/7).

Bristol  
Channel.

Exploded red double L at 1550A/7 080° distant 1.1 miles from Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1732A/7).

Humber.

Following nine magnetic mines detonated to-day by L.L. Trawlers. Details. (F.O. Humber 2147A/7).

East  
Coast  
Channel.

Commencing tomorrow and continuing daily till further orders two fleet minesweepers are to meet the Northbound convoy at 51 Buoy and sweep S.A. ahead of it to 5 buoy, where they are to await the arrival of the Southbound convoy and similarly sweep it to 51 buoy. On days when there is no northbound or no southbound convoy appropriate arrangements are to be made to sweep that convoy which is running.  
(2) Sweepers are to be in line abreast two cables apart and at least 3 cables ahead of leading ships of convoy and at least 1 mile astern of destroyer in position "V" (N.O.M.44).  
(3) Destroyer in position "V" should operate S.A. gear when practicable. (C. in C. Nore 2310A/7).

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Force in  
North  
Norwegian  
waters.

Please pass following in S.P. 02352 (26) Begins:-  
Addressed SHEFFIELD, S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla from  
C. in C. H.F. Intelligence indicates that there  
is now a total of 5 Z class destroyers, some  
probably carrying mines, together with one or 2 E  
boat flotillas in north Norwegian area. T.O.O.  
1859A/7. Ends. (C. in C. H.F. 1902A/7 to Adty.)

Technical.

Signals  
compromised.

Key Memoranda S.P's 02292K, 02293K, 02295K, are  
probably compromised up to midnight/9.  
(D.S.D. 1246/7).

Casualties and Defects.

LEVERNBANK  
(Grounded  
6/12)

My 1316A/6. Ship refloated.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 0022A/7)  
LEVERNBANK anchored 2 cables east of Fisher Point  
Buoy. Tug ROMSEY unable to shift her until  
weather moderates. List considerably reduced  
by flooding starboard deep tank. Anticipate she  
should remain safe until arrival of RANGER.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1431A/7).  
My 1555A/7. RANGER cannot arrive Loch Ewe before  
11/12.  
FREEBOOTER is to return to Loch Ewe as soon as  
propeller has been cleared to stand by  
LEVERNBANK until arrival of RANGER. (F.O.I.C.  
Greenock 1717A/7).

Convoy  
O.N.C.43.  
Ship on  
fire.

Following received from Wick radio begins:-  
Intercepted at 2311 G.M.T. from O.N.C. 43.  
S.O.S. NR 53 ship on fire. No. 4 hold ends.  
(Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0025/7).  
Following received. 53 from 45. Rescue Ship  
proceeding your assistance at utmost speed (cor-  
rupt group). What is situation.  
(Wick Radio 0027/7).  
S.O.S. - N.R. 53 - ship on fire No. 4 hold,  
bearing approx. 352° from Malin Head. (C. in C.  
W.A. 0121/7 to BROKE).

BURDENNA IV.  
(Grounded  
6/12).

My 1011A/6. Refloated and holed in number 2  
hold. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0917A/7).

NORMAN.

Request you sail NORMAN as soon as possible for  
Southampton to be taken in hand for boiler defects.  
(D.O.D. H. 1119A/7 to C. in C. W.A.) See p 189

/WALKER.....

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects-Contd.WALKER.

My 1107A/2 and 1408A/6. WALKER delayed by minor engine defects. Intend to sail 8/12 for Barrow and onward orders for Londonderry. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1153A/7). *See p-189*

WHITEHALL.

WHITEHALL has condenser trouble and is proceeding on starboard engine only. My P.C.S. at 1345A/7, 047° N. 014° 20' W., 187°, 13 knots. (WHITEHALL 1402A/7).

SABOR.

SABOR steering gear broken down near Sunk Light Float. Request tug immediately. TURQUOISE standing by. (VERDUN 1744A/7).  
Departure Tug KENIA to assist SABOR. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1840A/7).  
Arrival tug KENIA. Assistance not required. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2041A/7).

SAUTERNES  
(British,  
1049 Tons).

My 1610/7. Latest report appears to indicate that SAUTERNES was seen sinking at 1530/7 near Svino and raft seen drifting into Fuglo Fiord. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1810/7 to M.S.4).

Shipping and Convoys.W.S.14.

Your 1650/4. As a special case SILVERWALNUT may be included in W.S.14. (1st S.L. 1114A/7 to N.C.S.O. Mersey)  
A.M. 0108A/26. SILVERWALNUT carrying Government stores and explosives to Singapore, speed 14½ knots, will sail with Liverpool section of W.S.14. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1616A/7)

P.Q.6.

Sailing of P.Q. convoy would be expedited if arrival of ~~SKYRACK~~, ~~FRESHET~~, and P.L.M.14 could be hastened. (A.C.I.C. 1151N/7).

*x not identified.*

Convoys  
UR and  
RU.

Subsequent to O.N.45 the sailing of ships for Iceland (C) in O.N. convoys is to be discontinued. These ships are to be sailed from Loch Ewe in separate convoys with trawler escorts as arranged by C. in C. W.A.

2. Convoys from U.K. to Iceland will be designated UR, those from Iceland to U.K., R.U. Cycle will be every 5 days commencing with UR one on 13/12.

3. RU convoys are to be sailed from Iceland 48 hours after arrival of UR convoy. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2032A/7).

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

P.35.

My 1545A/5. Intend to transfer control of P.35 as follows: operational to F.O.C.N.A. - 2359A/14 administrative to Capt. (S) 10 - 7/12. (Capt. S.9., 0745Z/7 to F.O.C.N.A., Capt. S.10).

OLYMPUS.

Your 2235A/6 approved except do not cross 004°40' W., before 0800/10 thence proceed on surface. Shift to Gibraltar broadcast and M.S. routine. (F.O.C.N.A., 0908A/7 to OLYMPUS).

French Shipping.

Passings 6/12. French Westward FORT DE DOUAUMONT, STRASBOURGEOIS, MAROC, THISBE, all full MONT CASSEL, AUGUSTE DENISE. Eastward TROPIQUE, THESEE, MONTAIGNE, PORT DE BOUC all full. (V.A.C.N.A., 0919A/7 to Admty for M.E.W.) French convoy of 4 ships and one armed trawler passed Gibraltar eastbound 1500/6. (F.O.C.N.A., 0936A/7 to CLYDE).

O.21.

Your 2153A/4 understood and passed to Netherlands Sub. O.21 who has been routed through L, 043° 00' N., 013° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1038A/7 to F.O.S.)

AUDACITY.

Your 1228A/6 para. (iii). In view of AUDACITY 1930A/6 request information whether operational capabilities of AUDACITY are now impaired or whether ship can operate till spares are fitted in U.K. C.S. Gibraltar 2120A/5 not received by C. in C. W.A. (C. in C. W.A., 1057A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.) My 1228A/6 and your 1658A/(?6). In view of present situation as regards U-boats and increase in shore based aircraft considered it better for AUDACITY to remain at Gibraltar. Air support to Convoy being supplied by shore-based aircraft. (F.O.C.N.A., 1602A/7 to Admty).

HARVESTER,  
HESPERUS.

My 1024/7 (N.T. in W.D.) HARVESTER, HESPERUS sailed. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/7 to Admty, C. in C. W.A. Escort of O.G.77).

/FORTUNE...

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

FORTUNE.

Admty 2216/3 para. (a) FORTUNE, has engine defects which will be completed by 9/12 and has carried out no practice of any sort since commissioned on 22/11. (ii) Propose if C. in C. Med., concurs that FORTUNE joins group 2 and in the meantime every endeavour will be made to work the ship up. (S.O. Force H., 1146A/7 to Admty, C. in C. Med). Replies, 1510/8 from Admty 1241/8 from C. in C. Med.

JAY.

Situation report No. 2. JAY expected to sail from Fayal 7th through 20.00., 21.00.7. Situation 2004A/7. (F.O.C.N.A., 1418A/7 to N.A. Stn).

Destroyers.

A.M. 2216/3 and A.M. 1457A/7. Group 1 destroyers referred to in A.M. 2216A/3 should be sailed for Mediterranean not later than 11/12. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1704A/7 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med., etc).

Trials.

Your 1234A/4 to D. of S.T. (N.T. in W.D.) Particulars of trials are included in decisions of Chiefs of Staff 313rd Meeting on Joint Planning paper No. 715 dated 2/9/1941, copy of which was taken to Gibraltar by Governor's Staff Officer. Request you will consult Governor. 2. F.O. Force H., was consulted in the compilation of this paper when he was in U.K. (D.O.D. (F), 1738A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 1015Z/3. ROYAL SOVEREIGN reports she requires five days for boiler cleaning at Durban. (C. in C. S.A., 0213Z/7 to C. in C. E.F.)

EOLO (Spanish).

S.O.(I) Montevideo 2026/3. Propose to divert EOLO if met to Freetown for examination unless considered politically undesirable. (C. in C. S.A., 0315Z/7 to Admty) Reply 1710/8.

MALINES.

Capetown departure 1650 G.M.T./6 MALINES for Durban S. of A. 10 knots, E.T.A. 1000 G.M.T./9. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0948Z/7 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DORSETSHIRE.

Simonstown arrived (0730?) G.M.T./7 DORSETSHIRE. Due to leak in port outer manoeuvring valve ship will be at 24 hours notice for steam from 1000 G.M.T./7 to 1000 G.M.T./10 and then at 8 hours notice until 1000 G.M.T./11. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0953Z/7 to Admtly etc).

ASTURIAS.

Arrived Montevideo 1330G.M.T./5, anticipated time of departure 1300 G.M.T./7. Stores details. (ASTURIAS, 1135Z/7 to R.A.S.A.D. C. in C. S.A.)

BRILLIANT,  
DEVONSHIRE.

Leave patrol and return to Freetown now. (C. in C. S.A., 1147Z/7 to Ships named).

W.S.12 X.

A.T.1629A/2. W.S.12 X. is now due to arrive Capetown noon G.M.T./9. (D.O.D. (F) 1206A/7 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A.)

ALBATROSS.

My 2011N/17/11. <sup>NT. W.D.</sup> Request early information when and how spares for ALBATROSS Diesel Dynamo mentioned in your 0604/29/11 were despatched. As repairs to Steam Dynamo cannot be undertaken either at Gibraltar or Lagos Ship is practically immobilized and I do not consider she should undertake the long Sea passage to either Simonstown or U.K. with only one Dynamo in action (C. in C. S.A., 1207Z/7 to Admtly).

\* NT. W.D.

ALCANTARA.

Your 0015Z/6 approved. (C. in C. S.A., 1240Z/7 to ALCANTARA).

Survivors of  
German  
Raider.

Survivors probably armed from a German ship sunk in 027° 53' S., 003° 55' W., on 1/12 are believed to be in about 15 boats. They are probably in company with one another and accompanied by U-boat or U-boats. If seen they are to be given very wide berth and reported as soon as possible by W/T. (C. in C. S.A., 1250/7 to G.B.M.S.6A. G.B.M.S.9).

ECHODALE.

Cancel my 1216N/6. Proceed towards 005° S., 010° W. Further orders follow. (C. in C. S.A., 1254Z/7 to ECHODALE).

/ANTWERP...



War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ANTWERP.

My 1606Z/6. ANTWERP routed through (a) 029° 20' S., 033° 40' E., (b) 024° 10' 037° (c) 019°, 039° (d) 016°, 041° 30' (e) 011° 50', 042° 10' (f) 006°, 041° thence to Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1532Z/7 to Admty).

HOXA.

Sailed HOXA, S. of A. 9 knots, E.T.A. Mombasa A.M./16 routed as in my 1400Z/19/5. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1620Z/7 to Admty etc).

BIRMINGHAM's  
A/Cs.

Both BIRMINGHAM's aircraft are unserviceable with hull beyond ship's repair. In view of great importance of air R/C and A/S patrol request Walrus aircraft (?replacement) on arrival Simonstown. If none available from shore suggest you might consider following possibility.

- (1) Transfer of Walrus from DORSETSHIRE to BIRMINGHAM.
- (2) Employment of ASTURIAS if she has a serviceable aircraft. She could arrive St. Helena area by about 13th.
- (3) Should an opportunity occur, the employment of DEVONSHIRE in St. Helena area while BIRMINGHAM proceeds Freetown to embark a Walrus.
- (4) Embarkation Swordfish which can be operated with limitation in BIRMINGHAM.

Request you order oiler ARNDALE to withdraw temporarily if desired.

My position 1700Z/7 028° 50' S., 002° 00' W., course 112° S. of A. 18 knots.

(R.A.S.A.D., 1743Z/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

U-boats and  
Supply  
Ships.

There are D/F indications 2 or more U-boats are proceeding Northwards from position of raider (?sunk by) DORSETSHIRE on 1/12. These may well have survivors boat in tow and be making for R/V with another supply ship coming from North. S. of A. might be 120 miles a day. (C. in C. S.A., 1745Z/7 to CANTON).

2  
Vichy  
Officers.

For 5 months negotiations have been going on for exchange of two Vichy Officers reported in my 1355/15/6/41 for Lts. Crabbe and Easton with no result. Propose to send these two Vichy Officers to U.K. by next opportunity. (C. in C. S.A., 1843Z/7 to Admty).

→ CANTON.

Cancel my 1241/6/12. Proceed to patrol area I 35 A on 10/12. (C. in C. S.A., 2013/7 to CANTON)

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.CHESHIRE.

My 1230Z/26/9 and 1730Z/27/9 to C. in C. S.A. also my 1120Z/6/10 and 1305/6/10 to C.S.18. Re reduction of speed on passage. CHESHIRE has now dry docked.\* No external damage discovered. Coating tiny barnacles on propeller blade and ships bottom. Request information if available about speed ? experienced other A.M.C. after prolonged stay at Freetown. (CHESHIRE, 2045/7 to C. in C. S.A.) N.B. Signals quoted not received in War Registry.

\* at Liverpool.

Mediterranean.Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 0036/7) See Lion Copy.

C.S.7.

(i) Your force was sighted yesterday.  
(ii) Wellington R/C Gulf of Taranto area night 6/7 blank.  
(V.A. Malta, 0847B/7 to C.S.7).  
Return by S.E. passage to Malta forthwith.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1047B/7 to F.O. 7 C.S.)

Movements.

Arrival 6/12 JERVIS, HAVOCK, HERO, ERICA,.  
Departure 6/12 GRIFFIN, HOTSPUR, HOBART, GALATEA, CARLISLE, Gr. S/M NEREUS, DELPHINIUM, THORN, FALK, PROTEA. Arrival 7/12 IERAX, AVON VALE, HEYTHROP, ERIDGE,\* SOUTHERN WAVE, FARNDALE, THORGRIM. Departure 7/12 PRIMULA.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1115B/7 to A.I.G.74).

\* See p. 142  
(SOUTHERN WAVE & U.K. Red Int.)A/C  
attack.

Enemy A/C bombing. Bearing 174° 36° N., 19° E., course 200° speed 21 knots.  
(C.S.7., 1135/7 to Malta W/T)  
(?1) Enemy aircraft bombing. Bearing 284 F.19. (Call 2 YJQ, 1150/7 to Alexandria).  
Enemy A/C bombing, position 201 36° N., 19° E. 61 course 234, speed 27 knots.  
(C.S., 7., 1330B/7 to Alexandria W/T).

/Enemy....

**MOST SECRET**

199A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 0036/7th December

IN

From C. in C. Middle East.  
CIPHER.

Date 7.12.41  
Time 0835

Addressed War Office. (Pass to Air Ministry).

Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

17188. 0/35027 cipher 6/12 Most Secret.

COSITREP No.36.

1. 5th Dec. Patrol from Tobruk penetrated 2 miles south El Duda without encountering opposition.

2. 22 Guards Bde. ordered to Pt. 180 410372. 11 Ind Bde. believed now to be in area 410370.

3. Column from 1 S.A. Bde. four miles east Bir El Gubi attacked night 5/6th from east by a force including 2 tanks and 100 M.T. One tank knocked out M.T. dispersed north and west.

4. Morning 6th Dec. Air reports tanks near Sidi Rezegh at head of large column moving west.

AIR

5. Day 4th Dec. Bomber. Blenheims bombed small motor vessel one hundred miles north east Derna. Ship left burning fiercely. Schooner in vicinity also attacked unsuccessfully.

6. Day 5th Dec. Bomber two Maryland Squadrons bombed enemy M.T. near El Adem. Bombs burst among groups of six tanks and twenty tank carriers in which tanks were being loaded. Damage believed considerable. Large building demolished at El Adem.

0036/7.

Recd. from War Office a.m./7th.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.N.I., D.D.I.C.

War Office Circulation:-

S. of S.	D.N.I.	C.A.S.(A.M.)(2)
C.I.G.S.	D.D.M.I.(1)	D. of S.Plans (A.M.)(2)
V.C.I.G.S.	M.I.3.14.	Plans (3) (A.M.)(2) A.C.A.S.(I)A.M.
D.H.O. & P.	D.A.F.V.	D.O.O.(A.M.) A.M.War Room.
D.D.M.O.(0)	Cabinet War Rm.	D.M.C.(A.M.)S. of S.(F.O.)
D.P.(2)	D.C.Admiralty.	P.S. to S. of S. Duty Offr.
M.I.1.5.6.	Col.Jacob (Cabinet	(A.M.)(2) (Upper Admiralty
D.D.I.P.	Offices)	War Room)

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

Duty Group Capt.  
Air Ministry.

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Enemy Units.

Two M/Vs. one destroyer P.C. and S. 035° 08' N., 011° 28' E., course southwards, speed 10 knots. Proceed to intercept. (2) Blenheims attacking today (3) Wellingtons will co-operate. (V.A. Malta, 1145B/7 to F.O. 7 C.S.) Cancel my 1145B/7th. Return to Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1731B/7 to R.A. 7 C.S.)

Air R/C.

Following received from 201 (Begins). 7th C.S. (at sea) Malta A. 137 7/12 Our aircraft searched to a line Sapienza to 205 Sapienza 150 starboard outer limit 1100 hours T.O.O.0929. (R.A. Alexandria, 1215B/7 to 7 C.S.)

M/Vs.  
bombed.

Western Desert day 4/12. 6 Blenheims bombed small merchant vessel about 100 miles N.E. Derna, direct hits caused violent explosion, ship almost stopped and burning fiercely when Blenheims left. Schooner in vicinity also attacked no hits (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1221/7).

Black Sea.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports Military situation Sevastopol satisfactory though town shelled continuously. Certain German Units replaced Bakmouamier by Roumanians.  
2. Enemy digging in on Kerch Peninsula and fortifying coast. No apparent intention at present to cross Straits.  
3. Black Sea Fleet inactive. No further damage.  
4. Tuapse slowly becoming organised as a Base. (Adm. Miles, 1237D/7 to Admty).

U/Bs.  
attacked.

Day 6/12. R/C Blenheims attacked submarine during early afternoon 40 miles N.E. of Mersa Lukk, possible hit also, further submarine about 4 hours later 50 miles N.E. of Mersa Lukk 1 near miss. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1319/7).

P.34.

My 1301B/5. Withdraw to vicinity 036° 00' 016° 00' until 0001B/8. UNBEATEN sails 1800B/7 for Area F and will be clear of swept channel at midnight. (Capt. S.10., 1424B/7 to P.34).

*See also next page.*Hospital  
Ship.

Hospital ship 32.25 N., 25.10 E. (Aircraft No. 203 Sqn. Duty Z. 1425/7, 1500/7 to 201 Group).

/UNBEATEN....

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNBEATEN.

Sails at 1800B/7 for area F.  
(Capt. S.10, 1429B/7 to Capt. S.1).  
UNBEATEN enters area F 0700B/8 to operate in  
vicinity of 037° 50' 015° 44'.  
(Capt. S.10, 1435B/7 to UPRIGHT, UNIQUE)

KONDOURIOTIS.

Intend following programme, to Calcutta.  
(C. in C. Med, 1525B/7).

Enemy  
Units.

2 M/Vs one cruiser 34.40 N., 11.10 (240) 10.  
(Med., A/C L., 1530/7 to Hal Far).

Conduct of  
Fleet.

Admiralty 2308/4 Med., Memo referred to has not  
yet been received. (S.O. Force H., 1559A/7 to  
C. in C. Med). (W.R. Note. Remarks on conduct  
of Fleet at sea. Med., 1709/00239/1 of 23/9  
refers).

S/Ms.

Eastern Mediterranean submarine movements  
summary number 62.

Submarine	Est. noon position, 8/12.	Est. noon position 9/12.
TRUSTY	032° 58', 027° 24'.	Due Alex. A.M./9.
TRIUMPH	034° 50', 022° 52'.	033° 58', 025° 26'.
THRASHER	037° 38', 019° 09'.	035° 50', 020° 40'.
Gr. NEREUS	033° 48', 027° 56'.	034° 40', 026° 16'.

THUNDERBOLT is due Alexandria a.m./8.  
(Capt. S.1., 1601B/7 to Med., Fleet).

Communica-  
tions with  
C.O.S.

For Chiefs of Staff from Cs. in C. Your X.262  
12/11 problem referred to us by M.E.W.C.,  
agreed firstly that channel of communication  
between London and Cairo should be Air Ministry-  
A.O.C. in C. and secondly that inter-service  
committee should be set up to co-ordinate measures  
for concealment and deception against air attack  
in Middle East. This committee would report  
through the joint operational staff to Cs. in C.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1627/7 to Air Min).

YARRA  
bombed.

Am being attacked by enemy aircraft, 14  
aeroplanes, 32.16 N., 24.21 E.  
(YARRA, 1645/7 to Alexandria W/T).

FLAMINGO  
hit.

FLAMINGO badly hit engine room, am standing  
by her. (YARRA, 1700B/7 to Alexandria).

War Diary.

7.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

FALK  
bombed.

Following has been read Addressed Alexandria W/T. From FALK. Am being attacked by enemy aircraft. (? 1730/7).

Enemy A/C.

Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft 31.24 N. 27.43 E. 103 7. (Med., A/C N., 1735/7 to Alexandria W/T).

Night 6/7, 10 Wellingtons 1 C successful attack Royal Arsenal Naples 1829 to 2355 hours. Fires dock area and west of Railway Station. Fires and many heavy white explosions target area and marshalling yards. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1809/7).

CHANTALA.  
Mined.

CHANTALA mined in harbour at 1740. WOLBOROUGH remaining. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 1817B/7 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

→ HEYTHROP,  
AVON VALE.

HEYTHROP and AVON VALE will sail about 2200 to reinforce YARRA, CHANTALA, WOLBOROUGH and are to transfer A.T.3 when convoys cross. (Alexandria, 1833A/7 to S.O. Force I etc).

*Cancelled - See below -*

THUNDERBOLT.

My 1751B/6. THUNDERBOLT position noon/7 should read 033° 22' 027° 54'. (Capt. S.1., 1915B/7 to HOBART, BRECONSHIRE).

Enemy Troops  
Halfaya  
?evacuation.

(Corrupt group) 2nd S.A. Division reports large scale movement (?group omitted) enemy troops from Escarpment Halfaya towards sea today. (Corrupt group) consider possibility of their evacuating (?by sea) tonight. (N.L.O. Benghazi? 2028B/7 to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force I).

→ HEYTHROP,  
AVON VALE.

Cancel my 1833/7. (██████████) HEYTHROP and (?AVON VALE) now sail at 2300 to arrive Mersa Matruh 0600/8. To sail as ordered by S.O. Force I to join YARRA and WOLBOROUGH when sailed or as required. (Alexandria W/T, 2040B/7 to S.O. Force I).

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Situation  
Report 173.\*HOTSPUR )  
GRIFFIN .

BRECONSHIRE, KIMBERLEY and KINGSTON now on passage Malta to Alexandria escorted by HOBART, GALATEA, CARLISLE and \*2 destroyers due A.M./8 KANDAHAR and JAGUAR patrolling off Derna night 6/7 now proceeding to Malta covered by force "B".

(2) Destroyers have patrolled nightly off Derna or Bardia but have not encountered enemy. Greek destroyers now operating from Mersa Matruh for Bardia patrol.

(3) Western Desert. Enemy air effort concentrated today 7th on our shipping. FLAMINGO hit in (?engine) room at 1700/7 in 032° (?16') N., 024° 21' E., (?after) 2 attacks by 5 and (?14) (?aircraft), being towed to (?Tobruk) by YARRA. (?5) attacks on transshipment shipping on (?Tobruk) route by torpedo/bombing aircraft and other aircraft but no further damage reported. CHAKDINA sunk as in my 1756/6. Convoy A.T.1 has been unloaded and sailed. A.T.2. has arrived Tobruk. CHANTALA mined in Tobruk harbour (?today) 7th.

(4) GLENROY has entered Alexandria harbour but not yet docked.

(5) Submarines. My 2130/30 para. 7. P.31 attacked was in 039° 20' N., 017° 33' E., at 1720/29. 3 hits scored considered to be on centre of 3 cruisers which probably sank, but no certain evidence.

(6) Aircraft. Albacores continue excellent work with R.A.F. forward Maltese squadrons in Western Desert. R.A.F. aircraft attacked and damaged U-boat at 1140/6 in 032° 32' N., 025° 08' E., and again attacked unsuccessfully at 1510/6 in 032° 40' N., 025° 05' E. (C. in C. Med., 2137B/7 to Admty).

Russia and  
Turkey.

Appreciation. (30 M.M.2244/7 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

THRASHER.

Request permission to return to Adriatic for operation "Hydra" and if time permits "Henna". (?THRASHER, 2257B/7 to Capt. S.1).

TRIUMPH  
Intelligence.

No enemy ship in or around Navarin during last six days. Flight of six unescorted transport or bomber aircraft fly over Navarin low about 1030B most days course N. or S. Weather report. (TRIUMPH, 2320B/7 to Capt. S.1).

# MOST SECRET

203A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2244/7th December

IN

From No.30 Military Mission.  
CIPHER

Date 8.12.41  
Time 0545

Addressed War Office.

IMMEDIATE

MIL.1880 cipher 7/12. 17503.

## First of 2 Parts.

Chiefs of Staff from Macfarlane. Reference your 51799 M.O.1 of 14/11. I discussed the appreciation with Panfilov on 4th December.

1. Russian staff consider that Germans will continue to do their utmost to capture Moscow and then Leningrad. The Germans will not attempt to stabilize in these sectors unless or until they attain their objectives.
2. Panfilov said that so long as England and America provide adequate material assistance the Germans will never take Moscow or Leningrad. Their failure would be very costly and would constitute a political as well as a military defeat.
3. As regards the southern front. The situation had changed greatly since our appreciation was written. The Germans had had the key to the Caucasus in their hands. They had lost it and suffered a severe defeat; they could no longer be thinking on the lines of our appreciation. The Russian staff no longer anticipated a land attack on the Caucasus over the Don and they agree that no major offensive is possible from the Crimea.
4. Panfilov was most interested in the situation as regards Turkey and in the possibility of Overseas attacks by the Germans in the Black Sea based on Roumanian and Bulgarian ports.
5. The Russian staff are studying both these questions urgently at the present moment. Panfilov agreed that German failure in South Russia would stiffen Turkey's will to resist German pressure. He also agreed that overseas expeditions in the Black Sea were hardly possible so long as the Black Sea Fleet remained capable of operating. But he anticipated heavy German air raids against the Black Sea Fleet.

## Last Part.

He went over a lot of old ground on the subject of Germany's potential against Turkey and as regards sea borne operations in the Black Sea. It was quite clear that land attack on the Caucasus over the Don was no longer regarded as a menace and that the Russians anticipated German action via Turkey and/or the Black Sea. I could extract nothing precise in this connection from Panfilov and I doubt if Russian views on the question have yet crystallised since the recent changes in the situation in the South.



6. As regards the Winter. Panfilov agreed that the Germans badly wanted time to rest and re-fit but he made it clear that the Russians did not intend to oblige them in that respect. He also maintained that feeling in Germany would not permit Hitler to stabilize after entirely failing to attain his objectives in a major operation. Up to date the Russians have no evidence whatever of a slackening of German effort on land on the Russian front or of transfers of troops elsewhere.

7. Panfilov agreed that in the meantime Germany would be unlikely to add to her commitments by action in Spain or North Africa. He had no comments to make on our views regarding the Atlantic and the British Isles.

8. Throughout our talk, I had great difficulty in keeping Panfilov to the point. He is very much a realist and an optimist. He agreed that three weeks ago the Germans might well have been thinking on the lines we suggest. But things had gone very wrong for them they would be made to fight a winter fight and winter suited the Russians. It was no longer the German who was going to call the tune.

2244/7

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H).D.D.  
Received from War Office P.M./8 Dec.  
War Office Circulation.

- |                                |                 |                              |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1st Lord.                      |                 |                              |
| 1st S.L.                       | S. of S.        |                              |
| 2nd S.L.                       | C.I.G.S.        |                              |
| 3rd S.L.                       | V.C.I.G.S.      |                              |
| 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).                   | D.M.I.          |                              |
| A.C.N.S.(F).                   | D.D.M.I.(I).    |                              |
| A.C.N.S.(T).                   | M.I.(J.I.C.).   |                              |
| A.C.N.S.(W).                   | M.O.1,5,10,12.  |                              |
| N.A.1st S.L.                   | C.N.S.          |                              |
| D. of P.(2).                   | D.N.I.          | } Admiralty.                 |
| D.O.D.(H).                     | D. of Plans.    |                              |
| D.D.O.D.(H).                   | C.A.S.          |                              |
| D.O.D.(F).                     | A.C.A.S.(I)     | } Air Ministry.              |
| D.D.O.D.(F).                   | D. of Plans.)   |                              |
| D.N.I.(4).                     | Lt. Col. Jacob. | } War<br>Cabinet<br>Offices. |
| D.S.D.                         | Sec. J.P.S.     |                              |
| D.N.I.D.                       | Sec. J.I.C.     |                              |
| D. of L.D.                     | Col. Shoosmith. |                              |
| D. / S.W.                      |                 |                              |
| 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.<br>Wilson). |                 |                              |
| D.D.I.C.                       |                 |                              |

DF.

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Q Message  
28/11.

Ref. Admty. 1925/2 (i) para. 6, Q distress message was made by BRITISH SOLDIER who was suspicious of CITY OF CAPE TOWN message was cancelled in P/L and code, and ship arrived Aden 4th. CITY OF CAPE TOWN confirms (ii) para 8. In view of the above is there any other corroborative evidence of a raider in Indian Ocean?  
(C. in C. E.I., 0708Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. China, C. in C. S.A., N.B. Melbourne, Wellington)

B.D.V's.

Mombasa arrived 7/12 0414 G.M.T. B.D.V's JENNET, PUNNET, RENNET.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0729Z/7 to C. in C. Med.)

Diversion  
of Shipping.

The following message is passed to Admiralty for information: C. in C. E.I. to East Indies Station 347 C.  
For N.C.S.O's. My 2006/1/3/41 893 C para. 1.  
(1) Delete position D. The limiting line is to run from C 004° 30' N. 073° 10' E. to E 006° 10' N. 095° 10' E. (2) stations informed.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0732Z/7.)  
My 0732/7th 347 (C) is being passed to you. Request adjacent stations will conform.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0816Z/7 to Admty., F.O.C. Red Sea Force, N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Auckland, C. in C. China, F.O. Malaya, N.Z.N.B., N.O. Wellington, N.L.O. Durban, N.O.I.C. Rangoon, N.O.I.C. Penang, D.N.O. W. Australia (Fremantle) N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A.)

EMERALD.

Mombasa arrived 7/12 1022 G.M.T. EMERALD.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1024Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Shipping  
Warned.

My 292C/24/10. Following has been made to Merchant ships in Area 3 (begins): Seek refuge in port 2140Z/7. A A A (Ends.)  
(C. in C. E.I., 2156Z/7 to E.I. Stn.)

QUEEN MARY.

To be held at Trincomalee pending further instructions from C. in C. Eastern Fleet.  
(1st S.L., 2338A/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Extract from War Diary of C. in C., Eastern Fleet, 29.11.41 to 16.1.42

T.S.D. 4407/42.

Saturday, 6th December, 1941

1440. Reports were received at Singapore from reconnaissance aircraft of three separate forces of Japanese warships and auxiliaries off the South Coast of Indo-China. The most advanced convoy consisted of one cruiser and three merchant vessels sighted at 0442Z in position 07°51' North, 105° East, course North-west; two larger convoys, one of six cruisers, ten destroyers and twenty-five merchant vessels in position 08° North 106°28' East at 0516Z; and another of two cruisers, ten destroyers and ten merchant vessels in position 07°45' North, 106°20' East at 0530Z, were both steaming West. There was also a Dutch aircraft report at 0335Z/6 of a suspicious ship in 04°33' North, 104°56' East, which reversed course from South to North on being sighted and was reported as flying the Japanese flag and having many soldiers on board. These sightings were immediately reported to the Admiralty, Commander-in-Chief Asiatic Fleet, Commander-in-Chief Netherlands Naval Forces in the East Indies, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, New Zealand Naval Board, and the Commander-in-Chief East Indies. The following action was also taken (details).

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.War with Japan.

Imperial Headquarters, Tokyo, announced p.m./7 that Japan had entered into a state of war with Great Britain and the United States in the Western Pacific. (Press)

German 508.

Yokohama 2/12 German 508 repairs and temporary accommodation completed returned to anchorage ship lighted no armaments visible. (C/S. Singapore, 0302Z/7.)

Adm. Phillips.

Personal for 1st S.L.  
Adm. Phillips arrived back at Singapore at 0230Z/7th.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0421Z/7 to Admty.)

Restriction of shipping movements.

My 0353/2. Para. (b) now applies smaller ships also. Para. (c) now includes Malaya and Borneo. Request adjacent stations will conform. (C. in C. China, 0515Z/7 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B. etc.)

SILVERLARCH.

Due Penang 3/12 from Capetown not arrived. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0551Z/7 to C. in C. China, S.O.(I) Colombo.)

Japanese Convoys.

Further to C. in C. China's 0745/6. Escort of first named force consists of 1 battleship, 5 cruisers, 7 destroyers. From description and W/T traffic, battleship is almost certainly KONGO. 2 of cruisers are ZINTU class, probably ZINTU and NAKA, flagship of second and fourth destroyer squadrons. Description of remaining cruisers corresponds to KAKO class but from W/T traffic second fleet cruisers considered more likely, possibly ATAGO, ? TAKAO TYOKAI and MAYA. Convoy now reported as 22 10,000-ton M/Vs. Second named force. No description of escort available. Convoy now reported as 21 M/Vs. Third named force reported as 1 cruiser and 3 10,000 ton M/Vs. During last 24 hours majority of signals originated by C. in C. Combined Fleet, whereabouts unknown. Result of aircraft R/C since first sighting negative. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0611Z/7 to C. in C. Asiatic Fleet, Admty., etc.)

/Sighting ...

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - Contd.Sighting  
of enemy  
transports  
6/12.

Following for C. in C. E.F.

A. Please keep us more fully and frequently informed, even if it is only to make no change.

B. Was delay in despatching your 0745Z/6 due to breakdown in W/T in aircraft?

C. What A/C R/C is now being carried out? (1st S.L., 0950A/7 to C. in C. China.)

60. Your 0950/7 para. B. Time of sighting 1st ~~(corrupt group)~~ <sup>convoy</sup> was 0516Z not 0316Z. Aircraft W/T could not be received direct at Singapore. Some delay in communication occurred which should be reduced in future.

(C. in C. E.F., 1445Z/7 to Admty.)

Your 0950/7. Presuming you have received C. in C. China, 1431/6 and Captain on Staff 0611/7.

(ii) Aircraft R/C today Sunday over Gulf of Siam between 101° and 104° E. as far as 011° N. handicapped by poor visibility.

(iii) One Catalina operating off S.W. coast Cambodia has made no report and is now overdue.

(iv) Report from Hudsons:

(a) One merchant ship 010° N. 101° 30' E. course 270° at 1345.

(b) One armed Merchant ship 005° 40' N. 106° 30' E. course 045° at 1430.

(c) One cruiser one transport 008° N. 102° 30' E. course 340° at 1835, aircraft was fired at.

(d) 4 destroyers 008° 10' N. 101° 15' E. course 180° at 1848.

(v) No further contact with convoy previously sighted.

(vi) Above times zone minus 7½.

(vii) Further signal follows regarding "B" of your 0950Z/7.

(C. in C. E.F., 1405Z/7 to Admty.)

My 1405/7 para. 4 (d).

Interrogation of A/C crew indicates force probably 1 Cruiser 3 Transports.

Visibility very poor.

(C. in C. E.F., 1431Z/7 to Admty.)

PETEREL,  
MANTIS.

Admty. has now no objection to discontinuance of PETEREL as W/T link. Arrange if possible for her to proceed forthwith to Hong Kong in tow. Alternatively consider demobilising and laying her up as most convenient, crew proceeding Hong Kong in plain clothes if necessary. Report action being taken and confirm nothing useful can be done about MANTIS.

(C. in C. China, 1151Z/7 to S.O.I. Shanghai.)

PETEREL, lying off the Shanghai Bund, was sunk by a Japanese battery on the south bank of the Whangpo River early today, after a brief exchange of fire. Soon afterwards Japanese marines

stormed into the International Settlement and set up machine-gun posts at all road crossings.

(B.U.P. Report, in Press, 8/12.)

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - Contd.Air R/C.

My 0745/6.

Aircraft R/C today Sunday over Southern part Gulf of Siam handicapped by bad visibility. Contact not regained with large convoys, but scattered Japanese units sighted with no definite indication of their intentions. One of our aircraft was fired at.

(C. in C. China, 1421Z/7 to C. in C. A.F., C.Z.M., Admty., etc.)

Policy.

Ref. C.O.S. Far East No.50 para. 2 (a). Our reading of instruction is that Naval and Air action against such expedition is not at present authorised. Request confirmation.

(C. in C. E.F. C. in C. F.E., 1423Z/7 to Admty. for C.O.S. Committee.)

Operation "Matador" abandoned.

Ref. C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 1431/7 and Chief of Staff Far East's 50.

A. Have decided not to operate "Matador" for following reasons:-

1. Conditions for R/C were very bad and there can be no real certainty that ships seen were an expedition.
2. If expedition is in fact aimed at Singora Region it can reach there before we can arrive. "Matador" is designed only to forestall a connection expedition.
3. If conclusions drawn from R/C prove incorrect we should incur all disadvantages of first breaking Thai neutrality.
4. Switch movements are consistent with a deliberate attempt to induce us to violate Thai neutrality.

B. If Japanese do land in Southern Kra Isthmus, is it to be assumed we are at war with Japan.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet concurs.

(C. in C. F.E., 1605Z/7 to Admty. - passed to Troopers by W.R.)

Kota Bharu landing.

Report from Kota Bharu an attempt is being made to land from 3 or 5 ships, one landing craft already approaching mouth of river.

Kota Bharu 006° N. 102° 10' E.

(C. in C. China, 1746Z/7 to Admty.)

/Manila ....

✓

M E S S A G E 1733Z/7JH Dec. 207A

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From C. in C., Eastern Fleet.

Date. 11.12.41.

Recd. 1230.

Naval Cypher I.T.T. by W/T & T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

Personal for First Sea Lord.

63. One. Discussion with Admiral Hart very friendly and we can expect full co-operation.

Two. Draft of points of agreement, transmitted via C.N.O. was originally drawn up to provide discussion, but at conclusion Admiral Hart was very anxious to telegraph this to Washington and London. I reluctantly agreed making it clear that I had not yet met Dominions and Dutch and would have preferred to do so before sending any signal home.

Three. Admiral Hart was reluctant to part with his destroyers even when at war and this is referred to in point of agreement. He was not willing to send them to Singapore at once but I have again asked him today to send four in view of situation.

Four. Dutch Admiral arrives tomorrow Monday and I hope to make sufficient progress with Dominion representative to be able to ask him and U.S. representative to meeting in the afternoon.

1733Z/7

Advance copy sent 1st S.L.

1st Lord D.O.D. (F)  
1st S.L. (6) D.D.O.D. (F)  
V.C.N.S. D. of P. (2)  
A.C.N.S. (H) D.N.I. (4)  
A.C.N.S. (F) D.D.I.C. I.P. (2)  
A.C.N.S. (T) E.P.S. W.D.  
N.A. 1st S.L. D.C. Pay. Gdr. Wilson  
D.O.D. (H) P.A.S. (S)  
D.D.O.D. (H) Hd. of M.

/MC

**MOST SECRET**

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Manila. ✓ ✓

Following is text of instruction sent to Commanding General U.S. Army Forces Manila. "Hostilities between Japan and U.S, British Commonwealth and Dutch have commenced. Carry out tasks assigned in "Rainbow 5" so far as they pertain to Japan. In addition co-operate with British and Dutch to the utmost without jeopardizing the accomplishment of your primary mission of defence of the Philippines. You are authorised to despatch air units to operate temporarily from suitable bases in co-operation with the British or Dutch. Report daily major dispositions and all operations. You have the complete confidence of the War Dept. and we assure you of every possible assistance and support within our power".  
(Brit. Joint Staff Mission Washington, 1837/7 to W.O.)

Shipping Warned.

Following has been passed to Merchant Ships in area 4. (Begins): Seek refuge Port. 1822Z/7. (Ends.)  
(C. in C. China, 1844Z/7 to R.A. Malaya, Cdre. Hong Kong etc.)  
Seek Refuge Port.  
(D.T.D., 2042Z/7 to G.B.M.S. Areas 3B & 4.)  
All merchant ships are to proceed away from Japanese controlled waters to a British, Dutch or U.S. port. Ships are not to go to Hong Kong, Borneo, or Yellow Sea ports.  
(D.T.D., 2100Z/7 to G.B.M.S. Areas 3B, 4, 5, 8, 10 & 11.)  
Ships in areas addressed are not to show navigation lights. In coastal waters dimmed navigation lights may be shown.  
(D.T.D., 2340Z/7 to G.B.M.S. Areas 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 8, 10.)

Air Raid on Singapore.

Air attack by 18 aircraft carried out in Singapore Island at 2030Z/7.  
(C. in C. China, 2054Z/7 to Admty.)

REVENGE.

REVENGE is to proceed to Colombo at best speed.  
(C. in C. E.F., 2247Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

EXETER.

EXETER is to leave her convoy and proceed Singapore at best speed reporting E.T.A.  
(C. in C. E.F., 2249Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Situation ...



War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Situation Report.

1. Enemy information as in C/S Singapore's 0611Z/7 to Admty.
2. First location Japanese convoys at over 300 miles from Malayan coast was very good piece of work by No. 1 Sqdn. R.A.A.F. (Hudson) Impracticable to hand over shadowing to relief aircraft since patrolling aircraft at limit of their range.
3. Attempt being made to use Beaufort for high photography. Weather in Gulf of Siam now on the whole bad for air R/C. One T/B squadron is now at Kota Bharu.
4. Malaya is at first degree of readiness and "Matador" force standing by. Some road blocks are reported in construction by the Thais on the road between Kedah frontier and Singora and on Kroh road near Betong.  
(C. in C. F.E., 2300/7 to W.O.)

Agreement with U.S. Fleet.

Request early report on the agreement you have reached with C. in C. Asiatic Fleet.  
(1st S.L., 2336A/7 to C. in C. E.F.)  
Cancelled, see 0114A/8.

Japanese S/M's.

Japanese submarines are to be expected in the Indian Ocean.  
(1st S.L., 2337A/7 to C. in C. E.F.)

Hong Kong Light.

Gaprock Light has been dismantled and crew withdrawn.  
(Govr. Hong Kong, No T.O.O./7 to S. of S. for Colonies, Recd. in War Reg. at 2340/8.)

America and West Indies.MIMOSA.

Your 1413Z/3. MIMOSA making passage independently, E.T.A. not known.  
(A.C.I.C., 0217N/7 to C.C.N.F.)  
E.T.A. at St. John's N.F. 1400Z/8.  
(MIMOSA, 1442Z/7 to F.O. N.F.)

KOURA (Finnish)

U.S. Authorities Cuba state KOURA sailed for New York, on 23/11.  
(S.O.I. Kingston, 0914R/7 to A.W.I. Stn., etc.)

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.MOA.H.M. N.Z.S. MOA entered canal at 0800R/7.  
(N.C.S.O. Colon, 0956/7 to Admty.)MACBETH.  
drifting,  
to be towed  
by ZWARTE ZEE.

A.M. No. 1458A/6. LIVERPOOL reports sighting S.S. MACBETH in 046° 54' N. 034° 25' W. at 1430 G.M.T./3. Position based on sun and star sighting is considered accurate. F.O.C. N.F.F. pass to PRUDENT.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1044A/7 to F.O.C. N.F.F.)  
Admty. 0723A/6 and my 1347A/6. When PIMPERNEL has fuelled at Londonderry 8/12, ZWARTE ZEE and PIMPERNEL proceed in company to assistance of S.S. MACBETH last sighted in 046° 54' N. 034° 25' W. at 1430 G.M.T./3, broken down and drifting East N.E. at 2 knots. Rescue Tug PRUDENT is proceeding from St. Johns N.F. with orders to tow MACBETH towards Clyde and is to be relieved by ZWARTE ZEE if possible.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1104A/7 to PIMPERNEL, ZWARTE ZEE.)  
Your 0755. Proceed to Loch Foyle to await escort. Report E.T.A. Loch Foyle before sailing.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0813A/7 to ZWARTE ZEE.)  
Proceeding in accordance with your 0813A/7 passing Gate 0900. E.T.A. Loch Foyle 1300.  
(ZWARTE ZEE, 0850/7.)  
My 1104A/7. S.S. MACBETH is still able to make W/T.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1644A/7 to ZWARTE ZEE, PIMPERNEL.)  
Your 1104A/7 and your 1644A/7 acknowledged.  
Request signal letters of MACBETH.  
(ZWARTE ZEE, 1945A/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S/M  
SURCOUF.

Bermuda departure 7/12 French S/M SURCOUF for Halifax at 1100Q. Speed 11 knots. Routed direct. E.T.A. Halifax 0700Q/10.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1102Q/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

F.J. WOLFE.

Your 1932/6 F.J. WOLFE arrived p.m./6th.  
Q Q Q Q Message cancel plain language and Code.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1105QR/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DUNEDIN  
survivors.

B.A.D. Washington's 2107R/2. 67 survivors including 4 officers ex DUNEDIN landed. Ship struck by 2 torpedoes 1326 G.M.T./24/11. Position 003° N. 026° W. Interval between torpedoes 6 - 15 seconds. Ship listed 035° within 5 minutes. Believed no boats got away.

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.DUNEDIN  
survivors.  
(Contd.)

U.120

R. S. Lovatt, OBE.

6 or 7 rafts got away but only 6 assembled and stayed together 78 hours before being picked up. Apart from lack of food and water were attacked and bitten by very vicious small fish causing several casualties. First torpedo wrecked main W/T office, distress signal made on R C O set but some doubt if it would be received. Large U-Boat seen believed to be U.26. Surfaced for about 5 minutes after ship sank  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from ship. Possibly some survivors picked up. During first night 2 green Very lights seen 6 to 8 miles from raft at intervals of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour. All survivors except one off danger list. Capt. Lovatt last seen in water on large box. (? Control) and treatment of survivors in NISHMAHA beyond all praise. Have written letter of thanks to master.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1227Q/7 to Admty.)

CARNARVON  
CASTLE.

Your 2159/3. CARNARVON CASTLE should meet pilot at 0800 zone 5 time on date of arrival  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles N. of Cape Henry and fly Red Ensign on entering. Request actual date of arrival in order to warn U.S. Authorities.  
(B.A.R.M., 1240R/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

ODDVAR II.

N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. reports Finnish ODDVAR II came within 7 miles of Botwood N.F. 3/12 and turned away.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1402Z/7 to Admty., etc.)  
Finnish ODDVAR II anchored in Argentia at 0230Z/6.  
(C.C.N.F., 1626Z/7 to Admty., etc.)

WINDFLOWER  
sunk.  
NASTURTIUM  
damaged.

WINDFLOWER sunk by collision in fog with S.S. BALTARA (Note. Name of ship was S.S. ZYPENBERG) at 1250Z, 046° 19' N. 049° 42' W., PICTOU with 15 survivors from WINDFLOWER escorting steamship (? MOREA) to St. John's N.F. NASTURTIUM damaged as a result of tending (corrupt group) wreck of WINDFLOWER is returning to St. John's N.F. in company. Weather report.  
(ST. LAURENT, 1704Z/7 to U.S.C.N.O.)

Shipping  
Routes.

Your 2230/4. We feel this procedure is not necessary on this side especially in view of fact that an H.X. ship may return to Sydney for lack of speed or even St. John's N.F., for urgent repairs. Reversing southward route might delay ship by an amount which would just make her miss another convoy.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1704Z/7 to Admty.)

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.O.N.43.

BROKE reports Convoy last seen 1700Z/6 now believed unescorted and scattered. Ships have been ordered to R/V at 0900Z/8 in 59.40 N. 12.00 W. Convoy will be at least 24 hours late at M.O.M.P. Recommendations for new M.O.M.P. will follow.  
(D.T.D., 1735Z/7 to Opanav.)

Balboa  
Closed.  
Shipping  
Recalled.

Following Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour authorities have closed Port of Balboa and are recalling all vessels that have sailed within last three days. They immediately advised they are placing censorship on all cable and wireless telegraphy and ordered blackout of canal zone. Japanese Nationals being rounded up in Republic of Panama.  
(C.S.A. Panama, 1805/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ST. FRANCIS.

Position 056° 46' N. 038° 33' W. Weather report.  
(ST. FRANCIS, 1800Z/7 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 2142Q/4. Concur.  
2. INDOMITABLE's 0020/5. Request you will report her intended programme as far as Trinidad. 3. A.M. 1158A/3 is cancelled. *N.T. in W.S.*  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1809A/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Admty. 1809A/7. Request proposed programme.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/7 to INDOMITABLE.)

Finnish  
Shipping.

Your 1727A/1st. Paragraph 3 (D) (1) Captain C. Trinidad reports Finnish crew including Master removed from Panamanian ex Finnish BRITA THORDEN, ESTER THORDEN, ROSENBERG. Charterers Alcoa Company informed. Ship remains under guard pending taking over by new crew.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1823Q/7 to Admty.)  
*x? British Lloyd's Index.*

ALIAKMON.  
NAMARIB.

Your 1836A/6. No news of arrival either ship. Am making enquiries.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1827Z/7 to Admty.)

War with  
Japan.

Hostilities with Japan commenced with air raid on Pearl Harbour at 1830Z. Inform British, Dutch, and Spenavo.  
(Opanav, 1925/7 to D.N.I. Admty.)  
Note: No action by War Registry to inform Dutch Authorities.  
Have executed WPL 46 against Japan. Inform Admty., Opanav.  
(D.N. Washington D.C., 1947/7 to Spenavo, London.)

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.U.S.N.  
dispositions.*See also p. 214*

In consequence of loss of 2 battleships and heavy casualties to aircraft at Hawaii U.S. Chief of Naval Operations is considering transferring back from Atlantic to Pacific of 3 battleships MISSISSIPPI Class, U.S. A/C Carrier YORKTOWN, 2 destroyers and 36 patrol planes.

(ii) Pacific Fleet has now only 6 effective battleships. One other, believed to be COLORADO, is out of action until about February requiring extensive electrical repairs from previous (? defects).

(iii) U.S. C.N.O. considers proposed transfer of destroyers will only slightly if at all affect strength of escort with H.X. convoys since 5 destroyers are now operating with MISSISSIPPI Class battleships and 4 are working with U.S. A/C Carrier YORKTOWN.

My 2029R/7th Part One.

(B.A.D., 2021R/7 to Admty.)

My 2029R, part 2. ~~(B.A.D., 2021R/7 to Admty.)~~

(iv) U.S. C.N.O. realizes transfer of patrol planes will greatly lessen potential effectiveness of air escort for Atlantic convoys, but prevailing winter weather has already severely restricted flying from Argentia and Iceland (C).

(v) U.S. C.N.O. would like to have your views urgently as situation regarding these proposals is considered serious and transfer necessary.

(vi) View was expressed that relief for Force H could not be provided now. It was stated U.S. Battleships WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA would not be in service till May.

(B.A.D., 2029R/7 to Admty.)

Iceland  
Convoys.

Subsequent to O.N.45 it is intended to discontinue sailing ships for Iceland (C) in O.N. convoys. (New arrangements).

(A.C.N.S. (T), 2031A/7 to B.A.D.)

(See also Shipping.)

Australia and New Zealand.SYDNEY  
action.

Interim report of interrogation of survivors from Raider No. 41 (STEIRMARK). (WORMORAN.)  
(A.C.N.B., 0700Z/7 to Admty., etc.)

See Lion Copy.

/Pearl ....

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY, sunk in action with raider "G",  
KORMORAN, ex-STEIR MARK, 19.11.41.

SECRET

MESSAGE

0700Z/7 December.  
IN

From: Australian Commonwealth  
Naval Board.

Date: 8/12/41  
Recd. 1324

Anglo-French (J or R(I)) By Cable

Addressed: Admiralty; C. in C. Eastern Fleet; C. in C. China;  
C.Z.M.; New Zealand Naval Board.

219. Following is interim report of interrogation of survivors  
from raider number 41. Interrogation continues - .

Visibility good wind south 5 sea moderate.

(1) The approach. First sighting range 15 miles. Raider's  
speed 15 knots altered course from 000° to 250°, H.M.A.S.  
SYDNEY was bearing north from number 41. H.M.A.S. SYDNEY chased  
and apparently made no further signal than N N J (repeat) N N J.  
Raider made no reply or hoist (corrupt group). No stop signal  
was received by enemy. When H.M.A.S. SYDNEY was at close range  
raider made STRAD MALAKKA by light which ship she was imper-  
sonating Dutch flag flown. At 1650H 19th H.M.A.S. SYDNEY was  
just abaft number 41 beam distant 1(one)•25 miles, both ships  
15 knots, course 250 degrees. Cruiser now made "Make your sec-  
ret letter" in plain language.

The action. Raider immediately dropped concealed guns (corrupt  
group) and opened gun and torpedo fire. H.M.A.S. SYDNEY was at  
action stations and armament trained. She opened fire simul-  
taneously. STEIRMARK's first salvo hit Cruiser's Bridge.  
H.M.A.S. SYDNEY's first salvo (corrupt group). Very early in  
action torpedo hit cruiser under A turret jamming A and B  
turret. Action lasted 25 minutes and was broken off at range  
of 4 miles. Number 41 stopped. H.M.A.S. SYDNEY proceeding at  
5 knots. Believed H.M.A.S. SYDNEY sank due to shell and torpedo  
fire damage at 2300H 19th. Raider scuttled at 2359H 19th.

Position of action 025° South 111° East.

(iii) Identity confirmed Number 41 STEIRMARK alias KORMORANT.  
Speed 18 knots. 6 15 cms. Gun. 2 2 cms. A.A. Gun. 2 above water  
and 1 submerged tube each side. About 250 type (H.E.) mine of  
which a large number still on board when scuttled. 1 Arab  
plane with bombs. Air propelled torpedo contact pistol.

- 2.

Believed no repeat no Director System. Reputed to carry fast motor boat capable of laying 3 mines.

(iv) Movements. Fitted out at Gotenhafen and (corrupt group) Hamburg late in November 1940; spoke 3 U boats off coast Spain. Operated in equatorial region Atlantic until end of March. Passed well South of Cape of Good Hope met NORDMARK in south latitude then proceeded Bay of Bengal. Reported to have been surprised by an unknown ship while attempting lay mines off Madras (E 5). Then proceeded central Indian Ocean for refit (corrupt group) September in Maldive Is. and returned to central Indian Ocean where it is believed she met supply ship KULMERLAND October and early November thence to scene of action. Believe German store ships victualled Japan (B 2) stated policy to advertise presence by small number regular sinkings which is considered will have maximum effect on flow of trade. 303 prisoners including 17 officers held complement 400.

0700Z/7.

Advance copy sent 1st Lord, A.C.N.S. (F)  
N.A. 1st S.L., D.P.D., D. of P., Ops.,  
C.D., O.I.C.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (W)

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Captain Pim, Admiralty House.

Ops. (3)

O.D. (5)

D.N.I. (4)

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

O.I.C. (4)

D. of P. (5)

D.A./S.W.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

D.P.D.

D.S.D. (2)

M. (2)

D.T.S.D.

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.Pearl  
Harbour  
Raid.

Raid on Pearl Harbour, Honolulu, carried out by Japanese aircraft and U-Boats at 6.30 p.m./7 appears to have caused considerable damage. U.S. battleship OKLAHOMA capsized, U.S. battleship TENNESSEE caught fire and attempts are being made to dock her. (These vessels were constructed in 1914 and 1919 respectively and have been modernised.) Hits were obtained on destroyers in dock, resulting in 1 blowing up and another being set on fire. A minelayer was also set on fire. 4 airfields were attacked and hangars and some aeroplanes on the ground were set on fire. The power stations appear also to have been hit but not put out of action. Personnel casualties thought to be heavy. Japanese S/M's and aeroplanes were attacked and one S/M and at least 2 aircraft are reported destroyed. (D.O.R., 8/12.)

*Revised list of losses, 15/12. p. 186.*



War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

CLAN MACBEAN. Your 1546/5. Hope from wording of SSSS signal that she escaped.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1216Z/7 to Admty.)

DUNEDIN. Torpedoed 24/11. See N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1227Q/7, America and West Indies.

Submarines Reported.

0823 HIGHLANDER investigating contact in Bay.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0823/7 to Gibraltar Force.)

A/C sightings  
6/12. Catalina on A/S Patrol to the west sighted 2 U-Boats, (1) at 1234/6 position 36.19 N. 08.50 W. Catalina not attacked. (2) at 1545/6 position 36.45 N. 09.22 W. Catalina on escort to RANGITATA remained airborne until 0330/7 and sighted 2 U-Boats, (1) at 2215/6 position 36.40 N. 08.58 W. no attack, (2) at 0145/7 position 36.04 N. 07.33 W. attacked.  
(200 Group, 0915/7.)

1001. Investigate oil patch in position 260° Cape Spartel, 16 miles.  
(Gibraltar C.C.O. 1001/7 to LEGION.)

1215. Following from Fulmar, one submarine 230° Spartel 25, course 030° at 1215, am proceeding to position HARVESTER and HESPERUS.  
(LEGION 1240A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

K destroyer G 74 reports U-boat 230° Spartel 25, 1215.  
(A/C duty D., 202 Sqdn. 1320/7 to 200 Group.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.  
(D.D.I.C. 1403A/7, 1404A/7.)

2042C. U-Boat reported operating in vicinity Kildinbuzzer B.3. (S.B.N.O., N. Russia 2042C/7 to SHEFFIELD.)

S.Atlantic. D/F bearings at 0144Z and 0219Z/7 indicate U-Boat within 100 miles of 017° 30' S. and 010° 30' W. 65% reliable.  
(C. in C. S.A. 2051Z/7 to S.A. Stn.)

War Diary.7.12.1941.  
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.By VETCH  
6/11  
(non-sub)

My 2235A/6. Contact lost. VETCH in vicinity remainder group 2 carry out extensive search. (STORK, 0130A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Have personally investigated scene of VETCH and CONVULVULUS contact and consider them non Sub. Am leaving these two ships and resuming patrol with remainder. (STORK 0316A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C.

PPP 1 S/M 36.04 N. 07.33 W. 090 M 2.  
(A/C J of No.202 Sqn. 0140/7 to 200 Group.)  
Position 90' S.E. Cape St. Vincent.  
(D.S. 824.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 1 hit.  
(A/C J. of No.202 Sqn. 0145/7 to 200 Group.)

By ALOUETTE.

Have attacked contact with Depth charges position 326° P C L 34 miles.  
(ALOUETTE, 1123A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Position 326° C. Espichel 34', 38½° N., 9¼° W. (D.S. 825.)

Mediterranean. Attacked by A/C. See Mediterranean. (1319/7.)By A/Cs.

A/S operations 6/7 Dec. At 2215/6, Catalina sighted submarine on surface in 36.40 N. 08.58 W. steering 135°, 6 knots. Submarine dived. Aircraft was too high to attack.  
(2) At 0140/7, same Catalina sighted submarine in 36.04 N. 07.33 W. steering 090°, 12 knots. Attack with depth charges was made and one hit estimated. (3) At 1240/7, Fulmar sighted submarine in position 230° Spatel 25 steering 030°. Aircraft attacked with machine guns.  
(4) Two destroyers sweeping in area South of St. Vincent, aircraft co-operating.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2330A/7 to Admty.)

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

KENT left Scapa at 1815 today for Murmansk carrying a delegation for Moscow, headed by Mr. Eden.

\*1859 - See p. 224 -

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out last night their first operations during the present month. Attacks were made on Calais, Ostend, Brest, Boulogne, and Dunkirk.

Enemy Air Operations.

Group 41 M.S. Trawlers was attacked at 1715 today off Lunen Bay and PHINEAS BEARD and MILFORD EARL were sunk.

Mining.

Further enemy aircraft minelaying last night is suspected between the Humber and Outer Dowsing. S.S. FIREGLOW was sunk in 53° 18' 36" N. 1° 5' 0" E.

Amongst the mines detonated in the Thames Estuary today was one by M.M.S. 113, 45, and DELPHINUS, sweeping S.A. and L.L. for enemy mines which require simultaneous magnetic and acoustic sweeping.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Two ex-Japanese trawlers PRESIDENTE MITRE and PRESIDENTE ROCA left Buenos Aires, at 1300 G.M.T today, flying the Argentine flag. These ships are fitted with very powerful short and medium wave wireless and have Japanese in their crews, and are considered suspects. (See however 13/12).

Since U-boats in the South Atlantic appear to be moving northwards the U.S. Navy Dept. wish their merchant ships to resume calling at Capetown instead of Durban.

S.O.I. - Capetown reports today that it may be inferred from the known facts, that S.S. THODE FAGELUND, sunk off East London on 17/11 by unknown explosion, was torpedoed by a Vichy S/M.

Mediterranean.

Very slight damage was caused to Hal Far by air attack last night.

TALISMAN reported at 2155B that she had engaged with gun and obtained 4 hits on an unidentified destroyer in 38° 0' N., 20° 28' E., steering 155°, TALISMAN fired 3 torpedoes which passed under the enemy vessel.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

4000 lb. bombs were dropped on Derna, Benghazi and Tripoli last night.

APHIS successfully bombarded a road 13 miles West of Tobruk last night for an hour.

U-boats.

R/C aircraft reported 3 sightings of U-boats today between Crete and Cyrenaica, but attacks were unsuccessful.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SURCOUF.

The Admiralty today ordered SURCOUF (intercepted 25/11) at Aden, and her cargo, to be seized in prize.

East Indies.

At 1048Z today C. in C. E.I. modified the instructions broadcast yesterday to shipping. Ships proceeding to Area 4 are to call at Colombo for orders; all other shipping in the Indian Ocean west of the longitude of Colombo is to proceed as usual. Special routing instructions were issued for ships proceeding to ports in the Bay of Bengal; independent sailing continues to Burma as far as Rangoon.

It is reported that GLASGOW sank the Indian auxiliary PRABHAVATI and 2 barges at 1930 today about 200 miles S.W. of Bombay, having mistaken them for U-boats.

(T.S.D. 3479/42. (E.I. War Diary - Dec. 1941-))

China.

Certain duties, previously carried out by C. in C. China, have now devolved on Commodore, Malaya.

Hong Kong.

Japanese forces crossed the land frontier with the New Territories this morning. Barracks in Kowloon and Kai-Tak Aerodrome were bombed at 0900 local time today; some aircraft were destroyed on the ground and there were over 100 civilian and a few military casualties. The Governor of Hong Kong proclaimed a state of war with Japan. There was a second air raid this afternoon, when enemy aircraft unsuccessfully attacked shore batteries and naval units; no casualties are reported. In all, there were 8 air raids on Hong Kong today.

/Malaya....

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

Malaya.

A landing took place from 5 Japanese ships between Kelantan River and Sabak shortly after 0130 today (see 7/12) Later, a force of 10 merchant ships was seen some 10 miles to the south. Considerable fighting took place north of Kota Bharu Aerodrome which was abandoned by our aircraft. By 0800 all enemy surface craft were retiring and mopping up operations were in progress on shore. Two enemy ships were set on fire by our air attacks.

There was a minor air raid on Singapore Island at 0415 today (see 7/12) mainly concentrated on Seletar and Tengah Aerodromes, whilst Gong Kedah and Machang Aerodromes were also bombed. No appreciable damage is reported, but there were some 200 casualties all Asiatic; the bombs were all dropped at random amongst the civil population.

Four Catalinas to be sent to Singapore from the U.K. as soon as possible.

The question of providing destroyers for the Eastern Fleet is under consideration. The redistribution of the U.S. Naval forces will affect our ability to reinforce the Eastern Fleet.

All fishing vessels in Singapore were seized this morning.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet proceeded this evening with PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE to attack the enemy force off Kota Bharu at daylight 10th. He was informed at 2253 G.H/8 that owing to the military situation fighter protection could not be provided for his ships.

Thailand.

Japanese landings were reported at Patani today. In consequence of the Japanese having invaded Thailand British forces crossed the Thailand frontier at two places today. Contact was made with the enemy south of Singora. Our troops later withdrew. It is reported that the Thai Govt. ordered resistance to cease after a few hours fighting.

/After....

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.China. - Contd.

After recent discussions between C. in C. Eastern Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and Australian and N.Z. naval authorities a redistribution of Australian and New Zealand cruisers has been proposed in an endeavour to collect cruisers for an operation with the British Battle Fleet and a striking force along the Malay Barrier. This will leave insufficient escort for Trans-Pacific shipping between New Zealand and Panama, air trainees in Matson liners from Auckland to San Francisco, and shipping between Torres Strait and U.S.A. C. in C. Eastern Fleet is asking C. in C. Pacific Fleet if he can assist in escorting this shipping. EXETER has been ordered to Singapore; and N.Z.N.B. have been asked to send ACHILLES to Singapore (this latter move was cancelled on 11/12 and ACHILLES was placed at the disposal of N.Z.N.B. who at 0347M/12 ordered her to return to Auckland) The refit of MAURITIUS is being hastened as much as possible and C. in C. Eastern Fleet asks that HOBART may be ordered east from the Mediterranean. There is great need of further modern cruisers, but none are available.

Midway Is.

Midway Island was bombarded today by a 6-inch cruiser or destroyer.

America & West Indies.

In consequence of Admiralty instructions issued tomorrow (B.S.T.) C. in C. A.W.I. today (local time) reported that he had instructed ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are north of the latitude of Bermuda to proceed to Bermuda for re-routeing. Ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are south of the latitude of Bermuda are to proceed to Colon and await instructions.

Instructions were issued by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa today that British and Allied ships on the west coast of U.S.A. and Canada may be sailed on coastal voyages between San Pedro and Vancouver but not trans-Pacific or between San Pedro and Panama until further orders. Later, the U.S. Authorities stopped all coastal movements north of Panama and orders were given by Ottawa for all movements of British and Allied shipping on the west coast of U.S.A. to cease. C. in C. A.W.I. also proposed that in view of the urgent need to maintain the flow of traffic trans-Pacific

/Shipping...

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

shipping should continue to sail and should be routed to New Zealand for onward instructions and that coastal traffic on the west coast of America should not be suspended.

Australia.

A Japanese flying boat bombed Ocean Island this morning and again later. The W/T station is still functioning. Enemy aircraft approached Nauru at 0100Z today, but made no attack.

New Zealand.

ACHILLES left Auckland this morning for Singapore.

U-Boat Campaign

U-boat contacts were obtained in the Strait of Gibraltar and approaches yesterday and today. Sightings and attacks were made and in one attack by HESPERUS at 2004/7 in 35° 57' N., 7° 56' W., men appear to have been washed off the U-boat during a crash dive.



8.12.1941.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

No Tug in  
Iceland.

No tug now available here.  
(? A.C.I.C., 0936N/8 to Admty.)

A.M.C.  
Movements.

My 1240A/1 as amended by my 1100A/4.  
No change.  
(S.O.W.P., 1207A/8.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Orders to  
U.S. Naval  
Forces.

Spnavo, London 0336/8.  
See China.

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian  
S/M Patrols.

Soviet K.1 sails by route B and parallel 72.15  
N. for Zone 2 a.m./9.  
CHUKA 421 arrives Zone 5 p.m./8.  
Admty. pass to addressees on next H.S. routine.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1821C/8 to SEALION, (See p. 225)  
SEAWOLF.)

Delegation  
in KENT.

KENT left Scapa\* 1815 today for Murmansk with  
delegation Mr. Eden, Mr. Maisky, V.C.I.G.S.,  
&c. for Moscow.  
3. British Ambassador Moscow has been informed.  
4. E.T.A. 1100C/12. Approaching position MZ  
on course 238°, 18 knots.  
5. Request following light and D/F beacons.  
Group R for 30 minutes at 0100C/12. Group  
R Y Z from 0530C/12 until arrival.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2348A/8 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

\* 1859 - See next page

Movements.

SHEFFIELD,  
HAZARD,  
EASTBOURNE.

SHEFFIELD, HAZARD, EASTBOURNE arrived Murmansk.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1041C/8.)

O.21, UNA,  
P.38.

(a) After passing 049° 30' N. 011° W. proceed  
through 050° 10' N. 010° W. to R/V off Trevoze  
Head a.m./11 time and position to be ordered by  
Capt. S.3.  
(b) Estimated position at 0800/9 of O.21, UNA,  
and P.38.  
(F.O.S., 1207A/8 to O.21.)  
(1) F.O.S. 1207A/8. R/V WHITE BEAR in 250°  
Trevoze Head 10 miles at 0900A/11 and proceed in  
company to Holy Loch.  
(2) Light as follows.  
(3) T.B.R. in area 51 from 0800A/11 until 1600A/11.  
(Capt. S.3, 1737A/8 to O.21.)

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.EDINBURGH.  
ECHO,  
ESCAPADE.

My 1238A/4. Request you sail EDINBURGH, ECHO, and ESCAPADE for Seidis Fiord p.m. today. Time of R/V with P.Q.6 will be signalled accordingly known.

(C. in C. H.F., 1237A/8 to C.S.18.)  
Scapa departures for Seidis Fiord. 1815  
ESCAPADE, 1817 ECHO, 1857 EDINBURGH.  
(A.C.O.S., 1859A/8.)

MANXMAN.

1. MANXMAN is to be sailed for Milford Haven.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1247A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

RAMILLIES.  
VANQUISHER.  
WITCH.  
VOLUNTEER.

My 1716A/6. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1332A/8.)

FAULKNER.  
FORESIGHT.  
FORESTER.  
ONSLow.  
IMPULSIVE.  
ORIBI.

FAULKNER with FORESIGHT, FORESTER, proceed 1400 to-morrow passing through 058° 45' N. 007° W. thence through Reykjanes Passage to Hvalfjord.

2. On arrival relieve ONSLOW, IMPULSIVE, ORIBI as screen for RODNEY, who are then to return to Scapa.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1421A/8.)

KENT.

Admiralty please inform S.B.O's North Russia and Archangel of KENT's 2001A/7 which is being passed to all addressees. Information regarding shipping and enemy aircraft has been passed to KENT.

(C. in C. H.F., 1519A/8.)  
Departure Scapa at 1859 KENT for Seidisfiord.  
(A.C.O.S., 1859A/8.) *See previous page*

ARETHUSA.

Scapa arrival.  
(A.C.O.S., 1600/8.)

ICARUS.

ICARUS is to proceed forthwith to Sullom Voe and await further orders.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1644A/8.)

LORD GREY.  
AYLON.

*See p. 236.*

HUSSAR.

P.C.S. 061° 29' N. 004° 20' W., 180°, 11 knots. Position fixed by stars. Request group 9 lights from 0600 to 0830 to-morrow Tuesday. E.T.A. 1200/9.  
(HUSSAR, 1930A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

REGENT.  
UNA.

Your 1110A/8. Request REGENT be routed to pass through positions L. 43° N. 10° 30' W.

/at about ...

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

REGENT.  
UNA.  
(Contd.)

at about 0900A/13 thence submerged by day through following positions M, N, and O to R/V off Isle of Wight a.m./17 as ordered by S.5.  
(2) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange S.B.R. as follows.  
(3) UNA leaves Biscay west zone after dark 14/12 through 44° N. 9° W. submerged by day due 43° N. 10° 30' W. at about 0800/15, thence on surface to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.S., 2243A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See p. 232 7233*

Operations.

Unknown Operation.

My 2221/5 and 1721/7. <sup>"Review"</sup> REVIEWW sailed. (M.G.B. 319 and M.A/S.B. 36)  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0713/8 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

SEALION.

German official communique issued at 1300 on 6th Dec. 2 British Submarines sunk off Norwegian coast. Only possible Submarine to which this claim could refer appears to be SEALION.  
(F.O.S., 1204A/8 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Withdraw north of 71° 30' N. and acknowledge my \*1821C/8, then return to patrol.  
Admiralty pass to SEALION on next H.S. routine.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2102C/8.)

*\* See p. 223*

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY.

F.O.i/c. Belfast's 1904A/4 and Admty. 1853A/26. <sup>W.D.</sup>  
Request you provide Trawler escort for MARIE LOUISE MACKAY to vicinity of Gt. Skellig.  
Escort should remain during period of operations.  
It is now proposed to proceed with inshore work only in the vicinity of Valencia and it is estimated that this will require at least 3 weeks to complete.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1337A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrol.

On night 8/9, 2 Chasseurs on patrol between St. Helens and Beachy Head.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1557A/8.)

Operation "Anklet".

(1) Intend to sail TIGRIS escorted by WELLARD for Scapa at 1700A/10. E.T.A. Scapa 0930A/12.  
(ii) N.O.i/c. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. Speed of advance 10 knots.  
(Capt. S.3, 1801A/8.)

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation  
"Anklet".  
(Contd.)

My 1603A/26/11 and 2335A/5 and C. in C. Nore's 0959A/28/11 and 1844A/28/11.  
It is desired to transport 8 officers and 75 military other ranks from Invergordon to Scapa. C. in C. Nore is requested to sail MONTROSE and WORCESTER to arrive Invergordon on 16/12 to embark arms ammunition and baggage. Personnel will embark a.m./17 and N.O.I.C. Invergordon is requested to sail ships to arrive Scapa same day.  
(D.O.D. (H), 2113A/8.)

Russian  
S/M Patrols.

S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1821C/8.  
See Co-operation with Russia.

Exercise  
L.4.

My 1300A/7 para. 2. It is confirmed that the personnel ships referred to in your 1750/6 will not be required for the operational exercise on 12/12.  
(E.P.S., 2058A/8 to C.Q.2.)

British Air Activity.Bombing  
Operations.

From day 1/12 to day 7/12 inclusive, no operations owing to weather. On night 7/8, 20 A/C bombed Calais, 18 Ostend, 12 Boulogne, 10 Dunkirk, and 22 Brest where the smoke screen was working effectively.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1525/8.)

S.B.R.

Request S.B.R.'s in area between 044° and 045° N. between 007° and 009° W. from 1700/10 until further notice.  
(F.O.S., 1552A/8 to A.O. C. in C. C.C.)  
Request S.B.R. between 049° and 050° N., between 013° and 015° W. from 1800/10 until 0400/16.  
(F.O.S., 1554/8 to H.Q.C.C.)  
My 2153A/4 para. 2. Cancel request for S.B.R. between 049° 30' N. 001° W. and Bishop Rock. Request instead S.B.R. (a) 25 miles either side of line joining 049° 30' N., 011° W., and 050° 10' N. 010° W. from 1800/8 until 2100/10.  
(b) 35 miles either side of line joining 050° 10' N. 010° W. and Trevoise Head from 2200/8 until further notice.  
(F.O.S., 1951A/8 to H.Q.C.C.)

Escort  
withdrawn.

Air escort withdrawn from "Attempt" owing to weather.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1627A/8 to WALLACE.)

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Grimsby  
attacked.

(a) Incendiaries started a fire near Grimsby Docks at 1910/7. Approx. 12 hostile aircraft in vicinity. Number one basket group was used at G.R.1.  
(b) 80 Wing was informed immediately afterwards.  
(c) Attack failed to materialise. No reports of H.E. at Parent or Site. S.F. out by 2050 and all quiet.  
(F.O. Humber, 1155A/8.)

AELYBRYN  
attacked.

S.S. AELYBRYN attacked at 1300/7 by enemy A/C, position Girdleness 260° 20 miles whilst driven eastward by gale having lost touch with convoy E.N.16.  
One man injured by M.G. fire. Ship undamaged.  
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1715/8.)

PHINEAS  
BEARD  
(M/S Trawler)  
sunk.  
MILFORD  
EARL  
(M/S Trawler)  
damaged.

Group 41 M.S. Trawlers was attacked by hostile aircraft at 1715/8 while under way off Lunen Bay. PHINEAS BEARD received direct hit and sank immediately. \*MILFORD EARL badly damaged and on fire but efforts being made to save vessel. 4 wounded ratings from MILFORD EARL have been landed at Montrose and 8 survivors from MILFORD EARL and 10 from PHINEAS BEARD are onboard other trawlers.  
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 2130/8.) \* sunk - P.M. [unclear]

Fair  
Isle.

At 1400/8 a Junker 88 A/C bombed the South Lighthouse on Fair Isle, killing one woman and damaging the building.  
(D.S. 826.)

Mining.

S.N. 25C.

Intend carry out operation S.N. 25C as follows, with MENESTHEUS and SCOTT. From 058° 34'42" N. 006° 54'48" W. through 058° 39'42" N. 006° 45' W. to 058° 43'24" N. 006° 52'06" W. Sail 1700/10. Lay at 0110/11. Return Port ZA 1000/11.  
(R.A.M., 1247A/8.)

Sweep of  
QZS 286.

C.O. LADY PHILOMENA reports that the mines which sank S.S. GREENLAND gave a distinct flash resembling a torpedo. This might indicate the presence of T mines. Commander M.S and P is arranging an Oropesa sweep of Q Z S 286 using 10 fathoms of float wire as soon as weather permits.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1315A/8.)

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.WELSH  
PRINCE  
(Mined 7/12)Arrival MALLARD at 1315 with survivors of  
WELSH PRINCE.  
(F.O. Humber, 1338A/8.)FIREGLOW  
(British,  
1261 Tons)  
sunk.My 1319A/8. FIREGLOW sunk in 053° 18'36" N.  
001° 05'00" E. Have picked up 19 survivors,  
one man missing. Intend to proceed to Humber  
with 2 seriously injured. E.T.A. 1545.  
(VERDUN, 1346A/8.)  
Arrival VERDUN at 1630 with survivors of  
FIREGLOW.  
(F.O. Humber, 1658A/8.)SEVERN  
TRANSPORT  
(Mined 7/12)Six ft. of mast showing at Lwos. Position  
51° 24'38" N. 3° 05'39" W.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1618A/8.)Enemy Intelligence.German  
Naval Units.Graded C.3. (Low gradings).  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1721/8.)  
O.I.C. Comment. (A) If correct these warships  
were probably HIPPER and KÖLN.  
(B) These ships cannot be identified but they  
may possibly be the new cruiser minelayers.  
(C) No other report of this nature of camou-  
flage has been received, and this report should  
be treated with reserve.Armed M/V's  
at Havre.Pru sortie A/39 at 1120/8 shows Havre since  
29/11 two M/V's 360 ft. and 340 ft. have arrived  
in Bassin Bellot West. Both vessels heavily  
armed, the former with five and other with  
four gun platforms. Possible that the M/V  
360 ft. may have been present elsewhere in port  
on 29/11 but not reported owing to poor quality  
photographs.  
(P.R.U. Benson, 1825/8.)Navigational.Firth of  
Forth.Ships are not to approach within five cables of  
position 056° 09'39" N. 002° 52' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2344/8.)

War diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.ROSTHERN.

Your O138A/8. My position is 060° 10' N. 010° 08' W., course 245°, speed 9 knots. Asdic compartment flooded. Gasket leaking badly main steam line. Present maximum speed 9 knots. Stopped for temporary repairs to steam line rejoining Convoy and propose I should stop Iceland for repairs and fuel. Time required probably 6 hours.  
(ROSTHERN, 0400A/8.) *See also next page*

VERITY.

Proceed to Holyhead for docking.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1027A/8 to VERITY.)

SAUTERNES.

A.P.V.

RONALDSHAY and KERRERA have swept Nolso Fiord in company. Bodies of 2 men submerged objects from SAUTERNES, washed ashore at Svino at 1050A/8th.  
(Scapa W/T, 1310A/8.)  
SAUTERNES bound Thorshavn from Kirkwall believed sunk in gale at 1530/7 in vicinity Svino Faeroes. N.O.i/c Faeroes 1810/7 and 1310/8 are passed for information. Air and surface search has so far failed to locate survivors. Further air search arranged for tomorrow.  
(A.C.O.S., 1804A/8.)

RHEINHAUSEN  
(German,  
6298 tons)

Reported on 8/12 that she had run aground in Degarham Roads, Kalmarsund, S.W. Sweden and was unlikely to be able to control water for long.  
(D.S., 826.)

BAHIA  
(German,  
4117 tons)

Reported in Swedish Press to be firmly aground outside Varberg on 7/12.  
(D.S., 826.)

EQUATOR  
(Finnish,  
4595 tons)

Reported in Swedish Press to have sunk near Sundsuall after grounding on passage to Lulea. Crew saved by Tug VALKYRIEN (Danish)  
(D.S., 826.)

Shipping and Convoys.O.G.77.

O.G.77 reduced to 6½ knots by (? defect) in (Nothing further heard vide W/T)  
(BLACK SWAN, No T.O.O./8, Recd. 0258/8.)

F.N.572.

F.N. No 572 very spread out. Rear ships between Sheringham and 57 C Buoy. Speed 5 knots.  
(VERDUN, 0846A/8.)

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.F.N.572.  
(Contd.)

Commodore at 59 buoy. 6½ knots. VERDUN divert rear ships to Humber. E.T.A. Tyne 0400/9.

(VALOROUS, 0933A/8.)

Your 0933. Rear of main body now at 59 buoy. 8 stragglers extending 15 miles back will be diverted to Humber. Request escort at H 3 buoy.

(VERDUN, 1140A/8 to VALOROUS.)

F.N.573.  
F.S.667.

Your 2310/7. Intend to sail ROMNEY and RHYL to meet F.N.573 and F.S.667.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0946A/8.)

F.N.573 is to keep to the Western half of the Channel between Sheringham and H 3 buoy.

(C. in C. Nore, 1251A/8 to WALLACE.)

E.N.17.E.N.17 postponed 26 hours.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1011/8.)W.N.16.My 1011/8. Owing to postponement of E.N.17 request W.N.16 be postponed about 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1110/8.)Your 1110A/8. W.N.16 (slow) will sail 24 hours late. Amend my 0951A/7/12 accordingly.  
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1249A/8.)O.N. M.  
O.N. C.  
O.N. B.DAHLIA with O.N.(M) on time. O.N.(C) 2 hours late. O.N.(B) 4 hours late. DAHLIA instructed to reduce speed.  
(ARABIS, 1112A/8.)O.N.43.  
ROSTHERN.  
RAJAHSTAN.

Report situation forthwith repeating your signal to BROKE and NEWPORT.

(C. in C. W.A., 1236A/8 to Escorts O.N.S.43)

Your 1236A/8. Temporary engine repairs complete. RAJAHSTAN armoured. 1200A/8 P.C.S. 059° 40' N. 012° W., 285°, 8 knots. RAJAHSTAN reports passing 5 ships early this morning probably now eastwards of me. *See previous page*  
(ROSTHERN, 1545N/8.)

Your 0400A/8 and 1545N/8. Endeavour to join RAJAHSTAN to O.N.43 and remain with convoy until further orders.

(C. in C. W.A., 1958A/8 to ROSTHERN.)

P.Q.  
Convoys.

Your 1801C/6. Every effort is made to maintain punctuality of P.Q. Convoys.

2. It appears that neither you nor the Russians sufficiently realise the navigational difficulties that these convoys experience during winter.

(A.C.N.S.(T), 1336A/8 to S.N.O. Archangel.)



War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

18th M/L.  
Flotilla.

I note with satisfaction the number of convoys successfully escorted by the 18th M/L. Flotilla since August.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1632A/8 to MENTOR II.)

W.S.14.

WESTCOTT and BEAUFORT sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1519/2, para. 3. E.T.A. Londonderry 2330A/8.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1659A/8.)

E.N.18(F)

Sailing time advanced 24 hours to 1100/11.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1919/8.)

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

My P.C. and S. are  $036^{\circ} 10' 008^{\circ} 20' 320^{\circ} 14$  knots. Intend to steer for a position  $040^{\circ} 30' 013^{\circ} 30'$  then steer for  $300^{\circ}$  ? (HARVESTER) in company. (HESPERUS 1000A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy Convoy  
(Incorrect  
Report.)

V.A. Malta 1051B/8, Admty. 1159A/8, S.O. Force H. 1248A/8, F.O.C.N.A. 1300A/8, V.A. Malta 1645A/8. See Mediterranean.

REGENT.

Intend to sail REGENT 10th. REGENT will pass through  $43^{\circ} 00' 10^{\circ} 30'$  about 0900A/13 shifting W/T watch at that time. F.O.S. is requested to signal onward route and bombing restriction. S. of A. when submerged by day 160 miles. Carrying 4 torpedoes only. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/8 to Admty.) REGENT arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850A/8 to Admty. etc.) See p. 225.

AUDACITY.

Your 1057A/7. AUDACITY can operate with 2 Diesel generators but consider essential 3rd generator should be repaired with new crank shaft on her return with H.G.76. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

SEVERN  
JONQUIL.

My 1136A/5. Escort is JONQUIL. Bombing restrictions arranged. Keep good lookout for U-Boats. (F.O.C.N.A. 1136A/8 to SEVERN.)

URSULA.

2 destroyers on north and south patrol 20 miles east Gibraltar, aircraft may co-operate. Comply strictly with my <sup>\*</sup>1108A/6. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208A/8 to URSULA.) *Cancelled - See p. 234*

JAY  
IBIS  
S.L.94.

JAY  $038^{\circ} 23' 028^{\circ} 35' 160^{\circ} 7$ . S.L.94  $026^{\circ} 18' 024^{\circ} 52' 340^{\circ} 7$ . S.O. IBIS, situation 2003A/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1446A/8 to A.I.G.64.)

FORTUNE  
defects.

Your 1146/7. Act in accordance with requirements of C. in C. Med. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1510A/8 to S.O. Force H.) Your 1146A/7th, concur. (C. in C. Med., 1241B/8 to S.O. Force H.)

/Destroyers ...

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.Destroyers  
for E. Med.

Departures eastwards HERMIONE, EXMOOR, MAORI, BLANKNEY, to join LAFOREY, ARROW, ISAAC SWEERS. Ref. 1051/8 from V.A. Malta refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1520A/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.

HERMIONE  
URSULA  
OLYMPUS.

HERMIONE and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar 1600 sweeping East 17 knots returning 0800/9. URSULA remains on patrol within 10 miles of  $035^{\circ} 40' N. 003^{\circ} 20' W.$  until further orders. *See next page* OLYMPUS is not to cross  $001^{\circ} 30' W.$  before 0001/9. Report any convoy sighted. (F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/8 to URSULA, OLYMPUS.)

JONQUIL.

Cancel A.M. 1823A/30. Port of destination for JONQUIL will be signalled later. (D.O.D.(H) 1648A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SHEAPHOLME.

My 1924/6th and my 1854 to ? Ponta Delgada. Ship again gone to sea to complete work. (R.O. Horta 1719/8 to Adty.)

C.A.M.  
Ships.

A.M. 2041A/13/8. It is not repeat not intended that C.A.M. ships should catapult their aircraft prior to arrival at Gibraltar. (2) Masters will be informed by D.E.M.S. Staff Officer of launching or disembarkation arrangements after arrival. (3) Request authorities concerned may be notified. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850A/8 to Adty.)

French  
Ships.

1526/7. TOURQUENNOIS Deck cargo lorries P.C. and S.  $036^{\circ} (234' \text{ or } 29') N. 000^{\circ} 38' W. 180^{\circ} 8$  knots. Gibraltar 1015/8 minesweeper ENGAGEANTE, S.S. BELLE ISLE, SAVOIE, both laden, KITA westbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1857A/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Kingston.)

D.19.

Your 1802A. (N.T.in W.D.) Your 1411/8. (N.T.in W.D.) not received and time for destroyers to return Gibraltar unknown. Intend to sweep eastwards until 2300 returning to Gibraltar at daylight. (Capt. D.19, 1954A/8 to S.O. Force H.)

Dutch  
personnel  
for REGENT.

Dutch Admty. have asked that following personnel now in MAIDSTONE may be given early passage to U.K.(list) Request you will arrange for them to return in REGENT. On arrival in U.K. they should report on board H.N.M.S. COLUMBIA. (D.O.D.(F) 2008/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See p. 232*

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.URSULA.

Cancel my 1108A/6 and my 2208A/1. Leave patrol at 0400A/9 and proceed direct on surface to Gibraltar. Endeavour to arrive in daylight. Report E.T.A. T.B.R. arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 2136A/8 to URSULA.)

South Atlantic.CLAN MACBEAN.

Request reasons why CLAN MACBEAN was not routed in accordance with Admty. 2311A/23 whilst CLAN MACNAUGHTON which sailed on the same day was correctly routed. (D.T.D. 0020A/8 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.) Admty. 0030/8 (?0020/8). Neither ship was routed in accordance with your 2311/23 as this was not received until 1100/27. That CLAN MACNAUGHTON's route did happen to comply with this signal was due to policy of dispersing route as widely as possible. CLAN MACBEAN being slow and coal burning given shortest route possible subject to instructions contained in your 1505/20/11. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 1547B/8 to Admty.) *see also next page*

Walrus A/C.

R.A.S.A.D. 1743/7. 2 Walrus aircraft are available at Wynberg. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0927B/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

Convoys in S.A. publicity.

Proposals in C. in C. S.A.'s 1225N/17/11 are concurred in. No objection is seen to proposals in F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0939B/15/11 subject to censorship of photographs by F.O.I.C. particular attention being paid to stopping any photographs showing. (details). (D.P.D. 1320A/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

Possible German Survivors at St. Helena or Ascension.

My 1115/7 (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C. S.A. informs me survivors of German raider sunk in South Atlantic 1/12 are in 15 boats and may be accompanied by a S/M or S/Ms. They are probably armed and number 500. Possible they may make for St. Helena, and estimated they could arrive here today 8th or Ascension on 11th. I have no

/anxiety ...

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Possible  
German  
Survivors at  
St. Helena or  
Ascension -  
contd.

anxiety here as problem is likely to be more administrative than operational though of course I am fully prepared for latter. Ascension is not in a position to deal with an affair of this nature and I have requested C. in C. S.A. to keep an eye on it. I am unable to reinforce Ascension from here. In view of gravity of situation and possibility of providing numerous guards I have with concurrence of Governor voluntarily enlisted 12 residents of Jamestown in St. Helena Volunteer Corps. This is all I can spare rifles and equipment for, and their primary duty will be guarding of cable and wireless station. They will only be called out on alarm. No operatives of Cable and Wireless have been enlisted.  
(O.C. Troops, St. Helena, 1430/8 to W.O.)

Ex-Japanese  
Trawlers.

PRESIDENTE MITRE, PRESIDENTE ROCA ex Japanese trawlers left Buenos Aires today 8th at 1300 G.M.T. Fitted with very powerful short and medium wave wireless and have Japanese crews and are considered suspects. They fly the Argentine flag.  
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1525Z/8 to Admty.)

Vichy French  
intelligence.  
THODE FAGELUND  
(sunk 17/11)

Chesor Mauritius reports private telegrams to French S/M LE HEROS at Diego Suarez.  
2. From this and following facts inference may be drawn that Vichy Submarine sank THODE FAGELUND.  
(a) 28/10 S/Ms LE GLORIEUX and LE HEROS left Dakar for Madagascar with convoy (B.A.D's 1521/31/10.) (b) 3/11 "Bellringer" convoy boarded and W/T message from French Admiralty to D'IBERVILLE intercepted. (c) 10/11 convoy from Dakar returned to Dakar without the S/Ms. (B.A.D's 1703/12/11.) (d) 17/11 THODE FAGELUND sunk in 35 miles S.E. East London. (F.O.I.C's 2128/7/11.) (e) 22/11 aircraft sighted track suspected to be one or more S/Ms in 209 miles 207° from Durban Bluff and dropped bombs. (N.L.O. Durban's 2237/22/11.) (f) 7/12 Chesor Mauritius report indicates LE HEROS at Diego Suarez. Signals quoted were not to all addressees.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1532B/8 to Admty. for D.N.I., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. China, F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

S.S. CLAN  
MACBEAN.  
CLAN  
MACNAUGHTON.

Endeavour was made to divert both ships on 28/11. N.C.S.O. Capetown's 15(7) CLAN MACBEAN was directed to steer for position P (P) and CLAN MACNAUGHTON for position O (O). CLAN MACBEAN apparently did not obey my 1017/28. (F.O.I/c Simonstown 1635Z/8 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O. Capetown.) *See previous page*

/LORD GREY ...

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.LORD GREY  
AIGLON.

Intend sailing M/S trawlers LORD GREY and AIGLON about 13/12 for Freetown via Azores in accordance with A.M.1933/26/8/41. Request route. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1644A/8 to C. in C. W.A.) *(Should be under Home Commands - Instructions) p.224.*

Cable  
Operation.

My 1121/25/11. LADY DENISON PENDER will also be required to repair Aden-Zanzibar cable. (D.S.D. 1706A/8 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

EOLO  
(Spanish)

Your 0315/7. Diversion of EOLO not desirable. Navicerted cargo of 7324 tons must fill a 4400 ton ship, but cargo will be checked at unloading ports. (D.E.W.D. 1710A/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.Movements,  
THUNDERBOLT.

One cruiser and 2 destroyers leave Alexandria at 0600B/8 and proceed to N.W. (Capt. S.1, 0009B/8 to THUNDERBOLT.)

TALISMAN  
PERSEUS.

TALISMAN concentrate on Argostoli forthwith. PERSEUS concentrate on Northern Approaches to Argostoli. PERSEUS is heartily congratulated by flotilla on award of D.S.O. for good work in command TAKU. (S.1, 0051B/8 to S/Ms named.)

YARRA.  
WOLBOROUGH.  
HEYTHROP.  
AVON VALE.

Your 2040/7. To avoid congestion at Tobruk on (?day) after A.T.3 arrives propose YARRA and WOLBOROUGH remain Tobruk and sail 1800/9 with any ship ready. B.S.N.O. Tobruk's 1438/7 refers. HEYTHROP and AVON VALE rejoin A.T.3. and leave at dusk 9th to R/V with YARRA at 2030/9. Motor launches to escort till "Hunts" join. If approved YARRA's route will be signalled. (S.O. Force I. 0055B/8 to R.A. Alexandria.)

*See also next page*THRASHER  
PORPOISE.

THRASHER after passing 38° 00' 18" 50' proceeding through 037° 10' 020° 44' to Area Q.1 within 50 miles of Pylos Light Navarin and N.W. of line 220° from that light. PORPOISE operate S.E. of this line in Area Q. from 0001B/9th. (Capt. S.1, 0105B/8 to S/Ms named.) Your 2257B/7 not approved. Comply with my 0105B/8. (Capt. S.1 0257B/8 to THRASHER.)

/Libya ...

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Libya.

Military Situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E. 0315/8, 1800/8). See Lion Copy.

→ YARRA.

Sail with all despatch for Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 0415B/8 to YARRA.)

HEYTHROP  
AVON VALE.

My 0415. HEYTHROP and AVON VALE R/V YARRA as ordered by S.O. Force I and return to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 0419B/8 to HEYTHROP, YARRA, AVON VALE.)

→ YARRA sailed 0515/8. E.T.A. Alexandria 2300/8. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk 0520/8 to C. in C. Med.) C. in C. 0419/8. YARRA proceeding through W, T, A. HEYTHROP and AVON VALE proceeding 20 knots through T to R/V in 032° 08' N. 025° 36' E. at 1100, thence to Alexandria, E.T.A. 0200/9th. (S.O. Force I. 0555/8 to YARRA, HEYTHROP.)

*See previous page*

Movements  
Malta.

8/12 arrived AJAX, NEPTUNE, LIVELY, KANDAHAR, JAGUAR P.34. (V.A. Malta, 0917B/8 to Admty.)

Russian  
Ships ex  
Black Sea.

Adm. Kelly's 1217B/5. From information from Soviet Naval Authorities and Turkish Ambassador here it appears that all cargoes of first batch (some 25,000 tons) will be given to Turkey and that she is fully satisfied with this arrangement. Second batch will retain their cargoes on board for passage to Far East. (Adm. Miles, 1012D/8 to Admty.)

A.T.3.

Convoy A.T.3 is not to sail before p.m./9th. HANNE is to be sailed to Mersa Matruh in reserve. (C. in C. Med., 1040B/8 to All concerned in "Aggression".) *See 2/20 p 138*

Enemy Convoy  
Report.

(?Solitary) Wellington reports sighting large convoy at least 10 ships in position 15 miles South of Malaga at 0115B/8 steering towards Gibraltar. No lights were shown except by leading and rear ships. (V.A. Malta, 1051B/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) V.A. Malta's 1051B/8. Request any further information of this reported convoy including details of escort. (V.C.N.S. 1159A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1051B/8. Please interrogate closely and amplify. (S.O. Force H., 1248A/8 to V.A. Malta.)

/Your 1159A/8 ...

**MOST SECRET**

237A

**MOST SECRET**

**MESSAGE**

**IN**

0315/8/December.

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 8.12.41.

CYPHER

Time 0925.

Addressed War Office (Pass to Air Ministry), repeated  
C. in C. Mediterranean.

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

I7548

0/35410 cipher 7/12. **MOST SECRET**

Cositrep No. 33

1. Morning 7 Dec. enemy tanks believed remnants of 15 and 21 German Armd Divs. were reported in area west of Gubi with further tanks believed Ariete Div Area sixteen miles north of Gubi. 4 Ind. Div. were shelling them and 4 Armd. Bde. were in readiness to engage them if they moved.

2. 7 Dec. mobile columns continued operating. Majority N.Z. wounded-rescued from dressing station area Zafraan and all guns lost by N.Z. Div. at Sidi Rezegh have been recovered in good order.

3. Tobruk report one hundred P.O.W. captured area Bardia road 6th Dec. Patrolling now in progress eastwards with object clearing up in area between Tobruk and Gambut. Eighteen German tanks found abandoned on Northern Slopes Belhamed 6th December. Patrol 4 Border Regt dusk 6th Dec. to Sidi Rezegh found area clear of enemy. 2200 hrs. our Artyl put down concentration on areas 413418 and 414416.

4. 6 Dec. Bardia being shelled and our mobile columns active. Small parties Germans found starving in Wadis. Areas 4839 and 4933. 7 Dec. 2 S.A. Div. intends to clear up Area Ghirba but instructed not to incur unnecessary casualties doing so.

5. Ref Cositrep No. 57 para 4. 6 Dec. mobile columns claim in addition over one hundred M.T. destroyed and two hundred prisoners captured. German and not Italian Bty. destroyed including ninety personnel and Commander.

Air. 6. Night 6/7 Dec. Strong force Wellingtons kept up continuous bombing and machine gun attack on solid column of MT on El Adem - Acroma - Gazala Road, each aircraft making two sorties. Large petrol fires and explosions with heavy damage to M.T. Gazala north and El Adem aerodromes also bombed. Hanger hit and bombs among buildings at latter. Weather hazy at first deteriorating to low cloud and rain.

7.....



7. Day 7 Dec. Two Squadrons Marylands continued attacks on Acroma road in low cloud. Results follow.

0315/8

Recd from W.O. a.m./8th December.

War Office Circulation

1st Lord.	
1st S.L.	
2nd S.L.	
3rd S.L.	S. of 3,
4th S.L.	C.I.G.S.
5th S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.O. & P
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.D.M.O. (2)
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.P. (2)
A.C.N.S.(T)	M.O.1,5,6.
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.D.I.P.
N.A.1st S.L.	D.M.I.
D. of P. (2)	D.D.M.I. (1)
D.O.D.(H)	M.I.3,14.
D.D.C.D.(H)	D.A.F.V.
D.O.D.(F)	Cabinet War Room
D.D.O.D.(F)	Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)
D.N.I. (4)	C.A.S. (Air Ministry) (2)
D.S.D.	D. of Plans (Air Ministry) (2)
D.N.A.D.	Plans 3 (Air Ministry) (2)
D. of L.D.	D.O.O. (Air Ministry)
B.A./S.W.	D.M.C. (Air Ministry)
D.M.S.	P.S. to S. of S. (Air Ministry) (2)
I.P. (2)	Duty Group Captain (Air Ministry)
W.D.	Air Ministry War Room A.C.A.S.(1) (Air.Min.)
D.C.	D.C. (Admiralty)
Hd. of M.	Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty War Room)
D.T.S.D.	S. of S. (Foreign Office).
E.P.S.	
D.T.D. (2)	
N.I.D.10 Pay.Cdr.Wilson.	
D.G.D.	
D.D.I.C.	

**MOST SECRET**

2378

~~MOST SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~ December

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 8/12/41

Recd. 2010

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry).  
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

17854. 0/35579 cipher 8/12. MOST SECRET.

First of Two Parts.

Cositrep No.39.

One. 30 Corps. 7 Dec. concentration thirty enemy tanks and five hundred M.T. area west of Gubi heavily shelled by our arty. and attacked by our armd. forces at midday. Seven enemy tanks destroyed and three more probably, seventeen M.T. destroyed. Slight damage to three of our tanks. Later enemy column approx. five hundred M.T. and few tanks observed moving west. Squadron our cruisers working round to intercept K.D.G. captured forty prisoners area 3837.

Two. Tobruk.

A. Afternoon 6 Dec. 11 H. established contact with Tobruk garrison area Sidi Rezegh and patrols from Tobruk gained touch with 2 S A. Div. on road Bardia-Tobruk night 6/7 Dec. Ref. Cositrep No. 38 para. 2. After establishing contact area Sidi Rezegh eleven 25 pdr. guns belonging to N.Z. Div. were recovered in serviceable condition having been hurriedly abandoned by enemy.

B. 7 Dec. Columns from Tobruk visited Gambut and reported no opposition met. Thirty enemy stragglers captured. Petrol ammunition food and stores located in large quantities. Recovery parties 70 Div. brought in many A.Tk. guns tanks and automatics during day. Seventy five German prisoners captured in Wadis north of road Bardia-Tobruk. Total prisoners during day approx. one hundred and forty.

C. 7 Dec. Patrols report enemy posts 418410 and 414416 still occupied by enemy. Night 7/8 Dec. 13 Corps undertaking operations from 410420 to clear up enemy resistance on escarpment area El Adem.

Three. Frontier Area. 6 Dec. enemy still hold Bir Ghirba strongly. No later news.

Four. Summary. Whole area north of Trigh Capuzzo between Tobruk and excluding Bardia area is rapidly being cleared up. 30 Corps mobile columns continue

to/.....

to operate very offensively round flank and in rear of enemy occupying area Gubi-El Adem and their continued success must be causing him grave concern.

Five. 7 Dec. enemy air activity increased, four dive-bombing attacks reported on troops in forward area. Casualties and damage very slight. Two Stukas shot down by Lt. A.A.

Second and Last Part.

AIR.

Six. 6 Dec. Reconnaissance. Four hundred M.T. Bir Hakim including fifty suspected A.F.V.'s. Forty nine aircraft Martuba west, eighteen Gazala north.

Seven. Night 6/7 Dec. Bomber F.A.A. Albatrosses attacked Bardia Harbour and M.T. on El Adem-Acroma road. Bombs including delay action fell around jetty on north side of harbour with one direct hit. Bombs among dispersed M.T. on road. No shipping in harbour.

Eight. 7 Dec. Bomber. Ref. Cositrep No. 38 para seven. Two South African Maryland squadrons bombed Acroma and M.T. on road to north. Building hit and one tank destroyed Acroma. Large fire started to north. Hurricane bombers destroyed several M.T. south of Acroma.

Nine. Fighter. Two Hurricane squadrons operating from Tobruk engaged about twelve dive-bombers escorted by thirty fighters returning from bombing attack. Hurricanes shot down two dive bombers, four fighters, probably destroyed two fighters, damaged one dive bomber, three fighters. One Hurricane shot down, four missing.

Ten. Night 7/8 Dec. Weather good. Strong force Wellingtons attacked M.T. and troops on Acroma-Gazala road, each aircraft making two sorties. Large fires started among M.T. south of Gazala inlet. Convoy on road fifteen miles east of Gazala bombed. One 4,000 lb. bomb on Derna near W/T station. Two 4,000 lb. bombs on Benghazi burst on Cathedral Mole and caused explosions east of town. Considerable M.T. seen east of Gazala south landing ground and convoy approaching Gazala from North West.

1800/8

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

Recd. by hand from War Office at  
2244/8.

P.T.O./.....

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

Copies circulated by War Office to:-  
S. of S.  
C.I.G.S.  
V.C.I.G.S.  
D.H.O. & P.  
D.D.H.O. (0)  
D.P. (2)  
M.O.1.5.6.  
D.D.I.P.  
D.M.I.  
D.D.H.I. (I)  
M.I.3.14.  
D.A.F.V.  
Cabinet War Room  
Col Jacob (Cabinet Offices)  
C.A.S. (Air Ministry)(2)  
D. of Plans (Air Ministry)(2)  
Plans 3 (Air Ministry)(2)  
D.O.O. (Air Ministry)  
D.I.C. (Air Ministry)  
P.S. to S. of S. (Air Ministry)(2)  
Duty Group Capt. (Air Ministry)  
A.C.A.S. (I) (Air Ministry)  
Air Ministry War Room.  
S. of S. Foreign Office.  
Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty  
War Room)  
Hd. of War Reg. Admiralty.  
Duty Captain Admiralty.

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Enemy Convoy  
Report -  
contd.

Your 1159A/8 to F.O.C.N.A. only. Air R/C on Sunday afternoon to Eastwards of Cape De Gata saw nothing. (2) 2 destroyers on patrol about 30 miles Eastwards of Gibraltar since 2100/7. (3) Weather preventing A/C taking off now. (4) Am transferring Catalina now off Cape St. Vincent to Eastwards. (5) S.O. Force H. organizing search by surface vessels. (6) 2 French (? M/Vs) escorted by 2 trawlers passed Westwards through Straits at 1000/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1300A/8 to Admty.)

Your 1248A/8. Further interrogation reveals that report must be considered unreliable. A/C crew agree sighting navigation light, but no conclusive evidence as to size and number of vessels sighted. Regret caused stir but considered possibility had to be reported immediately.

(V.A. Malta, 1645B/8 to S.O. Force H.)

W.R. Note.- Report of large convoy steering towards Gibraltar.

Movements.

Departure 7/12 AVON VALE, HEYTHROP, arrival 8th HOBART, GRIFFIN, GALATEA, KIMBERLEY, CARLISLE, HOTSPUR, JAGUAR, KINGSTON, BRECONSHIRE, HILMI. Departure 8th HERO, HAVOCK, EURYALUS. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1126B/8 to Admty. etc.)

Russian  
Ships ex  
Black Sea.

Following from Adm. Kelly. Russian N.A. has received orders from Molotof to ask some form of protection for Russian ships vicinity Rhodes and Castellorizo. I have pointed out these waters are traversed by night and impossibility of arranging R/V under such conditions with vessels whose previous movements so uncertain. Only possibility I could suggest to you was to have escort vessel in vicinity of Castellorizo during two most likely nights to intervene in case enemy attack was made, but I could not promise your acceptance of this proposal. Admty. repeat to Adm. Miles. (A.N.A. Istanbul, 1206B/8 to C. in C. Med.)

Lighters  
for Mersa  
Matruh.

Intend sail coastal route at 1600/8 HANNE, MYRIEL and arrange (corrupt group) tow 3 Iron lighters, E.T.A. Mersa Matruh 1200/9th. Escort PROTEA and SOUTHERN SEA with FARNDAL, ERIDGE who detach off Mersa Matruh, returning Alexandria 20 knots. Lighters are for onward towage by ST. MONANCE. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1247B/8 to S.O. Force I.)

See p 327

EURYALUS.

Your Force was sighted by enemy aircraft at 1105/8. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1402B/8 to EURYALUS.)

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.EURYALUS  
contd.

1 Blenheim will be carrying out search for enemy destroyer off Derna tomorrow 0630/9. Track from Derna 334° for 40 miles returning on reciprocal 10 miles to eastward. Ordered not to attack but report all enemy sightings. (201 Group 1512B/8 to EURYALUS.) Inference from R/C reveals it is possible you might encounter up to 2 Italian ~~MAESTRALE~~ MAESTRALE Class and 2 Italian Gunboat ORIONE class off Derna a.m./9 not necessarily all in company. (C. in C. Med., 2304B/8 to EURYALUS.)

Bardia  
bombed.

Night 6/7 Dec. F.A.A. Albacores dropped 250 lbs. bombs including proportion of delay fuses up to 36 hours in Bardia harbour to interfere with suspected use by enemy small shipping, during night, 1 exploded on jetty, no shipping sighted.

Derna,  
Benghazi  
bombed.

Night 7/8 Dec. 1 4,000 lb. bomb dropped on Derna burst near W/T station. 2 Wellingtons dropped a 4,000 lb. bomb each on Benghazi, first hit Cathedral Mole, second caused series explosions east of town. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1418/8.)

PROTEUS.

Return to Alexandria forthwith passing through 035° 50' 023° 00' 034° 41' 023° 28' 033° 04' 027° 16' thence direct to arrive sanctuary 0600B/11/12. Report your E.T.A. when safe to do so if you cannot arrive as ordered. (Capt. S.1, 1559B/8 to PROTEUS.)

Benghazi  
mining.

Please confirm that you concur in mining of Benghazi harbour as asked for in H.Q. R.A.F. M.E's 1053/7 to H.Q. Malta and advanced H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. only. (V.A. Malta, 1631B/8 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Raid.

2016 to 0410 hours 11 JU.88 intruders crossed coast, bombs land sea. Very slight damage buildings Hal Far 1 private killed 6 slightly injured. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1715/8.)

Tripoli  
bombed.

Night 7/8. Bad weather Benghazi. 2 Mark 2 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli, dropped 1 4000 lb. bomb near warehouses and another in town. 6 successful attacks Castel Benito Aerodrome. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1718/8.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Convoy  
T.A.2.

Route for T.A.2 speed 7 knots code name "Bosom". Sailing 1800/9th S direct to Lat 0330 10th N 1015 A 2000 by coast route to Alexandria E.T.A. 1530 11th. Intend FARNDALE, ERIDGE, proceed on arrival Mersa Matruh through N and L adjusting speed to R/V after daybreak convoy at 2030 9th. Motor launches to assist C.406 escorting till "Hunts" join. Fighter protection required p.m./9th for FARNDALE and ERIDGE and daylight hours of 10th and 11th for convoy. "A" lighters to proceed independently from N to make Mersa Matruh before dark. (S.O. Force I. 1845B/8.)

S.S.  
M/V SURCOUF.

Your 1502/29/11. SURCOUF. Seize ship and cargo. See Colonial Office telegram 599 to Governor. (D.E.W.D. 1854A/8 to C.C.S.O. Aden.)

15th C.S.

C. in C. Med's 1658B/8 (N.T.in W.D.) Intend to pass through 033° 15' N. 026° 00' E. at 1900/9 thence to patrol on line 000° from Derna from 0400/10, closest Derna at daylight thence searching to northwards till 0900/10. 201 Group is requested to arrange R/C at daylight/10 vicinity of Tas El Hilal (022° 10' E) thence northwards 60 miles. (R.A. 15 C.S., 1923/8 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

TRUSTY.

Following force may be encountered tomorrow 9th; one cruiser and 2 destroyers leaving mooring buoy at 0610B and proceeding N.W. 2 destroyers and 1 escort vessel due Alexandria early a.m. from westward and 1 Schooner also from westward due a.m. all on inshore route. Following area is available if you wish to dive before entering harbour: between line joining position 277 range - setting 21.5, 267 range setting 26.2, 276 range setting 15.5, 262 range setting 19.5. Do not overtake mine sweepers (?met) in searched channel. (Capt. S.1, 2041B/8 to TRUSTY.)

TALISMAN,  
attack on  
destroyer.

One unidentified destroyer P.C. and S. 038° 00' N. 020° 28' E. 155° 15' (? upwards.) Engaged (? with) gun 4 hits. 3 torpedoes passed under. Weather. (TALISMAN 2155B/8 to Capt. S.1.)

TRIUMPH  
TORBAY.

Eastern Med. S/M movements summary 64.

	Estimated noon position 9/12.	Estimated noon position 10/12.
TRIUMPH	033° 56' N.	033° 10' N.
	025° 26' E.	028° 02' E.
TORBAY	Alex Sanctuary	033° 30' N.
		028° 38' E.

(Capt. S.1, 2241B/8 to Med. Fleet.)

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EMERALD.

Left Mombasa 0850 G.M.T./8.  
(N.O.I.C. E. Africa 0854Z/8).

DAUNTLESS.

DAUNTLESS arrived. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles  
0915Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

Shipping.

My 2156/7. Only ships proceeding to area 4 need call Colombo for orders. (2) All other shipping in Indian Ocean west of longitude Colombo should proceed as normal. (3) Special routing instructions for ships proceeding port in Bay of Bengal are being issued shortly. (C. in C. E.I., 1048Z/8 to E.I. Stn.)

REWAK interception.

Your 0714A/21/9. Complaint from French of treatment of officers landed at Obok. Request report. (Hd. of M., 1504A/8 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy. *Reply 1457 B/15/12.*

GLASGOW.

Report of U/B. (GLASGOW 1851Z/8) See U-boat Campaign.

Routing of shipping.

For N.C.S.O.'s (1) Independent sailing to or from Port Ominato East Coast India and Coast Burma as far as Rangoon traffic continues. (II) Ships are to be routed within approx. 50 miles of East Coasts of Ceylon and India when South of lat. 017° N. (III) Ships west of longitude of Colombo and bound for area 4 are to call at Colombo for orders. (IV) Adjacent stations informed. (C. in C. E.I. 2116Z/8 to E.I. Station. Repeated F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. Eastern Fleet, C. in C. China, N.O.I.C. Rangoon. My 2116/8 is being passed to you request adjacent station will conform. (C. in C.E.I. 2118Z/8 to Admty., S.N.O. Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Aden, N.L.O Durban, N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A, N.O. Wellington, A.C.N.B. D.N.O. W. Australia.)

PROTECTOR.

N.O.I.C. Aden 0802Z/3 and C. in C. Med. 1156B/6 neither to F.O.C.R.I.N. PROTECTOR should be towed to Bombay. 2. F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to arrange survey, of hull and machinery on arrival and to report to Admty. by signal. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2350A/8 to N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C. R.I.N.)



1504A/8. December.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

Date . 8.12.41.

To: C. in C. East Indies. 149.

NAVAL CYPRER (X)

From Admiralty.

Your 0714A/21/9. Following has been received from French:-

"Sub-Lieutenant Devin and Chief Petty Officer Masson who were on board a ship coming from Madagascar were arrested at sea on October 5th. and taken to Berbera. They were detained for three days with native prisoners and given no nourishment beyond some warm water. The two officers having then been deposited on the coast, a British messenger was sent to notify French authorities to send for them. A pinnace which was despatched for this purpose was seized in the Gulf of Tadezah and six occupants landed on a deserted part of the coast 30 kilometres from Opock with no provisions beyond 6 bottles of water. An aeroplane had to be sent specially to take them food and a caravan organised to bring them to Jibuti. The French Government make a serious protest against the treatment of these officers which they say is all the more incredible since in the second case it was on the suggestion of the British authorities that the ship was sent to fetch Devin and Masson."

Request early report.

1504A/8.  
for Head of M. (808)

1st. Lord.

1st. S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

N.A. 1st. S.L.

P.A.S. (D)

D.N.I. (4)

O.I.C. (3)

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

W.D.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (C)

D.T.D. (M)

D.E.W.D. (3)

Admiral Chalmers.

D. of P. (3)

D. of S.T.

N.L.

M. (M/015414/41) (30)

M. 34.

36.

French Dist.

Mr. S. Smith

Reply: 1458 B / 15/12

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Agreement  
with U.S.  
Fleet.

Cancel Adm. 2336/7, as report has now been received through Opnav. (1st S.L. 0114A/8 to C. in C. E.F.)

Enemy Force,  
Kota Bharu,  
PRINCE OF  
WALES and  
REPULSE to  
attack.

(1) (?Provided that) as I hope I can make 4 destroyers available intended to proceed with PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE dusk tonight 8/12 to attack enemy force off Kota Bharu daylight Wednesday 10th. (2) Endeavours will be made to estimate strength of enemy naval forces by air R/C, but large proportion of aircraft are naturally required for attack. (C. in C. E.F. 0204Z/8 to Admty.)

Refits and  
Dispositions.

My 0204Z/8.  
1. All water in South China Sea is readily minable and need for more T.S.D.S. destroyers is urgent. JUPITER has been a notorious crock for some months and is liable to stop suddenly at any moment. I am putting her in hand for re-riveting oil tank, time required about 3 weeks. ENCOUNTER has had to be docked for renewal of stern bush(es) but will be completed 11/12.  
2. I have ordered 2 S class destroyers from Hong Kong to Manila if possible for them to sail.  
3. I have ordered EXETER to Singapore and N.B. Wellington have been asked to send ACHILLES to Singapore.  
4. MAURITIUS refit is being hastened as much as possible.  
5. Request HOBART be ordered East, question of her destination is being discussed with N.B. Melbourne.  
6. Need for further modern cruisers is great.  
7. Request reply to my 1015/3 re ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (C. in C. E.F., 0251Z/8 to Admty.)

*Dubly: Admty 0051A/9 - para 278)*

Singapore  
Raid.

My 2030/7, 2054 intended. No damage H.M. ships or Naval establishments. (C. in C. E.F. 0254Z/8 to Admty.)

Duties.

C. in C. China 2155Z/7 and my 0403Z.  
The following duties, previously carried out by C. in C. China are to devolve on Cdre. Malaya forthwith.  
(A) Local defence (? of) (? Singapore) and Malaya in collaboration with military and R.A.F.  
(B). Reinforcements and local escort on coast of Malaya (C) organization of convoys and (? local escorts) in China station including the direction of such ships employed as ocean escort as have been allocated to this duty by C. in C. Eastern Fleet. (D) Administration of advanced or temporary bases in the Far East area. (E) (? Drafting) in the Far East (? area). (C. in C. E.F. 0404Z/8)

/Kota.....

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Kota Bharu  
landing.

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Landing is being attempted at Kota Bharu. (C. in C. F.E., 0500/8 to W.O. etc.) (Recd. from W.O., 0310/8).

Cruiser  
Escorts  
for  
Shipping.

After recent discussions with C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and Australian and New Zealand Naval authorities a redistribution of Aust. and N.Z. cruisers has been proposed in an endeavour to collect cruisers for operation with British Battle Fleet and as a striking force along Malay Barrier.

2. This will leave insufficient escort for following:-

(a) Trans-Pacific shipping between N.Z. and Panama.

(b) Air trainees in Matson liners from Auckland to San Francisco.

(c) Shipping between Torres Strait and U.S.A.

3. As majority of this shipping passes through the Pacific area as defined in A.B.C. 1, of which portions have now been classified as danger areas, it would be very much appreciated if any assistance could be given for escorting this shipping. I should be grateful if you would communicate your intentions in this matter direct to A.C.N.B. (C. in C. E.F. 0505Z/8 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet).

Hong Kong  
Raid.

First Air Raid in progress.  
(Com., Hong Kong, 0810HI/8 to C. in C. China).

Situation  
Report.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from C's in C. F.E. and E.F. Far Eastern situation report 0930 hours local time 8/12.

1. Malaya. Landing occurred from about five Japanese ships between Kelantan River and Sabak shortly after 0130 hours 8/12. Later Force of ten Merchant Ships was seen some ten miles to the south. Considerable fighting took place north of Kota Bharu Aerodrome. By 0800 hours all surface craft retiring course 330. Mopping up operations in progress on shore. Air attacks at night claim hits on two ships which were left on fire. Attacks by Vildebeeste Torpedo Aircraft and Blenheims have also been made, results not yet known. Two Hudsons and one Catalina so far reported missing from operations. Gong Kedak and Machang Aerodromes in Kelantan bombed this morning. No damage reported. Machang unoccupied. Light scale air raid on Singapore Island at 0415 hours 8/12 concentrated mainly on Seletar and Tengah Aerodromes. No appreciable damage reported.

2. Hong Kong. Report 0900/8 local time, 4 out of 5 Frontier demolitions blown, fifth ready at 1000 hours, no move across Frontier by enemy yet. Air Raid Kowloon 0800 hours. Both Walrus and one Vildebeeste out of action.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Situation  
Report -  
Contd.

5. No news from Thailand. R/C to northward including Singora left 0730 local time has reported landings at Patani and was attacked by six fighters at Singora. Further R/C at Singora area being made by Buffaloes. (C. in C. F.E., 1540/8 to W.O.)

Catalinas  
for  
Singapore.

Four Catalinas are to be despatched to Singapore as soon as possible. Onward route from Egypt to be arranged by Middle East and India. (Air Ministry 1945/8 to Coastal Command).

Hong Kong  
Air Raids.

Am proclaiming state of war with Japan and bringing into operation Order in Council 9/3/1939. Japanese aircraft dropped some bombs on barracks in Kowloon 9 a.m. local time today causing casualties, none fatal. About 10 Canadian soldiers injured, one seriously. Also made dive-bombing attack on Kai-Tak aerodrome destroying on the ground three military eight civilian aircraft. (Govr. Hong Kong. No. 1463 no T.O.O., Recd. in War Reg. at 2335/8).

Japanese forces crossed land frontier into New Territories this morning. Demolition successfully carried out as arranged and withdrawal effected in accordance with plan. Second air raid carried out by the enemy this afternoon. Enemy planes unsuccessfully attacked shore batteries and naval units. No casualties reported. Morning casualties now reported, civilians 28 killed and 80 admitted to hospital; military 1 killed 10 wounded. All casualties on Kowloon side. (Govr. Hong Kong, No. 1464, no T.O.O. Recd. in War Reg. at 2340/8).

Singapore,  
Air Raid,  
Japanese  
Fishing  
Vessels  
seized.

No. 608. On receipt of information that Japanese were attacking Kota Bharu I issued instructions for seizure of fishing vessels Singapore and for general internment of Japanese. Former completed with entire success, latter proceeding satisfactorily. Air raid on Singapore City 4.15 a.m. not heavy, some casualties and damage but none to Government buildings or harbour. Behaviour of population exemplary. (Govr. Straits Settlements, No T.O.O./8).

No. 609. In last night's air raid Singapore City, 61 fatal casualties, 133 injured taken to hospital. All Asiatic, mostly Chinese, few Indians. Bombs all dropped at random among civil population. (Govr., Straits Settlements No T.O.O./8 to S. of S. for Colonies).

/Attacks.....

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Attacks on  
Malaya and  
Thailand.

Report up to 1530 hours shows 15 ships used so far in landing Singora Patani and K.B. 10 others sighted but no disembarkation yet reported from these. 25 reported to be arriving off Nakawn Sri Tamarat. This accounts for whole force observed 6/12. Possible enemy employing one division for landings Singora and Southward if so small reserve of this formation still available. Bangkok broadcast report fighting earlier 8/12 Battambang Area. Government has now ordered (?temporary) cease fire. Indicate Thai Government still in existence no mention yet Coup d'Etat. Our estimate of initial scale attack on Hong Kong one division maximum with troops now in area 2 division. Action Japanese attacking us and U.S.A. simultaneously indicates they have decided to accept risk of national suicide rather than submit to slow strangulation. Action obviously advantageous to Germany and no need at present to look further than this from German point of view. (D.D.M.I. F.E. 2226/8)

America and West Indies.

Passages  
from  
Bermuda.

Your 1052Q/6/8. Allied vessels not on charter to M. of W.T. should not be diverted to Bermuda for this purpose unless very exceptional circumstances demand it. (D.T.D. 0023A/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ALCANTARA.

C. in C. S.A.'s 1240/7 E.T.A. 1000 G.M.T./10 Request 1500 tons of oil fuel. (ALCANTARA 0051Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

Shipping  
movements.

Ref. Adty. 0112A/9. Following has been made to G.B.M.S. 7 begins "Ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are North of Latitude of Bermuda proceed to Bermuda for re-routing. Ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are South of latitude of Bermuda proceed to Colon and await instructions. T.O.O. 0022Q/9 ends. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0052Q/8 to Adty., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q.)  
All Allied Vessels in this Area are remaining in Port on instructions from U.S. Naval Authorities. (N.C.S.O. Seattle, 0102Z/8 to Admty.)

/After.....

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Shipping  
movements  
- Contd.

After consultation with M. of W.T. following has been sent to C.S.A's and N.C.S.O's West Coast U.S.A. and Canada (begins) British and Allied ships may be sailed on Coastal voyages between San Pedro and Vancouver inclusive but not Trans Pacific or between San Pedro and Panama until further orders. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1406Z/8 to Admty.)  
Your 0023Q/8. Instructions to this effect were issued in my 1749Q/29/10. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1632Q/8 to Adty.)  
My 1406Z/8. U.S. Authorities have stopped all coastal movements north of Panama. Consular shipping advisers have been instructed that movements of British and Allied shipping on West Coast U.S.A. is to cease. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2043Z/8 to Admty.)  
My 1805/7 para. 1 now modified trans Pacific only. (Consular Shipping Adviser, Panama 1135Z/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
N.S.H.Q. 1406Z/8 and 2043Z/8 not to all Addressees. In view of urgent need to maintain flow of traffic propose (a) Trans Pacific shipping should continue to sail being routed to New Zealand for onward instructions. (b) Coastal traffic on west coast of America should not be suspended. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1912Q/8 to Adty.)  
Reply to No. 83/41 dated 30/10/41 re routing and protection of shipping in the Pacific. (D.T.D. 2326A/8 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

Navigation  
Lights.

British and Allied Merchant Ships in Areas 4, 5, 8 and 10 have been instructed not to burn navigation lights but that dimmed navigation lights may be shown in Coastal waters. (D.T.D. 0105A/8 to B.A.D.)  
Ships in Area 10 are not to show navigation lights. In coastal waters dimmed navigation lights may be shown. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002Q/8 to S. & A.)

Cinclant  
warning.

Following from Cinclant and is addressed to Batdivcomslant, Comdeslant, Crudivcomslant, all Taskforcecoms. Info addresses are Opnav, Comtaskgroups 6.2, 6.3. Cincpa has reported a Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbour. Secnav has ordered execution of WPL against the Japs. An early move by Axis raiders and submarines in great strength for maximum effort against convoys and covering forces is expected soon. Be alert for action appropriate to any situation that may arise. (Spenavo, London, 0336/8 to Admty.)

/U.S.N.....

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 23261/8 December OUT

To B.A.D. Washington. 829. Date 8/12/41  
 Repeated Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. 265.  
 New Zealand Naval Board. 781.

N.V.L. CYPHER (D)

From Admiralty.

Your N.O.83/41 dated 30th October 1941.

The proposed agreement on routeing and protection of shipping in the Pacific is concurred in generally, subject to the following remarks:-

Section A, para. (a(2)). It is requested that the limits of Canadian Pacific coastal zone may be indicated.

Para. (e). It is desired that the Admiralty should be included in the list of recipients of routes of shipping in the Pacific. Without this information a complete picture of the situation vis-a-vis raider activities would not be possible. Although responsibility for diversion of shipping will be in the hands of the United States, the Admiralty wish to be fully informed as to the movements of shipping in that area.

Para. (h). Five separate authorities appear to be responsible for the diversion of shipping to avoid danger. The limits of the zones referred to are not known but it would appear as if some confusion might arise.

Section B. Concur.

Section C. (Para.(a). It is requested that full details of the proposed grid system may be forwarded as soon as possible.

2. It is requested that you will draw the attention of the U.S. authorities to the paramount importance of the use of secure codes for re-routeing Merchant Ships. Early information is required as to whether it is the intention that all U.S. Merchant Ships will be supplied with Merchant Navy Code and appropriate re-coding tables. C.S.P.938 appears to have a very low degree of security.

3. A copy of the agreement should be sent to C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

23261/8

D.T.D. (172)

1st Lord.	D. of P. (2)	D.A./S.W.
1st S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	I.P. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.C. (2)	U.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	Hd. of M. (M.050273/41)	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.I.C.	
A.C.N.S. (T)	N.I.D.10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	Admiral Bailey.	
D.O.D. (F)	D.T.D. (2)	
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.S.D.	

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S.N.  
Dispositions.

Your 2029R/7.  
A. Please tell C.N.O. how very sorry we all are to hear his bad news. We of course agree to any re-adjustments that he considers essential as we know that he fully appreciates our difficulties and the vital importance of the Battle of the Atlantic.  
B. This redistribution of forces will of course affect our ability to reinforce the Eastern Fleet and we will inform C.N.O. regarding this as soon as we have had time to consider the matter.  
(1st, S.L., 1205A/8 to B.A.D.)

MACBETH  
(adrift)

Sailed Rescue Tug PRUDENCE 1200Z/8 to return to S.S. MACBETH and proceed towards Clyde pending arrival of Dutch Rescue Tug ZWARTE ZEE. (C.C.N.F., 1300Z/8 to Admty.)

DESPATCH.  
→ DIOMEDE.  
BISHOPDALE.

DESPATCH leave Bermuda p.m./9 and proceed Kingston, Jamaica to await further orders.  
(II) On arrival Balboa 10/12 DIOMEDE is to complete with fuel and await further orders. She is not to transit canal.  
(III) N.O.I.C. Trinidad is requested to sail Oiler BISHOPDALE after loading to Kingston Jamaica to await further orders.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1312Q/8 to S.O. West Indies Force, DIOMEDE, Admiralty, B.A.D., S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, N.O.I.C. Bermuda, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

→ DIOMEDE.

My 1312Q/8th. Request you will arrange to complete DIOMEDE with fuel at Balboa.  
(ii) Presume in view of U.S. and British declaration of war upon Japan, restrictions on use of Balboa by H.M. Ships as regards fuelling and length of stay no longer hold. Notification of arrival will of course be given. Request confirmation.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1322Q/8 to B.A.D. Washington.)  
My 2235Z/22/11. 3 burst fire row boiler tubes have occurred since leaving Bermuda. Inspection shows between 400 and 600 distributed (? amongst) all boilers require very early renewal. In anticipation of this being taken in hand on arrival intend completing with fuel Balboa and propose proceeding direct from Colon to Bermuda at 18 knots arriving p.m./15.  
(DIOMEDE, 2301Z/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)



War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.O.N.37.

Following from Commodore Denison. Fully concur Commodore Rowley Conwy's remarks in 1433Z/1/12. Convoy O.N.37 scattered in 30° W. in gale owing to want of ballast causing ships to be completely unmanageable. (C.O.A.C., 1552Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

U.S. M/V's.

Since submarines in S. Atlantic appear to be moving northward U.S. Navy Dept. would prefer their merchant ships to resume calling at Capetown instead of Durban. Can this course be recommended? (B.A.D., 16(?)9 or 0)5R/8 to Admty.)

O.N.44.

Unit 4.1.13 composed RESTIGOUCHE (S.O.), BITTERSWEET, AMHERST, CHICOUTIMI, ORILIA, AGASSIZ designated escort. (Opnav, 1625Z/8 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE expected to leave Boston p.m./12 proceeding Norfolk for deperming and D.G. trials, leaving Norfolk 17/12. Ship has been directed to (? leave) 17/12 if possible, informing C. in C. A. & W.I. Request C. in C. A. & W.I. will issue route orders in accordance with A.M. 2124/22/10. NEWCASTLE is to inform C. in C. A. & W.I. direct. (B.A.R.M., 1700R/8.)

H.X.164.

Unit 4.1.1, composition DALLAS (S.O.), ELLIS, GLEAVES, EBERLE, <sup>WINGHAM</sup>, UPSHUR designated escort. (Opnav, 1701Z/8 to Admty.)

Unknown signals.

KAMSACK ex local escort S.C.58 returned Sydney in company with THUNDER and SHAWINIGAN and reports intercepting underwater (? group omitted - signals) which were of low audio frequency in 045° 35'30" N. 053° 52'00" W. at 0730Z/5. Signal lost and not intercepted by other escort. Returning at 2015Z/6 KAMSACK again intercepted signal in 045° 38' N. 055° 08' W. identified as VE. VE. VE. ANR. SGER. and other lost groups. Escort in company advised of signal and bearing but not intercepted. KAMSACK frequency "B", THUNDER frequency "A", SHAWINIGAN frequency "F". (N.O.1/c. Sydney, C.B., 1801Z/8.)

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.WINDFLOWER  
sunk.

H.M.S. WINDFLOWER escorting S.C.58 sunk by collision in fog with S.S. ZYPENBERG at 1250Z/7 in 046° 19' N. 049° 30' W. Shortly after this NASTURTIUM heavily damaged when hailing the wreck. S.S. ZYPENBERG with 47 survivors on board of whom 3 had died after the rescue arrived St. Johns N.F. 1100Z/8th accompanied by NASTURTIUM and escorted by PICTOU. NASTURTIUM has extensive damage of superficial nature including many engineering fittings and castings fractured. No hull damage below water. ZYPENBERG hull damaged forward. Total unaccounted for from WINDFLOWER 20 including all officers except First Lieut. PICTOU has sailed to overtake S.C.58. (C.C.N.F., 1859Z/8.)

BRAZIL.  
(U.S.)

Left New York 6/12 due Barbados 10/12 thence Rio de Janeiro 17th. Re Japanese passengers. (N.C.S.O. New York, 2000Z/8 to Admty.)

ZYPENBERG.

Netherlands ship ZYPENBERG (? returned from) S.C.58 damaged by collision. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 2035Z/8.)

ODDVAR II.

Your 1008A/10. Following is a repetition of N.S.H.Q. 2131Z/8 (begins): C.C.N.F. Repeated C.O.A.C. 478 from N.S.H.Q. Admiralty 1727A/1. Have any steps been taken to detain Finnish ODDVAR II under guard? 2131Z/8. (Ends). (C.C.N.F., 1420Z/11 to Admty.)

S.S. ELIN K.  
VILLANGER.

Request confirmation arrival Norwegian ELIN K. at Durban and Norwegian VILLANGER at Lourenco Marques. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2212Z/8 to Admty.)  
Reply: 1508/10.

Australia and New Zealand.Ocean  
Island  
bombed.

No. 334. Four-engined flying boat circled Ocean Island commencing 10.50 a.m. local time today and dropped bombs 11.20 a.m. No further information yet received. (High Commissioner, No T.O.O./8 to S. of S. for Colonies.)

/ACHILLES ...

War Diary.

8.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

ACHILLES.

Departure ACHILLES<sup>for</sup> Singapore, due Port Moresby  
0830/11.  
(N.Z.N.B., 0830Z/8.)  
To return to Auckland, see 0347/12.

PORT  
CAMPBELL.

Have you any news of PORT CAMPBELL due Auckland  
1/12 from Panama?  
(D.T.D., 1505A/8 to D.N.I. Wellington.)  
Reply: 1150M/9.

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.General.

In view of U-boat activity in Mediterranean, following summary of experience in Battle of Atlantic may be helpful.  
(A.C.N.S(F) 1219A/8 to C. in C. Med.)  
See Lion Copy.

Submarines Reported.

- 0013Z. D/F bearings at 0013Z/8, indicated U-boat within 100 miles (6°?) S., 17° W., 65% reliable. (C. in C.S.A., 1009Z/8, to S.A.Stn.)
1145. PPP 1 S/M-350-3-360-272 ST 830 (272-T-30)? (A/C J, 202 Sq., 1145/8, to F.O.C.N.A.)
- 0714 (Med.) U-boat in position 033° (? 58' or 17') N., 021° 51' E., at 0714/8 course unknown. (C. in C. Med., 1245B/8, to Med. Fleet.)
- 1310 (Med.) P.C. and S., of one enemy submarine 34.06 N., 23.05 E., 050° 8 knots. (A/C Z.1. 203 Sqdn., 1310/8 to 201 Group, C. in C. Med., 1504/8 to Med. Fleet.)
1125. A.736 8/12. Opsum.  
(2) Catalina A/S Patrol 0840 to 1230 W., as far as 37° N., 10° West. U-Boat sighted at 1125, 37° N., 0930' W. At 1230 A/C was diverted to search for suspected enemy convoy off Cape de Gata and was waterborne at 1735.  
(3) F.A.A. Swordfish 0630-0930 investigated suspected boat contact in Gibraltar Straits.  
(4) F.A.A. Swordfish 1000 to 1200 to investigate U-boat contact in Gibraltar Straits, operations considerably curtailed by adverse weather. (200 Group, 1715/8.) Ministry 0324/9.
1000. Following received (begins) S/M, not Portuguese, sighted about 112 miles off Portinho between Setubal and Cape Espichel at 1000/8 (ends). Take ALOUETTE under your orders and carry out A/S sweep in vicinity. (F.O.C.N.A., 1740A/8, to LOCH OSKAIG, ALOUETTE.)  
See p. 252

Laccadives.

One S/M bearing 085°, 3 miles approx., true course 160° position 041 A.M.X.G.30 obtained from a fix within half an hour of 1300. (GLASGOW, 1831Z/8, to All Stations taking part in Group N.)

# MOST SECRET

251A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

1219A/8/December.

To:- C.in C. Mediterranean 789  
Rept V.A. Malta 347  
F.O.C.N.A. 761

Date 8.12.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From Admiralty

In view of U.Boat activity in Mediterranean following summary of experience in Battle of Atlantic may be helpful.

2. U.Boats operate more as submersibles than as submarines. Attack on ARK ROYAL probably a salvo fired from extreme range outside screen shows that daylight attack on high speed target still within capability of average U.Boat but majority of their training and experience concentrated on surface night attack on comparatively slow speed targets.
3. In open waters high speed convoys have little to fear from U.Boats but in narrow waters or in vicinity of likely objectives little immunity is conferred by speed.
4. As far as protection of slow speed convoys is concerned description given in C.B.04050/41 (4) page 6 is still generally applicable. Escort in adequate numbers and development of R.D.F. is chief hope of protection.
5. Atlantic experience has proved difficulties of locating U.Boats with hunting or striking forces and such forces are better employed as extra convoy escorts breaking off to hunt and attack any U.Boat closing or attacking convoy. This may not be so applicable to more confined waters of Mediterranean.
6. Aircraft have proved their great value in dealing with surfaced U.Boats. Atlantic statistics show that in about 40% of attacks U.Boat is still fully or partially surfaced when depth charges released and aircraft are now concentrating on these attacks. A shallow firing depth charge pistol has been evolved to meet requirements and supplies of these are being sent out to Mediterranean.

1219A/8

D.A/S.W. (Tel No.698)

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

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

War Diary.8.12.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. Contd.

1732Z.

D/F bearings indicate that Convoy O.N.43 was still being shadowed by U-boat at 1732Z/8. (D.D.I.C. 1912A/8 to Escorts of Convoy O.N.43, Escorts of Convoy H.X.162.

Submarines Attacked.Off  
Gibraltar.

A/S Operations 7th/8th December.  
At 2004/7th U-boat was detected by R.D.F. from destroyers in 035° 57' N., 007° 56' W. U-boat sighted crash dived. HESPERUS attacked and reports having seen men in water afterwards possibly washed off when diving. Full report on return of ship.  
(ii) At 0501/8th in 136° Europa Point Lighthouse 17 miles after R.D.F. contact LAFOREY sighted U-boat which crash dived and was attacked. Contact subsequently lost.  
(iii) At 1145/8th Catalina sighted U-boat in 272° Cape St. Vincent 30 miles. No attack.  
(iv) Lisbon reported submarine not Portuguese threequarters awash near Setubal at 1030/8th, LOCH OSKAIG and ALOUETTE searching.  
(v) Weather bad, fresh westerly gale.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2250A/8, to Adty(R) C. in C. Med.)

*See p. 251*

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

All merchant ships about to sail from the U.K. to ports in Australia and New Zealand and vice versa are to be routed via the Cape until further orders.

\*The flag of V.A.2. was transferred to RENOWN at 1400 today and that of R.A.(M) to SOUTHERN PRINCE at 0800. *\*from DUKE OF YORK. (Pink list.)*

There is a shortage of A/S craft for the protection of the Clyde approaches. This is accepted until A/S craft become available.

DUKE OF YORK left Scapa at 1600 today for the Clyde.

One eastbound destroyer, possibly with a convoy, was located by D/F at 1444C in about 71° N. 28° E. (off Magero) SEALION and SEAWOLF were informed.

Soviet S/M K.5. reports having sunk on 5/12 near Alten Fiord a 5000 ton merchant ship and an armed trawler and one of the two large motor boats, which were escorting.

British Air Operations.

Hudsons of Coastal Command today carried out successful attacks against enemy shipping off Aalesund and Den Helder, four ships being hit or set on fire.

Mining.

East  
Coast  
mining.

Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night is suspected in the Tyneside and Humber areas. Today 7 Magnetic and 1 Acoustic mines were detonated off Yarmouth and 6 Magnetic mines off the Humber.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

A.B.V. ALOUETTE intercepted the Vichy French S.S. FORMIGNY off Lisbon today, and is sending her in to Gibraltar under armed guard.

South Atlantic.

Uruguay last night issued a Decree the practical result of which is that she is at war with Japan. This will have certain consequences in regard to the use of her ports by non-American Allies of U.S.A.

C. in C. S.A. points out that the operational strength of G.R. Squadrons in West Africa is seriously reduced by 6 Sunderlands being in U.K. for overhaul and he asks that the question of expediting overhauls may be taken up with Coastal Command.

U-boats with survivors of the enemy ship sunk by DORSETSHIRE appear to be making to the northward either to R/V with a supply ship coming from the north or to land at Ascension, which latter they might reach by 11/12. In view of the weakness of the garrison of Ascension C. in C. S.A. is sending BRILLIANT and 2 corvettes to Ascension DEVONSHIRE and CANTON to search to northward and westward from 10/12 and QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX sail p.m. today with troops from Freetown to support the garrison if required.

R.A.S.A.D. today gave orders that all Finnish ships except those bound for U.S. ports are to be intercepted.

It is reported that a submarine was sighted off Ascension this afternoon and dived after being fired on from shore.



War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

P.34 reports that at 1328B/5 in 37° 56' N. 15° 39' E. she fired 3 torpedoes at a westbound half laden merchant ship in an escorted convoy of 2 ships and obtained one hit. The result was not observed, but on surfacing half an hour later after depth charge counter attack nothing was in sight.

It is reported that JERVIS was unsuccessfully attacked today 25 miles north of Burg el Arab (Egypt). *by JUSS. (See 10/12 - p. 305.)*

China.

The remaining battleships of the Eastern Fleet are to join as follows: ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to bring W.S.12Z as far as the Seychelles. RAMILLIES is bringing out W.S.14 (a large convoy of 32 ships); weather conditions at Scapa have prevented her completing her work up. RESOLUTION is working up now and will escort W.S.15 leaving on 7/1.

Hong Kong.

There were a few air raids on Hong Kong today. One A.P. vessel was slightly damaged by a near miss. There was no enemy activity from seaward today.

Malaya  
and Siam.

Aircraft sighted today one battleship, 2 or 3 cruisers, 7 or 11 destroyers and a number of transports off Kota Bharu, a transport off Kuantan and 15 transports and an aircraft carrier off Singora.

There are now three areas of land operations: Kelantan; immediately north of Kedah; and N.E. of Krai. The two latter are in South Thailand. Further landings took place at Badang.

The enemy have had considerable success in air attacks on our northern aerodromes, with the result that our air and military operations are impeded. Kota Bharu aerodrome was demolished by this morning. Alor Star and Sungei Patani aerodromes have been evacuated; the latter was rendered unserviceable by enemy bombing.

/Ocean.....

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China-Contd.

Ocean  
Island.

The W/T Station at Ocean Island is still functioning. The island is reported to have been attacked by aircraft today.

Nauru.

It is reported that 3 enemy aircraft bombed Nauru Island last night, damaging the wireless station, and that Japanese troops landed on the island today.

Philippines.

It is unofficially stated that Japanese air forces raided Manila last night.

America and West Indies.

The Admiralty today gave orders for ships in the Atlantic now on passage to be re-routed. Ships in the Caribbean may proceed to Panama to await orders at the discretion of C. in C. A.W.I. Consequent on these instructions orders were issued yesterday by the C. in C. A.W.I. regarding the re-routeing of ships in the Atlantic.\* The U.S. authorities are not issuing any instructions for British and Allied shipping on the east coast of America. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa therefore proposes to route ships for Australia and New Zealand from Canadian and U.S. ports as far South as Jacksonville via the Cape. (The Admty. concurred in this proposal on 10/12). Representations have been made to the Navy Dept. advocating the resumption of flow of coastal trade northward of Panama.

The C.N.O. has information pointing to the likelihood of hostile raids and is of opinion that ships should not sail until the situation is clarified, but at 1307R today B.A.D. Washington reported that the U.S.C.N.O. agreed that all shipping except U.S. flag and U.S. own shipping should continue to be routed by British authority. However, at 1225 today the Consular Shipping Adviser at Panama reported that vessels bound for the west coast of South America only were being released, and that those for the west coast of North America were still held up, as well as Trans-Pacific vessels.

\* (see 8/12).

/The.....

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies-Contd.

The presence of enemy aircraft in the San Francisco district indicates that a carrier is in the vicinity. The Pacific Task Forces have been disposed so as to endeavour to intercept.

Two units, one a carrier, are estimated by radio bearing to be operating 750 miles north of Pearl Harbour.

New Zealand.

The Japanese made successful landings on Taritari or Makin and Tarawa Islands in the Gilbert group at about 1645Z/today.

U-boat Campaign.

Vichy French S.S. SAINT DENIS reported at 1223 today being attacked by 2 S/M's in 39° 22' N. 3° 30' E.

Several attacks on enemy S/M's have been made near Oahu Sound..

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of  
V.A. 2.

Flag of V.A. 2 will be transferred to RENOWN at 1400 today. (from DUKE OF YORK - (Link (isL))) (V.A. 2, 0859/9.)

Flag of  
R.A.M.

My Flag has been transferred to SOUTHERN PRINCE a.m. today. (R.A.M., 0917A/9 to Admty.)

Clyde M/S  
Forces.

Propose to reinforce Clyde minesweeping forces with 1 Flotilla of 8 M.M.S. due to complete January to June 1942. These with drifters will cover Loch Ryan, Campbeltown and Clyde freeing trawlers for Oban and Port A. Suggest basing M.M.S. on Ardrossan if you consider suitable. (D.M.S., 1537A/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Soviet S/M  
Patrols.

Your 1821C/8. Acknowledged. (SEALION, 0750C/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Russian  
help with  
Convoys.

Your 1820A/7. Of four STREMITELNI Class destroyers now based Dothan Inlet one usually refitting others employed for bombardment of small value enemy positions north (? flank). C. in C. Northern Fleet might be willing to provide local destroyer escorts or cover for convoys proceeding to and from Murmansk if instructed through Soviet Admiralty. 2 URITSKI Class destroyers now Archangel if based Iokanskei during winter might be available for reinforcement of local escorts and anti-submarine patrols approaching White Sea. SHTORM Class destroyers old and unsuitable to escort duties. When transfer of S. American whaler to Soviet Government is completed, minesweeping in White Sea should become Russian responsibility but reliability of sweeping uncertain. Swept channel probably frozen after end of December. Only 2 minesweepers at present fitted with magnetic sweeps. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2103C/9 to Admty.)

KENT.

A.M. 2348/8. Ship also carries 5 tons of stores sent by War Office for 30 Military Mission. Please arrange onward despatch. (D.O.D. H., 2157A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of the U.K.Clyde A/S  
Defences.

Your 1048A/5. No M.L. Flotilla available for proposed allocation from within the Command. Until A/S craft become available existing shortage of A/S protection of Clyde Approaches must be accepted.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0947A/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Movements.MANXMAN.

Scapa departure MANXMAN for Milford Haven. E.T.A. 0830/10.  
(A.C.O.S., 0049A/9.)  
My 1247A/8. MANXMAN is to take a cargo in following priority to Gibraltar:  
(i) 800 depth charges.  
(ii) 20 torpedoes.  
(iii) Urgent stores for aircraft.  
(iv) Passengers.  
2. These stores and passengers are to be embarked at Milford Haven.  
4. The stores are to be embarked by 1100/12.  
(V.C.N.S., 1240A/9.)  
Mines are to be disembarked on arrival at Milford Haven.  
(A.C.N.S. H., 1245A/9 to MANXMAN.)

ARETHUSA.

Scapa departure ARETHUSA.  
(A.C.O.S., 0704A/9.)

RAMILLIES.

Arrived your 1716A/6.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1029A/9.)

ST. MARYS.

My 1614A/8. ST. MARYS sailed 1026A/9.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1040A/9.) *See p 263*

DUKE OF  
YORK.

Sail as requisite to comply with Admiralty's 0055A/9.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1043A/9 to DUKE OF YORK.)  
Scapa departure 1600 DUKE OF YORK for Clyde. E.T.A. 1130A/10. At 1230 FAULKNER, MATABELE, FORESIGHT in company.  
(A.C.O.S., 1633A/9 and 1831/9.)

IMPULSIVE.  
ORIBI.  
INGLEFIELD.

Proceed to Scapa without relief forthwith.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1158A/9.)  
ONSLow, IMPULSIVE, and ORIBI sailed 1630. E.T.A. Scapa 1100A/11.  
(A.C.I.C., 1826N/9.)

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements- Contd.

TIGRIS.

My 1248A/9. <sup>N.T. & W.D.</sup> Read "TIGRIS escorted to Scapa position 0800/10 off Barra Head." (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1746A/9.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.  
FORMIDABLE.

Admiralty's 1957A/14/11 and 1252A/26/11, and 1456A/4.  
5. R.A.(M) is requested to provide two destroyers to meet ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE south of Islay as arranged with C. in C. W.A. and to remain with the carriers during the flying on and off and then to escort ILLUSTRIOUS to Rosyth, calling at Scapa on route if so desired.  
6. Ocean escorts detailed by C. in C. W.A. should remain with FORMIDABLE until she reaches Belfast.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1936A/9.)

P.39.

My 1248. P.39 will remain at Holy Loch. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2016A/9.)

Operations.

Operation  
"Anklet".

R.A.(D) requests adjustments to ammunition outfits of ARETHUSA, Destroyers, M/S and Corvettes alluded to A.M. 0019A/6 as follows.  
2. These changes are approved subject to your concurrence.  
(D.G.D., 1020A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

Denmark  
Straits  
Patrol.

SUFFOLK on patrol "White".  
(A.C.I.C., 1500N/9.)  
Following cruiser movements are to take place:  
(a) CUMBERLAND leaves Scapa p.m./10th for Hvalfjord.  
(b) NORFOLK leaves Hvalfjord p.m./11th for patrol "White".  
(c) SUFFOLK leaves patrol "White" a.m./12th for Hvalfjord. After refuelling returns to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1636A/9.)

2 M/V's  
torpedoed.  
1 Armed  
Trawler  
and 1  
Motor-Boat  
sunk.

(1) Soviet S/M K.3 on 3/12 vicinity 70° 48' N. 24° E. torpedoed 5000 tons westbound merchant vessel, escorted armed trawler and 2 large motor boats possibly R-Boats. After being depth-charged S/M surfaced and engaged escort by gunfire, sinking trawler and one motor boat, and then dived.  
(2) MOLODKI 171 torpedoed 3000 tons tanker westbound 70.30 N. 31 E. 5/12.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1601C/9.)

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

SEALION  
Patrol.

Your 1204A/8. It is hoped this report may refer to action K.3 referred to in my 1601C/9. SEALION has been ordered to withdraw and report. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1603C/9 to F.O.S.) Leave Bear Haven to be clear zone Bear Haven by 2200C/11th and return by route previously ordered to R/V position R.1 at 1130C/13. Withdraw and acknowledge. Admiralty pass to SEALION on next H.S. Routine. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2201C/9 to SEALION.)

British Air Activity.

M/V's  
attacked  
off Lorient.

S S S S Attacked 5 merchant vessels, 47° 34' N. 4.34 W., 360°, 6. Result unknown. (A/C. duty J., 0345/9 to 19 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity.

PHINEAS  
BEARD and  
MILFORD EARL  
sunk on 8/12.

My 2130/8. MILFORD EARL sank at 1830/8. Details of casualties. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1224/9, 1225/9.)

Mining.

Operation  
"Tincture".

Your 1357A/1 and 1627A/4. Vessel returned. Operations completed. Negative results. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0909/9.)

Thames  
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1851/8. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1136/9.)

Yarmouth.

One red magnetic mine exploded by L L S in 52° 14' N. 01° 56'45" E. at 1259A/9. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1411A/9.)  
5 red magnetic mines detonated by L L S in 52° 14'25" N. 01° 55' E. at one minute intervals between 1350 and 1354A/9.  
1 acoustic mine detonated by S.A at 1408A/9 green, and 1 red magnetic mine detonated by L L at 1412A/9, both in 52° 14'05" N. 01° 55'24" E.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1526A/9 and 1842A/9.)

Bristol  
Channel.

Exploded red magnetic mine at 0942A/9 in 006° 3.5 miles from Watchet Pier Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1525A/9.)

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Off 58A  
Buoy.

WALLACE reports sweeping one mine with her S.A Gear in position 194° one point six miles from 58A buoy at about 0600A today.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1813A/9.)

Humber.

Following five mines exploded today by LL Trawlers. Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 1920A/9.)

S.N.  
Operations.

Your 1037/24/11. Regret it is improbable that a destroyer will be available on 14/12.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2258A/9 to R.A.M.)

Enemy Intelligence.Off  
Magero.

By D/F at 1444C/9. One destroyer eastbound vicinity 071° 08' N. 027° 40' E. May be with convoy.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1553C/9.)

DIEDENHAFEN.

(German tanker). Left Oslo Fjord 4/12 for Bergen, Aalesund, and Trondhjem. Cargo 3,000 tons gasoline and 6,000 tons Solar oil. Graded B.3.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1621/9.)  
O.I.C. Comment: This movement was previously reported on 3/12.

Navigational.Buoys.

State of buoys North of Rosyth night of 8/9 December i.e. following recent gales. All correct except No.34 missing, No.33 Northern cut not seen but definitely extinguished. No.30 Light wrong characteristics and very irregular.  
(CURACOA, 1038/9.)  
Visibility of B.3 Buoy is reported still to be only about 3 cables. Request that it may be increased in accordance with my 2223A/20/11.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1307A/9.)  
No. 58A light-buoy withdrawn.  
(Hydrog., 1743A/9.)

Casualties and Defects.MARSDALE.

Dome of 128 C has dropped off carrying away oscillator. E.T.A. Halifax 1300 G.M.T./10.  
(MARSDALE, 0530Z/9.)



War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.LEVERNBANK  
(Grounded  
6/12.)

Your 1717A/7. Salvage officer considers services of FREEBOOTER not now required, as LEVERNBANK can now use her engines. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0943A/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ST. MARYS.Cancel my 1614A/8 and 1040A/9. <sup>K.T.M.W.D</sup> ST. MARYS returned to harbour, reports ship unseaworthy due to excessive panting. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1124A/9 and 1712/9.)

See p. 259

NEWMARKET.

Following received from NEWMARKET begins: Have serious leak in main condenser. Earliest possible time of sailing 1800. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1531A/9.)

LEWES.

A.M. 1808A/6/11. Ship's departure is delayed by defect. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1615/9.)

R.J. CULLEN  
(Lost  
propeller  
2/12.)

R.J. CULLEN is to be towed to Rothesay Bay if possible. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1625A/9 to TENACITY.)

KENYA.

KENYA docked in No.2 Dock 9/12/41. (A.S. Rosyth, 1815/9.)

BROKE.

Regret failing condenser. Consider engines maximum endurance 2½ days. Returning Loch Ewe thence to H.X.163 unless otherwise ordered. (BROKE, 2300A/9.)

Shipping and Convoys.W.S.14.

Sailed W.S.14. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0026A/9.) Intend to sail GURKHA at 1800/9 to join RAMILLIES in 195° Fastnet Rock 30 at 0900/10 thence to Gibraltar in accordance with A.M.'s 1647/1 and 0027A/26 and 1632/6. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1458/9.) C. in C. W.A., 1421A/1. Sailed R.A. 3rd B.S. in RAMILLIES with VOLUNTEER, VANQUISHER, WITCH. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1725A/9.) Sailed 1810 GURKHA. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1920/9.)

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.D.S. 18.  
ORBITA.

S.S. BANFORA having sustained damage in heavy weather cannot now be used for D.S.18.  
2. ORBITA is required in lieu provided that arrangements can be made for transfer of personnel accommodated on board to BANFORA who is to be used as accommodation vessel during ORBITA's absence.  
(D. of P., 0039A/9 to V.A.C.T.C., C.Q.2.)

M/V's for  
or from  
Australia.

All merchant ships about to sail from U.K. to ports in Australia and New Zealand and vice versa are to be routed via the Cape until further orders.  
Such ships in the Atlantic now on passage should be re-routed. Ships in the Caribbean may proceed to Panama to await orders at the discretion of C. in C. A. & W.I.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 0112A/9.)

O.S.14.  
HASTINGS.

C. in C. W.A. 0943A/6. HASTINGS is required for service with O.S.14 sailing 12th. Request earliest date she can arrive.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1032A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
BRITISH HUSSAR is to be sailed to Loch Foyle not to Oban. Opportunity is to be taken by C.O's of 44th Escort Group to inspect the fuelling arrangements. Captain D. Londonderry is to sail BRITISH HUSSAR with Escort Vessel to R/V with O.S.14.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1616A/9.)

B.B.  
Convoys.

My 1756A/8. Route is to be brought into force at 0900A/10.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1035A/9.)

O.N.43.

My 1953A/6. Detach ROSTHERN and Iceland ships on reaching 18° W.  
All U.K. escorts remain with O.N.43 until further orders. Report situation at noon and estimated 1200Z/10 P.C. and S.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1116A/9.)

Routeing of  
Atlantic  
Convoys.

Your 0146/5. Navy Dept. have not concluded their own examination of problem and will not be ready for discussions for some days.  
2. For the present C.N.O. agrees that all shipping (except U.S. flag and U.S. owned shipping) shall continue to be routed by British authorities as at present in accordance with A.M. 0001/1/5 as amended. C.N.O. will indicate to Admiralty and Ottawa any changes that he desires or recommends in routeing instructions covering areas of U.S. responsibility.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 1147R/9 to Admty.)

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

P.Q.6.

Ref. F.O. Telegram 130 Mossy 6/12. Request instructions to drain all get-at-able tanks in P.Q.6 may be sent to escort Cruiser to pass on to ships concerned.  
(Ad. Miles, 1306D/9.)

C.T.8.

Composed of BERGENSFJORD and CHRISTIAN HUYGENS carrying Military and Air Force personnel will be ready to leave U.K. for Halifax on 20/12.  
2. Speed of slowest ship 16 knots.  
3. BERGENSFJORD will sail from Clyde and CHRISTIAN HUYGENS will sail from Liverpool.  
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail two destroyers to provide through A/S escort to Halifax and to arrange sailing of ships to R/V as convenient.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1443A/9.)

Q.P.3.

6 ships escorted by <sup>\*</sup>MACBETH, HAMLET sailed Seidisfiord 0900N. E.T.A. Kirkwall A.M./13.  
Route. <sup>\* M/S - A/S T.L.S.D./W</sup>  
(A.C.I.C., 1519N/9.)

Q.P.4.

SPEEDY R/V HAZARD off Bolshoi Toleni Island 1200C/10 and proceed Cape Orlov to sweep channel during daylight 11th, subsequently reinforcing Q.P.4 at 1030C/12 and escort to 069° N. then returning Murmansk. S.B.N.O. Archangel signal estimated position Q.P.4 at 1030C/12.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1625C/9 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)  
Q.P.4 delayed.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1905C/9.)

Convoys  
U.R. and  
R.U.

Admiralty's 2032A/7.  
(1) Convoys to have separate code words.  
(2) N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe to detail masters as Commodores for U.R. Convoys.  
(3) C. in C. W.A. will route both convoys.  
(4) No standard route or secret positions to be given.  
(5) Speed of convoy depends on speed of slowest ship.  
N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe to use his discretion as to keeping back or sailing independently any ship which would unduly delay convoy.  
(6) Orders for stragglers returning to port of departure as for Ocean Convoys.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1812A/9 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

East Coast  
Convoys.  
Maximum  
Numbers  
of Ships.

With the delays arising from Winter weather, accumulation of shipping at Southend sometimes results in slow northbound convoys sailing from there with the maximum number of ships permitted by E.C.O.O. No.9 thus causing delay and uncertainty in movements of Shipping further north.

As the greatest risk is encountered between the Thames and Humber, it is suggested that a new maximum of 60 ships exclusive of fishing vessel should be permitted in convoys when north of the Humber no change being made in the maximum number permitted further south. Fishing vessels accepted for convoy to be permitted in excess of these numbers.

Your remarks on this proposal are requested. (A.C.N.S.(T), 1928A/9 to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore.)

Your 1928A/9/12. It is considered that the provisions of E.C.O.O. 9 paras. (IV) and (V) should remain and that an increase of the numbers in any particular Convoy should be decided by C. in C. Rosyth in conjunction with C. in C. Nore. The availability of additional escorts and weather conditions must be taken into consideration on each occasion. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2209/9 to Admty.)

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Destroyers  
for E. Med.My 1820/8th (?1520/8 intended). Vessels  
returned. (F.O.C.N.A. 0856A/9.)GERANIUM.Cancel my 0024A/5. *N.T. in W.D.*  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0901A/9.)Movements.My 2002/8. (N.T. in W.D.) sailed DEPTFORD,  
PENTSTEMON, CONVULVULUS, VETCH, SAMPHIRE.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0932A/9.)JAY.My 0014/3. JAY left Horta 1815/7.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0942A/9.)Escorts of  
O.G.77.Leave convoy so as to R/V with LIGHTNING in  
37°N.11° W. at 1000A/11. On rendezvousing ships  
are to proceed to Ponta Delgada to fuel a.m./13.  
(ii) If unable to comply owing to lack of fuel  
HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, return forthwith to  
Gibraltar at best speed reporting expected time  
of arrival when 100 miles clear of convoy.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1102A/9 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER,  
Repeated. Admty., C. in C. W.A., S.O. Force H.  
D.19, DEPTFORD, LIGHTNING, Escorts of O.G.77,  
ROBERTS.) *also next page - (C)*BADSWORTH  
BEAUFORT.BADSWORTH and BEAUFORT E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 14/12  
require 250 tons of oil each.  
(Capt. (D) Londonderry 1104A/9.)Fuelling at  
Ponta  
Delgada.Following from Ponta Delgada begins: ships  
should arrive between 1630 and 1800 G.M.T./10.  
Both (corrupt group) ships cannot fuel  
simultaneously. EREBUS and ROCKINGHAM should  
proceed to oiling berth and fuel during night  
ROBERTS anchoring in entrance harbour exchanging  
berth with EREBUS at daylight. FRITILLARY  
should remain outside 3 mile limit until  
ROCKINGHAM relieves her at daylight. T.O.O.  
1140/6 ends. You are to arrange BRADFORD's  
fuelling.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1126A/9 to ROBERTS.)  
My 1116A (1126A/9 intended). Ponta Delgada  
informed that your E.T.A. is 11/12.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1842A/9 to ? ROBERTS.)  
Your 1842A/9. E.T.A. 1800/10/12.  
(ROBERTS 2030Z/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/HIGHLANDER ...

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Fuelling at  
Ponta  
Delgada.  
contd.

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER and LIGHTNING due Ponta Delgada a.m./13. Fuel required approx. 400 350 and 150 tons respectively. Request arrangements.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1816A/9 to N.A. Lisbon.) *See preceding page (Cancelled) 10/12. See p300*

S.S. ST.  
GOTHARD.  
(Swiss)

ST. GOTHARD. Ref. C. in C. A. and W.I. 1080/20/11 request you will report her departure, and all such departures, from Gibraltar to C. in C. A. and W.I. repeating to Admiralty.  
(D.E.W.D. 1128A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EUGENIO C.  
(Italian)

Departure, destination believed to be Nantes.  
(Bilbao 1212/9.)

Enemy  
Convoy.

Convoy 4 Merchant vessels one trawler JLER 35 10 N. 02 40 W.  
(A/C 202 Sqn. 1610/9 to Gibraltar W/T.)

SHEAF  
HOLME.

My 1719/8th. SHEAF HOLME returned to Horta 9th. Work completed.  
(R.O. Horta 1614/9.)

EXMOOR.  
BLANKNEY.

*N.T. & W.S.*  
My 1616 EXMOOR, BLANKNEY rejoin Capt. (D) 19 and hunt enemy S/M. My 1603 refers. *N.T. & W.S.*  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1623A/9 to EXMOOR, BLANKNEY, Capt. (D) 19. Repeated CAMPBELTOWN, WHITEHALL.)

3 U-Boats.

F.O.C.N.A. 1651A/9 see U-boat Campaign.

OLYMPUS  
Route.

One Destroyer on North and South Patrol 20 miles east of Rock, aircraft may co-operate. Comply strictly with my 0908A/7.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1708A/9 to OLYMPUS.)

FORMIGNY  
intercepted.

*See also next page -*

Your 0722/9th (N.T.in W.R.) Ship being sent in with armed guard from ALOUETTE who is escorting and will signal E.T.A. Position 039° 12' N. 009° 26' W. Speed 8 knots.  
(LOCH OSKAIG 1715A/9.)

EUGENIO C.  
(Italian)

Departure 9th EUGENIO C. loaded with iron ore, left early morning, destination believed to be Nantes. (V.C., Bilbao 1749/9 to Admty.)

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.FORMIGNY.Departure 9th, Oporto.  
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1804/9 to M. of W.T.)*See previous page.*South Atlantic.Probable  
Attack on  
Ascension  
by Raider  
Survivors  
and U/Bs.

U-boats with survivors boats ex ship sunk by DORSETSHIRE appear to be making to the northward object either (A) to rendezvous with a supply ship coming from North or (B) to land survivors at Ascension. If survivors are armed, as is probable, an attack in Ascension supported by U-boats would be well in keeping with German form. They might reach Ascension on 11th.

2. In view of weakness of garrison and importance of island am taking following action:- (A) BRILLIANT and two corvettes to patrol to S.W. off Ascension from 11/12. (B) CANTON to search to northward and westward from 10/12 to be joined by DEVONSHIRE a.m./12. Object interception of possible supply ship. (C) As an extra precaution in case of a landing at Ascension, QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX sail p.m./9 with troops from Freetown to arrive vicinity of island a.m./12 ready to support garrison if required. Request W.O. be informed. (C. in C. S.A., 1247Z/9 to Admty.) My 1748Z/7. To guard against possibility that U-boats and survivors' boats may be making for Ascension where garrison is very weak the following dispositions are to be made in lieu of those in my 2011Z/7.

2. (a) BRILLIANT after fuelling proceed Ascension and patrol to south westwards of Island arriving as early a.m./11th as possible. (b) Corvettes to join BRILLIANT in this vicinity p.m./11 and patrol as ordered by BRILLIANT. (c) CANTON to search northern half of I.35.C. and arrive in position N, 007° 30' S. 017° 30' W. at 0900Z/12. (d) DEVONSHIRE to sail from Freetown 2100/9 and R/V with CANTON at N, at 0900Z/12. Instructions will be signalled later for search by these ships. If survivors' boats are sighted, BRILLIANT and corvettes are to be directed to position. (e) On completion of fuelling of corvettes, ECHODALE is to steer 090° until necessary to turn so as to arrive back at position K at 1200Z/13. ECHODALE is then to patrol arriving at K at 1200Z daily until further orders. R/V at K to be maintained by steering 300° from 1200 to 2000, 180° from 2000 to 0400 thence

/back ...

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Probable  
Attack on  
Ascension  
by Raider  
Survivors  
and U/Bs  
contd.

back to D. BRILLIANT instruct (? ECHODALE).  
(f) QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX to sail from Freetown p.m./9 and proceed to arrive in position O 006° 40' S. 013° 15' W. at 0900Z/12. These ships have troops on board (? in case) it is necessary to reinforce the garrison. (C. in C. S.A. 1305Z/9 to DEVONSHIRE, CANTON, BRILLIANT, CROCUS, ORCHIS, PRINCESS BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA.)  
My 1305/9. Para 2 (a) Cancel and substitute: BRILLIANT proceed direct to Asuncion (?Ascension) to arrive before dark 10/12 and patrol until necessary to proceed to fuel from ECHODALE. (C. in C. S.A. 1951Z/9.)

Finnish  
shipping.

Unless other instructions are received all Finnish ships except those bound for U.S. ports are to be intercepted and fact reported to C. in C. S.A. repeated Admty. and R.A.S.A.D. (R.A.S.A.D. 1357Z/9 to S.A.D.)

Corvettes,  
refits.

Owing to shortage of escorts at Freetown due to transfer of corvettes to Cape area not possible to sail a corvette to U.K. for refit with S.L.95. Intend one shall sail with S.L.96. My 1141Z/9/10 refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1421Z/9 to Admty.)

Fuelling  
at sea.

Your 1956A/26/8. Request any further information of this method of fuelling, with special reference to Cruisers. (R.A.S.A.D. 1507Z/9 to Adty.)

G/R  
Aircraft.

Operational strength of G/R Squadrons in West Africa seriously reduced by number of aircraft in U.K. for overhaul. Six Sunderlands are there now. Grateful if Admty. will take up question of expediting overhauls with Coastal Command. A.O.C.W.O's A.1339 of 7/12 to Air Ministry refers. (C. in C. S.A. 1529Z/9 to Admty.)

W. Africa  
Troop  
movement.

Required to remove 466 West African troops from Mombasa to West Africa. They can be ready to sail 10/12. 2. Request C. in C. S.A. remark on possibility of providing escort for LAFONIA to carry as many as possible of this personnel from Cape. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should report to all addressees date of readiness and capacity of this vessel. 3. P.S.T.O. Mombasa should arrange to provide passage to Cape accordingly, consulting C. in C. E.I. if escort is necessary. 4. Exact destination in West Africa will be signalled when known. (D.O.D.(F) 1536A/9 to C. in C. S.A. etc.) Reply: C. in C. S.A. 1132/10. See also East Indies 1910/11.

/S/M ...



War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.S/M off  
Ascension .Freetown 1719/9, O i/c Ascension 1737Z/9,  
1929Z/9. See U-Boat Campaign.Uruguay.  
Policy  
towards  
Japan.

Following precis of H.M. Minister of Montevideo's telegram 319 to F.O. dated 9/12 (begins). M.F.A. whom I saw this morning referred to decree issued by Uruguayan Gov. last night and asked me following questions:

(1) Will British Navy undertake defence South Atlantic? (2) If so, would it be possible to hold early discussions and arrange subsequent liaison between British Naval and Uruguayan Authorities? M.F.A. explained that practical consequence of last night's decree was that Uruguay was in state of war with Japan and that there could be no question of Uruguay giving facilities to Japanese Warships such as are provided for in neutrality legislation. Uruguay desires early reply so as to assist themselves in considering opening her Ports etc. to non-American Allies of U.S.A. (End). Following is extract Uruguayan decree issued last night (begins): After lengthy preamble Uruguay declares its solidarity with U.S. and decision not to regard latter as belligerent power and consequently not to apply any provision contrary to present decree especially those of The Hague Convention XIII 1907. (Ends).  
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1751Z/9 to Admty.)

CARNARVON  
CASTLE.

Commissioned at Simonstown September 1939 and last occasion of giving leave in U.K. was July/August 1940 when ship's company had 14 days. Ship is now proceeding Newport News for refit. Propose she be paid off and recommissioned towards end of refit subsequently working up at Bermuda.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1839Z/9 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Arrival 0810/9 DEVONSHIRE.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1933Z/9 to Admty.)

Need for  
Petrol  
Ships.

Your 1505/26. Additional ships can only be provided by taking small vessels engaged in important trade and specially fitting them. No ready fitted petrol ships can be spared. While we appreciate necessity for allowances set out in G.O.C. West Africa's T.N. 27307 of 18/11, it is not clear why round trips of 3 petrol ships already on station take between 5 and 8 weeks. In view of importance of need of petrol, cannot loading and discharging be given first priority and less important cargo only carried on these special ships when time permits?  
(D.S.T., 2126A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Pocket ...

CONFIDENTIAL. M E S S A G E 1414Z/9th December. IN.

From. P.O.i/c Simonstown. Date. 17.12.41.  
Recd. 1600.

Naval Shore Code (N.2) by Cable.

Addressed. N.C.S.O.Capetown, N.C.S.O.Port Elizabeth,  
N.L.O. East London, Consular Shipping Adviser  
Beira, Consular Shipping Adviser Lourenco Marques.  
Signal officer Intelligence Capetown, repeated  
N.L.O.Durban, N.C.S.O.Durban.

IMPORTANT.

The Port of Durban will be fully occupied for  
period Tuesday 16th December to Sunday 21st inclusive  
and shipping must not arrive between these dates.  
Warn masters and agents that from Saturday 15th ships  
should not arrive Durban except for bunkering until  
further orders but do not disclose expiry date of  
prohibition period for the present.

1414Z/9.  
Advance copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

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

EDC.

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic -contd.Pocket  
Battleship  
Report.

Unconfirmed reports from Associated Press Buenos Aires state pocket battleship operating in South Atlantic. Possibly having been sighted off coast of Uruguay. No confirmation yet obtainable locally but investigation proceeding. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2228Z/9 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.Libya.

Military situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E., 0132/9 1810/9, 2345/9.) See Lion Copy.

UNBEATEN  
UPRIGHT.

UNBEATEN proceed forthwith through 037° 17' 016° 08' and 037° (32'?) 017° 18' to establish patrol in vicinity of position 039° 42' 017° 58'. UPRIGHT proceed forthwith through 037° 16' 015° 44' and 037° 22' 017° 20' to establish patrol in vicinity of position 039° 30' 017° 30'. During this transfer submarines are not to be attacked. (Capt. S. 10, 0413B/9 to UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT.)

*See also p 274*Enemy  
Destroyers.

3 Destroyers P.C. and S. 037° 42' 015° 49' 180° 18 knots. (UNBEATEN 0544B/9 to Capt. S. 10.)

HOBART.

Admty. 0050A/9 (Request to sail HOBART for Aden) Intend HOBART to arrive Aden night of 12/13 Dec. She has no aircraft or catapult on board. (C. in C. Med., 1121B/9 to A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.I.)

KONDOURIOTIS.

My 1525/7 being passed to N.O.I.C. Suez, N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, N.O.I.C. Massawa. Amend date of arrival Aden to 23/12. Intend KONDOURIOTIS should also arrive Massawa 19/12 and leave 21/12. N.O.I.C. Massawa is requested to arrange for KONDOURIOTIS to embark any ex Italian spare parts and naval stores which would be of use during her refit. (C. in C. Med., 1131B/9.)

/UNIQUE ...

**MOST SECRET**

272. A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: C. in C. Middle East. 0132/9th December.

ate: 9.12.41.  
Recd: 0520.

CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: The War Office (Pass Air Ministry)  
Repeated Navyafloat Alexandria.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

17889. 0/35765 cipher 8/12. Most Secret.

COSITREP. No.40.

1. Tobruk. Night 7/8 December. Operations westward captured and consolidated 418410 and proceeded towards 411413. Move southward encountered strong opposition at start and was abandoned. 8 December our tr ops area 411413 engaged enemy force consisting two thousand infantry and some tanks advancing from south results not yet known.

2. 30 Corps. Ref. COSITREP No.39 para.1. Results of tanks operations 7 December area 4137 now reported as follows five enemy tanks definitely destroyed eight probably one 50 m.m. anti-tank gun and much M.T. destroyed. Last night some enemy movement seen in N.W. direction. Patrol night 7/8 December reported no enemy on line east and west through Gubi nor in area eight hundred yds. N.W. of Gubi. M.T. movement heard towards west.

3. Mobile columns active throughout 7 December in 30 Corps area harrassing and inflicting casualties on enemy. Colmns. of 4 Ind. Div. operating west of Gubi. Small columns also operating towards Gazala.

4. Rear Army report railhead bombed and machine-gunned 7 December ten tons P.O.L. destroyed.

5. 700 N.Z. Casualties recovered Sidi Rezegh also number of medical personnel.

Air. 6. Day 8 December Hurricanes damaged five C.R.42s one other aircraft on Jedabya aerodrome before dawn. M.T. on Ageila road also damaged. One Hurricane down. Pilot rescued.

0132/9.

Recd by Hand from War Office at  
0726/9.

War Office distribution over/

	<u>War Office Distribution</u>
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V.C.N.S.	D.D.M.O. (0)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.O.1.5.6.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.P.
D.O.D. (F)	D.M.I.
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.D.M.I. (1)
Duty Captain (2)	M.I. 3.14.
D.D.I.C.	D.A.F.V.
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Hd. of M. (2)	D. of P.M.S. Air Ministry (2)
D.P.D.	Plans 3 Air Ministry (2)
W.D.	D.O.O. Air Ministry
I.P. (2)	D.M.C. Air Ministry
	P.S. to S. of S. Air Ministry (2)
	Duty Group Captain Air Ministry
	A.C.A.S. (1) Air Ministry
	Air Ministry War Room
	S. of S. Foreign Office
	Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty War Room)
	Head of War Registry Admiralty.

# MOST SECRET

272

## M E S S A G E

MOST SECRET

1810/9th December.  
IN

From C.in C. Middle East.

Date 9.12.41.

Time 2140

## CYPHER

Addressed - The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry),  
Repeated C.in C. Mediterranean.

## MOST IMMEDIATE

018050 0/35987 cipher 9/12/41 MOST SECRET.

COSITREP No.41.

1. Tobruk. Afternoon 8 December enemy made dive bombing attack area Pilastrino, no damage reported. Night 8/9 December patrol 2/13 Aust. Inf. Bn. moving south down grid 410 observed enemy infantry 410417. Forward elements own troops advancing west hold line 411420, 413418, 410412.

2. 30 Corps. No reports received since afternoon 8 December.

Air. 3. Day 8 December. Reconnaissance. Blenheim on shipping sweep attacked submarine unsuccessfully one hundred miles north north west Apollonia. Hospital ship sighted fifty miles north of Derna.

4. Bomber. At midday two sqns. Blenheims escorted by Hurricane Squadron effectively bombed two hundred and fifty M.T. dispersed south-west El Adem hitting or overturning about twenty. Two fires started. Escort drove off twenty German and Italian fighters destroying two, probably destroying two, damaging five with loss of two Hurricanes. Hurricane bombers destroyed eleven M.T. north-west Acroma. Boston Squadron made morning and afternoon attacks on Bardia dumps. In afternoon sortie two fires started and buildings hit. Morning no result. Marylands bombed about one hundred aircraft on Derna landing ground about midday destroying eight including five J.U.52's. Second Maryland Squadron unable to locate Derna in fog attacked small enemy ship off Bardia. No hits. Subsequent search failed to locate it.

5. Fighter. Two engagements between German fighters and Tomahawks and Hurricanes in Bir El Gobi area. Tomahawks damaged one M.E.109. Our casualties nil. Fighter Blenheims damaged eighteen M.T. on Faidia-Maraua road.

6. / .....

6. Enemy action. About twelve M.E.109's and M.E.110's bombed and machine gunned our landing grounds east of Maddalena. One squadron had four killed and six wounded. One empty D.M.86 ambulance shot down after taking off, one Bombay slightly damaged on ground. One M.E.109 probably destroyed.

1810/9

Advance copies Ops., C.D., O.I.C., D.of P., M., Press.

Received from War Office 0051/10

- |                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st Lord.         | War Office Circulation.          |
| 1st S.L.          | S.of S.                          |
| 2nd S.L.          | C.I.G.S.                         |
| 3rd S.L.          | V.C.I.G.S.                       |
| 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.(F).      | M.O.1.5.6.                       |
| A.C.N.S.(H).      | D.D.I.P.                         |
| A.C.N.S.(T).      | 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.(H).        | Cabinet War Room.                |
| D.D.O.D.(H).      | Col.Jacob,Cabinet Offices.       |
| D.O.D.(F).        | C.A.S. Air Ministry (2).         |
| D.D.O.D.(F).      | D.of Plans, Air Ministry (2).    |
| D.N.I.(4).        | Plans, 3, Air Ministry (2).      |
| D.N.A.D.          | D.O.O. Air Ministry.             |
| D.of L.D.         | D.M.C. Air Ministry.             |
| D.A/S.W.          | P.S. to S.of S., Air Ministry    |
| I.P.(2).          | (2).                             |
| W.D.              | Duty Group Captain Air Ministry  |
| D.C.(2).          | A.C.A.S.(I), Air Ministry.       |
| Hd. Of M.         | War Room, Air Ministry.          |
| D.T.S.D.          | S.of S. Foreign Office.          |
| E.P.S.            | Duty Captain, Admiralty.         |
| D.T.D.(2)         | Duty Officer, Upper Admiralty    |
| N.I.D.10          | War Room.                        |
| (Pay Cdr.Wilson). | Head of War Registry, Admiralty. |
| D.D.I.C.          |                                  |

**MOST SECRET**

272 <sup>E</sup>

M E S S A G E

MOST SECRET

2345/9th December

From C.in C. Middle East.

IN  
Date 10.12.41.  
Time 0120

CYPHER

Addressed - The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry).  
Repeated C.in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

018092. 0/36143 cipher 9/12/41. MOST SECRET

COSITREP 42.

30 Corps 8 December.

1. Enemy held El Adem and positions extending to fifteen miles further south with refused flank. Enemy armour on southern flank. 7 Armd.Div. and mobile columns of 4 Ind.Div. and 1 S.A.Bde. harassed enemy throughout day from south and east and forced his armoured formations to withdraw north to within about ten miles of El Adem. Enemy made one counter attack with 20 tanks which was repulsed. Armoured cars and columns of 5 Ind.Bde. also working round enemy rear towards Acroma.

2. Tobruk. 8 December 5 N.Z.Bde. moving forward by M.T. to come under command 13 Corps Tobruk area. Night 8/9 December patrols found both landing ground and El Adem unoccupied.

3. 2 S.A.Div. 9 December patrol approached enemy post 515390 and found it held by estimated three coys. Italians. Six columns organised by 2 S.A.Div. to mop up from coast and frontier west towards Tobruk.

4. / .....



4. L.R.D.G. Three patrols working with E. Force remainder at Siwa refitting or awaiting further instructions.

.2345/9

Advance copies Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

Received from War Office a.m./10/12.

1st Lord.	War Office Circulation.
1st S.L.	S.of S.
V.C.N.S.	C.I.G.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).	V.C.I.G.S.
N.A.1st S.L.	D.M.O. & P.
P.A.S.(S).	D.D.M.O.(O).
D.O.D.(F).	D.P.(2).
D.D.O.D.(F).	M.O.1.5.6.
D.of P.(2).	D.D.I.P.
E.P.S.	D.I.I.
Hd. of M.(10).	D.D.M.I.(I).
I.P.(2).	M.I.3.14.
N.I.D.10.	D.A.F.V.
(Pay/Cdr. Wilson).	Cabinet War Room.
W.D.	Col.Jacob (Cabinet Offices).
D.N.I.(4).	C.A.S.Air Ministry (2).
D.C.(2).	D.of Plans, Air Ministry (2).
D.D.I.C.	Plans 3, Air Ministry (2).
	D.O.O., Air Ministry.
	D.M.C. Air Ministry.
	P.S. to S.of S.Air Ministry (2).
	Duty Group Captain, Air Ministry.
	A.C.A.S.(I), Air Ministry.
	War Room, Air Ministry.
	S.of S., Foreign Office.
	Duty Captain, Admiralty.
	Duty Officer, Upper Admiralty
	War Room.
	Head of War Registry, Admiralty.

273

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.UNIQUE.

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol in area F concentrating in vicinity of 037° 51' 015° 44'. Leave patrol at 1900B/11 through 037° 06' 016° 00' 035° 52' 015° 16' and proceed east of swept channel to arrive Malta 0730B/13th. (Capt. S. 10, 1239B/9 to UNIQUE.)

FARNDALE.

Report your P.C. and S. Do not close Submarine Detector until visibility improves. (S.O. Force I. 1248B/9 to FARNDALE.)

INDUS  
HINDUSTAN.

C. in C. East Indies 0708Z/8. Request you sail INDUS and HINDUSTAN for Ceylon as soon as possible. (C. in C. Med., 1255B/9 to S.N.O. Red Sea.) Sail INDUS and HINDUSTAN for Ceylon as soon as possible. (F.O. R.S. 2252B/9 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

A/S  
protection  
of Aden.

I should be glad of a (A) very early assessments from Admty. regarding the probable threat near Aden or in Red Sea from (a) S/Ms and (b) raiders. Owing to shortage of patrol vessels this problem particularly as regards an A/S defence of Aden is bound up with question of the (?blockade) of Jibuti. Latter cannot be maintained except at expense of A/S measures at Aden. (See also my 1255/9.) I should also be glad to know therefore (?the) relative importance attached to those 2 conflicting requirements. (iii) If S/M threat is not considered serious it will be possible to maintain a weakened blockade off Jibuti as I feel that in any case I must have some A/S ship at Aden in view of the number of ships which must now inevitably congregate there. (C. in C. Med., 1347B/9 to Adty.)

P.34,  
M/V hit.

(1) P.34 reports at 1328B/5 in position 037° 56' 015° 39' fired 3 torpedoes at 4,000 tons Westbound half (laden) merchant ship in convoy with one other escorted by Generale Class I B one hit followed by ineffective (corrupt group) attack with 31 charges. (2) Result unobserved but nothing in sight half hour after attack. (3) In order to close within firing range P.34 ran for 15 minutes deep at full speed. On coming to periscope depth 2 U-boats were seen steering 130° at 1000 and 2,000 yards range but unfortunately far past attack position, so P.34 continued original target. Both U-boats were Italian, having 2 guns. (Capt. S. 10, 1459B/9 to Capt. S.1.)

/Trapani ...

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Trapani.  
Palermo.

Visual R/C today. (i) Trapani. 3 M/Vs 4000 to 6000 tons, 2 destroyers, 7 small escort ships. (ii) Palermo. 2 cruisers, 5 M/Vs, 4000 tons. One hospital ship. One large M/V down by the stern.  
(V.A. Malta, 1510B/9 to C. in C. Med.)

SAINT DENIS.  
U/B attack.

Following intercepted in French (begins). S.S. SAINT DENIS attacked by 2 submarines in 39-22 N. 3-30 E. 1223/9/12 (ends).  
(S.O.I. Gib., 1511A/9 to Admty.) See also U/B Campaign.

THRASHER  
→ PORPOISE.

THRASHER leave patrol forthwith and return to Alexandria pass through 36° 30' 20" 54, 35° 00', 21° 44', 32° 52', 27° 28', thence direct. Adjust speed to pass through second position about noon/10th and arrive sanctuary 0600B/13. PORPOISE take over patrol in area Q/1 in addition to Q from 0001B/10th.  
(Capt. S.1, 1551B/9 to S/Ms named.)

Malta Raids.

2 alerts 2038 to 2213 hours and 2304 to 2339 hours for 2 enemy bombers; bombs land, no damage, A.A. fired, no operations strong wind across runway could not get off. Similarly at Hal Far 9th, 0835 hours, 1 recco A/C approached. No interception.  
(H.Q. Malta, 1618/9.)

TORBAY  
→ PORPOISE.

TORBAY leaves vicinity Alexandria sanctuary about 1700B/9 and proceeds through 033° 30' 028° 38' 035° 28' 026° 26' to operate within 20 miles of north coast of Crete as far as 025° E. during 11th, thence through 036° 08' 025° 00' 036° 00' 022° 46' 036° ? 36' 021° 42' to establish patrol in area Q within 50 miles of Pylos Light, Navarin. Intend to recall PORPOISE to Alexandria leaving area Q p.m./13.  
(Capt. S.1, 1641B/9 to C. in C. Med.)

UNBEATEN  
UPRIGHT  
UTMOST.

My 0413B/9. Adjust patrol positions as follows: UNBEATEN 039° 40' 017° 52'. UPRIGHT 039° 27' 017° 24'. UTMOST leaves Malta 1800B/9th for patrol in vicinity 039° 33' 017° 39'.  
(Capt. S. 10, 1654B/9 to UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT.)  
No northbound merchant ship of more than 2000 tons and less than 10,000 tons whether escorted or not is to be attacked by you from receipt of this message until noon 11/12 unless it is definitely identified as a tanker.  
(Capt. S. 10 1928B/9 to UTMOST, UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT)

See p. 272  
(Cancelled 10/12. Supp. 354)  
/PROTEUS ...

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PROTEUS.

My P.C. and S. 034° 41' 023° 28' 117° 11.  
In order to comply with your 1559/8 propose to proceed on the surface day 10th. Consider R.D.F. will give adequate warning of aircraft. (PROTEUS 1730B/9 to Capt. S.1.)  
Your 1730B/9th not approved. Adjust speed to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0530B/12th. Estimated your noon position 10th 033° 46' 025° 38'.  
(Capt. S.1, 2041B/9 to PROTEUS.)

S/Ms.

Eastern Med. S/M movements summary 66 :-  
Submarine                      Estimated                      Estimated  
   Noon Position                      Noon Position

	10/12.	11/12.
TRIUMPH	033° 10'.	Due
	028° 02'.	Alexandria A.M.
THRASHER	035° 00'	034° 00'
	021° 44'	024° 30'
TORBAY	033° 30'	Close to N.E.
	028° 38'	of Crete.
* PROTEUS	033° 20'	Due
	026° 40'	Alexandria A.M.

(Capt. S. 1, 1801B/9 to Med. Fleet.)

*\* See 2041B above for late est: pos: worn 10/12*

Movements.

Departure 9/12 NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE, JAGUAR, KANDAHAR at 1830B. Fighter codeword "Siren".  
(V.A. Malta 1851B/9 to C. in C. Med.)

TALISMAN  
PERSEUS.

TALISMAN return to Alexandria through 037° 26' 020° 32' 035° 00' 020° 36' 032° 54' 027° 28' then direct. Leave patrol as necessary to pass through 2nd position about 1800B/12 arriving Sanctuary 0530B/16. PERSEUS is to take over patrol in area P in addition to P 1 from 0001B.  
(Capt. S.1, 1941B/9 to S/Ms named amended 1125B/10.)

UTMOST  
URGE.

UTMOST has sailed for patrol in vicinity of 39° 33' 17° 39' should arrive there by 0001B/12. URGE sails 1400B/10 for area E and will be in vicinity of 37° 57' 15° 30' by dawn/11.  
(Capt. S. 10, 2118B/9 to Capt. S.1.)

/P.C. and S. ...

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

P.C. and S. of enemy (2 A/A CR) 010 37° N.,  
12° E. 43, 190°, 30 knots.  
(Med A/C 2257B/9.)

My 2256 - P.C. and S. of enemy A/ACR - 015  
37° N., 12° E., 25 - 190 - 24.  
(Med A/C 2349B/9.)

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.HECTOR.

HECTOR (A.M.C.) sailed to R/V with R.F.A. CEDARDALE at outer end of searched channel N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1648Z/5 para. (ii) refers. E.T.A. Mauritius 0300Z/16. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0740Z/9).

DAUNTLESS.

DAUNTLESS left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0705Z/9 to Admty etc).

"Q" messages,  
and S/M  
reports.

(1) Following Q distress messages have been received. (a) ~~022Z~~ INGE MARSK close S.W. of (?Ceylon) at 0328Z/8th. Cancelled and cleared (b) Jaladurga N.W. part of Bay of Bengal at 0902Z/8th. Cancellation considered genuine (c) unknown ship in (?Mozambique) channel at 1218Z/8th. Cancellation received correctly by CORNWALL considered genuine. (2) Following S/M reports received of which it is too early to gauge authenticity (a) periscope feather (?and) A/S contact by DIPAVATI off Goa at 1245Z/8th. Contact lost range 2 miles (b) 2 (?U-boats) reported by Greek destroyer AETOS Bay of Bengal 020° 10' N., 087° 30' E., at 2027Z/8th. No results depth charge attack (c) resemblance to submerged S/M proceeding north westward reported by DUMFRIES 50 miles north east Madras at 1130Z/8th. Object 200 Yards on beam. (C. in C. E.I., 0752Z/9 to E.I. Station).

ROHNA.

B.P. 27 ROHNA called in consequence of seek refuge signal, proceeded on her voyage to Basra at 1330 G.M.T. E.T.A. 0100Z/13. (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 1403Z/9 to Admty).

Raiders.

My 1925A/2. Q distress message W of Karachi on 28/11 satisfactorily cancelled. Therefore no evidence of Raider in Indian Ocean. (D.D.I.C., 1902A/9 to Cs. in C. etc).

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Battleships  
for Eastern  
Fleet.  
Convoy  
Escorts.

Your 0251Z/8.

A. Your para. 7 (your 1015/3 also refers) ROYAL SOVEREIGN arrives Durban with W.S.12 Z on 17/12. At the moment we do not know what scale of attack the Japanese are likely to bring on to our convoy routes. From C. in C., E.I. 0454Z/6 it appears that the only alternative escort that he can provide is EMERALD as far as Mombasa and then COLOMBO; this appears inadequate if there is any chance of a Japanese 8-inch cruiser being in the area. It would appear therefore that ROYAL SOVEREIGN should remain with W.S.12 Z at least as far as Seychelles.

B. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is more or less worked up but before joining you, she should do one further series of practice shoots, which presumably can be done at Trincomalee.

C. RAMILLIES is bringing out W.S.14 which is a large convoy of 32 ships. Weather conditions at Scapa prevented her completing her work up and she needs further shoots of all types.

D. RESOLUTION is working up now and will escort W.S. 15 leaving 7/1. She will have had 6 weeks working up.

E. Your para 1. We have now had to send Force "H" destroyers to Eastern Mediterranean to assist with our supply routes and to cut the enemy's. At least until the Cyrenaican situation is cleared up it will not be possible to send you any more British destroyers. As Americans are not now taking over Force H., so enabling us to send you 8 Destroyers, I am asking C.N.O. if the 6 American destroyers now escorting W.S.12 X. could join you as part of the additional reinforcements and in addition to the 8 they have already allocated to you.

F. Your para. 5. This will be done.

G. Your para. 6. It is regretted that no further cruisers can be sent to join Eastern Fleet. (1st S.L., 0051A/9 to C. in C. E.F.)

Thailand  
Invaded.

British forces have crossed Thailand frontier in two places 1400/8/12. Japan violated Thai neutrality first. (C. in C. F.E., 0247/9 to W.O.)

Military  
Situation.

W.O. 0600/9 to D.D.M.I. Singapore. See Lion Copy.

/Japanese....

MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET**

From. Chungking.

Date. 12.12.41.  
Time. 0800.

CIPHER.

Addressed. Commander in Chief, Far East.

IMMEDIATE.

Military Attache.

No. M. 292.

9th December, 1941.

Repeated to War Office No.

Air Ministry,

General Officer Commanding, Hong Kong,  
Burma, India.

(Commander in Chief please pass to others).

Chiang-Kai-Shek sent for Magruder and me yesterday. He asked me to convey message to His Majesty's Government and Commander-in-Chief Far East that all China's man power, armed forces and resources were unreservedly at His Majesty's Government's and United States Government's disposal for the prosecution of the war, and he was prepared to make any sacrifice for the common cause. I suggest that personal reply to this message from the Chief Imperial General Staff and the Commander in Chief would be welcome. Chiang-Kai-shek instructed the Minister of War to discuss possible Chinese (?group.omitted) with us today. Discussion was under the headings of direct assistance and indirect assistance.

2. Direct assistance to Hong Kong. Chiang-Kai-shek has issued orders for immediate preparations for offensive by three armies under General Yu-Han-Mo from the East against the general line of the Canton-Kowloon railway with the object of clearing the Japanese away from the West (grp.undecled) territory and joining up with the Hong Kong garrison. I stressed the importance of getting in supplies and evacuating civilians. Simultaneous attack by 3 armies to be made on Canton to contain Japanese reinforcements, also guerilla action by one division in the Swatow area. The Chinese claim the attack can start by January 1st, but would prefer January 10th. They consider that the attack has a good chance of success if we can provide air support, which they hope might come as a surprise at the critical period of the battle. They are prepared without air support, and maintain that even if it fails it will have good effect viewed from the war as a whole. In any case they urge bombs for the area B should be sent in immediately, and have promised to provide transport. I strongly support this request, and can only repeat that the moral effect of one or two British squadrons would

**MOST SECRET**

be /.....



be very great if the situation permits. I presume that I should encourage the Chinese preparations. Either Livat-Fraser or myself will be on the spot to supervise. Colonel Hughes, Liaison Officer from Hong Kong was present at this discussion.

3. Direct assistance to Burma or British troops in Thailand (Siam).

(a) Chinese invasion of Thailand impossible owing to supply difficulties.

(b) they have many armies in Yunnanfu and along the Indo-Chinese border in Yunan and Kuangsi. They are prepared to undertake an invasion on Tong-King if we wish it, but have no idea of French reactions and would welcome our opinion on the subject. If we do not wish it they will move the bulk of their troops elsewhere for they consider Japanese invasion of Yunan now most improbable. My comment is that their offensive could be strictly limited by supply difficulties, and would take a long time to stage but if French neutrality or co-operation is on the cards it might be worth it at later stage. Request instructions.

(c) Puerh force. One regiment of 93rd division already in Puerh-Cheli area. Chinese will certainly increase to anything up to 1 division if Burma can supply rice. Will General Officer Commanding Burma say what he can do if more transport made available?

(d) Chinese very anxious to assist in Burma, and have repeated the offer of troops for service in Northern Burma. If Burma can supply rations, they will send them with Chinese arms and equipment and keep them supplied with ammunition. I consider this merits serious consideration if it can relieve regular troops or frontier force for action elsewhere. I can ensure good quality troops.

(e) Chinese ensure that in the event of attack on Burma Che...s American volunteer group will be made available under the Royal Air Force Burma,, provided that the situation in China permits.

4. Indirect assistance. I again urged that the best service China can do to the common cause is to contain the maximum Japanese effort in men and material in China and suggested the following:

(a) minor offensives and patrol activity everywhere.

(b) intensified guerilla warfare.

(c) spreading rumours of a general offensive and troop concentrations, etc.,

(d) intensive propaganda, directed principally against puppet troops, to the effect that

they/....

**MOST SECRET**

-3-

they have backed the wrong horse and must come over quickly to the Central Government.

The Chinese replied that orders were already issued for (a) and that (d) was satisfactory since large numbers of puppet troops are already to come over on favourable opportunity. They will take up (c) and I will wire plans for (b) later on.

To conclude. Chiang-Kai-shek is taking broad view. (Grp. undec? His) attitude is very good, but I have not complete confidence in Ho Ying Chin, the Minister for War. The main problem is getting Chiang-Kai-shek's orders translated into effective action by the war zone commanders. But Chinese morale is high and they have a definite value as (grp. undec? assistants).

1550/9

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F). D.D.I.C.  
Received from War Office A.M. 13th December.

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**MOST SECRET**

**MOST SECRET**

278<sup>3</sup>

M E S S A G E 1639/9th Dec. III  
MOST SECRET

From C. in C. Far East. Date 9.12.41.  
CIPHER. Recd. 1635.

Addressed The War Office all concerned.

MOST IMMEDIATE

17995. Unnumbered cipher 9/12.

Following from C's in C. F.E. and Eastern Fleet for  
Chiefs of Staff.

Situation report local time 0900 hrs.

1. Malaya. Now three areas of land operations.  
Kelantan South Thailand immediately north of Kedah  
frontier South Thailand N.E. of Kroh. Further landings  
took place at Badang.

Kelantan. All aircraft left Kota Bharu aerodrome  
which was threatened by enemy ground troops at 1620  
hours 8/12 and flew to Kuantan. At 0800 hours 9/12  
Kota Bharu aerodrome had been demolished and 8 Brigade  
holding line just north of Kota Bharu. Kemassin Beach  
evacuated. Considerable infiltration and working round  
flanks by well armed enemy. Position confused. No  
activity front from Melawi to Semerak. Enemy believed  
to have ships behind Perhentian Islands from  
which they are landing troops and stores by lighters.  
No. A.F.V.'s yet known to have landed. One battalion  
and one Fd. Bty. ordered to Kelantan.

South Thailand. 11 Div. Recce. crossed frontier  
PM 8/12 and made contact with enemy at Ban Sadao.  
Enemy had ten A.F.V.'s after inflicting casualties  
our forces withdrew destroying two major bridges  
between Ban Sadao and frontier. Klong Neagh Ry. bridge  
demolished by our armd. train 0500 hrs. Krohcol crossed  
frontier PM 8/12. Advance to ledge position initially  
opposed by Thai police now been resumed.

2. Air. Enemy have concentrated on our aerodromes  
and during 8/12 bombed Kota Bharu, Gong Kedak, Maching, Alor Sta.  
Sungei Patani, Butterworth and Penang. Heaviest attacks  
were at Sungei Patani where number of our fighters  
destroyed on ground and most buildings destroyed.  
Alor Star and Sungei Patani aerodromes unable to  
operate and have been evacuated. 18 Dutch bombers  
arrived Sembawang today.

Search at sea by two Vildebeestes from Kuantan  
commenced 0200 hrs. Negative report.

Three air raid warnings at Singapore during night  
8/9 and early 9 but no raids developed.

/ To .....

To sum up. The success of the attacks on our northern aerodromes is handicapping our air action and this will have an effect upon the fighting on land.

3. Thailand. In addition to landings at Singgora and Pattan Burma report 0115 9/12 local W/T intercept stating landings at Huahin Prachuabkirikhan which may be a threat to Mergui. Another intercept stated Thais ordered to cease fire at 0730 hours 8/12.

4. Hong Kong. Situation report timed 1550 hours 8/12 stated enemy crossed frontier on broad front during morning and our troops withdrew according to plan. All demolitions successful. Light air raids and damage slight. Eight civil aircraft serviceable and hoping to fly off.

5. Naval. Our forces are operating in the South China Sea.

1639/9.

Received from War Office 2049/9/12.

Advance copies P.O., A.C.N.S.(F), N.A.1. S.L.,  
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0600/9th December.  
IN.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

From. The War Office.

Date. 9. 12. 41.

CIPHER,

Addressed. D.D.M.I. Singapore. Repeated Britman,  
Washington, M.A, Chungking G.C.C. Burma,  
C.G.S. Australia, Dept. of Defence,  
Wellington, New Zealand, G.C.C., Hong Kong.

56763. cipher. M.I. 2. 8/12.

Following is situation as we see it here 5 hours  
G.M.T. 8th December 41.

Thailand - Malaya. (a) Japanese forces estimated at two  
Divisions attempted to land Songkla - Patani - Kota - Bharu  
Area, dawn 8th December. We have no further information.

(b) Japanese forces invaded Thailand  
from South Indo China 8th December. No information as to  
strength of attack.

Indo China. (a) South. Three Divisions, (5,18,88).  
Kobayshi Mechanised Brigade (One tank  
Regiment, one Tank Battalion.)

Possibly 18 Division and not 38 Division  
in Indo China. This borne out by latest S.I.S. reports from  
Canton Area.

(b) North. One Division (Guards).  
Canton Area. Three Divisions (38, 48, 104).  
One Tank Battalion.

Estimated one Division, supported by  
one Division in reserve, attacking Hong Kong.

Hainan. Two Divisions (possibly 6 & 17.)

Formosa. Three Divisions (x, 28, 116.)  
One Tank Battalion.

Two Divisions from Hainan, plus one  
and possibly two Divisions from Formosa, in transports, probably  
being.....

being moved to support landing at Songkhla Area.

Divisions used in first landing against Songkhla possibly unidentified Division from Hainan, 4th or Division which 4 Division relieved in Canton Area.

In addition to above it is estimated Japanese can make immediately available 12 Divisions (7 from Japan, 4 from North China, 1 from Central China) for further operations in South.

Tokyo 2471 of 6/12 reporting 18 Military transports in Shimoneseki - Moji Area, 27 November, indicates possibility of expedition having been prepared in Japan for action against either the Phillipines or the N.E.I., apart from Divisions deployed now in South, which excepting forces in Canton Area and North Indo. China are probably intended for action against Malaya.

C600/9.

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Duty Capt., D.C.D. (F)  
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D.S.D. (2)  
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Admiral Bellairs.  
Admiral Chalmers.  
E.P.S.  
D.T.S.D.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

Japanese  
Forces,  
Intelligence.

From W/T Traffic. Saigon Area. Third Aircraft Carrier Squadron, C. in C. Southern Expeditionary Fleet, C. in C. Combined Air Force, one Seaplane Tender Squadron. Sama Area. C. in C. Combined Fleet, C. in C. Third Fleet, some unidentified auxiliaries and naval units. Hong Kong Area. Flagship C. in C. South China Fleet. Truk Area. Flagship of C. in C. Fourth Fleet. Aircraft concentrations in Formosa. Air W/T traffic generally heavy. Large volume of W/T traffic originating in Jaluit addressed to C. in C. Combined Fleet. From Aircraft Sighting. P.M. 9/12 one Battleship, three Cruisers, 11 destroyers, and a number of transports reported close to coast between Kota Bharu and Perhentian Is. No details received. (C.S. Singapore, 1501Z/9 to Admty).

Night  
Fighters.

Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. F.E. No. 53 Your 423/6 cipher 8/12. We regret impossible to provide two squadrons of night fighters in immediate future. There is not yet even one squadron in Middle East or Malta, and Malta has survived for 18 months without one in spite of continuous Italian and period of heavy German attacks from near bases.

2. All war experience shows uselessness and wastefulness of attempting to gain air superiority by bombing aerodromes at long range. Only effective form of attack is at short range particularly low flying attack by fighters.

3. We are doing everything possible to sustain your day fighter force and your short range bombers, and are also expediting A.A. reinforcements. (W.O. 1630/9 to C. in C. Far East).

No. F.E. 54. Allotment of available resources between theatres is extremely difficult without information as to scale of attack being delivered against various objectives in your command and appreciation of probable Japanese plan as you see it. It would therefore be most helpful if you could keep us constantly supplied with positive or at least negative information. (Chiefs of Staff, 2355/9 to C. in C. Far East).

Situation  
Report.

At 0900 local time. (C. in C. Far East, 1639/9 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

**MOST SECRET**

279A

~~MOST SECRET~~ Dec. IN

From: C. in C. Far East.

Date 10.12.41.

Recd:1525

Cypher

Addressed: The War Office addressed all concerned.  
WX 2469.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Unnumbered Cypher 9/12.

Following from C's in C F.E. and Eastern Fleet for  
Chiefs of Staff.

Situation report local time 0900 hours.

1. Malaya. Now three areas of land operations. Kelantan  
South Thailand immediately north of Kedah frontier  
south Thailand N.E of Kroh. Further landings  
took place at Badang.  
Kelantan. All aircraft left Kota Bharu aerodrome which  
was threatened by enemy ground troops at 1620  
hours 8/12 and flew to Kuantan. At 0800 hours 9/12  
Kota Bharu aerodrome had been demolished and 8  
Brigade holding line just north of Kota Bharu,  
Kerassassin Beach evacuated. Considerable  
infiltration and working round flanks by well armed  
enemy. Position confused. No activity front  
from Melawi to Semerak. Enemy believed to have  
ships behind Perhentian Islands from which they are  
landing troops and stores by lighters. No A.F.V.'s  
yet known to have landed. One battalion and one  
rd. Bty ordered to Kelantan.  
South Thailand. 11 Div. Recce. Crossed frontier  
p.m. 8/12 and made contact with enemy at Ban Sadao  
Enemy had ten A.F.V.'s after inflicting casualties  
our forces withdrew destroying two major bridges  
between Ban Sadao and frontier. Kloug Neagh Ry.  
bridge demolished by our armd. train 0500 hrs.  
Krohcol crossed frontier p.m. 8/12. Advance to  
ledge position initially opposed by Thai police  
now been resumed.
2. Air Enemy have concentrated on our aerodromes and  
during 8/12 bombed Kota Bharu Gong Kedak Maching  
Alor Star Sungei Patani Butterworth and Penang.  
Heaviest attacks were at Sungei Patani where  
number of our fighters destroyed on ground and  
most buildings destroyed. Alor Star and Sungei  
Patani aerodromes unable to operate and have  
been evacuated. 18 Dutch bombers arrived  
Sembawang to-day. Search at sea by two  
Vildebeestes from Kuantan commenced 0200 hours.  
Negative re report

Three/

**MOST SECRET**



TOP SECRET

Three air raid warnings at Singapore during night 8/9 and early 9 but no raids developed.

To sum up. The success of the attacks on our Northern aerodromes is handicapping our air action and this will have an effect upon the fighting on land.

- 3. Thailand In addition to landings at Singgora and Pattan Burma report 0113 9/12 local W/T intercept stating landings at Huahin Prachuabkirikhan which may be a threat to Morgui. Another intercept stated Thais ordered to cease fire at 0730 hours 8/12.
- 4. Hong Kong. Situation report timed 1550 hours 8/12 stated enemy crossed frontier on broad front during morning and our troops withdrew according to plan. All demolition successful. Light air raids and damage slight. Eight civil aircraft serviceable and hoping to fly off.
- 5. Naval Our forces are operating in the South China Sea.

1639/9  
Advance Copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F)  
D.D.I.C.

Received from War Office 1951/10

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- War Office. (M.O.I.) (2)

TOP SECRET

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ODDVAR II

Your 2130Z/8. Following received from CTF4 (begins). Inform Newfoundland Authorities ODDVAR II is in custody of their Constabulary. I have directed vessel to secure to buoy ship harbour for security approaching gale. I will render such assistance as may be necessary 1427Z/8 (ends). Ship is in custody Newfoundland Govt., no further steps have been taken. (C.C.N.F., 0355Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOA.

My 1232Q/26/11. MOA now at Balboa reports Asdic defective. Grateful if arrangements could be made for U.S. Naval Authorities to examine and make good defect, and for MOA to remain at Balboa for boiler cleaning. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/9 to B.A.D.)

Japanese Fleet.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 0411Z/9 (Re whereabouts of Japanese Battleships and Carriers. N.T. in W.D.) Only information available is that 2 units, one a carrier, are estimated by radio bearing to be operating 750 miles 340° from Pearl Harbour. Presence of enemy aircraft San Francisco district indicates carrier in vicinity. Pacific Fleet Task Forces disposed so as to endeavour to intercept. Several attacks on enemy submarines delivered in vicinity of Oahu (Sound?) (B.A.D., 1115R/9 to Admty).

FIDRA Panamanian.

My 1551R/6. Ship arrived St. Thomas 8/12 detained pending instructions from Washington. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1144R/9 to A.W.I. Station).

DIOMEDE.

Your 2301Z/8. (Burst boiler tubes on DIOMEDE) Your return must be deferred for a short while until situation is clearer. Comply with my 1312Q/8. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1202Q/9 to DIOMEDE). Your 1322/8. Fuelling arranged, see my 1459/26 /11. Para (2) No restriction on Balboa. (B.A.D., 1555R/9 to DIOMEDE).

S. C. 53.

MERIDIAN and CRUSADER still unaccounted for. Should be grateful if information could be obtained from escort of date of straggling and any other particulars known. (D.T.D., 1302A/9 to Opnav repeated C.C.N.F., etc) Reply from C.C.N.F., see 0351Z/10

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Martlets.

Your 1604/5. Signal number of Martlets in each ship on sailing and whether they can be disembarked by air on arrival U.K., pilots being provided.  
(D.N.A.D., 1339A/9 to B.A.R.M.) Reply 1440/13.

Shipping Control.

Request confirmation that U.S. Authorities have assumed Control of British and Allied Shipping in the Pacific Area in accordance with A.B.C. on Annex. 5. 2. C. in C. A.W.I. 1912Q/8. Concur that it is desirable to maintain flow of traffic as soon as situation permits.  
(V.C.N.S., 1343A/9 to B.A.D.)

Your 1343A/9 crossed my 1147R/9 (N.T. in W.D.) which has all addressees. For the present U.S. C.N.O. agrees that all shipping (except U.S. flag and U.S. own shipping) shall continue to be routed by British Authority as at present in accordance with A.M.0001/1/5 as amended.

(ii) U.S.C.N.O. will indicate to Admty and Ottawa any change that he desires or recommends in routeing instructions covering areas of U.S. responsibilities. My 1147R/9 to Admty and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa only refers.

(B.A.D. 1307R/9 to Admty).

U.S. Authorities are not issuing any instructions for British and Allied shipping on east coast. Propose therefore to route ships for Australia and New Zealand from Coast Canadian and U.S. Ports as far south as Jacksonville via the Cape. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1927Z/9 to Admty).

ALIAKMON.

My 1829Z/7. (1827Z/7 intended) Greek ALIAKMON, no information of arrival this side.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1442Z/9 to Admty).

INDOMITABLE.

Your 2212Q/7. Propose to sail 1630/12 arrive Port of Spain p.m./15. Desired to exercise a night attack with aerodrome and oil refinery as objective. If approved attack would be carried out after 0001/15 and INDOMITABLE would then carry out programme B of R.N.A.S. Piarce Trinidad T 41/1 of 4/11. Suggested attack might be used to exercise local defence.

(INDOMITABLE, 1452/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Approved. See C. in C. A.W.I., 1031Q/10).

U.S. Fleet.

Dispositions U.S. Asiatic fleet, so far as is known in Washington. Cruisers HOUSTON, BOISE, Seaplane tender LANGLEY and 2 destroyers escorting southbound tanker convoy in Sulu Sea. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD and 2 destroyers at Balik Papan. 4 destroyers en route for Singapore. Information from C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet has been scanty. (B.A.D. 1539R/9 to Admty).

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

NAMARIB.

My 1829Z/7 (?1827/7 intended) New York now reports U.S. NAMARIB arrived 29/11.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1546Z/9 to Admty).

Remained LAS CHOAPAS  
ATLAS. (Mexican)  
(Italian).

My 1257R/1/8. Ship can now sail under own steam. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1621R/9 to Admty).

Shipping.

My 1135/8. Vessels bound for West Coast of South America only released. Those for West Coast North America still held as well as Trans. Pacific.  
(C.S.A. Panama, 1725/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Suspicious Tanker.

Large dark grey tanker, two guns aft, sighted heading S.W. 34.45 N., 70.30 W., 1430 G.C.T. Turned N.E. then to westward at 1529. Did not reply to SANGAMON flashing light challenge. May be British Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER. (Opnav, 1730Z/9 to C. in C. Lant, Admty). Your 1730Z/9 Dec. SCOTTISH HEATHER arrived Bermuda 8/12 and still in harbour. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1659Q/9 to Opnav). Your 1730Z/9. Agree this may be British Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER estimated position at 1800 G.C.T. 31½° N., 68½° W., steering S. Dutch tanker ONDINA also in this vicinity steering N. (D.C., 2330Z/9 to Opnav).

ERIDAN.

Letter from Passenger in French ERIDAN dated Dakar 25/11 states that on receiving news of capture of 5 Vichy ships near the Cape, ERIDAN turned back to Dakar. Passengers may suffer same fate as ALSINA's passengers 12 months ago. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1759Q/9 to Admty F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

Chile, policy.

Chilean Naval C. in C. today confidentially informed me that during present emergency Chilean Battleship ALMIRANTE LATORRE and 4 destroyers will be remaining on northern sector of coast which means Valparaiso to Arica. Submarines and their depot ships and cruisers of Chacabuco contingent sent Magellan Straits. No naval arrangements are being made at present for patrol of dangerous areas between Puerto Montt and Gulf of Penas but Chilean Air Force units are being sent to Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas.

/Chilean....

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Chile,  
policy.  
Contd.

Chilean M.F.A. is communicating with neighbouring Republics for convening a conference to consider necessary action to be taken in accordance with Declaration No. 15 Havana Conference of July 1940. No doubt Japanese action has caused Chile to seriously consider possibility of becoming involved.  
(N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1830/9 to Admty).

NASTURTIUM.

My 1859Z/8. Has following damage. (details).  
Owing to other commitments this work cannot be undertaken at St. Johns.  
2. If it is desired to repair ship at U.S. Port request this be arranged.  
3. Intend sailing NASTURTIUM to Halifax 10/12 pending decision. (C.C.N.F., 1916Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

Routeing  
of Shipping.

U.S. Authorities are not issuing any instructions for British and Allied shipping on east coast. Propose therefore to route ships for Australia and New Zealand from east coast Canadian and U.S. ports as far south as Jacksonville via the Cape. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1927Z/9 to Admty, Repeated C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)

Coastal  
Trade.

Representations have been made verbally to Navy Dept. advocating resumption of flow of coastal trade northward of Panama. C.N.O. has information pointing to likelihood of hostile raids and is of opinion that ships should not sail until the situation is clarified.  
(B.A.D. 2031/9 to Admty).

TADOUSSAC.  
WEDGEPORT.

N.S.H.Q. 1501/8/10. TADOUSSAC and WEDGEPORT are out of Great Lakes and they should arrive Saint John N.B. for completion within few days R.N. crews will be required about mid February. (B.A.T.M. Ottawa, 2101Z/9 to Admty).

OLWEN  
"Q" Report  
4/11.

Your 1455N/7/11 not to Admiralty. Ref. QQQQ from Oiler OLWEN at 0530Z/4/11. OLWEN reports one round was fired at her but owing to darkness and drizzle nothing was sighted. Five minutes later message was received from ship using call sign "Nerk" advising course S.W. this was ignored. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2203Q/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

/ Movement.....

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movement of  
Air Force  
personnel.

Movement Control requests consideration may be given for a troopship from Halifax, midway between future T.C. convoys, which could take up to 2,000 air force personnel, as delays between completion of training and arrival U.K. most detrimental. Air force personnel are now coming forward at rate of 125 per day ready for embarkation at Halifax and this rate may increase. If this request can be arranged it will reduce forecast of requirements of about 7,500 service personnel for Jan., Feb. and March. My 1541/29/10 refers.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2245Z/9 to D. of S.T.)

Free French  
Operation,  
St. Pierre.

No. 6. (1) I shall sail for Halifax with MIMOSA, ALYSSE, ACONIT which I can use until 16/12. SURCOUF will be Halifax. (2) Am ready to effect operation "St. Pierre Et Miquelon". Considering new general situation shall (?) proceed at once to Ottawa to secure agreement of Canada and America (sic). (3) Request you will apply for British agreement and inform me of result.  
(Adm. Muselier, 2300Z/9 to Gen de Gaulle).

Australia & New Zealand.

Enemy Air  
Activity.

At 0100Z/8 enemy aircraft (corrupt group) Nauru but made no attack. So far no further enemy activity on Australian Station.  
(A.C.N.B., 0454Z/9 to Admty).

Lighting  
Precautions.

Q.F.A.61 Australian Confidential Books 0213. Stage 2 of Lighting restrictions in Force in New Guinea, New Britain, New Ireland, Papua, Norfolk Islands, New Hebrides, Nauru and Solomon Islands. Except at Port Moresby and Rabaul where stage 1 is in operation.  
(A.C.N.B., 0530Z/9 to All Concerned Q.F.A. Message).

Shipping  
Signals.

Request departure and route signal for ships crossing Tasman and Coral Seas be addressed to N.B. Melbourne repeated F.O.C. Australian Sqn.  
(A.C.N.B., 1115Z/9 to N.Z.N.B.)

War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

TUSCAN  
STAR,  
Fire.

On arrival at Melbourne M/V TUSCAN STAR 5/12, Master reported destruction by fire of 1 cased aeroplane during voyage from Liverpool. Case loaded Sandon Dock Liverpool between 0600 and 0630 Monday 18/10. At 1217/22/11 smoke observed coming from case marked AUS.1154/1. Case broken open and whole contents observed ablaze extinguished in 15 minutes by water. Plane found completely gutted all aluminium sections melted and unrecognizable, indications are that fire commenced in pilot seat in cockpit but destruction so complete no tangible evidence found. Two explosions noted considered to be due to fire extinguishers exploding parts which were found in wreckage. No signs of burns on exterior of packing case boards of which were nailed very closely together precluding possibility cigarette falling or being inserted into case. (Details of Plane etc).  
(A.C.N.B., 1152Z/9 to Admty).

Tankers.

Requested that all tankers putting into Australian and New Zealand ports may proceed, circumstances permitting, to originally nominated discharge ports and thence to Fremantle for orders.(D.T.D., 2003A/9 to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

PORT  
CAMPBELL.

Your 1505A/8, arrived Auckland 3/12.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1150M/9 to Admty).

LEANDER.

Departure Auckland LEANDER for patrol North of New Zealand. (D.N.I. Wellington, 1302M/9 to Admty etc).

Enemy  
Landings  
Butaritari,  
Tarawa,  
Ocean Island.

Japanese apparently made successful landings on Butaritari and Tarawa Island, island in the Gilbert Islands at about 1645Z/9. Ocean Island bombed twice yesterday but W/T station still functioning.  
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2327Z/9 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet).

War Diary.9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.SAINT  
DENIS.

Intercept 1244 G.M.T. Unread COMAR ALGER.  
SAINT DENIS attaque par deux sous-marins par  
39.22 N. 03.30 E. 1223/9/12. SAINT DENIS.  
(Plymouth C.C.O. from Land's End Radio,  
1348/9 to Admiral, Plymouth.)  
Following intercepted in French begins:  
S.S. SAINT DENIS attacked by 2 submarines in  
39.22 N. 3.30 E. 1223/9/12. (ends).  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1511A/9 to Admty.)

CLAN  
MACBEAN.

Your 1546A/5 (Request for information as to  
whether CLAN MACBEAN has been sunk.) CLAN  
MACBEAN reported in position 10° 19' S. 6°  
44' W. at 1345Z/9.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1531Z/9 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.1523  
G.M.T./8.

Submarine sounded contact 052° 32' N. 040° 43'  
W. at 1523 G.M.T./8. Suggest possibility of  
2 or 3 submarines bound for Newfoundland Coast.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 0202/9 to Admty., C. in C. A.F.,  
C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

On E.I.  
Station.

C. in C. E.I., 0752Z/9. See East Indies.

0944.

One S/M 340° 2 knots 40° N., 14° W. 0648  
dived.  
(HESPERUS, 0944/9 to Gibraltar.)  
See also S/M's attacked.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.  
(D.D.I.C., 1418A/9, 1419A/9.)

1256.

3 U-Boats in 036° 35' N. 007° 35' W. course  
southerly at 1256/9.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1651A/9 to N.A. Stn.)

Ascension,  
1719.

Following has been read. 1 S/M bearing 230°  
8 miles course 000° West Ascension.  
(Freetown, 1719/9 to Whitehall.)  
My 1719. Military Garrison has opened fire.  
(O.i/c. Ascension, 1737Z/9 to C. in C. S.A.)  
Military authorities report that S/M when first  
sighted was enveloped in a cloud of white smoke  
which made recognition impossible. Smoke  
later cleared away and revealed S/M, this was  
confirmed by naval rating who endeavoured to  
contact S/M by light. S/M made no effort to  
dive until fired on.  
(O.i/c. Ascension, 1929Z/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

/1610, Med....



War Diary.

9.12.1941.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - Contd.

1610,  
Med.

Aircraft report submarine dived position 335°  
Raz Azzaz 30 miles at 1610/9.  
(S.O. Force I, 1727B/9 to Med. Fleet.)  
My 1727/9. Course 300°.  
(S.O. Force I, 1812B/9 to Med. Fleet.)

Submarines Attacked.

By AZALEA.  
HESPERUS.

A/S operation 9/12. AZALEA carried out attack  
on contact in position 280 Spartelcaine at  
0806/9.  
(2) HESPERUS sighted S/M at 0944/9 in 40.06  
N. 13.12 W. S/M dived. Two pattern dropped  
on a good contact. No results observed.  
(3) Aircraft Clare reported sighting three  
S/Ms in 36.35 N. 07.35 W. at 1256/9. S/Ms  
dived, Clare did not remain in the vicinity.  
Three destroyers and Catalina sent to hunt.  
(4) Hunting forces and patrols considerably  
reduced to meet other commitments.  
(5) Weather improving but air activity still  
limited.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2358A/9 to Admty.)

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

6 Bomber Command aircraft attacked targets in N.W. Germany today, and one claims a direct hit on a tanker in the mouth of the Ems. Coastal Command aircraft continued their attacks on shipping off the coast of Norway.

Enemy Air Operations.

At 1430 today South Lighthouse, Fair Isle was attacked by cannon shell. Damage was superficial.

Mining.

8 Hampdens of Bomber Command laid mines today off the Frisian Islands.

It appears possible that the new German ground mines will endanger ships in considerably greater depth of water than has hitherto been the case. In view of the large amount of shallow water in searched channels in the Nore Command and absence of deeper water into which traffic might be diverted, C. in C. Nore asks that some vessels of Fleet M/S type may be fitted out and used to sweep these mines ahead of convoys in suspected areas.

*Bonick mine.*

The drifter KINGCORTH was sunk in Liverpool Bay this morning, probably by a floating mine.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

It is reported from Tunis 8/12 that the French have been making naval, military and air preparations. A.A. defences are being constructed at Tunis air port and further mines have been laid and a net placed across the gateway of the lake at Bizerta. There are reported to be 4 destroyers, 3 T.Bs. and 11 S/Ms. at Bizerta.

Forces B. and K. operated west of Malta last night, but no interceptions are reported.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

2 / A patrol has been maintained north of Derna by one cruiser and 2 destroyers nightly without any enemy forces being encountered. C.S.15 (NAIAD) and 2 destroyers bombarded Derna and merchant ships in harbour at 0800 today. at close range, damaging a 2,000 ton merchant ship and port installations. The force was attacked by T.B. and dive bombing aircraft throughout the forenoon, apparently without damage and is now returning to Alexandria.

Tobruk has been effectively relieved and the land supply route is now open. Shelling of the town has ceased but bombing continues and minelaying is suspected.

Greek destroyers have patrolled nightly off Bardia without incident.

Far East.

In view of the naval and military situation in the Far East the immediate policy as regards merchant shipping is as follows:-  
All British and Allied, other than U.S.A. and Dutch shipping is to be withdrawn from Malaya, Borneo, Sumatra area to Australia or Indian ports, and shipping from the Philippines to Australian ports. No shipping is to be retained for running outward convoys, as it is not yet clear how this is to be effected.

The Dutch Naval C. in C. is to be informed and advised to adopt a similar policy.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet took over the command and administration of the China Station at 0030Z today and the flag of Vice Admiral Sir G. Layton was struck at sunset.

PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE sunk.

PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE were sunk this afternoon (local time) by H.L.B. and torpedo bombing attacks whilst operating off the coast of Malaya. It is reported that 7 of the attacking aircraft were shot down by the ships' fire; our ships had no fighter protection (see 8/12). About 130 officers and 2,050 men were saved. C. in C. Eastern Fleet is missing and at 2250A today the Admiralty instructed Vice-Admiral Layton to carry out the duties of C. in C. Eastern Fleet, with discretion to fly his flag on shore or afloat, until it is known whether Admiral Phillips has been saved.

Hong Kong.

Stonecutters W/T station was shelled for 6 hours today. At 1755Z today N.O.I.C. Hong Kong reported that he intended to demolish the station within a few hours and would use the emergency station. Bombing attacks on Hong Kong continued today and CICALA was hit, but not badly damaged.

Malaya.

Japanese air and land attacks continue in North Malaya without making much progress. Several of our aerodromes have been demolished or prepared for demolition; heavy scale of enemy air attack has made most of our northern aerodromes unusable. It is estimated that one enemy division had landed in the Kelantan area by 1430 G.M.T. today. Four landings have been attempted at Kuantan. Blenheims are endeavouring to intercept a convoy of 25 transports which is attempting to land reinforcements at Kota Bharu and Singora - Patani areas. The Sarawak Miri oil denial scheme has been completed and the destruction of the aerodrome is proceeding. There are reported to have been 3 air attacks on Penang today.

/Philippines...

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

Philippines.

A major attack has developed on Luzon with naval and air support. Landings are reported on the west coast. There was an air raid on Manila for 45 minutes p.m. today the main damage being at the naval base at Cavite where extensive damage is reported. The U.S. Army Commander reports that the Japanese have overwhelming preponderance of air strength and consider that if pressure continues the U.S. Air Force will be wiped out by attrition. The U.S. air forces claim to have sunk one enemy transport and severely damaged 2 others. The U.S. G.O.C. Philippines reports that there are indications that Japanese dive bombers are at least partially manned by white pilots.

Guam.

There are no further reports.

Wake.

Reports are confused: it is not known whether the Japanese have landed or merely bombed or shelled the island.

America & West Indies.

Aircraft R/C reveals unusual activity at Martinique, including funnel smoke from vessels in harbour and work about aircraft. Concentration of war material at Cayenne is reported.

Ecuador has asked the U.S.A. to take over the defence of the Galapagos Islands.

The Navy Department this evening authorised resumption of Trans-Pacific Shipping on widely dispersed routes passing well to the southwards and of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama. At 1201, however, the Consular Shipping Adviser, Panama, reported that the U.S. Naval Authorities had cancelled these orders and were still holding North Pacific coastal traffic. Only one British ship is affected.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

The withdrawal of the British Naval forces from the Pacific area is now expected by the U.S.C.N.O., with the exception of the Canadian coastal zone.

Australia.

There was a further air attack on Nauru at 0034Z today. Nauru and Ocean Island have put into execution plans for demolishing the phosphate loading gear.

New Zealand.

It is reported that the Japanese made a further landing on Makin Island at 2157 G.M.T. today. Three Japanese warships were reported at Tarawa Island at 0500Z today.

There are no important developments in Hawaii. A shortage of 50 calibre ammunition is reported.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

KLIPPAREN.  
TEMNAREN.

I understand Swedish ships KLIPPAREN and TEMNAREN are eastwards bound from North American ports. In view of latest developments in international situation request early instructions if ships are to be allowed to proceed to Gothenburg. If ships are to be detained and period of detention denoted be long suggest they should be diverted direct to Kirkwall if intercepted on Northern patrol lines. Skaale Fiord is only anchorage here for detained ships but as this is much used by S.O. 4th M/S F. his presence here would be compromised and liability of present enemy air activity further increased. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0955A/10).

LIVERPOOL.

<sup>HT in W.D.</sup>  
A.M. 1654A/4. Cancel Para. 1. (D.O.D. (H./1819A/10 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

M.T.B.  
Forces  
at Dover.

The 5th and 6th M.T.B. Flotillas have been frequently in action and constantly at short notice for a considerable period and I am of opinion that arrangements for resting these Flotillas in turn should now be made. The progress of 11th M.T.B. Flotilla vide A.M. 1812A/18/8 is not known but suggest that these three Flotillas should be allocated for service at Dover and that there should always be one of them at a less active base with a change round made every month - Weymouth is suggested for the latter so that exercises and training could be carried out there with slipping and repairs effected at HORNET. The present number of boats in these Flotillas should mean that at Dover there would be at least 3 and probably 4 at immediate notice with 2 at four hours notice which numbers may be considered satisfactory. (V.A. Dover 1829A/10).

Co-operation with U.S.A.

S/M's from  
U.S.A.

Request following Message may be passed to Admiral Ghormley and via Opnav to Commander S/MS Atlantic Fleet begins: I am glad to be able to tell you that the two S/M's you have recently turned over to us arrived this side without a single engine defect. I am most grateful to you for turning them over in such splendid condition. 1317 Ends. (F.O.S. 1318A/10 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Loss of  
Stores.

Your 1751C/27. Report requirements of Victualling Stores to make up losses as far as known. (Head of M. 1411A/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Blockships  
at Scapa.

Your 1203A/5. Approved to make use of blockships as they become available in the way you consider best provided one is retained as spare.  
2. COLLINGDOC completes preparation at Rosyth about 17.1.42.  
3. CAROLINA THORDEN will take at least three months to prepare at Blyth, unexpected difficulties having arisen. (A.C.N.S. H. 1832A/10 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

H.43.

At 2100A/12 intend to sail H.43 escorted by BREDA from Rothesay through Sounds of Islay and Mull to arrive Tobermory at 1800A/13. S. of A. 8 knots. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. (Capt. S.7. 0941A/10).

DUKE OF  
YORK.

Return to Scapa forthwith. (A.C.N.S. H. 1012A/10 and C. in C. H.F. 1216A/10 to DUKE OF YORK). 1300 DUKE OF YORK proceeding Scapa. E.T.A. 0945A/11. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1458A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

Floating  
Dock.

My 1928/30/11. Intend to retain EMPIRE LARCH until weather is suitable for towing and to escort Floating Dock with one Trawler only. Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1315Z/10).

P.41.

My 1033A/7 and 1457A/9. Sailed P.41 escorted by SWEETBRIAR E.T.A. Clyde 1100A/11. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1530A/10).

TIGRIS.

S.3's 1801/8. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1803A/10).

MANXMAN.

Admiralty 1240A/9. MANXMAN endurance at 20 knots is 3100 miles and at 34 knots 1100 miles. Higher speed is not at present available owing to a defect. In this class of ship speed made good is more than ordinarily dependent on weather. Propose I should be given a route clear of convoy and be ordered to make passage at best speed. E.T.A. would be made 6 hours before arrival. (MANXMAN 2157A/10 to C. in C. Plymouth).

BARFORD.  
BARCLOSE.  
BARFOAM.

N.O.I.C. Londonderry's 1123A/10 and Adty. 1743A/2. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail BARFORD BARCLOSE and BARFOAM in company to Ponta Delgada as soon as ready calling at Milford Haven to top with fuel, route through 50° N. 20° W., thence to destination. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to ensure that vessels do not sail if weather likely to be experienced is unfavourable.

/F.O.C.N.A.....



War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BARFORD.  
BARCLOSE.  
BARFOAM.  
- Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. is requested to provide onward route from Azores. (C. in C. W.A. 2354A/10).

Operations.

SEALION  
Patrol.

Your 1204A/8. SEALION has acknowledged my 1821C/8. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0919C/10 to F.O.S.)  
My 1204A/8. SEALION has spoken. Claim probably refers to successful attack by Soviet Submarine K.3. on 3/12 reported in S.B.N.O. North Russia 1601C/9. (F.O.S. 1022A/10 to Adty.)  
Your 2201C/9 read but not understood. (? Request) (? verification of) your 2102C/8 addressed SEALION. (? Pending) instructions I am remaining on patrol in zone 4 until after dark 13th, then returning in accordance with original (? orders). (SEALION 1414C/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).  
Correct H.S. 463 to read; leave patrol to be clear of zone 4 by 2200C/11. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1837C/10 to SEALION).

P.38  
Patrol.

P.38 estimated position 0800/10 049° 35' N. 010° 35' W. ordered to patrol between latitudes 49° and 50° N. longitudes 13° and 15° W. (C. in C. Plymouth 0958/10 to RAMILLIES).

Operation  
"Anklet".

A.M. 1020A/9. Concur in para. 2. (C. in C. H.F. 1502A/10).  
My 1228/7. For TARTAR read BEDOUIN. Add HARRIER, HALCYON, SPEEDWELL. (C. in C. H.F. 2111A/10 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing  
Operations.

No operations on 8/12, Night 8/9, or Night 9/10. (H.Q.B.C. 1400/10).

Escorting  
A/C.

In conditions of low visibility ships on escort duty should not request escorting aircraft to carry out any duty that will involve closing merchant ships nearer than the limit laid down. This endangers friendly aircraft and was recently the cause of one being fired upon by a merchant ship. (D.S.D., 1927A/10).

Enemy Air Activity.

Fair Isle  
Lighthouse.

At 1430 today enemy A/C presumed JU. 88 attacked South Lighthouse Fair Isle with cannon shell doing superficial damage to building. One Lighthouse keeper suffering from shock. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1751/10).

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool.

Your 0125A/10. Port, including QZS 298, is closed until 0915A/10th. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0155/10 to VANOC).

Bristol Channel.

At 1040A/10 one Green Mine detonated by Sweeper in 300° 6 miles 2 cables Foreland Estuary Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1700A/10).

Thames Estuary.

One Acoustic Mine detonated at 1308/10. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1701/10).

S.N. 25 C.

Departure MENESTHEUS. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1711A/10).

Spurn Point.

The following six magnetic mines were detonated today. Details.  
Also one acoustic mine as follows.  
(F.O. Humber 2125A/10).

New Enemy Mines.

It would appear possible that the new German ground mines will endanger ships in a considerably greater depth of water than has hitherto been the case.  
In view of the large amount of shallow water in searched channels of the Nore command and absence of deeper water into which traffic might be diverted, request that consideration may be given to fitting out some vessels of fleet M/S type which could be used to sweep these mines ahead of convoy in suspected areas. (C. in C. Nore 2210A/10).

Enemy Intelligence.

Tanker.

Following report graded B.2. received.  
At 1100 G.M.T./10th 1 tanker 8,000 tons loaded, escorted by a trawler, passed Hellefiord (61° 36' N., 04° 58' E.) Course North.  
(D.D.I.C. 1555A/10).

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.NEWPORT.

Steering broke down proceeding Iceland under hand steering. 0130A (? 12th) 059° 14' N. 014° 36' W. 315° 10 knots. (NEWPORT 0155A/10).

PETERTON.

Received 0520 G.M.T. Naval Control Swansea PETERTON aground East Scarweather Sands arrange tugs. Master ends. (Burnham Radio. Recd. 0434/10) Pass to PETERTON. Am sending Tugs. Cannot undock before 0700. Is ship in immediate danger? (N.C.S.O. Swansea 0515/10 to C. in C. W.A.) Following received at 0630 to Burnham Radio PETERTON no immediate danger. Master. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1901/10).

R.J. CULLEN.

Cancel my 1625A/9. If circumstances permit R.J. CULLEN is to be towed to the Mersey. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1129A/10 to TENACITY). Your 1129A/10. Position Orsay Island 348° 6 miles. Speed 4.5 knots. Proceeding to Mersey E.T.A. later. (TENACITY 1530Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

SVEND FOYN.

SVEND FOYN is to be towed to Mersey. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1623A/10 to SALVONIA).

NEWMARKET.

Serious rise in boiler (? density) necessitates returning to harbour. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1700A/11. (NEWMARKET 1901A/10).

KELLETT.

KELLETT's Starboard H.P. Piston rings and Cylinders badly worn. Probably Port H.P. in similar condition. Hope to be able release KELLETT for boiler cleaning, now 250 hours overdue, within next 10 days. Request yard may be allocated. (S.O. 4 M/S F. 2130A/10).

Shipping and Convoys.O.S.14.

C. in C. Plymouth's 1518/9. Propose HASTINGS be sailed from Plymouth when ready proceeding South of Ireland to meet O.S.14 at sea. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1016A/10). A.M. 1743A/2/12. Propose that BARFORD, BARCLOSE and BARFOAM should proceed weather permitting, with O.S.14 to vicinity of Azores. Consider it undesirable that these low powered ships should sail independently during winter weather. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1123A/10).

/East.....

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

East Coast  
Convoys  
Maximum  
number of  
ships.

Admiralty 1928A/9/12.

It is preferred that the number of vessels in any one Convoy should be decided in conjunction with C. in C. Rosyth. The number of escorts available, weather conditions and conditions of mining etc. at the Humber must all be taken into account on each occasion.

2. Under winter weather conditions. I anticipate that it may sometimes be desirable to exceed 50 ships in convoys north and south of the Humber as was done during the last winter. (C. in C. Nore 1030A/10 to Adty.)

P.Q.6.

Your 1751N/8. Request reasons why BOTAVON and SOUTHGATE did not sail. (D. T.D. 1117A/10 to A.C.I.C.)

BADDECK  
and M/V's.

Have several M/V's for U.K. and no escort in immediate future. As BADDECK's repairs should be completed about 12/12 request permission for her to escort merchant ships to U.K. prior to joining O.N. Convoy. (A.C.I.C. 1147N/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.14.

Not met in R.V.8 noon today.  
(WITHERINGTON 1230A/10).

Q.P.  
convoys.

C.N.S. today said that Admiral K had reported that Q.P. convoys would proceed unescorted after passing 25° E. Please let me know present policy. (Ad. Miles 1319D/10 to Adty.)

P.Q.7.

Request names of ships for P.Q.7.  
(A.C.I.C. 1631N/10 to Admty.)

MENELAUS:  
EURYBATES.

Admiralty 2345A/9. MENELAUS and EURYBATES unable to reach Capetown without refuelling. Request instructions as to whether O.S. Convoy is to be delayed for them or whether ships should be sailed in O.N. refuelling in West Indies. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1820/10 to Admty.)  
Your 1820/10. Confirmed that O.S. Convoy is to be delayed for these ships. (D. T.D. 2215A/10 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

/H.X. 161.....

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

H.X. 161.

Congratulations on bringing H.X. 161 safely to the U.K. (C. in C. W.A. 2125A/10 to Commodore R. Spencer.)

Q.P.3.

Russians inform us that KUZBASS and ARCOS which lost touch with Q.P.3. have returned White Sea.

Q.P.4.

(2). Q.P.4. Intend include ARCOS, STALINGRAD, SUKHONA with timber and DAN Y BRYN, EMPIRE METEOR with ore. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (N.C.S.O. Archangel 2130C/10 and 1300C/11).

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.HARVESTER..

Return to Gibraltar forthwith at best speed reporting E.T.A. when 100 miles clear of convoy.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0234A/10 to HARVESTER, repeated BLACK SWAN, Admiralty, C. in C. W.A., Capt. (D) 19, Escort of O.G.77.)

HIGHLANDER.  
LIGHTNING,  
HARVESTER.

Your 2242A/9. Intend sailing HIGHLANDER, LIGHTNING at 0700A/11 and HARVESTER as soon as she has refuelled, my 0234/10 refers.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0314A/10 to Admty, repeated S.O. Force H., LIGHTNING, Capt. (D) 19, HARVESTER, HIGHLANDER.)

Arrival HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1242A/10 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.A.)

My 1242A/10. Delete HARVESTER.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1032A/11.)

Rejoin convoy O.G.77 daylight/11.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1437A/10 to HARVESTER.)

Cancel my 1816A/9 (Re fuelling for HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER and LIGHTNING.)

(F.O.C.N.A., 1445A/10 to N.A. Lisbon.)

REGENT.

My 1110/8 and F.O.(S) 2243/8. Departure REGENT. Only such "Q" messages to affect passage to Portsmouth carried.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/10 to Admty.)

Rescue Tug,  
Azores.

Your 1041/20/11 regarding stationing of rescue tug at Azores. It is noted that Portuguese objection to SALVONIA is that she was formerly commissioned. If Canadian Company Foundation Maritime Ltd. could be prevailed on to station their ocean going salvage tug FOUNDATION FRANKLIN at Azores would Portuguese agree?

Request urgent reply.

(Hd. of M., 1136A/10 to N.A. Lisbon, rep. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

URSULA.

Your 0031A/3. Intend to give URSULA an 8 day anti U-Boat patrol. She will be sailed for U.K. 26/12.

(Capt. S.8, 1536A/10 to F.O.S.)

Gibraltar,  
defence  
against  
midget S/M's.

(1) A.L.M. 016933 and my 2002A/12/11. If laying a considerable portion of this boom in water over which Spaniards claim jurisdiction can be accepted, request A/T net for defence of convoy anchorage be sent.

Further remarks.

(V.A.C.N.A., 1548A/10 to Admty.)

/Fuelling ...

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Fuelling,  
Ponta  
Delgada.

EREBUS, ROBERTS and FRITTILLARY arrived Ponta Delgada 1830 G.M.T./10.  
ROCKINGHAM, BRADFORD are waiting outside territorial waters.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1720/10 to S.O.I. Gib.)

LIGHTNING.

Cancel my 1814A/9 to LIGHTNING only (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed at 1830/10 to carry out A/S search in vicinity of 270° Spartel 40. Swordfish aircraft will be co-operating (? Rendezvous with) S.O.(D) 19 in accordance with my 1516A/10.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1724A/10 to LIGHTNING.)

South Atlantic.

Uruguay,  
policy  
towards  
Japan.

Your 1751Z/9. Please keep me fully informed of developments. Inform Minister and Naval Attaches that I am unable to visit them in immediate future but will do so as soon as possible.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 0723Z/10 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Simonstown arrival 0700Z/10 BIRMINGHAM flying flag of R.A.S.A.D.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0850/10 to Admty., etc.)

Pocket  
Battleship  
Report.

Your 2228Z/9. <sup>ADMIRAL</sup> SCHEER last located Swinemunde 30/11. LUTZOW Kiel 29/11.  
(D.D.I.C., 1022A/10 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

BULOLO.  
ASTURIAS.

BULOLO is to fuel at Buenos Aires on 29/12 leaving K.32 as necessary. BULOLO is to make appropriate visit signal vide C.S.A.I.150, subsequently BULOLO is to proceed to J.33 (c) and (d) to relieve ASTURIAS who is then to proceed K.32 K.33. ASTURIAS will next fuel at Rio de Janeiro about 7/1.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 1031Z/10 to BULOLO, ASTURIAS.)

Troop  
Movement.

Your 1536/9. Anticipate ocean escort can be provided.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1132Z/10 to Admty. Amended 1910/10.)

/DERBYSHIRE ...

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DERBYSHIRE.

Shift your patrol to K.36.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1247Z/10 to DERBYSHIRE.)

*See also next page.*

U/B off  
Ascension.

O.C. Troops Ascension reports at 1737/9 he engaged a submarine at 10,000 yards and fired 3 rounds before it submerged. C. in C. S.A. immediately informed. BRILLIANT arrives at Ascension before dark 10/12. C. in C. S.A. also says H.M. ships will be operating in neighbourhood of Ascension on 11/12 and for a few days after. My 1400/8 M.O.4 refers (No trace in W.R.)  
(O.C. Troops, St. Helena, 1400/10 to W.O.)

German  
S/M & R.  
Bases,

Secret source graded B.3 reports establishment of Supply base for submarines and raiders in vicinity of Florianopolis in conjunction with Land Owners near Blumenau and Joinville who carry supplies in German sports club launches to uninhabitable island off the coast. Similar reports concerning Chiloe Is. Archipelago on German owned uninhabitable islands. Work in charge of members calling themselves diplomats headed by Erich Hoerhammer, German passports 707856 and 334 and 815822 employed by Condor. He is making frequent trips to Chile and reputed to smuggle Germans in these aeroplanes. Last heard of leaving Buenos Aires 28/7 for Santiago but unconfirmed report he is under arrest there. Can you obtain any confirmation?  
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1429Z/10 to R.O. Florianopolis S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro, Naval Attache Santiago, repeated Admiralty for D.N.I.)  
N.I.D. Comment: Florianopolis (27° 36' S. 48° 34' W.) on Santa Catharina Island is practically a German town with a population of 40-50,000, headquarters of the powerful German firm of Carlos Hoepke. Blumenau is an inland German settlement on the mainland, and Joinville, another German settlement of 20,000 inhabitants, is on the mainland coast, both north of Sta. Catharina Island. There are number of islets off the coast north of and to the east of Santa Catharina Island. Chiloe Island is a large Island lying south of Puerto Monte in the heart of the German area of Chile. Many reports have been received of suspicious activities in this neighbourhood, but none has been substantiated.

7.10

/U/B's, ....



War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.U/B's.  
St. Helena.  
DERBYSHIRE.  
BIRMINGHAM.

In view of recent developments consider you should get back to your station as soon as possible. U-Boats which were South of St. Helena appeared to have moved North but I will leave <sup>\*</sup>DERBYSHIRE on patrol in bar area till BIRMINGHAM has passed. I have not moved Oiler ARNDALE from position you ordered her to. (C. in C. S.A., 1511Z/10 to R.A.S.A.D.) Your 1511Z/10. Intend sail in BIRMINGHAM at 0630Z/11 for Plate Area. S. of A. 16 knots. (R.A.S.A.D., 2045Z/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

*\* See previous page.*W.S.12X.

B.A.D. Washington 1807B/4. Convoy W.S.12X escorted by DORSETSHIRE and six American destroyers expected to leave Capetown a.m./13. Delay due to making good defects. Destroyers will return Capetown Monday 15 to refuel. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1518Z/10 to Admty., etc.)

WARTENFELS  
(German)

My 1541/2 (WARTENFELS leaving Madagascar.) A reliable source states that this ship carries Mica and probably Graphite and is probably armed.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1805Z/10 to S.A. Stn.)

Argentine  
Policy.

Argentine neutrality decree issued today declares in view of inter-American agreement of Buenos Aires, Lima, Panama and Havana and of an extra-continental aggression against sovereign of an American state, Argentine will not consider U.S. a belligerent but declares its neutrality under existing rules as regards Great Britain, Canada and Japan.  
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1810Z/10 to D.N.I., repeated various.)

ECHODALE.

Cancel previous instructions. Proceed so as to arrive in new position: P 006° 40' S. 012° 00' W. at 1200Z/12 and daily thereafter Maintain this R/V by steering 300° from 1200 to 2000 thence 180° till 0400 thence back to P.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1845Z/10 to ECHODALE.)

AIDA LAURO,  
PAMPANO,  
LIBRATO.

Pernambuco reports Italian ships AIDA LAURO, PAMPANO and LIBRATO are being transferred to Brazilian flag today 10th.  
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2153Z/10 to Admty.)

/ORIZABA ...

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ORIZABA.

Your 1329/3. Fuel consumption of ORIZABA in W.S.12X limits endurance of ship, that she cannot proceed further than Mombasa from Capetown. Suggested vessel should put into Mombasa for fuel and remain there if necessary until she can join W.S.12Z when that convoy passes. Ship will also require to fuel Aden on outward and return passage. Possibility of distributing personnel among remaining ships was considered as alternative but discarded on advice of Impcon.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2154B/10 to Admty.)  
No objection.  
(Admty., 1330A/12.)

Mediterranean.

2 CONDOTTIERI  
cruisers.

P.C. and S. of enemy (A/ACR) 004 37° N. 12° E. 50 - 345° - 24 knots.  
(Med. A/C, 0054B/10 to A/C.)  
Enemy has altered course to 345° approx.  
(Med. A/C, 0055/10 to A/C.)

→ Operation  
orders.

Cancel my 1928B/9.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 0104B/10 to UTMOST, UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT.)

Air  
attack.

Estimated time of air attack 0430 but position unknown depends on enemy movements.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0210B/10 to Force K.)

Malta  
Movements.

Arrivals 10/12 NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE, KANDAHAR, JAGUAR at 0800B.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0917B/10 to C. in C. Med.)  
Add to my 0917B/10, departure URGE.  
(V.A. Malta, 1841B/10.)

UTMOST,  
UNBEATEN,  
UPRIGHT.

UTMOST arrives in patrol position at approx. 0001B/12 from which time submarines are not to be attacked at night unless definitely identified as enemy. UTMOST will endeavour to contact UNBEATEN at 0800 and UPRIGHT at 1600 daily by S S T ranging.  
(Capt. S.10, 0950B/10 to UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT, repeated UTMOST.)

/Russian ...

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Russian  
Tankers  
from  
Black Sea.

Your 1012/8. It appears preferable to discharge oil from second batch of tankers in Turkey if Turks require it. Seems no point in bringing it south, and if any tankers are unfortunately captured a good deal of badly needed oil will be obtained by Axis. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles and Ankara.  
(C. in C. Med., 1016B/10 to Admty.)

Enemy  
Convoy.  
Suda Bay.

Convoy 5 transports and 3 warships reported in Suda Bay. Troops, food and water are being flown to Libya from Maleme. Your 1739B/8, well done.  
(Capt. S.1., 1041B/10 to TRUANT.)

URGE.  
UNIQUE.

URGE leaves 035° 51' 015° 15' about 1800B/10 to operate in area E. My 1239B/9, remain on patrol until 0001B/12. 2 important supply ships expected to pass South through Straits of Messina between noon and midnight 11/12.  
(Capt. S.10, 1045B/10 to UNIQUE.)

TALISMAN.  
PERSEUS.

My 1941B/9. Insert TALISMAN before "return".  
(Capt. S.1., 1125B/10 to TALISMAN and PERSEUS.)

THORGRIM.

Am being attacked by enemy aircraft 090 RAR3 O. (Position indecipherable.)  
(THORGRIM, 1155/10.)  
Following has been read. Addressed Alexandria. From THORGRIM. Negative my 1153B (Emergency Air Attack) (No T.O.O./10.)

Air  
Operations.

Day 9/12. Unsuccessful morning and afternoon attacks by total 11 Blenheims 2 Marylands on small ship with barge alongside in Bardia Harbour. Blenheims forced submarine 20 miles N.N.W. Mersa Lukk to crash dive.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1237/10.)

JERVIS  
bombed.

2. Egypt. 9/12. 1 JU.88 unsuccessfully attacked destroyer JERVIS 25 miles north Burg El Arab.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1248/10.)

French  
Shipping.

Departure 9th COETLOGON, Sete.  
Arrival 10th ST. BRIEC.  
(Barcelona, 1301/10 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.? S.S.  
KELAND.

Norwegian ship S.S. (?KELAND) struck rock and beached off Khan Tunis 29/11. Crew and some arms and ammunition rescued. (G.O.C. P. & T.J., 1340/10.)

Enemy  
Destroyers.

At 1210B, 2 D (? destroyers) patrolling 050° Cotrone 20 miles course 10° 12 knots. (V.A. Malta, 1503B/10 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

A. MIKOJAN.  
Russian  
Ships from  
Black Sea.

Russian N.A. requests <sup>A.</sup>MIKOJAN be retained in Egyptian port pending receipt of further instructions from Russian Govt. Presume these will be passed by Adm. Miles through you and may have already been received. (2) Routeing arrangements. (3) Admty. repeat Adm. Miles. (N.A. Angora, 1521B/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Defence  
of Delta.

Chiefs of Staff No. 208. Ref. C.O.S. 199 and your 0129160 21/11 despatch of Mission to advise on air defence of Delta has been approved. (Composition of Mission). Request they be granted every facility to complete task quickly. (1st S.L., 1550A/10 to C. in C. Med.) Following for C's in C. M.E. and Med. from Chiefs of Staff No.209. Ref. C.O.S. No.208. Terms of reference of the Mission are as follows:- "To examine the problem of the air defence of the Delta and to make recommendations thereon to the C's in C. M.E. and to report to Chiefs of Staff on their return". (1st S.L., 2251A/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Raid.Air  
Operations.

Night 9/10. 1931 hours 1 raider approached did not cross coast. 0426 hours 5 bombers approached 2 crossed coast. Bombs land, no damage. Special Wellington shipping search sighted 2 cruisers CONDOTTIERI A Class 2057 hours and shadowed till 0151 hours 325° Marsala 52 miles course 345° 20 knots. 7 Swordfish 5 F.A.A. aircraft despatched attack, meanwhile Cruisers had turned about at great speed escaped attack. Bad weather Benghazi. 21 Wellingtons highly successful attack store depots west fort Curgi Tripoli in bad weather and rain. 2335 to 0520 hours. Bombs from 7000 to 1000 feet destroying at least 6 large buildings causing black smoke and continuous explosions over whole target area. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1645/10.)

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Libya.

Military Situation Reports.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1735/10, 2355/10.)  
~~See Lien Copy.~~

A/C Search.

Ref. my 1226B/9. Special Wellington will again search. Same surface forces as yesterday are at one hour's notice and if Wellington reports enemy has not turned back as before when W/T silence is broken by Wellington Swordfish will proceed to attack. Malta force will then proceed to intercept.  
(V.A. Malta, 1912B/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Situation Report 174.

Bombardment  
of Derna.

Patrol has been maintained north of Derna by one Cruiser and two Destroyers nightly without enemy forces being encountered. C.S.15 <sup>(in NAIAAD)</sup> bombarded Derna and merchant ships in harbour at 0800 today 10th at close range. Force was attacked by T/B and dive-bombing aircraft throughout forenoon apparently without damage and is now returning Alexandria... (M. 0979/42)

2. Tobruk effectively relieved and land supply route now open. Shelling of town has ceased but bombing continues and minelaying raids suspected. CHANTALA sunk with upperworks above water and back broken. FLAMINGO has arrived Tobruk considerable damage to machinery but able to be towed.
3. APHIS successfully bombarded road 13 miles west of Tobruk with object of harassing enemy movements for 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hours night 6th/7th and for 1 hour night 7th/8th. Fire started first night. M.T. and tanks damaged second night.
4. Greek destroyers have patrolled nightly off Bardia without incident.
5. My 2137/7 para. 1 BRECONSHIRE has arrived Alexandria.
6. Forces B and K operated West of Malta night 9th/10th but no interception reported.
7. R/C A/C report three sightings of U-Boats on 8th and one on 9th in area between Crete and Cyrenaica but attacks unsuccessful.
8. TALISMAN attacked enemy destroyer steering S.E. at 2130/8 in 038° 00' N. 020° 28' E. Torpedoes ran under and TALISMAN engaged with guns, scoring four hits.
9. TRUANT reports hits on Italian merchant ship RAMB Class entering Suda Bay 0848/7.  
(C. in C. Med., 2018B/10 to Admty.)

/LISBOA ...

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LISBOA  
(German)

Arrived 10th, leaves Thursday night for Valencia.  
(Alicante T.H.I. 2145/10 to Admty., repeated S.O.I. Gib.)

SULLBERG.  
OTTO  
LEONHARDT.  
(German)

S.S. SULLBERG left 6th Gandia. Arrived 7th Burriana load oranges for Marseilles. OTTO LEONHARDT sails tonight 10th Iron Ore Genoa. (Valencia T.H.I. 2300/10 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.PRABHAVATI  
sunk.

Indian auxiliary PRABHAVATI and 2 barges were engaged and sunk in error by GLASGOW about 200 miles S.W. of Bombay at 7.30 p.m./8, barges having been mistaken for U-boats.  
(D.O.R. 10/12.)

IPSWICH.

Your 1835/6. IPSWICH arrived Vizagapatam 4th.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 0214Z/10 to Admty.)

WARTENFELS  
(German)

Information graded B 3 obtained from Master of French SURCOUF now at Aden indicates WARTENFELS was at Diego Suarez on 13/11. Expressed opinion that vessel is in bad condition, not armed and without cargo. Considered only fit for coastal work with French and not German crew.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 1146Z/10 to S.O.(I) Capetown, N.O.I.C. Mauritius.)

N.I.D. Comment:- WARTENFELS arrived Diego Suarez in March, 1941, after escaping from Massawa. Was reported to be loading Hides in August, and in October was reported at Tamatave loading Graphite, Mica and Leather. Was rumoured to have left Tamatave on 24/10 for unknown destination but in view of above this may have been for Diego Suarez to transfer cargo. As ship has not been in a home port since June 1939, her condition is probably as described above.

QUEEN MARY.

Your 2338/7. Presume intention to dock QUEEN MARY at Singapore now abandoned. Should she be sailed forthwith for Australia?  
(C. in C. E.I., 1236Z/10 to Admty.)

Shipping.

Policy. (1st S.L. 1915A/10) See China.

Practice  
Ammunition.

A.M.1810A/4. Approved to expend service ammunition for practice at your discretion.  
(D.G.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(W) 2047A/10 to C. in C. E.I.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1050/10th December,  
IN.

From: F.E.C.B. Singapore

Date: 10.12.41. 309A

Recd. 1820.

CYPHER

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall repeated A.H.Q.  
F.E., A.H.Q. India, Airboard Melbourne,  
Air Department Wellington N.Z., Air  
Attaché Chungking.

IMPORTANT.

S.987. 10/12. WX.2490.

Japanese order of battle at present very confused.  
Latest reliable information shows 30 type Shai '0'  
fighters at Patani, 70 aircraft majority fighters  
type '0' at Singora, 50 aircraft mainly fighters  
in Cochin China. Some fighters at Singora may  
be from carrier which is known to be in vicinity.  
My notification that only left 50 aircraft left in  
Cochin China correct majority of bombers shown by me  
in South Indo-China have presumably moved to Cambodia  
and Thailand.

1050/10.

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

Advance copies Ops. O.D. O.I.C. & M.  
Recd. from Air Min. 2255/10.  
Air Ministry circulation.

Internal

S. of S.  
C.A.S.  
F.O.S. (2) (action)  
A.M.W.R. (3)  
P.U.S.  
V.C.A.S.  
D.C.A.S. (1)  
A.C.A.S. (1)  
D. of I. (0)  
D. of Plans  
D.D. Plans  
Plans 3.  
D.O.N.C.  
D.B. Ops.  
D.D.B. Ops.

D.W.O.  
D.D.O. 11.  
P.R. & A.I. 6.  
Duty Group  
Captain.

External.

Minister of Defence (5)  
War Office M.I. (J.I.C.) (7)  
Admiralty (War Registry) (6)  
War Office (M.O.I.) (2)



War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Movements.

Singapore arrival 10th TENEDOS, EXETER Oiler WAR SIRDAR. Arrival and departure U.S. destroyer J.D. EDWARDS, U.S. destroyer WHIPPLE, U.S. destroyer EDSALL and U.S. destroyer ALDEN in company with STRONGHOLD.  
(S.O.(I) Singapore 0907Z/10.)

Enemy Units.

My 1501/9. One aircraft carrier and 15 transports sighted by aircraft off Songkhla 0730Z/9 (as decoded). By D/F, one aircraft carrier vicinity Pulo Condore about 1300Z/9. (C.S. Singapore 0401/10 to Admty.)

Hong Kong.

Report on military operations and air raids. (G.O.C., Hong Kong, 0930/10 to C. in C. Far East.) See Lion Copy.

PRINCE OF WALES.  
REPULSE.  
sunk.

Tokyo broadcast 1435 (G H) 10/12. PRINCE OF WALES bombed and sunk. REPULSE bombed and sunk. They were sighted 1000 G H and Japanese planes went into (?action) scoring direct hit(s). REPULSE sank in a few minutes. PRINCE OF WALES struck but moved away but hampered by Japanese planes and listed to port. With additional hits PRINCE OF WALES sank at 1245 (G H).  
(C.O.I.C. Singapore 1137Z/10 to Admty.)

*Sunk of PRINCE OF WALES found 23/12/41 by DEFENDER in approx. 3° 23' 42" N. 104° 25' 7" E.*

Japanese Account.

The naval section of Japanese Imperial H.Q. made the following announcement (according to Reuter):- The Japanese Fleet had been watching the movements of the British Fleet, and particularly of the two battleships, from the outbreak of hostilities. A Japanese submarine on the afternoon of Dec. 9 discovered the British Fleet, which was on the move. Thereupon Japanese S/Ms collaborating with the air arm, set out to seek it. At 11.30 a.m. on Dec. 10 a Japanese submarine found the British Fleet off Kuantan. Immediately Japanese aircraft launched an attack. REPULSE was bombed and sank immediately, at 2.29 p.m. (6.29 a.m. B.S.T.) with a great explosion. PRINCE OF WALES was hit and with a list to port attempted to escape; but she finally sank at 2.50 p.m. (6.50 a.m. B.S.T.) with a great explosion.  
(The Times 11/12/41.)

PRINCE OF WALES.  
REPULSE.  
sunk.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Adml. Sir Tom Phillips and Capt. Leach are missing. Capt. Tennant and a large number survivors now arriving in three destroyers. (C.O.S. Singapore 1555Z/10 to Admty.)  
Statement by Capt. L.H. Bell, Captain of Fleet on landing. (C. in C. E.F., 1701Z/10 to Admty.)  
~~See Lion and Tiger Copies. (See next page, 311)~~

/Enemy ...

**MOST SECRET**

310A

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

0930/10 December IN.

From: G.O.C. Hong Kong.

Date: 10.12.41

Recd: 0930

CYPHER

Addressed: C. in C. Far East repeated War Office,  
C.G.S. Ottawa.

IMMEDIATE

018179. 1737 cipher 10/12.

During daylight on 9/12 enemy did not press forward and our troops maintained their positions as in my 1734/9. At 1700 hours forward troops (two Platoons) centre battalion, on Tai-po Road, withdrew within Gindrinkers line as their left flank was being turned by a Coy. of enemy Infantry. The Coy. of enemy were effectively engaged by our artillery. On Castle Peak Road in spite of the patrols sent forward no real contact with the enemy was made. During the day varying numbers of aircraft bombed colony mainly south coast of island little material damage and only nuisance value. A number of subversive leaflets also dropped. No enemy air action last night. The night 9/10 remained quiet until 2300 hours when Sing Mun Redoubt was suddenly captured apparently without any warning. Shortly afterwards communication with Coy. H.Q. and artillery O.P. located in this Redoubt failed. The enemy appears to have made a little progress in a southerly direction but seems to be pinned by our supporting localities. The approach march made for this attack was over very difficult country and must have been aided by local guides. It displays a high standard of night training. Position somewhat obscure and Kowloon Brigade awaiting definite information before counter attacking. One Coy. Winnipeg Grenadiers despatched as reinforcements to Kowloon Brigade. Casualties unknown but feared at least one Platoon Royal Scots. Two C.N.A.C. Aircraft are continuing communications with Free China. No enemy activities from seawards.

0930/10

Recd. by hand from War Office 1552/10.

P.T.O.

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)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 Capt. Pim.  
 D.N.A.D.  
 Hd. of M. (2)  
 D.O.D. (H)  
 D.D.O.D. (H)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.D.I.C.  
 D.T.D. (2)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 D.S.D.  
 Admiral Bailey.  
 Admiral Bellairs.  
 Admiral Chalmers.  
 E.P.S.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 N.I.D. 10

Copies circulated by War Office to

S. of S.  
 C.I.G.S.  
 V.C.I.G.S.  
 D.M.O. & P.  
 D.P. (2)  
 D.D.M.O. (0)  
 M.O. 1, 6, 10.  
 D.D.I.P.  
 D.M.I.  
 D.D.M.I. (1)  
 M.I. 2.  
 Cabinet War Room.  
 Col. Jacob, (Cabinet Offices)  
 C.A.S. Air Ministry. (2)  
 Plans, 3, Air Ministry (2)  
 Duty Op. Capt. Air Ministry.  
 A.O.A.S. (1) Air Ministry,  
 Air Ministry (War Room)  
 F.O. 5 (Air Ministry)  
 Duty Captain, Admiralty,  
 Duty Officer, (Upper Admiralty  
 War Room)  
 Colonial Office, (Maj. Rolleston)  
 S. of S. Foreign Office.

/MC

MOST SECRET

310 B

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN  
0128/10th December

From:- RAFDEL

Date. 10.12.41.

CYPHER

Addressed:- AIRWHIT

IMMEDIATE

W.X.2360. CAESAR 891 9/12.

Operational Summary.

1. U.S. Commanding General Phillippines reports that there are indications that Japanese dive bombers are at least partially manned by white pilots. Owing to bomb damage at Clark Field proposed air attack on Formosa was cancelled. General public has withstood shock of initial attack with composure.

2. Guam. No further reports.

3. Wake. Confused reports. Impossible to state definitely whether Japanese have landed or merely bombed or shelled the Island.

1st Lord

0128/10

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H) Received in War Registry at 1440/10

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(T) Air Ministry copies circulated to:-

A.C.N.S.(W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of M.(2)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.C.(2)

D.N.I.(4)

D.D.I.C.

D.T.D.(2)

D.of P.(2)

D.A/S.W.

I.P.(2)

W.D.

D.S.D.

Ad. Bailey

Ad. Bellairs

Ad. Chalmers

E.P.S.

D.T.S.D.

N.I.D.10

Advance copy sent 1st Lord N.A. 1st S.L.  
Ops. O.D. & C.I.C.

S. of S.

C.A.S.

F.O.5(2) action. War Office

A.M.W.R.(3)

P.U.S.

V.C.A.S.

D.C.A.S.

A.C.A.S.(1)

D. of I.(0)

D. of Plans

D. D. Plans

Plans 3.

D.O.N.C.

D.B. Ops.

D.D.B. Ops.

D.W.O.

D.D.O.11.

P.R. & A.1.6

D. Group Capt.

Minister of Defence (5)

War Office M.I. (J.I.C.)(7)

Admiralty

(War Reg.)

War Office

(M.O.1)(2)

P.S. to

P.U.S.(2)

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.Enemy  
Intelligence.

B.A.D., 1213R/10, 1217R/10. See America and West Indies.

Minefield.

Rhio Strait Southern entrance chart number 2413, a protective minefield has been established, area is enclosed as follows, (A) on the North by parallel 00° 45' N. (B) on the East by meridian 104° 30' 30" E. (C) on the South by parallel 00° 42' (D) on the West by meridian 104° 25' E. (R.A. Malaya, 1147Z/10 to China Station.)

Ocean  
Island.

Wellington reports Aircraft attacking Ocean Is. 0105Z/9.  
(C/S Singapore 1333Z/10 to Adty.)

PRINCE OF  
WALES  
REPULSE.

My 1555. <sup>N.T.K.W.D</sup> Capt. L.H. Bell, Capt. of Fleet, has been interviewed on landing. His account of today's proceeding indicates that the C. in C's intentions were, up to about 1700/9 to attack transport off Songhkla, relying on surprise failing the provision of fighter protection which in fact could not be provided. Up to that time he had not as far as he knew been located by air R/C owing to low clouds. At that time clouds cleared and three Japanese A/Cs were sighted. As a result of this he decided to return at full speed to Singapore. About midnight he received information that a seaborne attack was developing on Kuantan and decided to investigate and attack. On arrival (off) at Kuantan 0800 nothing was in sight but he had passed (corrupt group) down a tug with possible landing craft in tow and so turned back to deal with them. It was approx. at this time that first attack by H.L.B took place. Attack was well carried out at about 11,000 feet and hits scored abreast main mast of REPULSE. This was followed by air attack by 9 (?torpedo/bombing aircraft) on PRINCE OF WALES. Attack was pushed well home and skilfully carried out. One if not 2 hits were scored and extensive flooding caused, 2 engine rooms being put out of action and speed reduced to 12 knots. A second attack by 9 torpedo bombing aircraft on PRINCE OF WALES scored a further 2 hits. A third T/B aircraft attack, again by 9 aircraft, but this time on REPULSE scored 2 or 3 hits and she turned over and sank in a few minutes. A H.L.B attack was then carried out on PRINCE OF WALES from 10,000 feet and one hit with probably 1000 lb. bomb was obtained. Finally another T.B attack was carried out which scored at least one more hit and ship heeled slowly to port and capsized in about 20 minutes. Captain Bell emphasized skill with which all attacks were carried out and determination with which they were pressed home. About 7 aircraft were shot down. By direction of V.A. Sir G. Layton fact finding

/enquiry ...

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.PRINCE OF  
WALES.  
REPULSE  
contd.enquiry will be started tomorrow to obtain fullest possible information.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1701Z/10 to Admty.)Situation  
Report.1. Malaya. 2. Hong Kong.  
(C. in C. Far East, 1652/10 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.Demolition,  
Stonecutters  
W/T.Intend to demolish Stonecutters W/T Station within few hours and will use emergency Station in lieu.  
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 1755Z/10 to Admty.)Merchant  
shipping  
policy.

In view of the naval and military situation in the Far East the immediate policy as regards merchant shipping is as follows:

(a) Withdraw all British and Allied, other than U.S.A. and Dutch shipping out of Malaya, Borneo, Sumatra area to Australia or Indian ports, and shipping from the Philippines to Australian Ports.

(b) Ships with cargo useful to war effort in Malaya to be unloaded before sailing.

(c) All loaded tankers should proceed to Australia in preference to India. Empty and coasting tankers should be sailed to India if possible.

(d) No shipping should be retained for running outward convoys as it is not yet clear how this is to be effected.

2. The Policy outlined above is not intended to prevent you taking such advantage of shipping opportunities as may still be possible to increase the stocks of commodities for Malaya.

3. Our plans in the past have allowed for monthly convoys from Colombo and Australia to Singapore. These plans were based on conditions which do not obtain at the present time. Request your views as to the best method of running these convoys, particularly as regards the route to be used and escort that will be required.

4. Dutch Naval Commander in Chief should be informed and advised to adopt similar policy.  
(1st S.L. 1915A/10 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet repeated C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., B.A.D.)

Command.Personal for Vice Adm. Layton.  
Until it is known whether Adm. Sir Tom Phillips is one of the survivors you are to carry out the duties of C. in C. Eastern Fleet, and have discretion whether to fly your flag on shore or afloat.  
(1st S.L. 2250A/10 to C.O.S., Eastern Fleet.)

**MOST SECRET**

312A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1652/10th December

IN

From C. in C. Far East.

Date 10.12.41.

Recd. 1515.

CYPHER

Addressed The War Office Repeated All concerned.

MOST IMMEDIATE

018320. 463/6 Cipher 10/12. Most Secret.

Following from C's in C. Far East and Eastern Fleet for Chiefs of Staff. My 441/6 9/12. Sitreps local time 0400 hrs 10/12.

1. Malaya. During 9/12 Air Recco. reported one battle ship two cruisers seven destroyers and number of transports off Kota Baru one transport off Kuantan and fifteen transports and one aircraft carrier off Singgora. Eleven Blenheims bombed Singgora Aerodrome where forty bombers were seen on ground and approximately forty fighters were airborne. Result of raid not observed. Five Blenheims lost. Heavy enemy attacks on Alor Star Sungei Patani Butterworth and Kuantan Aerodromes. At Sungei Patani five enemy planes brought down four by A.A. guns Kuantan Aerodrome evacuated by our aircraft. Dutch fighter squadron has arrived Singapore. Kedah 11 Div. no change. Seven enemy light tanks destroyed. Krohcol at Betong 1800 hours 9/12.

Kelantan eight Bde. now on line Peringat-Mulong. Reinforcements have arrived. Kuantan at 2200 hours 9/12 enemy landed in small numbers just north of Beserah. These were driven off and 0845 10/12 all quiet. One Bn. ordered to Jerantut to reinforce Kuantan if required. Sarawak Miri oil denial scheme completed and destruction of Aerodrome proceeding. To sum up enemy primary object appears to be to establish Aerodromes in Northern Malay and at same time he is testing our defences on wide front.

2. Hongkong. Situation satisfactory. Enemy pressure has been slight and Gindrinks line intact except that Shing Mun redoubt captured during night 9/10. Counter attack impending. During daylight 9/12 varying numbers of aircraft bombed Colony causing little material damage. Two C.N.A.C. aircraft are continuing communication with Free China.

1652/10.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.  
Received from War Office at 2019/10.

Distribution overleaf.

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET  
FROM G. I. G. ...  
DATE 10.12.44

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 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. (0)                             |
| D.O.D. (F)                    | M.O. 1, 6, 10.                           |
| D.D.O.D. (F)                  | D.D.I.P.                                 |
| D. of P. (2)                  | D.M.I.                                   |
| E.P.S.                        | D.D.M.I. (1)                             |
| Hd. of M. (10)                | M.I. 2.                                  |
| I.P. (2)                      | Cabinet War Room                         |
| N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr.<br>Wilson | Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)             |
| W.D.                          | C.A.S. Air Ministry (2)                  |
| D.N.I. (4)                    | Plans 3 Air Ministry (2)                 |
|                               | Duty Group Capt. Air Ministry            |
|                               | A.C.A.S. (1) Air Ministry                |
|                               | Air Ministry War Room.                   |
|                               | F.O.5. (Air Ministry) Duty Capt. Admiral |
|                               | Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty War Room)  |
|                               | Colonial Office (Maj. Rolleston)         |
|                               | S. of S. (Foreign Office).               |

EML.

MOST SECRET



War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Intelligence  
Martinique  
Cayenne.

Com 10 reports A/C R/C reveals unusual activity Martinique including funnel smoke from vessels in harbour and work about A/C. P.A.A. representative reports replacement of officials by more loyal Vichy supporters and concentration of war material at Cayenne. Further information may be expected.  
(B.A.D. 0005R/10.)

Japanese  
Operations.

Summary (1) Philippines. (2) Guam. (3) Wake. (Rafdel 0128/10 to Airwhit). See Lion Copy. p. 310c

S.C.53.

Admty. 1302A/9. <sup>750/Kam</sup> GOTHAM S.O. Escort S.C.53 reports MERIDIAN lost touch with. Rounded up stragglers of S.C.53 in thick fog at 1730/10/11 8 in charge of CHAMBLY. EMPIRE GANNET also lost touch at about same time. Nothing known of CRUSADER who was not seen at any time. (Ends) Further enquiry being made from CHAMBLY and ORILLIA.  
(C.C.N.F. 0351Z/10 to Admty., U.S.C.N.O.)  
S.C.53. Admty. reports MERIDIAN and CRUSADER still unaccounted for. Can you give any information regarding date straggling or any other relevant information?  
(C.C.N.F., 0352Z/10 to CHAMBLY, ORILLIA.)

Dispositions  
of Sea  
Hurricanes.

Chief of Air Staff R.C.A.F. desires to retain 15 Sea Hurricanes at Dartmouth, N.S, thereby releasing equivalent number of Kittyhawks for urgent fighter requirements west coast Canada arising out of present situation in Pacific. C.A.S. believes this can be done so as not to adversely affect Sea Hurricane project. 45 Hurricanes now awaiting shipment from factory. 4 others at Dartmouth. The 15 concerned would come from factory. Strongly emphasize that the present grave position fully warrants this request. Please advise.  
(C.N.S., Canada, 0444Z/10 to 1st S.L.)

BEARN.

U.S. Naval Observer reports BEARN leaves 10th for cruise to Guadaloupe, Les Saints and coast of Martinique.  
(B.A.D., 0705R/10 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

ARNDALE.

Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. S.A. proceed to (?patrol) line between the following: 026° S. 020° W. and 025° 30' S. 021° W.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 0731Z/10 to ARNDALE.)

/TULIP ...

War Diary.10.12.1941  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.TULIP

Kingston departure TULIP in accordance with my 1435R/30.  
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 0825R/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ALCANTARA.

C. in C. A.W.I. 1807N/4 and B.A.R.M. Washington's 1546R/2. Date Monday 15/12.  
(ALCANTARA 1031Q/10 to B.A.R.M.)  
Departure ALCANTARA Newport News, E.T.A. Cape Henry 0800 zone plus 5/15/12.  
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 2041Q/10 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1452/9. Approved. Exercise with Trinidad is to be arranged direct with N.O.I/C Trinidad. CLARKIA should accompany INDOMITABLE to Trinidad or may be sailed independently whichever is more convenient.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1031Q/10 to INDOMITABLE.)  
A.M.1809A/7. On completion of visit to Trinidad C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to sail INDOMITABLE for Durban direct. 2. C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange onward route within his Command.  
(1st S.L. 2125A/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.,  
C. in C. S.A.)

Trans-Pacific Shipping.

My 1912Q/8 and Admty. 1343A/9. Request immediate information when you consider situation permits Trans-Pacific Shipping proceeding via New Zealand.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1041Q/10 to Navy Office, Wellington repeated Admiralty etc.)  
Your 1031/9 (N.T.in W.R.) British and Allied Trans-Pacific shipping should not be released pending further instructions. (2) In view of your 1725/9 ships for West Coast of South America may now sail.  
(C..in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/10 to C.S.A. Panama.)  
Re suspension of Trans-Pacific route via Panama.  
(D.T.D. 2045A/10, no copy in W.D.) Cancel my 2045A/10. (D.T.D. 1227A/11 to B.A.D.)

St. Lucia, Black-Out and Navigation Lights.

Following has been received by O.C., U.S. Marines St. Lucia and Antigua from Cdr. of Caribbean Naval Coastal Frontier (begins). Be prepared for strong Axis effort against Navy Shipping and raid on Coast. Co-operate with Army and civilian authority. Black Out. Discontinue all lights and radio aids to Navigation. (Ends). Governor wishes to know if action should be taken re Navigation Lights. U.S. Authorities press for Lights to be extinguished.  
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1101Q/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/Your 1101Q/10 ...

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.St. Lucia.  
Black Out and  
Navigation  
Lights contd.

Your 1101Q/10. As it is of paramount importance to maintain flow of shipping without undue loss by stranding, lighthouses are not to be extinguished at present. Policy is being discussed with Washington.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1543Q/10 to R.O. St. Lucia.)  
R.N.O. St. Lucia's 1101Q/10 is being passed to you as it is essential that flow of shipping should continue unhampered. Suggest that U.S. Policy of general extinction of lighthouses should be reconsidered.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1653Q/10 to B.A.D.)

Enemy  
Intelligence.

Manila appreciation dated 9/12 and repeated to Cincaf, Cincpac and Hawaii. From traffic analysis of several days there is an association of the following:- Second Fleet, Third Fleet, Southern Expeditionary Fleet. Units of combined air and base force. All of this Group is to westward of Corregidor D/F Station. Traffic from this Group indicates intensive action. Fourth and Fifth Fleets, Base Force Units and Submarine Force may comprise forces to Eastward of Corregidor D/F Station. Traffic very light from this Group. Combatant ship using Secret Call now bears 018° from Corregidor D/F Station. May be AKAGI. Jaluit traffic very heavy today. One translation plus normal traffic routing indicates Jaluit to be H/F D/F and intercept station. P/L report indicates part of Dairen air strength is 15 boats.

(B.A.D. 1213R/10 to Admty.)

The Flagship of Southern expeditionary force bears in line with Saigon from Corregidor D/F station. An aircraft carrier probably the RYUJO bears 250°. An unidentified flagship suspected is that of second or third fleet has same bearing. Manila appreciation dated 8/12 and repeated to C. in C. A.F., C. in C. P.A.C. and Hawaii.

(B.A.D., 1217R/10 to Admty.)

W.R. Note: Both above messages have been passed to C.O.I.S. Singapore for information.

Shipping  
Routes.

Your 1927Z/9. (N.T. in W.D.) (Routing of ships for Australia and New Zealand). Concur.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1258A/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/"Q" Messages ...

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd."Q" Messages  
U.S. Ports.

We are beginning to receive from C.S.A.'s instructions for entering U.S.A. ports, swept channels etc. Until "Q" arrangements for U.S.A. are completed intend to issue them as QJA or QJC messages as applicable. Do you concur. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1449Z/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Your 1449Z/10. concur. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1613Q/10 to N.S.H.Q.)

Norwegian  
Ships.

Your 2212Z/8. Confirm Norwegian VILLANGER arrived Lourenco Marques 5/12. Norwegian ELIN K sailed Port Stanley 23/11, due Durban 8/12, arrival not yet reported. (D.T.D. 1508A/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.N.45.

Designated escort convoy O.N.45. <sup>CHARLES</sup> ~~N.S.F.~~ HUGHES (senior) GLEAVES, LANSDALE, MADISON, STURTEVANT. (Opnav, 1512/10 to Admty.)

NASTURTIUM.

C.C.N.F's 1916Z/9. Commitments at Halifax do not allow NASTURTIUM being refitted there. Request information if NASTURTIUM can be taken in hand at an American port and if so date she should arrive. B.A.D. pass P/L copy to C.N.A. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1531Z/10 to B.A.R.M.)

PRINCE DAVID.

On completion of gun trials PRINCE DAVID is to be sailed for Esquimalt with all despatch via Panama Canal and San Diego. 2. After arrival Esquimalt PRINCE DAVID is to come under the orders of C.O.P.C. 3. C.N.A. is to request that passage of Canal may be expedited and to arrange fuelling at Canal and San Diego. 4. C.O.A.C. is to report route S. of A. and E.T.A. Colon. (N.S.H.Q. 1556Z/10 to C.O.A.C.) Your 1556Z/10 PRINCE DAVID complete with provisions and has embarked stores for Bermuda. Propose PRINCE DAVID sail for Bermuda p.m./12. Carry out gun trials on arrival a.m./14 sailing for Colon immediately stores have been landed. E.T.A. Colon p.m./18. (C.O.A.C. 2059Z/10 to N.S.H.Q.)

MARSDALE.

My 1752A/2. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail MARSDALE 16/12 for area B X 2, 38° N. to 39° N. 42° W. to 45° W. (S.O.W.P. 1604A/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, Repeated Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H., MARSDALE, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.BAHRAM  
(French)Arr. 10th.  
(St. Thomas, 1610/10 to D. of S.T.)Intelligence  
for Canadian  
Govt.

Whilst I fully realise need for security makes desirable most limited promulgations of dispositions and movements, when I am called upon to furnish my government with appreciations it would be of great assistance if I could be supplied with at least some general information regarding strength of forces in the Pacific. (C.N.S. Canada, 1633/10 to Admty. rep. B.A.D.)

NASTURTIUM.

Your 1513/10 (?1531/10 intended) NASTURTIUM can be accepted in U.S.A. Yard will be given later (see 1740/11). Ship can be received approx. 20/12. Job number S.237. (B.A.R.M., 1742R/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

*See previous page*Japanese  
Attacks.

Operational Summary, Philippines, Malaya, Hong Kong, South Pacific, Panama, San Francisco, French W. Indies, Latin America. (Rafdel 1800/10 to Airwhit, recd. from Air Min. 0110/11.) See Lion Copy.

Tunis,  
Bizerta.

Meter Tunis. 8/12 B.2. French have been making Naval, Military and Air preparations. Tanks guns and munitions have been sent South. A/A pits are being constructed surrounding Tunis airport. Further mines have been laid and a net placed across the gateway of the lake at Bizerta. Following Naval Units are at Bizerta - Destroyers SIMOUN, TEMPETE, TRAMONTANE, TYPHON - Torpedo Boats BOMBARDE, POMONE, L'IPHIGENIE - Submarines CAIMAN, PHOQUE, ESPADON, DAUPHIN, MARSOUIN, SOUFFLEUR, CIRCE, CALYPSO, NAUTILUS, SAPHIR, TIRQUOISE. (B.A.D., 1801R/10 to Admty.) \* Sunk by PARTHIAN (See 25/6/41. P.19)

Casablanca  
Intelligence.

Meter Casablanca 7/12 (A.1.) Following French ships arrived 30/11 from Dakar - ERIDAN, PROVIDENCE, CONDE, PORTHOS. 2/12 from Oran - IRELANDE, BONIFACIO, KERMARIA, BLANCHE II, PARAME. 4/12 from Dakar via Safi - CEVENNES, OUED-FES, AUVERGNE, from Dakar direct - PORT DE BOUC, THESEE, TROPIQUE. With exception of PORT DE BOUC and THESEE in ballast, all ships were fully loaded, have not unloaded any cargo and were still present 7/12. TROPIQUE and MONTAIGNE have sailed for unknown destinations. (B.A.D., 1803R/10 to Admty., S.O.I's Freetown, Gibr.)

/Shipping ...

From RAFDEL

Date 10. 12. 41.

Recd. 2004

CYPHER

Addressed AIRWHIT.

IMMEDIATE

WX.2507. CAESAR 898 10/12.

11. Operational Summary.

Part 1 Begins.

1. Philippines. A major attack has developed on Luzon with Naval and Air support. Landings reported on the West coast from Fernando point to Vigan and at Aparri in the North. U.S. air forces claim to have sunk 1 enemy transport and severely damaged 2 others. Naval base at Cavite bombed extensive damage reported. Japanese claim to have torpedoed and sunk a 15,000 Ton U.S. Transport in Manila Bay. Also that U.S. Submarine was sunk Sunday morning at Palawaj Islands.

2. Malaya. Raid on Penang Island and aerodrome to North bombed with slight damage. Alor Star aerodrome heavily bombed. Blenheims endeavouring intercept convoy 25 transports attempting to land reinforcements at Khota Baru and Singora-Patani area.

3. Japanese air and land attacks continue North Malaya without making much progress. 4 landings attempted Kuantan. Unofficial radio report states at least 5 Japanese aircraft shot down at Butterworth.

4. Reports various sources PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE sunk by enemy air attacks.

5. Japanese claim to have seized an armed British Motor Vessel South of Hong Kong.

6. South Pacific. Undated report but believed 8/12 from U.S. Naval Observer Wellington New Zealand states heavy gunfire heard East of Nukunono (North of Samoa). Not certain whether this was an attack on the Philippine convoy or on Samoa itself.

7. Panama. Naval District Commander reports he believes R D F fix indicates enemy concentration West of Panama Canal. Report unconfirmed. This (? and omitted) other rumours impending enemy raids Panama Canal Zone now focusing interest and expediting defence measures this area.

8. San Francisco. No further air raid alarms.

9. New York. 2 air raid alarms early afternoon 9/12. No confirmation any enemy aircraft in vicinity.

10. French West Indies. French Guiana officials not sufficiently pro Vichy have been replaced. Military stores being collected at Cayenne. Indications that French Ships and aircraft in Martinique being prepared to move. Aircraft carrier BEARN is expected to leave today 10/12 for ten days? "recreational" cruise round Martinique and call Guadeloupe.

11. Latin America. Mexico has agreed to installation of R D F Stations and in co-operation with U.S. is moving troops and air units through Arizona into South California.

317<sup>B</sup>

12. Ecuador has approached U.S. to take over defence of Galapagos Islands.

13. Cuba has declared War on Japan.

14. Radio report that Chile will allow U.S. full use of her ports.

Part 2 Ends. End of Message.

1800/10.

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

Recd. from Air Ministry 0110/11

Air Ministry Circulation to:-

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A.1st S.L.  
Ops.(3)  
J.D.(5)  
C.C.L.S.  
O.I.C.(3)  
D. of P.(3)  
M.(2)  
E.P.S.  
D.N.I.(4)  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.  
D.P.D.  
D.N.A.D.  
D. of L.D.  
B.S.D.(2)  
D.A/S.7.  
D.T.D.(4)  
Adl. Chalmers.  
Adl. Bailey.

Internal

S. of S.  
C.A.S.  
F.O.4.(2)(Action)  
War Room (3)  
P.U.S.  
V.C.A.S.  
D.C.A.S.  
A.C.A.S.(1)  
D. of I.(0)  
D. of Plans  
D.D.Plans  
D.O.N.C.  
D.B.Ops.  
D.D.B.Ops  
Plans 3  
D.W.D.  
D.D.O.II  
P.R. & A.I.6.  
Duty Group Captain

External

Minister of Defence (5)  
War Office M.I.(J.I.C)(7)  
Admiralty (War Registry)(6)  
War Office (M.O.I.)(2)

MMD.

War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Shipping  
Panama.

My 1805/7 not to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Following British merchant ships now at anchor at Balboa ANTILOCHUS, WAIPAWA, LANARKSHIRE, KAITUNA. No British merchant vessels have returned, viz. WAIWERA, FORRESBANK, sailed 4th 6th respectively. (C.S.A. Panama 1926/10 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Coastal  
Shipping.

Navy Dept. has authorized resumption of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama and also resumption of trans-Pacific shipping on widely dispersed routes passing well to southward. (B.A.D., 1947R/10 to Admty.)

U.S. Navy  
Policy  
DIOMEDE.

U.S. Chief of Naval Operations has ordered WPL 46 in effect as regards Japanese. Interpretation as affecting British Warships and Merchant Ships is as follows: (2) Atlantic Ocean is not affected at present. WPL 52 remain in operation. (3) In Pacific area as defined in ABC-1, U.S. C.N.O. assumes Peninsula as in that report. Interim arrangement of routing of merchant shipping as in B.A.D. Washington's 1307/9. (4) Consequent para.(3) above, withdrawal of British Naval Forces is expected from Pacific area except Canadian Coastal Zone, in accordance with para. 20 of Annex iii of ABC-1. In view of intelligence leading to movements reported in B.A.D. Washington 1003/10th (not to all addressees) U.S. C.N.O. would appreciate temporary co-operation of DIOMEDE to extent she is effective. If this is approved request DIOMEDE may co-operate as necessary with Commandant Naval District and S.O. U.S. S.E. Pacific Force. (B.A.D., 2001R/10 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., etc.)  
Arrival Balboa 1430 zone plus 5/10 DIOMEDE. (C.S.A. Panama, 1701/10 to Admty.)

PRINCE class  
Auxiliary  
Cruisers.

Your 2200/8. Following is a repetition of my 2111/19/10 (N.T.in W.R.) begins:- General R.C.N. Repeated Admiralty, Opnav, B.A.D. Washington, C. in C. A. and W.I., C. in C. E.F. From N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. In future the ships of the PRINCE Class will be referred to as Auxiliary Cruisers not armed Merchant Cruisers (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2041Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

/DIDO ....



War Diary.10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.DIDO.

Request reply to my 1842Q/6 enquiring whether DIDO should proceed direct to Gibraltar on completion of working up at Bermuda 12/12. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2122Q/10 to Admty.)

French Ships.  
Martinique.

Cinclant has issued orders as follows. Alert as to French ships at Martinique. Commander Task Force 2 send detachment at once towards Culebra area to include 2 cruisers, one of them BROOKLYN. Move detachments from Argentinia towards Bermuda. Commander Caribbean Coastal Frontier and Commander Task Force 3 make appropriate dispositions. General charge of operations placed under Commander Caribbean Coastal Frontier. (Opnav, 2157Z/10 to Admty. rep. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

Australia.Reported  
Nauru Landing.  
(cancelled)

Following information received from Nauru Radio. Landing by enemy troops has taken place here, 1753Z/9/12. (A.C.N.B. 0132Z/10 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M.) Cancel my 0132Z/10. (A.C.N.B. 0458Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

Australian  
Lights.

W.F.129. All ships warned that Australian Coastal Navigation Lights are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice. (Melbourne, 0231Z/10.)

Lighting  
Restrictions.

Q.F.A.64 A.C.B.0213. Stage 1 of lighting restrictions in force New South Wales and in Queensland southwards of Sandy Cape (Q). Radio Beacons in Bass Strait are complying except when requested by signal. (A.C.N.B. 0606Z/10 to all concerned with Q.F.A. Messages.)

War Diary.

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia - contd.

U.S.14.

My 0429Z/15/11 to Navy Board, Wellington, and D. of S.T. only. Present intention is not to run U.S.14.  
(A.C.N.B. 1157Z/10 to N.Z.N.B.)

Shipping.

Policy. (1st S.L. 1915A/10) See China.

Nauru  
Ocean I.

My 1652Z/9. Enemy aircraft carried out further attack on Nauru 0034Z/10th December. Nauru and Ocean Island have put into execution plans for demolishing Phosphate loading gear.  
(A.C.N.B. 1249Z/10 to Admty. C. in C. F.E.Fleet, C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S., N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M.)

New  
Caledonia.

State of defences for new aerodromes.  
(Consul, Noumea, 2300Z/10 to Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.

MESSAGE 2300Z/10 DEC.

MOST SECRET.**MOST SECRET**I N.

From H.M. Consul Noumea.

Date. 12.12.41.

Recd. 0510.

Naval Shore Code "N" by Cable. RECIRCULATION  
(Authorised by H.W.R.)

Addressed Admiralty.

Following for Admiral Sir Gerald Dickens from Lieut. Comm. Galsworthy Liaison Officer French High Commissioner Pacific Begins. MOST SECRET and Urgent. New Caledonia is at present virtually defenceless against enemy landings by air or sea. 3 aerodromes now being constructed at Koumac, Plain des Caiacs and Tontouta, under original Australian programme for use by medium aircraft and under American proposals for enlargement to take heaviest type of aircraft. While Caiacs has hardly begun - Koumac and Tontouta are practically finished under Australian programme and are utilisable by medium aircraft. But they have no A.A. guns nor other defences apart from small Infantry Detachments with machine guns. Japanese Colony is now being put in Concentration Camps. Defence so far consists of 1 Infantry Battalion 13 hundred mixed Straits European near Noumea. There are no Australian troops here except handfuls of artillery men due to leave shortly. There is also a seaplane base at Noumea forming part of Australian Northern area Control Defence but no aircraft are definitely based here and at present only occasional seaplanes are available here for reconnaissance flights. Delivery of comparatively small amount of Military supplies promised by Australia is considerably in arrears. Australia appears to have kept full Military Authorities in New Caledonia in complete ignorance regarding their plans if any for defending this Island and there is a complete lack of aviation liaison. New Caledonia, if occupied by Japanese, would obviously furnish a good base for aerial attack on Eastern Australia sea board. French High Commissioner has just telegraphed Australian Prime Minister requesting immediate despatch to New Caledonia of an adequate number of Fighters and Reconnaissance aircraft and also bombers to attack any enemy aircraft carriers. French High Commissioner has not yet adopted my suggestion to request not less 2 Battalions Australian Infantry be supplied for defence of aerodromes and other danger areas. This report comes from me personally as French High Commissioner who has read contents of this message does not wish to request British Government to make representation to Australian Government owing to latter's susceptibility. Ends.

2300Z/10

1st Lord.	V.C.N.S.	N.A.L.S.L.	D. of L.D.	N.A.(F) 2 S.
1st S.L.	A.C.N.S. (F)	D.O.D. (F)	D.N.A.D.	Ad. Bellairs
2nd S.L.	<del>A.C.N.S. (T)</del>	<del>D.D.O.D. (F)</del>	<del>D.T.S.D.</del>	Ad. Chalmers
3rd S.L.	Secy.	D.C. (2)	F.C.D.	D.T.D. (2)
4th S.L.	P.A.S. (S)	D.I.C.	F.P.F.	N.I.D. 10.
5th S.L.	D. of P. (2)	D.N.I. (4)	Hd. of M. (35)	I.P. (2)
				W.D.

321

10.12.1941.  
Wednesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.S/M's  
painted  
brown.

A number of Japanese Submarines have been sighted painted Chocolate Brown.  
(C.O.S. Singapore 1013Z/10 to Adty., C. in C.E.F.,  
Cdre. Malaya, C. in C.E.I., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.,  
S.O. West Indies Force.)

Estimated approximate positions of U-boats.  
(D.D.I.C. 1341A/10, 1344A/10.)

1925.

At 1925 G.M.T. German U-boat made enemy sight report approx., bearing from Gibraltar 290° class 3.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2113A/10, to N.A.Stn.)  
Your 2113A/10. Sighting report was of convoy N.W. of Ireland.  
(D.D.I.C. 0122A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Submarines Attacked.By LADY  
MADELEINE,  
28/11.

At 1947A/28/11 O.N.40 in 59° 28' N., 15° 15' W., course 347°. Weather conditions calm, moon to southward. H.M. trawler LADY MADELINE, 2000 yards on port bow on convoy, detected H.E. on port quarter. After turning towards, periscope and top of C/T was sighted and attempt made to ram. U-boat dived and after passing over it LADY MADELINE gained asdic contact. First attack was made dropping five charges set to 100 feet, contact being held down to 100 yards. Asdic contact was then lost but on returning to investigate periscope and C/T was sighted distant one cable and fire opened with 4 " gun. Two rounds were fired, one of which fell close, and a further attempt was made by LADY MADELINE to ram. U-boat was inside her turning circle and passed close down starboard side practically stopped five charge pattern was dropped by eye set to 50 feet. After explosion of this pattern, U-boat was observed to disappear at a sharp angle stern first. LADY MADELINE suffered superficial damage from explosion of shallow charges which put electrics and asdic out of action. Repairs were effected in ten minutes and nothing more was seen or heard of U-boat. The convoy was not attacked.  
(Capt. D., Greenock, 1822/10, to C. in C.W.A., rep. Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

At 1451 today the U.S. Naval Secretary ordered the execution of W.P.L. 46 against Germany and Italy in addition to Japan. Italy and Germany declared war on the U.S.A. today. Subsequently, the U.S.A. declared war against Germany and Italy. The operations of the U.S. Fleet, including escort of H.X. convoys are to be continued as at present. It is proposed to modify the dividing line in the Atlantic between the U.S. and British areas. The U.S. C.N.O. requests that the operations of the A. and W.I. Squadron in the Atlantic may continue temporarily. Shipping between U.K. and Australia and New Zealand is to be routed via Panama. Shipping diverted to the Cape or committed to the Cape route is to continue as arranged. Germany, Italy and Japan today signed a Three-Power Agreement for co-operation during and after the war.

Home Commands.

S.B.N.O. Archangel is having difficulty in inducing the Russian Naval authorities to provide icebreakers at Archangel for ships of Q.P. and P.Q. convoys.

The force for Operation "Kitbag" sailed from Sullom Voe this morning.

Mining.

Operation  
S.N. 25c.

MENESTHEUS and SCOTT returned to Port Z.A. this morning from laying mines N.W. of the Butt of Lewis.

It is considered that the recent mining of the swept channels between H.5. Buoy and Sheringham light buoy has probably been carried out by E-boats. C. in C. Nore has arranged for destroyer patrols to be carried out on nights, which are suitable for E-boat operations. C. in C. Nore has asked for 3 M/S groups to be sent from Aberdeen and 2 from Dundee, to reinforce patrols in the Nore Command. (See also 12/12).

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

At 0940Z today a civil aircraft reported a medium sized merchant vessel in  $45^{\circ} 7' N.$   $10^{\circ} 7' W.$  steering  $240^{\circ}$  at 12 knots. HERMIONE left Gibraltar at 1916 to search, and patrol by Catalina has been arranged for tomorrow. It was later considered that this was a Spanish ship which sailed from Gijon with navicert 10/12 for Jamaica.

At 1558Z today a civil aircraft reported a large camouflaged merchant vessel in  $39^{\circ} 20' N.$   $9^{\circ} 30' W.$  steering north at 10 knots.

Patrol vessel ROSABELLE was sunk at approx. 0345 today in  $35^{\circ} 59' N.$   $5^{\circ} 17' W.$  by unexplained explosion. LADY SHIRLEY, last seen on patrol in the Straits at 0305A today has disappeared without trace and it is thought that both ships were torpedoed. Visibility in the Straits was very bad last night. Submarines were sighted on the surface by aircraft in  $94^{\circ}$  Europa Point 66 at 0915A today.

Mediterranean.

Intruder aircraft bombed Malta last night. No damage was caused.

2 Blenheims today made a successful dawn attack on shipping in Catania harbour. Hits are claimed on two ships of 6,000 and 5,000 tons, the former of which was set on fire.

TALISMAN p.m. today sank a 15,000 ton merchant ship with silhouette similar to VULCANIA escorted by a destroyer steering East at 17 knots in  $36^{\circ} 23' N.$   $20^{\circ} 33' E.$

HOBART is to be sailed for Colombo pending decision as to her destination.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

8 Wellingtons bombed shipping and wharves at Benghazi in the early hours of today.

There was a combined bombing and minelaying raid on Tobruk from 0530 to 0530 today. No damage is reported but in addition to mines swept and self detonated it is believed that 3 G. type mines were laid in the harbour. It is believed that mines were also laid in the harbour on 6/12 and 8/12.

China.

Admiral Layton's policy to meet the present situation is to hold as much of Malaya as possible to secure Singapore as a base for the Eastern Fleet, to keep trade moving, and to effect the maximum damage by air and submarine on the enemy. He asks for all possible reinforcement of S/M's, minesweepers and destroyers, and air reinforcements. Battleships should not come further than Colombo until accompanied by cruisers, destroyers and aircraft.

Hong Kong.

At 0100 today a long range gun shelled the town and Hong Kong Island for 2 hours. The shelling had chiefly nuisance value but there were 3 hits on the Military Hospital, and the North Shore dockyard was badly damaged and the ordnance depot hit 5 times. Stonecutters W/T Station was hit by a bomb. Stonecutters and Kowloon Dockyard were evacuated and naval establishments were demolished. The evacuation of Kowloon by the military began at dusk. All merchant ships have been scuttled.

Malaya  
Burma and  
Siam.

EXETER left Singapore today for Colombo via Sunda Strait.

The enemy are reported to have landed at Chumpore or Jumbhorn (presumably Chumporn on W. side of Gulf of Siam in 10° 30' N.). Tavoy Aerodrome was bombed at 0945 G.M.T.

/All.....

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China-Contd.

All serviceable aircraft had to be withdrawn from Northern Malaya by today and bomber effective was temporarily reduced to some 6 Blenheims. The Japanese at once switched their major effort from attack on aerodromes to shipping and the port of Penang which was heavily bombed this morning, the dock side area being covered by pattern bombing. Alor Star Aerodrome was demolished.

Philippines.

Army aircraft claim to have secured a hit on a battleship of the HARUNA class and naval aircraft secured at least one hit on a battleship of the KONGO class. There was a further air raid today on the Philippines, Cavite and shipping in harbour being amongst the main targets.

Pobra  
raided.

It is reported in a N.E.I. army communique that Australian aircraft based on the N.E.I. have attacked the Japanese air base on the island of Pobra (between the Celebes and Palau).

Midway  
Wake  
and Guam.

It is reported that Wake Island has been attacked four times by aircraft and once by light naval units during the past 48 hours but is still in U.S. hands (1800/11), as also is Midway. There was one air raid today on Wake. It is officially announced in Washington that a Japanese cruiser and a destroyer have been sunk off Wake Island. The U.S. Navy was still in communication with Midway Island at 2358/11 Pacific time. At 2358/11 Pacific time no communication with Guam could be obtained by the U.S. Navy.

America and West Indies.

All ships are warned that U.S. east coast and Caribbean lights controlled by U.S. are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice.

/At.....



War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies-Contd.

At 1507Z today N.S.H.Q. Ottawa reported that the U.S. C.N.O. had ordered resumption of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama and also resumption of Trans-Pacific shipping on widely dispersed routes passing well to the Southward. (On 15/12, however, Atlantic Shipping was still being held up apparently by order of U.S. Naval Authorities).

All ships for the Far East are to be routed east of Christmas Island, south of Sampa, Suva and south around Australia. Instructions in this sense were given by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to N.C.S.O's west coast of U.S.A. and Canada, and were approved by C. in C. A.W.I. on 14/12. These instructions were amended on 14/12 and ships were routed to Wellington for further instructions, passing south of Chatham Islands. On 15/12, however, N.Z.N.B. proposed in order to avoid congestion at Wellington and to save time on passage, that ships bound for ports beyond New Zealand having sufficient speed and endurance to be routed south of New Zealand to their destinations or to ports to which their endurance can take them, but the U.S. did not approve. The U.S. authorities report that Admiral Hoover is ordering the surrender of all naval and military armaments in Martinique immediately, otherwise the islands will be bombed. (This ultimatum had apparently not been delivered by 1115Q/13 but Admiral Roberts had informed the French authorities that any ship leaving the French islands would be bombed.)

U.S. Naval forces are patrolling in the Lesser Antilles with orders to capture or destroy all French ships that may attempt to escape or take offensive action.

S.S. BENCLEUCH was on fire today and sank at 0615Z/12 in 53° 10' N. 38° 0' W. Sabotage unit inserted at the port of sailing is suspected.

New Zealand.

All ships are warned that New Zealand coastal navigation lights are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice.

/U.S.....

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

New Zealand-Contd.

U.S. Naval authorities report that the Japanese are using off the coast of Honolulu miniature 50 ft. S/M's carrying 4 torpedoes, with a crew of two and a small range, evidently launched from a ship. One has been captured off the coast of Hawaii.

U-Boat Campaign.

Attack  
on S.C.57.  
3 ships  
sunk.

S.S. STAR OF LUXOR, KURDISTAN and KIRNWOOD in Convoy S.C.57 were torpedoed last night and sank in 57° 3' N. 16° 38' W.

Italian  
U-boat  
sunk.

FARNDALE sank an Italian U-boat at 0430B/11 in 32° 9' N. 25° 19' E. and took prisoners 6 officers and 47 ratings. The U-boat was carrying evacuees from Bardia, including a General who was drowned.

AMIRAGLIA CARACCIOLO  
(Cmd. L542)

S/M's off  
Gilbert  
Isles.

It is reported that S/M's were off Gilbert Isles course south at 0135 G.M.T. today.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M/S Trawlers  
for Nore  
Command.

In order to reinforce patrols in Nore Command request you will sail the following M/S trawler groups to Humber. From Dundee 34th and 41st Groups. From Aberdeen 12th, 19th and 77th Groups. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent. (A.C.N.S. H., 1908A/11)

Co-Operation with U.S.A.

U.S.A.  
Atlantic  
Forces.

C.N.O. has ordered W.P.L.52 cancelled and W.P.L. 46 brought into force in all areas against Germany and Italy in addition to Japan.  
(ii) Operations of U.S. Fleet including escort of H.X. convoys are to be continued as at present.  
(iii) Proposed to modify dividing line in Atlantic between U.S. and British areas has been forwarded to Spenavo. Proposal is for line to follow longitude 26° W., from pole to pole except British area extending to 040° W., between lat. 20° N., and lat. 43° N.  
(iv) Until change of dividing line is effective U.S.C.N.O. understands operations of S.A.D. to continue at present under British strategic direction.  
(v) U.S.C.N.O. requests operations of A.W.I. squadron in Atlantic may continue temporarily. (B.A.D. Washington, 1221R/11 to Admty).

Movements.

FAULKNOR,  
FORESIGHT,  
FORESTER.

FAULKNOR with FORESIGHT, FORESTER proceed 1600 today passing through 058° 45' N., 007° W., thence through Reykjanes Passage to Hvalfjord. 2. On arrival you will act screen for RODNEY. (R.A.D., H.F., 0150A/11).

DUKE OF  
YORK.

Scapa arrival DUKE OF YORK, MATABELE, FAULKNOR, and FORESIGHT in company. (A.C.O.S., 1005A/11).  
Scapa departure for Clyde DUKE OF YORK. E.T.A. 1300A/12. FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, MATABELE in company. (A.C.O.S., 1647A/11).

P.35.

Amend my 1533A/5/12 as follows:-  
Para (1) Delete 1700A/11 and substitute 0100A/12.  
Para (2) Delete 2359A/14 and substitute 1600A/15.  
Para (3) Delete 2359A/14 and substitute 16 00A/15. (Capt. S.9., 1109A/11).  
Amend my 1545A/5 by deleting 2359A/14/12 wherever such figures and letters occur and substituting therefore 1600A/15/12. (Capt. S.9., 1115A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.P.35  
Contd.

P.35 passes through 270° Bishop Rock 7 miles at 0100A/12 thence diving by day through following positions to pass through 043° N., 012° 40' W., at about 1600A/15. Thence southward. (Capt. S.9., 1141A/11).

23rd M/L  
Flotilla.

Admiralty's 1847A/10. Request 2nd division of 23rd M.L. Flotilla may be sailed for Yarmouth not Harwich. 6th M.L. Flotilla is at present working from Yarmouth and is unlikely to proceed to Harwich until completion of new proposed base at Pinmill. (C. in C. Nore, 1158A/11).

MANXMAN.

My 1240/9 and MANXMAN 2157/10. Request you sail and route MANXMAN when ready. (D.D.O.D. M., 1235A/11 to C. in C. W.A.) Admty 1240A/9. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is to sail MANXMAN when ready at best speed consistent with weather conditions. Via Q.Z.S. 544 to (P) 180° Bishops Rock 10 miles (Q) 048° N., 016° W. (R) 039°, 016° (S) 036°, 009° 30', thence to Gibraltar. MANXMAN report E.T.A. on reaching 038° N. (C. in C. W.A., 1854A/11)

CLEVELAND.

CLEVELAND is to leave convoy so as to arrive Plymouth 1800. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1330/11)

KENT.

Beacons and lights arranged. A low lying fog extends to Kildin Island and covers Kola inlet liable to persist for further 24 hours. Arrangements have been made for pilot to meet you in 069° 21' N., 033° 55' E., at 1030C/12 in D/F fitted ship and with portable direction finding set. Ship will transmit signal L on 325 kc/s per sec. from this position from 1000C. 2. At your discretion (a) Proceed up harbour to anchorage Paenga Bay with pilot and portable D/F set on board following pilot boat if desired. (b) Transfer passengers to pilot boat for onward transport. In view of recent report U-boat activities vicinity Kildin Island if unable to enter Kola inlet proceed seawards by route followed for arrival until visibility improves. 3. BRAMBLE, LEDA, carrying out A/S search during the night between position M.Z. and Kildin Island and may be met. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1629Z/11 to KENT).

/TUNA...

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

TUNA.

Intend to sail TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR for Scapa at 1700A/13. E.T.A. Scapa 0930A/15. (Capt. S.3., 1651A/11).

PUCKERIDGE.

A.M.1336A/7. Intend to sail PUCKERIDGE from Needles 1100/12 for Liverpool routed Q.Z.S. 293 and route C of D.C.1. thence by standard routes. Speed of advance 18 knots. E.T.A. 1400/13. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1757A/11).

CALIFORNIA,  
AGAMEMNON.

Destination of CALIFORNIA and AGAMEMNON is Clyde. On arrival CALIFORNIA should grant leave in accordance with A.M.1914A/8/11. After disembarking passengers and stores AGAMEMNON should be sailed for Port Z.A. (D.O.D. H., 1835A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

ST. ALBANS.

Anticipate ST. ALBANS will be ready to sail 15/12. Request destination. (C. in C. Nore, 2302A/11)

Operations.

SEALION  
Patrol.

You have complied correctly with my 2102C/8. Leave your patrol p.m./11 and return by route previously ordered to arrive at position R one at 1130C/13. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0051C/11 to SEALION).

Unknown  
Operation.

Your 1945/10. Request N.O.I.C. Invergordon be instructed to return crews to Buckie. Further information regarding operation will be communicated later. (D.C., 0259A/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation  
"Kitbag".

Operation "Kitbag". Day one is 11/12. (Capt. D.3., 0801A/11 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, P.37). D. One day today Thursday. Force sails from Sullum Voe about 1000A. C. in C. Rosyth and P.37 informed. (C. in C. H.F., 1227A/11 to F.O.S., Capt. S.9).

/Operation...

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation  
"Anklet".  
(PRINCE  
ALBERT).

Your 1528/10. PRINCE ALBERT should not be sailed until transfer of landing craft to ~~PRINCE~~ LEOPOLD has been effected. (V.A.C.T.C., 1026A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). In view of V.A.C.T.C's 1026A/11. Cancel my 1528A/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1119A/11).

Unknown  
Operation.

Your 1945/10 and A.M. 2113A/8. In preparation for an operation to be carried out under the orders of C. in C. H.F., approx. 150 Norwegian personnel are being sent to Invergordon Transit camp for temporary accommodation. A proportion of these will be embarked as arranged for in A.M. 2113A/8.

2. Norwegian fishing vessels referred to in N.O.I.C. Invergordon's 1631/10 form part of this operation and are proceeding to Invergordon to embark further personnel prior to sailing for Northern waters.

3. Arrangements are being made with W.O. for remaining Norwegian personnel not covered by paras. 1 and 2 to be embarked in the next routine sailing to Shetlands.

(D.O.D. H., 1239A/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Denmark  
Straits  
Patrol.

NORFOLK sailed 1500. (A.C.I.C., 1607N/11).

Cable-laying  
by

MARIE LOUISE M.L. MACKAY.

Admiralty 1337A/8 and my 1315A/9. <sup>MARIE LOUISE</sup> M.L. MACKAY and escorts will be ready to sail a.m. 12. Master of M.L. MACKAY has given the following seven positions in which repairs are required. Each will need at least two days of fine weather to complete and they must be taken in the following order.

The Trawlers can only be spared with difficulty from escort duties and reliefs cannot be provided. Trawlers will not be able to remain in the vicinity of operations for more than nine days, during which time M.L. MACKAY will be almost entirely inside territorial waters where protection cannot be provided. Propose that Trawlers should escort M.L. MACKAY on passage and should return to Belfast on arrival at position A. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1851A/11 to C. in C. W.A.).

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.A/S  
Sweep.

4 Whitley on A/S sweep, centre line Butt of Lewis to Kaldadanes, leave Butt of Lewis 0900. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0830/11).

Bombing  
Operations.

On day 10/12 one A/C claimed a direct hit on a Tanker in the mouth of the Ems. During Night 10/11, no operations took place owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C.0945/11).

Mining.Bristol  
Channel.My 0952A/29/11. I propose to resume normal working in the Bristol Channel from 1100/12. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1932A/11)  
Exploded red mine 0916A/11 in 203° 4 miles 4½ cables from Nells Point Light Signal Station. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1301A/11).Thames  
Estuary.Two S.A. Mines detonated as follows at 1212/10 and 1248/10. Details.  
One magnetic mine detonated at 1228/10. Details (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1001/11).S.N. 25 C.

Arrival MENESTHEUS and SCOTT. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 1053/11).

KINCORTH.  
KINCORTH.

Following an explosion in about 082° Point Lynas 7 miles at 0720A/10 wreckage and boat marked with a name "KINCORTH A 263" was found. It must be presumed that Aberdeen drifter of this name was sunk. No survivors. Probably caused by floating mine. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1056A/11)

Sweeping  
ahead of  
Convoys.

My 2310A/7. These arrangements will be discontinued after arrival of F.S.71 at 51 buoy on 14/12. (C. in C. Nore, 1301/11).

East Coast  
searched  
Channel.M/S Trawler Patrols. Orders for search of Channels twice each night. To come into force at 1200/14 when my 1114A/31/10 is to be cancelled. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1426A/11)  
See Lion Copy.Orders for Destroyer Patrol of 2 Destroyers between H. 3. Buoy and Sheringham Light Buoy on nights thought suitable for E-boats minelaying. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1830A/11)  
See Lion Copy.

SECRET.

M I S S A G E

1486A/11th Dec,

IN

From: C. in C. Nore.

Date: 11.12.41.

Recd: 1515.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, F.O.I.C. Harwich, repeated: Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, F.O.I.C. Humber, C. in C. Rosyth, D 16, D 21.

612.

(1) Trawlers patrolling at night on the Searched Channel between 51 Buoy and 5 Buoy are normally to remain at the Channel Buoys or at centre of Channel in the case of position Z where there is no Channel Buoy.

(2) While convoys are passing the trawlers stationed between 51C and 5 Buoys inclusive are to withdraw to a distance of 5 miles to the westward provided safe navigation permits and the trawlers stationed between 51 Buoy and Z inclusive are to withdraw one mile to the eastward.

(3) Under favourable conditions use of type 140 should enable trawlers to withdraw when convoy is heard and to resume station on the Channel as soon as it has passed. If type 140 cannot be relied on due to unfavourable weather conditions or to defects. Trawlers are to withdraw to their positions off the Channel.

(4) Trawlers which have withdrawn from the Channel should, if necessary, lay a lighted Dan Buoy on which to maintain position.

(5) Trawlers are to search the Channels with S A Gear before taking up positions for the night and again on leaving at dawn. Provided that they have not withdrawn from the Channel, trawlers are to search the immediate vicinity of their patrol position on the Searched Channel with S A Gear from 2300 to 2310 and from 0300 to 0310.

(6) If there is any indication that enemy craft are or have been in the vicinity of the Searched Channels, the patrols are to search the Channels with Oropesa and S A Sweeps as soon as enemy have been driven off or have retired. Similar action should be taken with S A Gear if there are indications that previously laid acoustic mines have become active.

(7) Where practicable patrolling trawlers should withdraw to the cover of coast or Harbour Defences during the day.

(8) N O M 13 and 18 will be amended in due course.

(9) These .....

( )



- 2 -

(9) These arrangements are to be brought into force at 1200 14th December from which time my +1114A/31st October is to be cancelled.

1426A/11.

Advance copy Ops. O.D.

+ Re:- Trawlers patrolling on Searched Channel whilst convoys passing.

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

PP

SECRET

MESSAGE 1830A/11th December

IN

From: C. in C. Nore

Date: 11.12.41  
Rec'd 1851

P/L BY T/P

Addressed: D.16, D.21, F.O.i/c Humber. Repeated: F.O.i/c  
Yarmouth, C. in C. Rosyth, Admiralty.

616. It is considered that the recent mining of the swept channels between H.3 Buoy and the Sheringham Light Buoy has probably been carried out by E-Boats.

2. To endeavour to counter this the following temporary arrangements will be made.

- (A). One destroyer from each flotilla will be based temporarily at the Humber.
- (B). On nights thought to be suitable for E-Boats they will patrol in the swept channels as follows.

Patrol A.

Between H.3 Buoy and the parallel of 53 degs. 16' north

Patrol B.

Between parallel of 53 degs. 16' north and 57D Buoy.

3. On dark nights speed should be 16 knots or less to allow full use to be made of H.E. On light nights speed should be proportionately increased.

4. Destroyer on patrol B should if possible be one fitted with headache.

5. Destroyers have freedom to leave the swept channels as requisite when convoys are met.

6. Destroyers at the Humber are to be changed at the discretion of Captains D.

1830A/11

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.  
& D.M.S.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| V.C.N.S.        | D.D.O.D.(C)(2) |
| A.C.N.S.(H)     | D.P.S.         |
| N.A.to 1st S.L. | E.P.S.         |
| Ops.(3)         | A.H.Q.H.F.     |
| O.D.(5)         | D. or P.(3)    |
| D.M.S.          | I.P.(3)        |
| D.M.S.Basement  | W.D.           |
| Hydrog.         | M.(2)          |
| D. of N.        | D. or L.D.(2)  |
| O.I.C.(2)       |                |
| D.T.D.(4)       |                |
| D.T.D.(H)       |                |
| D.T.D.(C)       |                |
| D.D.T.H.        |                |

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.Operation  
Q.O.

To establish position A with accuracy it has been decided that on the first day of operation Q.O. the minesweepers will divide into two groups at 53 buoy, one group proceeding to K and running taut wire to A, whilst the other group proceeds to a reference position G.51° 45' N., 1° 57' E., and also runs taut wire to A where the two groups will meet. My No. 0803A/18 of 1st December should therefore be altered as follows. (details). (C. in C. Nore, 2140A/11),

Navigational.LANGENES  
Wreck.  
(Sunk on  
Night 6/7.)

Your 1626A/11 and my 1146/10 to A.C.O.S. repeated as requested. ? Faeroese Fishing Vessel LANGENES in progress of salvage by M.I. sunk during recent gale Sat/Sun. 6/7 Dec. has been marked by red flag on oil drum but this is only of a temporary nature and as the vessel lies in Fairway it is submitted that arrangements may be made at the earliest possible moment for her demolition meantime that shipping may be warned. (N.O.I.C. Thurso, 2211/11 to Admty).

*? Icelandic.*Casualties & Defects.MACBETH  
~~1827/11~~

Following from H.P. W.N. (letters undecipherable) lat. 50° long 31°. Position is critical. Immediate assistance imperative to towing, otherwise must abandon ship. (Lands End Radio, 1827/11) (C. in C. W.A., 2156A/11 to Admty). Position of MACBETH at 1827/11, 50° N., 31° W. Immediate assistance required. (C. in C. W.A., 2218A/11 to PIMPERNEL).

†ST. OLAVES.

Your 1553A/11\*. Have ports in crews quarters leaking badly. Am remaining during night in Lough Foyle to repair same, thence loading gear. (†ST. OLAVES, 1940A/11 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

*\* See p 359*Shipping & Convoys.D.S.19.

D.S.19 will sail Clyde 27.12. SOBIESKI will be used and probably also BANFORA. About 2000 personnel will embark on outward voyage and about 3500 homewards. 150 tons of mail will arrive Greenock, 23/12 for shipment in D.S.19. (D. of S.T., 0451A/11).

/BATTERY....

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.BATORY.

BATORY is to be used on Trooping Service of about three weeks duration. Sailing date from Clyde will be notified as soon as possible. On outward voyage only about 100 personnel will be embarked, but she may be full on homeward voyage. (D. of S.T., 0453A/11). *See next page*

S.P.11.

S.P.,11 cancel owing to weather.  
(R.N.O. Shoreham, 0700/11)

P.Q.7.

Request estimated date of sailing P.Q.7 be signalled as early as possible.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1101A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

EILDON.

Your 1554A/10. Is escort to be continued as far as (c)? (HAVELOCK, 1103A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

UR.1.

U.R.1. My 1154A/10. Amended sailing date is 13/12. Codeword "Siege" (C. in C. W.A., 1117A/11)

P.,Q.6.

Your 1117A/10. BOTAVON arrived 6/12 with cargo shifting, damage tank and ship side frames. Re-stowage and repair in progress. SOUTHGATE arrived 6/12 with water over engine room plates and bilge pumps out of action. Repairs could not be completed in time to sail ship with convoy but it is hoped to sail her with P.Q.7.  
No information that BOTAVON was for P.Q.6 until ship arrived Reykjavik. (A.C.I.C., 1202N/11 to Admty)

M/Vs  
at Iceland.

Your 1147N/10. \*BADDECK is not under operational control of C. in C. W.A. and should not be used as escort to U.K. The merchant ships waiting should be sailed to U.K. if escort of 2 trawlers available, otherwise ships must await convoy RUL. (D.T.D., 1223A/11 to A.C.I.C.) \**See also next page*

Shipping  
between U.K.  
and  
Australia.

Pass to N.C.S.O's. Cancel my 0112A/9. Shipping between U.K. and Australia and New Zealand is to be routed via Panama. Shipping which has already been diverted via the Cape and any shipping committed to the Cape route is to continue as arranged. (A.C.N.S.T.), 1228A/11)

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.ALAUNIA,  
CHITRAL,  
WORCESTERSHIRE,  
PRETORIA  
CASTLE.

The following A.M.Cs. carrying service personnel will be required to leave Clyde on 22/12.

2. ALAUNIA, CHITRAL and WORCESTERSHIRE to Durban for E.I. Station. PRETORIA CASTLE to Freetown for S.A. Station.
3. Speed 15 knots.
4. A/S Escorts. SULTAN HISSAR to Durban and WIVERN to Freetown both fuelling at Ponta Delgada. ACTIVE parting company as necessary to proceed to Gibraltar.
5. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail WIVERN to join Convoy as directed by C. in C. W.A.
6. C. in C. W.A. is requested -
  - (a) To make necessary arrangements for WIVERN, ACTIVE and SULTAN HISSAR.
  - (b) To provide additional local escort as requisite and,
  - (c) To sail and route ships.
 (D.O.D. H., 1307A/11.)

S.S.  
BATORY.Your 1702/24/11. Intend to sail S.S. BATORY (17 knots) unescorted from U.K. to Gibraltar shortly. Request you will arrange for inward A/S escort. *See previous page*

2. It appears that suitable homeward escort could be provided by HESPERUS and BADSWORTH returning to U.K. end December vide A.M.2216/3.
3. Further signal will be made by D. of S.T. (D.O.D. (F), 1311A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P.Q.5.  
Q.P.4.

Despite definite assurance given to Maclay and myself by Russian Naval Authorities and Papanyn that icebreaker LENIN would be used exclusively for berthing P.Q.5 and breaking out Q.P.4 LENIN has been temporarily removed to bring in four Russian Transports. I have been assured that LENIN will be absent for only 24 hours and thereafter will resume operation on Convoys. In view of fact that ice conditions deteriorating and 8 ships of Q.P.4 in river above Economia are causing us anxiety perhaps you could approach Kuznetzov and ensure exclusive use of LENIN until this operation completed. Please note that no ship can move without assistance of Icebreaker LENIN. Admiralty please pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1345C/11 to Ad. Miles.)

O.N.48.

N.O.I.C. Iceland 1147N/10. Desirable that \*BADDECK return with O.N.48. This convoy will normally be escorted by Task Unit 4.1.12 now on way to Iceland with S.C.58 and consisting at present of six ships only, due to loss WINDFLOWER and damage to NASTURTIIUM. (C.C.N.F., 1437Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

*\* See previous page.*

/H.X. 161 ...

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

H.X.161

Average speed 8.37 knots. 8 stragglers on 2/12 in southerly gale. Heavy weather throughout voyage. All ships arrived plus TORFINN JARL ex S.C.56.  
(D.T.D., 1541A/11 to Opanav).

H.G. and  
O.G.

In order to regain moonlight sailings the following are the proposed dates of sailing of H.G. and O.G. convoys:-  
H.G.77 31/12, O.G.78 10/1, H.G.78 29/1, O.G.79 25/1. and subsequently at 29 day intervals. It is appreciated that there will be few merchant ships for H.G.78. Request your remarks.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1617A/11)

S.C.59.

Commodore should not be embarked in Admiralty requisitioned tankers, as they are liable to diversion to Iceland (C).  
(D.T.D., 2326A/11 to N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B.)

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ROSABELLE  
sunk.

ROSABELLE blown up. Have 11 survivors on board. (SAYONARA 0510/11 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 0555 ("Was ROSABELLE torpedoed" - not circulated.) I do not think so, but she sank in about 30 seconds. Survivors too shaken to give connected story. (SAYONARA 0615/11 to F.O.C.N.A.) ROSABELLE sunk in 035° 59' N. 005° 17' W. at approx. 0345/11. Cause not yet ascertained. 12 survivors picked up. (F.O.C.N.A. 0928A/11 to Admty.) See also LADY SHIRLEY 1306A/11.

Destroyer  
Movements.

Ref. 2216/3 from Admty. and 1704/7 from Admty. Departure LEGION, MAORI, SIKH, ISAAC SWEERS. (F.O.C.N.A. 0530A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, repeated S.O. Force H.)

PONTET CANET  
(French)

Departure for Casablanca via Lisbon. (? 1024/11 to D. of S.T.) French Shipping passing Gibraltar 9/12 - see D.O.R. 11/12.

Suspicious  
M/V.

At 0940Z/11, Civil aircraft reported one medium M/V in 43° 07' N. 10° 07' W. Co.240°, speed 12 knots. (D.D.I.C. 1140A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.) See also 1732/11, 1821/11.

FORMIGNY  
(French)

Arrival H.M.T. ALOUETTE with FORMIGNY. (V.A.C.N.A., 1216A/11 to Admty.)

LADY SHIRLEY  
sunk.

My 0928A/11. Regret LADY SHIRLEY has disappeared without trace. Last known position 190° Carnero 5 in company at 0305A/11 with three other trawlers in line abreast patrol in Straits. (2) Visibility in Straits very low during night. (3) It would appear both ships must have been torpedoed. (4) Submarines sighted on surface by aircraft in position 094° Europa Point 66 at 0915A/11. Group 1 in vicinity. (5) Request my 0928 may be passed to C. in C. Med. and this message to M.E.W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1306A/11 to Admty.)

/ROBERTS ...

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.ROBERTS  
BRADFORD  
SCARBOROUGH  
FRITILLARY.  
EREBUS.

For Admty, and pass to C. in C. S.A. ROCHESTER  
C. in C. W.A. F.O.i/c Gibraltar. E.T.A. (a)  
Freetown 22/12, (b) Bathurst 20/12, dependent  
on EREBUS's fuel consumption. BRADFORD,  
SCARBOROUGH, FRITILLARY also in company.  
Unless otherwise signalled (a) will be followed.  
(ROBERTS, Ponta Delgada, 1316Z/11 to C. in C. S.A.)

HARVESTER.

Return to Gibraltar forthwith at best speed,  
report E.T.A. when 100 miles clear of convoy.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1414A/11 to HARVESTER.)  
Amend E.T.A. 0145A/12 due to attacking (together?)  
Sub. contact in 036° 45' N. 008° 18' W.  
(HARVESTER 1955A/11 to F.O.C.N.A., rep. S.O.  
Force H., Capt. D.13 and 19.)

LIGHTNING.

LIGHTNING is to return to Gibraltar forthwith.  
Report E.T.A.  
(V.A.C.N.A. 1423/11 to Capt. D. 19.)  
Arrival LIGHTNING.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2102A/11.)

Gibraltar.  
supply  
during siege.

A/T 1738A/7. F.O. Force 'H' informs me his opinion  
on the limited possibilities of supply are  
contained in paras.9 and 10 of J.P.715 of 2nd Sept.  
2. Ref. para. 3 F.O. Force 'H' made it clear  
possibility of unloading without enemy interfer-  
ence was remote, but should opportunity occur  
2 M.L.Cs maintained at Gibraltar might be of value.  
3. Trials referred to in para.2 of D of S.T's  
1851A/2/12 do not therefore appear to arise.  
4. My own view is that chances of revictualling  
the Fortress by surface vessel under siege con-  
ditions are virtually nil, since the necessary  
prerequisites of low visibility, calm sea, and  
lack of enemy R/C and patrols would be extremely  
difficult to forecast even from Madeira or Canary  
Islands.  
5. A surface vessel laying off Catalan or Sandy  
Bay whilst discharging would be under direct  
observation from Spanish Mainland and could be  
silhouetted by searchlights from Ceuta at night.  
Moreover the localities where such operations  
would be practicable are so obvious that in all  
probability the area would be mined, particularly  
if we construct anything in the way of permanent  
landing facilities beforehand.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1500A/11 to Admty., rep. F.O.H.)

/BARFORD ...



War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.BARFORD,  
BARCLOSE,  
BARFOAM.

My 2354A/10 (re sailing BARFORD, BARCLOSE and BARFOAM in Company to Ponta Delgada F.O.C.N.A. requested to provide onward route from Azores.) Fuelling Port in Azores should be Fayal, not Ponta Delgada.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1605A/11 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Salvage Tug.  
Azores.

Your 1136A/10 Portuguese do not know SALVONIA was formerly commissioned and regarded her purely as a commercial vessel. My enquiry yesterday revealed question still being considered by Government who fear German protest on ground that commercial tug permanently stationed in Islands would act as a kind of patrol vessel.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1611/11 to Admty.)

French  
Shipping.

1030/10, Spanish minelayer MARTE class lying stopped 270° Cape St. Vincent 6 miles. Gibraltar 1040/11 French armed trawler L'AJACCIEUNE French ships TOURQUENNOIS, light, DAHOMEY, laden, both with deck cargo, motor transports, CHARLES SCHIAFFINO, full, SURVILLE, ballast, trawler TATIANA, westbound. 1144, French survey vessel, ESTAFETTE French ships OUED FES, LILLOIS, NANCEN, trawler BRITTIA, TIEMCEN, all full, eastbound.  
(S.O.I. Gib., 1719A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Neutral  
Shipping,  
HERMIONE.

Admty. 1140A/11 not to HERMIONE. Request particulars of movements neutral shipping proceeding from North Spain to westwards.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1732A/11 to Admiralty repeated HERMIONE.)

Admty. 1140A/11. Departure HERMIONE to search for M/V. Catalina carrying out cross over patrol from centre 040° 30' N. 016° 10' W. during 12/12.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1916/11 to Admty.)

SERAFIN TOPIC.

My 1924A/29. Ship is reported B.3 to be painted black. (D.N.I. 1811A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PONTET CANET.

Observed French PONTET CANET entering Lisbon from North in (corrupt group).  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1820A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Suspicious ...

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Suspicious  
M/V.

At 1558Z/11 civil aircraft reports one large camouflaged M/V in 39° 20' N., 09° 30' W. speed 10 knots, course north.  
(D.D.I.C. 1821A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

GRELHEAD  
(sunk 1/12.)

Following from Vice Consul Melilla (begins) Position about 2 miles from land vicinity Punta Negri calculated speed 7 knots and time of sailing 20.25 hrs 1/12. It would appear from evidence of survivors that there was a small explosion aft apparently in magazine on poop followed immediately by a terrifying explosion and the ship sank immediately. Sworn statement to this effect before Authorities. I suspect sabotage. (Ends.)  
(Consul, Malaga, 1846/11 to S.O.I. Gib.)  
(See Diary 3/12 P.79.)

Movements.

HARVESTER from West E.T.A. 0145/12. HARVESTER, LIGHTNING westbound 0600/12th. CLAN MACINNES escorted by SPIREA, STANLEY expected from West during night 11th/12th.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2059/11 to Ships on Patrol Gibraltar Force.)

ISAC  
distress.

My 2000A/10 (N.T.in W.D.) Water gaining in engine room of ISAC. CLARE and merchant vessel being detached daylight 12/12 to endeavour arrive Ponta Delgada at 1930A/12. Weather report.  
(IBIS, 2305Z/11 to F.O.C.N.A., Repeated: CLARE; Admiralty; C. in C. S.A.; N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada; B.N.A. Lisbon.)

Suspicious  
M/V, REGENT.

For information. A/C report a large camouflaged merchant ship in 039° 20' 009° 30', course north, 10 knots.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2310A/11 to REGENT.)

South Atlantic.

VIDETTE.

E.T.A. Bathurst 1100Z/11. Position 012° 45' N. 018° 00' W. Weather report.  
(VIDETTE, 0402Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

/West African ...

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.West African  
Troop  
Movement.

Your 1536/9. LAFONIA has been sent to East London for fitting as transport and date of completion is 1/2. Undesirable that West African troops should be accommodated in South Africa longer than absolutely necessary. Request troops be embarked in returning transport towards, and January for Durban where they will have to be accommodated until LAFONIA ready. Flow of transport through Mombasa should normally permit this without exceeding the limit of unescorted ships. Final capacity of LAFONIA not at present known but estimated ship can take these troops.

(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0904Z/11 to Admty.)  
See also East Indies.

DEVONSHIRE  
CANTON.

My 1305Z/9 para.(D), cancel R/V "N". DEVONSHIRE and CANTON R/V at position "Q", 005° 00' S. 020° 00' W. at 0800Z/12, then search in, DEVONSHIRE western half of I 35 A and CANTON eastern half of I 34 B and R/V in position "R", 002° 00' S. 020° 00' W. at 0800Z/13.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0925Z/11 to DEVONSHIRE, CANTON.)  
Cancel my 0925Z/11, Search following areas tomorrow 12/12. DEVONSHIRE search Eastern half of H 34 D. CANTON Eastern half of I 34 B.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1755Z/11 to DEVONSHIRE, CANTON.)

Movements.

Capetown arrivals 10/12. Whale catchers VESTFOLD III, V, ?VII,\*XI, BUSEN VII, XI. Simonstown departure 1023Z/11 BIRMINGHAM flying flag of R.A.S.A.D. for Plate Area in accordance with R.A.S.A.D. 2045/10.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1025Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

\* ?X

SURI  
SOULIOTIS.

Your 1809/8th (not to Admiralty). It would appear that Greek Ship ~~SURI~~ SOULIOTIS has continued her voyage to Pernambuco.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1138Z/11 to General St. Helena, rep. Admty.)

Diversion  
of Shipping.

Your 1421N/4. Concur. A.M.0001/1/5 will be amended in due course.  
(D.T.D. 1447A/11 to C. in C. S.A., rep. F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

ROXBURGH  
CASTLE.

Sailed 1410/11. E.T.A. Ascension 28/12/41.  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1510/11 to Admty. etc.)

/ROSLIN CASTLE ..

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- ROSLIN CASTLE. ROSLIN CASTLE reports sighted at 1445Z/5 in  
suspicious 024° 22' S. 023° 31' W. vessel of 9 to 10,000  
ship, 5/12. tons believed to be Japanese with narrow red  
and white band on funnel steering 290° at 17  
knots. Details.  
(S.O.I) Capetown, 1737B/11 to Admty., C. in C.  
S.A., etc.) See also S.O.I. Capetown 1716/13.
- AUGUSTA Bahia reports AUGUSTA transferred today 11th  
LIANA. to Brazilian Flag. LIANA transfers tomorrow.  
(Italian) (S.O.I. Montevideo 1804Z/11 to Admty.)
- Argentine My 1525Z/8. PRESIDENTE MITRE returned to  
Trawlers. Buenos Aires 0830 local time today 11th after  
operating in estuary of Rio De La Plata, is  
fuelling and will probably leave tomorrow 12th.  
Reported that PRESIDENTE ROCA is due to return  
to Buenos Aires tonight and expected to sail  
again on Saturday 13th.  
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1834Z/11 to Admiralty,  
repeated S.O.(I) Freetown, R.A.S.A.D. South  
America Squadron, B.N.A. Rio De Janeiro, B.N.A.  
Buenos Aires.)
- Brazilian Brazilian submarine flotilla will leave for  
S/Ms. exercises off Ilha Grande 15/12 remaining until  
end of month.  
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1836Z/11 to S.O.I.  
Montevideo.) (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2145Z/11 to Adty.)
- Pocket My 2228Z/9. Investigations indicate that reports  
Battleship of pocket Battleship originated from some  
Report. persons on Uruguay Coast sighting ARGENTINA  
mistaking her for warship.  
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2045Z/11 to Admty.)
- Shipping It may be necessary to divert at short notice  
Diversion. ships routed between Madagascar and East African  
Coast. The Master of every ship so routed is  
to be given two special lettered positions to the  
east of Madagascar. He is to be told verbally  
that, providing he is not south of 10° S. if  
southbound or north of 28° S. if northbound,  
he is to alter course forthwith to pass through  
the special lettered positions, on receipt of  
the following signal:- To all British and  
Allied Merchant Ships. For ships with code  
word "Pig" only - "Whistle". After passing  
through the special lettered positions he is to  
rejoin his original route as convenient,  
increasing the length of his voyage as little  
as possible.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Shipping,  
Diversion  
contd.

2. The two lettered positions to East of Madagascar to be given to ships should be anything between 50 and 500 miles to eastward of the Island. It is important that routes should be widely dispersed.

3. The word "Pig" must never be put on the routeing form given to the Master, but the special lettered positions should be clearly indicated on routeing signals sent to Admiralty and other Naval Authorities.

Example: Ref. Q (Pig) 24° S. 52° E.

Ref. T (Pig) 14° S. 54° E.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 2311A/11 to C. in C. S.A.,  
C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Enemy Ships.  
Navarin.

Following from 201 Group A/C; one M/V of 2,000 tons and one small M/V under 200 tons in Navarin as well as a cruiser.  
(Capt. S.10, 0636Z/11, to PORPOISE.)

BARON FAIRLIE.  
SALVIA.

If BARON FAIRLIE is held up by weather return Famagusta top up oil fuel depot and return to Beirut. C.S.A., Alexandretta is requested to inform me when BARON FAIRLIE is ready to proceed when escort will be sent.  
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 0905C/11, to SALVIA.)

S/M's.

My 1654B/9 Form R line as follows: 3 - 039° 27' 017° 24' - 060° - 13 - 150° - position A, 039° 27' 017° 24' UPRIGHT. Position B, UTMOST, position C, UNBEATEN.  
(Capt. S.10, 0924B/11, to UPRIGHT H.M.S. UTMOST H.M.S. UNBEATEN.)

Enemy Destroyers.

P.C. and S., of 2 Enemy destroyers (? D) 38.00 N., 16.24E., 040° 20 knots.  
(Med. A/C, 0930Z/11, to Hal Far, Submarines on patrol.)

S/M's.

Leave patrol and return to Alexandria as follows, PORPOISE through 035° 40' 021° 30' and 033° 10' 027° 30' to pass through 1st position about 0100B/13 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/16. PERSEUS through 037° 27' 020° 10' 035° 12' 020° 00' 032° 54' 027° 28' to pass second position about 2200B/13 and arrive Sanctuary 0530/17. TRUANT is to leave area T p.m./11 and proceed through 035° 42' 023° 26' 036° 16' 020° 34' 037° 26' 020° 32' to establish patrol in area P within 48 miles 038° 11' 020° 21'. TORBAY proceed through 035° 42' 023° 26' 036° 40' 021° 34' thence patrol in area Q within 50 miles Pylos light vicinity, remaining east of 021° 50' E., until 0001B/13. S/M's are not to be attacked at night during nights 11th 12th and 13th unless they can definitely be established as enemy.  
(Capt. S.1, 0931B/11, to S/M's named.)  
W.D. Note:- This was amended subsequently by 0521B/12. q.v.

NEREUS.

On your return route proceed through 034° 44' 026° 10' 033° 30' 028° 38', thence direct to end of searched channel.  
(Capt. S.1, 0953B/11, to Grk S/M NEREUS.)

/Enemy .....

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Contd.Enemy Units.

P.C. and S., of one enemy destroyer and one merchant vessel are:- 37.00' N., 20° 35' E., 170° 10 knots.  
(Med. A/C, 0955/11, to Hal Far.)

Enemy Units,  
Navarin.

Position of one enemy hospital ship, one merchant vessel of 1000 tons, one schooner, Navarin.  
(A/C Y of No. 39 Sqdn., 1300/11, to 201 Group.)

Enemy  
Destroyers.

Following is text of M.S.830. P.C. and S., of 2 enemy destroyers at 1130B, 38° 00' 16° 24' 040° 20.  
(Capt. S.I., 1311B/11 to S/Ms on patrol.)

Delta  
Mission.

Ref. Chiefs of Staff No. 208 (Admty., 1550A/10) it is requested that an officer not below Captain's rank may be nominated to attend on the mission for liaison purposes and to express Naval requirements for air defence.  
(V.C.N.S. 1414A/11 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy  
Units,  
Patras.

A.M. Aircraft R/c Patras. 1120, One Merchant Ship, 3000 tons, one destroyer 038° 15' N., 021° 25' E., course 270° 7 knots. 1125, one destroyer 038° 15' N., 021° 35' E., course 90° very slowly. 1130, close off Patras, one Merchant ship 11,000 tons.  
(V.A.Malta, 1540B/11, to Submarines on Patrol.)

M/V sunk  
by  
TALISMAN.

15000 tons merchant ship, silhouette similar to VULCANIA, (?escorted by) 1 destroyer, sunk, P.C.and S., 036° 23' N., 020° 33' E., 090°, 17 knots. Weather report.  
(TALISMAN, 1623B/11, to Capt. S.I.)

Enemy  
Destroyer.

Following has been read, 1 destroyer bearing 360° distance 20 miles my position NWHE 2500.  
(Med. A/C N., 1631/11.) (33.25N., longitude indecypherable.)

Libya.

Military Situation Report.  
(C. in C.M.E., 1740/11.) ~~See Lion Copy.~~

/Malta Raids.....

P. 344 A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

10460/10th December.  
IN.

From. N.I.O. Black Sea.

Date. 18. 12. 41.

Recd. 0100.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (ONE TIME TABLE) BY (W/T).

Addressed. Admiralty.

Following are, as far as my (?information) goes, casualties (group omitted) Russian Black Sea Fleet so far. Cruiser VOROSHILOV damaged by aircraft attack in Novorossiisk harbour. Cruiser CHERVONAYA UKRAINE sunk by aircraft attack in Sevastopol. Leader MOSKVA (?) sunk by mine. Gunboat RED TIS sunk by aircraft attack. Leader TASHKEND damaged by near miss. Destroyer FRUMBACK sunk by aircraft attack. Destroyer BUISTRI damaged by aircraft attack. Destroyer BEZPOSHCHADNY / twice damaged by aircraft attack. Plant # serviceable but probably small (? number of) submarines and small vessels.

Situation at Sevastopol easier.

10460/10.

/ As received.

# Alternative signification "Plate."

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

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

EC.



War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Malta Raids. Night 10/11, 1732 hours 4 Raiders approached, bombs sea. No interception. 2023 to 0454 hours  
Air Operations. approx. 12 intruder aircraft. Bombs land sea.  
Benghazi. No damage. No interception. 8 Wellingtons  
Catania. Mark II successful shipping and wharves  
Benghazi 0114 to (0 10) hours. Bombs scoring  
direct hits wharves and dock railway. 1 4000-  
lbs. bomb burst Cathedral Mole tremendous  
explosion. 11/12, 2 Blenheims very successful  
dawn attack shipping Catania Harbour 4 500 lbs.  
SAP bombs 11 seconds delay dropped mast height  
separate attacks first.  
2 hits 6000 ton MV. 1 hit, probably 2,5000 ton  
MV. Crew reports ship attacked by first  
aircraft as on fire and burning well.  
(H.Q. Malta 1800/11, 1801/11).

S/M's.

Eastern Med. S/M. movements summary 68.  
Submarine Estimated noon Estimated noon  
position 12th. position 13th.  
TORBAY. 035° 42' N. 023° 036° 40' N. 021°  
26' E. 35' E.  
THRASHER. 032° 58' 027° 18' Alexandria a.m.  
TALISMAN. 035° 22' 020° 34' 034° 22' 022° 40'  
PORPOISE. Off Navarin 035° 05' 022° 56'  
PERSEUS. Off Argostoli 035° 50' 20° 04'  
TRUANT. 036° 04' 021° 30' Off Argostoli.  
(Capt. S.1. 1801B/11 to Med. Fleet).

DERNA  
(Italian)

Arrival 11th.  
(Barcelona, 1817/11 to M. of W.T.).

UPRIGHT  
SOKOL.

Leave patrol 0001B/14 through 039° 05' 017° 30'  
037° 46' 016° 06' and 035° 51' 015° 15' to  
arrive Malta 0730B/16. SOKOL leaves (?last)  
position about 2100B/12 through 038° 20' 018°  
15' thence to position A.  
(Capt. S.10 1595B/11 to UPRIGHT).

Tobruk  
raid and  
mining.

C.A.F.O. 587/40 para. 4.  
(A) 0330 - 0530/11 cloud slight (B) 12 aircraft.  
Moon 3rd quarter. (C) Combined bombing and  
minelaying (D) 2 mines with parachutes in boom  
entrance (1 blue magnetic swept A.M./11) 1 mine  
with parachute outside boom (red magnetic swept  
A.M./11) 2 type C self detonated ashore.  
Believed 3 type G laid in harbour.  
(E) to (K) Nil. Mines believed laid 6th and  
8/12 in harbour.  
(S.B.N.O. Tobruk 2101B/11 to Admty.).

/HOBART.....

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

HOBART.

Your 1121B/9. HOBART is to be sailed for Colombo as soon as complete with fuel pending decision as to her destination which is under discussion between C. in C. Eastern Fleet and A.C.N.B.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2235A/11 to C. in C. Med.)

Tobruk movements.

8/12. Arrival YARRA. FLAMINGO departure YARRA. 10/12 arrival M.T.Bs., Nos. 215 and 68, departure WOLBOROUGH, 30TRA, "A" 100, "A" 9, "A" 4, LESBOS, DARIEN. (2).  
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2359B/11, to Admty.)

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.LAWRENCE.

Departure p.m./11 LAWRENCE with dredger in tow for Bombay. Route  $010^{\circ} 04' 076^{\circ} 00' 016^{\circ} 37' 071^{\circ} 49'$  thence direct, knots 6.  
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 0238Z/11 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.)

WINDSOR  
CASTLE.

Your 0204/5. WINDSOR CASTLE expect to complete 6/1.  
(S.S.T.O. India, 0644Z/11 to D. of S.T.)

Convoys  
B.A.11.  
B.P.31.  
W.S.12Z.B.

My 1215/14/11. B.A.11 ex Bombay 15/12 cancel YOMA. Following additional moves are being arranged Bombay. Suez 25/12 2 Personnel ships ASCANIUS, YOMA Bombay Basra. B.P.31, 9 Personnel ships about 6/1, sailing date depends on arrival date of W.S. 12Z.B.  
(S.S.T.O. India, 1137Z/11 to C. in C. E.I.)

Shipping.

Propose to issue instructions that C.A.M.S.I. article 487 applies to all ships of 10 knots and above proceeding independently in area 3B East of longitude  $70^{\circ}$  E. and also those proceeding eastward out of this area.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1248Z/11 to Admty. rep. C. in C. Eastern Fleet, R.A. Malaya, F.O. Red Sea.)

West African  
Troop Movement.

N.O.i/c. East London has reported date of completion of LAFONIA to be 1/2/42. Proposal to use her as in A.M. 1536/9 is not therefore practicable. Subject to C. in C. S.A. being able to provide escort, propose that the 466 West African troops should proceed from Massawa to join ALMANZORA at either Mombasa or Durban. ALMANZORA's present programme is to arrive Mombasa about 15/12 and Durban about 24/12. Destination in West Africa will probably be Takoradi.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1910A/11 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., etc.)  
See also South Atlantic.

Shipping  
Diversion.

A.C.N.S. (T), 2311A/11.  
See South Atlantic.

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.PRINCE OF WALES, REPULSE, fighter protection.*[See also 1945/13 and 1939/14 pp. 423, 426]*

Ref. 1701/10 from Chief of Staff, Eastern Fleet. Owing to military situation Fighter protection could not be provided for PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE on Wednesday 10/12. C. in C. Eastern Fleet was informed to this effect at 2253 G H (?/ ) 8. (C. in C. E.F., 0155Z/11 to Admty.) Preliminary report REPULSE loss of 27 officers and 486 men. The survivors number 42 officers and 754 men. (C. in C. E.F., 0801Z/11.) Approx. 130 officers and 2200 ratings have been saved from PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE. (C. in C. E.F., 1131Z/11 to Admty.)

Malaya.

Situation Report.  
(G.O.C. Malaya, 0325/11 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

Hong Kong.

Situation Report.  
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0942/11 to C. in C. F.E., and W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

Enemy Intelligence.

(Groups missing)  
(a) 1400Z/10 a number of ships of which largest one probably aircraft carrier sighted by S/M in 003° 30' S. and 109° 25' E. steering south 12 knots.  
(b) 0013/11, sighted by aircraft in 005° 03' S. and 111° 25' E. unknown cruiser steering west (? 12 knots).  
(c) Air R/C from (? Tanjong Priok) and Sourabaya is being maintained today, and (spare groups) ordered tonight attack aircraft carrier if possible.  
(d) ? has been sent to eastern part of Java Sea. Division S/M 3 from Celebes Sea to South China Sea south of Equator. Division S/M 4 remain in position 60 miles north of Carimata Strait. 2 destroyers from Sumbaba to Celebes Sea. ? and 2 destroyers staying near Sumbaba.  
(Singapore, 0621Z/11 to Admty., A.C.N.B.)

Tobi bombed.

Six Australian Hudsons from Amboina bombed Tobi (approx. 003° N. 131° E.) a.m./10. (? 22) direct hits or near misses on storehouse with 250 and 100 pound bombs. One Hudson crashed after take off.  
(C/S Singapore, 0801Z/11.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

0325/11th Dec. IN

From G.O.C. Malaya

Date 10.12.41

CYPHER

Recd. 2310

Addressed The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE

018430. 26903. Cypher 10/12.

Sitrops 1430 hrs. G.M.T.

Kelantan. 8 Bde. Gp. reorganised and reported nearly intact. No longer in contact with enemy. Moving to-morrow to position covering Machang. Estimated one enemy division now landed in this area. Guillemard Railway Bridge over Kelantan River blown by us. Our troops in excellent spirits.

Kedah. Contact made 0430 hrs. G.M.T. with enemy just north of Changlun. Enemy have pressed on. One Bn. Ghurkah occupying Asun position 10 miles south of Changlun. No contact in Perlis. Alor Star Aerodrome in process of demolition. Sungei Patani Kuala Ketil Lubok Klap Aerodromes being prepared for demolition if necessary.

Krohcol reached 34 k.m. on road Kroh-Yala this morning. Slight opposition encountered.

Penang. Demolition of civil aerodrome started. Three air attacks during day little damage.

Kuantan. No further attacks reported. Aerodrome partially denied. One runway being left open for the present.

A.I.F. Signal detachment Johore Mily Forces at Mersing destroyed instruments and abandoned station. Have been disarmed by A.I.F.

Singapore Fortress. Considerable quantity gelignite and detonators stolen from Hume Pipe Co. to-day. One squadron N.E.I. Glen Martins returned, to Batavia for night flying training.

Sarawak. Landing ground Miri permanently denied to enemy.

'General

General. Heavy scale of enemy air attack has made majority of Northern Aerodromes unusable. (Cable No. 0113 T.O.O. 0110 11/12).

0325/11

Advance Copy - 1st Lord, N.A. 1st S.L.  
Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Received from War Office 0004/11

Circulated by War Office

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1st S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
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A.C.N.S. (T)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House  
D.N.A.D.  
M. (A)  
D.N.L.O. (2)  
A.L. (3)  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D.N.I. (4)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.T.D. (H)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D.of P. (3)  
D.A/S.W.  
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W.D.  
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Admiral Bellairs  
Admiral Chalmers  
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Head of War Registry (Admiralty)

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

0942/11th December.

FROM: G.O.C.Hong Kong.

Date: 11.12.41.

Recd: 0945

CYPHER.ADDRESSED: C. in C.Far East and War Office, Repeated  
C.G.S.Ottawa.

IMMEDIATE.

018541 1743 cipher 11/12.

Situation. Confirmed fighting in the Shing Mun Redoubt Area resulted eventually in enemy progress being confined to a pocket south of Jubilee Reservoir. Attempts of enemy to break through towards Gaipo Road from that pocket were beaten off by fire. Position however called for readjustment of line south west of Jubilee Reservoir as two Coys. of the three available for local counter attacks had been used. At dusk readjustment carried out successfully and Royal Scots now on strong Goeden Hill line to Lai Chi Kok Peninsula. Remainder of front not troubled. R.A.F. Station Kai Tak evacuated after demolition remaining two planes and immovable machinery as no possibility of operating. Aerodrome obstructed and still guarded by Company of H.K.V.D.C. Minor enemy Cruiser and Destroyer movements south of Island but no approaches within range. Our patrol vessels active but frequently dive bombed during spasmodic air action lasting eight hours of the day. One enemy aircraft forced landed on sea. No enemy air activities by night but desultory shelling of island from Q.F. guns located Kam Tin Aerodrome site. Four hits on Bowen Road Hospital. Casualties slight throughout twentyfour hour period. One Company Winnipeg Grenadiers still in reserve with Kowloon Infantry Brigade and not yet employed. Present mainland dispositions being maintained.

0942/11.

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

D.D.I.C.

Recd by Hand from War Office at  
1901/11

P.T.O.

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

2.

.TO:- M.O.10.(for action)

Circulated by War Office to

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Admiral Chalmers.	
E.F.S.	
D.T.S.D.	
N.I.D.10.	

MOST SECRET



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1702/11th December

IN

From Advanced H.Q.M.C.

Date 12.12.41.

Recd. 0215.

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office Repeated G.H.Q.F.E. C. in C. E.F.  
A.O.C. Lancaster A.D.C. to Governor.

MOST IMMEDIATE

018756 26933 cipher 11/12.

Sitrep 1430 hours G.M.T.

Kelantan. 8 Bde. group now in position covering Machang and in good fettle. Enemy activity limited to patrols. No enemy Air activity possibly due to heavy rain.

Keday. Enemy infiltration continues in Changlun area mainly East of road Changlun Alor Star. Advanced troops 11 Ind. Div. now South of Changlun Kodiang. No enemy reported in Kodiang area. Krohcol reported at 35 k.m. on road Kroh Yala.

Penang. Air attacks today fairly heavy but no change reported to fixed defences and no military casualties. Civilian casualties estimated 100 killed 500 in hospital 500 minor injuries. A.R.P. reported good. Bombs used appeared to be 60 kilo incendiaries and 40 lb. (A.P.) Aerodrome demolished by us.

Trengganu. Reports during the night that enemy had landed at Dungun and Kuala Trengganu are still unconfirmed air Recco. on East Coast to Kuala Trengganu observed no special coastal activities. Visibility bad.

Kuantan Johore Singapore Fortress. Nothing to report.

Sarawak. Denial Lutong refinery Miri and Seria Oilfields reported complete. Orders have been issued for movement of Lutong Garrison to Kuching.

General. Main features of enemy tactics experienced so far are rapid infiltration and immediate outflanking any defence. Attacks supported by co-operating aircraft giving accurate direction to quick firing arty. lighter than our mtn. gun. M.M.G. and mortar described as very accurate. Marked ability to push on even over most difficult country.

Well/.....

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

Well supplied with Tommy guns. Other air activities. Recco. of Songkla on 9/12 revealed 61 aircraft on aerodrome. Great number of fighters Navy 96 and Navy '0' type. Bombers were JU88 or Navy 96. 221 group reported Tavoy bombed by 16 E/All no casualties. Burgroup reported photo recco. of Don Muang Bangkok aerodrome by A.F.G. 11 showed large concentration of 80/100 A/C.

1702/11.

Received by War Registry at 0725/12.

War Office Circulation:-

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| D.P.D.                     |                                     |

EMI.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Eastern  
Fleet,  
policy.

On assuming command my broad policy to meet present situation is as follows:  
(2) We are back in period before relief, our object must therefore be -  
(a) Hold as much of Malaya as possible to secure Singapore as a base for Eastern Fleet.  
(b) Keep trade moving.  
(c) Effect maximum damage by air and submarine on enemy.  
(3) To effect this we require all possible reinforcement of Submarines, Minesweepers, and Destroyers, in addition to whatever air reinforcements can be provided.  
(4) Battleships should not come further than Colombo until accompanied by Cruisers, Destroyers, and air.  
(5) I realize difficulty in meeting all demands but if Singapore is to be held we must have necessary forces with which to do it.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0833Z/11 to Admty.)

Lights.

All navigation lights Singapore Strait, Singapore, Malaya Strait, Penang, East and West Coast of Malaya, Coasts of Borneo and Sarawak and Netherlands East Indies, are liable to be extinguished without further notice.  
(R.A. Malaya, 0843Z/11 to China Station, Admty.)

Hong Kong  
Report.

Events past three days. Monday (8th) eight bombing attacks. CICALA and TERN dive-bombed repeatedly but no damage or casualties. Tuesday (9th) few bombing attacks one A.P.V. slight damage from near miss. Wednesday (10th) bombing attacks continued, CICALA one hit aft but little damage. Stonecutters shelled for 6 hours. Thursday (11th) 0100, long range gun shelled town Hong Kong Island for 2 hours. Three hits on Military Hospital. Stonecutters W/T station one hit by bomb. Little damage.  
(Commodore, Hong Kong, 0945HI/11 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

ACHILLES.

Ref. your 1042M/8 to C. in C. China (not to Admiralty or A.C.N.B.) In view of the adverse circumstances will you please cancel detachment of ACHILLES to 2nd Destroyer Flotilla and give her any orders you wish.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1031Z/11 to N.Z.N.B.)

/Manila ...

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Manila  
Communications.  
THANET,  
SCOUT.

Your 1157/11. Are you still receiving messages from C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and other authorities via this commercial service? If so forward those concerning me. Nothing received by any route from Manila originated later than 0500Z/10. News particularly desired of THANET and SCOUT who have not reported their arrival there.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1617Z/11 to A.C.N.B.)  
Reply, see Australia, 2359Z/11.

Refrigerated  
Ships.

My 1915A/10. If possible ULYSSES and any other refrigerated ships at Singapore should be sailed to Australia to load.  
(D.T.D., 1715A/11 to C. in C. E.F.)

Net Defences.

Johore Straits Naval Base west wall. A.T. Nets have been established between the following positions. Bearing and distance from fixed red light on north-west corner of (? dockyard):-  
(A) Eastern end 322° 880 feet. (B) Western end 300° 30' 1180 feet. The eastern end will be marked by a fixed red light (unreliable). Insert after west wall "charts affected numbers 2586, F (? 019), and (? F) 0128."  
(Cdre. Malaya, 1945Z/11 to China Stn.)

Need for  
Long Range  
Bombers.

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Ref. C.O.F. No.53 of 9/12. Fully understand about night fighters and am grateful for action indicated in your para. 3.  
2. I must press again the importance of our having long range bombers here. These required not with object of gaining air superiority directly but of causing material damage, thereby helping to put Japanese Air Force on defensive by forcing them to withdraw some fighters from Southern Thailand in order to protect objectives to which they attach great importance. Such objectives most likely to be found in Southern Indo-China, one being aerodromes.  
3. In view of loss of PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE increased need for long distance bombers so that we can (4 groups missing) with which to attack in addition to submarines. C. in C. E.F. concurs.  
(C. in C. Far East, 2025/11 to W.O.)

OSORNO  
(German)

Reported to have returned to her anchorage at Yokohama on 2/12 after repairs and temporary accommodation had been completed. No armaments were visible.  
(D.S., 828, 11/12.)

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Washington Report.

D.M.O. from G. Ops.

1. Philippines. Unofficial report states Japanese air forces raided Manila night 8/9 December. Major Japanese attack developed at Luzon. With Naval and Air support landings made on N.W. coast from Fernanda Point to Vigan and at Aparri in the North. U.S. Air Force claims one enemy transport sunk and two severely damaged. Naval base at Cavite bombed and extensive damage caused. U.S. Commanding General reports that there are indications Japanese dive-bombers are at least partly manned by white pilots. Owing to bomb damage at Clark Field proposed air attack Formosa was cancelled.

2. Hawaii. 2315 hours. 9/12 short air raid alarm at Honolulu.

3. Pacific Coast. During the night 9/10 Dec. further air raid alarms at San Francisco.

4. Atlantic Coast. New York and district had two air raid alarms afternoon 9/12, no confirmation there were enemy planes in vicinity.

5. Guam. No further reports.

6. Wake. Confused reports impossible to state definitely whether Japanese have landed or merely bombed or shelled island.

7. Mexico. U.S. have been granted unlimited air recco. over Lower California. Mexican Govt., has agreed to installation of R.D.F. Stas.

(Brit. Joint Staff Mission, Washington, 0025/11 to W.O.)

Whaling Ship.

Norwegian Whaling Factory ship with seaplane aboard 70 miles due west Callao. Killer boat THORFJELL came in for supplies. (Bermuda, 0030Q/11 to Admty.)

Shipping Pacific.

Trans-Pacific Shipping may be resumed, ships being given widely dispersed routes South of 045° S. 160° W. thence Wellington. Coastal Merchant Ship Traffic in Pacific North of Panama may also be resumed.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 0043Q/11 to C.S.A. Panama.)

My 1031/11 (N.T. in W.D.) U.S. Naval Authorities have now cancelled previous orders and are still holding North Pacific coastal traffic: convoy arrangements are being made. Although contrary to your 0043Q/11, have agreed to holding ONTARIOLITE, only British Merchant Ship immediately affected.

(C.S.A. Panama, 1201/11 to C. in C. A.W.I., rep. Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Shipping,  
Pacific.  
(Contd.)

Your 0043/11. U.S.C.N.O. has ordered resumption of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama and also resumption of trans-pacific shipping on widely dispersed routes pass well to Southward. All ships for Far East to be routed east of Christmas Island, south of ?(Samoa), south of Suva and South around Australia. 2. These instructions have been given by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to N.C.S.O's West coast U.S.A. and Canada, with instructions to route British and Allied shipping same way. Masters being warned to take every precaution. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1507Z/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

→ DIOMEDE,  
DESPATCH,  
BISHOPDALE.

B.A.D. 2001/10 being passed to Cmdre. W.I. and S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica.  
(i) Intend (a) DIOMEDE to co-operate until relieved by DESPATCH.  
(b) DESPATCH leaves Jamaica p.m./13 so as to transit Canal 15/12 and relieve DIOMEDE.  
(c) DIOMEDE proceed to Bermuda as soon after relief as possible.  
(ii) It had been intended to send oiler BISHOPDALE to attend on DESPATCH in Pacific. Request B.A.D. ascertain from (? Opnav) whether this is now desired.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1001Q/11 to Admty., Cdre. W.I., B.A.D., DIOMEDE.)

Martinique  
St. Lucia.

U.S. Authorities report Adm. Hoover is ordering the surrender of all Naval and Military Armaments in Martinique immediately, otherwise Islands will be bombed. Probable state of emergency will be proclaimed St. Lucia p.m. today. In these circumstances request confirmation of your 1646Q/10 blackout is being established on Island.  
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1116Q/11 to C. in C. A.W.I., rep. Admty., etc.)

→ INDOMITABLE.  
DESPATCH.

My 1452R/9. Operation postponed 24 hours to await arrival of DESPATCH. Request confirmation that night attack may be carried out after 0001 Tuesday. Aircraft would indicate moment of releasing smoke float bombs by switching on navigational lights. Request R.N.A.S. Piarco, Trinidad, may be ready to receive aircraft in case of emergency landing. (INDOMITABLE, 1225R/11 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Trans-  
Pacific  
Shipping.Cancel my 2045A/10.  
(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S. (T), 1227A/11  
to B.A.D.)DIDO.C. in C. A.W.I. 1842Q/6. Unless C. in C.  
Med. directs otherwise DIDO should proceed  
to Gibraltar.  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1334A/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)BADDECK.C.C.N.F., 1437Z/11. See Home Commands  
(Shipping).War with  
Germany  
& Italy.Following received from Secnav. Execute  
WPL 46 against Germany and Italy in addition  
to Japan. Advise Naval Authorities.  
(Spenavo, London, 1451/11 to Admty, London,  
Group 15.)GARLAND.My 2020/5 (? 2028/5 intended). Defects  
GARLAND completed.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1520Z/11 to N.S.H.Q.,  
rep. Admty., etc.)Lights.General Broadcast. All ships warned that U.S.  
east coast and Caribbean lights controlled by  
U.S. are liable to be extinguished and radio  
beacons to cease operation without further  
notice.  
(Bermuda W/T, 1537Q/11.)PRINCE DAVID.N.S.H.Q. 1556Z/10. PRINCE DAVID with Naval  
Draft 47 ratings, and 70 tons stores for  
Bermuda will sail from Halifax p.m./12.  
E.T.A. Bermuda a.m. Sunday 14/12.  
(C.O.A.C., 1551Z/11 to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)Chile, war  
policy.Chilean Government has decided to decree that  
U.S. and other American countries which have  
already or may declare themselves at war with  
Japan will not be considered potential  
Belligerents. C. in C. A.W.I. pass to  
R.A.S.A.D.  
(N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1640/11 to Admiralty  
for D.N.I.)H.X.164.  
O.N. 45.My 1701/8 delete EBERLE. My 1512/10, for  
GLEAVES substitute WILKES.  
(Opnav, 1701/11 to Admty.)

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.NASTURTIUM.

My 1742/10. NASTURTIUM can be accepted at Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co. Mobile Alabama, now. Report date of arrival. She is to meet pilot at 0800 zone 6 time at Mobile Bay entrance buoy.  
(B.A.R.M., 1740R/11 to C.C.N.F., Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. W.A., NASTURTIUM.)

Chilean Navy.

My 1830/9. Distribution of Chilean Naval Units is being altered. Three destroyers to be based on Arica, Tocopilla, Chanaral respectively and possibly a fourth at Coquimbo. Chilean destroyer ALMIRANTE CONDELL will be based on Puerto Montt. Chilean battleship ALMIRANTE LATORRE with one or two destroyers at either Valparaiso or Talcahuano. Submarines and Depot ship ARAUSWELLO and cruiser ~~ARAUSWELLO~~ as in my 1830/9. ARAUSWELLO will take 6" guns south for mounting in Magellan Straits. Chilean Naval Training ship LAUTARO, ex PRIWALL, on passage to San Pedro with cargo of nitrate has been ordered to return to Chile. Chilean Navy is calling for 1,400 volunteers who will be recruited from ex Naval ratings and if necessary will call up recent conscript contingent to complete number required.  
(N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1810/11 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D., etc.)

Washington Report.

## Washops 1.

(i) Philippines. Army aircraft claim hit on battleship HARUNA class North of Luzon. Landing attempts continue in North Luzon. Enemy ashore at mouth of Cagayan River, between San Fernando and Vigon 6 enemy transports attacked by U.S. planes. 3 ships direct hit one sank at once. p.m./10 45 minutes raid Manila by 35 high level and unknown number dive-bombers. Main damage Cavite. U.S. Army Commander reports Japanese have overwhelming preponderance of air strength and consider if pressure continues U.S. Air Force will be wiped out by attrition. State of U.S. Army Air Force in Philippine Is. reported as follows (details).  
(ii) Hawaii. No important development. Shortage of 50 calibre ammunition reported. Petrol reserves estimated 4 to 6 months.  
(iii) Midway Is. and Wake. Midway Is. had one bombardment on 8/12 by 6-inch cruiser or destroyer and one raid today Thursday. Wake bombed 4 times, shelled once. 3 enemy planes destroyed. Claim one cruiser and one destroyer sunk. Several cruisers and destroyers with transports reported in vicinity. Landing operations possibly impending. Both stations still in communication and resisting.



War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Washington  
Report.  
(Contd.)

(iv) Number 12 naval district reports LURLINE at 0800 local time 7/12 heard CYNTHIA OLSEN give S O S, attacked by submarine on surface in 033° 42' N. 145° 29' W.  
(Joint Staff Mission, Washington, 1831R/11 to Admty., W.O. and Air Min.)

Japanese  
Miniature  
S/M's.

Following from N.C.S.O. San Francisco (Begins): U.S. Navy Most Secret report follows "Japanese are using off coast of Honolulu miniature 50 foot S/Ms carrying 4 torpedoes, crew of 2 and of small range evidently launched from ship. One was captured off coast of Hawaii Island". T.O.O. 0100Z/11 (Ends).  
(B.A.D., 1845R/11 to Admty., rep. A.W.I., A.C.N.B., etc.)

Naval  
Strength.

British requirements. Reply to B.A.D. 2037/16/10.  
(1st S.L., 1954A/11 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

U.S.  
Patrols.

Amend my 1719/30/11 and 2031/1/12. OMAHA, SOMERS, diverted to vicinity Fernando Noronha whence proceeding to Trinidad. MEMPHIS, DAVIS, patrol interrupted 10/12. Destination also Trinidad where both groups arrive 17/12 refuel for service as assigned. See my 2157/10.  
(Opnav, 2208/11 to Admty.)

MACBETH.

Following from MACBETH (begins): Latitude 50.00 N. Longitude 31.00 W., position critical, assistance imperative, towing, otherwise must abandon ship 1827/11. (Ends). Tug ZWARTE ZEE has been informed.  
(D.T.D., 2230Z/11 to Opnav.)

Ex-U.S.  
S/M's.  
P.511, P.551.

At request of Admiral (Submarines) Admty. would be grateful if following message could be passed to Commander S/Ms., Atlantic Fleet, (begins): Glad to be able to tell you that the two S/Ms. you have recently turned over to us arrived this side without a single engine defect. Most grateful to you for turning them over in such splendid condition. (Ends).  
(Head of M., 2240Z/11 to Opnav.)

/Vichy ...

**MOST SECRET** MESSAGE **OUT**

1954A/11th December.

TO: B.A.D. Washington. 894.

Date: 11.12.41.

Naval Cypher O.T.T.

FROM: Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

(Admiral Little Personal from First Sea Lord)

Your 2037/16/10.

A. Your para (i). The numbers given in B.H.(41) 14 were based on requirements in British areas of responsibility in A.B.C.- 1 and British Commonwealth commitments for local defence in other areas. A more careful analysis expanded into agreed categories has now been completed and the figures given in column 12 of Enclosure 1 to Annex I of B.H.(41) 14 remain substantially the same for destroyers and below. Full details together with basic strategic arguments will be forwarded shortly for your use in connection with 3rd Lend-Lease appropriation.

B. Further examination shows that figures in Enclosure 1 to Annex I of B.H.(41) 14 for capital ships, aircraft carriers and cruisers require revision. Since all building capacity for these types in U.S.A. is presumably already fully occupied by 2 Ocean Navy programme it is not intended to include these categories in 3rd Lend-Lease appropriation. Revised figures will however be forwarded shortly for your use at further Victory Requirements discussions.

C. Your para (ii). Assumption correct.

D. Your para (iii) et seq. We imagine that politically it is most unlikely that in the larger categories the U.S.A. can be persuaded to curtail their 2 ocean Navy programme and to build for us instead. Concur therefore in the three possible solutions in your para. (vii) (a), (b) and (c).

E. As regards your solution (vii) (a) we feel that there is only one British area in A B C - 1 which can reasonably be turned over wholly to American control namely South Atlantic area. This transfer will not by itself be sufficient to compensate for American naval surplus envisaged by 2 ocean Naval programme. Balance must therefore be used by attaching ships to British areas with or without American crews as in your (vii) (b) and (c).

**MOST SECRET**

Your/

F. Your (vii) (b) involves mixed forces contrary to the spirit of A B C - 1 but the U.S.A. have already accepted this departure in the case of destroyers in Far East area. Though in general we do not like the idea of having single ships larger than destroyers manned by U.S. crews in our areas, solution might lie in attachment of a squadron of American capital ships, aircraft carriers and cruisers to forces in one of our areas e.g. Eastern Fleet.

G. Your (vii) (c). This solution would appear feasible provided U.S.A. would agree so to divert some of their own new construction in time for us to raise and train crews. We should, therefore, require a firm decision much earlier than in solution (vii) (b).

H. Your para.(ix). Concur that solution must lie in combination of courses but we do not wish to exclude expedient in your (vii) (c).

I. Your para.(x). This proposal is no more than what we have already asked the Americans to do vide B.H.(41) 14, page 3, para 7 (a). We feel that it is most unlikely that, even if the U.S.A. carry out this procedure, they will at present curtail their 2 ocean programme in consequence.

J. Your letter of 6th November. B.H.(41) 14. was meant to convey that the first ten destroyers should be delivered by repeat by July 1943. We could probably man some of these in the latter half of 1942 and would therefore gladly accept delivery of ships build to U.S. account by this date if it could be arranged. Please use your discretion in this matter.

K. The above was drafted before the Japanese attack but I still feel you would wish to have our views although recent events may modify the weight given to some of the arguments.

1st Lord.		1954/11.
1st S.L.(2)	Asst. Sec. 1st S.L. 357.	
2nd. S.L.		Admiral Bellairs.
3rd. S.L.	D.D.O.D.(H)	D.C.(2)
4th S.L.	D.O.D.(F)	Hd. of M.
5th S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F)	D.T.S.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I.(4)	D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.S.D.	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.N.A.D.	D.T.D.(2)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	D. of L.D.	N.I.D.10.
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.A/S.W.	D.G.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.M.S.	Sec.
D. of P.(2)	I.P.(2)	P.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(H)	W.D.	Admiral Bailey.

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Vichy  
Warships,  
Martinique.

My (10277) Commander Caribbean Coastal Frontier has issued operations orders as follows. Ind. Fort de France are BARFLEUR, EMILE BERTIN, BEARN, JEANNE D'ARC in Guadeloupe, all may attempt escape homeland or take offensive action.

Task capture or destroy French war vessels that leave Port.

Group 6.3.8. WASP, SAVANNAH, BROOKLYN, STERRETT, WILSON, STACK, station one destroyer and one cruiser off Guadeloupe and remainder eastward Martinique.

6.3.1. BARNEY, BLAKELEY watch entrance Fort de France. Trail and report movements.

6.3.2. VP 31 reconnoitre French harbours daily at dawn and other times, be prepared for search and attack, army bombers ready to assist.

6.3.3. S.12, S.16 guard entrance Point a Pitre, base Prince Rupert Bay, Dominica.

Order effective on receipt.

(Opnav, 2255/11 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

ASTRAL.

U.S. Navy requests information U.S. ASTRAL believed 6 days overdue Lisbon from Aruba. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2303Z/11 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.Lights.

Australian C.B.0211. Procedure for controlling lights in Torres Straits will come into force at sunset on Tuesday 16/12. Issue of necessary pass groups to begin forthwith.

(A.C.N.B., 0545Z/11 to (All concerned with Australian C.B. 0211.))

W.M.11. All ships are warned that New Zealand coastal navigation lights are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice.

(S.O.I. Wellington, 1004M/11 to all W.M. addressees.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.11.12.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.Shipping.

Your 1041Q/10. Ref. B.A.D. Washington 1307R/9; consider shipping can sail now provided vessels are routed south of 45° S., 160° W. thence to Wellington. (N.O. Wellington, 1130M/11 to Admty., rep. B.A.D., A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Manila  
Communi-  
cations.

Naval Board opened high speed commercial (as received) service with Manila on 8/12 and this is still in operation. (A.C.N.B., 1157Z/11 to C. in C. E.F.)  
Your 1617/11. Am in constant touch with Manila via this commercial service. Manila has been informed that official messages can be accepted in Australia for onward transmission to any authority. Enquiries are being made concerning ship mentioned. (A.C.N.B., 2359Z/11 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Repeated, B.A.D. Washington, Admty., Capt. on Staff Singapore.)

Shipping for  
Australia.

Pass to N.C.S.O.'s. Cancel my O112A/9. Shipping between U.K. and Australia and New Zealand is to be routed via Panama. Shipping which has already been diverted via the Cape and any shipping committed to the Cape route is to continue as arranged. (A.C.N.S. (T), 1228A/11 to A.I.G.19, A.I.G.26, C's in C. etc.)

Japanese  
Landings.

S/Ms reported east Abaiang Gilbert Isle, course south of 0135 G.M.T./11 graded B.2. (2) Japanese landing at Tarawa Island and Makin Island confirmed. Further landing at Makin 2157 G.M.T./10th. Grade B.1 (3) 3 Japanese warships reported at Tarawa Island 0500Z/10 possibly one cruiser and 2 destroyers. Further report states destroyer left Tarawa Island after dark. Graded B.1 except for type of warship which is C.2. (N.Z.N.B., 1246Z/11 to A.C.N.B., R.N.O. Suva, Fiji.)

War Diary.

11.12.41.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.ROSABELLE,  
LADY SHIRLEY.

Sunk, probably torpedoed. See North Atlantic.

LURLINE <sup>?CYNTHIA OLSON.</sup>  
(American.) <sup>P.355</sup>Attacked by U/B at 0800 local time 7/12,  
33.42 N., 145° 29' W. (See America & West  
Indies, 1831R/11.)S.C.57.  
STAR OF LUXOR.  
KURDISTAN.  
KIRNWOOD.

2 ships torpedoed, both still afloat, salvage possible. LADY ELSA, LE TIGER standing by. (SUNFLOWER, 0201/11 to C. in C.W.A.) Two ships torpedoed and still afloat in 57° 03' N., 16° 38' W. ST.OLAVES is being diverted to Lough Foyle and ANGLE is being sailed from Greenock to Lough Foyle. When both ships arrive request you will sail them with FRISKY to assist.

(F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0443A/11, to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Request you will sail ST.OLAVES with despatch to R/V with FRISKY at Lough Foyle. ANGLE is being sailed from Greenock to R/V with the two Tugs there.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0445A/11 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

On arrival of ANGLE at Lough Foyle 1630 today, ANGLE, FRISKY and ST.OLAVES are to proceed in company to assist two unknown ships torpedoed and afloat 57° 03' N., 16° 38' W., at 2330A/10.

ST.OLAVES will arrive Lough Foyle 1230 today.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock,\*0955A/11, to FRISKY, ST.OLAVES, ANGLE, LE TIGER, LADY ELSA, SUNFLOWER, Rept. N.O.I.C. Londonderry, C. in C.W.A., Admty., R.T.) \*Cancelled - See next page.

Your 0955A/11. Unknown ship mentioned STAR OF LUXOR sank 0305Z. KURDISTAN still afloat at 0915Z but sinking fast and considered a total loss.

(SUNFLOWER, 1155Z/11, to N.O.I.C.Greenock.)

STAR OF LUXOR, 5298 tons, Philadelphia to Liverpool with general cargo. KURDISTAN, 5844 tons, New York to Manchester with food and general. (D.S.829.)

Ref. W.A.C.I. (?84) and my 2230Z/10 and my 0201Z/11. (A) 2200Z/10 (?steering) 57° 03' N., 16° 38' W., (B) ~~FENNEL~~. (C) STAR OF LUXOR, 52 survivors aboard ALISMA. ~~KIRNWOOD~~ (KIRNWOOD)at least 39 aboard KINGCUP, ? ALISMA, LE TIGER, NELLIE, and DEWSBURY. KURDISTAN still afloat 0900Z/11, consider total loss, 32 aboard KINGCUP. (D) ~~LISSEL~~. (E) LADY ELSA, LE TIGER, standing by KURDISTAN. (F) Convoy in 2 parts. SABRE and FENNEL with 7 ships including BENLOMOND straggler from H.X.162. (G) Position and weather report.

(SUNFLOWER, 1200Z/11, to C. in C.W.A.)

KIRNWOOD, 3829 tons, New York to Ipswich with grain. (D.S.829.)

S.C.57 STAR OF LUXOR sank 0305Z/11 and KURDISTAN 1305Z/11. (LADY ELSA, 1315Z/11, to C. in C.W.A.)

/Cancel.....

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11.12.1941.  
Thursday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.C. 57.  
STAR OF LUXOR.  
KURDISTAN.  
KIRNWOOD.  
Contd.Cancel my 0955A/11, ships reported sinking. FRISKY and ANGLE are to remain in Lough Foyle until further orders. ST. OLAVES is to proceed to Loch Ewe to recover starboard anchor thence to Stornoway.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1553A/11 to tugs named.)

See p. 332

FJORD.  
(torpedoed  
2/12.)Norway Consul Seville has given Consul Seville following information revising sinking of Norwegian FJORD off Estepona. 2nd mate states ship was in territorial waters when hit about 2½ miles from Estepona. He stated he was certain torpedo came from landward.  
(A.N.A. Madrid, 1240/11, to Admty.)Submarines Reported.Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.  
(D.D.I.C. 1418A/11, 1419A/11.)

0930Z.

Bearing by D/F 0930Z/11, U-boat 069° 18' 036° 42' E.  
(S.B.N.O., North Russia, 1432C/11, to Admty., rep. KENT.)

1713A.

1 S/M - 328 - 5 - 325 STV 36.  
(HESPERUS, 1713A/11, to Gibraltar.)A.M./11.R.D.F. bearings A.M./11 indicate at least one submarine in area approx., bounded by 44° N., to 47° N., and 31° W., to 40° W.  
(Opnav, 1855/11, to Admty.)Submarines Attacked.By GLEAVES.Sound contact by GLEAVES at 1645 GCT 10/12. 45-50 N., 53-35 W. Made deliberate attack. Contact lost and not regained after half-hour search.  
(Opnav, 0645Z/11, to Admty.)By FARNDALE.(AMMIRAGLIO CARACCIOLO)FARNDALE reports sinking Italian U-boat in 032° 09' N., 025° 19' E., at 0430B/11 and taking prisoner 6 officers and 47 ratings.  
(C. in C. Med., 0844B/11, to Admty.)

/By A/C.....

War Diary.

11.12.1941.  
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.Contd.

By A/C.

Following has been read: Am over enemy S/M in 60.57 N., 12.57 W. When last seen enemy S/M was on surface and observed to dive. (A/C 1307/11.)

By HARVESTER.

HARVESTER 1955A/11. See North Atlantic. Following has been read. WWW My 1309. One S/M, enemy course is (?) 170°. A A A attacked with front guns. (Liverpool W/T, 1311/11.)



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.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The channels of communication between the British and U.S. Navies are described in Admty. 1214A/12 to C.in C. S.A.

The Cabinet Defence Committee (Supply) have agreed that the highest priority should be accorded to the production of fighter aircraft necessary to equip and maintain the armoured aircraft carriers of the Royal Navy. The present forecast deliveries will leave the Admiralty in a most embarrassing position early next year. Deliveries are required to be at least doubled.

Home Commands.

Operation "Kitbag" was abandoned early this morning.

MANXMAN left Milford Haven this afternoon for Gibraltar with a special cargo.

Ice conditions at Archangel are rendering the future handling of convoys there extremely problematical. It is feared that unless pressure is exerted the local optimism in favour of Archangel will result in Murmansk not being ready for convoy discharge when required.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked Le Havre docks and Brest. Coastal Command aircraft today attacked shipping off the coast of Holland and France, and Donges Oil Refinery at St. Nazaire.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. GLENPARK reported at 1754 being gunned off Milford Haven.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

S.S. DROMORE CASTLE in Convoy F.N.576 was mined and sunk this morning in 53° 29' 8" N. 0° 52' 0" E.

Plymouth, Portland, Portsmouth and Dover have each been ordered to send a M/S Trawler group to the Humber to reinforce Nore Command (see 11/12).

Normal working was resumed in the Bristol Channel from 1100 today.

North Atlantic.

LOCH OSKAIG on patrol off Lisbon reported being bombed at 0955 A today in 38° 37' N. 10° 33' W. Some damage was caused, but LOCH OSKAIG is remaining on patrol.

As far as can be ascertained SERAFIN TOPIC has not started loading. CLYDE is being recalled and will be sailed when there is further news of SERAFIN TOPIC: there is no S/M with sufficient surface speed to replace CLYDE for this operation.

Mediterranean.

3 Italian 6 inch cruisers are expected to pass Cape Bon southbound at 0100B tomorrow, speed 22 knots. Swordfish are expected to attack shortly after the moon rises.

20 Wellingtons bombed the aerodrome at Maleme last night.

It is obvious from sighting reports that the enemy has large numbers of S/M's. at sea in the central and probably also in the eastern Mediterranean.

/C. in C.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

C.in C. Med. again draws attention to the crippling blow that might be inflicted on a line of supply of vital importance to the enemy by attack on Danube shipping when it lies up for the winter closely packed in harbour. There are officers available at Alexandria from Danube ships, who have offered to point out targets.

East Indies.

In view of the present situation in the Dutch East Indies area arrangements are being made for oil supplies for Australia and New Zealand to come from Abadan.

Until further instructions the installation of defences at Nancowry is not to be proceeded with. Work is to continue at Addu Atoll.

The defence of Burma is to be transferred as soon as possible from C.in C. Far East to C.in C. India.

No convoys are to sail to Malaya until the situation is clearer.

China.

At 0537Z and again at 1401Z today. C.in C. Eastern Fleet reported that he had been unable to communicate with the C.in C. Asiatic Fleet since 0500/10 and he had no idea of the disposition of his force except the four destroyers now at Singapore.

Hong  
Kong.

TAMAR (Base Depot Ship) was scuttled today. There was slight bombing and somewhat heavier shelling, but damage caused was superficial.

/Malaya....

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Malaya.

All shipping has left Penang for Indian ports except 3 ships for Singapore with war stores. There were further heavy air attacks on Penang today; no military damage was caused, but essential services are rather disorganised. A convoy of 7 ships left Singapore today, 5 for Australia and 2 for Colombo via Sunda Strait, escorted by JAVA, KANIMBLA and 3 destroyers. A further 40 ships are discharging and will be sailed independently via Malacca or Sunda Strait or N.E.I. ports. 2 merchant ships arrived today from Hong Kong.

In addition to ships in dockyard hands DRAGON, DURBAN, 4 U.S. destroyers and VAMPIRE are at Singapore. THANET and SCOUT have left Hong Kong<sup>\*8/12</sup> for Singapore via Tarakan. 5 Dutch S/M's. are operating near Singora.

Dutch S/M 016, under operational control of C.in C. E.F. reports sinking 4 troopships in Patani Roads (Singora) by night attack 12/12. Dutch S/m K12 reports sinking a merchantship off Kota Bharu today.

\* *Perak list.*

Philippines.

The War Department reported late tonight that attempted Japanese landings on the west coast of Luzon have been repulsed. The Japanese admit the loss of a mine sweeper and heavy damage to a second, and slight damage to a light cruiser. Several British ships sailed from Manila last night for ports in Western Australia via Lombok Channel in anticipation of Japanese blockade others may leave tonight.

Cebu Island and Clark Field were bombed this morning. Seven patrol planes were destroyed by a raid on Olongapo, leaving 12 in serviceable condition.

U.S. islands.

Messages received at 0820 and 0900 Eastern Standard time today report both Midway and Wake Islands to be still in U.S. hands. The U.S. Navy was in communication with Johnson, Palmyra and Samoa Islands at 0600 Pacific time today. Guam and Tarawaiu Islands are in Japanese hands.

America and West Indies.

It is reported from U.S. sources that 2 large naval vessels, possibly enemy, have been sighted

/off

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

off Isla Fernandina, Galapagos.

One 'D' class cruiser is to remain on the Pacific side temporarily. DIOMEDE is there now and will be relieved by DESPATCH.

ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE sailed from Norfolk at 2200 today for the U.K.

DESPATCH at 2212R/12 intercepted from U.S. VINCENT a report of a suspicious warship in 25° (??2°) 41' S. 118° 19' W. course 062° 10 knots.

Australia.

CANBERRA and PERTH left Sydney this morning for patrol duty in the Tasman Sea.

New Zealand.

The C. in C. Pacific Fleet reported today several S/M contacts south of Oahu.

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.C.F. Craft  
at Portland.

Your 1847A/10. Berthing facilities of Portland in winter will not allow safe berthing for all additional C.F. craft being sent for training purposes as well as for assembling. Request only 4 torpedo M.Ls be sent for torpedo training and not more than 10 M.Ls and 4 M.G.Bs or M.T.Bs for assembly, at the same time. This number will require to be reduced on arrival of S.G.Bs.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1240A/12.)

Swedish  
Traffic to  
Faroes.

In order to reduce danger of enemy using this traffic as cloak for seaborne expedition, westbound ships are required to be not less than 50 miles apart from 62° N. 3° E. until arrived at Faroes. 2. When three ships sail from Gothenburg together during present short daylight period, requirement in para 1 necessitates one ship arriving Faroes during dark hours. 3. To overcome this disadvantage request your views whether 50 mile interval could be reduced to 25 miles during period 1 November to 10 February when more than two ships leave Gothenburg together.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1250A/12 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

M.T.Bs at  
Dover.

Your 1829/10. Existing shortage of M.T.Bs will not allow allocation of three M.T.B. Flotillas to your command. The first four boats of the 11th Flotilla will be arriving at Dover shortly when the 6th Flotilla will be returned to the Portsmouth Command. It is intended to re-inforce the M.T.Bs in your command when practicable to enable boats to have a rest and training period.  
(D.D.O.D.(C) 1524A/12 to V.A. Dover.)

Clyde M/S  
Forces.

Your 1537A/9. Concur.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1627A/12 to Adty.)

M/S Trawlers  
for Humber.

To reinforce patrols in the Nore Command request you will sail the following M/S trawlers to Humber. 28th M/S Trawler Group and CLOUGHTON WYKE. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1745A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Request you will sail the following M/S Trawler Groups to Humber - From Portsmouth, 29th Group. From Portland, 57th Group. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1746A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth and F.O.I.C. Portland.)

/Request ...

367A

MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

1937A/12/December.

To:- C. in C. Mediterranean 931.  
V.A. Malta. 385.  
F.O.C.N.A. 886.  
S.O. Force "H". 238.  
C. in C. South Atlantic. 923.  
C.O.I.S. Alexandria.  
NAVAL CYPHER (D).

Date 12.12.41.

From Admiralty.  
IMPORTANT AIDAC

My 0001/22/11. Precise results of Petain - Goering meeting of 1st December and the subsequent Darlan - Ciano meeting, are not yet known. Secret reports, however, state that Petain has met certain German demands which include the handing over of bases at Bizerta, Bona, Phillipville and Mers-el-Khebir, and making available the use of the French railways in unoccupied France which would facilitate the movement and subsequent transport of German forces to North Africa. Large increases in present numbers of Armistice Commission in North Africa are also reported as having been agreed to (B(2)) repeat (B(2)). Other reports in contradiction state that Petain handed Goering a memorandum setting out French position in detail (graded A.2) and that there was a general discussion but without any definite agreement being reached (graded B.2).

2. Opinions from independent but unconfirmed sources indicate that concessions have been made but there is no certainty regarding their extent or how far the use of the French Fleet is likely to become involved.

3. It is considered probable that a memorandum was presented to the Germans by Petain setting out Vichy difficulties and there is no doubt that Germany's strong weapon - the continued retention of prisoners of war - has seriously tempted Vichy to accept strategic collaboration in return for the bulk release of prisoners coupled, probably, with Axis territorial guarantees and readjustment of the occupied French zone.

4. Overtures to Spain with a view to Franco-German-Spanish collaboration involving combined military action have also been reported (C(3)) repeat (C(3)). Confirmation or probable Spanish reaction to any such proposal is not yet known.

1937A/12

D.N.I. (773)

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

DF

**MOST SECRET**



War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.M/S Trawlers  
for Humber -  
contd.Request you will sail the 50th M/S Trawler Group to Humber. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent.  
(A.C.N.S(H) 1747A/12 to F.O.C. Dover.)Co-operation with Russia.Party for  
Moscow.KENT arrived.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1636C/12.)Movements.BARFORD  
BARCLOSE  
BARFOAM.Your 2046A/11. BARFORD, BARCLOSE, BARFOAM will shortly proceed to Milford Haven whence they will sail for Azores. Your 2046A/11 has been passed to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1024A/12 to Adty.)  
My 2354A/10. Amend route via Q.Z.S.292 to read route via Q.Z.F.18.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2315A/12 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)4th M/L  
Flotilla.Held up at Milford Haven due to bad weather. Proceed as soon as weather permits.  
(S.O. 4th M/L F. 1031/12.)CORINTHIAN.CORINTHIAN is to leave Clyde 2000A/12 for Oban E.T.A. 1100A/13. 2. N.C.S.O. Oban, N.C.S.O. Methil are requested to sail CORINTHIAN in Convoy to arrive London earliest possible date.  
(S.O.W.P. 1100A/12.)MANXMAN.Admiralty 1240A/9 and subsequent signals. Following have been embarked and ship will sail at 1300 today. Details of stores embarked.  
(MANXMAN 1100A/12 to Adty.)  
C. in C. W.A. 1854A/11. Sailed MANXMAN. Code word to limit of aircraft range "Rival." Anticipate S. of A. 20 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1409A/12.)CAMELIA.Hove to since 0345. Only pendants 41, 61 and 62 in sight. My estimated position 059° 02' N. 027° 40' W. Request further instructions.  
(CAMELIA 1200A/12.)



War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation  
"Kitbag".

Operation abandoned. Unable to locate entrance. My P.C.S. 061° 26' N. 002° 40' E. 250°, 15 knots. (Capt. D.3. 0601A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Operation "Kitbag" abandoned. Unable to locate entrance. Force returning to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1007A/12 to Adty.)

P. 37.

P.37 is to be ordered to leave patrol after dark today and return to Scapa. (F.O.S. 1056A/12 to Capt. S.9.) *See previous page.*

MARIE LOUISECable  
laying.

Your 1851A/11. ~~M.L.~~ MACKAY is to be escorted. (1) From Belfast to position A. (2) between positions E. F. and G. (3) From position G. to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A. 1020A/12 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Operation  
"Anklet".

Sailed PRINCE ALBERT for Inverary. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1426A/12.)  
TIGRIS arrived 0930. (A.C.O.S. 1430A/12.)  
Intend to sail KUJAWIAK leaving Plymouth 1700/13 to Clyde. Speed 23 knots. KRAKOWIAK is delayed by defects, but I hope to sail her leaving Plymouth 2300/13. (C. in C. Plymouth 1706/12.)  
PRINCE ALBERT arrived. (V.A.C.T.C. 1718A/12.)  
Scapa arrival ARETHUSA. (A.C.O.S. 1933A/12.)

Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol.

Estimated local situation at 2000/12.  
NORFOLK on patrol "White". (A.C.I.C. 1605N/12.)

Channel  
Patrol.

Night 12/13. 3 A/S trawlers patrolling between St. Helens and Beachy Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1627A/12.)

CONQUEROR.

C. in C. Nore's 0951A/12 and Admiralty's 1334/7th. As oil fuel stowage ashore in Faroes is limited to 200 tons which is the only source from which Risor and Horten can obtain fuel it is envisaged that operations of CONQUEROR will be severely restricted. Present amount fuel in stock 130 tons. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1629A/12 to A.C.O.S.)

SEAWOLF  
Patrol.

Keep North of 71° 20' N. in your area between 1600/14 and 1000/15, then resuming patrol. Admiralty pass to SEAWOLF on next H S routine. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2259C/12.)

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Bombing operations.

On Night 11/12, nine A/C attacked the Docks at Havre, and 20 A/C attacked SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest. No results were observed at either place.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1320/12.)

Bombing restrictions.

(1) T.B.R. in areas 101 and 15 cancelled forthwith. (2) S.B.R. arranged as follows. Details. (Capt. S. 9. 1741A/12 to P.37.)

Enemy Air Activity.GLENPARK.

AAAA off Milford Haven. Gunned.  
(GLENPARK 1754/12.)

Bristol Channel.

Torpedo aircraft have been reported Bristol Channel area.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1832/12.)

Brest area.

There are indications of 6 to 12 German Naval A/C operating in the Brest Area between N.W. and S.W. of Brest, p.m. today. Also G.A.F. fighter activity to Northward of Brest. The latter is not abnormal.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1935A/12.)

Mining.

Convoy F.N.576  
DROMORE  
CASTLE.  
(British,  
5242 Tons)  
sunk.

S.S. DROMORE CASTLE mined and sunk in position 053° 29' 08" N. 000° 52' 00" E. Stern of ship is visible above water. 37 survivors in TURQUOISE, Master and 13 others in M.L. No.148 proceeding to Humber. 2 missing.  
(WOLSEY 0730A/12) (C. in C. Nore 1523A/12.)  
WOLSEY 0730. Stern has now sunk, one mast showing above water.  
(PUFFIN 1315A/12.)

Port signals in W.A.

In future all signals relating to the closing of ports by enemy minelaying and their subsequent opening are to be repeated to Cs. in C. Portsmouth and Plymouth for the information of routeing authorities.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1129A/12.)

/Sweeps ...

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.Sweeps off  
Dover.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/12. By S. and L.L. Trawlers Q.Z.S. 191 and in Q.Z.S. 190 and 269 between Dumpton and Dover. By S.A. Trawlers. Alternative route as in my 1931/5/10 between D.Buoy and Dover. Negative results. (V.A. Dover 1141A/12.)

Minelaying  
by WELSHMAN.

WELSHMAN is to carry out the following programme. (a) Arrive Plymouth 15/12 for operations in accordance with A.L.M/O.D. 2175/41 of 25/11 to C. in C. Plymouth only, using outfits of Mark XVII mines with flooders now embarked. (b) On completion of first lay proceed to Milford Haven to embark similar outfits. (c) On completion of second lay further orders will be issued. (V.C.N.S. 1231A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Spurn Point.

One Magnetic and 2 Acoustic mines detonated by Sweepers today. Details. (F.O. Humber 2235A/12.)

Enemy Intelligence.M/V off  
Lorient.

1 small M/V bearing 200° distance 2 miles course 280°. My position 47° 29' N. 5° 24' W. (A/C P.R.8 Q. 1315/12 to 19 Group H.Q.)

SCHARNHORST.  
GNEISENAU.  
PRINZ EUGEN

A report was received, graded B.2., that SCHARNHORST was leaving Brest on night 11/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1935A/12.) Preliminary photographic R/C of Brest showed all three main units present at 1515 today. Very slight alteration of camouflage on stern of PRINZ EUGEN and GNEISENAU. The obsolete French warship GUEYDON camouflaged as a dummy is still present in her usual berth. (D.D.I.C. 2110A/12.)

M/V from  
Kirkenes.

German steamer of about 5000 tons reported due to (?leave) Kirkenes for Germany with nickel ore today. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1804/12.)

Unknown ship.

Following received from Wick Radio addressed A.C.O.S. Intercepted at 2113 G.M.T. From unknown station Strength 2 begins R R R - remainder jammed. Ends. (Scapa W/T 2117/12 to Adty.)

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War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Ice in  
Denmark  
Straits.

Pack ice p.m. 10th through 067° 51' N. 023° 05',  
and 067° 26' N. 024° 25' W. Icebergs 067° 58' N.  
023° 56' W. and 067° 31' N. 24° 28' W. Thin  
new ice to southward since blown away by north  
east gale. Broken ice in 067° 05' N. 025° 45' W.  
p.m./11th.  
(SUFFOLK 0621Z/12) (A.C.I.C. 1241N/12.)

54 D. Buoy.

54 D. Buoy Light extinguished.  
(Capt. D. 16 0829A/12.)

Humber.

79 Q.Z.H. Humber Area. Dangerous wreck in  
about 53° 29' 08" N. 00° 52' E.  
(Hydrographer 1513A/12.)

Hammonds  
Knoll.

Hammonds Knoll Light buoy flashing irregularly.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1904A/12.)

Miscellaneous.Vichy Ships.

The following Vichy ships have changed their  
names:- FRANCOIS L.D. to CEPHEE; LEOPOLD L.D.  
to ALDEBARAN; PIERRE L.D. to PERSEE; LOUIS L.D.  
to FORMALHAUT.  
(D.D.I.C. 1204A/12.)

Casualties and Defects.INCHMARNOCK.

INCHMARNOCK delayed owing to defects.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0125/12.)

Convoy F.N. 576.  
AFTERGLOW  
(British, 936  
Tons) struck  
wreck.

Your 0525/12. Remain with AFTERGLOW. Tug will  
be sent from Humber when port opens if ship is  
not refloated before. Fighter protection arranged.  
(C. in C. Nore 0709A/12 to PUFFIN.)  
Departure tug PRIZEMAN with Salvage Officer on  
board at 1140 to assist AFTERGLOW.  
(F.O. Humber 1148A/12.)  
AFTERGLOW in F.N. 576 struck wreck of WELSH PRINCE  
(53° 23' 30" N. 00° 59' 00" E.) Engine Room  
flooded. Being towed to Humber.  
(C. in C. Nore 1523A/12.)  
Arrival PUFFIN and Tug PRIZEMAN with AFTERGLOW in  
tow at 1720. (F.O. Humber 1742A/12.)

AMAZON.

Defect developing. If this cannot be satisfactor-  
ily repaired at sea intend proceeding to Aultbea.  
My P.C.S. 187° Skerryvore 8 miles, 300°, 9 knots.  
(AMAZON 1200A/12.)

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.AMAZON -  
contdMy 1200. Am proceeding direct Oban.  
(AMAZON 1440A/12.)HELENA II.  
*not identified*My 1731/31/10. HELENA II now seriously  
damaged by collision, approval to lay up under  
C. and M. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1521/12.)BLAIRNEVIS  
(Damaged  
24/11.)Following from Chief Salvage Officer. BLAIRNEVIS  
refloated this afternoon now anchored Yarmouth  
Roads. Request vessel be towed away as quickly  
as possible.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt..Yarmouth 1708A/12.)S.S. MACBETH.P.C.S. 050° 33'N. 29°12'W. 270° 8. Request MACBETH  
be instructed to transmit for D/F purposes at  
0000A, 0800A, 1200A.  
(PIMPERNEL 1900A/12.)Shipping and Convoys.H.X.163.My 1159A/10. Estimate that H.X.163 will be  
6 hours late at M.O.M.P. Speed 7½ knots.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0045A/12 to BROKE, etc.)C.T.8.My 0512/4 and 2227/6. Vessels for C.T.8 are  
now MORETON BAY and BERGENSFJORD in Liverpool and  
Glasgow respectively. 2. Sailing date will be  
20/12 as before. 3. Numbers to embark will be  
approx. as follows.  
(D. of S.T. 0646A/12.)BATORY.My 0453/11. BATORY will now embark in Glasgow  
15/12 and sail Clyde 16/12. 2. Code number is  
Z.22. 3. Numbers to embark will be 150 R.N.  
80 military, 63 R.A.F., 200 tons of mails will  
also be shipped plus some cargo probably includ-  
ing refrigerated cargo.  
(D. of S.T. 0647A/12.)W.S.14.8 hours late at R/V.  
(ULSTER QUEEN 0915Z/12.)P.Q.7.Your 1101/11. Assuming ships from U.K. for  
P.Q.7 will arrive with H.R. 1, approx. date of  
sailing P.Q.7 will be 18/12.  
(A.C.I.C. 1059N/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Q.P.3 ...

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12.12.1941.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.Q.P.3.

Intend sailing Q.P.3 from Kirkwall at 1200/13 to join CHITTY at R/V at 1615. Request air protection.  
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1138A/12 to A.C.O.S.)

Flying of Balloons.

Pass to N.C.S.O's. Two instances of the flying of balloons by ships in convoy in a manner contrary to the instructions contained in Adty. A.M.613 have recently been reported. N.C.S.Os are requested to call the attention of Commodores and Masters to the A. message quoted. (D.T.D. 1335A/12.)

P.Q.6.

It is clear that ice conditions at Archangel are rendering the future handling of convoys there extremely problematical. 2. Delays reported in the completion of Molotovsk and Ekonomia lend force to this. 3. It is feared that unless pressure is exerted the local optimism in favour of Archangel will result in Murmansk not being ready for convoy discharge when required. So far as is known here the order to move the 35-ton floating crane from Murmansk to Archangel has not yet been countermanded. 4. Request you will strongly urge Russian authorities to have all preparations made to discharge at least some of the ships of P.Q.6 at Murmansk.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1646A/12 to Ad. Miles.)

S.L.94.

Leaving Ponta Delgada. Intend meeting S.L.94 dawn 13th. Condenseritis cured.  
(ROCKINGHAM 1700N/12.) *saite) - see p 378.*

E.N.19.  
W.N.18.  
E.N.20.  
W.N.19.  
E.N.21.  
W.N.20.

1. Provide A.A. cover to E.N.19 (slow) leaving Methil 0400/14 and transfer to W.N.18 anchoring in Largo Bay on arrival in Forth. 2. Sail again to cover E.N.20 (fast) leaving Methil 1600/17 and transfer to W.N.19. 3. From W.N.19 transfer to E.N.21 and provide cover as far as Dunnet Head thence entering Scapa sail from Scapa to join W.N.20 off Dunnet Head covering last named convoy to Forth.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1743/12 to CURACOA.)

/Icebreaker ...



War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.Icebreaker  
for P.Q.5  
and Q.P.4.Your 1345C/11. Urgent representations have been made.  
(Ad. Miles 1806D/12 to B.N.O. Archangel.)D.S.18.

AMAZON 1200A/12. WELLS was at R/V till 1030. Visibility was (?then) 7 miles. Have not contacted D.S.18. Am proceeding along route to search. My P.C.S are Barra Head 058°, 12 miles, 035°, 10 knots. Request instructions. (WELLS 1850A/12.)  
Report your P.C.S. Escort is trying to contact you. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2213A/12 to ORBITA.)  
Your 1520A/12. NEWPORT not available before noon on Saturday at earliest. (A.C.I.C. 2214N/12 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 1850A/12. Coastguard Rudha Hunish reported 2 liners northbound at 1615A bearing 230° 4 miles. These vessels are assumed to be D.S. 18. Proceed accordingly. ORBITA has been instructed to report position course speed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2258A/12 to WELLS.)

E.N.U.18.

Comdr. has departed from usual route to save time. E.N.U.18 will leave when Convoy arrives at 2100 in position 110° 8 miles Tiumpan Head. (TARANTELLA 2015A/12.)

LEINSTER.Your 1800/12. Report situation. Is LEINSTER in company.  
(A.C.I.C. 2157N/12 to THIRLMERE.)

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping.

Passing Gibraltar 11/12. (D.O.R. 12/12)

Suspicious Ship 11/12.

A.M. 1140A/11, not to HERMIONE and your 1732A/11. Report received at 0730A/12 that Spanish ship sailed Gijon with navicert 10/12 for Jamaica. This is probably ship reported by civil aircraft (D.D.I.C., 0952A/12 to F.O.C.N.A. repeated HERMIONE).

LOCH OSKAIG bombed.

Enemy Aircraft bombing 38° 37' N., 10° 33' W. (LOCH OSKAIG, 0955A/12 to Whitehall W/T)  
My 0955. 2 bombs dropped. Damage to engine room. Dynamo crosshead broken. Proceeding to try and effect repairs. No casualties. (LOCH OSKAIG, 1045A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
My 1045A/12. H.P. guide loose and dynamo main frame broken. Unable to obtain sufficient current for D.G. or tuning 123. My position 038° 35' N., 009° 16' W.  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1135A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
LOCH OSKAIG on patrol off Lisbon attacked by aircraft A.M./12. No casualties, engine and dynamo damaged. Full report follows. (F.O.C.N.A., 1609A/12 to Admty).  
Your 1459A/12. Will remain on patrol until dark 14th if dynamo permits. (LOCH OSKAIG, 1650A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLAN MACINNES.

Arrival SPIREA, STANLEY, escorting CLAN MACINNES. (F.O.C.N.A., 1016A/12 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

FORMIGNY (French).

Extract from a Fairmiss telegram:-  
Arrival - FORMIGNY 11/12.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1209A/12 to M. of W.T.)

HERMIONE.

Your 1135A/12. E.T.A. Gate 0800/13.  
(HERMIONE, 1214A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FJORD (sunk 2/12)  
SARASTONE (sunk 29/10)

Ref. para. 4 of your 1058/5. Request report whether there is any confirmation that attack took place within territorial waters.  
2. Ref. para 11 of S.O.(I) Gibraltar's R.S.163/20/40 of 5/11. Corunna navigational warning dated 19/11 referred to ship sunk in latitude 37° 3' N., longitude 6° 48' W., which does not correspond to position given by S.O.(I) Gibraltar, for S.S. SARASTONE.  
(Head of M., 1348A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

U-boats at Majorca.

Consul Palma 1545/12. See U-boat Campaign.

D.19  
O.G.77.

After convoy has passed to eastward of Cape Spartel resume patrol as in my 1317A/11. Leave this patrol daylight Saturday, 13, and return to harbour. (F.O.C.N.A., 1558/12 to Capt. (D) 19, rep. Escort O.G.77).

GLADIATEUR.

*Not identified*

French Motor fishing boat GLADIATEUR left Coruna 1530/12 reported for Lorient. (Corunna, 1600/12 to Admty).

Fuelling at Ponta Delgada.

CLARE and merchant ships CHARLES L.D. and TOMBOUCTOU arrived Ponta Delgada 1800 G.M.T./12. ROCKINGHAM left 1715 G.M.T. *See p. 375-* (Ponta Delgada 1614/12 to S.O.(I) Gib).

GRELHEAD  
(sunk 1/12)

Consul Malaga 1846/11 giving details sinking S.S. GRELHEAD is passed to you. (V.A.C.N.A., 1631A/12 to Admty).

HARVESTER,  
HIGHLANDER  
LIGHTNING.

Due Ponta Delgada daylight 15/12. Request arrangements made for supplying following fuel and stores. (F.O.C.N.A., 1650A/12 to N.A.Lisbon)

→ SERAFIN TOPIC.

My tel.1027. U.S. Charge d'Affaires has received telegram from his Consul Algiers dated 11/12 stating that S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC is still in dry dock at Oran and promising early information on any change of sailing occurring in move on this vessel or when loading begins. (Consul Gen. Tangier, 1700/12 to F.O. Rep. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

URSULA.

Intend to sail URSULA p.m./14 for anti U-boat Patrol within 15 miles of Alboran Island returning intact 23rd. (F.O.C.N.A., 1920A/12 to Admty).

→ SERAFIN TOPIC,  
CLYDE.

As far as can be ascertained SERAFIN TOPIC has not started loading. CLYDE would have to leave patrol on 17th. Intend therefore recalling her now and sailing her when there is further news of SERAFIN TOPIC.  
3. There is no S/M to replace CLYDE, URSULA's surface speed being too low. (F.O.C.N.A., 1922A/12 to Admty).

CLYDE.

Leave patrol 19.30/13 from 036° 12' 001° 00' W., thence direct to Gibraltar on surface arriving 1400/14. T.B.R. arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 2006A/12 to CLYDE).

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DALLINGTON  
COURT.

Overdue shipping DALLINGTON COURT due Lourenco Marques 6th from Suez not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1035B/12 to Admty etc).  
Cancelled by 0859B/13.

QUEEN  
EMMA,  
PRINCESS  
BEATRIX.

Return to Freetown passing through position (a) equator 10° W., (b) 004° 30' N., 010° 00' W., thence to Freetown through sector A.(C. in C. S.A., 1107Z/12 to QUEEN EMMA, PRINCESS BEATRIX).

U.S.N.  
Communica-  
tions.

Your 1445N/2 Admiralty and Opnav form the normal channel of communication between British and U.S. Navies. Except for cases covered by SP.02376 or where special arrangements have been made (e.g. para. 1 of A.M.1150A/13/9). British ships and authorities must not address messages to Opnav or any other U.S. Ship or authority, even though such messages may be for information only. 2. SP.02376 is in force (vide A.M.1848B/9/6) and by paras. 24, 25 and 26 you were entitled to pass the substance of DORSETSHIRE's 1746/1 to Commandant 15th Naval District Balboa. The suggestion re escort of W.S.12 X should not, of course, have been passed on as it might have been misinterpreted as an order. 3. Admiralty fully appreciate delays involved by the present rules but U.S. authorities are still averse to increasing the channels by which information can be exchanged. 4. Spenavo is U.S. Special Naval Observer, London.(A.C.N.S.(F)1214A/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

BENTE MAERSK.

Overdue shipping BENTE MAERSK due Capetown 9th from Freetown not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1215B/12 to Admty etc).  
Cancelled by 0917B/13.

DERBYSHIRE.

It does not now appear that a U-boat supply ship is likely to be in the vicinity of your patrol area in the near future. Primary object of your patrol therefore is now interception of Axis ships such as WARTENFELS returning to Europe via Cape. My 1541N/2 and my 1805Z/10 not to Admiralty refer. Also unescorted Vichy French Ships. (C. in C. S.A., 1309Z/12 to DERBYSHIRE).  
Your 1309Z/12. Your 1805Z/10 not received. Suggest WARTENFELS and boats may be closing Tristan da Cunha.(DERBYSHIRE, 1938Z/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

Finnish  
M/Vs.

Following is Admiralty's policy with regard to Finnish Merchant Vessels. 1. (a) All Finnish ships in British ports are to be detained under armed guard and reported. (b) Subject to (c) any Finnish ship encountered at sea is to be sent into a British port under armed guard. (c) In order to minimize interference with U.S. cargoes any Finnish ship bound for (r) for a U.S. port should be allowed to proceed unless there is ground for suspecting Master does not (r) not intend to proceed to his correct destination (d) ex Finnish ships transferred to Flag of any /American...

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Finnish  
M/Vs. Contd.

American state (i) Lying in a British port when war is declared should be detained pending further instructions if still manned by Finnish crew (ii) are not (r) not to be intercepted at sea without special instructions.  
2. Dutch are being asked to take parallel action. (C. in C. S.A., 1311Z/12 to S.A.Stn).

Raider 41  
KULMERLAND.

Following graded B.2. Raider 41, transferred prisoners to KULMERLAND in mid-Nov. in probable position 30° S., 90° E., KULMERLAND disguised as ship of Luckenback Line with American flag painted on side. (2) Comment, KULMERLAND's intentions not known but she was presumably unaware of sinking of 41 until 2/12. (D.D.I.C., 1327A/12 to C. in C. South Atlantic, R.A.S.A.D., N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. America & West Indies, F.O.C.N.A., Opnav. Rep. A.C.N.B.)

Removal of  
Vichy French.

Efforts are being made to induce Union Govt. to remove Vichy French from Cyattal areas where they are a potential menace. Any information regarding treatment of British subjects and Union Nationals in Unoccupied France would be of assistance. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1654B/12 to Admiralty). *Reply. Admty 1242A/8/1/42.*

Delay of  
passing mes-  
sage to  
N.C.S.O.  
Capetown.

Your 0804/11 Part 5 of Admty 2311/23 was received corrupt and had to be checked and repeated twice being finally received at Simonstown 0856/26. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1700Z/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

U.S. Forces.

A.M.0033A/2 OMAHA and SOMERS left Pernambuco 11/12 for Fernando Noronha area thence Trinidad. E.T.A. 17/12.  
2. A.M.1206A/2. MEMPHIS and DAVIS recalled from patrol 10/12 to Trinidad. E.T.A. 17/12.  
3. CINCINNATI and JOUETT left Trinidad 11/12 E.T.A. 14° 40' N., 59° 35' W., 0600Z/12. (D.O.D., (F) 1809A/12 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D) Modified by 1155A/13, q.v.

BRILLIANT.

Cancel previous instructions. Return to Freetown at best speed. (C. in C. S.A., 1901Z/12 to BRILLIANT, N.A. Station Ships, CANTON, ORCHIS, CROCUS).

VIDETTE.

You are to proceed at 0200N/13 to Gibraltar passing through following positions (A) 014° 50' N., 019° 00' W., (B) 022° 35' N., 017° 50' W. (C) 030° 40' N., 011° 15' W., (D) 033° 55' N., 009° 25' W., thence to Gibraltar. S.O.A. 14 kts. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1931N/12 to VIDETTE).

/U/B...

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B  
Search.

VANSITTART and WILD SWAN with flying boats co-operating will carry out search for U-boats on 14/12 in area south of Verdes. (C. in C. S.A., 1931Z/12 to Admty., rep. F.O.C.N.A.)

CIRCASSIA.

My 1059N/5. It does not now seem likely that a supply ship is moving south towards St. Paul's Rocks area and the need for CIRCASSIA in H.32 B has lapsed for time being. Suggest therefore you withdraw her. Many thanks for sending her. (C. in C. S.A., 2011Z/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ECHODALE.

Cancel previous instructions. Return to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2022Z/12 to ECHODALE)

KAJAK.

My 2131Z/2. Owing to changes in situation KAJAK now proposed to proceed Persian Gulf. Am endeavouring to persuade Master to call Capetown for onward routing. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2127Z/12 to Admty).

Cocoa  
Shipments.

Your 1311N/11/11. Shipment of cocoa crop from West Africa with minimum of delay is important. Request you will consider a relaxation of restrictions in loading at Accra when information at your disposal shows that the risk of attack is small, as at present. The crop deteriorates rapidly in store, and any opportunity of increasing shipments should be seized, and co-operation of M. of W.T. and local authorities sought to expedite loading. (A.C.N.S. (T), 2331A/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

S/MS.

Intend sailing submarines from noon onwards tomorrow Friday to establish patrol line by dawn (?13) /12 as follows. 4 - 037° 10' N., 018° 46' E., - 070°-10 (?-) 160° - 30.P. 34 in position J., 037° 10' N., 018° 46' E (?) UPHOLDER, K,P.31, L. SOKOL, M. *See also next page*  
2. Intend moving UPRIGHT, UNBEATEN and UTMOST after dark Friday 12th to establish patrols in positions (?040°) 08' N., 017° 00' E., position R., 040° 12' N., 017° 19' E., position S., and 040° 00' N., 017° 11' E., position T, respectively by dawn Saturday 13th. (Capt. S.10 0140B/12 to Capt. S.1 amended 1329B/12) *See pp. 362/Amend... 1384*

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. *contd.*S/Ms. Contd.

Amend my 0931B/11 forthwith. Assume patrol as follows: PERSEUS in area P.1. + TRUANT in area P. PORPOISE in area Q. TORBAY in area Q south east of line 230° from Pylos light (corrupt group).

(Capt. S.l., 0521B/12 to \*PERSEUS, \*PORPOISE, TORBAY, TRUANT, Rept. C. in C. Med., etc).

\* See also p. 384  
+ See p. 386.

TALISMAN.

My 1941B/9. Establish patrol forthwith in 035° 20' 020° 36'. (Capt. S.l., 0527B/12 to TALISMAN).

NEREUS.

Your 1834B /11. Acknowledged. Well done. Proceed through 033° 30', 028° 38' thence direct. Adjust speed to arrive 0700B/14. (Capt. S.l., 0925B/12 to Greek S/M NEREUS).

KURTULUS..

Leaves Dardanelles 13/12 for Piraeus and leaves on return journey 19/12. Both dates subject to delay of 48 hours in event of bad weather. Route as in my 1028/13/10. N.O.I.C. Haifa pass to A.H.Q. Levant, N.O.I.C. Famagusta pass to 259 Wing.

(C. in C. Med., 0949B/12 to Med., Fleet etc. repeated at 0951B/12).

VASCO.  
ERICA.

Your 1202C/11. Request VASCO R/V with ERICA at seaward end Haifa searched channel at 0800C/13 for onward escort to Tripoli.

(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 0950C/12 to N.O.I.C. Haifa).

S/Ms.

P.34, UPHOLDER, P.31, SOKOL, left Malta noon/12 to establish Patrol line 4 - 037° 00' 018° 46' 070° - 10 - 160 - 30 by dawn 14/12 P.34 in first postn. (Capt. S.10., 1030B/12 to S/Ms. on Patrol) *see previous page*

UPRIGHT.  
UTMOST.  
UNBEATEN.

Cancel my 1959B/11 to UPRIGHT. Proceed forthwith to establish patrol during daylight hours 13/12 as follows: UPRIGHT, 040° 08' 017° 00', UTMOST, 040° 00' 017° 11', UNBEATEN, 040° 12', 017° 19'. Attention is called to Q.B.4. Heavy unit may leave Taranto a.m./13 proceeding south. After attack or at 1930B/13 withdraw to original patrol in my 0924B/11.

(Capt. S.10., 1034B/12 to UPRIGHT, UTMOST, UNBEATEN). *see previous page p. 384*

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

American Shipping.

Intend that American ships should receive similar escorts and advice as British Ships whilst on Mediterranean Station.  
(C. in C. Med., 1155B/12 to Admty).

UNIQUE.

Return to patrol forthwith. Heavy unit expected South through Messina night 13/14th. After attack or at 0700B/14 return to Malta to arrive a.m./15. (Capt. S.10., 1155B/12 to UNIQUE).

Malta Force to attack enemy cruisers.

(i) Malta force of 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers are available to attack 3 enemy cruisers expected to pass to westward of Malta tonight. Intend to carry out this attack unless you wish Malta force to be held for pending operations to eastward.

(ii) Malta torpedo aircraft will also attack cruisers tonight.

(iii) I estimate enough oil remains to enable both forces to do about 2 local operations in addition to that mentioned in paragraph one and still have enough to reach Alexandria from Malta.

(iv) Propose to fill Group 1 destroyers to full capacity to enable them to operate en route to Alexandria. (V.A. Malta, 1159B/12 to C. in C. Med.,)

3 Italian 6-inch cruisers expected to pass Cape Bon Southbound at 0100B/13 speed 22 knots.

→ (2) NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE and 3 destroyers will pass South of Lampedusa and endeavour to intercept North of Kuriat. (3) Swordfish expected to attack shortly after moon rises.

(4) Keep to your present programme but be prepared for cruisers breaking back to Northward.

(5) You will be kept informed (6) Expected Italians will establish E.boat patrol south from Pantellaria with object of reporting Malta Force. (V.A. Malta, 1223B/12 to SIKH). Your 1159B/12. Do not use Malta surface Forces for attack on cruisers.

(C. in C. Med., 1645B/12 to N.O.I.C. Malta).

→ My 1223B/12. Cancel Para. 2.

(V.A. Malta, 1805B/12 to SIKH.)

Roumanian intelligence.

Following from JOU-E for Gen. de Gaulle. Informant reports presence Constanza one fast Roumanian coastal motor boat and one German, Roumanian submarine DELFIN, two destroyers and four torpedo boats. Air units Constanza consist number 53 Roumanian fighter Squadron, two German general staff Squadrons, five German R/C sea and land aircraft, 110 bombers.

(Asst. M.A. Istanbul, 1210/12 to W.O.)

\* DELFINUL (L.B. 1815)

/GLENROY...



War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.GLENROY.

My 1216/24/11 and 1807/27/11 and A.F.O. 2551/40. Board of Inquiry into damage and beaching of GLENROY due to enemy aircraft attack will not be held as I am satisfied that no useful purpose could be served. Written report will be forwarded. (C. in C. Med., 1240A/12 to Admty)

Boom Vessels for Turkey.

Naval Secretary to Ministry of National Defence urgent enquiring as to possibilities of supply to Turkey of remaining six boom working vessels and three boom trawlers. Ministry of Foreign Affairs in written communication requests delivery of at least three of the former and the three latter type ships as soon as possible (N.A. Ankara, 1251B/12 to Admty)

TALISMAN R. of P.

Occasional depth charges getting fainter loudest at 1130B. Heinkel 115 accounted for 1050 searching at 800 feet course established 060° and 350°. 1110, 4 (? GHIBLI) at 30 feet course North, Weather report 8281 2584. My position is 035° 10' 020° 36'. Have one torpedo. (TALISMAN, 1305B/12 to Capt. S.1) Your 1305B/12. Return to Alexandria forthwith by route in my 1941B/9, arriving Sanctuary 05(? 30) B/16. (Capt. S.1., 1631B/12 to TALISMAN).

Enemy Cruiser.

Position course and speed of one enemy cruiser 39° 00' N., 19° 00' E. 030°, 18. (A/C H., 1325/12 to Hal Far).

Enemy M/Vs. Destroyers.

Position course and speed of 2 M/Vs. 3 destroyers 38.00 N., 17° 00' E., 030° 10. (A/C B.9CH 1505/12 to Hal Far) (Capt. S.10., 1615B/12 to UPRIGHT, UTMOST, UNBEATEN).

*See p. 381 & 382*PERSEUS. PORPOISE.

Under present circumstances it is intended to recall you to leave your patrol position as follows:- PERSEUS, P.M./14, PORPOISE P.M./16 but it may be necessary to extend these dates 24 hours. Primary object heavy ships, but fire should not be withheld if other opportunities to attack occur. (Capt. S.1., 1559/12 to PERSEUS, PORPOISE).

*See p. 382.*Enemy Units.

Aircraft report one large M/V, 2 destroyers, and 2 escort vessels 037° 47' N., 016° 20' E., course 080° 10 knots. (V.A. Malta, 1645B/12 to C, in C. Med).

/Axis...

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Axis  
Shipping  
Danube.

Intelligence Reports have again drawn attention to the crippling blow that might be inflicted on a line of supply of vital importance to the Axis by attack on the Danube shipping when it lies up for the Winter. The concentration of shipping is closely packed in the Winter harbours when the river freezes and presents an excellent and vulnerable target. Destruction would have a very serious effect on the Danube traffic when the river re-opens. Is there any possibility of carrying out such attacks from Russian aerodromes? There are some officers available here from Danube ships who have offered to act as observers and to point out targets. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles. (C. in C. Med., 1650/12 to Admty).

Air  
Operations  
from  
Malta.

11th. 6 Blenheims two separate attacks despatched attack one M/V 5,000 tons Argostoli Harbour. First sorties returned engine trouble, second dropped 500 lb. S.A.P. bombs mast height, two near misses possible one hit. Intense A/A one Blenheim shot down. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1655/12).  
19 Wellingtons out to attack (Patras) night 11/12. Attack spoilt by cloud and rain down to 1,000 feet, 2 returned with bombs, 1 returned and dropped bombs oil tanks Augusta. 1 dropped bombs aerodrome Pappes, remaining 14 bombed target through cloud 0020 to 0305 hours 12,000 ton liner probably hit, much smoke coming from stern confirmed by other crews. Quay-side buildings demolished, opposition moderate. 0355 hours 2 probable cruisers seen off Cape Passero course N.E. 4 Naval aircraft despatched attack Castel Benito aerodrome. 1 returned mechanical, remainder successful. Attack 0205 to 0215 hours. large fire among hangars visible 50 miles. 5 alarms 1712, 1930, 2253, 0246, 0354 hours, total 14 raiders approached, 8 crossed coast, bombs land, sea, 9 houses damaged searchlight machine-gunned, no interceptions. (H.Q., Malta, 1659/12)

Enemy  
Shipping.

Same source by (?my) 1238/28/11. 3 Axis Cargo Vessels due to sail from Pireaus p.m./13 with war material and supplies. R/V with escort near Zea Island. Graded B.3. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1713B/11 to S.O.(I) Med., and S.1).

Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 1715/12) See Lion Copy.

/Russian...

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Russian  
Ships Ex  
Black Sea.

Your 1521B/10. C. in C. Med., has been informed of destinations of all ships. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (Adm. Miles, 1821B/12 to N.A. Angora, rep. Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Enemy  
Cruisers.  
Group I.

Your 1223/12 and 0820/12. My 1511/10 amending my 1429/9. Suggest group 1 be ordered to shift to 4740 k/cs now for inter communication with Malta. (S.O. Force H., 1821A/12 to V.A. Malta).

S/Ms.

Eastern Med., Movements Summary (Submarine) No. 70.

Submarine	Est. noon position 13/12	Est. noon position 14/12
TALISMAN	034° 22' N., 022° 41' E.	033° 36' N., 025° 08' E.
Greek Sub.	032° 31' N.,	E.T.A. A.M.
NEREUS.	029° 08' E.	Alexandria.

(Capt. S.1., 1925B/12 to Med., Fleet).

Enemy Units  
intelligence  
for S/Ms.

R/C 12/12, time zone minus 2. 1133, S/M 037° 12' 020° 40' course 325° 1249, S/M 037° 25', 019° 12', course 145° both on the surface. 1325, 1 cruiser 039° 00' 019° 00' 030° 18 knots. 14 (?00) large merchant ship, 2 destroyers, 2 escorts 037° 47', 016° 19' 080° 10 knots. 1505, 2 merchant ships, 2 destroyers, 038° 00' 017° 00', 030° 10 knots. (Capt. S.10., 1940B/12 to S/Ms on Patrol).

From sight report in Central Med., it is obvious enemy has large number of submarines at sea, probably also in Eastern Med.

(Capt. S.1., 2105B/12 to S/Ms on Patrol rep. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S)10th S/F, 201 Naval Co-operating Group)

TRUANT.

My 0931<sup>B</sup>/11 and my 0521B/12. Area P.1. and Area P. (?17) N.W. and S.E. respectively of line 230° from 038° 11' 020° 21'.  
(Capt. S.1., 1941B/12 to TRUANT, Rept. Subs. on Patrol) See p 382

/YARRA...

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

YARRA.

YARRA is to be sailed for Aden as soon as convenient for onward passage to Darwin. (D. of P., 2307A/12 to C. in C. Med).

Defence of  
Burma.

Following from Chiefs of Staff to C. in C. India, C. in C. F.E. repeated Cs. in C. M.E. Med., E.I. and Eastern Fleet. Decided that defence of Burma is to be transferred as soon as possible from C. in C. Far East, to C. in C. India.  
2. Burma Office are informing Governor, Burma.  
3. C. in C. India is requested to determine date on which transfer takes place in consultation with other authorities concerned, and to report to Chiefs of Staff.  
(1st S.L. 2308A/12 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F.)

Vichy  
Shipping.

Reported that following have changed their names - LEOPOLD L.D. to ALDEBARAN, FRANCIS L.D. to CEPHEE, PIERRE L.D. to PERSEE, LOUIS L.D. to FORMALHAUT.  
(D.S. 829, 12/12.)

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Minelaying  
proposed,  
Maldives.

(i) It will be recalled that in 1923 when R.I.N. surveyed Horsburgh Atoll (Maldive Chart No. F. 070) the natives reported another survey party, found to be Japanese, had been similarly employed just prior to their arrival.

(ii) In view of this fact and strategic importance of anchorage if Japanese should establish themselves there I propose we should lay some magnetic mines across entrance now.

(iii) If you concur GLASGOW will be sent. (C. in C. E.I., 0822Z/12 to Admty., C. in C. China, rep. C. in C. E.F.)

West African  
Troop  
Movement.

Your 1910/11. No possibility of West African troops connecting with ALMANZORA at either Mombasa or Durban. Propose they should take passage to Mombasa as convenient and await here for passage to Durban for embarkation in LAFONIA or other ship. Request P.S.T.O. Egypt be instructed to arrange Massawa Mombasa passage accordingly. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0854Z/12 to D. of S.T.)

U.S.N.  
Collaboration.

Restrictions on information to be given to U.S. Naval Observers. Is A.M. 1159/19/4 (as amended) still in force or may restrictions now be modified. (C. in C. E.I., 0910Z/12 to Admty.)

Colombo  
Movements.

Arrival 0215/12 SONAVATI. Departures 0400Z/12 REVENGE, 1030Z/12, SEAMEW and SCARAB. (S.O.I. Colombo 1124Z/12 to Admty.)

Minefield.

CJ WC 93, Singapore Approaches, Durian Straight is closed to shipping.

2. Rhio Straight minefield established in area bounded as follows:

- (A) On the north by latitude  $0^{\circ} 45' N.$
  - (B) On the east by longitude  $104^{\circ} 30' 30'' E.$
  - (C) On the south by latitude  $0^{\circ} 42' N.$
  - (D) On the west by longitude  $104^{\circ} 25' E.$
- (Bombay W/T, 1144Z/12 to Admty.)

Nancowry  
M.N.B.D.O.

Until further instructions

1. Installation of defences at Nancowry is not to be proceeded with.
2. Resources of M.N.B.D.O. (I) now in East Indies are to be retained in readiness to install further defences which may become available for Addu Atoll and in Ceylon. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1202A/12 to C. in C. E.I.)

/ORIZABA.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

0255/12 December

IN

From G.O.C. Burma.

Date 12.12.41.

Recd. 2310

CIPHER.

Addressed. The War Office. Repeated. C in C Far East, C in C India.

019148. 1-18 ciphor 11/12.

Internally quiet. Enemy who landed Chumpore reported occupied Huapli and Namchoot north of Victoria Point on Pachcham River. Some European refugees from above area evacuated via Victor: Point where aerodrome (?ready for) demolition. 0945 G.M.T. 23 Japanese bombed and machine gunned Tlvoy aerodrome for half hour details not to hand but communication not interrupted.

0255/12

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D. O.I.C. Received from War Office at 2233"13

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War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.ORIZABA.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 2154/10. No objection. (Admty. 1530A/12 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Addu Atoll.

Your 1202/8/11 to C. in C. China, and 1250/8/11, to Admty. only. If high sick rate reported at Addu Atoll is due to local conditions immediate steps are to be taken to eliminate cause. If necessary a naval or civil specialist in Tropical Diseases should visit. Very early action is necessary. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1531A/12 to C. in C.E.I.)

Oil Supplies from Abadan.

Your 2006Z/1/3 para (v) and A.D.B. para 57 (c). Maintenance of oil supplies to Australia and New Zealand is of primary importance and in view of present situation in Dutch East Indies area arrangements are being made for a large part of these supplies to come from Abadan.

2. To shorten the haul, request you will consider routeing these ships from Persian Gulf keeping West of Chagos Archipelago thence approx. Great Circle route to destination.
3. This policy would naturally depend upon future developments of scale of attack in Indian Ocean. (V.C.N.S. 1527A/12 to C. in C. E.I.)

Escort of Troop Convoys.

Gen. Wavell in a personal signal has raised question of concentration of India troop convoys bound Burma and Malaya.

- heads*
2. Convoys immediately affected are (a) leaving Sand ~~(corrupt group)~~ for Burma and Malaya on 16/12. (b) Leaving Madras for Malaya on 20/12. (c) Leaving Calcutta for Madras on 29/12.
  3. I have advised escort for (a) should still be MANOORA as already arranged. Convoys consisting of 3 ships, 2 for Rangoon to make approach in dark hours. The one for Malaya to be routed west of Andamans so as to be clear of shore based aircraft.
  4. I have promised cruiser escort for (b) and (c). Please confirm DANAE and GLASGOW can be earmarked provisionally for these duties.
  5. Gen. Wavell asks for information as to arrangements being made on your station to relieve my escort. Reason for his request lies in fact that responsibility of authorizing sailing of convoy rests with Governor General. (C. in C. E.I., 2242Z/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

*Your 2242/12. Consider convoy to Burma on 16/12 should proceed. No convoys should sail to Malaya till situation is clearer. (Cin C.E.F., 0729Z/13 to Cin C.E.I.)*

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Fighter  
Protection  
for  
Battleships.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.57. In view of press statements about absence of our fighters over PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE, please report urgently circumstances in which it was found necessary to cancel the fighter protection originally arranged for these ships.

(W.O., 0500/12, to C. in C. Far East).

C.O.S.F.E. 57. Facts are as follows.

(1) Before sailing C. in C. Eastern Fleet asked A.O.C.F.E. for:- (A) R/C 100 miles to North of force daylight 9/12.

(B) R/C 100 miles mid point Singora ten miles from coast, starting first light 10/12.

(C) Fighter protection off Singora at daylight 10/12.

(2) A.O.C.F.E. was to look into these questions and give answer to C. of S.

(3) A.O.C. replied that he could provide (A), hoped to be able to provide (B), could not provide (C). (4) Above was confirmed by A.O.C. to Chief of Staff, Eastern Fleet, who signalled accordingly to C. in C.E.F., then at sea.

(C. in C. Far East 1200/12 to W.O.)

Movements.

Singapore arrival 10/12 STRONGHOLD, 11/12 ELECTRA, EXPRESS, VAMPIRE and U.S. Destroyers WHIPPLE, J.D. EDWARDS, EDSALL, ALDEN. Departures 11/12 EXETER for Colombo. (S.O.I. Singapore 0109Z/12). Singapore arrival 12/12. DRAGON, departure KANIMBLA, STRONGHOLD, TENEDOS, ENCOUNTER, Netherlands Cruiser JAVA. (S.O.I. Singapore 0917Z/12).

Communication  
with U.S.  
Navy.

I have been unable to communicate with C. in C. Asiatic Fleet since 0500/10 and have no idea of disposition of his force except the four destroyers now at Singapore. (C. in C. E.F. 0557Z/12 to Admty.)

S.S.  
BENCLEUCH.

BENCLEUCH on fire at 1600Z/11 and burnt until 0615Z/12 when she sank in 053° 10' N. 038° 00' W. Complete crew picked up 48 by ATHELVISOUNF, 10 by NANAIMO. No serious injuries. Cause of fire unknown but sabotage unit suspected at port of sailing. My P.C. and S. 053° 10' N. 038° 00' W. 222° 14 proceeding to rejoin O.N. 42. (NANAIMO 1200Z/12).

/Situation.....



390 A

**MOST SECRET** MESSAGE **SECRET** IN  
Date 15.12.41

Recd. 1000

From G.C.C. Hong Kong

CIPHER

Addressed C. in C. Far East, The War Office,  
Repeated Military Attache, Chungking and C.G.S. Ottawa.

IMMEDIATE

019544.

1750 cipher 12/12.

SITREP 12th December.

Yesterday (11th) morning strong enemy pressure developed on left flank Kowloon - which was held by Royal Scots. The two left companies were driven in by heavy and accurate mortar fire but situation was stabilised by immediate employment of all available reserves which included company Winnipeg Grenadiers. This position was unsuitable for a protracted resistance and by noon the decision was made that the main land except for Devil's Peak position would have to be evacuated under cover of darkness. Withdrawal to island successful in spite of rioting in streets of Kowloon and a certain amount of shooting by Chinese fifth columnists. Stonecutters Island was subjected to very heavy bombardment throughout yesterday and much damage was done to military barracks. Our casualties there, however, were very small. Stonecutters Island was successfully evacuated during the night with no casualties after blowing up guns. All troops now back on island except for one Indian Battn. and one Mountain Battery R.A. on Devil's Peak and portion of a second battalion which will be evacuated to-night. Hong Kong Island was yesterday subjected to sporadic bombardment by aircraft and artillery especially in Naval Dockyard R.A.S.C. Camber and ordnance depot where some damage was caused but casualties were few. Civil population in Hong Kong at present calm but situation in Kowloon badly deteriorating with our evacuation and Japanese advance. Casualties among Royal Scots severe other units light. With enemy in possession of mainland severe damage and casualties are to be expected.

1226/12

Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.C.D.(P) D.D.I.C.

Received from War Office 1829/15

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War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Situation.

Following is General Situation:-

1. Penang. All shipping has left for Indian Ports except 3 for Singapore with war stores.
2. Singapore. A convoy of 7 ships left today, 5 for Australia, 2 for Colombo via Sunda Strait escorted by JAVA, KANIMBLA and 3 destroyers. A further 40 ships are discharging and will be sailed independently via Malacca or Sunda Strait or Dutch East Indies Ports.
3. 2 Merchant Ships arrived today from Hong Kong.
4. DRAGON, DURBAN, 4 U.S. destroyers and VAMPIRE are at Singapore. THANET and SCOUT left Hong Kong and are expected Tarakan tomorrow to log and proceed Singapore. EXETER sailed 11th for Colombo via Sunda Strait.
5. 5 Dutch submarines are operating near Singora.
6. I have still no knowledge of movements of U.S. Force.
7. Ships in Dockyard hands:-  
MAURITIUS at 4 days notice ready for sea about 25/12.  
JUPITER at dock complete about 21/12.  
EXPRESS docking for examination.  
ELECTRA complete 14/12.
8. ERINPURA will be sailed escorted for Colombo with full complement of officers and ratings ex PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.F., 1401Z/12, to Admty. rep. C. in C. E.I.)

\* 8/12 - Tank list.

LE TRIOMPHANT.

On arrival at Singapore you are to report to C. in C. Eastern Fleet under whose Command you will be placed, your return to Eastern Med. being in abeyance owing to present circumstances. (F.N.F.L. London, 1717A/12 to TRIOMPHANT).

Survivors  
from sunk  
Battleships.

Admiralty policy for disposal of survivors from PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE is as follows:-

- (A) You should meet Dutch requirements mentioned in your 1031Z/12 to the full.
- (B) Officers and Ratings who are medically fit, etc., may be retained on your Station to meet essential local requirements or to relieve those who have been abroad for over two years.

2. Subject to your being able to evacuate them remainder should be disposed of as follows:-

- (A) Officers to U.K.
- (B) Ratings to meet essential local requirements on E.I. and Med. Stations or to relieve men who have been abroad over two years. Balance to U.K. (2nd S.L. 1721A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Shipping.....

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Shipping.

Admty. 1915A/10, para. 1. (A).  
If it can be arranged, DOMINION MONARCH should proceed to New Zealand to load meat, MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE to South Africa, ORION when ready to Australia. (D.O.D. (F) 1736A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

Japanese Troopships Sunk.

Dutch S/M O.16 under my operational control reports night attack 12/12 sinking 4 troopships at Pattani Roads. (C. in C. E.F. 2304Z/12 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

U.S. Navy Policy.

Your 2001R/10 para. 4. DIOMEDE is the only British ship in the American Zone other than Canadian vessels. 2. Approved to retain "D" class cruiser temporarily for co-operation with Commandant Naval District and S.O. U.S. S.E. Pacific Force, but in view of DIOMEDE's 2301Z/8 C. in C. A. and W.I. may exchange her with DESPATCH should he so wish. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0005A/12 to B.A.D.)

MACBETH, adrift.

PRUDENT sailed to your assistance from St. John's N.F. 1200Z/8 should be in your vicinity now. Tug ZWARTE ZEE sailed Londonderry 8/12 and should also be approaching you. (C.C.N.F. 0204Z/12 to MACBETH).

BABBITT.

Attack on U/B. (Opnav, 0422Z/12). See U-boat Campaign.

Soviet Shipping.

Two U.S.S.R. vessels ready to proceed from Seattle originally destined Vladivostok. Request instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0831Z/12 to Admty.)

/Enemy.....

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.Enemy Report  
Galapagos.

Reported from U.S. sources that 2 large Naval Vessels, possibly enemy, sighted off Isla Fernandina Galapagos. Reliability of report not known. (B.A.D., 0925R/12 to Admiralty, Rep. C. in C. A. W.I.)

SANTA  
PAULA.

My 1705/8, not to all addressees. SANTA PAULA now sailed direct to Bathurst without escort due about 12/12. (B.A.D. 0941R/12 to Admty., Rep. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Kingston).

BISHOPDALE.

Your 1001/11. (Whether oiler BISHOPDALE required to attend on DESPATCH in Pacific, N.T. in W.D.) Para. C. (ii), replies no. (B.A.D., 1055R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

INDOMITABLE.

My 1225R/11 and your 1132Q/11. Intended to leave Jamaica at 1000R/13. E.T.A. Trinidad 1530Q/15. Piarco's T. 41/1. Spotter Aircraft should take off at 1245. Request 800 tons oil fuel on arrival. (INDOMITABLE, 1101/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Lights.

My 1543Q/10. While present operations in the vicinity of French Antilles are in progress, the wish of U.S. Authorities as regards extinction of lights should be complied with. Warning to shipping is being issued. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1152Q/12 to R.N.O. St. Lucia).  
Your 1653Q/10. U.S. Authorities agree to principle that lights should remain burning unless enemy units are suspected of being in the vicinity or special operation requires their being extinguished. They are issuing instructions to this effect. (B.A.D., 1715R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I. rep. Admty.)

DESPATCH.  
DIOMEDE.  
CIRCASSIA.  
GARADOC.

B.A.D. Washington 1221R/11 para. 5. When ships of A. and W.I. Squadron are withdrawn, I consider it most desirable that DESPATCH, DIOMEDE and CIRCASSIA should proceed to U.K. for leave and adjustment of crews before proceeding elsewhere if situation permits. GARADOC is already arranged for vide your 0035A/2/12. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1242Q/12 to Admty.)

/Sighting.....

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Sighting  
inquiry.

Please report whether Du. ONDINA sighted U.S.N. Oiler SANGAMON in 34° 45' N. 70° 30' W. at 1430 G.C.T./9. (D.D.I.C. 1520A/12 to C.O.A.C., rep. Opnav, C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Washington  
Report.

Washops 2. (1) Philippine Islands. C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet reports Naval Aircraft scored bomb hit on Japanese Battleship of KONGO Class off Coast of Luzon. Ship badly damaged. This is in addition to claim of hit on Battleship HARUNA Class referred to in para. 1, Washops 1. Main targets for air raid 10th and 11/12, Cavite, Nichols, Air Port, Zablan Field and shipping in Harbour. Message from General McArthur on 12/12 and received 2352/11 E.S.T. reports 5 heavy ships and 11 destroyers off Zambals. Enemy have landed at Legaspi, South Luzon, and cut communications at Naga. Original landings at Appari and Vigon augmented.

(2) Hawaii. On 11/12 3 or possibly 5 submarines were sighted on the surface proceeding east in area 150 - 200 N.E. Oahu. 2 bombed by aircraft and all forced down. No further report of enemy action. Reinforcements 9 B 17 planes reported to have arrived.

(3) Midway. Situation obscure. U.S. Navy still in communication with Island at 2358/11 Pacific time.

(4) Wake. At 1800/11 E.S.T., U.S. Marines still hold Island. Total of 5 enemy bombers shot down to date.

(5) Mexico. U. S. N.A. Mexico City reports Mexico coastal patrol has orders to intercept Japanese Merchant Vessels expected off west coast.

(6) Samoa and Palmyra. Message 2358/11 Pacific time, states U.S. Navy in touch with Tutuila and Palmyra islands.

(7) Guam. At 2358/11 Pacific time, U.S. 4th army reports no communication Guam could be obtained by U.S. Navy.

(8) General. Black out reported put into effect west coast of U.S. night 11/12 owing to uncertainty of conditions and inadequate ground defence plans. Request by commercial air line to have Portland W/T silenced has been complied with. Admty. pass to W.O. and A.M. (Joint Staff Mission, Washington, 1355R/12 to Admty. etc.)

RANPURA.

Your 1228/30/10. Can a date for arrival of RANPURA now be given? (B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 to Admty.)

/ROSLIN.....

**MOST SECRET**

394 A

SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN

1330/12.Dec.

From: Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Date: 12.12.41.

Recd: 1515.

CYPHER.

Addressed British Air Commission, Washington.

IMMEDIATE.

M.A.P. 12436 12/12

For Self from Devereux.

Cabinet Defence Committee (Supply) have agreed that the highest priority should be accorded to the production of fighter aircraft necessary to equip and maintain the armoured aircraft carriers of the Royal Navy. They have further agreed that this should be put into effect in a manner which would cause least interference with the production of other important aircraft, particularly heavy bombers.

2. We have discussed the whole problem with the Admiralty and their immediate requirements are a total from America of 440 fleet fighters to be delivered as soon as possible and at any rate at least 40 per month. This will entail at least doubling the deliveries of Martlets to us. As to how this should best be carried out we must leave entirely to you. The present forecast deliveries of Martlets after accounting for all the delays will leave the Admiralty in a most embarrassing position early next year. Please advise us as soon as possible of your hopes of success.

1330/12.

Copies circulated by M.A.P. to:-

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1st Lord.       | P.S. to Minister        |
| 1st S.L.        | Parliamentary Secretary |
| 5th S.L.        | Controller General      |
| V.C.N.S.        | Permanent Secretary     |
| A.C.N.S. (H)    | C.N.A.A.S. (orig)       |
| A.C.N.S. (F)    | C.N.R.                  |
| A.C.N.S. (W)    | D.P.C.A.                |
| Nav. Sec.       | P.S. 4.                 |
| N.A. 1st S.L.   | P.S. 6.                 |
| O.D. (5)        | Hon: T.H. Brand.        |
| D.N.A.D.        |                         |
| Air Br. (2)     |                         |
| N.A.S. (4)      |                         |
| D.A.M. (2)      |                         |
| D.A.M.R.        |                         |
| M. (2)          |                         |
| D. of P. (3)    |                         |
| I.P. (3)        |                         |
| W.D.            |                         |
| C.N.R. (M.A.P.) |                         |

*I propose to make this most secret. W.D.*

395

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.ROSLIN  
CASTLE.  
suspicious  
ship, 5/12.

S.O.(I) Capetown's 1737B/11 is passed to you for information. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1504A/12 to Admty.)

BARFLEUR  
(French).

A plane from Com Task Group 6.3 reports BARFLEUR missing. (Opnav, 1528Z/12 to Admty., C. in C. A. W.I.) See also 2031R/12. (next page.)

ROXBOROUGH.  
O.N.S. 45.

C. in C. W.A. 1041A/30/11. Grateful for confirmation that ROXBOROUGH sailed with O.N.S. 43 and for early advice regarding expected departure from Iceland. (C.C.N.F. 1543Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, A.C.I.C.)

U.S.N.  
Movements.

Cancel my 112208. OMAHA, SOMERS searched Fernando Noronha area, now en route Recife. Estimated depart Recife 13/12 then .15 N. 26 W. on 17th, arriving Recife 22nd. MEMPHIS, DAVIS, interrupted patrol my 012031 on 10th. Arriving Trinidad 17/12. Future service my 102157. (Opnav, 1635/12 to Admty. rep. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. A.W.I.)

ANTEO.  
RAPALLO.  
(Italian)

ANTEO and RAPALLO taken over 9/12 by Colombia Navy and crew detained ashore. (S.O.I. Kingston 1446R/12 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington, F.O.I.C. Trinidad).

VAR  
(French).

Ref. 2107R/4 from B.A.D. Washington (French Tanker VAR left Fort de France to take 8,000 tons fuel oil). Caripito reports ship not arrived and no information. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1518R/12 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D. etc.)

DIOMEDE.

Your 1001Q/11. DIOMEDE with S.E. Pacific Force sails P.M./11 to escort a ship to Galapagos. Expect to return Balboa approx. A.M./19/12. While on this operation intend reading all routines for area 10, other lines will be in use for operational purposes. S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) requested to continue sending applicable Vescas. (DIOMEDE, 1700Z/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/NASTURTIUM.....



War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

NASTURTIUM.

B.A.R.M. 1740R/11 which is being passed to you for necessary action. Report date of arrival (? to) B.A.R.M. Washington. B.A.D. Washington pass to Canadian N.A. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2006 Z/12 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Martinique,  
BEARN.  
BARFLEUR.

Meter. Martinique 11/12. A.I. Naval observer reports French A.C. BEARN's Cruise has been counter-manded and there is no change in condition BEARN. Aircraft ashore. BARFLEUR has not left.

Vichy 11/12. A.I. Darlan confirmed above to Adm. Leachy and said there was no intention that French ship in West Indies should leave. (B.A.D. 2031R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty.). N.I.D. Comment. Para. 1. This A.I. report that BARFLEUR has not left contradicts information in Opnav's 1528/12/12 to the effect that she was missing. *See previous page.*

St. Lucia  
Intelligence.

U.S. Naval Authority here have very little information of situation and unable to confirm information supplied by U.S. Army. U.S. local Naval Intelligence Centre reports (1) no knowledge of ultimatum but it is a fact that Adm. Robert informed that any ship leaving French Island will be bombed. (2) There is anxiety as to whereabouts of BARFLEUR. Details of identification are requested. (R.N.O. St. Lucia, 2100Q/12 to C. in C. A.W.I. rep. Admty. etc.)

FORMIDABLE.  
ILLUSTRIOUS.

Norfolk, sailed. (N.S.H.Q. 2200Z/12 to Admty.)

PRINCE  
DAVID.

PRINCE DAVID sailed Halifax 2030Z/12 for Bermuda. E.T.A. 1100Z/14. Gun trials will be carried out before entering. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2224Z/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MARSDALE.

Your 1752A/2, and MARSDALE's 0530Z/9 proceed direct ship will be docked at St. John N.B. a.m./18 probable duration 48 hours. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2232Z/12 to S.O. Western Patrol, Repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, MARSDALE, Admty, C. in C. A.W.I.)

/Pacific.....

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Pacific  
Coastal  
Shipping.

My Dis 2240/10. Instruct all coastal shipping. U.S. Vessels sailing to San Francisco or further North stop at San Diego and await orders there. (Opnav., 2350Z/12, to Comdr. Panama Naval Coastal Frontier). (repeated Admty. etc.)

Australia and New Zealand.

ACHILLES.

Cancel my 1548M/8. (N.T. in W.D.) When complete with fuel return to Auckland at 20 knots. Report E.T.A. (N.Z.N.B. 0347M/12 to ACHILLES),. Your 0347M/12. E.T.A. 0400M/17. (ACHILLES 2130Z/11 to N.Z.N.B.) ACHILLES arrived Port Moresby 0830Z/11. (A.C.N.B. 0902Z/12 to Admty. etc.) Your 2130Z/11. Adjust speed (? to arrive) Auckland 1800M/16. (N.Z.N.B., 2105M/12 to ACHILLES).

Navigation.

W.M.12. Ref. W.M.6. All Buoys and Beacons in and around Narrows Eastern Passage are being removed. Temporary Buoys can be placed if sufficient notice is given. (S.O.I. Wellington 2138M/12 to all W.M. Addressees).

War Diary.12.12.1941.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.KURDISTAN.  
KIRNWOOD.

Have on board 32 survivors of KURDISTAN including Commodore. 28 survivors of KIRNWOOD All well. Have damaged about 15 feet of stem partly below waterline. Ship in no danger. Position 1200Z 056° 59' N., 009° 51' W. Weather report. (KINGCUP, 1205Z/12, to C. in C.W.A.)

O.S.10.

Brief account of outstanding incidents of Convoy O.S.10, attacked 31/10, 1/11, 2/11. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1914A/12 to D.A/S W., C. in C.W.A., etc.) See Lion Copy.

Submarines Reported.0915A/11.  
1713A/11.

A/S operations - 11/12. Swordfish sighted what he thought was a S/M in position 090° Europa Point 66 miles at 0915A. HESPERUS in position 325° Cape St. Vincent 36 sighted S/M bearing 328° 5 miles at 1713A. (F.O.C.N.A., 0028A/12, to Admty.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs. (D.D.I.C. 1406A/12, 1407A/12.)

2143Z/11.

D/F bearings indicate probable U-boat within 100 miles equator 020° W., at 2143Z/11. (C. in C.S.A., 1425Z/12 to S.A.Sqdn.)

Majorca.

Report from trustworthy source that one or more submarines unknown nationalities have been seen entering and leaving Calas Matsoch and Mezquida, north east coast Majorca. I am investigating. (Consul Palma 1545/12, to S.O.(I)Gib.)

Mediterranean.

Aircraft report 2 submarines on surface in 037° 13' N., 020° 42' E., course 325° 8 knots at 1133B and 037° 26' N., 019° 17' E., course 145° 6 knots at 1249B respectively. (Malta 1613B/12, to Med. Fleet.) At 1554 aircraft reported 2 U-boats 036° 10' N., 014° 53' E., course south. (V.A.Malta, 1817B/12, to Med. Fleet.)

0600/12.  
1200/12.

At 0600/12 far out off Sagres unidentified S/M 12 knots course N.W. At 1200 very far out unidentified S/M 14 knots course N.W. At 1000 off Cape Espichel a German aircraft going north. Source A.1. (N.A.Lisbon, 1631/12, to Admty., Gibraltar.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1914/12th Dec. IN

398A

From. Capt. D. Londonderry.

Date. 13.12.41

Recd. 1410

P/L by T/P

Addressed. D.A/S.W. Co. in C. Western Approaches. F.O.I.C. Belfast  
Capt. D. Liverpool. Capt. D. Greenock.

The following is a brief account of outstanding incidents of Convoy O S 10.

At 1947 on 31st October Convoy was steering 237. LULWORTH was 3000 yards on port bow when ASDIC operator reported submarine blowing tanks bearing 135 degs. LULWORTH turned towards and soon after submarine surfaced in Moon's path 4000 yards away. Almost immediately S.S. BENNEKOM No. 22 was torpedoed. U Boat dived when range was 1600 yards. ASDIC contact was obtained immediately. Five attacks were carried out and contact was very firm and never lost till after the fifth attack. After which LULWORTH was ordered to pick up survivors and rejoin. First attack, 5 at 50 feet, 5 at 225 feet, second attack 6 at 550 feet. Third attack 3 at 550 feet. Fourth attack 3 at 200 feet and 3 at 225 feet. Fifth attack 1 at 50 feet and 1 at 225 feet. After third attack submarine heard blowing tanks and extra explosion after fifth attack. At 1959 and again at 2000 CULVER searching on port quarters heard H.E. of torpedoes bearing 300. At 2016 while picking up survivors CULVER heard H.E. of torpedoes approaching from 225 degs. Turned towards and saw tracks pass down starboard side.

At 1622 on 1st. November LANDGUARD in position M 24 got M/F D/F bearing on 352 KC's of U Boat homing on 244 degs. At 1625 sighted submarine bearing 242 degs. 12 miles. GORLESTON and VERBENA detached to hunt, 1647 GORLESTON sighted U Boat. U Boat dived but at 1746 gained contact. Started attack on course 310 and when range

/was 200

was 200 yards sighted periscope bearing 285 and moving on a course 040 approx.

Officer in crows nest reported that 5 charge pattern set to 100 feet fell squarely round periscope. Particularly heavy explosion observed and water rose to 90 feet.

No wreckage was seen and contact was not regained.

At 0825 on 2nd. November VERBENA while going to visibility distance on starboard bow reported submarine in sight.

LANDGUARD joined the chase but at 0838 U-boat dived. At 0918

LANDGUARD gained contact 122 degs. 1200 yards. Fired 10 charges pattern 3, 8 at 150, 3 light at 500, 3 heavy at 225 and 2 heavy at 385 feet. Extra explosion of some violence

was heard. Contact was lost but during the search at 1133

LANDGUARD sighted submarine 050 degs 12 miles probably another one. 1155 U-boat dived and contact was never gained.

Consider attacks by LULWORTH and LANDGUARD severely damaged submarines and attack by GORLESTON probably destroyed a submarine.

1914A/12

Adv. copies 1st Lord, A.C.N.S. (H),  
N.A. 1st S.L., Ops., O.D., C.I.C.,  
Trade, Press, D.A./S.W.

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

War Diary.

12.12.1941.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By U.S.S.  
BABBITT  
11/12.

For information. U.S.S. BABBITT reliable sound contact at 2130 G.C.T. position 51-37 N., 43-08 W. Dropped depth charges. Darkness prevented visual examination. (Opnav, 0422/12, to C.C.N.F. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. C. in C. A.W.I., Admty., Cinclant, Comtask for 4.)

By FARNDALE  
11/12.

(AMIRAGLIO CARACCILO)

Their Lordships congratulate you, your officers and ship's company on the destruction of an Italian U-boat on 11th December, 1941. (1st. Sea Lord. 1922A/12, to FARNDALE.)

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The first U.K. to Iceland Convoy, U.R.1 sailed today.

SEALION on return from patrol reports that she torpedoed and sank an eastbound unescorted ship at 1201/5 in 71° 7' N. 27° 54' E.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Dunkirk and the enemy naval units at Brest last night. Aircraft of Coastal Command successfully attacked enemy shipping off the coasts of France and Holland from 0356 to 0907 today.

Enemy Air Operations.

PUCKERIDGE (destroyer) was bombed and seriously damaged this morning off the Smalls whilst proceeding to Liverpool to escort to Scapa GUDRUN MAERSK, storeship for Operation "Anklet". She reached Milford Haven safely.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected over the Humber and between Spurn Point and Yarmouth. Enemy aircraft were suspected of minelaying late this evening between Flamborough Head and Yarmouth.

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.

LOCH OSKAIG, patrolling off Lisbon reports being attacked by aircraft at 1130A: she drove off the enemy and obtained one direct hit with Bofors gun.

In view of the recent attacks on S.S. GRELHEAD, SARASTONE and BARON NEWLANDS by German aircraft in Spanish territorial waters F.O.C.N.A. proposes to attack enemy coastal trade in such waters as opportunity offers.

South Atlantic.

BRILLIANT, QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX were ~~today~~ ordered to return to Freetown (see 9/12.)

See p 350.

Freetown fighters shot down a Vichy R/C aircraft p.m. today. A second aircraft which was present escaped.

Mediterranean.

4 Destroyers which left Gibraltar at 0530A/11, last night engaged 2 Italian cruisers (apparently ALBERTO DI GUSSANO and ALBERICO DA BARBIANO) and a Torpedo boat and possibly an E-boat.

It appears that the enemy was sighted by our aircraft near Cape Bon and turned back expecting T.B. attack. This enabled our destroyers to get close into Cape Bon and attack at very close range with fire initiative: the enemy fired only a few salvos.

One cruiser was hit by 2 torpedoes from SIKH and one each from LEGION and MAORI; the second cruiser was hit by a torpedo from LEGION and was heavily hit by gunfire. The T.B. was heavily hit by gunfire from ISAAC SWEERS and LEGION claims to have sunk an E-boat or torpedo boat.

Confirmed by B.R. 1950 as  
sunk.

/Special ...



War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Special air R/C confirms that one cruiser blew up and the other was on fire from stem to stern this morning. Our forces suffered no damage or casualties. V.A. Malta considers it certain that 2 cruisers and one T.B. was sunk and a second T.B. badly damaged.

At 0210B today UPRIGHT attacked two large unidentified ships believed to be warships, and one destroyer steering north at 14 knots in 40° 9' N. 17° 4' E. and secured 4 hits.

TRIUMPH sank a merchant ship and salvage tug IRENE VERNICOS in Candia harbour on 24/11 and bombarded Heraklion Aerodrome p.m./11. (Reinforcements and supplies are being flown by the enemy from Crete to Libya.) Further successes by our submarines are also reported by C. in C. Med. today.

There were 2 air raids on Malta last night; no naval damage is reported.

East Indies.

The Admiralty have ordered mines to be laid in the entrance to Horsburgh Atoll (Maldives) and inside the harbour, as soon as C. in C. Eastern Fleet can place suitable minelaying craft at his disposal. The Japanese in 1923 surveyed this harbour, which is strategically important.

A summary of routing instructions for shipping now in force on the station is given by C. in C. E.I. today.

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.China.

A force of 140 ships was reported by a hitherto reliable source, off the coast of Indo-China heading S.S.W, time and position not known. The force included 100 transports with destroyers, S/MS &c. The number of ships is consistent with 6 divisions known to be available in Japan.

Hong Kong.

The Governor of Singapore has been asked by the Japanese to enter into negotiations for the surrender of Hong Kong. He has refused. During the forenoon the Japanese demanded of the Governor of Hong Kong that he should surrender; the demand was refused. Military withdrawal from the mainland was completed last night.

Malaya,  
Burma and  
Siam.

No convoys are to sail to Malaya from the East Indies until the situation is clearer.

Dutch S/M K.12 reports sinking an oiler off Kota Bharu today.

A.P. vessel BANKA was on the East Coast of Malaya and was recalled on 6/12. She was last heard operating W/T on 7/12 but has not arrived, and must be considered lost.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet proposes to embark and take all available surface vessels from Singapore to Colombo or Batavia, before Singapore becomes a beleaguered fortress and the naval base unsafe for ships. Any submarines available would be left to be used in the defence of Malaya by R.A. Malaya. (On 14/12 the Admiralty approved that C. in C. Eastern Fleet should proceed to Colombo when he considered it necessary.)

Penang Aerodrome has been demolished.

A signal today gives details of the Dutch minefields in Rhio Straits area.

/Mergui ...

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - contd.

Mergui was bombed about 0530 G.M.T. At 1030 G.M.T. Victoria Point W/T Station was demolished and evacuation began.

Philippine  
Is.

The C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet appreciates that enemy control of the air over the Philippine Is. will become evident shortly and will threaten the facilities of the fleet base. In a long war, prevention of enemy fuelling is the strongest strategic weapon. The C. in C. Asiatic Fleet intends to operate S/Ms from Manila as long as possible with primary objective important enemy ships. All other available ships are being organised under Admiral Glassford to operate at present on the general lines Surabaya - Darwin. The C. in C. expects the British and Dutch to guard Malacca and Sunda Strait.

Wake  
Midway  
Guam.

The U.S. Navy Dept. reported early this morning that Wake and Midway Islands are continuing to resist and there is no confirmation of the alleged occupation of Guam.

America and West Indies.

At 0036Z N.S.H.Q. Ottawa reported that the U.S. C.N.O. had ordered Panama to route U.S. ships of under 15 knots on Trans Pacific voyages to San Diego to await orders, and has instructed U.S. authorities on the west coast of U.S.A. to be guided in control of shipping by the local enemy situation prevailing. In the interest of maintaining the flow of British and Allied shipping N.S.H.Q. Ottawa does not propose to amend the instructions he gave to N.C.S.Os on 11/12 (q.v.) (At 1052Q/14 C. in C. A.W.I. instructed the Consular Shipping Adviser, Panama, that British and Allied north Pacific coastal traffic should proceed.) At 1657 Opanav ordered the resumption of sailings of vessels under 15 knots to the Far East, Australia and New Zealand.

At 0159 today U.S. AMERICAN PRESS reported being attacked by enemy aircraft 5 miles off Barqion (? Borinquon Point.)

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

Nauru and Ocean Islands have carried out the demolition of the phosphate loading plants.

U.S. Convoy 40 02 has been diverted from the Philippines to Brisbane. The convoy carries troops, air pilots and 90 aircraft; the latter are to be assembled and if possible sent to the Philippines.

New Zealand.

Reports indicate that the enemy is in occupation of Butaritan Island. Tarawa Island reported all clear today; the Japanese left p.m./10 after destroying launches, canoes and some buildings. There were two native but no European casualties. The island W/T station was put out of action, but hidden sets are functioning.

U-Boat Campaign.

It is reported that the tanker MYRIEL bound from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh was torpedoed this evening about 50 miles west of Alexandria but is proceeding under her own power.

The Spanish tanker BADALONA was torpedoed last night by a U-boat about 14 miles East of Malaga. The master was summoned on board the U-boat and given 10 minutes to abandon ship, despite his protests. No British or Allied S/Ms were in the neighbourhood.

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Aircraft  
Spares.

I propose that when VICTORIOUS next visits Iceland, 3 Albacore and 1 Fulmar in addition to normal complement should be taken and landed at Reykjavik aerodrome as spares for Squadrons embarked. Spare crews not required. Request I may be informed if A/C can be made available at short notice and whether this proposal is acceptable to R.A.F.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1023A/13 to Admty.)

MAPLIN  
to relieve  
AUDACITY.

It is intended that MAPLIN should relieve AUDACITY at Gibraltar, the latter returning to U.K. to refit.

2. MAPLIN is to be sailed for Liverpool forthwith to be taken in hand by Messrs. Harland and Wolff at Bootle for progressing work on stowage for a third aircraft and fitting crane.

4. MAPLIN is to be sailed for Gibraltar with O.G.78 about 10/1.

5. AUDACITY is to return to U.K. with H.G.76 and will be taken in hand at Bootle for refit and proposed alterations.

(Admty., 1340A/13.)

Destroyer  
for W.A.

Request you will lend one destroyer for temporary service with C. in C. W.A.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2356A/13 to R.A.(M).)

Co-operation with Russia.Bad stowage  
of equip-  
ment &c.

Your 1431/25/11. Complaints as to bad stowage of cargo have been closely investigated by W.O., Air Min. and M. of W.T. The pressing need of the U.S.S.R. for aeroplanes, etc. was responsible for hurried loading, and exceptionally bad weather was encountered by ships mentioned in A.C.I.C's 337/141/7. It has been decided that aeroplanes and vehicles will not in future be loaded on forward deck during winter months. War Office at very short notice requested accommodation for 50 men and S.S. CAPE RACE was most suitable ship available. Recognised that conditions were unsatisfactory and would not have been acceptable except in emergency, but best possible arrangements made in circumstances.

(A.C.N.S. (T), 2221A/13 to C. in C. H.F.)

401

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.JUNON.  
O.21.Arrangements for sailing JUNON and O.21 escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1300A/16 for Dundee.  
(Capt. (S) 3, 1151A/13, 1722A/13.)ROCKROSE.  
JASMINE.Proceed from position C direct to E omit D.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1511/13 to ROCKROSE, JASMINE, repeated Admty., F.O.C.N.A., .C in C. S.A.)P.37.Arrangements for P.37 to R/V with WHEATLAND at 1700/15 for escort to Scapa.  
(A.C.O.S., 1745A/13 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)AURANIA.AURANIA should be prepared for passage to Devonport in accordance with A.M. 2047A/4. When ready for sea F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship at such time as weather forecast appears favourable. Ship should be capable of 12 knots but is to be prepared to take shelter en route if weather deteriorates.  
(D.O.D.(H), 2219A/13 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow, Greenock.)RODNEY.Admiralty's 1311A/13. (i) Intend to detail ships as follows: destroyers HAVELOCK, VERITY, NEWPORT: Corvettes ANEMONE, ABELIA, VERONICA, THYME.  
(ii) WALKER will be sailed about 15/12 to relieve NEWPORT.  
(iii) Propose NEWPORT, WELLS, and ST. MARYS escort S.D.18 to U.K.  
(iv) VANOC will be sailed about 17/12.  
(v) Intend that WITHERINGTON, BLYSKAWICA, SHERWOOD, and NEWMARKET should escort T.C.16.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2311A/13 and 1312A/14 to A.C.I.C)Operations.Operation  
"Kitbag".  
(Shipping strike,  
Nor: coast.)Scapa arrival, D.3 in INGLEFIELD, INTREPID, ICARUS, OFFA, PRINCE CHARLES.  
(A.C.O.S., 0024A/13.)Operation  
"Anklet".  
(Raid on  
Isfoten Is.)A.M. 1336A/7. Intend sailing GUDRUN MAERSK escorted by ACANTHUS and EGLANTINE for Scapa 1430A/15 speed 11½ knots E.T.A. 0930A/17. Fighter protection code word "Master".  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1029A/13.)  
PUCKERIDGE has been disabled by enemy action. No other new type HUNT is available other than CHIDDINGFOLD.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1557/13 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Swedish ...

402

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Swedish  
Merchant  
traffic  
from  
Gothenburg  
to Faeroes.

Your 1250A/12. It is essential that ships should not arrive Faeroes during dark hours. I do not like the reduction to 25 miles for obvious reasons but I am prepared to concur for the period 1st Nov. to 10th Feb. only, provided that arrangements cannot be made for the third ship to be sailed 24 hours later or if they have to sail in company for the third ship to loose 24 hours on passage.

(A.C.O.S., 1140A/13 to Admty.)

Admiralty 1250A/12th. Request you will pass my 1615/22/10 to C. in C. H.F. so that he may know that I agree to shorter intervals between westbound Swedish ships arriving at Faeroes. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1210A/13 to A.C.O.S.)

SEALION.

Returned from patrol SEALION. One unescorted eastbound ship torpedoed 1201/5 in 71.07 N. 27.54 E. 3 torpedoes fired. Range 700 yards. Sank in 50 minutes. No other attacks. Admiralty pass to F.O.(S). (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1536C/13.)

CONQUEROR.

N.O.i/c. Faeroes 1629A/12. Fuel capacity of CONQUEROR is 220 tons estimated consumption at 12 knots is 12 tons per day. (D.O.D. (H), 2120A/13 to A.C.O.S., (R) N.O.i/c. Faeroes.)

British Air Operations.Bomber  
Command  
Operations.

Night 12/13 December. 5 Stirlings and 16 Wellingtons attacked enemy units at Brest. 7/10 to 9/10 cloud prevailed. A/C dropped their bombs, including 5 x 4,000 lbs. and 25 x 2,000 lbs, in the target area and on S/L and flak concentrations around Brest as lit up by flares from the Stirlings. Results were mainly unseen. Dunkirk. 3 Stirlings and 5 Wellingtons reached the target area. Bombs were seen to burst on the docks causing several fires. (H.Q. B.C., 1420/13.)

Orders for  
Beauforts.

AP/356, 13/12 until further notice Beaufort aircraft are not to be dispatched to attack fringe targets or shipping in harbour. (H.Q.C.C., 2006A/13 to 16, 18, 19 Groups.)

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Operations.PUCKERIDGE  
damaged.

Help "Object" 270 Smalls 5.  
(Plymouth W/T, T.O.R. 0641/13.)  
Have been bombed and seriously damaged, assistance tugs urgently required. My P.C. and S. 300° the Smalls 3 miles 105° 6. Request fighter protection, am making for Milford Haven. (PUCKERIDGE, 0904/13 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
Brought in Pembroke Dock by tugs CHERBOURGEOIS III and SCHELDE. Casualties appear to be 18 dead, 20 wounded.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1025/13, 1039/13, 1213/13, 1351/13, 1441/13.)

Mining.Q.L. 4.  
6. 7.

My 1114A/7/10 para. 1 Q.L. series, recent reports show that buoys off Hook of Holland have been altered possibly as the result of previous minelaying.  
It is intended to carry out Q.L.4 as previously stated at first opportunity. In addition intend to carry out the following operation.  
Q.L.(6) on line 140° from buoy in the chart position 052° 02'24" N. 004° 04'24" E.  
Q.L.(7) on line 325° from R.W conical buoy reported in 051° 58'30" N. 004° 00'24" E.  
Q.L.(6) and (7) may be regarded as alternative to Q.L.(4) if the latter proves to be impracticable.  
N.O.I.C. Harwich pass BEEHIVE.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1016A/13 to Admty.)

WELSHMAN.

Raise steam and proceed at 1730 today in accordance with Admty. 1231/12 arriving at point of arrival 0900/15.  
2. Route as follows.  
3. S. of A. 17 knots.  
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection.  
(R.A.M., 1032/12 to WELSHMAN.)

Enemy Intelligence.5 destroyers  
at Kirkenes.

Report graded A.1 states that 5 German destroyers arrived Kirkenes on 11/12. It is possible that E-Boats with Depot Ship have also arrived.  
(D.D.I.C., 2258A/13 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk, S.B.N.O. Archangel, KENT, SHEFFIELD, repeated C. in C. H.F.)

/Large vessel ...



War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.Large vessel.

There are indications by R.D.F. of one large enemy vessel with probably 5 or 6 escorts in 010° Cap Gris Nez Light 4.5 miles at 2245. Course south-westerly. Speed 19 knots. (V.A. Dover, 2302A/13 to Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth.)

Miscellaneous.Corpach base.

Reference destroyer repair base Corpach, proposed scheme held up strong objection by local interest. Alternative adjacent site accommodation must be sought. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1150/13.)

Casualties and Defects.AMAZON.

Arrived at 2100/12 with defects. (N.O.I.C Oban, 0100A/13.) Intend to sail for Greenock unless N.O.i/c Oban can hold out prospects of earlier repair or replacement than can be made at Greenock. (AMAZON, 0315A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.S. MACBETH.

Your 1900A/12. MACBETH has been ordered to broadcast for D/F purposes at 0800A/13. Possibility of presence of U-Boats renders broadcasting at regular intervals inadvisable. (D.T.D., 0132A/13 to PIMPERNEL.)

S.S. AFTERGLOW.

Thames to Seaham in F.N 576 docked Immingham after hitting wreck of WELSH PRINCE near 59 Buoy and damaging bottom. No casualties. (F.O. Humber, 1045/13.)

WALKER.

Have developed defect. Propose proceeding to Londonderry for assistance. (WALKER, 1556A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

WELLS.

Both oil fuel heaters top corner joints blown and corner (distorted?). Am attempting effect repairs by 0900/14. (WELLS, 2001A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.W.S.14.

Your 1836A/3/11. (? Oiler) will not be required by RAMILLIES. (B.S.3, 1007A/17 to Admtty.)

404A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1834A/13. December.

OUT

To. C in C South Atlantic. 953  
 C in C East Indies. 258  
 Repeated C in C Mediterranean 962 Bl.  
 F.O.C.N.A. 915  
 F.O.I.C. Simonstown 340.  
 F.O. Red Sea  
 C in C Eastern Fleet 190  
 F.O.C. Malaya 959  
 F.O.C.R.I.N. 337  
 N.C.I.C. Durban.

Date 13.12.41.

NAVAL CODE (C)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT to Cs. in C. S.A. and E.I. only.

Following transports sailed United Kingdom 8.12. in  
 Convoy W.S.14. Cruising order has probably been changed by Commodore  
 as pendant numbers 61 and 83 did not sail.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Numbers on Board</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
Z.1.	HIGHLAND PRINCESS	15	2 1427 3	West Africa Middle East India.	71.
Z.2.	CAMERONIA	15	1 35 3218	South Africa East Africa Middle East.	53.
Z.3.	ABOSSO	14½	923	West Africa	41.
Z.4.	HIGHLAND MONARCH	15	2 1408 2.	West Africa Middle East India.	72.
Z.5.	ATHLONE CASTLE	19	33. 444. 766. 3. 581. 7. 5.	West Africa Middle East. Iraq Ceylon Malaya. Hong Kong. New Zealand.	63.
Z.7.	ESPERANCE BAY	15	1. 270. 283. 4. 194. 40. 684. 1.	South Africa. Middle East. Iraq. India. Barma. Ceylon. Malaya. Hong Kong.	
Z.10.	EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA '18.	18.	2595	Middle East.	22.

Z.11. / .....

# MOST SECRET

# MOST SECRET

- e -

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Numbers.</u> <u>Board.</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
Z.11.	STRATHALLAN	17	45 4 14. 184. 960. 1663. 112. 386. 81.	West Africa South Africa Aden. Middle East. Iraq. India. Burma. Ceylon. Malaya.	52
Z.12.	SCYTHIA.	15	1. 258. 159. 254. 2363. 69 10.	West Africa. South Africa. East Africa. Aden. Middle East. Iraq. India.	32.
Z.13.	DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.	17½	2. 1544. 410. 1109.	Middle East Iraq India. Malaya.	51.
Z.14.	DURBAN CASTLE,	18	40. 2. 161. 34. 838. 250.	West Africa Aden. Middle East. Iraq. India. Ceylon.	62.
Z.15.	ORONSAY	18	2. 2087. 988.	Middle East Iraq India.	33.
Z.16.	WARWICK CASTLE	18	1467.	Middle East	21.
Z.18.	REINA DEL PACIFICO	18	117. 47. 1098. 1325.	South Africa Middle East Iraq. India	43.
Z.	ANDES	20.	23. 4. 542. 2239. 54. 367.	West Africa South Africa Middle East Iraq. India. Malaya.	34.
Z.21.	ORCADES	19	3391. 4.	Middle East India	44.

H.M.S. ENGADINE pendant number 54, also sailed with convoy

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

# MOST SECRET

Ship / .....

# MOST SECRET

1404<sup>c</sup>

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Destination.</u>
HIGHLAND PRINCESS	M.T. Guns, stores	Middle East.
ABOSSO	Commercial Cargo	Freetown.
HIGHLAND MONARCH.	Seed potatoes	Middle East.
ATHLONE CASTLE	Guns, M.T. stores.	Singapore.
STRATHALLAN	Guns stores, 1063 tons d.w. commercial cargo	India.
SCYTHIA	Guns, M.T. stores	Middle East.
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL	M.T. stores	India.
DURBAN CASTLE	M.T. guns, stores	India.
WARWICK CASTLE	M.T. guns, stores	Middle East
REINA DEL PACIFICO	M.T. guns	India

3. Following M.T. Ships also sailed in convoy W.S.14.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Number of Personnel on Board</u>	<u>Dest- inat- ion</u>	<u>Pen- dant No.</u>
R.313	CLAN CAMERON	16	Vehicles, guns locomotives, stores	-	Persian Gulf	82
R.314	EMPIRE PERE- GRINE	16	Vehicles, guns stores	16	Persian Gulf	64
			5 Oxfords 2 Masters	- -	Capetown	
R.316	EMPIRE ORIOLE	16	Vehicles, guns stores, tanks 7 Oxfords	15	Middle East	23
R.317	EMPIRE PINTAIL	16	Vehicles guns stores tanks	20.	Capetown Middle East	81.
R.318.	EMPIRE WIDGEON.	16	Vehicles guns stores	16.	Persian Gulf	74
R.319.	EMPIRE CONDOR	16	Vehicles guns stores	16.	Persian Gulf	24
			7 Oxfords 2 Masters.	- -	Capetown.	
R.320.	EMPIRE EGRET	15	Vehicles guns tanks 11 Masters	15	Middle East	73.
R.321.	EMPIRE CURLEW	15	Vehicles guns stores	- 13	Capetown Persian Gulf	13.
					Capetown	

MOST SECRET

W.S. 14

# MOST SECRET

R.330.	ERESTOS	14	Vehicles guns stores seed potatoes	270	Middle East	31.
R.331.	CITY OF PRETORIA					
		16	Vehicles guns stores	20	Middle East.	12.
R.332.	TROILUS	14½	Vehicles guns stores.	70	Middle East	11.

4. H.M.S. CILICIA has 132 personnel for West Africa.

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

6. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should arrange for on-carriage of personnel from South Africa as follows:-

(a) for East Africa ex CAMERONIA and SCYTHIA

(b) For Aden and Middle East ex ATHLONE CASTLE ESPERANCE BAY HIGHLAND PRINCESS STRATHALLAN DUCHESS OF ATHOLL DURBAN CASTLE ORONSAY REINA DEL PACIFICO and ANDES.

(c) Personnel for India ex HIGHLAND PRINCESS HIGHLAND MONARCH SCYTHIA and ORCADES.

7. P.S.T.O. India should arrange for on-carriage from India of all personnel for Iraq and Burma and should make necessary arrangements for disembarkation of personnel for Colombo.

8. Question of personnel for Malaya and Hong Kong will be for later consideration.

9. HIGHLAND PRINCESS will proceed from Durban to plate to load for U.K.

10. ABOSSO will leave W.S.14 at Freetown and will revert to normal liner service.

11. ATHLONE CASTLE and ESPERANCE BAY will proceed from Bombay to New Zealand and Australia respectively to load for U.K. Disposal of HIGHLAND MONARCH from Suez will be signalled later.

12. Further signal will be made regarding proposals for turning certain ships round at Durban but subject to this CAMERONIA EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA SCYTHIA WARWICK CASTLE and ORCADES will turn round at Suez and return to U.K. STRATHALLAN DUCHESS OF ATHOLL DURBAN CASTLE ORONSAY REINA DEL PACIFICO and ANDES will return from India to U.K. Loading instructions will be signalled in due course.

13. All M.T. ships plus ORONSAY WARWICK CASTLE and ANDES will bunker at Capetown. Remainder at Durban.

14. M.T. Ship EMPIRE FULMAR also sailed with W.S. 14 but has had to return to U.K.

15. /.....

MOST SECRET

15. Commodore of Convoy is Commodore Bodham-Whetham in DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

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

1834A/13.  
for D.C.D. (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.C.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.
- P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Captain (2)
- Hd. of M.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- N.I.D.1C (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
- D of S.T

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.G. 78.  
O.N. 50.

Pass to N.C.S.O's. Cancel my 1830A/5.  
Amend W.A. schedule of convoy sailings as follows O.G.78 sails 10th January 1942, O.N.50 sails 24th December.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1211A/13.)

O.N.44.

In R/T touch with ARABIS but hove to in violent gale. Convoy is (? already) scattered.  
(RESTIGOUCHE, 1630Z/13 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Are you continuing course 100° or heaving to.  
Will maintain watch on 500 Kc/s until you reply.  
(CHICOUTIMI, 1630Z/13 to RESTIGOUCHE.)

S.C.56.

Average speed 6.4 knots. Continuous gales during passage and convoy hove-to twice.  
All ships arrived except SCOTTISH TRADER a straggler not yet accounted for.  
(D.T.D., 1720Z/13 to Opnav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.O.G. 77.

Arrival BLACK SWAN, DEPTFORD, FOWEY, HELIOTROPE, HESPERUS, LA MALOUINE, PENTSTEMON, CONVULVULUS, MYOSOTIS, CARNATION, BLUEBELL, CAMPION, STONECROP, VETCH, SAMPHIRE, with convoy O.G. 77. (F.O.C.N.A. 0702A/13 to Admiralty., C.in C. W.A.). O (?G) 77 Gibraltar section with KINGSBOROUGH and EMPIRE KESTREL arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 0920A/13 to Admty. rep. C.in C. W.A.).

Enemy Air Patrol.

There are indications that two F.O. Aircraft have been ordered to patrol area from Cape Finisterre to Cape Roca to a depth of 180 miles from Portuguese Coast. (D.D.I.C. 1116A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

LOCH  
OSKAIG  
A/C attack..

My 2137A (N.T. in W.D.). Attack beaten off 1 direct hit with Bofors aircraft flew off towards Espichel course 150°. (LOCH OSKAIG 1220A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.). LOCH OSKAIG reports being attacked by aircraft at 1130A/13 in vicinity of Lisbon. Aircraft driven off and one direct hit with Bofors claimed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1331A/13 to Admty.).

ASTRAL.

Request information as to whereabouts of tanker ASTRAL which left Aruba (D.W.I.). on 20/11 for Portugal as she has not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1224/13 to D.T.D.).

Suspicious Schooner.

A two masted auxiliary schooner painted white with Spanish ensign and the name of OCCIDENTE in black on her side is suspected of operating with a U/B. in the vicinity of St. Vincent Strait. Ship is to be boarded and sent in if encountered. (F.O.C.N.A. 1239A/13 to N.A. Stn. rep. S.O. Force H.).

Use of R/T.

Your 1146N/6 and 1006Z/12, latter not to Admiralty. Concur that communications between us has on occasion not been satisfactory. In the period which gave rise to your 1146N/6 some times of origin were untraceable at first due to the message being recoded and bearing a new T.O.O. Concur that originators numbers would help. Intend to reciprocate. Desire to emphasise again the corruptness which arises in type X messages which are passed by W/T especially through a link L/T communication between us appears satisfactory. (V.A.C.N.A. 1337A/13 to C.in C. S.A.).

/Enemy.....



13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Enemy A/C  
Tagus.

German aircraft patrolling off Tagus between 1000 and 1100 13/12.  
(N.A. Lisbon 1617/13 to Admty. Rep. Gibraltar).

FJORD  
GRELHEAD  
(sunk 1/12,  
2/12)  
Attacks in  
Spanish  
Waters.

My 1238A/13 (N.T. in W.D.) para (1) FJORD and S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2330A/3 GRELHEAD. While it is unlikely that these ships were outside territorial waters there is no direct proof that they were inside.

(2) In view of proven cases SARASTONE (my 1238A/13 para 2) and BARON NEWLANDS and Spanish CASTILLO OROPESA (N.A. Madrid's 1843/11/11 to D.N.I.) propose to attack enemy coastal trade in Spanish territorial waters as opportunity offers.

(3) Particularly favourable occasions appear to exist when German vessels load ore at Agua Amarga in entirely open anchorage.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1622A/13 to Admty.). Reply: Admty 0027/23.

OLYMPUS

Intend to sail OLYMPUS p.m./15 for Malta. OLYMPUS will pass through 038° 00' (?009°) 00' E. about 2300/18 thence as routed by (?V.A. Malta). C.in C. Med. pass to Capt. S. 1. V.A. Malta pass to Capt. S. 10.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1747A/13 to C.in C. Med.).

A/S air  
patrols.

(2) F.A.A. Swordfish continuous ASV patrol 15 miles around Cape Spartel from 1830/12 to 0900/13.  
(5) 3 Hudsons A/S parallel track sweep east to 01° 10' E. 0930 to 1530. 1 Hudson sighted U/B. in 36° 38' N. 02° 33' W. at 1047. No attack. Same aircraft sighted another U/B in 36° 16' N. 02° 40' W. course 045° at 1132 aircraft attacked. with 4 depth charges no hits estimated. Another Hudson sighted U/B in 36° 35' N. 01° 54' W. course 090°. Attacked with 4 D/cs. Near miss estimated.  
(200 Group 1810/13. F.O.C.N.A. 2246A/13).

Vichy  
intelligence.

French N.A. informs me on instructions from Admiral Auphan that German reports notably suggestions in "Matin" that DUNKERQUE anticipated repairs are untrue. She has not been repaired. This is a private warning against German propaganda.

I asked him direct questions about bases and Darlan's meeting with Goering. He gave word of honour Petain had not ceded bases. He was certain he would know. (N.A. Madrid 2009/13).  
N.I.D. Comment.

(1) According to present evidence temporary repairs only to DUNKERQUE have been completed. Ship cannot be completely repaired at Oran owing to lack of material and technical equipment.

(2).....

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Vichy  
Intelligence.  
(Contd.)

(2) Rear Admiral Auphan appointed Chief of Vichy Naval Staff on 1/9/41. He is believed to have a strong anti-British bias, though a recent report (graded C.3) has stated that though outwardly a "collaborationist" at heart he is not.

(3) N.I.D. is unable to say whether any reliance should be placed on the assurance given in para. 3 above.

South Atlantic.DALLINGTON  
COURT.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1035/12. DALLINGTON COURT arrived Lourenco Marques. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0859B/13 to Admty., etc.)

BENTE MAERSK.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1215/12, BENTE MAERSK arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0917B/13.)

VANSITTART.  
WILD SWAN.

Following is a repetition of my 1021Z/12, begins:- addressed Consul St. Vincent (repeated B.N.A. Lisbon etc.) Request you obtain permission for VANSITTART and (? WILD SWAN) to obtain 100 tons fuel immediately after arriving at St. Vincent on 15/12. (C. in C.S.A., 1117Z/13 to VANSITTART.)

U.S. Forces.

A.M. 1809A/12. Cancel para. 1 and substitute following, (begins)  
1. A.M. 0033A/2. OMAHA and SOMERS having searched Fernando Noronha area returned Pernambuco. Expect leave Pernambuco 13/12 for 15° N., 26° W., E.T.A. 17/12 returning Pernambuco 22/12. (Ends.)  
(D.O.D.(F) 1155A/13 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

/S.S.ROSLIN.....

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.S.S. ROSLIN  
CASTLE.

Reference S.O.(I) Capetown's 1737/11 no information was received that ROSLIN CASTLE had proceeded to Capetown direct from Liverpool. (C. in C.S.A. 1312Z/13 to Adty.)

SAGADAHOC  
wreckage,  
suspected  
raider.

My 1737/11. (Suspicious ship, believed Japanese, sighted by ROSLIN CASTLE.) ASTER reports that at 0220N/6 in 21° 46'S 08° 08'W, sighted numerous pieces of wreckage, quantities of oil fuel, and picked up a lifebuoy marked SAGADAHOC New York. No trace of boats or survivors. U.S.S. SAGADAHOC due Cape Town 12/12 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1716/13, to Admty., C. in C.S.A., F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

W.S.14.

List, numbers on board, destinations, etc. (D.O.D.(F) 1834A/13 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.I.) See Lion Copy. (b-b 404A to 404E)

Operation  
"Pantaloon".

ATHENE will discharge about 23 "Pantaloon" Hurricane dismantled aircraft at Takoradi together with about 31 Hurricane pilots including reserves fully kitted for flying on to Middle East. R.A.F.E.O. Takoradi to ascertain ATHENE E.T.A. from local Naval authorities. (Air Min., 1910/13, to Takoradi.)

Fernando Po.

Ref. telegrams from Governor of Nigeria Nos. 957. 1069. 1189. 1203 all addressed S. of S., for Colonies. You will in consultation with C. in C. South Atlantic prepare plans in case the necessity arises and you receive orders to take action against Fernando Po. Estimated garrison of Fernando Po. (details.) (W.O., 2030/13 to G.O.C. in C., W.Africa.)

Shipping.

Owing to shortage of escorts no S.T. convoy is being formed. Ships for Cape and Takoradi will be sailed in groups with local escort to end of Sector and then dispersed. (C. in C.S.A., 2031Z/13 to Admty.)

BARBOUR.

F.O.i/C Simonstown's 2127Z/3. Request whereabouts of Boom Vessel BARBOUR may be reported. (D.B.D., 2113A/13 to C. in C.S.A.)

/VANSITTART.....

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.VANSITTART  
WILD SWAN  
A/S Search.

Following is a repetition of my 1931Z/12 (begins)  
VANSITTART and WILD SWAN with flying boats  
cooperating will carry out search for U-boats  
on 16/12 on area South of Verdes. T.O.O.  
1931Z/12. (Ends.)  
(C. in C.S.A., 2135Z/13, to Admty., rep.  
F.O.C.N.A.)

PRESIDENTE  
MITRE.  
PRESIDENTE  
ROCA.

My 1834Z/11 U.S.N.A., obtained verbal promise  
from Argentine Naval Authorities that L.O.I.P.  
PRESIDENTE MITRE and L.O.I.W.PRESIDENTE ROCA  
will not be allowed to sail until further  
notice. Both ships are now in Buenos Aires.  
I am informed arrangements are being made to  
remove Japanese crews after which ships may be  
allowed to sail.  
(S.O.(I) Monte Video 2137Z/13 to Adty.,  
Repeated S.O.(I) Freetown, R.A.S.A.D., B.N.A.  
Rio de Janeiro. B.N.A. Buenos Aires.

S.S.PERSEE  
(PIERRE L.D.)

It is reported that Vichy Ship FOYD(PIERRE L.D.)  
now re re-named PERSEE escorted by sloop  
(?AMIRAL CHARNER) left Saigon on 5/12 with  
6,000 tons rubber destined for Germany.  
Most important that this ship should be inter-  
cepted, reported and shadowed so that measures  
can be taken for her capture as her cargo  
represents a large percentage of Germany's  
deficiency in raw materials. PERSEE can  
steam 14 knots and if bunkered at Manila can  
reach Casablanca via Cape or Cape Horn without  
fuelling. If so she could be rounding Cape  
Horn about 1/1/42 or Cape about 22/12.  
(C. in C.S.A., 2141Z/13, to S.A. Stn., Sqn.)  
Add to my 1931Z/12 and Cape Verde Islands Area  
on 15/12.  
(C. in C.S.A., 2155Z/13.)

Mediterranean.Libya.

Military Situation Reports. (C. in C.M.E.,  
0100/13, 1726/13 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

TRIUMPH  
M/Vs 7 tug  
torpedoed.

Now known that TRIUMPH torpedoed a M/V and the  
salvage ship ~~VERNIKOS~~ <sup>VERNIKOS</sup> VERNIKOS, 105 tons, at  
Candia on 24/11.  
(D.S. 830, 13/12.) (D.O.R. 13/12.)

\* P. Beach list of R.N. Losses

/NEREUS.....

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.NEREUS,  
THRASHER.

NEREUS 0037B/13 acknowledged. THRASHER due Alexandria Sanctuary 0600B/13 from N.W. NEREUS about same time from Northward. (Capt. S.I, 0149B/13, to NEREUS, THRASHER.)

Enemy  
Cruiser.

P.C. and S., of enemy 1 cruiser 330° Cape Bon 10 miles 175° 22 knots. (Med. A/C A.M.9 D, 0301/13, to Hal Far.) No enemy so far located tonight except one cruiser 330° Cape Bon 10 miles course 175° 22 knots at 0301B. (V.A.Malta, 0346B/13, to SIKH.)

2 cruisers  
torpedoed.

Cancel my 0225A. (N.T. in W.D.) 2 enemy cruisers torpedoed position 037° 04' 011° 07'. (LEGION, 0315A/13, to Malta W/T.)

Action by  
SIKH,  
LEGION,  
MAORI,  
ISAAC SWEERS.  
ALBERTO DI  
GUISSANO, 7  
ALBERICO DA  
BARBIANO sunk  
(B.R. 1400.)

Preliminary report of action. 2 cruisers, 1 torpedo boat, and possibly 1 E-boat engaged. 1 cruiser hit by 2 torpedos from SIKH and 1 each from LEGION and MAORI, and the other hit by 1 torpedo from LEGION. Leading cruiser left in flames which were still visible an hour later. Fate of second cruiser not observed but she was heavily hit with gunfire as well as LEGION's torpedo. Torpedo boat heavily hit by gunfire from Netherlands Dest. ISAAC SWEERS, and LEGION claims to have sunk 1 E-boat. No damage or casualties to own forces. (SIKH, 0734A/13 to V.A.Malta.) C.O.'s of British ships engaged, from Admty., communique to B.B.C. and Press.

13/12:-

SIKH. Cdr. G.H. Stokes, D.S.C., R.N.

LEGION. Cdr. S. Jessel, R.N.

MAORI. Cdr. R.E. Courage, D.S.O, D.S.C, R.N.

At 0315A/13. LEGION reports 2 enemy cruisers torpedoed 037° 04' N., 011° 07' E. Special Wellington confirms 1 cruiser blew up 1 cruiser on fire stem to stern.

(V.A.Malta, 0736B/13, to Admty., etc.)

My 0736B/13. Preliminary reports as follows - enemy was sighted near Cape Bon steering southwards ahead of Group 1. It appears enemy heard special Wellington and expecting T/B attack turned back which enabled our destroyers to get close in to Cape Bon and the attack was carried out at very close range with fire initiative. Consider certain 2 cruisers and 1 torpedo boat were sunk and a second torpedo boat badly damaged. This apparently disposed of the entire enemy force. No casualties or damage to our forces although enemy fired a few salvos at them when discovered.

(V.A.Malta, 1324B/13 to Admty rep. C. in C. Med. etc.)

/LAFOREY.....

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

LAFOREY,  
EXMOOR,  
BLANKNEY.

E.T.A. 1015. LAFOREY requires dockyard berth, main steam pipe leaking at bulkhead, valve joint requires remaking. EXMOOR has defect, requires dockyard assistance. (Capt. D.19, 0805A/13, to LAFOREY, EXMOOR, BLANKNEY.)

Convoy  
"Arena".

Intend to sail "Arena" escorted by ERICA from Beyrout at 1730C/14, S. of A., 6 knots. Intend to sail NYMPHE with "Arena" as far as Haifa after which she will proceed unescorted to Alexandria, E.T.A., 1000B/16. (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1030C/13, to N.O.I.C. Haifa.)

Fighter  
Protection.  
Tobruk.

Operation "Aggression". Fighter protection now available from Tobruk under control of 262 Wing, Tobruk. S.B.N.O. Tobruk pass this and further messages concerning "Aggression" to 262 Wing. (C. in C. Med., 1031B/13, to All concerned in "Aggression".)

Enemy  
Unit.

1 Enemy 08.20 N., 20.15 E., G80, 10, 1018R. (Hal Far, 1050/13, to all ships.)

Enemy  
Convoy.

Formation of Wellingtons sighted convoy 6 to 12 vessels, 037° 04' N., 001° 25' E., at 0140' G.M.T., course and speed unknown. (V.A.Malta, 1053B/13, to F.O.C.N.A., Force H.)

A.A. Brigade  
from M.N.B.D.O.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.212 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. M.E., A.O.C. in C. M.E., Repeated C.-in-C., India. Repeated ~~C. in C., India.~~

1. Request that arrangements may be made as a first priority to equip and prepare for embarkation to Ceylon for local defence and reinforcement purposes, an A.A. Brigade Group formed from personnel of M.N.B.D.O.I. as follows:-

Brigade H.Q. One Regt. Heavy A.A. of Three Btys. (24 guns). One Battery Light A.A. of 4 Troops (16 guns). One G.O.R. Four Sections R.D.F. G/L.

2. Request you will report date by which formation will be ready to sail. Formation will, from date to be notified later, be under complete operational control and administration of G.O.C.-in-C. India.

413

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.A.A. Brigade  
from  
M.N.B.D.O.  
(Contd.)

3. To replace Heavy A.A. guns of M.N.B.D.O. you may use as temporary measure 24 of the guns ear-marked for Turkey. When required for delivery to Turkey these will be returned to Turkish consignment from your own resources pending replacement from U.K.  
(1st. S.L., 1108A/13, to C. in C. Med., rep. C. in C.E.I.)

Ibn Saud.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. 210 to Cs.-in-C. M.E., and Med., C.-in-C., India, C.-in-C., East Indies, G.O.C., Iraq. In view of indications that Ibn Saud would now be prepared to join the Allies openly, we are considering military implications of a Saudi Arabian alliance. Request your views.  
(1st. S.L., 1117A/13, to C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.I., rep. S.N.O.P.G.)

Vichy Fleet  
Alexandria.

Ref. A.M.1937A/12. (N.T. in W.D.) Vichy may decide upon strategic collaboration of a general nature with Germany in which case there is always the possibility that Adm. Godfroy would on orders from Vichy, scuttle his ships. As before you will no doubt take what steps you can to prevent such action. Presume you have considered obtaining the assistance of French sympathisers who would not wish to see their ships scuttled but would prefer to see them used by us.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1156A/13 to C. in C. Med.)

PRESIDENT  
HOUDUCE.

Present intention is for F.N.F.L. trawler PRESIDENT HOUDUCE to proceed to Beyrout on relief at Pointe Noire early in 1942.  
2. She is not fitted with asdics but a set can be placed on board at Simonstown. 3. Conversion of whalers in South Africa is expected to utilise all resources and if you require her so fitted, Alexandria appears to be the only alternative. Training of A/S ratings will also be required. 4. Request your views.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1317A/13 to C. in C. Med.)

/Enemy M/V.....

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Enemy M/V  
attacked.

Following has been read via Malta W/T.  
Have attacked enemy vessel medium (not over 10,000 tons) with bombs dive and estimate no hits (group missing). Present visibility towards surface is 14 miles. ?My position is FUKA 1750. (indecipherable.)  
(? 1525/13.)

Enemy Units  
Argostoli.

Following has been read via Malta W/T.  
2 Destroyers, 2 M.V's leaving Argostoli Harbour.  
(? 1700/13.)  
2 Destroyers, 2 Merchant ships, leaving Argostoli Harbour at 1719B/13.  
(V.A.Malta, 1720B/13, Capt. S.I, 1759B/13 to Subs. on patrol.)

Malta Raid.  
Air Operations.

Night 12th/13th. 2 alerts on 1714 to 1753 hours 1823 to 2012 hours. 7 aircraft. Bombs land sea. No casualties. Special Wellington shipping search Pantellaria, Cape Bon, Marittimo found and shadowed 3 cruisers possibly 2 D/R's which on being shadowed turned about and ran into Naval Forces.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1705/13.)

S/M's.

E. Med. S/M movements summary 72.  
(A) Movements.  
Submarine Estimated noon position 14/12. Estimated noon position 15/12.  
TALISMAN. 034° 05' N. 033° 02' N.,  
025° 08' E. 027° 30' E.  
Routed through 034° 04' N., 026° 24' E.  
(B) Operational sanctuary. PERSEUS and TRUANT in area P within 48 miles 038° 11' N., 020° 21' E. PORPOISE and TORBAY in area Q within 50 miles Pylos light Navarin. P.34, UPHOLDER, P.31, and SOKOL, on patrol line as follows operation B. S. Four-037° 10' 018° 46' - 070° - 10-160° -30.  
(Capt. S.I, 1815B/13, to Med. Fleet.)

S/M Jibuti.

Op. Sum. for 24 hours ending 1500 13/12.  
1 Blenheim R/C French Somaliland photographs show 1 S/M Jibuti Harbour.  
(C.H.Q., Aden, 1851/13, to Air Min.)

/E-Boats.....



13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

E-Boats  
Marseilles.

Several reports of different gradings have now been received of German E Boats recently arriving at Marseilles via Rhone Canal. It appears probable that at least 12 E Boats arrived Marseilles at end of November. (D.D.I.C. 1859A/13, to C. in C. Med., V.A.Malta, F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H.)

Situation  
Report 175.

\* AMIRAGLIO  
CARACCIOLO  
Sunk.

Central Medit. Light forces leaving Alexandria 2100/13 for operation M.E.9.  
2. Western Desert. My 2018/10.CS. 15's force caused damage to 2000 ton Merchant Ship and Harbour facilities in Derna. One JU 87 certain and one probable shot down in subsequent attacks. No damage to our force. My 0817/11\* Italian U-Boat sunk by FARNDALE was carrying evacuees including General (drowned) from Bardia. (a 10/12)  
3. Further minelaying raids on Tobruk Harbour where three mines have been exploded. Convoy A.T.2 has unloaded and sailed.  
4. TALISMAN sank large Merchant ship eastbound in 036° 23' N., 020° 33' E., p.m./11. TRIUMPH torpedoed and sank one Merchant ship and Salvage Tug IRENE VERNICOS in Candia Harbour at 1145/24. TRIUMPH also bombarded Heraklion Aerodrome p.m./24. P.34 scored one torpedo hit on half laden 4000 ton Merchant Ship westbound in 037° 56' N., 015° 39' E., at 1330/5. THUNDERBOLT sank 300 ton Schooner by gunfire at 1150/25 in Kithera Channel. PROTEUS sank a Caique in Kithera Channel carrying foodstuffs to Crete at 0200/8 REGENT see F.O.C.N.A.'s 1540/9.  
5. Aircraft. See A.H.Q., Malta 1801/11 Albacores continue effective bombing of enemy MT. and harassing retreating columns by night. (C. in C. Med., 2007/13.)

UTMOST,  
UNBEATEN,  
UPRIGHT.

Remain in position ordered in my 1034B/12 until attack or 1000B/14 then returning to original patrol line as ordered in my 0924B/11. Big game expected. (Capt. S.10, 2037B/13 to S/M's named, rep. C. in C. Med., V.A.Malta, S.I.)

/ABDIEL.....

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

ABDIEL.

Your 1801B/13. (N.T. in W.D.) Intend  
proceeding 0700B/14.  
(ABDIEL, 2310B/13 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units.  
hit by  
UPRIGHT.

At 0210B/13 in 040° 09' 017° 04' two large  
unidentified ships one destroyer (? course  
and speed) 000° 14 knots 4 hits.  
(UPRIGHT, 2350B/13, to ? Capt. S.10.)  
Amplified, see 2346B/15.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Defence  
of Burma.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

Decided that defence of Burma is to be transferred as soon as possible from C. in C. Far East to C. in C. India.

2. Burma Office are informing Governor Burma.
3. C. in C. India is requested to determine date on which transfer takes place, in consultation with other authorities concerned, and to report to Chiefs of Staff.
4. C. in C. India pass to C. in C. E.I.
5. C. in C. Far East pass to C. in C. Far Eastern Fleet.

(W.O., 0255/13 to C. in C. India, C. in C. Far East.)

Re W.O. 0255/13. In view of present situation Malaya consider we must assume responsibility for Burma forthwith. Assume this must include control of Air Forces and 204 Mission. Repeat Straits Settlements War Office and inform Burma.

(C. in C. India, 2335/13.)

When transfer takes place, C. in C. India should assume all responsibility for military liaison and strategic co-ordination with Chiang-Kai-Shek and his Military Commanders, delegating where applicable to G.O.C. Burma.

This includes control of 204 Military Mission.

C. in C. India pass to C. in C. E.I.

C. in C. Far East pass to C. in C. Far Eastern Fleet.

(W.O., 2359/13 to C. in C. India, C. in C. Far East.)

S.S. EMPIRE  
SNOW.

Overdue, left Durban 21/11 for Aden.

(S.O.(I) Colombo, 0346Z/13.)

Cancelled see 16/12. p. 524

Sub.-Lt.  
Devin and  
P.O. Masson  
treatment  
when taken  
prisoners  
to Berbera.

A.M. 1504/8/12 being passed to F.O. Red Sea and N.O.I.C. Aden. Request you will reply to Admiralty repeated me.

(C. in C. E.I., 1030Z/13 to F.O. Red Sea.)

Amendment  
to 2242.

My 2242 para. 2 (C) for Madras read Malaya.

(C. in C. E.I., 1138Z/13 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet.)

/Convoys ...

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 0025/13 December IN

From The War Office.

Date 13/12/41

CYPHER

Addressed C. in C. India, C. in C. Far East, C. in C. Middle East, General Iraq.

IMMEDIATE

57543. Cipher (M.O.I.) 12/12.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

A. Our policy is to send now all reinforcements we can to the Far East and India subject to not repeat not withdrawing units or equipment now in Middle East or Iraq.

B. Following units and equipments in Convoy W.S.12Z originally destined for Iraq will be diverted to India forthwith for subsequent delivery to Malaya if situation permits:-

- (1) 85 Anti-Tank Regiment complete.
- (2) 6 Heavy A.A. Regiment with 16 mobile 3.7 and 20,000 rounds ammunition.
- (3) 35 Light A.A. Regiment with 24 Bofors and 20,000 rounds ammunition but without vehicles.

C. (1) A Wing Headquarters with 4 fighter squadrons: R.A.F. and ancillary units in W.S.12Z, originally destined for Iraq, will be diverted to Karachi via Bombay to be placed at the disposal of A.O.C. in C. India.

(2) 82nd Anti-Tank Regiment personnel only in W.S.12Z originally for Middle East, will be diverted to India and placed at India's disposal. Equipment to be found from that already allocated to India. 64 2-pr. Anti-Tank guns in CAPE TOWN CASTLE W.S.12Z Convoy.

D. The following now en route in Convoy W.S.14D. 77 Heavy A.A. and 21 Light A.A. Regiment with 24 Heavy and 36 Light A.A. guns and ground staff and limited equipment for Wing Headquarters and 3 fighter squadrons and ancillary units, less aircraft. Subsequent destination will be decided on arrival at Cape.

E. Further cable follows regarding despatch and destination of A.A. equipment and personnel in W.S.14 (additional to W.S.14D) and in W.S.15, latter due to sail within a month.

F. Reference Middle East SD/25925 cipher 13/11 (not to India or Iraq). As an exception to policy in "A" above, Middle East will despatch at earliest opportunity 50 Vickers Mark VI Light Tanks to India, local shipping to be provided. Subsequent destination to be decided later. If they can be delivered to Malaya they will be manned by Australian personnel vide Malaya No. 25890 cipher 19/11 (not to Middle East, India or Iraq): if this

**MOST SECRET**

proves/.....

proves impossible C. in C. Far East will arrange  
personnel from local resources.

0025/13

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.  
Recd. in War Reg. at 1222/13  
War Office distribution:-

1st Lord.	S. of S.
1st S.L.	C.I.G.S.
5th S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.C. & P.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.M.O. (O)
A.C.N.S. (T)	M.O. 1(6) 5.10.12.
N.A. 1st S.L.	C.S. (P)
P.A.S. (S)	H.M.I.
D.O.D. (F)	D.S.D.
J.D.O.D. (F)	D.D.S.D.
D.C. (2)	S.D. 2.
D. of P. (2)	D. Mov.
E.P. 3.	Q(M) 2.
Hd. of H. (2)	D.Q.M.G.
I.P. (2)	D.A.A. & C.E.
N.I.D. 10	A.A. 4.
W.D.	D.A.F. V.
D.N.I. (4)	C.N.S. (Admiralty).
D.N.A.D.	D. of Plans (Admiralty)
D.T.D. (2)	Hd. of War Reg. (Admiralty)
	C.A.S. (Air Ministry)
	D. of Plans (Air Ministry)
	Plans 3 (Air Ministry)
	Col Jacob (Cabinet Offices)
	Secy. J.P.S. (Cabinet Offices)

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Convoys.

Personal for Gen. Wavell from Adm. Arbuthnot. My 2002/12 not to Admiralty and C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

(1) Following has been received from C. in C. Eastern Fleet timed 0729/13 (begins). Consider convoy to Burma on 16/12 should proceed. No convoy should sail to Malaya till situation is clearer. (Ends). (2) My para 4 and 6 must therefore be cancelled except so far as Burma portion convoy leaving Sandheads on 16/12 is concerned.

(3) Policy with regard to future (? Malayan) convoys will be signalled when situation is clear.

(4) Please inform Governor General and F.O.C. R.I.N.

(C. in C. E.I., 1152Z/13 to C. in C. India.)

Shipping.

Your 1527/12. At present shipping in Indian Ocean west of Ceylon is proceeding as before. Should it become necessary to act in (? A) D B para. 57 (C), I concur routeing oilers as suggested. Hitherto all ships have been routed to Fremantle for orders but necessary information re Australian and New Zealand searched channels will be forwarded to Abadan. (C. in C. E.I., 1210Z/13 to Admty., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F.)

REVENGE.

Arrival at 1015Z/13th.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1230Z/13.)

Addu Atoll.

A.M. 1331/12. Para. 1. Necessary action has already been initiated. Para. 2. Reports from Addu Atoll still show (A) the health of personnel living afloat has been excellent throughout. (B) the incidence of sickness has been largely attributable to the debilitated condition of the Royal Marines after serving in Crete and Egypt the existence in the first place of marshes and dense undergrowth (much of which has not been treated or cleared) and strenuous and unavoidable manual labour in a hot damp climate. Para. 3. I am confident that these conditions will improve rapidly.

(C. in C. E.I., 1340Z/13 to Admty.)

/Minelaying ...

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Minelaying.*(Operation  
"Provender"  
see p. 921,  
21.1.1942)*

Your 0822Z/12. Depth of water too great for ground mines. Approved to lay a mixed field of moored contact and moored magnetic mines in the entrance to Horsburgh Atoll and also to scatter some inside the harbour. This should be done as soon as suitable minelaying craft can be placed at your disposal by C. in C. Eastern Fleet.  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1533A/13 to C. in C. E.I., rep. C. in C. E.F.)

Routeing  
of shipping.

Following is summary of routeing instructions now in force on E.I. Station.  
(i) Normal routeing is to continue for all ships not proceeding East of 080° E.  
(ii) Ships bound to or from ports on East coast of India and coast of Burma as far as Rangoon are, when East of long. 080°, to keep within 50 miles of coast until north of lat. 017°.  
(iii) Ships bound for Malaya or Area 4 are to remain in harbour until further orders.  
(iv) Ships bound for Australia are to proceed to Fremantle for orders but keeping at least 300 miles West of Cocos.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1552Z/13.)

T.B. force  
for  
Trincomalee.

Intend forming immediately from local resources a torpedo bomber force of at least six Swordfish for operation at Trincomalee. R.A.F. are providing pilots and administration. Aircraft allocated from R.N. Air Section China Bay torpedoes from East Indies reserves.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1616Z/13 to Admty.)

Ammunition.

It has been decided that 5.25 ammunition despatched from Med. to Far East in STAR OF EGYPT should now be returned to Med. Request you will re-route ship accordingly having regard to prior discharge of any other items of cargo for onward shipment to Singapore or propose alternative arrangements for shipment.  
(D.T.D., 2320A/13 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Shipping,  
Manila.

Information has been received from Consul-General, Manila, that in anticipation of Japanese blockade following British ships sailed during night 11/12 Dec. for ports in Western Australia via Lombok Channel calling at Balikpapan and Samarinda for bunkers if necessary. WOSANG, TINGSANG, PAKHOI. TAIPING-~~ANTRIE~~ and possibly 2 others. Some other vessels may leave tonight 12/13 Dec. (D.T.D., 0143A/13 to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.)

Stone-  
cutters  
evacuated.

Stonecutters has been evacuated. All D/F instruments destroyed and all papers relating to D/F. Your 1347/10th refers. (S.O.(I) Hong Kong, 0301Z/13 to C.O.I.S. Singapore.)

Malaya.

Situation Report 1430 G.M.T./12.  
(G.O.C. Malaya, 0442/13 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

BANKA  
lost.

Auxiliary patrol vessel BANKA was on east coast Malaya and was recalled on Saturday 6/12. She was last heard operating W/T on Sunday 7th but has not arrived and must be considered as lost. (C. in C. E.F., 0501Z/13 to Admty.)

Large  
Japanese  
Convoy.

Report from hitherto reliable source timed 1040GH/13/12 states "off Indo-China coast head S.S.W. 140 ships including 8 destroyers 1 auxiliary cruiser several S/Ms one or two A/Cs and 100 transports".  
Comment. Time and position of sighting not yet known. (? Number) of ships consistent with 6 divisions known to be available from Japan.  
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0521Z/13 to C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, Admty., C.Z.M.)

Surrender  
of Hong Kong  
demanded.

I have received a letter from Japanese C. in C. asking me to enter negotiations for surrender of Hong Kong and I have refused. Text of documents will be telegraphed as an opportunity offers.  
(Governor, Singapore, 0630Z/13 to Admty.)



**MOST SECRET**

420A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

0442/13th December  
IN

From G.O.C. Malaya.

Date 13.12.41.  
Time 0115

CYFHER

Addressed - The War Office, Repeated C.in C. India.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

019024 0/16. cipher. 12/12

Sitrep 1430 hrs. G.M.T.

Kelantan. Nothing to report.

Kedah. After confused fighting all day situation not clear but some withdrawal has taken place on right necessitating 6 Ind. Inf. Bde. on left conforming. 6 Bde. not yet seriously engaged now hold line Sungai-Bukit Pinang just north of Alor Star main enemy attacks took place east of rd. Singgora - Alor Star.

Krohcol. Attacks by unexpectedly strong enemy forces which included tanks and light arty. forced our troops back towards the frontier. Situation confused but gives cause for some anxiety as if this enemy force breaks through whole of N. Kedah position will be threatened.

Penang. Further heavy air attacks to-day. No mily: damage but essential services rather disorganised

Trengganu. Enemy landings still unconfirmed.

Kuantan Johore Singapore Fortress. No change.

Sarawak. Miri Garrison preparing move to Kuchang 13/12 on completion denial scheme taking 6 inch guns with them.

General. Prisoner states many men had inflatable rubber belts enabling them to cross rivers. Landed without rations and were helped by fifth columnists in Kelantan. Enemy are using infantry and tanks in close co-operation.

Other air activities. Further report raid Penang 11/12. Raid began 1000 hrs. attack by three waves of 26 27 and 24 aircraft. Pattern bombing covered dock side area and extended within 100 yards coast at Butterworth bombs were mainly 250 kilo and 40 anti personnel. Aircraft were the Army or Navy 56 types. Alor Star aerodrome demolished. 6 Blenheims raided Songkla dark hours of morning 12/12 bombs dropped on target area. Photographic recce. Songkla unsuccessful pilot attacked by M.E.s morning recce. Alor Star - Haadyai road extended to north east of Songkla. Morning recce Jason Bay area. Dutch

aircraft / .....

-2-

aircraft carried out recce. of east coast from Pulo Tinggi - Kuala Trengganu. Anti submarine patrol carried out afternoon of 12. Air raid on Butterworth morning (?11) enemy air craft shot down by A.A. fire.

0442/13

Advance copies to Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F)..,D.D.I

Received from War Office a.m./13

1st Lord.	War Office circulation.
1st S.L.	S.of S.
4th S.L.	C.I.C.S.
5th S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.O. & P.
A.C.N.S.(H).	D.D.M.O.(O).
A.C.N.S.(F).	D.P.(2 copies).
A.C.N.S.(T).	M.O.1.6.10.
A.C.N.S.(W).	D.D.I.P.
N.A.1st S.L.	D.M.I.
Capt.Pim.	D.D.M.I.(I).
D.N.A.D.	M.I.3.14.
Hd. of M.(30)	D.A.F.V.
D.O.D.(H).	Cabinet War Room.
D.D.O.D.(H).	Col.Jacob (Cabinet Offices).
D.O.D.(F).	C.A.S.(Air Ministry) (2 copies)
D.D.O.D.(F).	D. of Plans, (Air Ministry)
D.C.(2).	(2 copies)
D.N.I.(4).	Plans 3 (Air Ministry)(2 copies)
D.D.I.C.	D.O.O.(Air Ministry)
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D.of P.(2).	P.S. to S.of S.(Air Ministry)(2)
D.A/S.W.	Duty Group Captain (Air Ministry)
I.P.(2).	A.C.A.S.(I) (Air Ministry)
W.D.	Air Ministry War Room.
D.S.D.	S.of S.(Foreign Office)
Admiral Bailey.	Duty Captain (Admiralty)
Admiral Bellairs.	Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty
Admiral Chalmers.	War Room)
E.P.S.	Hd. of War Registry (Admiralty).
D.T.S.D.	
N.I.D.10.	

ML.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

420

**MOST SECRET**

IN 0630/13th December

~~From: Burma~~ ~~To: Burma~~ Date. 14.12.41.  
Recd. 0915

Cipher

Addressed:- The War Office, repeated G.O.C. in C.  
Far East, C.in C. India, Military  
Attache Chungking.

019436. 0103 cipher 12/12 SITREP.

Japanese occupied Marang 35(1/2 of 70) miles N.E. Victoria Point also Namchoot and (? east) and (?S.E.) (?district). Advance on Victoria Point expected. All preparations made for destruction aerodrome and withdrawal of garrison. Japanese reported Paknampu (on railway south of ..isanese. Japanese planes reported to be arriving Mesohd tonight. If this proves correct Vertil to (4 groups undecipherable) Japanese advanced base (2 groups undecipherable) 06 T. 50 planes raided Mer.... Aircraft of enemy executed air reconnaissance air over (1 group undecipherable) over (1 group undecipherable) yesterday. Yesterday shows combination. (1 group undecipherable).

Note by C.4 Tels.

Message delayed owing to being received very corrupt. A repeat has been called for as requested.

1st Lord

0630/13

1st S.L.

Recd. by Hand from War Office 0733/15

4th S.L.

Copies circulated by War Office to:

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

M.O.10 (for action)

A.C.N.S. (H)

S.of S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

C.I.G.S.

S.of S. (For.Offs.)

A.C.N.S. (T)

V.C.I.G.S.

Hd. of War Reg.

A.C.N.S. (W)

D.M.O. & P.

Admiralty

N.A. 1st S.L.

E.P.S.

D.P. (2)

Burma Office

Capt. Pim.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.M.O. (O)

(War Staff)

D.N.A.D.

N.I.D.10

M.O.1.6.10.

Hd. of M. (2)

D.D.I.P.

D.O.D. (H)

D.M.I.

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.D.M.I. (I)

D.O.D. (F)

M.I.2

D.D.O.D. (F)

Cabinet War Room

D.C. (2)

Col. Jacob (Cab.Offs.)

D.N.I. (4)

C.A.S. Air Min. (2)

D.D.I.C.

Plans 3 Air Min. (2)

D.T.D. (2)

Duty Gp. Capt. Air Min.

D. of P. (2)

A.C.A.S. (I) Air Min

D.A./S.W.

Air Ministry War Room

I.P. (2)

F.O.5 (Air Min.)

W.D.

D.C. Admiralty.

D.S.D.

Duty Officer (Upper Admlty.

Adml. Bailey

War Room)

Adml. Bellairs

Col. Offs. (Major Rolleston)

Adml. Chalmers

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Burma  
Convoy.

Your 2242Z/12. Consider convoy to Burma on 16/12 should proceed. No convoys should sail to Malaya till situation is clearer.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0729Z/13 to C. in C. E.I. repeated Admty.)

Dutch  
minefields.

Northern portion of Rhio Straits and adjacent Water charts affected Nos. 2403, 2413, 3834, and 2757. A protective minefield has been established area is bounded as follows.  
(A) Limit of N.E.I. Territorial Waters off Islands of Batam and Bintan.  
(B) Meridian of 104° 25' E.  
(C) Coast of Bintan.  
(D) Parallel of 01° 05' N.  
(E) Coast of Batam.  
(F) Meridian of 104° E.  
(R.A. Malaya, 0843Z/13.)

Policy.

Looking ahead, it appears enemy's plan is gradual infiltration from North, destroying aerodromes ahead in succession possibly combining direct attack, and at moment there is an unconfirmed indication (part missing).

This will if it succeeds result in island of Singapore becoming virtually a beleaguered fortress and naval base unsafe in which to keep ships.

I see no object in remaining until this happens and would propose embarking and taking all available surface vessels to either Colombo or Batavia. If I am to be responsible for strategic control in Eastern theatre the former appears preferable as being probable port of assembly of main fleet. I would leave any submarine available to be used in defence of Malaya by Rear Admiral Malaya. I should be glad to have Admiralty's views on this matter.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0845Z/13 to Admty.)

Reply: 1433A/14.

Hong Kong.

Sitrep. 12/12. At dusk 11th/12th withdrawal by carefully prepared stages was begun (details). Scale air raids during the last 24 hours has increased and damage caused to property. Continuous shelling of island a nuisance value only, although North Shore dockyard badly damaged and ordnance depot hit 5 times. Moral of civil population considerably shaken by unexpected evacuation of Kowloon. Rice distribution and monetary situation serious. Measures being urgently taken to cope with them. C. in C. Far East please pass to M.A. Communication with M.A. impossible.  
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0939/13 to W.O., etc.)

/Policy ...

422

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Policy  
regarding  
merchant  
shipping  
in the  
Far East.

Your 1915A/10 para. 3. It is impossible to forecast strength of escort required or to formulate proposals for convoy till situation clarifies. The matter will be kept under urgent consideration.  
(C. in C. Eastern Fleet, 1203Z/13 to Admty.)

Burma.

Reported that enemy landed at Jumbhorn have occupied Htapli and Namchoot on Packchan river North of Victoria Point. Tavoy raided at 0945 G.M.T. by 23 Jap planes which bombed and machine-gunned aerodrome for 30 mins. Planes approached in 3 waves from N.E./S.W. and W. W/T station off for short period but resumed now.  
(G.O.C. Burma, 1500/13.)

Japanese  
Intelligence.

B.A.D. Washington's 2047/10 giving Japanese ship radio calls from captured aircraft. In addition to units mentioned W/T traffic indicates at least 30 more combined Fleet Naval Units in mandated area, C. in C. 4th Fleet at Saipan, at least two aircraft carriers in Saigon Gulf of Thailand area (probably third aircraft carrier squadron) with probably seaplane tenders as well. C's in C. and 4th Destroyer Squadron believed to be as in C. in C. E.F's 1503/11\* not to B.A.D. Washington. F.E.C.B. has evidence of only one battleship in Gulf of Thailand area for certain. From D/F. One of the aircraft carriers in the Gulf of Thailand area is off Songkhla.\* Two Naval Units are in Paracelles area.  
(Singapore, 1617Z/13.) \* As received.

Hong Kong.

Thursday. Stonecutters and Kowloon Dockyard evacuated. W/T Station, Armament Depot, D/F Station and other demolitions in Mainland carried out. Dockyard shelled with 5.98 fragmenting shell. Majority Chinese personnel, boats crews etc., deserted yard. Merchant ships scuttled. Military withdrawal from Mainland started. A major portion completed by 0200HI Friday.  
Friday. Slight bombing and somewhat heavier shelling but damage superficial. TAMAR scuttled. Great difficulty experienced throughout Colony with Chinese boats crews motor drivers, etc. During night Friday-Saturday military withdrawal from Mainland completed.

/Saturday ...

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Hong Kong.  
(Contd.)

Saturday. During forenoon Japanese sent Delegation under flag of truce demanding surrender. This was emphatically refused by Governor. Heavier shelling and bombing may now be expected and all civilian personnel have been sent from Dockyard to Aberdeen which is also being intermittently bombed. (Cdre. Hong Kong, 1655B/13.)

Fighter  
cover for  
PRINCE OF  
WALES.

57754 Cipher (M.O.10) 13/12. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.59. Reference your 2/7 of 12/12, did C. in C. Eastern Fleet ask for fighter cover while at sea and subsequent to change of plan? Was Singapore kept informed as to positions of the warships after change of plan? (War Office, 1945/13 to C. in C. Far East.)  
*Reply: 1939/14 (page 456).*

Japanese  
Intelligence.

Following received from B.A.D. Washington (begins):- Manila appreciation dated 12/12 and repeated to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. Pacific and Hawaii. Begins. (1) Bearing of C. in C. 3rd Fleet is 351° on 12/12. (2) Traffic routeing indicates that C. in C. Combined Fleet is in the Chichijima area, Carrier Division 3 plus two air tenders are in Pacao area. (Ends). Are you still receiving this information direct? (D.D.I.C., 2009A/13 to C.O.I.S. Singapore.)

LE  
TRIUMPHANT.

A.T. 1334A/5, A.T. 2149A/5, A.C.N.B's 1359Z/11 and F.N.F.L. London's 1717A/12. F.F.S. LE TRIUMPHANT is to be considered as being under your direction now.  
2. Visit to Noumea is desirable but this is subject to your operational requirements. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2358A/13 to C. in C. E.F.)

**MOST SECRET**MOST ~~SECRET~~ MESSAGE 1820/15th Dec. IN

From C. in C. Far East.

Date 14.12.41.

Recd 0830.

Cypher

Addressed War Office

IMMEDIATE.

019331 19/7 13/12 Most Secret. Last Part.

In addition Buffalo recce. for Army and coast recce. off East and West coast have been carried out.

9. Reinforcements. In accordance with ABD arrangements 3 Glen Martin Sqns. and one Buffalo Sqn from N.E.I. arrived in Malaya on 9/12. Total 22 bombers and 9 fighters. Bombers were not operational (group missing) at night and 3 have been temporarily returned to complete training, anticipate completion seven to ten days. N.E.I. have loaned three Catalinas which arrived with British crews 12/12 and offered further aircraft. Further fighter sqn. and three transport aircraft has been requested.

10. Policy now is to reduce the scale of fighter attack by attacks on Singgora Patani and Kota Bharu aerodromes. At present Japanese have up to 70 aircraft at Singgora and no idea of dispersal and we may be able to carry out fighter sweeps in conjunction with dawn raids when aircraft situation is clearer and photo recce. has established Jap air bases more certainly.

11. With loss of fleet and reduced numbers of aircraft close defence of Singapore becomes of greatest importance, and I am giving highest priority to aerodromes for provision of A.A. guns and labour for further dispersion now rendered possible by rounding up of Japanese. Urgent requirements are long range bombers to reach Indo China air and other bases, long range and other fighters to give cover to Northern operations, support to army and offensive action against aerodromes, medium bombers for operations against bases and troop concentrations in Thailand and recce. aircraft to locate further expeditions which may soon be expected. Additional fighters with trained crews and heavy bombers are required as soon as possible.

12. Aircraft summary at 0600/12. Seletar 3 Sqn. 10 Vildebeestes, 100 Sqn. 9 Vildebeestes, 205 Sqn. 1 Catalina 2 Singapore 3's 2 Walrus Sembawang 1 Sqn. 2 Hudson 8 Sqn. 5 Hudson 453 Sqn. 18 Buffalo. N.E.I. 15 Glen Martins. Tengah 34/60 Sqn. combined 6 Blenheims I's 7 Blenheims 4's. Kallang 243 Sqn. 12 Buffalo 488 Sqn. 14 Buffalo. N.E.I. 9 Buffalo. Sinkawang West Borneo. 4 Buffalo 9 Glen Martins. Mingaladon 60 Sqn. Blenheims I's 67 Sqn. 16 Buffalo. Aircraft crews are in excess of available aircraft. Aerodrome serviceability. Seletar Tengah Sembawang Kallang Kluang Kahang Kuala Lumpur Ipoh Taiping Butterworth all available. Kuantan Sungei Patani Lubor Kiap and Kuala Ketil prepared for demolition. Penang and Alor Star blown up. Port Swettenham Sitiawan and Batu Pahat obstructed. Tavoy and Mergui bombed.

Note by C.4.Tels.

This is presumably the last part of an unnumbered cipher 14/12 from C.in C. Far East received at 0500 14/12/41.

1820/13

Received from War Office P.M./15 December.

1st Lord.	D.D.I.C.	Note:- First part circulated with time of origin 0514/14.
1st S.L.	D.T.D. (2).	
4th S.L.	D. of P. (2).	<u>War Office Circulation:-</u>
5th S.L.	D.A/S.W.	
V.C.N.S.	I.P. (2).	S. of S.
A.C.N.S. (H).	W.D.	C.I.G.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).	D.S.D.	V.C.I.G.S.
A.C.N.S. (T).	Admiral Bailey.	D.M.O. & P.
A.C.N.S. (W).	Admiral Bellairs.	D.P.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Admiral Chalmers.	D.D.M.O. (O).
Capt. Pin.	E.P.S.	M.O. 1, 10.
D.N.A.D.	D.T.S.D.	D.M.I.
Hd. of M. (2).	N.I.D. 10.	D.D.M.I. (I).
D.O.D. (H).	D.P.D.	M.I. 2.
D.D.O.D. (H).	D.N.L.O.	C.N.S. Admiralty (6 copies).
D.O.D. (F).		D. of Plans, Admiralty.
D.D.O.D. (F).		C.A.S. Air Ministry.
D.C. (2).		D. of Plans, Air Ministry.
D.N.I. (4).		Secy. J.P.S.
		Col. Jacob.
		Head of War Registry,
		Admiralty.



War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Shipping.

U.S. C.N.O. has ordered Panama to route U.S. Flag Ships of under 15 knots on trans-Pacific voyage to San Diego to await orders. He has also instructed U.S. Authorities on West Coast U.S.A. to be guided in control of shipping by local enemy situation prevailing.

2. In interest of maintaining flow of British and Allied shipping it is not proposed to amend instructions to N.C.S.Os given in my 1507Z/11. Do you concur?

3. Early decision most desirable regarding U.S.S.R. vessels and other ships from West Coast for Vladivostok.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0036Z/13 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.O. Wellington, A.C.N.B., S.O.I. Jamaica.)  
Your 0036Z/13. As majority of British trans-Pacific shipping is bound New Zealand and Australia it would appear preferable for such ships now at Panama normally to be routed east of Galapagos Islands and Easter Island thence to Wellington using maximum dispersion of routes. Request you will however conform to wishes and recommendations of C.N.O. vide B.A.D. Washington's 1307R/9 para 2. 2. Question of destination of Russian ships is being taken up with Russian authorities in London.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1915A/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Japanese  
Fleet  
Intelligence.

Following message addressed D.N.I.(Melbourne) and S.O.(I) Wellington T.O.O. 0403Z/10th received from C.O.I.S. Singapore, C. in C. Southern Expeditionary Force and C. in C. Combined Air Force at Saigon, C. in C. Combined Fleet and C. in C. 3rd Fleet at Sama, C. in C. South China Fleet, Hong Kong area, C. in C. 4th Fleet, Truk area. One of 3rd aircraft carrier squadron operating off Songkhla other off Pula Condore. One battleship 3 cruisers 11 destroyers off N.E. Malayan coast.  
(B.A.D., 0107R/13 to Admty. amended 0827R/13.)

DIANTHUS.

My 0001Z/11. Charleston Navy Yard returned DIANTHUS for minor repairs which will probably take 2 or 3 days.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0305Z/13 to Admty.)

"R" Report.  
VINCENT.

Following received from Bermuda in plain language 'Following received RRRR Lat. 22.41 S. Long. 118.19 W. 7 PM course 62°, 10 knots, S.S. VINCENT, suspicious orders. SOS DE KIZS'. (Ends) (B.A.D. 0310R/13 to Admty.)  
Intercepted by DESPATCH 2212R/12 R.R.R.R DE (U.S) VINCENT in position 025.41 S. 118.19 W. 1900 course 062° 10 knots.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1123R/13 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington, Capt. O.S. Singapore.) W.D. Note.- Difference in latitude position.

/H.M. Tug ...

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

H.M. Tug  
BUSY.

Kingston arrival with defect. Seems likely due to faulty design. Matter under investigation. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 0945R/13).

INDOMITABLE.

Admty. 2125A/10. Request you will sail INDOMITABLE from Trinidad p.m./17 for position. (a) 005° 00' N. 046° 00' W. Request C.in C. S.A. communicate onward route. INDOMITABLE report intended S.of A. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1112Q/13 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

U.S. Forces.

Following is disposition of U.S. Force. Off Antilles 2 submarines; off Pointe A Pitre on west side of Martinique off Fort De France, cruiser CINCINNATI, destroyers BARNEY, BLAKELEY, JOUETT; on east side of Martinique aircraft carrier WASP, cruisers BROOKLYN, SAVANNAH, and 3 destroyers. All ships at action station. Ultimatum not yet delivered. French ships have steam up and boats hoisted. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 1115Q/13 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

AMERICAN  
PRESS  
A/C attack.

0159 13/12 (U.S.). AMERICAN PRESS S.O.S. being attacked enemy airplanes position 5 miles off Barqion. Suggest this Borinquen Point. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1128R/13 to Admiralty. C.in C. A.W.I. D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington).

S/M  
SURCOUF.

Ref. 1748A/2. Request you sail French Cr. S/M SURCOUF from Halifax on 16/12 for position (a) 021° 00' N. 040° 00' W. (2) C.in C. S.A. is requested to communicate onward route from (a). (3) C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to report E.T.A. at position (a). (C.in C. A.W.I. 1242Q/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

CIRCASSIA

Your 1901Z/12 indicates that policy in your 1059N/5 is changed. Request confirmation as CIRCASSIA is in H 32 B. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1252Q/13 to C.in C. S.A.).

S.C. 60.

Taskunit 4.1.1 5. SAGUENAY, S.O. MIMOSA, ACONITE, ALYSSE, DAUPHIN, SPIKENARD, WETASKIWIN, SHEDIAC. (ii) Wabana. Nil. (C.C.N.F. 1308Z/13 to Admiralty. Cndr. Task Force No.4.).

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

Washops. 3.

(1) Philippine Is. Message from McArthur received 0330 E.S.T./13 reports enemy ground activities unimportant and sporadic and confined to Legaspi, Vigain and Aparri. Cebu Island and Clark Field bombed early forenoon 12/12. Message received from C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet reports after enemy raid on Olongapo (?5) 7 PBY patrol planes were destroyed on water, about 12 remain in serviceable condition.

(2) Hawaii. C.in C. Pacific Fleet reported on 12/12 several S/M contacts all south of Oahu. 3 depth charged and one bombed resulting in air bubbles in one case and oil slicks in all. 7 types of Japanese planes reported to have taken part in Oahu (?raid) 7/12. One latest type fighter, a fleet bomber and observation plane in possession of U.S. forces.

(3) Midway Is. and Wake. Messages received 0820 and 0900 E.S.T./12 report both islands still in U.S. hands.

(4) Johnson, Palmyra and Samoa Island. U.S. Navy reports in communication with these islands at 0600 Pacific time 12/12.

(5) Guam and Gilbert Island. Guam and Tarawaiu Island in Japanese hands.

(6) Java. 18 Dutch bombers landed Sembawang 9/12 according to report by U.S. observer at Singapore.

(7) South America. U.S. Navy reports 6 flying boats PBY 5 arrived Natal 11/12.

(8) Japanese Naval (?casualties) (?claimed) to date sunk, one cruiser, one destroyer, one submarine; damaged, Japanese battleships HARUNA, KONGO.

(9) General.

(a) U.S. Air R/C Galapagos area yielded no result.

(b) Air R/C coastal area Cape Mendocino to San Francisco yielded no result.

(c) Report of parachute landing Oregon proved false.

(d) Report BARFLEUR had left Martinique proved false.

(J.S.M. Washington 1327R/13 to Admty. etc.).

FORMIDABLE  
ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 2217/3/10. State of FORMIDABLE prior to sailing from U.S.A. (A) to (E) and (G) minimum requirements. (F) Minimum requirements negative type 285. (H) Only five serviceable. (1) Yes. State of ILLUSTRIOUS not reported by ship prior to sailing but is similar to FORMIDABLE except (H) six serviceable. (B.A.R.M. 1332R/13 to Admty.).

Martlets.....

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

Martlets.

Your 1339/9. Aircraft can be disembarked by air if pilots are provided. Martlets in ships on sailing FORMIDABLE 9, ILLUSTRIOUS 23. Investigation possibility of shipping remaining 16 in ARCHER.  
(B.A.R.M. 1440R/13 to Admty.).

Ballast of ships in Convoy.

Following from Commodore Candy Convoy O.N.40. Consider outward bound ships should be ballasted considerably more than at present, such ballast to be properly stowed. Cost is realised but safety of ships would be achieved and convoy kept intact making full use for the complete route of efficient escort organization.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1602Z/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

Whale Factory ship.

Bermuda's 0030Q/11.  
1. Request source of information and name of whale factory ship.  
2. Admiralty have no knowledge of any such ship in this area.  
3. Have other interested authorities been informed.  
(D.D.I.C. 1625A/13 to S.O.I. Bermuda).  
Your 1624A/13 (1625A/13 intended) (1) and (2) source S.O. (I) Callao. Name probably THORSHAMMER reported by S.O.(I) Jamaica's 1519R/26/10 to C.in C. A.W.I. only to be in whaling ground off Peru with seven whalers.  
(3) S.O.(I) Callao 0030R/11 was passed to B.A.D. and S.O.(I) Jamaica.  
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1559Q/13 to Admty.).

Shipping.

Resume sailings vessels under 15 knots to Far East Australia and New Zealand via approximate great circle giving Galapagos and Cocos wide berth and passing South of Chatham Island to Wellington for further orders and routeing. Instructions regarding JAMES LYKES will follow.  
(Opnav 1657/13 to Comdr. Panama Naval Coastal Frontier).  
Ref. My 1757/10 (N.T. in W.R.). In order clear danger area route Transpacific shipping by diversified tracks to Eastward Marquesas and South of Tahiti and Chatham Islands to Wellington for further orders and further routeing.  
(Opnav 1723/13 to Cincpac, Cincaf, Comdr. South Pacific Naval Coastal Frontier).

/ U.S.....

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

U.S. Convoy  
40 02.

U.S. convoy 40 02 diverted from Philippine Is. is due Brisbane 19 and contains 2,600 air corps. troops including 48 pilots and 2,000 other troops. Also guns and ammunition and 90 aircraft.

(2) C.O. ordered to assemble planes and if possible send them and pilots to Philippine Is. balance of pilots to come from Philippine Is. or possibly Australia.

(3) Troops and equipment to be sent if feasible to Philippine Is. If not feasible they are to be unloaded in Australia and used with primary object of aiding the defence of Philippine Is. and secondary object of aiding allies of U.S.

(B.A.D. 1746R/13).

Dispositions.

Request estimated positions of H.M.A. ships may be included in your daily situation signal to O.F.N.A.V.

(2) Can present and intended dispositions of British and Dutch naval forces in Far Eastern Area now be given.

(B.A.D. 1747R/13 to Admty.).

Publicity.

Question of release of operational news and mutual arrangements for collaboration should be covered by A.B.C.-1, page 5 para. 15 and 16 under "Military Policies and Plans governing Conduct of the War".

2. Consider issue of operational news should be responsibility of that Power under whose strategic direction the area in which the incident occurred lies.

3. If specifically desired to stop or delay the issue of certain news propose this should be so indicated by the responsible Commander in Chief by the insertion of a request in his signalled report to withhold or delay publication.

4. Understand U.S. Authorities are in full possession of all our methods.

5. Request you will take this matter up with appropriate authorities and inform us of arrangements made.

(V.C.N.S. 1829A/13 to B.A.D.).

U.S. Shipping  
Codes.

Your 2326/8 para. (ii) It is intention that all U.S. Merchant ships be issued with Merchant Navy Code as far as supply allows. Opnav has replied to Spenavo 1024/13 re issue of M/V books in affirmative and requesting confirmation of books to be issued. Should S.P.02404 be included and if so what are arrangements for supply to U.S. authorities? Ottawa are being asked whether they can spare any M.N. codes.

2. C.S.P. 938 is being superseded by C.S.P.939

/but.....

War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U.S. Shipping  
Codes.  
-Contd.

but Navy Dept. are aware of slender security Flat strip with different strips for each ship are also about to be issued to M/V's. further details re this will be signalled.  
(B.A.D. 1935R/13 to Admty.).

Derelict  
Barge.

Following has been reported.  
Derelict oil tank barge marked Poling Brother's number 9 and 37 16 floating in position 055° 27' N. 036° 27' W. at 0945Z/12 4.  
Final passage (6 groups) indecypherable.  
(ST. LAURENT 2000Z/13 to U.S.C.N.O.).

Casablanca  
Intelligence

Algiers 11/12 B.2.  
S.S. GREVY escorted by destroyer X 93 arrived Casablanca from Marseilles with 1,000 Annamite troops and 1 company French motor-cycle troops.  
(B.A.D. 2035R/13).  
N.I.D. Comment. GOUVERNEUR GENERAL GREVY enemy merchant vessel.  
Casablanca 12/12 B. 2. S.S. SAVOIE? BELLE ISLE, CONDE, FORT DOUAUMONT, suddenly taken off other duties are to sail p.m./12 or A.M./13 for Dakar with 1200 Senegales<sup>e</sup> troops.  
(B.A.D. 2055R/13 S.O.I. Freetown. Rep. Admty. S.O.I. Gibraltar).  
Casablanca 7/12 B.2. (1) Arrivals CAUDEBEC 3/12 Lisbon. FORT DE DOUAUMONT 7/12 Marseilles. MONTVISO 7/12 Martinique. THISBE 8/12 Marseilles. AUGUSTE DENISE 8/12 Oran. MONT CASSEL 8/12 Oran. (2) Departures MONTAIGNE 4/12 Marseilles. MANCEN 10/12 Marseilles. ILLINOIS 10/12 Marseilles. (3) THISBE carried 2,000 tons coal and 60 military kitchens. (4) Do you require arrivals and departures Spanish and Portuguese shipping.  
(B.A.D. 2059/13 to S.O.I. Freetown, Gibraltar, Admty.).  
N.I.D. Comment. Possibly LILLOIS.

Dakar  
Intelligence

Following submarines are based Dakar.  
LE CONQUERANT, LE TONNANT, L'ARORE, CERES, PALLAS, VENUS IRIS, and one other name reported as NYMPHE.  
Dakar 12/12 A.1. S.S. TOURS, VILLE DU HAVRE, CHELMA arrived 9/12 from southward. B.2. Coal stocks at Dakar 1/12 8723 metric tons, during November PLATON arrived with 2009 tons SAINT CYRILLE 840 tons and CARTHAGE 2661 tons.  
(B.A.D. 2045R/13.)

War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

CAP DES  
PALMES.

Arrived Noumea 0200 G.M.T./12.  
(B.N.L.O. Noumea 0525Z/13 to Admty.).

LEANDER  
ACHILLES  
MONOWAI

Following are anticipated movements of New Zealand naval forces.  
(1) LEANDER. Escorting WAHINE carrying reinforcements for Fiji sailing Auckland 15th and 22/12. Due Auckland finally 28/12.  
(2) ACHILLES. Available to escort MARIPOSA from Auckland to eastwards A.M./17.  
(3) MONOWAI refitting. Ready for sea A.M. Saturday. Probably required for escort to south east New Zealand.  
(N.Z.N.B. 0831N/13 to A.C.N.B. etc.).

Situation.

No further enemy activities Australia Station since 11/12 beyond several unconfirmed reports of presence of aircraft and ships Tabar Island Kessa Point (New Guinea Zone). Nauru and Ocean Island have carried out demolition Phosphate load plant. Report from New Zealand Station indicates that enemy is in occupation of Tarawa and Butaritari (Gilbert Group) where Japanese light naval force (number not definitely known) are present. Portion of Japanese South China Fleet is now in Jaluit Area (Marshall Islands) but composition is unknown. C.in C. U.S. (?Pacific) Fleet and C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet please pass to Cmdg. General U.S.A. F.F.E. Manila and Cmdg. General Hawaiiin Dep. Honolulu, respectively.  
(A.C.N.B. 1503Z/13 to Admty. etc.).

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War Diary.13.12.1941.  
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.YENICE.

Now known that Turkish YENICE, ex CIDE, 428 tons, sunk by unidentified S/M off Burghaz prior to 22/11. Master and Mate saved, rest of crew believed drowned. (D.S.830, 13/12.)

CYNTHIA  
OLSON.

Attacked by U/B, on surface, probably Japanese, 1900/7, 33.42 N., 145° 29' W., 1300' W., of Los Angeles. Result not known. (D.S. 830, 13/12.)

Submarines Reported.

D/F Bearings indicate a U-boat to be within 100 miles of 007° 30' N., 022° 30' W., at 0055Z/13.  
(C. in C.S.A., 1305Z/13, to S.A.Sqdn.)

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats.  
(D.D.I.C. 1429A/13, 1430A/13.)

- 1845/12. U-boat reported in 260° Cape Sardo 7 miles, steering 000° at 1845/12.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2031A/13, to SCOTTISH, LOCH OSKAIG.)
- 1847 G.M.T. By D/F at 1847/13 G.M.T; position of U-boat was 49° 00' N. - 51° 00' N., 14° 00' W. - 16° 00' W. Unreliable fix.  
(D.D.I.C. 2203A/13.)
1925.  
(Med.) U-boat reported in 031° 50' N., 029° 00' E., at 1925/13.  
(C. in C. Med., 2234B/13, to Med. Stn.)
1047.  
1124.  
1225. 967, Aircraft sighted S/Ms on surface today 13/12 as follows. (a) at 1047A in 036° 40' N., 002° 40' W., not attacked. (B) at 1124 in 036° 15' N., 002° 40' W., attacked with D/Cs but missed. (C) at 1225 in 036° 18' N., 002° 00' W., attacked with D/Cs near miss.  
(2) Aircraft flying at about 1500 feet.  
(3) All S/Ms apparently patrolling.  
(200 Group, 1810/13, F.O.C.N.A., 2246A/13, to Admty.)



War Diary.

13.12.1941.  
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By ROCHESTER  
1929.

1 Submarine bearing 200 distance 6 miles my position 30.10 N., 22.12 W.  
(ROCHESTER, 1929/13, to Whitehall W/T.)  
My 1929. 4 pattern depth charges dropped.  
Contact not regained. Am rejoining convoy.  
(ROCHESTER, 2215Z/13, to C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C.

North Atlantic. See 200 Group 1810/13, and F.O.C.N.A., 2246A/13. S/M's Reported.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Recent developments in the Far East have made it necessary to alter the plans for the composition of the Eastern Fleet. Vice-Admiral Tait is to command the 3rd B.S. Rear-Admiral Bonham-Carter (3rd B.S.) is to haul down his flag at Sierra Leone and return to the U.K. to take command of the 18th C.S. Rear Admiral Syfret (18th C.S.) will relieve Vice-Admiral Sir James Somerville as S.O. Force H.

Mining.

Enemy aircraft, apparently engaged in minelaying operated between Flamborough Head and Yarmouth last night.

North Atlantic.

S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC is reported to have sailed from Oran at noon today.

South Atlantic.

It is reported that Vichy S.S. PIERRE L.D., now renamed PERSEE, escorted by a sloop left Saigon on 5/12 with 6,000 tons of rubber destined for Germany. This cargo represents a large percentage of Germany's deficiency and it is most important that the ship should be intercepted. PERSEE can steam 14 knots and if bunkered at Manila could reach Casablanca via the Cape or Cape Horn without fuelling; if so, she could round Cape Horn about 1/1 or the Cape about 22/12.

/DEVONSHIRE...

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DEVONSHIRE reports that certain retubing of her boilers is essential. B.A.R.M. has been asked whether tubes are available in America.

*See A.7 W.I. - p.459-*

Mediterranean.

VITTORIO VENETO  
Damaged.  
Torpedo Attack  
Register.)

URGE reports that at 0858B today she obtained 2 hits on the rear ship of two Italian battleships of the CONTE DI CAVOUR class screened by destroyers, steering 200° in 37° 53' N., 15° 29' E. At 0945 one battleship and one destroyer were seen; nothing was seen of the second battleship. At 0900B one battleship passed out of range of UNIQUE in 37° 42' N., 15° 42' E. steering 95° at 19 knots and UNIQUE was counter attacked whilst endeavouring to close.

TALISMAN engaged a U-boat with gunfire at 1950/14 in 34° 5' N., 25° 39' E., and obtained hits at the base of the conning tower. The U-boat is thought to have sunk.

*(Not confirmed by comd: 6843)*

GALATEA  
sunk by U.559.  
*(See p. 485)*

GALATEA was torpedoed by a U-boat and sank at 2359 today, 30 miles west of Alexandria.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

10 Wellingtons laid mines last night in Benghazi harbour whilst 4 others caused a diversion by dropping bombs.

East Indies.

The submarine threat to Aden apart from Vichy S/MS is considered to be small and the blockade of Jibuti is to take precedence for the present over A/S defences of Aden. C. in C. Med., has been asked to sail 2 sloops and 2 minesweepers forthwith to join the East Indies Station.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Strategic control of the U.S. Naval forces in the Far Eastern area is being exercised from Washington. C. in C. Eastern Fleet reports that this probably explains why he is unable to obtain any communication from Admiral Hart. Five different authorities control strategical naval dispositions in the Far East, namely British, U.S.A., Dutch, Australian and New Zealand.

Hong Kong.

The Japanese appear to be collecting ferry launches and junks on the Kowloon side. There are grave difficulties with the civilian populace.

A huge fleet is reported in Camranh Bay today, U.S., C. in C. Asiatic Fleet is unable to provide R/C.

Malaya,  
Burma and  
Siam.

4 U.S. destroyers left Singapore today to join Admiral Glasfurd by order of Washington.

3 Italian ships interned at Puket have been scuttled.

The position in Penang is serious as the result of daily air attacks. (The main cables to India and the U.K. pass through Penang).

Borneo and  
N.E.I.

The U.S. C. in C. Asiatic Fleet has advised Singapore and Batavia to destroy immediately the Borneo oil fields except Balikpapan, and to destroy the latter soon.

Philippines.

A major enemy landing is expected after 14 days time.

U.S. aircraft attacked a battleship, probably of the HARUNA class today, and claim 3 hits and one near miss, the ship being last seen on fire. Bombers also seriously damaged at least one transport at Legaspi.

Islands.

Midway and Wake Islands are still in U.S. hands. Wake reports two further bombing attacks, one of which was by 4 engined seaplanes.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

New Zealand.

A message received 0241/14 reported enemy landing at Tarawa and Makin; one cruiser and 2 destroyers off Tarawa.

Conton (Phoenix Islands) is highly important for proposed air ferry and has been reinforced from Honolulu. Christmas Island is also being reinforced. S.S. LUDINGTON is carrying guns to Suva (Fiji) where the completion of Mandifield is being rushed.

It is reported that U.S. cruiser PENSACOLA left Suva today escorting a convoy to Brisbane.

U-Boat Campaign.

U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN's aircraft attacked U/B today in 16.07 N., 60.12 W., and thinks she destroyed it.

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War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.→ 3rd B.S.  
and 18th C.S.  
Commands.

Recent developments in Far East have made it necessary to alter plans for composition of Eastern Fleet. It has been decided that Vice-Admiral Tait will command Third Battle Squadron. You are to haul down your flag at Sierra Leone and return to U.K. to take command of 18th C.S. vice Syfret.

(Naval Secretary 2125A/14 to R.A.C. 3rd B.S.)

(R.A. S.S. Bonham-Carter)

BOREAS.

Your 1045/13. BOREAS is required for escort duty leaving U.K. about 7/1. 2. On completion of refit request you will sail her for the Clyde where a few days working up practices can be arranged.

(D.O.D.(H) 1623A/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

JAVELIN.

On completion of repairs and satisfactory trials request you will sail JAVELIN for Scapa to work up before joining Mediterranean Fleet.

(D.O.D.(H) 1734A/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

→ Force H.  
18th C.S.  
Commands.

Rear Admiral Syfret has been selected to relieve Vice Admiral Sir James Somerville as senior officer Force H. Rear Admiral Syfret should return to U.K. from Murmansk in KENT unless earlier opportunity arises hauling down his flag on leaving EDINBURGH. Rear Admiral Bonham-Carter will subsequently assume Command of 18th C.S. Pending his arrival C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for administration of 18th C.S. (Naval Secretary 2132A/14.)

Co-operation with Russia.Russian  
Shipping.

Following from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa begins. Two U.S.S.R. vessels ready to proceed from Seattle originally destined Vladivostock. Request instructions. Ends. 2. Request you will obtain early decision from Russians as to these and similar ships in future. 3. The alternatives appear to be (a) Persian Gulf via Panama. (b) Persian Gulf via Australia southabout which is slightly longer than (a) on routes possible in present circumstances. (c) Archangel via Panama if ships are of convoy speed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1452A/14 to Ad. Miles.)

Movements.BERWICK.

My 1715A/12. Sailing of BERWICK delayed. (C. in C. H.F. 1021A/14 to CUMBERLAND.)

My 1715A/12 and my 1021A/14. BERWICK sails for Hvalfjord at 0910A/15 with stores as in your 1141N/13.

(C. in C. H.F. 2346A/14 and 0203A/15 to CUMBERLAND)

/P.38 ...

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.P.38.

Leave patrol after dark 15th through 49° 30' N. 13° W. diving by day routed by (a) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles (b) 180° Lizard Head 25 (c) 180° Start Point 25 to R/V in vicinity of Start Point at 0930/19, keeping West of position (c) until 0600/19.  
(Capt. S.5. 1050A/14 to P.38.)

SUFFOLK.

At 1130 G.M.T/14 76 miles 250° from position V.  
(SUFFOLK 1130/14.)

WITHERINGTON  
SHERWOOD  
NEWMARKET.

My 1637A/13. WITHERINGTON, SHERWOOD and NEWMARKET should be sailed to Iceland as soon as ready. Provided no undue delay is incurred, ships should be sailed in company.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1135A/14 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

P.39  
H.32.

Your 1501A/13/12. Consider it would be better to arrange R/V off Lizard or Wolf Rock at a later time. H.32 would have to be routed W. of Scillies to keep R/V off Trevose.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1126/14 to Capt. S.7.)  
(i) Intend to sail P.39 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1700A/16 for 290° Bishops Rock 5 miles. E.T.A. 1900A/18. (ii) Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE to R/V with H.32 in 260° Trevose Head 8 miles at 0830/19 and escort her to Rothesay. (iii) Thence P.39 diving by day direct to 043° N. 010° 30' W. E.T.A. 0100A/22, thence to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.  
(Capt. S.3. 1139A/14.)  
C. in C. Plymouth 1126A/14. Cancel my 1501A/13. H.32 is to R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE in 235° Wolf Rock at 0830A/19. Captain S.3. is requested issue necessary orders to LA CAPRICIEUSE and to request fighter protection. Captain S.5 to order waiting position for H.32 south of Wolf Rock and to arrange bombing restrictions until R/V has been made. Capt. S.7 will arrange lights.  
(Capt. S.7. 1536A/14 and 1624A/14.)

WALKER.

Your 2203A/13. Intend sailing WALKER from Londonderry at 1600A/14 in execution of your 1229A/13. NT. W.D.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1154A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

/ST. ALBANS ...

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.ST. ALBANS.  
MONTROSE.  
WORCESTER.

1. ST. ALBANS is to leave Sheerness and take station as ordered by MONTROSE and proceed in company by Swept Channels and Q Z S 287 and 277 to Londonderry passing close Westward of 59, 59a and 62 Buoys. 2. MONTROSE and WORCESTER will part company as requisite and proceed to Invergordon as previously ordered, ST. ALBANS proceeding independently to Londonderry.  
(C. in C. Nore 1246A/14.)

MAPLIN.

A.M.1340A/13. Request you sail MAPLIN to arrive 1200A/16.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1249A/14 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

ST. MARYS.

Intend sailing ST. MARYS for Hvalfjord 1430A/15 at best speed consistent with weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1522A/14.)

SPEEDWELL.

My 1248/12. Sailing delayed owing to non-arrival of stores. It is hoped to sail ship p.m. tomorrow.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1549A/14 to A.C.O.S.)

CONQUEROR.

Proceed to Campbeltown.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1739A/14 to CONQUEROR.)

TUNA.  
BEAGLE.  
PEONY.

Anticipate you will overhaul TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR northbound before 2100 tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1749A/14 to BEAGLE, reptd. PEONY.)

Operations.Denmark  
Strait and  
Iceland -  
Faroes  
Patrols.

Your No. W.01102/1000 dated 8/12/41. Concur generally. I hope to have sufficient warning to reinforce patrol with a second cruiser and intend to leave the positioning to S.O. on patrol. I hope shortly to be able to reinforce forces on patrol by 2 corvettes. 2. When searching for inbound traffic intend supporting force to be to N.E'ward.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0106A/14 to C.S.1.)

Operation  
"Anklet".

PRINCE CHARLES and BEDOUIN sailed 0330.  
(A.C.O.S. 0151A/14 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)

/Intend ...



War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.Operation  
"Anklet".  
contd.

Intend to sail LAMERTON from Falmouth 1400/15 by standard routes to Scapa. Speed 21 knots. E.T.A. 0800A/17.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1147/14.)  
Intend sailing P. J. CHARLOTTE and PRINCE ALBERT in company at 0830/15. Request you issue onward routing instructions.  
(V.A. C.T.C. 1149/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Intend sailing PRINCE CHARLES and BEDOUIN 0300/15. E.T.A. Scapa 0900/15.  
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1425/14.)  
Owing to weather forecast. KRAKOWIAK is not to sail until further orders.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1544/14.)

SEAWOLF.

Cancel my 12259C/12. <sup>NT W.D.</sup> Resume patrol.  
Admiralty pass on next H.S. routine.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1510Z/14 to SEAWOLF.)

Interception  
of Heavy  
Units.

Keep a good look out for any heavy enemy warships which may be taking advantage of weather to break out from Brest to South Westward.  
(F.O.S. 1618A/14 to REGENT, UNA, P.35.)  
My 1618A/14. Proceed to patrol in vicinity 046° 20' N. 009° W. for 24 hours continuing your passage to Portsmouth after dark tomorrow.  
(F.O.S. 1949A/14 to REGENT.)

Swedish  
M/Vs from  
Gothenburg.

Your 1250A/12 and O.C.O.S. 1140A/13. Concur with A.C.O.S. that ships must not approach Faroes during dark hours. I consider the 50 mile interval should be maintained and that if necessary the Swedes should be told that only two ships may pass in one day.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1926A/14 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.Bombing  
operations.

Night 13/14. All operations were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather.  
(H.Q.B.C. 0930/14.)

S.B.R.

Request following submerge bombing restrictions.  
(Capt. S.5. 1100A/14 to A.O. C. in C. C.C.  
Rept. H.32, REGENT, P.38.)

A/C  
Complement of  
VICTORIOUS.

C. in C. H.F. 1023A/13. Air Officer Commanding Iceland is agreeable.  
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1116N/14.)

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. - contd.

Vichy A/C.

Amendment signal No.10 to S.D. 158 (IB) para. 5 delete the first sentence and substitute the following :- "Aircraft are to fly at a height not exceeding 7,000 feet and below cloud". After paragraph 2 insert new main heading "Vichy Aircraft" and new para. 2A as follows:- "(1) Any aircraft whether civil or military encountered North of lat. 44° N. over the sea or over British Territory and clearly observed to bear Vichy French markings is to be treated as hostile and engaged. (11) Vichy French markings are the same as the national markings of French Aircraft shown in A.P.1480 D". (Air Ministry 1705/14 to List 158.)

Mining.

Off Cromer.

At 2021/8 one red Mine exploded by LEEDS in 53° 13' N. 1° 5' E. Details. (LEEDS 0930A/14.)

WELSHMAN.

Adjust speed to arrive Breakwater 0930/15. (C. in C. Plymouth 1032/14 to WELSHMAN.)

Off Aldborough.

LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1415A/ in 52° 14' 30" N., 1° 56' 30" E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1454A/14.)

Humber.

Magnetic mine exploded today at 1550 in 082° Humber L/F. 1.5 miles. (F.O. Humber 2006A/14.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Large Vessel.

My 2302/13. Vessel is either stopped close off or has entered Boulogne. (V.A. Dover 0028A/14.) My 0028. Vessel proceeded at 0045 from a position off Cape D'Alprech on a southerly course, speed about 16 knots. (V.A. Dover 0118A/14.)

Navigational.

No.33 Buoy.

Number 33 buoy, light extinguished, cage missing. (A.C.O.S. 1528/14) (Hydrog.1848A/14.)

No.54 D. Buoy.

Number 54 D. lighted buoy extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 2023A/14.) F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 2023A/14. Request Q.Z.H. and that buoy may be relit as soon as possible. (C. in C. Nore 2057A/14 to Admty.)

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

No. 54 D.  
Buoy.  
contd.

85 Q.Z.H. Yarmouth Area. Number 54 D Light-buoy reported extinguished. (Hydrog. 2318A/14.)

Casualties and Defects.

s.s. MACBETH.

At 0400 G.M.T./14 MACBETH will signal her position to Admiralty on 500 kcs. You are to D/F this signal, retransmit it to Admiralty and, having done so, report to Admiralty giving your own P.C.S.

(C. in C. W.A. 0034A/14 to PIMPERNEL.)

Am in D/F contact with HPWN unknown ship.

Please verify. MACBETH not heard 0400.

(PIMPERNEL 1005A/14 to Admty.)

Endeavour to establish communication with MACBETH direction 500 kcs. and arrange transmissions of D/F purposes as required by you. MACBETH's call sign not known. Use her name P/L as call.

(C. in C. W.A. 1116A/14 to PIMPERNEL.)

HBWN is believed to be MACBETH. Proceed to position.

(C. in C. W.A. 1335A/14 to PIMPERNEL.)

→ Convoy O.N.44.  
RESTIGOUCHE.

RESTIGOUCHE severely damaged by weather. Dismasted, galley fire out, tiller and stewards flat flooded, considerable minor damage and leaks. Sub.Lt. S.G. Moore R.C.N. suffering fractured fibula. Other minor casualties. Still hove to in 057° 22' N. 026° 29' W. No sight for 3 days. Flood under control. Propose to proceed direct to (? Clyde) for repairs when weather moderates.

(RESTIGOUCHE 1205Z/14 to C.C.N.F.)

My 1205Z/14. Forward magazine and shell room also flooded. Am proceeding to Clyde for repairs.

(RESTIGOUCHE 1614Z/14.)

FRISKY.

FRISKY E.T.A. Greenock 1330/15. Conditions in crews quarters very bad owing to persistent leak on mess deck thought to be partly due to tank tops. Request survey on arrival.

(M.O.R.T. Campbeltown 1750A/14 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Shipping and Convoys.

→ O.N.44.

O.N.44 and Escort scattered by violent storm. Suggest convoy be dispersed. No sight for 3 days. (RESTIGOUCHE 1015Z/14 to U.S. Chief of Naval Ops.) See p. 459

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.44 contd. "Toward" can't take it and is running home.  
My P.C.S. 58° 40' N. 20° W. (? 270°) 5.  
(ARABIS 1015Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Hove to since 1900Z/13. My position approx. 058°N  
023° W. Convoy scattered.  
(MONTBRETIA 1035Z/14.)
- S.D.1.  
(? S.D.18) Cancel my 1809A/13. Admiralty 2356A/13 and  
C. in C. W.A. 2311A/13. Request you sail  
ST. MARYS as requisite for S.D.1 and instruct her  
to proceed to port Z.A. on return.  
(D.D.O.D. M. 1020A/14 to R.A.M.)
- Q.P.3. Intend sailing Q.P.3 including UNZE, ANDRE MARTI,  
and 2 other M/Vs at 1130/15 to join RUSTY at  
1700/15. Speed of advance 8 knots. Request  
air escort to rendezvous. *x not identified*  
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1200/14 to A.C.O.S.)
- P.W.80. Convoy P.W.80. Has been postponed on account  
of weather.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1248/14.)
- Q.P.4.  
P.Q.6. A.M. 2258A/13 which is being passed to C.S.18  
and Admiral Miles. Report forthwith position  
regarding sailing of Q.P.4 and whether co-operation  
of Russian Destroyers can be obtained to escort  
this Convoy clear of danger from German  
destroyers. 2. It is considered that Q.P.4  
requires destroyer escort and you should postpone  
its departure until you have made arrangements  
for its escort.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1421A/14 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
After long negotiations with Russians the  
following arrangements have been agreed subject  
to prevailing ice and weather conditions. Q.P.4  
consisting of 8 to 10 ships clears Dvina Bar  
p.m. 20th December and led by icebreaker STALIN  
arrives off Cape Terski Orlov p.m. 21st to R/V  
with escort. P.Q.6 should arrive off Cape  
Terski Orlov at 1000C/19 where it will be met  
by STALIN and led to Molotovsk. DEKABRIST is  
to proceed to Murmansk to discharge.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 2230C/14.)
- F.N.580. My 1325/13. LIDDESDALE delayed and will leave  
Rosyth 1030 tomorrow fifteenth to meet F.N.580  
in Barrow Deep a.m. 16th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1545/14.)

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.AUDACITY.

Message from AUDACITY 1217/10/11 and your 1943A/25/11 to C. in C. W.A. As AUDACITY is returning to U.K., Aircrews are not now required to be flown to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1054A/14 to Admty.)

P.35.  
UNA.

(1) Report P.C. and S. of A. on crossing 043° 00'.  
 (2) P.35 onward route  
 L. 043° 00' 012° 40'  
 M. 036° 30' 010° 00'  
 thence to R/V with escort 350° Spartel 5 miles. Dive by day 17th and 18th.  
 (3) UNA onward route  
 N. 043° 00' 010° 30'  
 O. 040° 00' (? 011°) 00'  
 P. 037° 30' 011° 00'  
 Q. 036° 30' 010° 00'  
 thence R/V escort 350° Spartel 5 miles. Dive by day 17th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1106A/14 to P.35, UNA)  
 Modified by 2306A/15, q.v.

NESTOR.  
GURKHA.  
FOXHOUND.

My P.C. and S. (?38°) 50' N. 016° 30' W. 111° 18 knots E.T.A. 2100/15. GURKHA, FOXHOUND and (Corrupt Group) in company. Request berth with crane for NESTOR, GURKHA and FOXHOUND to facilitate embarkation of stores. All ships have mail and passengers. GURKHA and NESTOR required (?dockyard) welding assistance. (NESTOR 1200Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A. A.S. Gib.)

Ships  
being sailed  
to avoid  
air raid.

Local intelligence suggests possibility of an air raid consequently am sailing H.G. 76 at 1700 today and 3 oilers and EMPIRE BARRACUDA at 2000. (F.O.C.N.A. 1204A/14 to Admty.)

FJORD.  
SARASTONE.

Your 1348A/12. No confirmation is available, nevertheless two of the 4 British survivors, Albert Cocks H.M. W.T. Operator and Richard Haws Ord. Seaman, are certain ship was less than three miles from shore. Remainder of FJORD's survivors are in Spain and not available.  
 (2) SARASTONE settled on an even keel with her masts and funnel showing above water and one foot of the top of her wheelhouse was also showing above water at low tide on 30/10. Position of masts and funnel was fixed by LOCH OSKAIG at 0830/1/11. This was 37° 05' 10" N. 06° 48' 30" W. There can be no question of SARASTONE having steamed towards the shore after being hit as her engines stopped immediately and ship sank within 15 minutes. On October 31st Cadiz W/T made navigational warning to all ships that submerged vessel was in approx. 37 05' N. 06 48 5" W. Subsequently Cadiz's 2355/15/11 amended this position to 37 04' N. 06 48' W. reporting that a buoy had been placed in this position.  
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1238A/13)

/Algiers.....

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.Algiers  
intelligence.

My U.S. colleague has received following from his Consul Algiers dated 13/12. It is reported steamer ATHOS Second has arrived from Marseilles with 2500 Indo China troops part of Syrian army on board and escorted by 2 destroyers X.93 and X.51. Please inform Foreign Office. (C.G. (? Tangier) 1315/14 to Adty.)  
Note:- Originator not given.

S.S. SERAFIN  
TOPIC.

A.I. SERAFIN TOPIC sailed from Oran noon today. (GREENLEAVES 1345/14 to S.O. (I) Gib.)

CLYDE.

Arrival CLYDE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410A/14).

ROCKROSE.  
JASMINE.

(Corrupt Group) delayed by strong west gales. P.C. and S. at 1200N/14: 047° 03' N. 021° 45' W. 203° 9. Oil fuel required at Ponta Delgada JASMINE 100 tons ROCKROSE 135 tons. E.T.A. a.m./17th. (ROCKROSE 1445N/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LEGION,  
ISAAC SWEERS.

Admiralty 1951A/28/11. Quantity of 4 inch ammunition after adjustment. (S.O. Force H, 1549A/14 to Admty.)

Patrol.

Shift patrol to eastwards of line 000° Almina Pt. from 1630/14th until 2200/14th then resume normal patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1533A/14 ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LORD HOTHAM, ARTIC RANGER. Repeated ZULU, FORTUNE.)

French  
shipping.

Gibraltar 1035 LA TOULONNAISE, S.S. IMERETHIE II laden, ILE DEBREATH deck cargo, Launches CHATEAU PAVIE laden deck cargo horse carriages, Trawler  
\* KARSMAN full westbound. 1200 armed trawler VICTORIA, S.S. PARAME, KITA both full eastbound. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1823A/14).

*\* Not identified*VANQUISHER.  
WITCH.  
VOLUNTEER.

Anticipated that VANQUISHER, WITCH and VOLUNTEER will arrive at Ponta Delgada p.m./15. They will require to leave a.m./16 to make R/V. You should adjust your fuelling accordingly. If necessary to leave with time in hand proceed exercising utmost economy of fuel. Possible that your R/V may be delayed. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2045A/14 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, LIGHTNING.)

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Vichy  
A/C shot  
down.

Freetown fighters shot down a Vichy R/C aircraft PM./13. A second aircraft was present, was chased nearly to coast but escaped. (C. in C. S.A. 0021Z/14 to Admty.)

W.S.14.

Service personnel requiring onward conveyance. Water and fuel required by ships at Freetown. (D.S.T., 0129A/14, 0130A/14 to C. in C. S.A. etc.) See Lion Copy.

W.S.12Z.  
Escorts.

ASTER and MARGUERITE arrived Simonstown P.M./13th and sailed A.M./14th to R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN and Convoy W.S. 12Z as reliefs for VERBENA and HOLLYHOCK. 2. SOUTHWOLD and DULVERTON have been detached from W.S. 12Z. and arrived Simonstown 14th. They will sail 15/12 for Durban direct. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0958Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

S.S. MONTANAN.  
(Am-Hawaiian)

Overdue shipping MONTANAN due Cape Port about 8/12 not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1000B/14). Cancelled 0938B/15.

PRESIDENT  
HOUDUCE  
(French  
Armed  
Trawler)

Lobito 14/12.  
(Matadi 1011/14).

O.S.12.

Arrivals. (C. in C. S.A. 1040Z/14) See U-Boat Campaign.

ATHENE.

A.M. 0150/18. ATHENE is to proceed to Takoradi loaded with Hurricanes. C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C.N.A. are requested to arrange sailing, route and escort as soon as practicable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1047A/14 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. (R) Force H, C. in C. Med. V.A.M.)

Leakage  
of ships  
movements.

Movements of U.S. Merchant ships are being freely ordered from New York by Barber line to their agents in West Africa in plain language by Commercial Cable and W/T. For example EAST INDIAN and SANTA PAULA now at Bathurst have just received instructions in P/L to proceed to Roberts Portland Freetown respectively. Request this be taken up with U.S. authorities urgently. (C. in C. S.A. 1201Z/14 to B.A.D. Washington)

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0129A/14th December  
OUTTo S.T.O. Freetown.  
Repeated C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 14/12/41

Naval Cypher (X) D.

From Director of Sea Transport.

IMPORTANTFollowing personnel arriving Freetown in W.S. 14  
require onward conveyance.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Number of Personnel</u>	<u>Destination</u>
ABOSSC	Military	54	Accra
		63	Bathurst
		149	Lagos
		5	Takoradi
	R.A.F.	1	Bathurst
		2	Lagos
		251	Takoradi
	R.N.	62	Accra
		1	Bathurst
		67	Lagos
STRATHALLAN	R.A.F.	45	Takoradi
DURBAN CASTLE	R.A.F.	35	Takoradi
	R.N.	3	Lagos
ANDES	R.A.F.	14	Lagos
		9	Takoradi
CILICIA	Military	2	Lagos
	R.A.F.	1	Bathurst
		19	Lagos
		8	Takoradi

2. In addition Army 2 in HIGHLAND PRINCESS and Army 1 in HIGHLAND MONARCH require onward conveyance by air.

3. Request you arrange accordingly.

0129A/14.

Director of Sea Transport  
M.W.T. Ext. 2187.

2nd S.L.	Duty Capt. (2)
V.C.N.S.	Hd. of M.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.S.D.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.D.I.C.
N.A. 1st S.L.	E.P.S.
D. of P. (2)	D.T.D. (2)
D.C.D. (F)	D.F.D. (2)
D.D.C.D. (F)	D.F.D. (2)
I.P. (2)	N. (2) (Pay. Odr. V. 1. 1. 1.)
W.D.	

**MOST SECRET**



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

0130A/With December.

To:- G. in C. South Atlantic,  
G. in C. East Indies,  
Reptd. N.O.i/c Freetown,  
N.O.i/c Simonstown,  
N.O.i/c Durban.

Date 14.12.41.

OTT.

## NAVAL CYPHER (X)

From Director of Sea Transport.

Convoy WS 14.

Ship.	Daily fuel consumption at Convoy Speed.	Type of Fuel.	Bunkers on leaving U.K.	Water read. at Freetown.	Fuel read. at Freetown.
HIGHLAND PRINCESS.	45	Diesel	1,100	100	1,200
CAMIRONIA.	126	Furnace	2,900	1,300	2,200
ABOSEO.	30	Diesel	700	nil	800
HIGHLAND MONARCH.	45	Diesel	990	nil	1,300
ATHLONE CASTLE.	61	Diesel	2,450.	nil	700.
ESPERANCE BAY.	90.	Furnace.	1,840.	300	2,300
EMPERESS OF AUSTRALIA.	118	Furnace	2,500	1,500	2,000
STRATHALLAN.	70	Furnace	1,860	800	2,600
SCYTHIA.	144	Furnace	2,270	500	2,000
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.	80	Furnace	1,740	100	1,900
DURBAN CASTLE.	40	Diesel	1,180	200	800
ORONSAY.	120	Furnace	2,600	nil.	1,900
WARTICK CASTLE	60	Diesel	1,350	100	1,600
REINA DEL PACIFICO.	51	Diesel	1,900	1,300	nil
ANDES	100	Fuel.	3,300	200	2,700
ORCADES	73	Furnace	2,600	nil	1,000
CLAN CAMERON	65	Furnace	1,070	nil	900
CLAN CAMERON	100	Coal	1,130	nil	nil
EMPIRE PERINGRINE	22	Diesel	910	nil	400
EMPIRE ORIOLI	38	Furnace	1,300	nil	800
EMPIRE PINTAIL	45	Furnace	1,220	nil	1,300
EMPIRE WIDGEON	36	Furnace	700	nil	1,400
EMPIRE CONDOR	40	Furnace	720	200	1,400
EMPIRE EGRETT	36	Furnace	930	nil	1,200
EMPIRE CURLEW	38	Furnace	700	nil	1,300
OROSTES	27	Diesel	700	nil	800
CITY OF PRETORIA	62	Furnace	1,430	nil	1,000
TROILLUS	60	Furnace	1,400	nil	800

2. 10,000/11,000 tons Furnace oil and 2,000 tons diesel oil have been reserved in South Africa from commercial stocks. Commercial reference BU.

3. HIGHLAND PRINCESS should sail South Africa with 1,500 tons bunkers only repeat only.

4. Voyage U.K. to Durban including stay at Freetown is estimated as 33 days and requirements have been calculated to provide for range of 36 days thus allowing 25% margin

/on voyage...

# MOST SECRET

- 2 -

on voyage Freetown to Durban. No water other than the quantities stated should be issued at Freetown unless for the reasons given in para. 3 of Admiralty 2237/3 to Commander in Chief South Atlantic.

5. Addressees pass to S.T.O's concerned.

01304/14.  
Director of Sea Transport.  
(M.W.T. Ext. 2177).

- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (3)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- 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)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D. of S.T.
- N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.KULMERLAND.

(? Following graded) B.2. KULMERLAND disguised as ship of Luckenback Line with American flag painted on side probably in 030° S. 090° E. in mid-November. May now be homeward bound. (C. in C. S.A. 1213Z/13 to S.A. Stn. Sqn.)

Mediterranean.

Following has been read. Addressed Alexandria C.C.O. from call sign 81MT (signification unknown). Tow line parted twice. Ship being down by head cannot steer, request assistance of tug. SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEA standing by. (Malta C.C.O., 0045B/14).

Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 0048/14 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

S.S. SURCOUF.

Ref. 1502Z/29/11 from C.C.S.O. Aden regarding S.S. SURCOUF. In accordance with Admty. 2217B/28/6 and 2103A/1/11 please send information urgently regarding categories and numbers of officers and seamen willing to serve. (D. of S.T. 0057A/14 to N.O.I.C. Aden, rep. C. in C. Med.)

MUROTO.  
FOUADIEH.  
collision.

Ref. K.R. and A.I. art. 1167, MUROTO collided with British S.S. FOUADIEH in Port Said buoyed channel on 11/12 1941. Slight damage to FOUADIEH. Very slight damage to MUROTO. Both ships seaworthy. Owners of FOUADIEH, Khedivial Mail Line, Egypt. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0851B/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Enemy  
Hospital  
Ship.

Hospital Ship 34° 42' N. 22° 38' E., course 120° 12 knots. (A/C E., 0856/14 to 201 Group). P.C. and S. of enemy hospital ship 35° 00' N. 22° 56' E. course 200° speed 6 knots. (A/C X 0859/14 to 201 Group).

/2 destroyers....

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

0048/14/December.

From C.in C. Middle East.

Date 14.12.41.

CIPHER

Time 0630.

Addressed The War Office (Pass Air Ministries),  
repeated C.in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

250352 0/37745 cipher 13/12. MOST SECRET.

COSITREP No.50

1. Night 12/13 enemy reported moving west and north west from SU 86 but latest reports show enemy armd forces not withdrawing westwards. Enemy in area SU 75 believed to be Ariet Div. They show no signs of moving.

2. 7 Armd Div reports two M 13 S destroyed. 18 guns and 400 prisoners captured in area SU 86.

3. A.D.V. H.Q. 13 Corps now 377429.

Air. 4 night 12/13 Dec. Weather 10/10 cloud above 2000 feet.

Heavy Wellington attack Derna Aerodrome and MT in vicinity started ten large fires on aerodrome destroying at least one aircraft. Results of bombing of M.T. mainly obscured but several direct hits started fires amongst vehicles west of Derna. Majority of M.T. stationary. But some moving west. Two Wellingtons missing.

0048/14.

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.  
Received from War Office 1500/14 December

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- H.W.R. Admiralty

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.

2 destroyers. 37 59 15 35 0937 2 Destroyers + (-at) 180 10.  
(A/C "O" 1001B/14)  
+ could read - hit.

Enemy A/C.

Two enemy aircraft shadowing 33.02 N., 26.17 E.  
Reference position taken at 0800, 270° 18 knots.  
(F.O. 15th C.S., 1010/14 to Alexandria).

REGENT.

From 049° N. 006° W. proceed through  
(a) 050° N. 002° W.  
(b) 050° 14' N. 000° 41' W.  
to R/V in 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. at 0845/17th  
keep west of position (B) until 0500/17th.  
(Capt. (S) 5 1030A/14 to REGENT).

2 destroyers  
1 A/C.

37° 55' 15° 35' 0937 Two Destroyers One Aircraft  
180° 10 Knots. (Med. A/C 7JKC 1050/14).

TALISMAN.

Remain north of 033° 50' until 0001B/15th.  
ABDIEL proceeding from 033° 00' 030° 00' to  
033° 50' 024° 40' at high speed should cross  
your southward track about 2200B/14th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1051B/14 to TALISMAN, Rep. ABDIEL,  
C. in C. Med., S.10.)  
Remain North of 033° 50' until 0001B/15.  
ABDIEL proceeding from 033° 00' 030° 00' to 033°  
50' 024° 40' at high speed should cross your  
Southward track about 2200B/14. T.O.O. 1051B/14th.  
(Capt. (S) 1 1055B/14 to TALISMAN, Rep. ABDIEL,  
C. in C. Med., S.10).  
Cancel my 1051B/14. Proceed through 034° 04'  
026° 24' 032° 58' 28° 12' thence to arrive R/V.  
Report E.T.A. Alexandria. (Capt. (S) 1, 1827B/14  
to TALISMAN, Rep. No. 201 Naval Co-operation  
Group, CARLISLE, C. in C. Med. HERO, N.O.I.C.  
Alexandria (? BRECONSHIRE) WARSPITE)

PARNAMATTA.

Board of enquiry into loss of PARNAMATTA will  
not be held. (C. in C. Med. 1102B/14).

Malta  
Force.

In view of M.K. 811 do you wish Malta force to  
sail? (V.A. Malta 1128B/14 to C. in C. Med.)  
Your 1128/14th, no. (C. in C. Med. 1423B/14 to  
N.O.I.C. Malta.)

/Italian.....

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Italian  
battleship  
torpedoed  
by URGE.  
(VITTORIO  
VENETO.)

At 0858B/14th, obtained 2 hits on rear ship of the 2 Italian Battleship CONTE DI CAVOUR class screened by destroyers enemy P.C. and S. 037° 53' 015° 29' 200° 17. At 0945 1 battleship 1 destroyer course 090°. Nothing seen of second battleship but depth charge heard going north up Straits of Messina. (URGE 1151B/14 to Capt. (S) 10).

Well done indeed. After recall and when safe to do so UPRIGHT should send amplifying report stating particularly whether both ships were sunk by S/M. (Capt. S.10 2519B/14 to URGE, UPRIGHT, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1, N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Operation  
M.E.9.  
Force Q.

Operation M.E.9. postponed. Force Q return to Alexandria with all convenient despatch. ABDIEL return to Haifa. (C. in C. Med. 1148B/14 to ABDIEL, C.S.15, Rep. Group 201, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) one, R.A. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports).

Destroyer  
in Navarin.

R/C shows one M/V one large destroyer in Navarin 13th. (Capt. (S) 1, 1205B/14 to S/M's on patrol).

A/S sweep.

Detach 4 destroyers to carry A/S Sweep in Arabs Gulf to arrive Alexandria by 0800/15. U-boat reported in 031° 20' N. 028° 00' E. at 0425/14 and 031° 00' N. 029° 00' E. at 2300/13. (C. in C. Med. 1206B/14 to C.S.15. Rep. S.O. Force (I), N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Captain (S) 1st S/M.F., 201 Group.)

Passage  
of M/V,  
westward.

It is for consideration whether this is not a favourable moment to sail merchant vessel westward. (C. in C. Med. 1208B/14 to V.A. Malta (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H). Your 1208B/14. Group 1 destroyers were shadowed during daylight day previous to arrival. Consider this taken in conjunction with presence of U-boat in Western area makes present moment not favourable. Admty. 1357A/13 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 2246A/13 refer. (V.A. Malta, 1857B/14 to C. in C. Med, (R) Admty. S.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.2 destroyers  
2 A/C's.

At 0957B 2 destroyers 2 aircraft 037° 55' N. 015° 35' E., course 180° or 000° speed 10 knots. Check by pilot on landing. (Malta 1320/14 to C. in C. Med.)

PERSEUS.  
TRUANT.

PERSEUS leave patrol forthwith. Proceed through 037° 54' 019° 50' 035° 58' 019° 56' 033° 48' 026° 26' thence direct. Pass through 2nd position about 1800B/15th and arrive Alexandria sanctuary. 0600B/19. TRUANT remain east of 020° until 0001B/15th. Subsequently patrol in area P and P One. (Capt. (S) 1 1521B/14 to PERSEUS, TRUANT, Rep. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, S/Ms on patrol., V.A. Malta, C.S.7., 201 Group, C.S.15, R.A. Alexandria, BRECONSHIRE). Following is repetition of my 1521B/14th, begins PERSEUS leave ~~for~~ patrol forthwith. Proceed through 037° 54' 019° 50' 035° 58' 019° 56' 033° 48' 026° 26' thence direct. Proceed 2nd position about 1800B/15 and arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0600B/19. TRUANT remaining east of 020° until 0001B/15 subsequently patrolling in area P and P 36. Ends. (Capt. (S) 1, 1523B/14 to addressees as 1521B).

2 battleships  
9 destroyers.

2 battleships 9 destroyers position 038° 22' N. 017° 40' E. course 080° speed 10 to 15 knots at 1415 probable destination Taranto. (V.A. Malta 1535B/14 to C. in C. Med. Med. Fleet., S/Ms on Patrol.)

M.T. Ships.

My 2340/26/11. From U.K., M.T. and maintenance ships, (C) 8 of the 14 will not arrive as destination has been changed. P.S.T.O. Egypt pass to Barker. (D.S.T. 1624A/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Air  
report.

1445 hours 2 D/Rs. and 2 M/V's 3000 tons leaving Harbour possibly those attacked earlier see my 1.282 Navarin Harbour 1400 hours 1 D/R 1 M/V about 1000 tons is down by stern. Night 13/14 6 alerts between 1640 and 0537 hours single enemy aircraft bombs land sea no damage IC Wellingtons laid mines Benghazi Harbour 4 others caused diversion dropping 3 500 lbs. GP 4 250 lbs SAP bombs each on shipping and Wharves results not seen 2 mines laid inside Harbour 2 in Harbour entrance 2 just North outer mole moderate inaccurate A/A. End of Part 1 Part 2 follows. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1640/14).

/14th.....

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. contd):Air  
report  
- Contd.

14th R/C east Sicilian Coast 0755 hours 2 D/R's escorted by aircraft 10 miles south Messina steaming north or south speed unknown special searches East Ionian Sea and Greek Coast sighted no shipping Messina Taranto Recco sighted 1205 hours 2 battleships 9 S.D/R's escorted by 6 aircraft 139° Cape, Rizzuto 42 miles course 080° 11 knots. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1649/14).

ALBERTO DI  
GIUSSANO  
ALBERICO DA  
BARBIANO.

Probable names of Italian cruisers sunk night of 12-13/12. See America and West Indies 1801/14.

*(Confirmed by S.R. 1450)*Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E. 1825/14). See Lion Copy.

Air Strength.

Comments on C.O.S. 207. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1903/14 to Air Min). See Lion Copy.

PORPOISE.  
TORBAY.

PORPOISE leave patrol P.M./15 proceeding through 036° 46' 021° 24' 036° 06' 0218° 24' 035° 42' 023° 26' thence within 20 miles north coast of Crete and through 035° 26' 026° 24' 032° 20' 029° 02' to Alexandria searched channel. Pass through third position early P.M./16th and arriving sanctuary 0600B/19th. TORBAY is to remain east of 021° 30' from noon till 2159B on 15th and then take over patrol in areas Q and Q 1. (Capt. S.1. 1951B/14 to PORPOISE, TORBAY.)

COETLOGON.  
(French)

Arrival 13/12. (Barcelona, 2126/14 to D. of S.T.)

SOKOL,  
P.31.  
UPRIGHT.  
UTMOST.  
UNBEATEN.

Proceed with despatch to establish patrol line 2 - 039° 11' - 017° 46' - 060° - 15 - 150 - 20 - P.31 in position L - 039° 11' 017° 46' SOKOL in position M. UPRIGHT in position A. of amended patrol line 3 - 039° 27' 017° 24' - 060° - 15 - 150 - 20 (? repeated) 20. UTMOST and UNBEATEN in positions B and C respectively. Submarines encountered at night are not to be attacked until further orders. (Capt. S.10, 2145B/14 to SOKOL, P.31, R. S/M's on Patrol C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

/UPHOLDER.....



~~MOST SECRET~~

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1825/14 December IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 14/12/41

Recd. 2010

CYPHERAddressed The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry) Repeated  
C. in C. Mediterranean.MOST IMMEDIATE. MOST SECRET

250390 0/37937 cipher 14/12.

Cositrep No. 51.

1. 13 Corps. Evening 13 December enemy were holding  
line 350450-352443-SU 9283 opposite 5 N.Z. Bde. Groups of  
enemy also in the area SU 77 and from SU 8067 to SU 8255.  
Enemy armour consisting of approximately fifty tanks appears  
to be operating in the centre of his troops and during  
afternoon attacked 4 Ind. Div. which was advancing north west  
towards area SU 77 supported by 4 Armd. Bde. No details of  
this attack but enemy tanks withdrew west. 7 Support Gp. have  
been engaged with enemy on southern flank believed comprising  
two hundred M.T. two medium Btys. and one fd. bty. No details.  
7 Armd. Div. have captured enemy dump of 70,000 gallons fuel.  
Location not reported.

2. Reference Cositrep No. 50 para. 2 7 Armd. Div.  
captured further seven guns and shot down one Ju.88 during  
13 Dec.

3. 30 Corps. S.A. Column and S.A. Armd. cars withdrawn  
from Bir Hacheim 13 Dec. All S.A. tps. under Comd. 30 Corps  
moving to area 5731 arriving 15 Dec.

4. Frontier area. Patrols 2 S.A. Div. mopping up in  
coastal area continue to find isolated pockets of enemy.  
Mersa Luch has been occupied by us. 6 S.A. Bde. hold the  
Omars and area Bir Ghirba. Two Bns. 4 S.A. Bde. moving to

take/.....

# MOST SECRET

- 2 -

take over the Omars. 7 S.A. Recce. Bn. operating on line Omar-Nuovo-Bir Hafid and patrolling to east through wire under orders 6 S.A. Bde. H.Q. 2 (or 4) S.A. Div. Bir Hafid.

5. Jalo force from whom little information has been received have been raiding coast road and are organising mobile columns for offensive action towards Agedabia.

6. Enemy aircraft continue to bomb Tobruk, one shot down night 12/13 and one M.E. 109 also shot down by lt. A.A. El Adem 13 Dec.

## AIR.

7. 11 Dec. Bomber. Marylands bombed Tmimi aerodrome.

8. 12 Dec. Bomber. Hurricane bombers attacked M.T. on road north of Tmimi.

9. Fighter. Offensive patrols Tmimi area shot down several fighters mainly German, probably destroyed four fighters one bomber, damaged seven fighters one dive bomber. Eight our fighters missing, of which two believed collided. Hurricane from L.G.125 shot up M.T. between Ghemines and Ageila, destroying two heavy vehicles, damaging two light cars, three petrol tankers twenty five heavy vehicles. Traffic reported moving in both directions.

10. 13 Dec. Fighter. Sweeps shot down eleven fighters mainly German, two bombers. One dive bomber. One Transport. Probably destroyed one bomber, damaged one fighter three our fighters missing. Beaufighters damaged one D.O.24 one M.E.1 north of Derna. One Beaufighter missing. Hurricane from L.G.125 damaged two CR 42's near Sahabi.

MOST SECRET 1825/14

Recd by hand from War Office at  
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Advance copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

# MOST SECRET

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**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1903/14th Dec. IN

From H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.

Date 15.12.41.

Recd 0435.

Cipher

Addressed Air Ministry Whitehall,

IMMEDIATE.

WX.3492 A.266 14/12 Most Secret.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief.

Para. 1. Following are our comments on COS 207.

Para. 2. If Russians retain initiative in South Russia they will presumably themselves have local air superiority, doubtful whether R.A.F. Squadrons will really be needed. In these circumstances our Force of 10 Squadrons might well be required to operate West of Rostov where maintenance via long L. of C. would prove extremely difficult.

Para. 3. Entry of Japan into war apparent that interference with our shipping and diversion of American material will retard air reinforcement programme Middle East Troopers signal 57543 MO 1 of December 12 diverts 4 R.A.F. Squadrons to India. Air Ministry signal X.640 13/12 envisages despatch of up to 6 light bomber squadrons to Far East.

Para. 4. We therefore recommend that Mr. Eden should not offer proposed force to Russia.

Para. 5. Please pass to Admiralty and War Office.

1903/14. Advance copy sent

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War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.-Contd.UPHOLDER.  
URGE.  
P.34.

UPHOLDER proceed to area G, 037° 30' 016° 00' 000° 30 50 concentrate in 037° 47' 016° 05'.  
URGE operate in area F, 037° 30' 015° 09° 000° 40 - 30 concentrate on 037° 51' 015° 37'. P.34 proceed to establish anti U-boat patrol off Augusta 16/12 leave as necessary to pass 037° 02' 015° 37' and 035° 51', 015° 15' to arrive at Malta before noon/17. (Capt. S.10, 2153B/14 to P.34, UPHOLDER, URGE (R) Submarines on Patrol, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)

Enemy  
Intelligence.

Appear enemy withdrawing to Taranto and southward movement postponed. Two merchant ships may pass Messina thence probably Taranto rather than Greek coast. (Capt. S.10, 2227B/14 to 10 S/M Flot.)  
Your 1535B/14. Force believed to have passed Northwards through 039° 50' 017° 25' at 2030B/14. (UTMOST, 2227B/14 to ? N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Blockade  
of Jibuti.

Your 1347B/9 and C. in C. E.I. 2242Z/12.  
Submarine threat apart from existing threat from Vichy submarines, which should cease when Jibuti surrenders, is considered at present to be small and raider threat negligible.  
2. Blockade of Jibuti should therefore for the present take precedence over A/S defences of Aden. A fuller appreciation of this will shortly be signalled.  
3. Request you will sail SUTLEJ, JUMNA, BATHURST and LISMORE to Ceylon forthwith to join East Indies Station. (A. C.N.S. (F) 2330A/14 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.R.S., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Burma  
Command.

1. C. in C. India (? definitely) assuming command Burma including Air Forces and 204 Mission at 0630 hours G.M.T. 15/12.
2. Eastfar pass C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
3. Troopers pass S. of S. India.
4. Burmarmy pass 204 mission and Governor. (C. in C. India, 0100/14 to C. in C. Far East., etc.)

Ceylon.

S.D.5. Reinforcements Ceylon. Your 57070 (M.O.12) of 10/12. All concerned have agreed despatch Force Lancelot Scheme being operated forthwith. D 1 Sunday 21/12. (C. in C. India, 0120/14 to W.O.)

Burma.

Situation Report.  
(G.O.C. Burma, 0225/14 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

QUEEN MARY.

My 1236/10 can reply now be given please re QUEEN MARY? It would appear desirable she should leave these waters as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.I., 0650Z/14 to Admty.)  
Your 1236/10 and 0650/14. 1. Subject to U.S.A. agreement which has been sought intend QUEEN MARY should dock in U.S.A. proceeding via Capetown and Trinidad. 2. Pending this approval request you will hold ship at Trincomalee. 3. C. in C. S.A. is requested to remark on security aspect of fuelling QUEEN MARY at Capetown. D. of S.T. will make fuelling and watering arrangements. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1809A/14 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. S.A., C in C. A.W.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

CAPETOWN  
CASTLE.

Admty. 1855/18/11 para. 10. In view of Far Eastern situation is CAPETOWN CASTLE still to proceed to Singapore en route for New Zealand, communicating if numbers for onward despatch to Malaya are as stated in your above-quoted signal, or should troops be disembarked at Bombay and despatched to Malaya when opportunities offer, and ship proceed to New Zealand from Bombay?  
(S.S.T.O. Bombay, 0741Z/14 to Admty., C. in C. East Indies, (R) R.A. Malaya, S.O. Group 3.)

/Transports ...

M E S S A G E

MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET** 0225/14th December IN

From Cypher Date 14.12.41. Recd. 0615

Cypher

Addressed - The War Office, Repeated C.in C. Far East,  
C.in C. India, Military Attache, Chungking.

IMMEDIATE.

019320 0109 cipher 13/12.

Situation report.

1. About 0530 hours G.M.T. Mergui bombed by 6 then 27 planes 80 bombs dropped target aerodrome and harbour W/T and petrol dump hit also barracks details not to hand.

2. Air alarm (? Rangoon) 0610 hours G.M.T. to 0750 G.M.T. as aircraft (? reported) approaching Rangoon our fighters did not gain contact.

3. 1030 hours G.M.T. W/T Victoria Point demolished and garrison commenced withdrawal evacuation arranged with B.R.N.V.R. assume aerodrome demolished.

4. Dawn 12th December (? one) column commenced operation to blow railway 7 (repeat 7) and 14 (repeat 14) miles south of Prachuab-Girikan. Northern column met strong opposition further details not to hand.

5. (?British) Naval Officer reports no Japanese area Ch(?i)engrai but 9th December 116 Japanese landed Chaensenkao having come up Mekong in launch then reached (?Mesei) 1030 hours G.M.T. 11th December. Three (3) Italian ships interned Puket scuttled.

0225/14

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D.T.D.(2)		Duty Capt. Admiralty. Room).
D.of P.(2)		Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty War
Ad. Bailey.		Colonial Office (Maj. Rolleston).
Ad. Bellairs.		S.of S.(Foreign Office).
Ad. Chalmers.		Head of War Registry (Admiralty).

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Transports,  
Diversion.

Request you will arrange for diversion to Bombay for orders of following ships now en route from U.K. to Middle East: STANMORE, HARPASA, BRITTANY, FILLEIGH, BARON CAWDOR, TALHYBIUS, LOCH RANZA, LULWORTH HILL, CLAN ALPINE, HALIZONES and ANGLO INDIAN.

2. Further instructions will be sent by D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. India in due course.  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1942A/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

Burma.

Situation Report.  
(G.O.C. Burma, 2105/14 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

China.

Enemy Ships  
sunk by  
Dutch S/M.

Dutch S/M K.12 reports sinking 1 merchant ship on 12th and 1 oiler on 13th off Kota Bharu.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0031Z/14 to Admty.)

Japanese  
Operations.

Report for Chiefs of Staff on enemy operations 8/12 to 10/12.  
(C. in C. Far East, 0154/14 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

Manila  
appreciation  
from B.A.D.  
Washington.

Your 2009/13. Yes. Signal will be made if arrangements cease.  
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0221Z/14 to Admty.)

Control of  
U.S. Forces.

B.A.D. Washington's message 2125P/12 indicates that strategic control of U.S. naval forces in Far Eastern area is being exercised from Washington and this probably explains my being unable to obtain any communication from Admiral Hart. 4 U.S. destroyers have left here today to join Admiral Glasfurd by order of Washington.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0451Z/14 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)  
Reply from B.A.D., see America and West Indies, 2035R/14.

*see A/P. 460*



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

FROM:- G.O.C. Burma      DATE:- 14.12.41.      2105/14th December

RECD:- 2200

CIPHER

ADDRESSED:- The War Office repeated C. in C. Far East C. in C. India Machin

MOST IMMEDIATE

019441      0116 cipher 14/12.

Situation report.

1. Ref. 0100 13/12. One. Leaflets also dropped Mergui raid. Population evacuating selves to islands in Orderly Manner.
2. Unconfirmed but reliable reports 9/12 of heavy guns and tanks arriving at Lopburi and bridges on railway up to Pitsanuloke being strengthened. Also reported that Japanese troops arrived Lampang. No confirmation arrival of Jap Troops Mesai area troops there believed Thai.
3. M L S despatched last night R.V. to evacuate Victoria Point Garrison. No news received doubtless W/T silence.
4. Our frontier force columns now withdrawing from Parachuab Girikhan operation. Opposition too great and heavy (?rain).

2105/14

Received by War Registry at 0700/15 from War Office.

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A.C.N.S. (T)	M.O. 1.6.10.
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D. of P. (2)	Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty War Room)
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I.P. (2)	D.T.S.D.
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D.S.D.	N.I.D. 10
Admiral Bailey	Hd. of War Registry Admiralty
Admiral Bellairs	Burma Office (War Staff)
Admiral Chalmers	

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

2040/14th December

IN

From G.O.C. Burma.

Date 16.12.41.

Recd. 1000.

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office.

IMPORTANT

019809. C.155 Cipher 15/12.

Herewith repeat of our 0103<sup>4</sup> 12/12. Situation report.

Japs occupied Marang 35 miles N.E. Victoria PT. also Namchoot and Htapli and have outboard motor boats. Advance on Victoria PT. expected. All preparations made for destruction of aerodrome and withdrawal of garrison. Japs reported at Paknampo (on rly) south of Bhisnulok. Jap planes reported to be arriving Mesohd tonight if this proves correct vertical to take place. 0100 G.M.T. Jap planes over Rangoon. 0625 G.M.T. 50 planes raided Mergui W/T PTN reported out of action no reports to hand. Air Photographic Recce. over Bangkok yesterday showed over 70 aeroplanes on ground.

2040/14

4 No trace of former receipt.

Received from War Office at 1919/16th December.

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

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Admiral Chalmers	N.I.D.10.

**MOST SECRET**

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE 0154/14th December IN

MOST SECRET

Date 14.12.41  
Recd. 0500

From C. in C. Far East.

CIPHER

Addressed: The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

019317. Unnumbered cipher 14/12. Most Secret.

First of Three Parts.

Foll. for Chiefs of Staff.

Japanese plan closely followed German practice. Probable size of Japanese force 250-300, 65 fighters plus possibly two aircraft carriers whose aircraft have not yet been identified.

2. Before daylight I.E. 8/12 a landing was made off Kota Bharu by a force of ships reported as varying between 10 and 20. All ships seen were heavily bombed and all available bomber effort laid on as soon as it was light. It was followed by a raid by some 17 twin engined aircraft on aerodromes in Singapore Island. Two were hit without damage bombs probably meant for third fell on Singapore town. During morning fighter attack made on Kota Bharu and bomber raids reported by fighters on other occupied aerodromes particularly Alor Star and Sungei Patani where great damage was done to buildings and many Blenheim and Buffalo aircraft damaged on the ground when refuelling after attacks. Scale of effort some 150 aircraft probably 65 fighters. During day fighters type 96 Naval and type O. established in numbers on Singgora and Pattani aerodromes. Which were probably stocked with fuel and ammunition in advance by arrangement with Thais. Some 100 at least arrived by 1600 8/12 Kota Bharu aerodrome evacuated owing to action of Jap troops. Considerable Jap recce. effort in South China Sea probably as cover against move by Eastern Fleet.

3. 9/12 continuation of attack on aerodromes including Kuantan which was reported to be seriously damaged. Eastern Fleet located by enemy recce. scale of Japanese effort some 50% of first day. 10/12 continuation of attack on North Western aerodromes including Penang and mass attacks by torpedo bombers type 96 Naval from Indo China against the Fleet 1130 and 1230. Probably some 60 employed coming into close range and dropping very accurately. Scale of effort some 135 aircraft all bombers on Fleet 70 fighters on aerodromes.

4. By 11/12 all serviceable aircraft had had to be withdrawn from Northern Malaya and bomber effective was temporarily reduced to some six Blenheims. Japanese at once switched major effort from attack on aerodromes to shipping and Port of Penang and employed some 70 aircraft in three waves seriously damaging civilian property and docks but doing no damage to shipping. 50% were fighters. Tavoy Aerodrome was also attacked this being the first raid on Burma presumably in an effort to cut air route. Scale of effort for the day was about 100.

/5. Our.....

2.

5. Our operations. Dispositions and strengths on 7/12 as follows.

Second Part.

Read in four columns - headings - Aerodrome - Type -  
 Initial Equipment - Sqn. Number. Alor Star Blenheim I (B) ...  
 11 62. Sungei Patani Buffalo 16 21 Blenheim I (F) 12 27.  
 Kota Bharu Hudson 12 1 V V 6 36 Buffalo 2 243  
 Gong Kedak V V 6 100. Kuantan Hudson 8 Blenheim I (B) 8  
 60 V V 7 36. Tengah Blenheim IV 16 34. Kallang Buffalo  
 32 243 and 488. Sembawang Buffalo 16 455. Seletar V V  
 10 100 Catalina 3 205 Singapore 2 205.

Six. Fighter effort much restricted by lack of adequate warning system since R.D.F. not yet available for north and proximity of Thai Frontier precluded sufficient depth for adequate observer system. Defence of aerodromes greatly handicapped by lack of A.A. artillery. Kota Bharu had four Naval 3 inch without predictors Alor Star had four 3 inch Sungei Patani had seven 3.7 and four Bofors Gong Kedak two Naval 3 inch and Kuantan had none. Value of Singgora and Patani to Japanese can hardly be overestimated. Japanese started cautiously but on finding little opposition came down in stages to ground level. 3.7 brought down four out of one raid on Sungei Patani. The Fleet accounted for some seven to twelve at least. No fighter cover could be provided for Fleet and Admiral was so informed.

7. Bomber effort restricted since only two Blenheim sqdns. and two Vildebeeste available and Hudsons had to be used mainly on recce. Considerable casualties suffered by Blenheims in daylight probably from fighters since escort could not be provided. T.B. effort restricted since Kota Bharu aerodrome evacuated by 8/12 and Pkuantan was no longer usable by 9/12. Attacks carried out on ships three reported hit off Kota Bharu and left burning.

8. Reconnaissance. Recce. in Gulf of Thailand and between Kota Bharu and Indo China established as reported in my telegram 306/6 28/11 to link up with Dutch and American recce. in accordance with pre-arranged plans. Main Japanese expedition was located at about 1300 6/12 off souther F.I.C.s and probably turned north. Weather was bad on 7/12 and no further sighting was made except for report of some destroyers moving south off Thai coast on evening of that day. A.N. 9/12 Beaufort P.R. established landings at Singgora and Patani in strength and was seriously damaged by fighters. Special recces for the Fleet by Catalinas and Beauforts and by P.R. Buffalo off Patani and Singgora were flown on 9th and

/10th and.....

# MOST SECRET

3.

10th and are being continued.

0154/14  
Received from War Office P.M./14th Dec.

4 50% intended.

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by

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 0155/14G1 December

IN

From War Office.

Date 14.12.41

CIPHER.

To C. in C. India. Repeated C. in C. Far East.  
G.O.C. Burma. G.O.C. Hong Kong. M. A. Chungking.  
MOST IMMEDIATE

57779. Cipher (M.O.1). 13/12.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 2.

M.A. Chungking's M.292 of 9/12.

1. Following is text of telegram from Chiefs of Staff to Chiang-Kai-Shek despatched today. Quote. British High Command are most grateful for your generous offer to place all resources of China at the disposal of His Britannic Majesty's Government and of the United States Government. We are confident that such a partnership fighting together will defeat the forces which are ranged against us. Accordingly General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief, India has been invited to approach you with a view to exchanging Senior Military Officers as soon as possible in order that discussions may take place as to how best our forces can co-operate in the common cause. Unquote.

2. Consider that Chinese preparations for Canton offensive should be encouraged. We doubt if you will be able to spare air support but agree that if possible bombs for area B may be sent in if you consider advisable.

3. Para.3(b) (c) (d). French reactions in Tong-King will be adverse and there is no question of neutrality or co-operation. Forward your recommendations for possible uses of Yunnan troops and Puerh force, and whether they could be used for operations through Kentung into Thailand. Governor of Burma's telegram 274 para.1 refers but Burma Army telegram to Troopers referred to in para.2 not (repeat not) received.

4. Para.3(e). A most helpful suggestion.

5. Consider 204 Mission should not penetrate deep into

China/.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

-2-

China, except in Canton area but should operate offensively in districts nearer to Burma.

6. Para.4. We agree entirely.

7. M.A. Chungking only. Above is for your information and that of H.M. Ambassador. You should not (repeat not) take action until you receive instructions from C. in C., India.

G155/14

Advance Copy Duty Cant. D.O.D.(F). D.D.I.C.  
Received from War Office 0718/14 December

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	India Office.
	Burma Office.

DF

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

S.S. ULYSSES  
Sunk.

S.S. ULYSSES bombed 9/12 search by two destroyers negative. Now presumed lost. (R.A. Malaya, 0515Z/14.)

Enemy  
Intelligence.

D/F bearing indicates possibility of enemy unit in vicinity of 016° S. 097° 30' E. at 1939Z/13. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0529Z/14 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B., C.Z.M., Admty.)  
(i) My 0521/13. Same source reports huge fleet in Camranh Bay today Sunday. U.S. C. in C. Asiatic Fleet unable to provide R/C.  
(ii) Aircraft sighting report 0607Z/14, 6 cruisers, no transports in the vicinity. Cruisers circled (? but) later sighted steering 210° in approx. position 007° 30' N. 106° 20' E.  
(iii) 12/12 submarines reported south of Sumba Island, west of Timor. Graded C.3. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1438Z/14 to Admty.)

Minelaying.

Admty. 1533/13. KUNG WO fitted for minelaying but with no mines or trained mining personnel on board is at present at Nancowry and can be made available. If you consider her suitable please inform me where she should proceed. (C. in C. E.F., 0531Z/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

Malaya.

Military Situation Report.  
(Advance G.Q.M.C., 0559/14 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

Hong Kong  
Report.

A difficult day. Shelling increased in intensity and accuracy. Two 4.7-inch guns at Belchers badly hit as are one 9.2 gun and one 3-inch A.A. Mount Davis. Two 6-inch guns Pakshawan hit but fit for auto-sight and gun control. Both searchlight Pakshawan hit and temporarily out of action. Some casualties and Chinese gunners deserting. Anticipate abandonment of this battery may be necessary owing to proximity of enemy's observation from Devils Peak. Japanese appear to be collecting ferry launches and Junks on Kowloon side. Some activity Lamma Island and vicinity. Difficulty with civilian populace still grave. (G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0800/14 to C. in C. Far East, W.O.)

/Defence ....



**MOST SECRET**MOST SECRETMESSAGE

0559/14th December

IN

From Advance G.Q.M.C.

Date 14.12.41  
Time 0830

CIPHER

Addressed War Office. Repeated C. in C. India.  
MOST IMMEDIATE

019332. P.173 Cipher 13/12.

Sitrep 1830 hrs. G.M.T. Kelantan no change. Kedah Fwd. tps. now on line of Kuala Kedah. 15 and 28 Ind. Inf. Bdes. have been heavily engaged. Reinforcements comprising 12 Ind. Inf. Bde. less one Bn. in Kelanaan one Fd. Bty. and (? Fd. Coy.) have been lent. Krohcol organizing Kroh defences. Penang. Air attacks morning and afternoon. Prai docks bombed without damage but Bagan Luar reported out of action for fuelling ships. Civil food situation serious but control in force. Trenggani Johore Singapore Fortresses nothing to report. Negative reports after morning air recces. of East Coast and Singapore approaches in bad weather. Kuantan low flying machine gunning attacks on aerodrome. Otherwise quiet. Sarawak and Christmas Island no change. General. Report from hitherto reliable source states convoy of 140 ships off Indo China Coast heading S.S.W. and including 100 transports one or two aircraft carriers. Time and position of sighting not yet known. No sighting report of the search today of sea south of Saigon by Catalinas. Visibility bad. Search recommences dawn. Other air activities. Two enemy aircraft shot down by our fighters and one reported crashed Penang area. One enemy aircraft shot down at Ipoh. Photographic recco. Songkla revealed large concentration enemy transports. To date our A.A. defences have brought down seven enemy aircraft with one probable.

Received from War Office 1322/. December 14. Advance Copy 1st Lord. 1st S.L. A.C.N.S.(F). N.A. 1st S.L. Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F). D.D.I.C. 1st Lord. D.D.I.C. D.D.M.O.(O). 1st S.L. D.T.D.(2). M.O.1.6.10. 4th S.L. D. of P.(2). D.D.I.P. 5th S.L. D.A/S.W. D.M.I. V.C.N.S. I.P.(2). D.D.M.I.(I). A.C.N.S.(H). W.D. M.I.2(3 copies). A.C.N.S.(F). D.S.D. Cabinet War Room. A.C.N.S.(T). Admiral Bailey. Col. Jacob(Cab. Offices). A.C.N.S.(W). Admiral Bollaers. C.A.S. Air Min.(2). N.A. 1st S.L. Admiral Chalmers. Plans,3, Air Min.(2). Capt. Pim. E.P.S. Duty Gp. Capt. Air Min. D.N.A.D. D.T.S.D. A.C.A.S.(I) Air Min. Head of H.(30). N.I.D.10. Air Min. War Room. D.O.D.(H). War Office Circ.: F.O.5. (Air Min.). D.D.O.D.(H). S. of S. Duty Capt. Admiralty. D.O.D.(F). C. of S. Duty Officer (Upper D.D.O.D.(F). C. of S. Duty War Room). D.C.(2). C. of S. Office (Major D.N.I.(4). D.I.O. & Rolleston). A.E.(3). D.P.(2). S. of S. (Foreign Office). D.P.D.

**MOST SECRET****MOST SECRET**

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Defence  
of Burma.

Your 20788/9, 13/12, T.O.O. 2335/13. I agree. Notify me time and date of change. Further signal follows.  
(C. in C. Far East, 1418/14 to C. in C. India, (R) W.O., G.O.C. Burma.)

Eastern  
Fleet,  
Base for  
C. in C.

Your 0845Z/13. Admiralty agree that Singapore may not be able to remain the strategic centre, both because of its communications failing and the battle area shifting to the Indian Ocean and also possibly to Australasia.  
2. It is agreed that when you consider it necessary you should proceed to Colombo flying your flag on shore there until it is possible to make arrangements for you to take up your next Command. The disposition of available surface vessels would be at your discretion. (Naval Secretary, 1433A/14 to C. in C. E.F.)

Fighter  
cover for  
PRINCE OF  
WALES.

Your 57754 (M.O.10) C.O.S. F.E. 59, 13/12. <sup>(Pg. 423)</sup>  
Para. 1. C. in C. Eastern Fleet did not make any such request while at sea.  
Para. 2. Singapore was not kept informed of position of warships after change of plan. It was however, inferred during forenoon of 10th that plan had been changed owing to receipt of signal giving an anticipated position on 11th which indicated force could not have proceeded as far north as Singora.  
Para. 3. First knowledge of position was when REPULSE reported being bombed, whereupon fighters were immediately despatched. (C. in C. Far East, 1939/14 to W.O.)

Chinese  
Offensive.

C. in C. Far East 2005/14 to W.O.  
See Lion Copy.

Borneo  
Oilfields.

C.N.O. states that U.S. C. in C. Asiatic Fleet has advised Singapore and Batavia to destroy immediately the Borneo Oilfields except Balikpapan and to destroy that one soon. (Spenavo, 2236/14 to Admty.)

**MOST SECRET**

456A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN  
2005/14th December

From:- C. in C. Far East.

Date. 14.12.41.  
Recd. 1835

Cypher

---

Addressed:- The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

019415. 29/7. cipher. 14/12.

Reference Machin's M 292 of 9/12.

Para: 1. I have sent a message of appreciation to Generalissimo.

Para: 2. Agree that offensive should be put in hand at once and should start as early as possible in view of pressure on Hong Kong. Unlikely to be able to provide Chinese with air support I therefore do not consider that bombs should go forward to area B as stocks in Burma are small and bombs authorised for this operation have not actually arrived.

Para: 3. (A) agree (B) My view is that invasion of Tongking with very limited objectives is to be encouraged and that Chinese need not be scrupulous about French feelings in F.I.C. Our policy here as elsewhere must be to destroy the enemy wherever we find him. (C) and (D) consider Puerh Force should be reinforced to maximum number that can be supplied with Rice from Burma and should be held as reserve for Kentung Area and apart from offensive patrols not be used for action against Tongking (E) 1 squadron already under command R.A.F. Burma.

Para. 4: Agree but would add enlargement and surface strengthening of all aerodromes in China within striking distance of Japanese occupied territory or Japan so that heaviest types British and American Bombers can be operated. General Brett U.S.A. Air Corps is now on way to China to investigate possibilities of this and certain information regarding communications has already been given him.

2005/14

Received by hand from  
War Office at  
0701/15

P.T.O.

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A.C.N.S. (W)	D.M.I.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.P.M.I. (I)
Capt. Pim.	M.I. 2. (3)
D.N.A.D.	C.N.S. Admiralty
Hd. of M. (2)	D. of Plans Admiralty.
D.O.D. (H)	C.A.S. Air Ministry
D.D.O.D. (H)	D. of Plans Air Ministry
D.O.D. (F)	Secretary Joint Planning Staff
D.D.O.D. (F)	Col. Jacob.
D.C. (2)	Head of War Reg. (Admiralty)
D.N.I. (4)	Colonial Office (Major Rolleston)
D.D.I.C.	India Office
D.T.D. (2)	Burma Office War Staff (4)
D. of P. (2)	
D.A./S.W.	
I.P. (2)	
V.D.	
D.S.D.	
Adml. Bellairs	
Adml. Bailey.	
Adml. Chalmers	
E.P.S.	
D.T.S.D.	
N.I.D.10	

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- O.N.46. Task unit 4.1.11, designated escort O.N.46 OTTAWA, PRIMROSE, TRAIL, POLYANTHUS, ARVIDA, SHERBROOKE. Also ROSTERN, if repairs can be completed in time.  
(Opanav, 0305Z/14 to Admty.)
- O.N.41. My 0150/14. O.N.41 escort reports speed five.  
(Opanav, 0710Z/14 to Admty.)
- Enemy Supply Ship, St. Paul's Rocks area. Your 2011Z/12. Patrol in H 52 B is being maintained for the present in case situation alters. My 1232Q/13\* refers.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/14 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.) \* Possibility of enemy supply ship moving towards St. Paul's Rocks area.
- Shipping Routes. Your 1915A/13 not to S.O.(I) Jamaica appears to place responsibility for routeing of trans-Pacific shipping from Panama on N.S.H.Q., and this is not understood. Routeing instructions for these ships were issued in my 0043Q/11 after consultation with New Zealand Navy Board. I concur in routeing instructions for remainder of trans-Pacific shipping given by N.S.H.Q. to N.C.S.O's under his orders in his 1507Z/11.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/14 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., N.Z.N.B., S.O.I. Jamaica.) Reply Admty. 2101A/16.
- A/C Report 13/12. S.O.(I) Jamaica's 1128/13. Aircraft were friendly.  
(B.A.D., 1035R/14 to Admty., etc.)
- Shipping. Your 1201/11. British and Allied North Pacific Coastal Traffic should proceed.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/14 to C.S.A. Panama, (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D., C.S.A. Colon.)
- ASTRAL. Your 2303Z/11, U.S. Tanker ASTRAL. Lisbon reports she has not arrived. Admiralty has no further information.  
(D.T.D., 1301A/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Situation Report.

Washops 4. (1) Philippine Is. (?Statement) by U.S. Staff in Philippine Is. received 1600/13 as follows. Landings in Legaspi Vigan Aparri areas expected to be reinforced though physical characteristics of Bicol Peninsula Ilocos Coast and Cayagan Valley are not suitable for employment strong offensive force. Object of enemy action thought to be establishment of bridge-heads for creation of air bases from which aircraft from Formosa can operate. This having been accomplished a major landing effort can be expected. Estimated period before major landing is 15 days. In meantime daily air attacks can be expected with object of wearing down our rapidly diminishing Air Force and destruction of air fields and supplies. Only method for immediate relief is early air counter attack on Formosa. 1st priority reinforcement should be fighter aircraft from carriers, 2nd fast high flying bombers, 3rd troops. Bombs of which only limited supply here should be included in 1st priority. At present enemy can deliver air attacks at will.

2. Hawaii. At least 2 small 50 foot submarines took part in last Sunday's attack. 1 captured 1 destroyed. These reached harbour in spite of A/S nets being closed.

3. Wake. Message received 0445/13 indicates this island still in U.S. hands and had further bombing attack at midnight.

4. Gilbert Island. A message received 0241/14 reports landing at Tarawa and Makin. 1 cruiser and 2 destroyers off Tarawa.

5. Phoenix and Christmas Islands. (a) Canton (Pheonix Islands) highly important for proposed air ferry has been reinforced from Honolulu by two 75 mm. and 12 machine guns. Only small boats can enter the harbour.  
(b) Christams Island is being reinforced with two 155mm. guns, one battery three inch A/A and 12 machine guns now en route from Honolulu.

6. Fiji Islands. S.S. LUDINGTON is carrying two 75 mm. and 12 machine guns to Suva where completion of Mandifield is being rushed.

7. Alaska. West Arctic Coast frozen, a landing here considered possible though difficult. Bristol Bay landing conditions unfavourable. Gulf of Alaska favourable.  
Admty pass to W.O. and A.M.  
(J.S.M., Washington, 1411R/14 to Admty etc).

/PRINCE DAVID...

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

PRINCE  
DAVID.

Leave Bermuda A.M./15 and proceed at best possible speed to Esquimalt via Panama Canal. Route to Colon via Windward Passage. Route from Balboa to Esquimalt Coastwise.

(2) You should complete with fuel at Balboa, and report to all addressees your E.T.A. Esquimalt before leaving Balboa.

(3) Report your E.T.A. Colon to me on leaving Bermuda. (4) C.S.A. Colon and Panama will be informed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1552Q/14 to PRINCE DAVID.)

RANPURA.

Your 1400/12. RANPURA is expected to arrive Baltimore 20/1.

(D.O.D. (F), 1626A/14 to B.A.R.M.)

DEVONSHIRE.

My 2342/3, DEVONSHIRE now reports essential to retube A to E rows and proportion of F to N rows in No. A.1. boiler.

2. It may also be necessary to retube A to D rows of remaining seven boilers.

3. Request immediate report whether tubes are available in America.

(D. of D., 1740/14 to B.A.R.M.)

O.N. 43.  
O.N. 44.

1015Z/14 from RESTIGOUCHE to U.S.C.N.O. has been intercepted. Recommend both convoys disperse all ships being directed through new advance positions 145° 75 miles from advance positions ordered. Admiralty would instruct stragglers to conform. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1745Z/14 to Opnav).

*See p. 442*

Italian  
Cruisers  
Sunk 13/12.  
by SIKH, LEGION,  
MAORI, 7 ISAAC  
SWEERS.

Meter. U.S. Consul Tunis reports 13/12 (B.2) On the night 12/13 Dec. Italian Cruisers ALBERTO DI GIUSSANO and ALBERICO DA BARBIANO were sunk and one destroyer disabled in action off Cape Bon. The beach is littered with survivors and dead, all possible aid is being rushed from Tunis (B.2). (B.A.D., 1801R/14 to Admty (R) V.A.M. C. in C. Med).

ATHOS II.

Meter. Algiers 13/12 (B.2) ATHOS 2nd has arrived from Marseilles with escort of destroyers. She carried 2500 Indo Chinese troops part of the Syrian army. (B.A.D., 1803R/14 to Admiralty., (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, S.O.(I) Freetown).

/QUEEN...

War Diary.

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.  
AQUITANIA.

Pending further decisions on future U.S. convoys request you will retain QUEEN ELIZABETH and AQUITANIA in Australia. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1814A/14 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.I., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F.)

Movement  
of  
Shipping.

My 2007/13. Some ships are reporting leaving Panama. All ships are still being held at Cristobal. Unable to ascertain reason from U.S. Authorities. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1833/14 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

Shipping.

Request your 0036Z/13 may be passed to me, as well as all proposals which affect routing of shipping on A.W.I. Station. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1852Q/14 to N.S.H.Q.)

Control  
of U.S.  
Forces.

C. in C. E.F.'s 0451/14. Part. 1.  
U.S. C.N.O. considers annexe II of ABClin force providing for collaboration by local military commanders in Far East area in planning and execution of operations. Strategical direction of U.S. Forces remains with U.S.C.N.O. and of British Forces with Admiralty and Dominion Govts. and of Dutch Forces with N.E.I. Authorities.  
(ii) Thus direction of retirement if necessary of U.S. Asiatic Fleet is considered proper within provinces of U.S. C.N.O. who consults C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.  
(iii) Orders to destroyers reported in C. in C. E.F.'s. 0451/14 were given by C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet but passed via Washington.  
(iv) Part 2 of this message gives present intention of U.S.C.N.O.  
Part 2.

(i) On 13th C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet appreciated enemy control of air over Philippine Is. will become evident shortly threatening fleet base facilities. In long war prevention enemy fuel replenishments strongest strategic weapon. C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet intends to operate submarines from Manila as long as possible with primary objective important enemy ships. All other available ships being organized under Admiral Glassford to operate at present on general lines Sourabaya-Darwin.  
(ii) U.S.C.N.O. appreciates Far East developments not unexpected, except for rapidity owing to vigour of Japanese attack. He considers Naval position in Indian Ocean undermined by sacrifice of British heavy ships. Fall of Luzon and Singapore would shift pressure to Netherlands East Indies. Essential to prolong Dutch resistance and close Eastern Malaya (?South-East)

/passages to...



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War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Control of  
U.S. Forces.  
Contd.

passages to raiders to give time to build up N.W. Australia defences. Retirement in N.W. Australia will also make possible ultimate junction with Pacific Fleet which would be more useful than retirement to Ceylon.

(iii) On 14th, U.S.C.N.O. approved operation of submarines from Manila with objectives as in para (i) (?returning) and supporting Army defence of Luzon, but advised using more southerly bases before retirement cut off.

(iv) U.S. C.N.O. directed C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet to consult General Commanding Philippine Is. concerning orders for convoy with Army and Air material originally destined for Manila now diverted to Brisbane. U.S.C.N.O. recommended artillery and aircraft in convoy be used for defence of Darwin and vicinity.

(v) U.S. C.N.O. intends U.S. Asiatic Fleet surface forces shall continue to operate in area of Sourabaya-Thursaday Island. He assumes British will close Malacca Straits to enemy and expects Dutch to guard Sunda Strait with any (?assistance) British can afford.

(vi) U.S. submarine tender aircraft tender, and M/S and small craft will probably be ordered to Darwin. (B.A.D., 2035R/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., N.O. Melbourne, N.O. Wellington).

Shipping.

My 1507Z/11. Instructions in para 2 have been amended so that ships will proceed to Wellington for further instructions passing South of Chatham Islands.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2355Z/14 to B.A.D. (R) Admty etc).

Australia & New Zealand.Situation.

1. Gilbert Area. Tarawa Island reports all clear 13/12. Japanese left P.M.10/12 after destroying launches canoes and some buildings. 2 Natives killed but no European casualties. Now reports only two ships took part. Description about 10,000 tons two funnel possibly A.M.Cs. Tarawa Island radio station smashed but hidden sets now functioning.
2. Makin Island not heard since 11/12.
3. Gunfire and flashes reported East of Abaiang Gilbert Island at 1700Z/13. Grade B.2. Admty pass to Opnav. (N.Z.N.B. \*C. in C. E.F., Admty. C. in C. Pacific Fleet, (U.S.) Opnav, A.C.N.B., Navy Office, Melbourne. (R)C.O.S. Singapore R.N.O. Suva). \*0120Z/14.

/U.S....

14.12.1941.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

U.S. Convoys.

Departure Suva 14/12 U.S. Cruiser PENSACOLA  
and convoy for Brisbane.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1737M/14 to Admty.,  
A.C.N.B., C.O.S. Singapore, C. in C. E.F.)

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War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

O.S.12  
(attacked  
29/11 - 2/12). All stragglers from O.S.12 arrived except ASHBY and SHEAFHOLME. Not clear if ASHBY sailed in O.S.12 and SHEAFHOLME understood to be still at Ponta Delgada, MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA has reported and expected today. (W.D. Note. - at Section). (C.in C. S.A. 1040Z/14 to Admty.).

Tanker  
BADALONA  
torpedoed.

(i) Hudson aircraft sighted U/B at 7 miles at 1605A in 036° 35' N. 001° 45' W. attacked with bombs no hits. (ii) Spanish ship torpedoed about 14 miles E. of Malaga night of 12/13 believed ?(by) U/B. No British or Allied S/M's. in the vicinity. (F.O.C.N.A. 2252A/14 to Admty. C.in C. Med.).

Submarines Reported.

0930  
(Med.)

U/B 045°. Kenay Is. 19 at 0930.  
(Alexandria W/T 0934/14 to FARNDALE).

1230A.

Probable 2 Italian S/M's. in vicinity of O.S.13.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1230A/14 to ROCHESTER).

Estimated approximate positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1420A/14, 1428A/14).

1958A

Following has been read.  
BRITISH CONFIDENCE 57.35 N. 24.27 W. submarine on surface.  
(Wick Radio 1958/14).  
BRITISH CONFIDENCE reports U/B on surface in 57° 35' N. 24° 27' W. at 1958A/14.  
(D.D.I.C. 2022Z/14 to Opnav).  
Intercepted at 1958 G.M.T. 3333 BRITISH CONFIDENCE, 57.35 N. 24.27 W. Submarine on surface, not yet attacked.  
(Port Patrick Radio 2058/14 to Navycharge Greenock).  
Ref. my 1955, 057° 16' N. 024° 50' W. Submarine sighted on surface has dived, not since seen, no action, wind force 7, moderate gale N.W, visibility distance 4 miles, sea rough, overcast, squally position uncertain.  
(BRITISH CONFIDENCE 2320/14 to Adm1. Plymouth Admty.).

1925C.

Bearing by D/F at 1925C/14 position of U/B was 069° 43' 034° 40' E. reliable fix.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2046C/14 to Admty. Rep. KENT, SHEFFIELD).

War Diary.14.12.1941.  
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. Contd.

1949C. Bearing by D/F at 1949C/14, position of enemy U-boat was  $071^{\circ}$  N.,  $029^{\circ} 20'$  E., reliable fix. (?S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2050C/14, to Admty., (R) SEAWOLF.)

13/12. Aircraft reports sighting enemy submarines on 13/12. At 1047 one  $036^{\circ} 34'$  N., (?)  $002^{\circ} 40'$  W., at 1124 one  $036^{\circ} 15'$  N.,  $002^{\circ} 40'$  W. (F.O.C.N.A., 2236A/14 to URSULA.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. U-boat attacked by aircraft in  $036^{\circ} 35'$   $001^{\circ} 45'$  W., at 1605/14. (F.O.C.N.A., 1636A/14, to URSULA.)

One enemy Submarine  $196^{\circ}$  Cape Trafalgar 26, course  $030^{\circ}$ , aircraft attacked (?my 0540) (F.O.C.N.A. 2325A/14 to WISHART, COLTSFOOT, SPIREA, AZALEA, ZULU, FORTUNE, GERANIUM.) My 2325A/14. Amend to read  $189^{\circ}$  Cape Trafalgar 31. (F.O.C.N.A., 0709A/15 to Ships Escorting O.G.76, ZULU, FORTUNE, GERANIUM, WISHART, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT.)

By TALISMAN.

TALISMAN engaged U-boat with gunfire at 1850/14 about 140 miles N.N.E. Bardia. A hit was scored at base of conning tower and U/B is considered to have sunk. (Not confirmed by comd. 6243) (D.O.R. 16/12.)

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

It is reported that PRINZ EUGEN undocked yesterday and that SCHARNHORST is to undock tomorrow and GNEISENAU on 21/12. Ammunition is ready for embarking. All available S/Ms of 7th Flotilla and JUNON, O.21, REGENT and URSULA (from North Atlantic) were ordered to be sailed for 14 days' patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

A convoy designated H.M. being the reverse of an M.H. convoy, is to run as an experiment from Holyhead to Milford Haven.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 19 rounds at Dover this afternoon. No naval damage or casualties are reported.

Enemy Air Operations.

3 bombs, which did not explode were dropped in Mid Yell Voe (Shetlands) this afternoon.

LIDDESDALE reported being attacked at 1730 today off Spurn Point.

North Atlantic.

The effectiveness of A.S.V. Swordfish for work in the Straits of Gibraltar was definitely established last night during the passage of convoy H.G.76; 4 or 5 contacts were obtained, resulting in 3 attacks. Additional fully trained personnel are urgently required. Up to date these patrols have been provided solely by ARGUS, involving heavy drain on her flying resources.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - contd.

N.A. Madrid reports that all sailings of Spanish ships to U.S.A. and Cuba have been stopped provisionally, pending German guarantee of non-interference.

Mediterranean.

R/C of Taranto p.m. today showed 2 LITTORIO and 3 CAVOUR battleships, 7 cruisers, 31 destroyers and 15 S/Ms in the outer harbour, and one (salved) CAVOUR battleship stern on to the graving dock in the inner harbour. 4 liners, 3 tankers and 12 other merchant vessels were present. PORPOISE has torpedoed a 6000 ton merchant ship, which is beached near Cape Methoni. TORBAY has been ordered to try to destroy the ship.

11 Wellingtons last night bombed shipping and wharves at Benghazi.

East Indies.

C. in C. India assumed command of Burma, including the Air Forces at 0630 G.M.T. today.

China.

Hong Kong.

A.P.V. INDIRA was sunk alongside during air attack on Aberdeen today.

/Malaya ...

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China contd.

Malaya.  
Burma and  
Siam.

It is doubtful whether it will be possible to hold Penang which has no adequate garrison for increased scale of attack. Enemy aircraft have mined Penang North Channel.

MAURITIUS, ELECTRA and EXPRESS left Singapore today.

Wake.

There was a further air raid last night by 6 - 4 engined seaplanes.

Philippines.

There were a few light air attacks today.

America and West Indies.

N.C.S.O. Colon reports that Atlantic shipping is still held up. The orders come from Admiral Commanding 15th Naval District, Balboa.

No reinforcements can be sent to the New Zealand Escort Force (see 24/11.) It is considered, however, that whilst the U-boat menace in the North Atlantic remains small a reduction in the number of escorts to an average of 5 can be accepted.

Australia and New Zealand.

A Japanese S/M surfaced off Mawi Island (Hawaii) today and fired several rounds into the town of Kahulu.

2 surface vessels today bombarded Johnson Island (750 miles W.S.W. of Hawaii.)

/The ...

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand contd.

The flag of Admiral Commanding the Australian Squadron was hoisted in CANBERRA today.

U-Boat Campaign.

At 0348/15 and S.S. EMPIRE BARRACUDA (on Government service) was sunk in 35° 28' N. 6° 15' W.

U.127 sunk.  
(cmd. 6843.)

NESTOR attacked a German submarine at 1100 today in 197° Cape St. Vincent 35 miles; F.O.C.N.A. considers the U-boat was undoubtedly destroyed, as wreckage with German markings was recovered.

Portuguese S.S. CASSEQUEL was sunk by a S/M, believed German, time and position reported to be 2000 G.M.T./14 in 35° 8' N. 11° 14' W. The ship was bound for Lobito with general cargo and some war materials.



War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Scapa Boom  
Equipment.

Your 1515A/13. Work on discharging RALLUS delayed owing to weather. Three days required to complete discharge when weather moderates. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1620A/15).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian  
Convoys.

Proposed use of Murmansk instead of Archangel. Reasons and details. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1335C/15) See Lion Copy.

Movements.

KENYA.

Scapa arrival 0715 C.S.10 in KENYA. (A.C.O.S., 0718A/15).

H. 32.

Sailing of H.32 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore, 0748A/15)  
Sailing of H.32 delayed 24 hours. Amend my 1624A/14. (Capt. S.7., 1134A/15 to S/Ms Area A).  
My 1139A/14. Cancel para 2 and substitute new para. 2. Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE R/V with H.32 as stated in S.7's. 1536A/14.  
(Capt. S.3., 1544A/15).

MAPLIN.

Intend to sail MAPLIN 0001A/16 to arrive Bar L.V. 1200A/16. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1012A/15).

BERWICK.

Scapa departure BERWICK. (A.C.O.S., 1012A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

REGENT.  
P.38.

My 1030A/14. For 0845/17 and 0500/17 read 0845/18 and 0500/18.  
(2) My 1100A/14. Add 24 hours to all times in para one, 4, 5, and 6.  
(Capt. S.5., 1013A/15 to REGENT, P.38).  
F.O.(S) 2211A/15. Intend ordering REGENT to R/V in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 0930A/17.  
Request escort may be arranged and Lizard Head Light shown for 10 minutes every half hour from 0600 until daylight 17 Dec.  
(Capt. S.5., 2320A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth).

A.M.C.  
Movements.

Following forecast of movements of A.M.Cs. leaving U.K. corrected to 15/12. Details.  
(S.O.W.P., 1210A/15).

~~SECRET~~ 13353/15 December.  
**MOST SECRET** IN.

From S.B.N.O. ~~Arrangement.~~ Date. 16.12.41.

Recd. 1115.

MOSCOW (X) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated Admiral Miles, S.B.N.O.  
North Russia.

IMMEDIATE.

Telegram 34. Following for Ministry of War Transport r repeated Ambassador Kuibishev and Hynarm from MacLay. Deterioration in ice conditions coupled with complete dependence on LENIN for all movements if causing delays.

Para. 2. All ships of P Q 3 and P Q 4 have been ready to sail for several days but unable to be moved to Dvina Bar on account of LENIN being occupied with inward convoy P Q 5 also Russian ships requiring assistance also fog.

Para. 3. Present intention is to move as many as possible of outward convoy to Dvina Bar before arrival of P Q 6 on December 20th.

Para. 4. It is intended to put all ships in P Q 6 into Molotovsk except DEKABRIST drawing 27 feet which cannot be handled here and has been ordered into Murmansk to discharge.

Para. 5. Yesterday in consultation with S.B.N.O. we did everything possible to persuade local Russians to recommend use of Murmansk for all or part of P Q 6 for following reasons :

- A. Molotovsk will only be able to discharge four to five ships simultaneously and at slow speed until Port facilities in full working order.
- B. (EKONOMIA will?) not be ready till end of month.
- C. To give LENIN more time for handling outward ships which have already been (delayed?) too long.

Para. 6. Local Russians so far refuse to consider use Murmansk for following reasons.

- A. Danger of night bombing of port.
- B. Bombing of railway.
- C. Difficulty of organising sufficient labour and railway trucks.

Para. 7. Consider Murmansk will require to be used sooner or later as conditions become more difficult here. The diversion of DEKABRIST ex P Q 6 can be used to commence organisation of discharging facilities Murmansk but strongly urge that Moscow be pressed to complete arrangements for discharging part of convoy P Q 7 at Murmansk, also any extra defence precautions necessary.

Para. 8. The request to use Murmansk for P Q 7 will require to be initiated by you or Ambassador Kuibyshev as local Russians refusal is dictated by Moscow.

Para. 9. Further reasons for organising Murmansk immediately are :

- 2 -

A. If any accident occurs to LENIN this area will require to close down.

B. LENIN can only cross Dvina Bar at high water thus slowing down operations.

Admiralty please pass to Mission and S.B.N.O. (S.B.N.O. North Russia for Hymara.)

13350/15.

\* Passed by War Registry.

Advance Copy Sent D.C., D.O.D. (H)  
D.T.D.

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

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

P.37.

Your 1745A/13. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1556A/15 to A.C.O.S.)

GARTH.  
QUORN.

Departures GARTH, QUORN in company at 1640 to anchor at the Humber L/F to await further orders. (F.O. Humber, 1651A/15).

HALCYON.

Your 1038A/14. HALCYON is to be sailed to Scapa with all dispatch in accordance with A.M. 1607A/26/11. (D.M.S., 1718A/15 to C. in C. Nore). *See also p. 475.*

HYDRANGEA.

Your 1652/14. Owing to late arrival of Oerlikon equipment completion will be deferred 48 hours. Vessel will leave Tyne with maximum armament on 21/12. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1741/15).

SHEFFIELD.

SHEFFIELD is to sail for Scapa now. (C. in C. H.F., 2346A/15) See Shipping. *p. 475*

Operations.

Operation  
"Anklet".

My 1149A/14 postponed two hours. (Sailing of PRINCE ALBERT and <sup>PRINCESS JOSEPHINE</sup> CHARLOTTE) (V.A. C.T.C., 0854A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).  
(i) Intend to sail TIGRIS escorted by STELLA PEGASI at 1400/16 to 060° 52' N., 001° 02' 30" W. E.T.A. 0700/17. Then unescorted diving by day through positions (a) 063° N., 1° E., (b) 66° N., 7° E., to area of operation North of 066° N., and East of 007° E. Request T.B.R., as follows. (A.C.O.S., 1155A/15).  
My 1149A/14. <sup>PRINCESS JOSEPHINE</sup> CHARLOTTE sailed, PRINCE ALBERT follows one hour later. E.T.A. first 1530. (V.A. C.T.C., 1246A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)  
My 1149A/14. PRINCE ALBERT sailed. (V.A. C.T.C., 1427A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Sailed GUDRUN MAERSK, ACANTHUS, EGLANTINE in accordance with my 1029A/13. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1532A/15). Intend to sail KRAKOWIAK leaving Plymouth 1800/15 to Scapa. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1532/15). Intend sailing PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE escorted by KUJAWIAK a.m./16 for Scapa. C. in C. Plymouth's 1532A/15 refers. S. of A. 18 knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1816A/15).

/Exchange...

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

Exchange of Prisoners.

Operation J.W. is cancelled.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1307A/15).

Sweep in Northern Waters.

My 1307C/13. Operation was cancelled due to weather and information contained in your 2258/13. C. in C. Northern Fleet still desires to carry out sweep if British cruiser support can be given and if Soviet destroyers are not required for British convoy escort. 48 hours notice required to clear submarine areas. Propose KENT. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., C.S.18. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1639C/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

RUBIS.

Propose RUBIS leaves Dundee 20/12 to arrive in patrol position 10 to 15 miles West of Utvoer about 23/12 remaining on patrol about 7 days. (F.O.S. 1828A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

Dover Shelled.

Enemy coastal batteries fired nineteen rounds at Dover between 1515 and 1732 today. No damage to Naval property and no naval casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 1852A/15).

Biscay S/M Patrol.

Bring all available S/Ms of 7th Flotilla and JUNON and O.21 to immediate notice for 14 days patrol in Bay of Biscay. Report when S/Ms and escorts will be ready to sail. (F.O.S. 2138A/15). REGENT is to be ordered to Falmouth to refuel and disembark passengers and is to be prepared to sail for a patrol in Bay of Biscay as soon as possible. (F.O.S. 2211A/15).  
F.O.S. 2138A/15.

A. Submarines are to be sailed when ready. Patrol positions and routes will be signalled.  
B. F.O.S. will arrange necessary S.B.R. in areas 51 52 54 56 72 73 75 and 76.  
(F.O.S. 2341A/15 to S.3, S.5. S.7.)

Bay of Biscay, Patrol Positions.

Patrol Positions Nos. 01 to 14 both inclusive are established as follows. (F.O.S. 2342A/15).  
See Summaries Folder.

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.810 and  
829 Sqdns.  
from  
ILLUSTRIOUS  
FORMIDABLE.

Admtys. 1936A/9. On arrival request you fly 810 Squadron and 829 Squadron to Machrihanish. Machrihanish will then route Martlets as necessary, 810 Squadron to Lee-on-Solent and 829 to R.N.A.S. Eastleigh (Southampton). (R.A.N.A.S. 1231A/15 to ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE).

Operation of  
Kites and  
Balloons  
by Ships.Your 1310A/22. Concur.  
(Air Ministry 1452/15).Enemy Air Activity.LIDDESDALE  
attacked.Am being attacked by enemy A/C.  
(LIDDESDALE 1730/15).  
Fighter aircraft are being sent to assist  
LIDDESDALE. (Rosyth W/T 1737/15).Shetlands  
attacked.

Enemy A/C unidentified coming from S.S.W. dropped 3 bombs within 50 to 150 yards of nearest of 4 fishing trawlers in Mid Yell Voe at 1357A/15. Bombs fell in water depth 5 fathoms and did not explode. Two of trawlers opened fire with L.M.G. Aircraft made off N.W. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1822A/15)

Mining.Lowestoft.

Lowestoft Harbour will be opened to coastal force craft at 0800A/17. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1038A/15).

Sweep off  
Dover.

Trawlers CLYTHNESS and TAIPO sweeping between Dover and Dumpton estimated time of departure 1715, E.T.R. 0330/16. (V.A. Dover 1730A/15).

Q.Z.R. 33  
and 34.Q.Z.R. 33 and 34. It seems to me that there is a distinct possibility that the enemy may put deeper mines in various channels now formed between these 2 areas and land.  
(F.O.S. 1714A/15 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)Humber.At 1108A today L.L. Trawlers detonated one magnetic mine in 014° Humber L/F 0.8 miles.  
(F.O. Humber 2020A/15).

/East.....

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

East Coast  
M/S Patrol.

My 1228/15 is passed to you for information.  
Begins.

As soon as sufficient M/S trawlers are available and M/S Patrol is to be started on the swept channels between H.5 and the Sheringham buoys.

2. Two trawlers are to be stationed on each channel buoy during dark hours., one of each pair being fitted with Type 140 listening gear if sufficient vessels so fitted are available.

3. Q.Z.S. 277 is to be occupied first and as more trawlers become available Q.Z.S. 308 is to be filled.

4. Trawlers in Q.Z.S. 277 are to withdraw 2 miles to the westward of the channel provided safe navigation admits during the passage of convoys those in Q.Z.S. 308 withdrawing 2 miles to the eastward in a similar manner.

5. As these trawlers will be too far from Base to return during daytime they are to join up in groups of four for mutual protection from air attack during daylight hours.

6. Attention is called to my 1426A/11 the provisions of which are to apply generally to this patrol.

7. Three days notice of the intended commencing date is to be given to enable necessary information to be promulgated. 1228A/15. Ends.  
(C. in C. Nore 2322A/15 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Reported that:

- (i) PRINZ EUGEN undocked 14/12.
- (ii) SCHARNHORST is to undock 16/12.
- (iii) GNEISENAU is to undock 21/12. Ammunition is ready for embarking. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1659A/15).

Navigational.

No. 36  
Buoy.

Commodore of W.N. 17 reports No. 36 buoy light now flashing every 3 seconds at 1900/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1043/15).

Ice in  
Denmark  
Straits.

My 1241N/12. 24° 5' W. should read 23° 05' W. (A.C.I.C. 1551N/15 to Adty. Reptd. SUFFOLK, C. in C. H.F., R.A.M., C.S.1.)

Loch Ewe.

Loch Ewe - Western Gate Vessel lights unreliable. (Hydrographer 1743A/15).

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Recognition Procedure.

Admiralty 896A/9th December (Basegram) delete whole of para. 2 and substitute following new para.

"2. Following Emergency Recognition Procedure to be employed. Details."

It should be noted that above new emergency recognition procedure comes into force at 0001 G.M.T. 1st January 1942. (D.S.D. 2248A/15).

Casualties and Defects.THYME.

Serious leak developed in engine room, presumably sprung plate. Water still under control but leak getting worse. Request permission to return to Londonderry for docking. (THYME 0855A/15).

ST. ALBANS.

Sailing of ST. ALBANS delayed by defects. (C. in C. Nore 1002A/15).

M.A/S B. 30.

Regret to report the loss of M.A/S B. 30 which fouled the boom whilst proceeding for rescue work on night 13/14. Vessel was successfully removed from Boom on 14th, but tow parted and she disappeared after dark.

It is still hoped that she may be found ashore. (F.O. Humber 1045A/15).

VETERAN.

New A.S.V. out of action. Further damage upper deck and armament, leaking aft, so far not serious. Do not consider any alteration of course advisable at present. (VETERAN 1315A/15).

NIDARDAL  
(Norwegian,  
2368 Tons.)

De NIDARDAL Lat. 56° 07' N. 21° W. 1600 G.M.T. Sinking slowly, leaking badly in engine room, cannot keep her empty with pumps. Send help. Ends. (Valentia Radio 1612/15).

Detach one Corvette to assist NIDARDAL. (C. in C. W.A. 1756A/15 to WATCHMAN).

Water inlet pipes in engine room broken. Water now reaching boilers all pumping stopped. Have been drifting in South Easterly, wind W.N.W. strong gale. (NIDARDAL 1826/15).

Have despatched PICTOU to assist ship. (ST. LAURENT 1846Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

/HALCYON.....



War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.-Contd.

HALCYON.

HALCYON reports intermediate starboard propeller shaft out of line and bearings are running hot. Ship is being retained at Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 1830A/15). *See p. 470*

FRISKY.

Following received from Inspector of Tug Equipment Glasgow. Begins:-  
FRISKY arrived Greenock with serious leaks in Mess Decks. Leaks are expected in tank tops. 1645/15/12. Ends...  
Request instructions.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1847A/15 to Adty.).

SADO.

A.M. 1516A/5. Request Tug LYNCH may be instructed to assist S.S. SADO from Scrabster to Aberdeen on her way to Tyne. Tug is required for steering purposes only.  
(D. of S.T. 2352A/15 to A.C.O.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Q.P.4.

Report earliest anticipated date Q.P. four reaches Ice Edge. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0249C/15) Your 1421A/14. C. in C. Northern Fleet, states two STREMTNELNI class destroyers available subject to final approval of Moscow to escort Q.P.4. to 26° E. Fuel carried stated to be prepared to this limit.

2. S.B.N.O. Archangel instructed to report date of departure of Q.P.4.

3. It appears likely that delay of final sailing Q.P.4. may make it convenient for EDINBURGH, ECHO, ESCAPADE to escort.

Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., C.S.18.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0303C/15).

S.B.N.O. Archangel 2230/14. Expect sail WANSTEAD TREKIEVE, COCLE, ELCAPITAN, SUKHONA, THLINGRAD Timber, Tankers SANAMBOSIO and EULIMA in ballast, BRIARWOOD TREHATA in ballast. All for Seidesfjord except two tankers for Akreyri. Admiralty please pass to all addressees. (N.C.S.O. Archangel 1000C/15).

SHEFFIELD is to sail for Scapa now. EDINBURGH ECHO, ESCAPADE, LEDA and SEAGULL are to form ocean escort for Q.P.4. (C. in C. H.F. 2346A/15).

? STALINGRAD.

/C.W.61.....

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.C.W.61.

Sailing of C.W.61 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 0750A/15).

P.W.D.81.My 1230/13. P.W.D. 81 "Ounce" postponed owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Plymouth 0810/15).  
P.W.D. 81. Cancel my 1230/13. (N.C.S.O. Plymouth 1145/15).W.P. 81.

My 1540/9. REINE DES FLOTS will be delayed twenty four hours. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0937/15).

H.X. 163.Not met. My P.C.S. at 1200Z/15 058°40' N. 022° (52' ?) W. 270°, 3 knots. (MONTBRETIA 1201Z/15).  
\*My 1756A/15. ARABIS is to carry out instructions in this signal. DAHLIA remain with HX 163. (C. in C. W.A. 1934A/15 to ARABIS, DAHLIA, WATCHMAN).

H.X. 163. ARABIS's\* 1300A/15. BEGONIA is to join that portion at present escorted by DAHLIA unless already escorting any M.V's. (C. in C. W.A. 2009A/15 to BEGONIA). \*HT H W D.

P.Q.6.

My 2230/14. Three Russian A/S Trawlers will meet P.Q. 6 off Cape Terski Orlov at 1000C/19 to take over from our Minesweepers whose presence in vicinity of ice causes me anxiety. Russian trawlers will escort convoy to Icebreaker STALIN who will be at ice edge and may not go all the way to Terski Orlov. Fighter protection arranged. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1310C/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, EDINBURGH, M.S.1.)

A.M. 1218A/29/11, S.B.N.O. Archangel's 2230C/14.  
P.Q.6. P.C.S. 075° 40' N. 022° 08' E. at 1200A, 090°, 9 knots. E.T.A. position P 2200C/18. On local escort join DEKABRIST, ELONA, \*MARELO and ocean escort will part company, E.T.A. Kola Inlet 1530C/19. Approach M.Z. on course 255°, speed of advance 8½ knots. Request (? group) P. BEACON 03 (? 28) to 0600C/19 and Group Z Light 1000 to 1400C/19. (C.S.18 1424A/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).  
\* ? MIRLO

/Q.P.5.....

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Q.P.5.

Admiralty's 2132A/14 and 0327A/15. In view of long delay to Q.P.4. and probable consequent delay to Q.P.5. would you consider EDINBURGH returning to Scapa independently after arrival of P.Q.6. CUMBERLAND escorting Q.P.5. (C.S. 18 1517A/15 to C. in C. H.F.) Your 1517A/15. Cruiser requirements are so urgent regret SHEFFIELD cannot be delayed. (C. in C. H.F. 2352A/15 to C.S.18).

D.S.19.  
S.D. 19.  
D.S. 20.

Convoy D.S.19 composed of SOBIESKI and ORBITA will leave Clyde on 27/12 returning as S.D. 19. 2000 troops will be carried in D.S.19 and 3600 in S.D. 19. R.A. (M) is requested to arrange for one extra destroyer to return with S.D. 19. D.S. 20 will consist of one ship and will leave Clyde 14/1. Thereafter convoys will normally consist of one ship sailing every 14 days. (D.O.D. H. 1522A/15).

KIWI.

H.M.N.Z.S. KIWI is to be sailed to St. Johns Newfoundland in O.N. Convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1748A/15).

P.W.81.

BROCKLESBY defective. Continue with P.W. 81 to Milford Haven. Gt. Yarmouth F Trawlers will sail from Plymouth to relieve Gt. Yarmouth D. Trawlers A.M. 16th. (C. in C. Plymouth 1830/15 to TYNEDALE).

Southbound  
Convoys in  
Irish Sea.

In order that southbound Convoys in the Irish Sea should not be held back by the inclusion of Coasters from Holyhead, it is intended as an experiment that the reverse to an "M.H." Convoy, designated "H.M." should be run from Holyhead to Milford Haven. This return Convoy would be run under the operational control of Milford Haven, and would consist of Coasters.

2. Larger vessels, i.e., well over the Coaster tonnage, bound for Bristol Channel ports or further south, will join B.B. Convoys as before, except as in para. 3.
3. When a "B.B." Convoy is formed consisting of ships from an H.X. Convoy a separate Holyhead section designated B.B. (H) is to be formed when additional A.A. escort is available. This convoy will leave Holyhead between 1100 and 1300 on the same day as the "B.B." leaves Belfast, and will proceed to Scarweather in the usual manner.
4. This will allow the "B.B." to be sailed from Belfast at about 0600, and to proceed through the Irish Sea at its best speed, which will probably be 9 knots or over.
5. Request your remarks by signal, in order

/that....

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Southbound  
Convoys in  
Irish Sea.  
- Contd.

that this may be implemented as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1915A/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast  
Milford Haven and N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

Confidential  
Books for  
U.S. Ships.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. Reference C.B. 03050 (8)  
and (9), N.C.S. Is. 283/4 now superseded by  
N.C.S. Is. 388-390 in course of distribution.  
U.S. merchant vessels are to be treated as Allied  
for purpose of issuing confidential books.  
(D.T.D. 1933A/15).

Issue of  
Routeing  
Instructions.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. As an essential measure of  
security routeing instructions are to be issued  
to Masters of merchant ships as shortly before  
sailing as possible. If the Master of an  
independently routed ship intends to remain  
ashore the night before sailing, the route  
instructions should not be issued overnight.  
(D.T.D. 1944A/15).

LA NOUNE.

Your 1215/5. Report whether LA NOUNE is delayed  
for any reason other than weather. (D. of S.T.  
2119A/15 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ROCKROSE  
JASMINE.

Due at Ponta Delgada a.m./17th require 135 and 100 tons oil fuel respectively. Please arrange.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0114A/15 to N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

VANQUISHER.

E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0800Z/15th. WITCH with VOLUNTEER in company E.T.A. 1100Z/15 (VANQUISHER, 0312A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A., 0515A/15 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.) Weather too rough to enter Ponta Delgada. Waiting till it moderates. Weather report. (VANQUISHER, 1458A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.) (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1600/15 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

OLYMPUS.

Sails from Gibraltar at 1800/15 through 036° 25' 00" 00' W. diving by day on 16th. S. of A. 10½ knots.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0936A/15 to URSULA.) *Sailed - Sun 17.4.41*

SERAFIN  
TOPIC  
(? COZALLA)

Your 1345/14. Endeavour (corrupt group) to discover destination and whether loaded. Suggest she may have proceeded Nemours to load manganese before loading rubber.  
(S.O.I. Gib., 1006A/15 to Wagon, Tangier.) SERAFIN TOPIC, ex Yugoslav, reported to have been turned over to Italians, and name to have been changed to COZALLA.  
(D.S., 832, 15/12.)

O.21.

To be transferred to the 9th Flotilla for period of refit in U.K.  
(F.O.S., 1119A/15 to S.8, (R) Capt. S. Home, Admiralty, C. in C. Rosyth, S.O.D.S., B.D.Z., F.O.C.N.A.)

Oran  
Intelligence,  
DUNKERQUE.

Following received from 200 Group (begins) : P.R.U. Maryland. French B.C. DUNKERQUE still in Oran. Sighted two large vessels and three smaller close inshore off Cape Falcon moving west along coast. Tonnage not observed owing to height. T.O.O. 1720A/14 (ends).  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1242A/15 to Admty.)

/Human ...

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Human  
Torpedoes.

In order to avoid confusion, the type of craft which recently made an attack on Gibraltar, i.e. a type of small submarine which is navigated from outside, should be referred to as a "human torpedo". The term "midget submarine" should not be used unless it refers to a small submarine, which carries its crew internally and is of the order of 20 feet length. The small motor boat with an explosive charge in bow, as used by the Italians at Crete, should be referred to as an "explosive motor boat". (D.N.I., 1408A/15 "A" message.)

HESPERUS  
H.G.76.

Departure HESPERUS additional local escort H.G.76.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1440A/15 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., STORK.)

CARNATION.

CARNATION parted company H.G.75 a.m. today to join you. CARNATION is to act in accordance with my 1652A/14 on arrival COLTSFOOT.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1500A/15 to WISHART.)

UNA.

My P.C. and S. of A. at 1530A/15 (? 043°) 00' N. 010° 30' W., 187°, 8 knots. Patrol reports blank. Attacked by S/M torpedo at (corrupt group) (? 11) A/15th in above position. Unable to receive G.S. routine signals while diving. Weather report.  
(UNA, 1705A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., rep. Capt. S.8, F.O.S.)

MANXMAN.

1. Urgently required for offensive operations during present dark night period. 2. Request you will expedite disembarkation of stores and personnel and sail her for Milford Haven accordingly.  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1709A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Vichy  
Intelligence.  
ST. DENIS.  
African  
Bases.

My 2009/13. Your 1355A/13 and Washington 1745R/14. When I spoke to French N.A. as instructed he immediately replied he had last night received orders to inform me: (1) French Admty. already been convinced we have not sunk SAINT DENIS.  
(2) French Admty. anxious to co-operate with us to avoid misunderstandings due to German action or lies particularly at this moment.  
(3) French Govt. had not ceded or promised any bases in Africa to Axis under any conditions.

/He said ...

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Vichy  
Intelligence.  
ST. DENIS.  
African  
Bases.  
(Contd.)

He said his Ambassador had instructions to see H.M. Ambassador to repeat point (3) and also following: (a) French Govt. will proclaim neutrality. (b) French Govt. wish to reopen American aid Liaison with French Africa under guarantee. H.M. Ambassador informed. I am sure that desire for collaboration against German attempts to embroil French and us is genuine and I undertook to scout.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1737/15 to Admty.)

Spanish  
Shipping.

Source grade P/O received by telephone information that Spanish liner MARQUES DE COMILLAS due (? through) Vigo today for New York cancelled sailing at last moment.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1745/15 to Admty., (R) Gibraltar, N.A. Madrid.)

NESTOR.

My 1200Z/14. 3 hours late. Ships in company GURKHA, (? FOXHOUND). CROOME detached.  
(NESTOR, 1800A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) S.O. Force H., Capt. D.13.)

OLYMPUS.

My 1747A/13. Departure OLYMPUS C. in C. Med. pass to Capt. (S) 1, N.O.i/c Malta pass to Capt. (S) 10.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1802A/15 to C. in C. Med.) *See p. 479.*

GRELHEAD,  
FJORD  
(attacked  
1/12. 2/12.)

Ref. sinking S.S. GRELHEAD and Norwegian FJORD both in Spanish territorial waters. H.M. Ambassador has received no instructions to lodge protest on similar lines to case of SARASTONE. Submit not expedient to allow cases to pass without protest irrespective of any other action we may contemplate.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1855/15 to Admty.)

Spanish  
Shipping.

Ref. Embassy Arfar telegram 1941 to M.E.W. repeated Gibraltar about Spanish GENERALIFE needing bunker Gibraltar for voyage to New York. Submit in present circumstances we should do everything possible to assist voyage of Spanish ship to U.S.A. Spanish Govt. have stopped 3 voyages for coal, but inform all other companies that voyages are (? probably) ? complete.\* I have encouraged every one to continue normal sailing U.S.A.  
Please take this up with M.E.W.  
H.M. Ambassador concurs.  
(N.A. Madrid, 2040/15 to Admty., rep. F.O.C.N.A.)  
\* Correction "at discretion".

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.German  
and  
Spanish  
Shipping.

My 2040/15. All sailings U.S.A. and Cuba stopped, provisionally pending German guarantee non interference. Interim reply by German Embassy favourable "If no Contraband of War Carried". GENERALIFE not affected as she considered as already on voyage.  
(N.A. Madrid, 2103/15 to Admty.)

UNA,  
P.35.

My 1106A/14 para. 3, adjust speed to pass position Q at 0300/18. Diving by day on 18th instead of 17th.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2306A/15 to UNA, P.35.)

URSULA,  
Biscay  
Patrol.

Your 1920/12. In view of Admty. 1659/15\* request you will recall URSULA forthwith and sail her as soon as ready for Biscay patrol, details of which will be ordered by F.O.(S). (A.C.N.S. (F), 2329A/15 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Force H., F.O.S., C. in C. W.A.)  
\*Enemy units at Brest and oiling and ammunition ready to embark.

South Atlantic.BRIDGEWATER.

Departure 14/12. BRIDGEWATER E.T.A. Freetown p.m./18.  
(R.N.O. Lagos, 0800Z/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

MONTANAN.

Overdue shipping, cancel my 1000/14.  
MONTANAN arrived Durban.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0938B/15.)

Transports,  
Diversion.

Admty. 1942/14 ships numbers 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11 are now at Durban. S.S.T.O. Durban is requested to divert number 7 due Capetown 23/12. Remainder in Indian Ocean.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0946Z/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

SAGA DAHOC  
wreckage,  
suspected  
raider.

My 1737/11 and my 1716/13 are being passed to you for information.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1012B/15 to B.A.D.)



War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.FIRMAMENT,  
ISLAY,  
DAYBREAK.

Your 1623/11 FIRMAMENT sailed 11/12 vide my 1103/11. (? ISLAY) to sail 16/12. DAYBREAK expected to sail about 10/1 after extensive overhaul of damage to grounding suspected. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1050Z/15 to Admty.)

CROMARTY  
FIRTH.

My 1040D/15 (1040Z/14 intended). Weston reports CROMARTY FIRTH was included in O.S.R. 12. Request confirmation as vessel has not arrived. (C. in C. S.A., 1108Z/15 to Admty.)  
Reply: 1844/17.

W.S.12X.

Sailed 13/12. List. Oil fuel and water required Aden. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1221Z/15 to D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

SURCOUF.

C. in C. A.W.I., 1242~~0~~/13.\*  
Onward route from position (A) through position (B) 011° 50' N. 026° 30' W. thence to Freetown. Request expected S. of A. on passage. (C. in C. S.A., 1231Z/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)  
\* Route for SURCOUF.

Whale  
Catchers.

Admty. 2220/10/11. Delete reference to VESTFOLD 11 in my 1025/11/12 and substitute VESTFOLD 6. Following whale catchers are now in Capetown. VESTFOLDS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10. BUSENS 7, 10, and 11. HELIER 1. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1507Z/15 to Admty.)

ANN SKAKEL,  
ELIN K.

Have you any news of American ANN SKAKEL due Capetown 7/12 from New York and Norwegian ELIN K. due Durban 8/12 from Port Stanley. (D.T.D., 1604A/15 to S.O.I. Capetown.)

M.L.244.

Your 1208A/28/11. Request probable sailing date of M.L.244. With shortage obtaining locally it would be much appreciated if maximum number sparking plugs, six coils ignition, six distributor caps and eight tins lockheed fluid could be bought by M.L.244. (C. in C. S.A., 1731Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Libya.

Military Situation Report.  
(C. in C. M.E., 0100/15) See Lion Copy.

THRASHER.  
M/V attacks  
25/11.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41.  
(a) 25/11 (b) 5000 tons M/V probably A.M.C.  
(J) 1 hit. Left with heavy list, bows down and on fire. (a) 25/11 (b) 4000 tons M/V. (J) Miss. Target was standing by previous victim and went ahead as torpedo was fired.  
(Capt. S.1, 0201B/15 to Admty.)

UNIQUE.  
enemy  
battleship.

1 Battleship P.C. and S. 037° 42' 015° 42', 095°, 19 passed out of range at 0900B/14th. Counter attack whilst endeavouring to close. Constant E. Boat patrol at night near position 037° 50' 015° 44'. E.T.A. Marsamxett 1800B/15. No torpedoes fired.  
(UNIQUE 0258B/15 to Capt. S. 10.)

→ D.7.

Your 1206B/14 and in view of F.O.C. 15th Cruiser Squad 0035/15, intend to search area until further orders.  
(Capt. D. 7. 0426B/15 to C. in C. Med.)

→ D.14.  
→ D.7.

Destroyers return to harbour except HERO and HASTY who are to continue to search for submarine. (C. in C. Med., 0842B/15 to Capts. D.14 and 7.) Return to harbour.  
(C. in C. Med., 1456B/15 to HASTY, HERO, rep. Alexandria C. & C.O. D.2., C.S.15., R.A.D.)

Contact with  
Enemy Forces.

Your 1857B/14 to C. in C. Med.(N.T.in W.D).  
(a) In what longitude were shadowers first encountered?  
(b) Was shadowing continuous?  
(c) Do you consider movement of Italian force due to (?presence) of Group 1?  
(d) Were any enemy reports of Group 1 intercepted?  
(2) C. in C. Med., 1208B/14 not received.  
(F.O. Force H., 0850A/15 to V.A. Malta)  
Reply: 2332/16.

Enemy Units.

4 M/Vs 5000, 3 destroyers, 180 10 35 12 N. 11 70 (?07.) E. 10 V K.  
(A/C MJKO 1005/15.)  
Following has been received.  
P.C. and S. of enemy, one destroyer 38.22 N., 18.46 E. (00?°)\* 20 knots.  
(A/C B7G 1030/15.) \* course corrupt as received.

**MOST SECRET**M E S S A G E0100/15 December.  
IN.

From: C. in C. Middle East.

Date: 15.12.41.

Recd. 0530.

CIPHER.

Addressed: The War Office, (Pass to Air Ministry), repeated  
C. in C. Mediterranean.MOST IMMEDIATE.

250416 0/38092. cipher. 11/12 Most Secret.

COSITREP No. 52.

1. 13 Corps A.L. Ind. Div. details operations 13 Dec.  
5 Ind $\frac{1}{2}$  Inf. Bde. on night were unable to dislodge enemy  
area SU 9371 but 7 Ind. Inf. Bde. on left secured area  
SU 8673. 1530 hrs. enemy tanks and lorried infantry  
counter attacked against both bdes. but were repulsed.  
1600 hrs. approximately forty tanks with guns and lorried  
infantry again counter attacked 7 Ind. Inf. Bde. one  
troop our arty. destroyed and one company of Inf. cut off  
during the day 4 Ind. Div. destroyed sixteen enemy  
tanks, shot down four Stukas and captured three hundred  
and seventy prisoners. One M.E. 109 forced landed in  
our territory. Enemy aircraft made up to twenty  
attacks during day but caused negligible casualties.

E. 7 Armd. Div. Enemy positions area SU 8060  
were harassed all day but still holding out at nightfall.  
Our patrols on south flank were strongly resisted by  
armd. cars supported by few tanks all day which  
prevented them going west of grid 70 north.

2. 14 Dec. 0600 hrs. 5 N.Z. Bde. in contact with  
enemy in position southern end Gazala Bay to Bir  
Chescua SU 9884 thence north west along Got Chescua.

Enemy/.....

Enemy also hold strong position SU 8784. All available resources 32 Army tank bde. being used in support of 4 Ind. Div. 4 Armd. Bde. also moving forward to attack. Prisoners war state they have orders to hold out at all costs and air and other reinforcements arriving.

3. Frontier area. 13 Dec. 2 S.A. Div. captured approximately two hundred prisoners also three tanks. Our line in frontier area now runs 527360 515361 514369 516370 - Sollum Barracks.

AIR. Night 13/14 Dec. Bomber. Wellingtons which bombed Derna town and aerodrome started two large fires on aerodrome and caused violent explosions at Barracks and M.T. Depot in town. Violent explosion also among M.T. West of town. Weather bad with low cloud and rain.

Pass to Air Ministry.

0100/15

Recd. by hand from War Office at 0733/15.

1st Lord.	Copies circulated by War Office to:-
1st S.L.	S. of S. Duty Group Capt. (Air Min)
4th S.L.	C.I.G.S. A.C.A.S.(I) (Air Min)
5th S.L.	V.C.I.G.S. Air Min. War Room
V.C.N.S.	D.M.O. & P. S. of S. (Foreign Office)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.M.O. (O) Duty Captain (Admiralty)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.P. (2) Duty Officer (Upper
A.C.N.S. (W)	M.O. 1.5.6. Admiralty War Room)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.P. Head of War Reg. Admiralty
D.O.D. (F)	D.M.I.
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.D.M.I. (I)
D.C. (2)	H.I. 3.14.
D.D.I.C.	D.A.F.V.
D.N.I. (4)	Cabinet War Room
D. of P. (2)	Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)
Hd. of M. (2)	C.A.S. (Air Min.) (2)
E. S.	D. of Plans (Air Min.) (2)
D.N.A.D.	Plans 3 (Air Min.) (2)
D.P.D.	D.O.O. (Air Min.)
W.D.	D.M.C. (Air Min.)
I.P. (2)	P.S. to S. of S. (Air Min.) (2)

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.GALATEA  
sunk.

GALATEA torpedoed by U-boat and sunk at 2359/14th 30 miles West of Alexandria. At least two hits amidships. About 150 survivors. Regret Capt. Sim was not among survivors.

(C. in C. Med., 1105B/15 to Admty. (R) C.S.15.)

U 557  
Subsequently sunk by  
T.B. ORIONE (Italian)  
night 16/17 Dec. 21. W. of Creta. - (G.3.331-p.4)

S/M Operations. UPRIGHT attacked 2 large unidentified ships and Battleship hit. destroyer steering North at 0210/13 in 040° 09' N. 017° 04' E. and scored 4 hits with torpedoes.

VITTORIO VENETO.

2. URGE reports 2 hits on 2nd of 2 battleships steering Southward at 0858/14 in 037° 53' N. 015° 29' E.

3. TALISMAN engaged U-boat with gunfire at 1950/14 in 034° 05' N. 025° 39' E. Hit scored at base of conning tower and U-boat thought to have sunk.

4. No details yet of these successes.  
(C. in C. Med., 1109B/15 to Admty.)

A/S Defence,  
Red Sea.

Your 1124B/22/11. Fixed A/S Defences cannot be relied upon in this area.

2. 1600 ton degaussed U-boat should be detected sixty fathoms above indicator loop in this latitude provided perturbations are negligible.

3. Dissemination of false information that mines have been laid in Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb is under consideration.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1125A/15 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy  
Cruiser.

One cruiser 38.48 N., 19.26 E. 330° 28 knots.  
(A/C 9 KT, 1120/15 to Hal Far.)

M/V  
torpedoed  
by PORPOISE.

Endeavour to destroy Merchant ship of 6000 tons reported beached near Cape Methani after being torpedoed by PORPOISE.

(Capt. S.1, 1131B/15 to TORBAY repeated PORPOISE.)

Derna  
bombed.  
Alexandria  
Raid.

Opsum No.561. Night 13/14, weather bad, 15 Wellingtons bombed Derna Town and aerodrome. (2) Egypt 14/12, during day 3 enemy aircraft approached Alexandria from N.W. remaining 30 miles out to sea, no attacks on shipping, Hurricanes patrolling Alexandria area unable to intercept.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1146/15.)

UPRIGHT  
P.31.

UPRIGHT leaves 039° 10' 017° 30' at 1900B/15 thence through 037° 30' 016° 45' and 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta 0730B/18.

P.31 passes through 039° 11' 017° 46' at 0001B/16, then patrolling in position A as in my 2145B/14. (Capt. S. 10, 1150B/15 to UPRIGHT, P.31.)

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

KONDOURIOTIS. F.O.C.R.I.N. 1023/11. Cancel my 1731/9th. (1131/9 intended) and my 1525/4th (1525/7 intended) New programme for KONDOURIOTIS to use will be signalled later. (C. in C. Med., 1156B/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

A.11 ? B.N.O. Tobruk's 1045 (N.T. in W.R.) (?Position) noon 070° Ras Azzaz 12 miles course 122° S. of A. 6 knots. A.11 waterlogged. Situation hopeful. (KOS 19 1200/15 to Tobruk.)

UNBEATEN.  
SOKOL. UNBEATEN pass through 039° 20' 018° 00' at 0001B/17 then through 038° 47' 018° 00' and 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta a.m./19. SOKOL leave 039° 18' 018° 03' at 1900B/16 through 039° 28' 018° 17' to position C as in my 2145B/14. (Capt. S. 10, 1205B/15 to S/Ms named.)

French Fleet,  
Alexandria. Reply to Admty. 1156/13. (C. in C. Med., 1250B/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Enemy  
Destroyer. P.C. and S. of enemy, one destroyer, VGWR 0952, 135° 18 knots. (A/C 9 F.T.H., 1453/15 to Hal Far) Position indecypherable.

REWAK  
Interception. Reply to Admty. 1504A/8 re treatment of French Officers Devin and Masson. (F.O. Red Sea, 1458B/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Turkey. Situation. From Adm. Kelly (N.A. Ankara 1531B/15 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy. M.A. Ankara 1550/15 to W.O. See Lion Copy.

Dardanelles  
Loop. Dardanelles indicator loop system completed and in continuous operation. Control station barracks completed. 7 core telephone cable laid and operating between Loop Station and Yeni Sehr on Asia Coast and thence by land line to Cannakale. Second 7 core telephone cable laid across Dardanelles between Sestos Light and A (2 corrupt groups) S Bay to connect Cannakale direct with Loop Station and boom defence depot. Land lines for latter cable not completed yet. Cable ship KAYA due for short refit before commencing Smyrna Loop system. No patrol vessels are stationed at Dardanelles. (A.N.A. Istanbul, 1614B/15 to Admty.)

/Tadjoura ...

~~SECRET~~ **MOST SECRET**

1250/15  
486A

From: C. in C. Mediterranean

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recd. \_\_\_\_\_

NAVAL CYPHER (XF) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

848. Your 1156/13.

I have little doubt that steps might be taken to scuttle in certain circumstances though I consider Admiral Godfrey will need some supported proof that the agreement has been broken before so doing. Necessary action to meet that contingency has been taken. I think it should be realised that the number of sympathisers likely to be willing to try and prevent scuttling is so small as to be negligible. It is also desirable to reiterate that however much surprise is achieved scuttling can be done by one man pressing a switch and that chance (?s) of preventing (?it) are not too good?.

2. With reference to para. 4. of Admiralty message 1357/13. I take it that the most serious thing that could now befall us as regards the French is for their Fleet to be handed over or go over voluntarily to the German side. It is therefore likely that the Germans will try and embroil us with the French Navy and one of the best ways is to get them over by means of a fresh grievance which will certainly be magnified into a second Oran. I feel it is thus most important not to act prematurely against the ships here and that we should be absolutely certain that the French Fleet is to be used against us before we move. From various reports it seems possible that even so called general strategic collaboration does not involve use of the French Fleet and thus if the former occurs it should not of itself be a deciding factor to seize the ships for the longer we can prevent active participation against us by the French Navy the better.

3. It is in fact a matter of balancing the gain to us from obtaining the use of the ships in Alexandria against the effect such action will have in bringing in the French Navy against us. The value of the squadron here will not be great for a long time observing complete absence of stores or spares likelihood of sabotage and acute manning and docking difficulties. Thus I feel that we should act with great discretion.

/The....

**MOST SECRET**

-2-  
MOST SECRET

The ships are not able to do much harm and can always be cut off from supplies. I propose also to do what is possible to let it be known that the ships companies of those ships which do not scuttle their ships or act in a hostile manner may expect to be sent home or to a French colony but that the remainder will be treated as prisoners and will not see France till the war is over. I should be glad of confirmation that this pledge is acceptable to H.M. Government.

1250B/15.

+ Alleged sinking of ST. DENIS by  
British S/M.

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.N.A.D.  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
D.O.D. (H)  
D.D.O.D. (H)  
D.O.D. (F)  
D.D.O.D. (F)  
Luty Capt. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
Hd. of M. (6) for action  
D.D.I.C.  
E.P.S.  
Admiral Chalmers.

f.m.d.

MOST SECRET



c  
486 B

Show to be under E.I.

SECRET.

M E S S A G E .

1458B/15th December. IN

From:-

F.O. Red Sea.

Date 16.12.47.

Recd 1900

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CABLE.

Addressed:- Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean,  
C. in C. East Indies, N.O.i/c Aden.

A.M.1504A/S (To C. in C. East Indies only).

Devin and Masson were detained for three days in cells in the native gaol at Berbera but not repetition not in contact with native prisoners. Naval and Military authorities at Berbera state that only other accommodation available was with Italian prisoners in P.O.W. Camp which was not considered desirable. Devin had attempted to set fire to the Dhow Alimadat on capture. When landed his attitude was truculent and precluded any question of parole. The first day they both refused to eat but on the following two days they were supplied with food from the Superintendent of Police's Mess. They were sent to Aden at the first available opportunity in s.s. INDRAPOERA and transferred to H.M.A.S. BATHURST on arrival. They were interrogated on board BATHURST and on giving a promise of good behaviour they were allowed the freedom of the ship. The money which had been taken from them on arrest was returned to them and Devin's Sextant has subsequently been returned to him. BATHURST sailed on patrol and the two men were landed on the North coast of the Gulf of Tajura close to Obock on October 12th. On October 16th a French Pinnace HERON was intercepted on passage from Obock to Jibouti and Devin and Masson together with another French Officer and three French ratings were found on board. The Launch was seized and the three Officers and three ratings were landed close to the native village of Dallai which is midway between Obock and Tajura and about 14 miles from each. They were given a meal before landing and each was provided with a bottle of water. Camels and Goats were grazing close to

/the beach...

the beach and they were clearly close to habitation and on the main route from Tajura to Obock. Commanding Officer BATHURST stated that it was necessary to land them in daylight and he would not accept the risk of his boats' crew being shot at had he landed them in the vicinity of Obock. Tajura was informed by V/S that Officers and ratings had been landed at Dallai. I know of no repetition no suggestion made by the British authorities that a ship was to be sent to fetch Devin and Masson.

1458E/15.

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 O.I.C. (3)  
 Ops. (4)  
 O.D. (5)  
 I.P. (3)  
 W.D.  
 D.T.D. (4)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.B.W.D. (3)  
 Admiral Chalmers.  
 D. of P. (3)  
 D. of S.T.  
 N.L.  
 jr. M. (M/015414/41) (30)

**MOST SECRET**

Date: 13.12.41

From: B. ~~H. A. Ankara~~

Recd: 0827

Coordinate. It begged for remainder of

Naval Shore Code O.T.T. by Cable.

Addressed: C. in C. Mediterranean repeated Admiralty, H.M. Ambassador Ankara (Saving).

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Discussed situation with General Asim Gunduz. He promised to try and arrange that two ferries now at Suez should remain there until two new on voyage arrive, the proposed movement in your 1143B/110, to Admiralty 750 may therefore be suspended. I (?hope to) see the Marshal, about whose health I am worried, in next few days for definite answer, which should be favourable.

Like other Turks Deputy Chief of General Staff thinks Rechid Ali is much less dangerous to us in Berlin than in Turkey. He probably escaped in one of the Caiques now trading to Burgas from Stamboul.

General staff considers situation satisfactory, attaching little importance to Far East (?danger areas) which should not distract our attention from main theatre of war. They feel strongly that Malaya theatre should be under control of C. in C. India to ~~(7 groups omitted)~~ Russian oil and promised it should be distributed about the country.

They consider scarcity of air stations partly responsible for weakening on Russian front. Turkish Minister in Rome reports situation in Italy very unsatisfactory.

Orders had been given about delivery of coal to us as there is great need for Barley in exchange. Coal was to have been delivered in Alexandretta to be reloaded (ifor) Beirut or Egypt.

Impossibility pointed out and he agreed ships should deliver in Syrian ports, not in three ships detailed for traffic to canal zone.

+

Admiralty please pass to C. in C. Mediterranean.

1531B/15

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

o (Secret) GEMMOREIK to Mersina for delivery to Turks. Lapseki retained to work at Suez.

4 being called for.

+ Sent on by War Registry.

"/MC

- 1st Lord A.C.N.S. (T) D.D.I.C. (2) D.T.D. (C)
- 1st S.L. N.A. 1st S.L. P.A.S. (S) Admiral Herman
- 3rd S.L. D.O.D. (F) Hd. of M. (4) Hodge
- 4th S.L. D.D.O.D. (F) D.N.I. (4) I.P. (2)
- V.C.N.S. D.O.D. (H) D. of P. (2) W.D.
- A.C.N.S. (F) ~~D.D.O.D. (H) D.T.D. (4)~~
- A.C.N.S. (H) ~~D.C. (2) D.T.D. (M)~~

**MOST SECRET**

F  
486D

# MOST SECRET

1550/15th December

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

From Military Attache Ankara. Date 15.12.41.

Recd. 2135.

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office Repeated C. in C. Middle East, C. in C. India (?9th) Army (by bag).

IMMEDIATE

019695. 67015 cipher 15/12.

1. President of German Club Istanbul told German Colony (?recently) that German civilians should be prepared to leave Turkey by end of January (?for) short period.
2. Japanese in Turkey paid all bills up to 9th December and expected to leave Turkey shortly.
3. Noticeable growing apprehension Turkish A.A. defences due partly to German announcement regarding Russian campaign.
4. American Military Attache states Italians also making preparations to leave.
5. Amongst much conflicting evidence regarding arrival of German troops Bulgaria following appears to be reliable (a) Naval personnel Varna Burgas now estimated at 20,000 (b) Administrative preparations reception large number of troops Bulgaria continue. Large deliveries German Military stores taking place and German notice boards being erected (c) French Military Attache who consider reliable has negative report dated 8th regarding any German troop movements from Roumania.
6. Watching situation closely but would value your comments.

1550/15

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F) and D.D.I.C. Received from War Office at 1920/16 Dec.

War Office Distribution

- |               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st Lord      | Hd. of Watch W/R Admiralty. |
| 1st S.L.      | M.C.I. 5.                   |
| V.C.N.S.      | D.D.M.I. (1).               |
| A.C.N.S. (F). | M.I.3. 3(b) 3(c). 14. 2c.   |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | (J.I.C.) (3).               |
| P.A.S(S).     | Head of M (4).              |
| D.O.D. (F).   | I.P. (2).                   |
| D.D.O.D. (F). | N.I.D. 10                   |
| D. of P. (2). | (Pay. Cdr. Wilson).         |
| E.P.S.        | W.D.                        |
|               | Admiral                     |
|               | Bellairs.                   |
|               | D.N.I. (4).                 |
|               | D.C. (2).                   |

abd

# MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Tadjoura.  
Obok.

Air activity Potez 63, 5 trips. One dhow has left Tadjoura, situation Obok unchanged. (LISMORE 1615Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Aden (R) Aden Force)

Enemy Convoy.

Re convoy 34.37 N - 11.20 E - CO 225° T. (A/C 7 JK(?) 1625/15 to Hal Far.)

Air Report.

Night 14/15, 10 Mark 11 Wellingtons bombed shipping and Wharves Benghazi. Over target 1720 to 1820 hours all bombs target area, hits on wharves other sticks buildings surrounding target and centre of town and base outer Mole. 6 alerts 1705 to 0555 hours, 8 raiders, bombs land sea slight civilian damage no casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/15.)

Ferry steamers  
CARDAK.  
SILVRI. SILVRI for Turkey.

Following from Adm. Kelly. Your 2000A/18 to C. in C. Med. If Turks have not been so informed it lessens our responsibilities, and makes repatriation of crews easier if these vessels are turned over to Turks at Alexandretta as in the case of all others. Admty. pass to C. in C. Med. (N.A. Ankara 1642B/15 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Photographs of Taranto 15/12 show :- Outer harbour, 2 LITTORIOS and 3 CAVOUR battleships. Inner harbour, Floating Dock empty, one CAVOUR stern on to south side of Graving Dock. 7 cruisers, 31 destroyers or torpedo boats and 15 S/Ms. (V.A. Malta, 1845B/15 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. etc.) (Capt. S. 10 1947B/15 to S/Ms on Patrol) (V.A. Malta, 2046B/15 to Admty.)

S/Ms

Eastern Med. submarine movements summary 74.

Submarines.	Estimated noon position 16/12.	Estimated noon position 17/12.
PERSEUS	035° 04' N. 022° 34' E.	034° 08' N. 025° 26' E.
PORPOISE	035° 42' N. 023° 26' E.	035° 26' N. 026° 24' E.

THORN leaving Port Said approx. 1800B. E.T.A. Alexandria 1000B. (Capt. S.1, 1845B/15 to Med. Fleet.)

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.TALISMAN.

Do not cross latitude 031° 50' N. Surface Force will be crossing your track proceeding Westward about 0400B. Small convoy expected early a.m. from Westward escorted by Destroyers and Trawlers.

(Capt. S.1 1925B/15 to TALISMAN.) *See p. 612*

A.11  
abandoned.

A.11 abandoned approx. 12 miles E. of Ras ( ) Azzaz crew (? on board) AVON VALE. Tow impracticable as AVON VALE had to stand by COCKER then also in (? difficulties.) P.C. and S. at 2000, 031° 55' 025° 21' 103° 11½. COCKER in company.

(AVON VALE, 2015B/15 to R.A. Alexandria, HEYTHROP.)

E-Boat  
Activity.

UNIQUE reports particular E-boat activities south of Del Armi. While closing at 80 feet for attack on 14/12 carried out explosive sweep. 3 ships were hunted, one certain E.boat. Withdraw if harassed and report.

(Capt. S. 10. 2137B/15 to URGE, UPHOLDER.)

JEDDAH.

JEDDAH sunk position 026° 50' E. 031° 37' N. One survivor.

(Malta W/T, 2155/15 to Alexandria (R) S.O. Force I.)

Force K.

*N.T. n. W.D.*  
Your 1245B/15. KANDAHAR and JAGUAR are in dock. Intend to sail AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE and LIVELY at 1800/16 to comply with para.4. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2232B/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.15 C.S.)

UPRIGHT,  
enemy units  
hit.

My 2350B/13. 3 hit and one (?group omitted). Considered to be warship. 51 depth charges. Destroyer traffic to and from Taranto appears to pass through position A speed 20 knots. Suspicious schooner generally in vicinity of Position A.

(UPRIGHT 2346B/15 to Capt. S. 10.)

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.West African  
Troop  
Movement.

Your 0854/12. Request report of earliest possible date by which personnel could be at Mombasa or Durban preferably former. Agreed. N.O.I.C. Simonstown pass via P.S.T.O. to Force Nairobi. (D.of S.T. 0130A/15 to D.S.T.O. Mombasa).

Port Defences

Your 2008/10/11 and my 1030/12/11 request information as to when these craft should reach Durban.

(C.in C. E.I. 0240Z/15 to Admty.) *Reply: Admty  
2004/23.*

Ceylon  
ports of  
entry.

For N.C.S.O's. the only ports of entry in Ceylon are Colombo and Trincomalee. Any ship bound for any other Ceylon port must first call at a port of entry for examination. Unidentified ships approaching coast elsewhere will be treated as hostile.

(C.in C. E.I. 1016Z/15 to N.O.I.C. E.I. Station, rep.N.O.I.C. Penang, N.L.O.Durban, Admty. F.O.C. R.I.N. F.O.C. Red Sea Force, N.O.I.C. Aden, N.O.I.C. Simonstown, D.N.O. W. Australia, A.C.N.B. N.O. Melbourne. N.Z.N.B. N.O. Wellington, F.O. Malaya, N.O.I.C. Rangoon).

SONAVATI

As a result of my recent request for loan of a further sloop for ocean A/S escort work F.O.C.R.I.N has informed me that SONAVATI now at Colombo is being placed my disposal.

(2) This action is most helpful and I have to express my thanks.

(C.in C. E.I. 1026Z/15 to Admty. Rep. C.in C.E.F.)

QUEEN  
MARY

A.M. 1809/14.

If the presence of QUEEN MARY at Trincomalee prevents warships being berthed there she should be sailed towards Capetown, in anticipation of a favourable reply being received from C.in C. South Atlantic.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1126A/15 to C.in C. E.I. C.in C. A.W.I.).

Addu Atoll.

Details of underwater defences.

(C.in C. E.I. 1214Z/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

KUNGWO

Your (?1757)/14 (Presumably 1157/14 is intended which was not circulated, being a repetition of 0531/14). I shall be glad if KUNGWO be sent to Trincomalee.

(C.in C. E.I. 1224Z/15 to C.in C. E.F.).

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1214Z/15th December

From: - C. in C. East Indies.

Date, 16.12.41.

Reed. 0200

Naval Cypher F by cable

Addressed:- Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

592. Underwater defences Addu Atoll.

Controlled minefield. Laying completed. Details of exact position of fields are being forwarded by me by air mail and to C. in C. Eastern Fleet by next safe opportunity. No excessive perturbations are now being experienced.

## (ii) Indicator nets.

(a) These have been laid approximately in positions specified. Minor discrepancies have occurred in certain cases due to navigational difficulties and strong tidal conditions.

(b) The baffles at northern entrance are satisfactory.

(c) At southern entrance swell and tide produce constant hammering on moorings and signs of wear and tear are already in evidence.

(d) Eastern end of baffle D has dragged 300 yards to seaward but it still gives a reasonable measure of protection. Some movement to seaward has also occurred in baffles in Gan entrance.

(e) Light buoys referred to in Admiralty's 2217/19 Nov. have not yet been laid. It is considered that these will disclose entrance to an enemy, and my present instructions are that entrance should be lighted at night and marked by day by boats

**MOST SECRET**



SECRET

- 2 -

supplied by ships in harbour.

(iii) A/S nets GYJW (KIRRIEMOOR) is loaded and operation will commence as soon as boom vessels arrive. C.O. has visited (? Addu Atoll) and in agreement with C.O. H.M.S. GUARDIAN reports as follows. Begins.

(A) In both entrances A/S nets will be extremely difficult to lay because of heavy swell and strong tide.

(B) At Wilingili this must be accepted since nets cannot be laid further in because of gaps in Coral reef.

(C) At Gan conditions are extremely bad and it is unlikely that gate vessels could exist in position specified.

Recommended alternative is that A/S nets should be laid further to northward and that guard loop number one should be lifted and relaid in position now given for A/S nets. Admiralty approval is requested.

1214Z/15

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

1st Lord	
1st S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	D.T.S.D.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S.(T)	E.F.S.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.D.(2)
D.of P.(2)	D.T.D.(M)
D.O.D.(F)	N.I.D.10
D.D.O.D.(F)	D.B.F. (014018/41) for action
D.N.I.(4)	Hydrog
D.of L.D.	D.of N.
D.A./S.W.	
D.M.S.	
I.P.(2)	
W.D.	
D.C.(2)	
Hd. of M.	

SECRET

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. -Contd.M/V's. and  
aircraft  
recognition.

Your 1645/30 (1645/3 intended).  
Little experience has so far been gained of this procedure on the station, HERMES reports as follows:-

Procedure has been tried successfully on a few occasions in October during raider patrols and has proved of value as far as can be judged from this limited experience.

(C.in C. E.I. 1406Z/15 to Admty.).

Small craft  
diversions.

Your 1855/12 (?1856/12 intended re AASE MAERSK, GOLDMOUTH, PEIK to be diverted to Mombasa), these 3 ships already sailed for Mombasa Lourenco Marques and Colombo respectively. Small craft all are to be diverted to Mombasa.

(C.in C. E.I. 1412Z/15 to Admty. Rep. N.C.S.O. Basra).

Your 1856A/12 1st ship due Mombasa 25th. 2nd ship diverted as instructed. 3rd ship due Colombo 18th not been diverted in view of proximity of (?Colombo).

(N.C.S.O. Abadan 1421Z/15 to Admty.).

W.S.12 X.

Request you will direct convoy W.S. 12 X to Bombay.

2. F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 2154/10. Suggest ORIZABA after calling at Mombasa for fuel should R/V with Bombay portion of W.S. 12 X.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1608A/15 to C.in C. E.I.).

Burma  
Command.

Request no publicity be given transfer of Burma to India command at present. M.A. Chungking only. Ref. our 20860/G of 14/12 Chinese Govt. should be asked to treat matter as secret for the present.

(C.in C. India 1954/15 to C.in C. Far East, W.O. etc.).

Burma  
Communique.

Press Communique.

(?No) truth in broadcast report that British troops were in action across border in Northern Siam. Residents and garrison Victoria Point have been evacuated according to plan. No air activity today.

(G.O.C. Burma 2135/15 to W.O.).

MANOORA  
Convoy.

1. Sail as necessary to escort troop convoy consisting of KAROA (GRZC) and KWTSANG (VFDN) expected to clear Sandheads 1800Z/15.

2. Route through 17° 40' N., 90° (?) 34' (?), thence to Rangoon speed 12 knots.

3. When both ships have entered river proceed Colombo.

4. Convoy is to zig-zag by day and attention is called to C.A.M.S.I. (? 1 group). Dawn arrival should be aimed at.

(C. in C., E.I., 1350Z/15, to MANOORA).

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Malaya.

Military Situation Report. (G.O.C. Malaya 0610/15 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

LE TRIOMPHANTA.M. 2358A/13. Please ask LE TRIOMPHANT to signal a proposed programme passage from Sydney to Batavia calling Noumea on the way. On arrival Batavia LE TRIOMPHANT will receive further orders.  
(C.in C. E.F. 0504Z/15 to A.C.N.B.).Movements.Singapore departure 14/12 Netherland S/M's 0.19 0.20. Departure 15th ELECTRA, EXPRESS, MAURITIUS, TARAKAN. Arrival 12th departure 13th SCOUT THANET.  
(S.O.I. Singapore 0740Z/15 to Admty.).Singapore  
Dockyard  
Guard..In order that they may have status to assist in defence of Naval Establishments I am arranging with approval of C.in C. Eastern Fleet, that European Dockyard personnel are already armed with revolvers should form "Dockyard Guard" wearing suitable armlets.  
(A.S. Singapore 0902Z/15 to Admty.).Control by  
C.in C. India.

Your 20788 13/12.

My 21/7 14/12.

W.O. 57777 (M.O.1.) 13/12.

Agree that control of Air Forces should be transferred to you subject to the following.

(A) That I have call on them for action against enemy shipping West of Kra Isthmus and for attacks on Jap columns about Bangkok and north part of Kra Isthmus until R.A.F. here have been greatly reinforced.

(B) That ADM responsibility also transferred to you.

(2) (Concerns 204 Mission).

(3) Intelligence. Suggest F.E.C.B. carries on as at present maintaining Liaison with your I Branch.

(4) Special operations "Mew". Suggest you should control activities in whole of Indo China and China and Thailand north of a line running E.W. through Victoria Point.

(C.in C. Far East 1241/15 to C.in C. India Rep. W.O. G.O.C. Burma).

N.E.I. Navy  
Co-operation.

British Naval Passport, Batavia, informed me of view expressed by you to Adm. Royle and Cmdre.

/Parry.....

491A

**MOST SECRET** H E S C E 06 10/15th Dec. IN

From G.O.C. Malaya.

Date 15.12.41.

Recd 0530.

Cipher

Addressed War Office

MOST IMMEDIATE.

019494 27037 Cipher 14/12.

From Advanced H.Q. Malaya Command to Troopers London Arminia Simla G.H.Q., F.E., C. in C. E.F., A.O.C. Lancaster P.S. to H.E. the Governor Secret and Most Immediate to Troopers Arminia others immediate except as shown.

Sitrep 1630 hrs. G.M.T. 14/12. Gulf of Thailand. Air Recce. has not sighted the convoy referred to by Sitrep 173 dated 13/12. At 1415 hrs. today air recce. sighted 6 enemy cruisers steering S.W. 255 miles from Kuantan.

Kedah very heavy fighting. 11 Ind. Div. have fallen back to Gurun area about 22 miles South of Alor Star. The enemy are in contact with our right flank and are reported to have got tanks South of our demolitions at Alor Star. 11 Ind. Div. has had 50% casualties in infantry units of which some may rejoin later. Fighting efficiency of Div. has been further temporarily reduced by fatigue of troops and loss of some equipment and vehicles. Two or three Commanding Officers killed. Believed many Japanese have been killed. Krohcol has come under command 12 Ind. Inf. Brigade and the forward troops are 4 miles East of Baling.

Immediate problem is to co-ordinate action of and ultimately to join the above two forces. Reported that many enemy troops are wearing civilian clothing and being guided by late Japanese residents in Malaya.

In Penang position is serious result of daily air attacks and essential services now largely in hands of military. Important factor is that main cables to India and U.K. pass through Penang.

Kelantan Johore Singapore no change.

Sarawak. Miri Garrison now en route to Kuching were attacked at sea by Japanese bombers. Attack apparently unsuccessful.

General.....

General. Big round up at Kuala Lumpur of fifth columnists during night 13/14 December included many subordinate Government servants. Estimate of enemy forces in action I Div. Kota Bharu and Kroh fronts with armoured support one Div. with armoured support on Kedah front. Japanese air inactivity noticeable today.

0610/15.

Received from War Office at 1123/15.

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

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)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Captain Pim  
D.N.A.D.  
Hd. of M. (30)  
D.O.D. (H)  
D.D.O.D. (H)  
D.O.D. (F)  
D.D.O.D. (F)  
Duty Captain (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.D.I.C.  
D.T.D. (2)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.A/S.V.  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
D.S.D.  
Admiral Bailey  
Admiral Bellairs  
Admiral Chalmers  
E.P.S.  
D.T.S.D.  
N.I.D.10.

War Office Distribution:-

S. of S.  
C.I.C.S.  
V.C.I.C.S.  
D.M.O. & F.  
D.P. (2)  
D.D.M.O. (0)  
M.O. 1, 6, 10.  
D.D.I.P.  
D.M.I.  
D.D.M.I. (1)  
M.I. 3. (3)  
Cabinet War Room  
Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)  
C.A.S. Air Ministry (2)  
Plans 3 Air Ministry (3)  
Duty Group Captain Air Ministry  
A.C.A.S. (I) Air Ministry  
Air Ministry War Room  
F.O. 5. (Air Ministry)  
Duty Captain Admiralty.  
Duty Office (Upper Admiralty War Room)  
Colonial Office (Maj. Rolleston)  
S. of S. Foreign Office  
Hd. of War Registry Admiralty.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

N.E.I. Navy  
Co-operation  
-Contd.

Parry at your recent meeting. My comments under existing circumstances are as follows.

(2) I am most grateful for your offer of 6 destroyers to work with Eastern Fleet when reformed. Question employment of Netherlands cruisers and destroyers with Fleet must, however now be in abeyance.

(3) Regarding employment and sphere of operations of U.S. Force, I am endeavouring to obtain Adm. Hart's present intentions and suggest you get (?in touch with) Adm. Glassford Commanding Task Force 5. I am inclined to think this force in existing circumstances could operate with success in N.E.I. waters based if necessary in a N.E.I. harbour.

(C.in C. E.F. 1506/15 to C.Z.M. Rep. C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, Admty. N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B.).

Midget S/M's  
at Hawaii.

Following received from J.S.M. Washington. At least two small 50 ft. submarines took part in last Sunday's attack in Hawaii. One was captured and one destroyed. They reached harbour in spite of A/S nets being closed. (D.N.I. 1716A/15 to C.in C. E.F. C.In C. E.I.).

Shipment of  
Rubber and  
Sugar.

My 1915A/10. Shipment of rubber and sugar is of great importance. Any practicable opportunity of despatching such cargoes even in comparatively small quantities should be taken.

We should much appreciate information as to shipping position generally in Malay - Borneo N.E.I. area when this can be conveniently furnished.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 1830A/15 to C.in C. E.F. Rep. C.in C. E.I.).

Mining  
Penang.

Q.D.B. 93. Penang north channel has been mined by aircraft and is dangerous to navigation. (F.O. Malaya 2017Z/15 to China Stn).

Appreciation  
Requested  
Singapore.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E. 60. Ref. your 19/7 of 13/12 and our F.E. No.55 of 10/12 Request early appreciation covering operational and administrative problems associated with protracted defence of Singapore. Your appreciation should take into consideration feeding of civil population.

(W.O. 2135/15 to C.in C. Far East).

/Hong.....

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.-Contd.Hong  
Kong.

Sitrep night 14th /15th. THRACIAN entered Kowloon Bay and shelled two river steamers which blew up. Special Agent blew up third ship believed (?acting as) O.P. for (?enemy artillery) with a number of Japanese on board. Systematic shelling of P.B's. along north shore. Collection small craft in Kowloon Bay by Japanese continues and envisage possibility of attempted landings tonight for which suitable defensive preparations being completed. General impression that Japanese shelling is extremely accurate where old and well known batteries are concerned but noticeable recently sited out positions at Waterfall Bay and West Bay apparently unlocated. Air raid for R/C and nuisance value only. Bomb damage negligible. Two hits claimed on enemy aircraft. (G.O.C. Hong Kong 2250/15).

America and West Indies.SHEHERAZADE.

Vichy tanker, seized by U.S. naval authorities at Mobile, Alabama. (D.S. 832).

BENCLEUCH

British 5562 tons, from London and Leith to Penang and Hong Kong in convoy O.N. 42, is reported to have sunk at 0715/12, 600' N.E. of St. John's N.F. after being on fire since 1700/11. All crew picked up. Cause of fire unknown, but sabotage is suspected. (D.O.R. 15/12).

S. C. 60.

Designation 4.1.15. SAGUENAY (Senior) MIMOSA, ACONITIN, ALYSSE, DAUPHIN, SPIKEHARD, WETASKIWIN, \*SHWDIACDMR (as received). (Opnav 0300/15 to Admty.). \* SHEDIAC - See 15-425

Shipping  
Colon.

Atlantic shipping still held up. Cristobal Naval Authorities very co-operative but cannot furnish explanation. Their instructions come from Admiral Commanding 15th Naval District Balboa. (N.C.S.O. Colon 1001/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/Position....

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -Contd.Position  
"U".

Ref. A.M. 1228Z/13 to Opnav, request you will explain that position U is being promulgated as recommended in Opnav 0235/14 but original U was selected in order to give the usual run through M.O.M.P. on a steady course.  
(D.T.D. 1045A/15 to B.A.D.).

Gas  
Cargoes.

Reference to gas as a cargo should be avoided in Advance and Sailing telegrams.  
(D.T.D. 1046A/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S.  
N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. Rep. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Leakage of  
ships  
movements.

Your 1201/14 U.S. Authorities are taking necessary action at once.  
(B.A.D. 1103R/15 to C.in C. S.A. Rep. Admty.).

Midget  
S/M's.

Your 1845R/11. Request full details of Japanese midget submarine, in particular exact dimensions and whether fitted with any net cutting device. (D.of L.D. 1222A/15 to B.A.D.).

S.C. 58.

S.C. 58 scattered 8 mile<sup>\*</sup> HERATIO and MOOSEJAW in company with Commodore. At 1400Z Commodore estimated p.c. and s 58.21 27.35 066° 7.8 altering course to 086° at 1700Z. ST LAURENT p.c.s. 58.35 28.40 320° 4 intend proceeding to M.O.M.P. if weather moderates. Weather report. (Opnav 1300/15 to Admty.).

\*? HEPATICA -  
See *Lowry's Returns* -

U.S. Situation  
Report.

Washops 5.

- (1) Philippine Islands. Message from Gen. Macarthur received 14/12 states Japanese held areas Appari, Legaspi, and Vigan are expanding. 2 bombing attacks during day heaviest on Neilson air port, Nichols Field, Fort Stotsenburg, Olongapo, Baguio and Clark Field, 4 Japanese aircraft shot down. Perceptible weakening in accuracy of Japanese bombing observed. Weather conditions prevented air counter attacks on Legaspi but a successful attack was made on Vigan.
- (2) Hawaii. C.in C. Pacific Fleet reports 4 submarines were sighted by aircraft yesterday in Hawaii waters; one believed was damaged. In addition one 50 feet submarine entered Pearl Harbour and was destroyed by depth charge.
- (3) Midway Is. and Wake. These islands are still in U.S. hands. Wake reports two further bombing attacks and states one attack was carried out by 4 engined seaplanes.
- (4) U.S. Atlantic Coast. Various reports of doubtful submarine contacts have been received from the Atlantic Sea Board between New York and Florida.  
(J.S.M. Washington 1335R/15 to Admty. etc.).  
EYEBRIGHT.....



War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -Contd.EYEBRIGHT  
BITTERSWEET.

Completion date of EYEBRIGHT is 10th January ex trials. Request approx. date of arrival of BITTERSWEET at Charleston. (B.A.R.M. 1410R/15 to Admty. C.C.N.F. etc.).

Suspicious  
Tanker.

Your 1320A/12. ONDINA reports her position at noon GCT/9th as 31-30 N. 71-16 W. course 17°. Dutch CISTULA reports that about 1½ hours after daylight on 9/12 in position 34.39 N. 70-39 W. unidentified tanker heavily laden flying small unidentified flag approached and circled her at about one half mile distance. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1503Z/15 to Admy.rep. Opanav. N.S.H.Q. C.in C.A.W.I.)

Tarawa

Hawaii appreciation dated 15/12 repeated C.in C. Pacific, C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and Manila. (Begins) A study of addresses in radio traffic indicates Japanese have established an air base in Gilbert Island. The Yokohama air group is now there. (Ends).  
Navy Dept. Comment. (Begins). The island mentioned is probably Tarawa which was occupied by Japanese on 11/12. The Yokohama air group came down from Mandates. (Ends). (B.A.D. 1531R/15 to Admty. etc.).  
N.I.D. Comment. High Commissioner, Western Pacific has reported Japanese have left Tarawa but are probably returning. No air base apparently exists yet, but it may be intended to establish one. Yokohama air group suggests flying boats.

S.C. Convoys.

When S.C. Convoy assembly changes to Halifax adjustment will be desirable in date of sailing in order that H.X. and S.C. convoys shall not sail on the same day. Request you will suggest date of first S.C. from Halifax in order that adjustment in escort arrangements may be recommended to Opanav. (D.T.D. 1544A/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

TULIP

Sailed TULIP routed by N.O.I.C. Kingaton through position:- E. 011° 00' N. 048° 58' W. F. 010° 58' N. 038° 02' W. G. 007° 01' N. 025° 59' W. H. 004° 31' N. 016° 30' W. thence to Freetown. E.T.A. 26/12. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1602Q/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Ballast in  
ships.

C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1602Z/13. (Re. extra ballast for better convoying). I consider that some serious consideration should be given to this matter and that no ship should sail with her propeller showing out of water, (C.in C. W.A. 1639A/15 to Admty.).

/H.X. 163.....

War Diary.15.12. 1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -Contd.H.X.163.

In view of uncertainty of position should be grateful if United States escort would report situation. (D.T.D. 1705Z/15 to Opnav).

DEVONSHIRE.

My 1750/2. Request DEVONSHIRE be informed that when she visits Norfolk, position for meeting pilot is now 4 miles E. of Cape Henry at 0800 zone 5 time.  
(B.A.R.M. 1722R/15 to Admty.).

Coastwise shipping.

Commence routeing U.S. and U.S. owned and controlled coastwise merchant ships 1000 tons and over. Instruct overseas and coastwise shipping to carry out instructions for Naval transportation and U.S. Merchant vessels in time of war part one, and provisions of C.S.P.N.I.N.E. 37. Darken ship at all times. (Opnav 1725/15 to C.N.A.N.C.F. C.S.U.C.F. C.P.N.C.F. Rep. Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.P.S.N.C.F. C.P.N.N.C.F.).

C.A.M. ship A/C failure.

Your 1625A/29/11. (Report if C.A.M. ship arrives at Halifax with aircraft or catapult out of action.). EMPIRE LAWRENCE. Aircraft not launched Halifax 13/12. Unable to start motor due to low temperature at the time scheduled to be launched. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1905Z/15 to Admty.).

COLONIAL.

My 1957Z/13 (N.T. in W.R.). Portuguese COLONIAL has asked for assistance engine damaged position 3905 N. 60.07 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1913Z/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Merchant shipping movements cabled in P.L.

C.in C. South Atlantic's 1201/14 request you inform me what action can be taken and whether any assistance at the West African end is required to enforce this essential censorship. (D.N.I. 1918A/15 to B.A.D.). See also 1103/15.

Dispositions.

B.A.D. Washington's 1221R/11 (N.T. in W.D.). para 5 and 2231R/14. Comply.  
(D.of P. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1919A/15 to C.in C. A.W.I. Rep. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

M.N. Code for U.S. ships.

My 1935/13 1000 copies of S.P. 02404 R/T for Merchant Navy Code are being obtained from Ottawa who are in the act of reproducing it. Also 100 copies of Merchant Navy Code.  
(B.A.D. 1921R/15 to Admty.).

War Diary.

15.12.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1112Q/13. S. of A. to Durban direct would be 15 knots. Propose to fuel Simonstown which would allow S.of A. 17 knots thus for and higher speed thereafter.  
(INDOMITABLE 1931Q/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

SURCOUF.

Unless orders are received to the contrary Adm. Muselier intends to hold SURCOUF for few days for foreseen operation which is depending on issue of discussion in Ottawa and Washington.  
(C.N.S. Canada 2029Z/15 to Admty. Rep. C.O.A.C.).

MAYFLOWER

Being sailed p.m./16 to arrive Halifax a.m./18. Discharge certain ratings on leave and then proceed so as to arrive Charleston at 2000Z zone 5 sea buoy 2C on 22/12.  
(C.C.N.F. 2040Z/15 to C.O.A.C. rep. B.A.R.M. etc.)

Shipping routes.

My 1307/9 para. 2. In future C.N.O. will indicate to C.in C. A.W.I. in addition to change in routeing instructions he recommends in respect of area of U.S. responsibility.  
(B.A.D. 2141R/15 to Admty.).

Newfoundland Escort Force.

Your 2049Z/24. Arduous conditions under which N.F.E.F. are carrying out their valuable service are appreciated and we much regret that strain is proving too severe.

(2) Ref. recommendation A we agree and have asked B.A.D. to obtain Opnav's concurrence.  
(3) Regretted that extension of area of U/boat operations and other new commitments arising out of Far East situation do not permit reinforcements to be sent. It is considered, however, that whilst the U/boat menace in N. Atlantic remains small a reduction in the number of escorts to an average of 5 can be accepted.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2210A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Rep. C.in C. W.A. C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.).

ROODE ZEE towing operation.

Sparks has suggested that ROODE ZEE should tow a floating crane from New York to Middle East. It is expected tow would be ready to commence voyage in four to six weeks time. Request you will obtain necessary details from Sparks and after consultation with Master signal your remarks on practicability of this operation and proposed route. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2308A/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Convoy route.

My 1119A/6. We appreciate difficulty at present time of launching any new scheme but persistent bad weather makes it a matter of urgency that S.C. O.N. (S) convoys should be given a more southerly route. Is it possible as a  
/temporary.....

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15.12. 1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoy  
Route.  
-Contd.

temporary measure to obtain C.N.O's. agreement to Canadian escorts proceeding to Londonderry instead of Iceland (C)? This would be without prejudice to any remarks he might wish to make on the scheme proposed in the above message. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2309A/15 to B.A.D.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Fiji  
lights.

W.M. 13. All ships are warned that all lights in Fiji Islands are liable to be extinguished without further notice. (S.O.I. Wellington 0946M/15 to all W/M Addressees).

FALKEFJELL  
(Norwegian).

R.A.N. requisitioned fleet tanker FALKEFJELL left Sydney 0659Z/14 for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B. 1027Z/15 to Admty. etc.).

Tarawa and  
Ocean Islands.

Your telegram No. 329. Japanese reported to have left Tarawa Wednesday night, and informed natives returning 18/12 to occupy the Island. Auxiliary vessel HELENA not destroyed, but taken away with crew by the Japanese. Doctor Steenson released. Bevington (D.O.) absent Tarawa on board S.S. \*KIAKIA which vessel hoped to be on way to Suva. Roman Catholic Mission Vessel TERESIA has arrived Beru on way to Suva. No planes over Ocean Island Saturday. Islands south of Tarawa appear still to be clear Japanese but single planes reported over Maiana, Tarawa, and Abaiang. (High Commissioner Western Pacific 1312/15 to S. of S. for Colonies.) \**not identified*

LEANDER

Departure Auckland LEANDER on escort duty to Suva. (D.N.I. Wellington 1644M/15 to Admty. etc.).

Shipping  
routes.

Ref. A.M. 1915A/13. Suggested vessels bound for ports beyond New Zealand having sufficient speed and endurance be routed south of New Zealand to their destinations or to ports to which their endurance can take them. This would avoid congestion in Wellington and local areas in the vicinity and save time on passage. In event of emergencies in Australian and New Zealand area these vessels would be diverted as required. (N.Z.N.B. 1725M/15 to Admty.). Your 1725M/15 (re routing of vessels south of New Zealand.) Concur. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2334A/15 to N.Z.N.B.)

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.H.M.S. GALATEA. Sunk. See Mediterranean.EMPIRE  
BARRACUDA.Convoy attacked by submarine. EMPIRE  
BARRACUDA sunk. My position 035° 28' N.  
006° 15' W.(WISHART, 0348/15 to Gib., C. and C.O.,  
(R) STORK.)Have picked up 39 survivors, two cases require  
urgent medical attention, am returning to  
Gibraltar please send survivors clothes, E.T.A.  
1000.(COLTSFOOT 0529/15 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) WISHART.)  
EMPIRE BARRACUDA on Government Service.  
(D.S. 832.)BADALONA.Spanish Tanker BADALONA sunk by torpedo 8 miles  
off Motril 13/12. Report by CAMPSA, A.2.  
Request immediate (? authority) stating no  
British submarines in vicinity.(N.A. Madrid, 1340/15, to F.O.C.N.A. (R)  
C. in C. Med.) Reply: No British.S/M in vicinity (F.O.I.C. Gib., 0315/16.)  
BADALONA bound from Valencia to Aruba.

(D.S. 833.)

BADALONA was torpedoed and sunk by S/M  
unidentified 8 miles off Motril at 9 a.m. 13/12.  
Submarine Officer spoke French and gave crew  
10 minutes to abandon ship. 2 torpedoes were  
then fired.(Gibraltar (Originator not given) 1833/15, to  
S.O.I., Gib., (R) N.A. Madrid.)At one hour 15/12 Minister of Navy telephoned  
Admiral in Charge of Naval Base to search for  
survivors of BADALONA in voyage from Barcelona  
for Venezuela and sunk Italian S/M between  
Malaya and Cadiz. Information graded A.(Gibraltar, ? 1900/15, to S.O.I., Gib., (R)  
N.A. Madrid.)My 1340/15, Officer of Tanker was summoned on  
board S/M (not yet clear whether German or  
Italian) and given 10 minutes to abandon ship  
in spite of all protests. Same source. A.2.(N.A. Madrid, 2041/15, to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar  
(R) Admty., C. in C. Med.) (Amended and  
amplified, 1242/16.)SAINT DENIS.French Admty., convinced not sunk by British.  
(N.A. Madrid 1737/15.) See North Atlantic.

500

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

0135. Aircraft reports 2nd S/M on the surface in position 196 Cape Trafalgar 25 at 0135 which submerged and altered course from 080° to 171°. (Gibraltar 0145A/15 to Escorts H.G.76, WISHART, etc.)  
Capt. (D) 14 hunting submarine in vicinity of position 270° Ras el Tin.  
(F.O.15 C.S.0207Z/15, to Capt. D.7.)
0537. One submarine bearing 210° 24 miles course 110°. (A/C U 0537/15 to Gibraltar W/T.)
0640. Aircraft report suspect submarine 222 Cape Trafalgar 31 at 0640.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0713A/15 to S.E.C.O.G. 76, AZALEA, WISHART, FORTUNE, GERANIUM, COLTSFOOT.)
- 0710 G.M.T. By D/F at 0710 G.M.T. German U-Boat in position about 46° N., 9.30 W. Probably inward bound.  
(D.D.I.C. 0907A/15 to S/M's on patrol in Area A., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.)
1053. Following has been read. One Submarine on surface 70° 5 miles course 155° position 37° N., 10° W., 23 S.  
(A/C W.F.H., 1053/15.)  
Following received:- Addressed Gibraltar W/T.  
1 Submarine bearing 070°, 5 miles my position 155 37° N., 10° W., 23 based on estimated position.  
(NESTOR, 1053A/15.)
1000. Aircraft report submarine on surface position 035° 38' 003° 00' W., at 1000/15 steering 290°  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1236A/15, to URSULA.)  
(?Aircraft) report submarine surfaced and dived again in 035° 30' 003° 12' W., at 1050/15.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1306A/15 to URSULA.)
1347. There is indication of a U-boat in vicinity of Reykjanes.  
(A.C.I.C. 1347/15 to BROKE.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.  
(D.D.I.C. 1426A/15, 1434A/15.)

/0900N.....

War Diary.15. 12. 1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. - Contd.

- 0900N. Icelandic fisherman reports U-boat in 63.56 N., 22.42 W., at 0900N/15. Graded B.2. (A.C.I.C. 1501N/15 to Admty.)
- 1102B. Air r/c sighted one submarine 36° 42' N., 18° 1119. 50' E., course 130° 9 knots at 1102 B, and one submarine 36° 19' N., 18° 001' E., course 115° 9 knots at 1119. Both on the surface. (V.A.Malta, 1544B/15, to C. in C. Med.(R) Capt. S.1.)
1600. 2 S/Ms. reported in 32° 05' N., 24° 20' E., at 1600/15 proceeding east. (C. in C. Med. 1834B/15, to Med. Fleet, Force I.)
- 0730B. One U-boat diving in position 9 (?037°) 03' N., 017° 30' E., at 0730B/15. (P.34 1900B/15 to V.A.Malta.)
- 1820N. Enemy S/M suspected in position 130° Reykjanes 45 miles at 1820 N. (Liverpool, 1933N/15, to A.I.G. 54.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C 14/12. My 2325A/14 amend to read 189° Cape Trafalgar 31. (F.O.C.N.A., 0709A/15 to Ships Escorting Convoy O.G.76 ZULU, FORTUNE, GERANIUM, WISHART, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT.)

Use of  
A.S.V.  
Swordfish.

1. Effectiveness of A.S.V. Swordfish for work in Straits definitely established last night during passage of H.G.76 4 possibly 5 contacts resulting in 3 attacks. 2. Receipt of stores mentioned in my 1239A/2 and 1140A/6 most urgent. Request notification of date of despatch (? required for) 973. (F.O.C.N.A. 1140A/15 to Admiralty, S.O. Force "H", ARGUS.)

Further to my 1140A/15, most desirable to maintain present scale of effort with Swordfish A/S Patrols. This entails a minimum of 7 3½ hour sorties nightly requiring highest degree of concentration by air crew throughout. (2) Urgently require 4 additional fully trained night flying crews and 3 additional fitters of D/F. (3) Request above may be flown out, air crew bring flying clothing.

War Diary.15.12.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.Use of  
A.S.V.  
Swordfish.  
(Contd.)

(4) Up to date these patrols have been provided solely by ARGUS involving heavy drain on her flying resources. Proposals for putting this on a permanent basis follow by letter. (F.O.C.N.A., 1814A/15 to Admty.)  
Your 1140A/15, para. 1. Were attacks carried out visually and if so at what range was U-boat sighted? If attacks were "blind", request details of technique used. (D.N.A.D. 2145A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply, 1658A/16.

By A/C.

15/12. Op. Summary. (1) F.A.A. Swordfish A.S.V. A/S search 1830/14 - 0930/15 area 15 miles radius of Spartel. U-boat attacked at 0540 in position 310 Trafalgar 34 miles. (200 Group 1710/15.)

Sightings and  
Attacks.  
N. Atlantic.

At 2325/14, 196° Cape Trafalgar 26 miles, Swordfish sighted U-boat on surface after ASV contact. Attack with depth charges near miss ahead. 2. At 0135/15, 225° Cape Spartel 14 miles, after A.S.V. contact same Swordfish sighted U-boat on surface. No depth charges left. 3. S.S. EMPIRE BARRACUDA torpedoed in 35.28 N., 06.15 W., at 0348/15.  
4. At 0537/15, 310° Cape Trafalgar 34 miles, Swordfish sighted U-boat on surface. Attacked with depth charges. No hits.  
5. At 1055/15, in 37° N., 10° W., NESTOR sighted U-boat bearing 070° 5 miles. x  
6. At 1000/15, Maryland aircraft sighted U-boat in 35.38 N., 03.00 W., course 290° speed 12 knots.  
7. At 1058/15 Maryland aircraft sighted U-boat in 35.23 N., 03.04 W., course 270° speed 12 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 2332A/15, to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)  
x Was attacked at 1114/15, and believed destroyed, see NESTOR 1430A/16. U. 127 - cm 2: 6543