

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The violent gale yesterday has resulted in considerable damage at Iceland. At Hvalfiord U.S. cruiser WICHITA and some merchant ships are aground. HALCYON has sustained serious structural damage. The boom gate is still out of action and the escort for Convoy O.N. 56 was unable to sail. Some minefields and loops are out of action. At Reykjavik and the neighbourhood some 4 or 5 ships are aground. 5 American Catalinas are sunk. All D/F stations are out of action. At Seidisfiord the minefield is out of action.

Dundee and Montrose were closed this morning and Blyth and Aberdeen this afternoon, on account of the weather. W.N. 31 is widely scattered near Dunnet Head.

Three M.G.B's had a brush with 2 armed barges and the Boulogne breakwater batteries about 2305 today.

S.S. LLANGIBBY CASTLE in Convoy W.S. 15 was hit in the stern by a torpedo at 0900 and her steering smashed in $45^{\circ} 35' N. 20^{\circ} 50' W.$ She is reported as proceeding at 14 knots, steering by engines. There are some 1200 troops on board. (Arrived at Horta 19/1.)

S.S. CAPE VERDE reported sighting a submarine at 1902 G.M.T. in $58^{\circ} 25' N. 13^{\circ} 27' W.$

Photographic R/C of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven at the earliest opportunity was asked for this morning.

P.Q. convoys will assemble in future at Loch Ewe, thence proceeding direct to North Russian ports. P.Q. 10, sailing from Loch Ewe on 25/1 will initiate a 10 day cycle.

British Air Operations.

52 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Hamburg last night and 40 Emden.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. EMPIRE BAY was bombed and abandoned this evening in Tees Bay, whilst waiting to join Convoy F.S.100.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE was reported bombed at 1230 today in 45° 14'(?40) N. 20° 0' W. No details are known.

H.M.T. IRVANA was bombed and sunk near North Corton Buoy (off Yarmouth) this morning.

Mining.

Operation
N.Q.

PLOVER returned from this operation (PLOVER and 4 M.G.B's between Dover and West Hinder Buoy on suitable nights until 22/23/Jan.), having been damaged in collision with DEODAR.

3 Hampdens laid mines off the Frisian Islands last night.

Mediterranean.

There were several air raids on Malta today, commencing at 0443. Senglea Wharf (Grand Harbour) was slightly damaged.

Operation
M.F. 3.

Today is D.1 of this operation. Convoy M.W. 8A with CARLISLE, GRIFFIN, HERO, HASTY and ARROW left Alexandria at 0900 and M.W. 8B with GURKHA, LEGION, ISAAC SWEERS and MAORI left at 1500. Force B (15th C.S., KELVIN and 6 destroyers) left about midnight tonight. (see 17/1.)

FARNDAL reported being bombed this morning, but was undamaged.

/TRIUMPH ...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TRIUMPH is overdue since 14/1 from an operation to embark British refugees and troops from the Greek islands.

There were 3 enemy air attacks today on Tobruk.

Far East.

As from 0001Z today the term Eastern Fleet will comprise all British Battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, minelayers, destroyers and submarines within the limit of the British East Indies and China Stations.

The Far Eastern Squadron will comprise all British warships allocated and operating in the Abda area except those engaged in the local defence of Singapore.

Cruisers on the E.I. Station will continue to be operated and administered by C. in C. E.I., subject to the general strategical control of C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

China.

The Japanese advance in Malaya and towards the Netherlands East Indies has been much more rapid than hoped. *anticipated?*

Dutch S.S. SENANG struck a mine, presumably in a Dutch minefield and sank today in 1° 15' N. 104° 5' E. (Singapore Strait)

As ground mining has now commenced R.A. Malaya asks that an additional 3 flotillas of fast minesweepers, 12 motor minesweepers and 2 dan-layers may be despatched to Singapore immediately.

/Singapore ...

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SITUATION REPORT.

China - Contd.

Singapore was bombed early this morning and again later; no damage is reported. Batu Pahat (1° 49' N. 102° 53' E.) was also raided. A small Japanese landing took place S.W. of Batu Pahat early this morning. Our aircraft in Malaya today undertook 99 sorties, exclusive of the fighter defence of Singapore.

There were 2 air attacks on Ambon (N.E.I.) today; slight damage was caused in the harbour and at Laba aerodrome.

America and West Indies.

S.S. TOORAK was reported torpedoed 10 miles from St. Johns N.F. about 1340Z today and arrived at St. Johns under her own power.

An aircraft sighted a submarine at 1934 G.C.T. today in 39° 7' N. 73° 52' W.

Convoy O.N.55 was reported this evening scattered and riding out a gale force 10.

Australia.

There was a further air raid on Amboina today and aerodromes on Rabaul were also bombed; little damage was caused. R.A.A.F. aircraft bombed Etau and Doublon Island (Truk) today.

N.Z. A.M.C. MONOWAI was unsuccessfully attacked at 1703 local time today about 15 miles from Suva by a submarine and an aircraft presumed to be carried by the submarine. So far as is known MONOWAI was undamaged and the enemy escaped.

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MERCHANT VESSELS in ATLANTIC.

Anti-Submarine Measures.

All merchant ships sailing singly in the Atlantic North of 40° N. carry out provisions of FTP 189 section 1 para. 200 (?) which requires ships to pass through submarine areas at night if possible using maximum speed, and zigzagging during daylight, also zigzag during bright moonlight nights. (Opnav, 1613Z/16).

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

OXLIP. OXLIP is allocated to Londonderry and is to
BELLWORT. proceed thither as soon as ready.
(2) After short boiler cleaning and receipt of Arctic clothing OXLIP is to proceed to Hvalfiord for temporary service in Iceland (C).
(3) BELLWORT is required to leave U.K. for South Atlantic on 11/2. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail her for Greenock on relief by OXLIP. (C. in C. W.A. 1809/16). *See also p 400*

BARKING. A.M.1916A/19/12. BARKING is now ready to sail. Intend to sail her with next convenient group of small vessels proceeding abroad and not with a large convoy owing to difficulty of maintaining speed of convoy. Estimated endurance is 21 days at 7 knots. Vessel may therefore require to coal en route. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1836A/16).

Movements.

TRINIDAD. S.B.N.O. Archangel's 1526C/15. Concur if this does not involve delay in return of TRINIDAD. (C. in C. H.F., 1027A/16).
Your 1526C/15 and C. in C. H.F. 1027A/16. Act accordingly. (D.O.D. (H.) 1445A/16 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).
My 1526C/15. Polish Airmen and sailors entrained for Murmansk 1400C today. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1713C/16).

PORT QUEBEC. Reports she will be ready to sail p.m.22nd. Request you sail her for Port Z.A. and that escort may be provided as far as Smalls, where I will send a destroyer to meet her. (R.A.M. 1033A/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

PRINCE Your C.5/131 dated 13/1. It is intended to sail
LEOPOLD. PRINCE LEOPOLD for Inveraray a.m.18th. After embarking one A L C from Quebec ship will be ready to sail south. (S.O.A.S.C., 1042/16 to C.C.O.)
On arrival of PRINCE LEOPOLD at Inveraray P.M. 18th request A L C 126 be exchanged for R boat 115 and ship sailed for Dartmouth A.M. Monday. (S.O.A.S.C., 1243/16 to V.A.C.T.C.)

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- TAKU. On completion of refit, request you will sail TAKU southabout for working up at Holy Loch. (F.O.S., 1052A/16 to C. in C. Nore).
- UPRIGHT. My 2054A/8. UPRIGHT is not now required to reach Holy Loch before 1st week in April. (F.O.S., 1054A/16 to C. in C. E.I.) *See p. 401*
- BRAMBLE,
HEBE. Your 2217A/15. HEBE detailed. (S.O. 1st. M/S F. 1335A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)
see p. 354.
- REGENT. REGENT left Portsmouth 1400/16 for U.S.A. routed
(A) 049° 40', 005°. (B) 049° 30', 011°.
(C) 044°, 022°. (Capt. S. 1507A/16).
- 13th M/S F. Proposed programme for passage of 13th M S F to Belfast. Details. E.T.A., Belfast 1930/21. (S.O. 13 M/S F. 1647A/16 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
- H.28. My 1726A/14. Sailed BREDA and H.28. (Capt. S.7, 2203A/16).

Operations.

- East Coast Patrols. Your 2250A/15. Returning to Base. (EGLINTON, 0024A/16 to C. in C. Nore). Harwich and Brightlingsea Auxiliary Patrols not manned tonight owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1428A/16).
- A/S Patrol. Not Met. My P.C.S. are 058° 44' N. 004° 28' W., 270° 14 knots. (BEDOUIN, 0940A/16 to R.A.D., Reptd. NORFOLK, ESKIMO).
If weather permits proceed to R/V with NORFOLK. (C. in C. H.F., 0941A/16 to BEDOUIN, ESKIMO).
Your 0941. Intend to pass through 058° 56' N. 005° 38' W. at 1330A. Course thence 280° at about 20 knots. If not met by dark shall try to be 6 miles north of Cape Wrath at 0700A/17. (BEDOUIN, 1251A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)
- Operation N Q. Arrangements thrown out by early passage of Convoy C.E.64 off Dover. See Shipping.
- Denmark Strait Patrol. SWEETBRIAR is to sail tomorrow to pass Straumness at 1000N/18 and thence to relieve one corvette on patrol. ANEMONE is to detail corvette to return to Hvalfiord on relief. (F.O.2. H.F., 1840A/16).

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

T.B.R. areas. H.Q.C.C. consider that areas in your 1138A/13 are unduly large and will seriously hamper A/S sweeps by aircraft. Alternative proposals are being forwarded by air. (F.O.S., 1053A/16 to Capt. S.8).

Bombing Operations. On day 15/1 no operations took place. On Night 15/16, 48 A/C attacked Hamburg and 38 A/C bombed Emden. (H.Q.B.C., 1403/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S.
CORMORANT (Bombed 15/1). My 1530/15. CORMORANT returned to Humber with bomb damage. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1015/16).

IRVANA (M/S Trawler) sunk. IRVANA sunk by direct bomb hit at Piepa today in position 2 cables 270° North Corton Buoy at 0858A. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1031A/16).

STALIN. Your 1741A/15. Only superficial damage reported. W/T put out of action but since repaired. STALIN has withdrawn to southward for good air protection. Details very scanty. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1327C/16 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Bombed at 1230/16 in Convoy W S 15. See Shipping.

EMPIRE BAY (Bombed 15/1). At 1755/15 British EMPIRE BAY was bombed in Tees Bay near T.B.1. Buoy. 2 near misses caused damage to Engine room and stoke hold which filled with water. Ship abandoned. No casualties. A/C appeared to be hit by M.G. fire. 8. LLB 5 bombs 4". 6 M.G. Holman and 2 P.A.C. Fire opened with all M.G.'s prior to attack when aircraft was circling round. Fire was opened also by H.M. and M/V's in Bay before actual attack. No fighters seen. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1353/16 and 1756/16).

Mining.

Harwich. "LL" trawlers detonated one blue mine at 0526, in 51° 52.6' N. 01° 37' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0937A/16 and 1058A/16).

Parachute and mine cap found in vicinity crater in position 52° 00.2' N. 01° 23.8' E. where bomb explosion previously reported at 2155/14. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1251A/16).

Thames Estuary. At 0326/16. Sweepers exploded one mine in 225° B.5 Buoy 2.1 miles. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1400/16).

/Operation ...

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Operation S C. My 1121/8. Operation S C. 3.O.4th M.S.F. will use Aberdeen or Dundee according to circumstances. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1517/16).

BORDERDENE (British, 122 tons) sunk. My 1618A/14. Wreck established as that of BORDERDENE who had been mined in position unknown, but probably out of swept channel when taking a short cut. There is no trace of the crew of four. Amended position of wreck is $51^{\circ} 18' 2''$ N, $3^{\circ} 3' 4''$ W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1547A/16).

Humber. At 1222A/16 one Mine exploded by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.Humber, 2040A/16).

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface Unit. By D/F at 0311/16 G.M.T. a German unit, probably a small surface vessel, was estimated to be between Boulogne and Gravelines. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0524A/16 to V.A.Dover).

Wilhelmshaven. R/C of Wilhelmshaven at 1545/15 shows no major naval units present. (D.D.I.C., 0926A/16). Request photographic R/C of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven at earliest opportunity. (D.D.I.C., 1017A/16 to H.Q.C.C.)

U-Boats.

CAPE VERDE. SSSS. $58^{\circ} 32' N$. $14^{\circ} 59' W$. CAPE VERDE. (Lyness 1448/16) (Port Patrick Radio 1548/16). Proceed to assist CAPE VERDE homeward bound ex H X 168 threatened by U-Boat. (C. in C. W.A., 1615A/16 to CALDWELL). Am proceeding to position given in C. in C. W.A. 1615A/16. E.T.A. 2100Z. (HONEY SUCKLE, 1838A/16 to GENTIAN, Reptd. CALDWELL) SSSS $58^{\circ} 25' N$. $13^{\circ} 27' W$. CAPE VERDE sighted. (Port Patrick Radio, 1902/16). Your 1615A/16. Arrived in position at 2030A sweeping towards position given in Port Patrick's 1902/16, at 16 knots. Request further information if available. (CALDWELL, 2045A/16 to C. in C. W.A.) CAPE VERDE reports sighting U/B in $58^{\circ} 25' N$. $13^{\circ} 27' W$. at 1902/16 G.M.T. (C. in C. W.A., 2155A/16 to CALDWELL, Reptd. HONEY SUCKLE, GENTIAN).

Navigational.

Vaternish Light. TANGO reports Vaternish Light extinguished. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 0902A/16).

Belfast. Mew light and Whistle buoy, light extinguished. North Gap light buoy, light extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0957A/16). /Dundee ...

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- Dundee and Montrose. Ports of Dundee and Montrose closed due to weather. (F.O.I.C.Dundee, 1013/16).
- 21 D. Buoy. Commodore of F.N.⁶⁰5 reports 21 D. Buoy flashing every ten seconds A.M. 16th. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1036/16).
- Oban Bay. My 1103A/12. Area now considered safe. (N.O.I.C.Oban, 1056A/16).
- Blyth. Blyth Port closed owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1347A/16).
- 54 D. Buoy. 54 D Buoy reported missing. (C. in C. Nore 1517A/16)
- Denmark Strait. Request that amendment to depths in Denmark Strait obtained as the result of the survey carried out by SCOTT in September 1941 may be issued as corrections to charts as soon as practicable. It is understood that U.S. ships have recently done much sounding in this area and that the results have been forwarded to Washington. It is desirable that the one, two, three etc. hundred fathom lines should be delineated where possible. (C. in C. H.F., 1542A/16 to Hydrographer).
- Aberdeen. Port of Aberdeen closed due to weather. (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 1630/16).
- Hvalfiord. Reference Q Z H 166. Boom Trawler exhibiting a fixed red all round light is moored during dark hours to seaward of north side of gate. (N.O.I.C.Reykjavik, 2015A/16).
- Iceland Head of Hvalfiord. No. 13 buoy light extinguished. No.8 buoy dragged to position 338° 2.8 cables from Hvitanes farm house. (A.C.I.C., 2052A/16).

Casualties & Defects.

- EMPIRE HOMER. First quality bearing 311° EMPIRE HOMER. (Tiree Radio, 0006/16).
Request you will sail ST. OLAVES forthwith to assist EMPIRE HOMER aground 3 miles North of Barra Head. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0205A/16 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).
Received at 0058 G.M.T. de EMPIRE HOMER. Badly ashore east side Mingulay Island. Feared breaking up. (Port Patrick Radio, Recd. 0225/16).
Cancel my 0157A/16. Request you will sail TENACITY to assist EMPIRE HOMER. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0339A/16 to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown).
Sailed ST. OLAVES. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0342A/16).
Sailed TENACITY. E.T.A., 2000/16. (N.O.I.C.Campbeltown 0450A/16).
Intercepted at 0823 G.M.T. Daylight examination hull from aft to main mast broken off under water. Require immediate assistance

/to ...

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EMPIRE HOMER. to land crew by rocket line. Weather still severe.
(contd.) Mingulay Island East side.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0925/16).

R. J. CULLEN. Following received. Received 2255 G.M.T. de R. J. CULLEN S.O.S. seems we are on the South East corner of Barra Island from Malin Head Radio 2300/15. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0010/16).
Following received from Malin Head Radio. Received 0837 G.M.T. De R. J. CULLEN. Ashore on southeast side Barra Island. Engine room 5 and 6 full of water apparently pinnacled under engine. Landing crew when weather moderates. Assistance urgently required for leaving ship. Bearing 352° from Malin Head Radio 0826/16. Malin Head Radio. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0955A/16).
ST. OLAVES proceed to R. J. CULLEN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1025A/16).
Following received from Malin Head Radio. Intercept 1155 B.S.T. De R. J. CULLEN. Any attempt rescue this crew needs haste 1053 ends Malin Head Radio. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1200/16).
One trawler to proceed to assist R. J. CULLEN ashore S.E. side Barra Island. If tug ST. OLAVES is standing by wreck proceed in execution of previous orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 1409A/16 to NORTHERN GEM, NORTHERN PRIDE).
Your 1025/16. Am making very heavy weather with poor visibility. Cannot reach position before dark. Propose sheltering Loch Boisdale until first light 17th.
(ST. OLAVES, 1430A/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Crew R. J. CULLEN ashore S.E. side Barra Island require immediate help. If in close vicinity proceed to her assistance.
(C. in C. W.A., 1455A/16 to CHELSEA).
Your 1409A/16. NORTHERN PRIDE has detailed NORTHERN WAVE.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1617A/16).
Your 1430 approved. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1647A/16 to ST. OLAVES).
R. J. CULLEN aground on shoal position 056° 57' 23" N. (?007°) 25' 18" W. Reported 47 men aboard. Ship flooded from bridge aft and back breaking. Weather unfit for boat work. Am standing by. Request Barholda life-boat or breeches buoy may be sent. Request further orders. (WELLS, 1701A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
Position of R. J. CULLEN 56° 57' 23" N. 07° 25' 18" W. Lifeboat has been sent, but is unable to approach ship.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2047A/16 to ST. OLAVES. Reptd. CHELSEA, TENACITY).
Your 1701A/16. Barra lifeboats report that they will board when weather moderates. NORTHERN WAVE expects to arrive 2030A/16. Request you will remain as long as possible without missing your R/V with D.S.20 or until relieved by NORTHERN WAVE.
(C. in C. W.A., 2225A/16 to WELLS).

Iceland. Violent gale today has resulted in following casualties. At Hvalfiord U.S. Cruiser WICHITA, STRATFORD, and LDDK (VESTLAND) aground. Water boat SHELBRIT supposed ashore. Boom gate still as in my 1251A/15 and all traffic suspended. Escort for O N 56 unable to sail. Number 2 minefield out of action control hut demolished. Reykjavik 4 merchant ships ashore and one run aground in vicinity. Breaks have occurred on number 2 loop-hole. American Catalina Squadron 5 in number sunk. Communication land cable to H.M.S. HECLA broken all D/F stations out of action. Extensive aerial damage to buildings including uncompleted portion naval camp.
Gale damage. MAHOUT.

/Seidisfjord ...

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Iceland. Seidisfjord. A/S F D Station out of action owing to merchant ships (?dragging) over loop-hole tail. WICHITA, Q P 4 merchant ships in harbour may have to put to STRATFORD, sea without escort until the weather moderates. VESTLAND, 3 escort trawlers should arrive there shortly. SHELBRIT, (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0147A/16). EMPIRE CHIEF, Collier VESTLAND driven ashore in yesterday gale. CITY OF FORT WORTH, JESSIE Crew taken off. Engine room and number two hold MAERSK, EL flooded. Probable vessel will break up if bad ISLEO, LEINSTER weather arises. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1903A/16). aground. MAHOUT arrived DG. repairs and lifeboats damaged. Gale damage. Reference my 1838A/15. EMPIRE CHIEF hard aground MAHOUT. engine room and stokehold flooded. EL ISLEO hard aground holds flooded JESSIE MAERSK aground badly (contd.) holed holds flooded. All crews are safe.

(M.O.W.T. Iceland, 2008A/16 to M.O.W.T. London).

1. Following situation report to 1300/16 of damage caused by 18 hrs. storm ending approx. 2200/16. Report covers S.W. and W. sector. Details other sectors incomplete.
2. Shipping. EMPIRE CHIEF and CITY OF FORT WORTH ashore off Engey Is. JESSIE MAERSK and EL ISLEO ashore off Akurey Island. U.S.S. STRATFORD and VESTLAND ashore Hvalfjordur. LEINSTER aground east coast.
3. Aircraft. 2 P.B.M's and 3 P.B.Y's all American navy total loss.
4. Land mines broken throughout island. Wireless aerial damaged. No R.D.F. working.
5. Minefields and indicator loops damaged.
6. Accommodation damage as follows. Details.
7. Casualties to personnel few but include Major Powlesland R.A.M.C. seriously injured. (G.O.C. Iceland, 2035/16 to War Office).

LOCH MONTEITH. Independent Air Pump Broken down. Proceeding 5½ knots. Request authority to proceed Belfast for repairs. D.R. position 053° 58' N. 005° 06' W. (LOCH MONTEITH, 0545/16).

Arrived LOCH MONTEITH with S/M O.24. LOCH MONTEITH defective. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1247A/16).

CHELSEA. My approx. position at 0800. 055° 48' N. 007° W. Have developed following defects:-
(1) A/S equipment out of action.
(2) Salt water in number 1 oil fuel tank. (CHELSEA, 0900A/16). Proceed Londonderry or Aultbea to effect repairs. (C. in C. W.A., 1201A/16 to CHELSEA).

PLOVER. PLOVER returned Dover from operation N Q having been damaged in collision with DEODAR. (V.A. Dover, 0959A/16).

My 0959A. Damage to PLOVER is as follows. Details. Temporary repairs to make Vessel seaworthy in calm weather are in hand and should be completed by 21/1. In such event and given suitable weather it is hoped to complete operations before sailing Vessel on 23/1 for permanent repairs. (V.A. Dover, 1741A/16).

BROKE. Arrived BROKE. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1046A/16). (Damaged 15/1).

/AUTRICIA ...

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AUTRICIA
sunk on
15/1. N.A.B. AUTRICIA attached London Auxiliary Patrol was sunk 15/1 following explosion and fire alongside at Rainham. Four ratings suffering burns and cuts sent R.N.H.Chatham. (F.O.I.C.London 1134/16).

DOUGLAS.
(Holed 15/1). Arrived DOUGLAS and LEAMINGTON 1200A. (A.C.I.C., 1210A/16).

M.T.B.51.
M.T.B.54. My 1238A/24/12. M.T.B's 51 and 54 have now completed temporary repairs and are fit for passage. Former requires slipping to renew port rudder. Transmission of latter requires expert treatment by Messrs. Thornycroft. Intend sailing vessels in company to Portsmouth tomorrow. (V.A.Dover, 1302/16).

LOTTIE R. My 1430A/14. LOTTIE R no further damage to report. Ship trimmed nearly upright. Remainder list possibly due large quantity loose petrol. (D.S.T.O. Iceland, 1315A/16).

JESTER sunk
on 15/1. Following received from N.O.I.C.Campbeltown begins. JESTER sank off Trench Point in Campbeltown Loch after collision with H.M. S/M H.34 at approx. 2200/15. All crew saved. No apparent damage to H.34. 1125A/16/1 Ends. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1518A/16).

TORNADO. My 1535A/14. ^{N.T. N.W.D.} Sailing delayed owing to engine defect. (F.O.I.C. London, 1635/16).

TON S. Sailed rescue tug SCHELDE to assist coaster TON S in tow of RUBY from vicinity Lundy to Swansea. (F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 1805/16).

VANQUISHER. Following urgent defects to "A" Gun. Clamp bent, gun will not elevate beyond 10°. Gun will still fire. My P.C.S. 053° 19', 011° 15', 030°. 16. (VANQUISHER, 2100A/16).

ANEMONE,
ABELIA. Your 1840A/16. ANEMONE and ABELIA both out of A/S action with oscillators damaged by ice. (ANEMONE, 2359A/16 to F.O.2. H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.24. (s/m) Convoy hove to and scattered in Southern Minches. Take O.24 to shelter at Campbeltown or Rothesay until weather moderates, reporting intentions and E.T.A. to F.O.I.C.Greenock. (C. in C. W.A., 0005A/16 to LOCH MONTEITH).

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

- W.S.16. Following are proposed arrangements for convoy W.S.16. Details. (D. of S.T. 0630A/16).
- W N 31. In view of weather report W N 31 should seek shelter in Thurso Bay. (A.C.O.S., 0921A/16 to TANGO).
- W N 31 now widely scattered. Request Dunnet Head lights throughout night. Suggest your 0921A/16 be broadcast to all W N 31 ships. (TANGO, 1220A/16 to A.C.O.S.)
- Convoy E F. To all stragglers from "Empire Flame" convoy. All ships are to proceed to Loch Ewe forthwith. (D.T.D., 0929Z/16).
- CITY OF LINCOLN. Correction my 0145 G.M.T/16. Position should read 'bearing and distance from letter position O, 301°, 418 miles'. (CITY OF LINCOLN 1030 GMT/16).
- S C 64. Ships given in 0115Z/10 from N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B. not now for Iceland (C). (D.T.D., 1050A/16 to A.C.I.C.)
- Convoy C E 64. My 0959A. Convoy C E 64 was more than two hours ahead of time off Dover. In consequence arrangements whereby PLOVER and escort should arrive Dover before passage of convoy were thrown out. *(Operation N.R.)* Although vessels were warned, a meeting in darkness in the Narrow Downs Channel could not be avoided. It is most important that a C E convoy should not pass Dover before programme since this interferes with previously made dispositions in the sailing of vessels from Dover to join convoy. It further results in the convoy having to lose time in the Downs where it is vulnerable to enemy shelling. Time should, when necessary, be lost when westwards of Folkestone Gate. (V.A.Dover, 1108A/16).
- O G 78. Your 2300A/15. Report forthwith suitable R/V for 1200Z/17 and 1200Z/18 en route ordered in my 1921A/15. G.B.M.S. will then be made to stragglers. (C. in C. W.A., 1155A/16 to PELICAN). My 1155A/16. Report situation forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 2124A/16 to PELICAN).
- Atlantic Convoy Escorts. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1551Z/15. I should be glad to help but cannot do so unless I am relieved of some of my existing commitments. (2) State of all Long-Leg Destroyers in my Command is:- (A) HAVELOCK, CHURCHILL, CHESTERFIELD, BUXTON, RIPLEY, PIORUN. None of these will be ready this month except perhaps PIORUN whose date is uncertain. (B) HIGHLANDER, HESPERUS, HARVESTER detached but returning shortly. HIGHLANDER may be ready for service end of January. HESPERUS requires damage repair on return. HARVESTER overdue for refit.

/(C) ...

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

Atlantic Convoy Escorts. (contd.) (C) HURRICANE starts working up next week after recommission.
(D) BEVERLEY, ROCKINGHAM due home with N.A.1 19/1 and required to sail 25/1 to meet ALMANZORA.
(E) BELMONT, MONTGOMERY now in Canadian waters and due to bring back N.A.2 if fit for service.
(F) GARLAND, SHERWOOD required to sail with A.M.C's on 24/1 and bring back N.A.3.
(G) BRADFORD, CLARE employed on Sierra Leone convoy.
(3) Further depletion of my forces must be expected if Destroyers continue to be employed on trans-Atlantic escorts in winter conditions. (C. in C. W.A., 1156A/16).

W S 15. LLANGIBBY CASTLE torpedoed. LLANGIBBY CASTLE in 45° 35' N. 20° 50' W. at 0900 hit in stern by torpedo (?). Steering gear completely smashed. Her speed 14 knots steering by engines. Instructed her to steer for 43° 30' N. 25° W. (BOREAS, 1159N/16 to Admty.)
From LLANGIBBY CASTLE. 45° 40' N. 20° W.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE bombed. (Valentia Radio 1229/16). Intercept at 1232 G.M.T. de GLD begins. AAAA 45° 14' N. 20° W. LLANGIBBY CASTLE bombed 1230/16. 1322 B.S.T. Seaforth Radio. (Liverpool, T.O.R. 1333/16).
Homing signals for U-Boats were transmitted by enemy A/C presumably in vicinity of Convoy W S 15, at 1254Z/16. Convoy was again reported by U-Boat at 1252Z/16.
(D.D.I.C., 1430A/16 to Escorts W S 15 and V A 3.)
Following Transports sailed U.K. on 11/1 in Convoy W S 15. Names and details. (D. of S.T. 1503A/16) See Lion Copy.
Detached from 3 B.S. at 1315Z/16, position 046° 14', 020° 37'. Met convoy at 1520Z/16, P.C.S. 045° 37', 020° (215'), (2253°) 13½. BOREAS reports LLANGIBBY CASTLE making approximately 12 knots steering by engine to position R. Proceeded to search for LLANGIBBY CASTLE until dusk. Did not contact. My P.C.S. 1900Z, 046° 03', 020° 34', 020°, 18 to Greenock.
(GARLAND, 1805Z/16 to Admty.)
At 1820Z/16 U-boat transmitted signal of type usually indicating enemy report from a position within 100' of 45 30 N. 19° W. (D.D.I.C., 2031A/16 to Escorts W.S.15).

SWIFT. S.S.SWIFT missing from Convoy. (WALLACE, 1240A/16).

O N. 56. H X. 169. O N. 56. Convoy is to disperse and proceed along standard route.
(2) CALDWELL, FENNEL, HONEYSUCKLE, and GENTIAN comply with my 1847A/15. N.T.N.W.D.
(3) THYME and LOOSESTRIFE proceed at speed compatible with weather to meet H X 169 which will be 24 hours late at R/V.
(C. in C. W.A., 1309A/16).

E N 33. EMPIRE CAPE. My 1319/11. S.S.EMPIRE CAPE will be sailed in E N 33. JAN VAN BRAKEL will act as her special escort within the convoy and will escort as far as Minches. Request you will provide escort to take over her special protection from JAN VAN BRAKEL.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1315/16). *to whom?*

/O N 3.57 ...

Code No.	Ship.	Speed.	Numbers on board.	Destination.	Pendant number.
Y. 12	STAFFORD-SHIRE.	14½	21 138 2051 1	South Africa Middle East. Malaya. Aden.	41
Y. 13	STIRLING CASTLE	19	2 2 79 1038 389 1 1 215	South Africa Middle East. Iraq India. Burma. Malaya. Ceylon.	34.
Y. 14	STRATHMORE	20	631 481 1651 516 262 4	Middle East Iraq. India. Burma. Ceylon. Malaya.	31
Y. 15	STRATHNAVER	18	214 1121 1047 325 352 1	Middle East. Iraq. India. Burma. Ceylon. Malaya.	43
Y. 16	VICEROY OF INDIA	17	25 3 28 2 2204 196 99	West Africa South Africa. East Africa. Aden. Middle East. India. Malaya.	42
Y. 20	CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS	15	19 1556	Middle East Malaya.	53
Y. 21	LACONIA	16	3 3032	West Africa. Middle East.	32

H. N. M. S. COLOMBIA, Pendant number 52, is also with convoy.

2. Following M. T. guns stores etc. were shipped in troop transports.

Ship	Contents	Destination
BRITANNIC	Guns, M. T. Stores.	Bombay.
EMPIRE WOODLARK	Ammunition and stores.	Singapore.
LLANGIBBY CASTLE	485 tons oil	Singapore.
ORONTES	Ammunition	Middle East.
OTRANTO	1450 tons tinfoil, Stores.	Middle East.
STIRLING CASTLE	Guns, M. T. stores	Bombay.
STRATHMORE	Stores, guns, ammunition, Bren Carriers.	Bombay.
STRATHNAVER	Stores, guns, M. T.	Bombay.
CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS	290 tons oil, stores	Singapore.
LACONIA	253 tons tin, M. T. ammunition.	Middle East.

MOST SECRET

3. Following ~~M.T. ships also called in answer W 6.15.~~

Code No.	Ship.	Speed.	Contents.	Number of Personnel on board.	Destination.	Pendant number.
R. 354	AUTOLYCUS	14	Vehicles, guns, stores.	298 1	Malaya Middle East.	51
R. 355	AAGTEKERK	15	Vehicles, guns, stores	16	Iraq	64
			4 Oxfords) 1 Battle)	-	Durban.	
R. 356	PARDO	15	Vehicles, guns, stores.	16	Malaya.	64
			272 ft. M.Ls.-		Durban.	
R. 357.	PORT CHALMERS	15	Vehicles, guns, stores.	249	Iraq.	11
				2	Burma	
R. 358	DORSET	15	Vehicles, guns, tanks, stores.	5	Middle East.	62
R. 359	MELBOURNE STAR	15	Vehicles, guns, tanks, stores.	310	Middle East.	12
			2 Battles	-	Durban.	
R. 362	ELIZABETH BAKKE	15	Vehicles, guns, stores.	-	Iraq and India.	13
				16	Iraq.	
			4 Oxfords	-	Capetown.	

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

5. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should arrange for on-carriage of personnel from South Africa as follows.

(a) for East Africa ex VICEROY OF INDIA.

(b) for Aden and Middle East ex BRITANNIC EMPIRE WOODLARK ARAWA STAFFORDSHIRE STIRLING CASTLE STRATHMORE STRATHNAVER CRISTIAAN HUYGENS.

(c) for India and Iraq ex ARAWA VICEROY OF INDIA.

6. P.S.T.O. India should arrange for on-carriage from India of all personnel for Iraq and Burma and Ceylon.

7./.....

7. Arrangements to be made for personnel for Malaya ex BRITANNIC LETITIA OTRANTO STIRLING CASTLE STRATHMORE STRATHNAVER and VICEROY OF INDIA will be notified later.
8. ARAWA will proceed from Durban to Plate to load for U.K.
9. STIRLING CASTLE will proceed from Bombay to New Zealand to load for U.K. Precise loading port will be notified later.
10. In view of possible requirements in Indian Ocean disposal of remaining personnel ships will have to be notified later.
11. All M.T. Ships except ARGTEKERK PARDO and MELBOURNE STAR should replenish at Capetown together with EMPIRE WOODLARK LLANGIBBY CASTLE ORONTES STIRLING CASTLE CHRISTIAN HUYGENS and LACONIA. Remainder at Durban.
12. Commodore of Convoy is Commodore A.T. Tillard in STRATHMORE
13. Addressees pass to S.L.O.'s and Military Authorities concerned.

1503A/16

D. of S.T.
M. of W.T. Ext. 2187.

1st. Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(F).
A.C.N.S.(T).
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.D(2).
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.(2).
E.P.S.
N.I.D. 10.
D.G.D.
D. of S.T.

N.P.

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16.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

O N S 57. If Convoy cannot be formed up in daylight 17th it is to be sailed as early as possible 18th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1749A/16 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Q P 5. U-Boat may have reported Q P 5 at 1620Z.
(D.D.I.C., 1804A/16 to Escorts Q P 5).
In view of A.M. 1804A/16 convoy Q P 5 is not to be dispersed. TARTAR and ICARUS are to continue escorting for the present. (2) CUMBERLAND is to part company now and proceed Clyde.
(C. in C. H.F., 2153A/16 to CUMBERLAND).

P Q Convoys. P Q Convoys will assemble in future at Loch Ewe,
P Q 10. thence proceeding direct to North Russian ports.
P Q 10 sailing Loch Ewe 25/1 will initiate a 10 day cycle. (D.T.D. 1840A/16).

O G Convoys. O G convoy sailing telegrams. Subject to your concurrence it is intended to signal convoy sailing telegram in following form.
1. Name of convoy. 2. Name of escorts. 3. Commodore's name ship and destination. 4. Names of ships and destinations.
(C. in C. W.A., 1840A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Informing SHARPSHOOTER, BRITOMART and SALAMANDER will be in
TRINIDAD. the vicinity of M Z from 1900 tomorrow to await arrival of Convoy and Escort to Kola Inlet.
(S.O. M/S.1, 2007A/16 to TRINIDAD.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

WESTCOTT collision. At 2305/15 in 034° 11' N. 009° 58' W., WESTCOTT was in collision with unknown Portuguese Trawler and received slight hull damage port side aft. Request repair on completion of present duty. Trawler probably only slightly damaged was left in company of Portuguese Trawler ALBATROSS.
(WESTCOTT, 0840A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

WOODRUFF. Arrived Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0930/16 to S.O.I. Gib.)

WHITEHALL, HESPERUS. Arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1032A/16 to Admty, C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Area Restrictions. H.Q.C.C. considers areas in your 1138A/13 are unduly large and will seriously hamper A/S sweeps by aircraft. Alternative proposals are being forwarded by air.
(F.O.S. 1053A/16 to Capt. S.8.)

S.L.97 D/F bearing at 0907 and 0920 indicating the probability of 2 U-Boats being in your vicinity.
S.L.97G, (F.O.C.N.A. 1055A/16 to Escorts S.L.97G.)
U/B's & German U-Boat made sighting report at 1028 G.M.T.
A/C reports. bearing approx. 286° Gibraltar.
etc. (F.O.C.N.A. 1147A/16 to Escorts S.L.97, S.L.97G.)
CAMPBELTOWN, FLEETWOOD, WOODRUFF)

When well clear of Azores after fuelling report P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A. 1243A/16 to CAMPBELTOWN)
Long range enemy A/C may be approaching your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1331A/16 to V.A.3, Escorts of W.S.15, S.L.97 and S.L. 97G.)
At 1253 G.M.T. German U-Boat made sighting report of S.L.97.
F.W. aircraft probable homing U-Boats on S.L.97 or S.L.97G at 1304 G.M.T.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1429A/16 to Escorts S.L.97, S.L.97G.)
My 1243A/16. WOODRUFF is also to report.
(C. in C. W.A. 1551A/16 to WOODRUFF)
Instruct LADY HOGARTH, ARCTIC RANGER to remain with convoy S.L.97 (? G) until further orders.
(F.O.C.N.A.1824A/16 to Ships escorting S.L.97G.)
Left convoy S.L.97G 2000Z/16. Returning Gibraltar, E.T.A. 1700/18. 1 U-Boat leaked homing on convoy1505/16. F.W. Condor driven off by gunfire 1700/14 and 1600/15. Weather report.
Capt.D.19, 1842Z/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MENIR BRAZ My 1655/13. Sailing delayed probably until
French. 18th or 19th.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1113/16, to Admty, (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - contd.

U.93. Congratulations on destruction of U.93 on 15/1.
 sunk by (A.C.N.S.(T) 1235A/16 to HESPERUS.
 HESPERUS. At 0115/15 in approx. 36.40 N. 15.52 W. HESPERUS,
 *^(SL97G) LAFOREY, sweeping 6 to 8 miles on port quarter of
 convoy. * HESPERUS obtained R.D.F. contact 2400
 yards, 25° on starboard bow, asdic contact obtained at 2000
 yards. Fire opened from foremost gun at 1000 yards. U-Boat
 sighted steering away at 17 knots. Rammed, glancing blow on
 port side of U.93. Shallow pattern depth charges fired on
 passing followed by gun fire from after gun. Established two
 hits by gunfire and not possible to determine whether U-Boat
 sunk directly due to ramming, depth charges, gunfire, or
 scuttling charges. 5 Officers and 31 ratings brought to
 Gibraltar, 4 more prisoners in LAFOREY.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1302A/16, to Admty.)

BARCLOSE, My 1204A/15/1. Sailing delayed.
 BARFOAM, (F.O.C.N.A. 1243A/16 to C. in C. S.A.)
 BARFORD.

T.B.R. for Request T.B.R. in area G 4 may be extended for
 SEVERN until 0200/20.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1436A/16, to Admty, H.Q.C.C.)

Free French Your 1905/14. Has proposed visit been discussed
 visit to with Portuguese? If not, it would be possible
 Horta. to hoist white ensign and represent B.L.O. as
 C.O. (2). A call at Horta will be avoided if
 possible but request your views on above
 suggestion in case emergency call proves necessary. 3. The
 sloop will not, in any case, require to enter Horta.
 (Head of M. 1451A/16 to N.A. Lisbon.)
 Your 1451A/16 Matter discussed with C.N.S. and therefore
 consider change of Flag should not be made. Should trawler
 call (? it) "Force Majeure" she should have no communication
 with shore.
 (N.A. Lisbon, 2009/16 to Admty.)

ANTHONY. E.T.A. Gibraltar at 0830A/18. My P.C. and S.
 043° 03' N. 015° 08' W. 152° 16.5 knots.
 Weather report.
 (ANTHONY, 1630A/16, to F.O.C.N.A.)

S.B.R. Ops.477 16/1 Serial number G.14.
 Amend times in my serial number G.12 (T.O.O.
 1914/15 bombing restrictions.) as follows.
 For 0200/17 read 1800/17. For 0800/17 read
 0001/18 and in my serial number G.13 paragraph
 B for 0800/18 read 0001/19.
 (H.Q.C.C.1649/16 to R.A.F. Gib.)

/French ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

French Shipping. Gibraltar 1145. ^{A.P.V.} Escort vessel LA SETOISE, S.S. BOURGES, NANCEEN, both laden latter with lorries on deck, PROVIDENCE full with civilian men and women, trawlers POITOU, TATIANA, ALFRED, Westbound.
(S.O.I. Gib, 1803A/16 to Admty. etc.)

P. 39. My 1208/14, sailed P.39.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1900A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

ELSA ESSBERGER Your 1030/12. Ship now identified as ELSA (entered Ferrol, presumed damaged 12/1. ESSBERGER from Tokio. May have made R/V with raider on route. Please ascertain that there are no British prisoners of war on board.
(D.N.I. 1939A/16 to Consul, Corunna)

WESTCOTT. ? Not met. My P. C. and S. 034° 19' N. 009° 58 W., 063°, 15 knots. Weather.
(WESTCOTT, 2000A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CHESAPEAKE. Engine disabled past 4 days attempted to repair useless. Position 338° 183 miles from Hickory.
(CHESAPEAKE 2048/16.)

South Atlantic.

W.S.15. Following Personnel arriving Freetown in W.S.15 require onward conveyance.
3. Request you arrange accordingly.
(D.S.T. 0629A/16 to S.T.O. Freetown)

BIRMINGHAM. Arrival Falkland Is. 16/1 R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM.
(N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1011Z/16, to Admty.)

Convoy Transhipments. From experience of last two convoys strongly recommend that loading of M/T ships be so arranged that while destinations of ships can be altered, transhipments of cargoes should only be necessary in exceptional cases and then reduced to a minimum. Risk of transhipment of cargoes delaying whole convoy is serious. Durban and Capetown are interdependent in this respect and Capetown section has to remain there after completion of fuelling etc., until date of readiness for sea of Durban section is known. While W.S.14 was at

/Durban ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Convoy Shipments. contd. Durban, all Durban bound traffic from other ports was suspended, the port held 75 seagoing ships of which 27 had to lie on outer anchorage, and Capetown held 70 of which half were in Table Bay. Any further transshipments which prolong convoys' stay would undoubtedly have seriously dislocated all shipping movements in this area with consequent repercussions elsewhere.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1049Z/16, to D. of S.T.)

BIRMINGHAM, interception of unreported neutral M/V's. On 15/1 in 050° 55' S. 062° 34' W. BIRMINGHAM intercepted BRAGELAND (Swedish) of whose presence in S.A. no intimation had been promulgated in Vescas. 2. In similar circumstances on 23/11 ELIN K. (Norwegian) was sighted approaching Port Stanley. 3. Appearance of both ships is very similar to that of German-built raider or supply ship and unless receipt of information can be absolutely relied on, regrettable incidents may occur. Admty. 1618A/16/12 refers.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1343Z/16 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. S.O.I. Montevideo)

S. DOMINGUE. (French) Departure Cayenne 18th.
(N.C.S.O. Para. 1540/16 to D. of S.T.)

O.S.18. My 1025A/4 and 1810A/4 GENISTA delayed and is to
O.S.19. sail with O.S.18. TAMARISK is also to sail with
O.S.18. BELLWORT is to sail with O.S.19.
Allocation of OXLIP to South Atlantic is cancelled.
(C. in C. W.A. 1812A/16 to C. in C. S.A.etc.)

See 10.386

Routeing of U.S. Shipping Your 2015Z/8. Approved to continue the present arrangement so long as this is agreeable to the local U.S. Naval authority. Report when any change is intended.
(D.T.D. 2032A/16 to C.S.A. Buenos Aires)

DERBYSHIRE. Your 1311Z/4. It is anticipated DERBYSHIRE could be taken in hand for refit in U.K. about end of February.
2. Refitting port will be signalled when date of arrival is known.
(D.O.D.(F) 2216A/16 to C. in C. S.A.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Following has been read.

Enemy units
attacked by
A/C.P. C. and S. of enemy consisting of 1 Merchant
Vessel 1 Destroyer is 180° 35° N., 12° E.,
8/360, 12 knots. Have attacked with torpedoes
result unknown.

(A/C using call sign 7KFN, 0135/16.)

Position one merchant ship one destroyer is
180° 35° N. 012° E. 8 miles. Swordfish have attacked enemy
with torpedoes, estimated number of hits unknown.
(V.A. Malta, 0135B/16 to P.35.)

11 R.M.Bn.

Ref. 60879 (1245/3) (M.O.1) 3/1, para. 1 (d) and
3. Agreed with C. in C. Med. that H.Q. group
and 11 R.M.Bn. should come under his command.
(C. in C. M.E. 0310/16 to W.O.)"Booty",
FARNDALE,
A/C attack.Following has been read. Help Convoy "Booty"
WPLY 3910. 32.39 N., 25.10 E.
(?FARNDALE, 1001/16).
Bombed by 1 JU.88, no damage.
(FARNDALE, 1035B/16 to S.O. Force I.)

UPRIGHT.

My 2054/8:- UPRIGHT is not now required to
reach Holy Loch before first week in April.
(F.O.S. 1054A/16 to C. in C. Med.)*See p. 367.*

GLOXINIA.

Sail from Malta at 1500B/17 proceed by S.E.
channel and then through following position
M, 035° 23' N 014° 20' E. N, 033° 40' N. 016°
22' E. O, 032° 44' N. 018° 51' E. P, 032° 30' N. 020° 00' E.
thence Tobruk as ordered by S.O. Force "I" (2) Expected S. of
A. 14 knots. (3) Movement of own force as in C. in C. Med.
1250B/11 as amended 1610B/14 and my 1015B/16. (4) Recognition
signals as in C. in C. Med. 1558B/14. (5) Fighter codeword
"Jumbo".
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1201B/16 to GLOXINIA.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 0531/10. INDOMITABLE proposed to fly
off 3 batches 16 aircraft each. Second batch
2½ hours after first and third 31 hours after
second. Detailed proposals will be signalled
by INDOMITABLE direct to you from Aden.
N.O.I.C. Malaya pass to A.O.C. Far East.
(C. in C. Med. 1230B/16 to C. in C. E.F.)TRIUMPH
overdue.Regret TRIUMPH is overdue and has failed to
reply to signals. TRIUMPH had orders at end
of her patrol in Aegean to carry out a special
operation for embarkation of British Refugee
Troops from Greek Islands. Operation was to be undertaken
at discretion of C.O. any time after 10/1. She was expected
back at Alexandria about 14/1. In view of nature of
operation possibility that she may have been captured by

/disguised ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.TRIUMPH
overdue.
contd.

disguised enemy cannot be altogether ruled out. Compromise of all documents and materials is therefore possible. I consider however that it is more likely that she hit a mine. (C.B.'s on board)
(C. in C. Med. 1256B/16, to Admty.)

DUNKERQUE.

Left 15/1 for Cette.
(Palma, Mallorca, 1400/16, to D. of S.T.)

PORPOISE.

Memorandum S.L.63 para. 2. Cancel second object. Remain on patrol in area S. You will be recalled to leave patrol P.M./21st to arrive Alexandria A.M./22nd.
(Capt. S.1. 1415B/16, to PORPOISE.)

Malta
Air Report.

15th, 1429 hours 5 ME, 109 and ME 110 cloud cover bombs Gozo, six houses destroyed 3 civilians killed. Night 15/16 nil. 16th 5 alerts 0443, 0644, 0735, 0759, 1027 hours, 9 raiders cloud cover, bombs land sea slight damage Senglea Wharf, one civilian killed two injured KA Fisad Takali and Halfar still unserviceable. Night 15/16 1 Wellington nuisance raid over Tripoli in very bad weather 2030 to 2238 hours two (fires?) started East Tripoli. Swordfish attacked M/V 2335 hours 074° Melita 50 miles, 2 probable hits, vessel left stationary pouring black smoke, DR circling.
(H.Q. Malta, 1630/16.)

Movements
summary.

Part A. A/S craft escorting as follows:-
THORGRIM due Port Said 1200/17 Alexandria 0800/18 from Haifa. AMBER Alexandria 1200/17th from Port Said. FALK due Haifa 0700/17 from Alexandria. SNAPDRAGON due Famagusta 1400/27 from Port Said. DELPHINIUM due Iskanderun 0700/17 thence Beirut. PANTHER at Haifa. ~~KLOANNA~~ 17 due Port Said 0800/17 from Alexandria.
Part B. Convoy M.W. 8A. CARLISLE, GRIFFIN, HERO, HASTY and ARROW left Alexandria 0900/16 through 031° 50' N. 027° 25' E. at 2000/16 and 032° 25' N. 024° 40' E. at 0800/17 and 033° 20' N. 022° 00' E. at 2000/17. Convoy M.W. 8B. GURKHA, LEGION, ISAAC SWEERS and MAORI left Alexandria 1500/16 through 031° 50' N. 027° 25' E. at 0100/17 and 032° 25' N. 024° 40' E. at 1100/17 and 033° 20' N. 022° 00' E. at 2130/17 Force B. 15th C.S. KELVIN and 6 destroyers leave Alexandria 2359/16 through 031° 50' N. 027° 40' E. at 0700/17 and 032° 50' N. 024° 40' E. at 1700/17.
ERIDGE, DULVERTON, FARNDAL (DERWENTDALE) (missing group) (?IERAS) (missing group) in approx. 032° 10' N. 026° 08' E. at 1700/16 proceeding to Port Said 9½ knots routed through 032° 05' N. until east of 029° 00' E. Two destroyers part company a.m./17 for Alexandria. SOUTHERN MAID, ELPIS leave Tobruk 1530/16 due Derna 0900/17. HEYTHROP, ~~EBONY~~, HYACINTH, SOUTHERN SEA with A.T.18 leave Alexandria 0700/17 for Tobruk. AVON VALE, ANTWERP, SOUTHERN ISLE with T.A.17 leave Tobruk dawn/17th through Z, J, Y, A, due Alexandria p.m./18. M.L. 1015 and 1051 operate in Gulf of Sollum.
Part C. and D. Force K operating from Malta.
(C. in C, Med. 1824B/16 to Med. Fleet.)

/Massawa ...

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Massawa,
U.S. Salvage
Unit.

Head of America Mission states that U.S. Salvage Unit is being prepared to sail for Massawa at an early date. Consider this assistance is required and suggest America be allocated all ships for salvage other than those mentioned in schedule one of agreement attached to A.L.S. 431/41, 16/12/1941. R.N. H.Q. Middle East pass to America Mission.
(C. in C, Med. 2241B/16 to Admty.)

War Diary.16.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ELYSIA. Your 1456/14. ELYSIA arrived Bombay 27/12. Still 665. (As received, could be "berthed" or "in port" both one out). (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0349Z /16 to Admty).

M/S Groups. My 2304/25/11/41. Request anticipated dates of arrival at fitting out ports or completion of conversion of 174th, 175th and 176th M/S Groups. (D.M.S., 1658A/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

Shipping Policy. General policy in force for shipping proceeding from E.I. Station into N.E.I. and Malaya. (C. in C. E.I., 1150Z/16) See Lion Copy.

China.

Borneo. Summary of denial measures ordered by Governor, Borneo. (British Agent, Singapore, No T.O.O./16 to S. of S. for Colonies). See Lion Copy.

Malaya. Reports. Daily Op. Sum. to 1030Z/15. Oil tanks at Port Swettenham bombed and machine gunned and considerable damage inflicted. Sungei Patani railway junction attacked early hours 15/1 but bad weather prevented accurate location of target and observation. Air raid on Singapore Island by approx. 50 bombers escorted by fighters. Slight damage Naval Base and damage to 2 Sharks and one Blenheim Aircraft at Tengah. 3 Buffaloes damaged 1 Pilot killed 1 Pilot and Buffalo missing. Dive bombers heavily attacked right flank. 232 Fighter Sqdn. Hurricane 11 arrived Singapore 13/1 and first flown 15/1, most heartening to all of us. (A.H.Q., Far East, 0159/16.)

Air Intell. Summary 55. 0800/15 to 0800/16. Photographic R/C Georgetown 2 1500 ton ships 4 500 ton ships and 100 small craft Port Swettenham possibly one 1500 ton vessel No sightings area Georgetown/Port Swettenham to a depth 50 miles west of coast. 2. Many small vessels including five barges apparently full of troops near mouth of Sungei Lingai (2° 20' N., 102° E) later attacked by 6 Hudsons and 3 Blenheims covered by 12 Buffaloes. 2 barges sunk other probably destroyed. This force saw 60 to 70 small native vessels 1 500 ton vessel and launch towing 2 barges near Malacca. 3. 3 native Praus believed power driven near Chukai (4° 29' N., 103° 28' E). 6. 3 A/C raided Sungei Patani 7. Segamat and Muar heavily raided. 8. Singapore raided for 2 1/2 hours by approx. 50 aircraft Navy 96 and Army 97 heavy bombers escorted by Navy "O" Fighters. Bombs dropped from high level Tengah Sembawang and Naval Base. No R.A.F. damage, slight damage residential Area Naval Base. (Air H.Q., F.E., 0647/16).

MOST SECRET

1150z/16th January

~~MOST SECRET~~~~MESSAGE~~

IN

Date 21.1.42

Recd. 0552

From C. in C. East Indies

Naval Cypher C by W/T

Addressed East Indies Station 438C for All N.C.S.O.'s
and S.T.O.'s., repeated Admiralty, R.A. Malaya,
B.N.L.O. Batavia, S.N.O. R.S.F., N.O.I.C. Aden,
P.S.T.O. Egypt, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, F.O.J., P.S.T.O.
Simonstown, F.O. in C. Simonstown, N.L.O. Durban.

NITE

7.

1. The following is the general policy now in force for shipping proceeding from the East Indies Station into Dutch East Indies and Malaya.

2. Troop Transports. ships carrying more than a certain specified number of service personnel will always be sailed in convoy unless instructions are given to the contrary.

3. Motor transport ships and other military storeships

(a) These will normally be sailed independently from any port routed diversely

(b) When, however, these ships compare favourably in speed with personnel convoys and no great delay is involved, application is to be made to C. in C. East Indies to include them in troop convoys.

4. Other Merchant shipping Only ships loaded with essential war stores or food supplies may be sailed to ports in Malaya. They may sail independently from any port, diversely routed.

5. Routing.

(a) All independently sailed ships of any category (except Dutch) are to be routed to call at Batavia for further orders

(b) Dutch merchant ships are to be instructed to proceed Oosthaven (05 degs 28' South 105 degs 16' East)

(c) (corrupt passage /)

6. Entries to Batavia instructions for entry into Batavia are given in W D B 175 issued December 27th 1941.

7. Sunda Strait All ships are to be warned that in vicinity Sunda Strait they may be met by British or Allied warships who may give them new instructions. Ships must be prepared for immediate and punctilious challenge and reply accurately cancel Para. 4 of my 1552 of 13th December 1941.

1150z/16

✓ Check of corrupt passage being called for.

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)

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

W.D.
 Duty Capt.(2)
 Hd. of M.
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D.(2)
 D.T.D.(M)
 N.I.D.10
 D.G.D.
 Admiral Somerville
 Admiral Bellairs

AFP

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN No T.O.O. 16th January.

From British Agent, Singapore. Date 15.1.42.

Recd. 0150.

CYPHER.

Addressed Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 50 Government House.

Your telegram No. 6.

Borneo.

Following is summary of denial measures ordered by Governor of Borneo. Begins.

No. 137. Your telegram of 11th January. Denial measures taken or ordered in unoccupied territory:

- (a) All stocks of rubber coagulants ?copra cutch jute bags aviation spirit have already been destroyed.
- (b) Rubber estates have been ordered to remove and conceal completed parts of factory machinery.
- (c) Surplus weapons and ammunition - see para. 2 of my telegram No. 131 - destruction completed.
- (d) Motor spirit - stocks number only sufficient for current local needs. Destruction would ?transport completely disorganise our essential services and I have not ordered destruction. Stocks number 120 tons Sandakan of boiler fuel is being dumped at sea as rapidly as possible. Our facilities for carrying and dumping are very limited and progress is slow. Quantity of lubrication oil in stock is also being reduced.
- (e) Food stocks (?are) small any destruction will cause starvation and serious local disturbance, bloodshed. We could not control the population and we would make them actively and permanently hostile if we ourselves destroy foodstuffs. Dispersal is continuing.
- (f) Stocks of non ferrous metals. Bulk now dumped in the sea and this is continuing.
- (g) Scrap metal of possible use to the enemy is being destroyed as opportunity offers.
- (h) Sea-going launches. Most have been scuttled. Those remaining are essential for the time being for supplying outlying camps and settlements. Orders ensuring that none fall into the hands of the enemy have been issued.

I had not ordered the destruction of the saw mills or stocks of timber or the Cutch factory.

Contd/.....

Only effective means of doing so would be by fire which would almost certainly result in wide conflagration of Asiatic habitations and would be tantamount to order to destroy the town and all the services.

2. Denial measures of anything that may be useful without serious deprivation of the local population are constantly under review.

3. I regret that in attempting to obtain news up to the last moment I failed to order the destruction of Jesselton wireless station, Kudat Lahad Datu and Tawao stations have been ordered to destroy as completely as possible their wireless apparatus and engines and equipment as soon as enemy approach is imminent, or earlier if it becomes known to them that Sandakan has been occupied. Similar precautions ordered in respect of Sandakan wireless and spare parts now being destroyed.
Ends.

I have telegraphed the Governor as follows. Begins:

Governor Sandakan.

Your telegram No. 137.

(b) Destruction safer than concealment as places of concealment cannot be kept secret and would probably be revealed if pressure applied. Please arrange accordingly.

(d) It may be regarded as certain that the enemy will seize any stock of motor spirit and oil and these should be destroyed at last moment.

(i) All machinery must be destroyed.

No T.O.O.

Recd. from Colonial Office. A.M./16.

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

1st Lord.	D.N.A.D.	I.P. (3)
1st S.L.	Hd. of M. (35)	W.D.
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	D.P.D.
5th S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	D.S.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (F)	Admiral Bailey
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.O.D. (F)	Admiral Bellairs.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.C. (2)	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.N.I. (7) & for	A.L. & D.N. L.O.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.D.I.C. (2)	Admiral Somerville.
Naval Sec.	D. of P. (2)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. A/S W.	

GJ.

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Shipping
Lost,
Borneo.

Following ships presumed lost owing to Japanese occupation of Borneo. SHINAI, crew refused to sail from Kuching after bombing attack. Also SUBOK and JITRA, based on Labuan, and MARGARET, REJANG, GLADYS and KIM CHIN BENG based on Kuching. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0825Z/16 to Admty).

S.S. SENANG,
GADILA,
mined.

Dutch SENANG struck a mine presumed in Dutch minefield and sank below surface 16th in 001° 15' N., 104° 05' E., 39 survivors. GADILA mined origin unknown in channel west of outer shoals beacon when leaving Singapore 15/1. Extensive damage to 3 forward tanks and pump rooms. Cargo now been discharged. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0845Z/16)

Air Raid
15/1.

15/1 high bombing, 12 60 kilo. H.E. (One U.X.B.), 3 50 kilo, incendiaries. Slight damage to number 4 transit shed. Residential quarters of Jackson medium damage, one block demolished. Incendiaries used as described in A.M.1611/9 no fires (?resulted). Casualties. (R.A. Malaya, 1029Z/16 to Admty).

MOUNT
VERNON.

Your 0905/15. Request you divert MOUNT VERNON forthwith to Suez reporting E.T.A. (D.O.D. (F), 1040A/16 to R.A. Malaya).

See also next page

Burma
Evacuations.

Governor of Burma reports urgent need for evacuating 40,000 Indians from Rangoon but that "naval authorities" doubtful of allowing deck passengers on grounds of security of information about sailing.
2. Request you will ensure every reasonable possibility of evacuation is utilised. (V.C.N.S., 1314A/16 to C. in C. E.F.)

Need for
Minesweepers.

A.M.1409/16/4/1941. As ground mining has now commenced request additional 3 flotillas of fast mine sweepers fitted with O.L.L. and S.A. gear (?s), 12 motor minesweepers and 2 dan layers be despatched to Singapore immediately. Most urgently required. (R.A. Malaya, 1401Z/16 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

MOUNT VERNON,
WEST POINT,
WAKEFIELD.

U.S. Authorities have now agreed that U.S. ships MOUNT VERNON, WEST POINT and WAKEFIELD ^{N.T.W.D.} can be used for movement referred to in my 1542/9.

2. Diversion of MOUNT VERNON to Suez has been ordered by A.M.1040A/16.

3. WESTPOINT and WAKEFIELD should be sailed for Suez from Singapore on completion of B.M.11. (D.S.T., 1545A/16 to R.A. Malaya)

For J.S.M. from C.O.S. No. W(1). Please pass following to U.S. Chiefs of Staff.

British Chiefs of Staff greatly appreciate offer of MOUNT VERNON, WAKEFIELD and WEST POINT for one trip from Suez to Far East. This offer will materially accelerate move of our urgent reinforcements to Far East. (1st S.L., 1636A/16 to B.A.D.)

Sailing of
Reinforce-
ments.

Personal for Auchinleck from Wavell. Japanese advance in Malaya and towards Netherlands East Indies has been much more rapid than hoped. Security of Singapore and of vital objectives in N.E.I. may depend on single day gained or lost. Trust therefore that no possible effort will be spared to accelerate date of sailing of reinforcements rather than postpone it. (Abdacom, Batavia, 1655/16 to C. in C. M.E.)

America & West Indies.

U/B.

N.S.H.Qs. 1055Z/15, enemy unit was considered to be a U-boat. (D.D.I.C., 0026A/16 to Brit. Warships Area 7A, etc).

Lonus 195
Project.

Personal for Adm. Little. Admty. 2121A/14 (N.T. in W.D.) and Lonus 195 para.9. This Project has been communicated to Australian Govt. with our suggestion that A.C.N.B. should prepare detailed scheme in consultation with our C. in C. E.F. for transmission through Admty to British Supply Council for presentation to U.S. Govt., so that it may be properly co-ordinated with out other projects in Lonus 195.
2. Australians may not be content with this procedure and may take direct approach to Washington. If they do so, we hope your liaison with U.S. Navy Dept. would ensure same result. (Head of M. 0041A/16 to B.A.D.)

/U/B...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1925R/16th Jan.

IN

From: B.A.D. Washington.

Date 17.1.42.

Recd:0859

Naval Cypher O.T.T. by Cable

Addressed: Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

233.

For Chiefs of Staff Committee (W) 2 from Joint Staff Mission.

(1) American Chiefs of Staff request concurrence of British Chiefs of Staff in despatch of the following signal to Abdacom. Begins.

Following information is furnished you as of primary interest in connection with Mutual co-operation between yourselves and Chiang Kai Shek in employment of American units assigned for service in or in support of the China theatre and despatched for use in Burma.

(a) The A.V.G was organised as Chinese unit for employment in China or in support of China. Accordingly Chiang Kai Shek is being informed that A.V.G. Squadrons which may now be operating in Burma may be withdrawn from Burma by General Magruder Chief of the U.S. Military Mission in China, if such action should be desired by Chiang Kai Shek subject to giving you timely notice of such an intention. The A.V.G. is now in process of induction into army of U.S. Instructions have been issued that its assignment to China theatre and its mission to operate in support of China will remain unchanged upon its induction as an American unit.

(b) upon completion of induction of A.V.G. into U.S. army as 23rd pursuit group, General Magruder has been directed to assume command of American forces in Burma and China. His control of American forces in China will be exercised under Supreme Command of Chiang Kai Shek and his control of American forces in Burma will be exercised under your Supreme Command. General Magruder is being informed that American forces which now or in future are assigned China theatre and which may be, pursuant to agreement between Chiang Kai Shek and yourself, despatched to Burma for operations will be returned to him by you for operation in China on call from Chiang Kai Shek. General Magruder has been instructed.

to/.....

406^B

TOP SECRET

- 2 -

to advise Chiang Kai Shek that this information is being transmitted to you. Ends.

(2) Induction means incorporation.

1925R/16.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Capt (2)
D of P (2)
E.P.S.
Hd of M. (18)
I.P. (2)
N.I.D. 10.
W.D.
D.N.I. (4)

War Diary.16.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B Plane sighted submarine at 2153 G.C.T. in 39° 45' N., 73° 23' W., then lost it in darkness. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0213Z/16 to Admty etc).

U/B rafts. Four U.S. Fortresses airborne on sweep from Cape Race South. Time on patrol 1133 G.M.T. to 1745 G.M.T. Oil slick sighted at 46.31 N., 52.58 W. Two rafts sighted at 46.31 N., 52. 49 W. two men on one raft three men on the other. Rescued by U.S. Destroyer. (A.O.C., E.A.C.Halifax)

WEST HONAKER. U.S. Ship WEST HONAKER due Balboa 12/1 from Wellington not arrived. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1139R/16 to Admty etc).

→ TOORAK. Intercept (via Flowerdown W/T) S/M Raider TOORAK torpedoed 10 miles from St. Johns. Ship not heard direct. (Halifax W/T 1310/16). 1348 G.M.T. re TOORAK intercept from Cape Race. TOORAK torpedoed ten miles from St. Johns N.F. Steering west 3 knots, bearing Cape Race 27.5 approx. (Halifax W/T, 1325/16 to Admty).

Washington Report. Washops 36. (i) Philippine Is. Chonos Archipelago Philippine Is, reported 15/1 that enemy infiltration methods have produced general fighting on the whole front. (ii) Gilbert Is. and Marshall Is. area. Reference Washops 35, para 2, Navy Dept. now consider 2 Japanese aircraft carriers may be in Marshall Is. (iii) Molucca Island(s). A report dated 16/1 stated Ambon was bombed on 7th and 15/1. No further details. (J.S.M. Washington, 1345R/16 to Admty).

N.A.2. Cancel my 1700/12 in view of delay in arrival of VOLENDAM. C.O.A.C. Halifax to report after arrival C.T.9 if D. of S.T.1800/7 and Admty 1931/28/12 can be complied with or failing this the proposed sailing date N.A.2. (N.S.HQ. Ottawa, 1447Z/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

DAYROSE (torpedoed 14/1)
→ TOORAK. Position of DAYROSE torpedoing 8 miles S.E. Cape Race. Four survivors rescued. Unknown ship reported being torpedoed 10 miles off St. Johns N.F. about 1340Z/16. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1613/16 to Admty C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

GEORGE
WASHINGTON.

Your 2146Z/13. In order that GEORGE WASHINGTON may be included in N.A. Convoy she must be capable of a minimum speed of 14 knots. (D.O.D. (H) 1637A/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MARON.

A.M. 1348A/15. Request (A) Your estimate of MARON's position (b) date she should reach harbour from endurance point of view. (1) If necessary MARON can be fuelled at Bermuda in this case. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1933P/16 to S.O.W.P.) Steer to westward keeping south of 041° N. Further orders follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1943P/16 to MARON).

Argentia
fuel stocks.

Your 1954/15 (N.T. in W.D.) Stocks of fuel at Argentia fluctuate considerably and U.S. authorities cannot yet guarantee sufficient fuel at any one time. It is expected stores will be sufficient when further storage tanks are completed about the end of March. (B.A.D., 1951R/16 to Admty).

Japanese
Use of
Gas.

For Chiefs of Staff from J.S.M (W) No. 3 Ref. 63440 of 10/1. U.S. War Dept. proposed announcing the finding of flasks for the following reasons: (4) J.S.M. and U.S. Chiefs of Staff consider if an announcement is made, it should be made from London. If you propose doing so consider, as U.S. War Dept. originally revised matter, publication should be simultaneous in U.S. (B.A.D., 2031R/16 to Admty).

A.T.10.

My 2350/15. Add E.T.A. of ship for Reykjavik 0200Z/26 ship for Belfast 0800Z/26. All ships have S.F. 02272 (16) (C.S.A. New York, 2040Z/16 to Admty).

COIMBRA
(sunk 15/1).

My 1517/11 (?1711/15) ship was British Tanker COIMBRA sunk with two torpedoes in 40 - 25 N., 72 - 21 W., at about 0800Z/15. 10 survivors plus 1 dead man picked up out of crew of 49. Survivors to be landed base R about 22/1. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2101Z/16 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

NORNESS
(sunk 16/1).
by U. 123.

Panamanian tanker, 9577 tons, torpedoed and sunk at 2130/14 about 50 miles S.E. of Long Island 2 of crew missing. Was bound from New York and Halifax for Liverpool.

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Command and directives ABDA area. Following for Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff No. W.2. Ref. Gleam 194. Dutch, Australian and New Zealand Govt. have agreed to General Wavell assuming command, but without prejudice to their acceptance of his Directive. We have asked these Govts. whether they agree to appointments of Hart, Peirse and Ter Poorten and are now awaiting their replies. (Admty 2138A/16 to B.A.D.)

H. X. 171

DALLAS, (S.O.) GLEAVES, UPSHUR, ^{SAMUEL D.} INGHAM, designated escort. (Opnav, 2158Z/16 to Admty).

U/B

Plane sighted submarine 39 - 07 N., 73 - 52 W. 1934 G.C.T./16. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2242Z/16 to Admty etc).

FRISCO (torpedoed 12/1).

Following is a repetition of N.O.I.C. Sydney's 1514Z/16. (Begins) MJOANES (Denmark) arrived North Sydney A.M./16 and reports FRISCO (Norway) torpedoed 60 miles 247 41/2° from St. Pierre at 2200Z/12. 6 survivors picked up 1900Z/14. Captain, first and second mates lost, 8 members of crew still adrift in lifeboat. R.C.A.F. advised no ship is available to search. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2246Z/16 to Admty etc).

DUKE OF YORK, Cordite Mishap.

My 1815/16 (N.T. in W.D.) 11 men burnt, no material damage. Details of the accident. (DUKE OF YORK, 2300P/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Australia and New Zealand.

MONOWAI U/B action.

MONOWAI in company with TAROONA in position 15 miles south of Suva engaged submarine at 0406Z/16 which dived. Also attack by aircraft reported but not confirmed. (N.Z.N.B., 0652Z/16 to C. in C. E.F. etc). Arrivals Lautoka 0615M/16 H.T. TAROONA, Suva 1127M/16 MONOWAI. (N.Z.N.B., 1540M/16 to Admty etc).

/Japanese..

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Japanese
Air Attack.

? Inaha (Amboina) attacked by 12 "O" Mitsubishi fighter and 26 T 96 Mitsubishi bomber 15/1. Aerodrome rendered temporarily unserviceable. Allied losses: 2 U.S. Catalinas one R.A.A.F. Hudson and 2 N.E.I. Buffalos (one pilot safe). Enemy losses: one A/C. Evidence of considerable naval activity Marshall Is., where 5 warships 19 chartered merchant ships and 8 other units were at sea 14/1. (A.C.N.B., 0942Z/16, to Admty. C. in C. E.F. etc)

Tarawa,
oil
demolitions.

Your tel. No. 16 (1735/15)
Unless Europeans in Tarawa gave their parole or some other definite undertaking in respect of oil or any other stores, these should be denied to enemy even at risk of serious consequences and order should issue. Present situation of Tarawa appears to be that Japanese are not in effective occupation and if no parole has been given destruction of oil stocks could not be regarded as sabotage. It is of course open to question whether this would weigh with Japanese, but they cannot reply on rights of occupying power unless occupation by them is effective. Please report by telegraph (1) facts as to parole of other undertaking and present situation in Tarawa (2) what are prospects of Europeans getting away (3) action taken in Tarawa on receipt of instructions which Resident Commissioner will now issue. (S. of S. for Colonies, 2115/16 to High Commr. W Pacific).

410A.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
1045/16th January

From:- Dominions Office.

CYPHER TELEGRAM

Addressed:- Australia (H.C.) New Zealand (H.C.)

IMMEDIATE

No. 39 M.697/5 L.D.
No. 16 SECRET

Addressed to High Commissioner Canberra, No.39 repeated for information to High Commissioner Wellington No.16 and by Secretary of State for the Colonies to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific No.19.

Commonwealth Government's telegram of 4th January No.5. Position of population of Ocean Island is causing grave anxiety here.

2. High Commissioner for Western Pacific has already informed Commonwealth Government that supplies of food at Ocean Island are rapidly becoming exhausted despite stringent rationing since November, the last supply ship having reached the Island early in October. Both in Ocean Island and Nauru small indigenous population has for commercial reasons been increased by more than its own numbers of Chinese and Gilbertese labourers in addition to Europeans with the result that augmented population is entirely dependent upon imported foodstuffs to maintain its existence and upon European supervision to preserve order. Unless evacuation on a very substantial scale takes place or food supplies can be sent at intervals to the Islands populations must starve within a few months. If Europeans alone were removed the food situation would not be appreciably affected and inter-racial strife would break out among remaining population. It is doubtful whether even the indigenous Banabans of Ocean Island or the Nauruans could by themselves exist for long without supplies.

3. As you will have seen the Commonwealth Government consider it unlikely that any ship will become available for the evacuation of the non-indigenous population of Ocean Island and there can be no assurance at present in their view about the further provisioning of the Island. The Admiralty also consider the diversion of a ship for the purpose of wholesale evacuation out of the question. Further the High Commissioner has reported that all local small craft have been destroyed in order to deny their use to the enemy in accordance with instructions to demolish all loading gear.

4. In the circumstances the High Commissioner has proposed to the Commonwealth Government the assembly of small vessels in the Solomons to make a quick dash to Ocean Island at an opportune moment, possibly under the

protection of...

protection of aircraft. We suggest that if the escorting of such small vessels in a group is considered too hazardous they might perhaps be used singly unescorted.

5. If any difficulty arises as regards reception in Australia of non-European evacuees the Secretary of State for the Colonies would arrange for their reception in Fiji.

6. You should also know that the United Kingdom member of the Phosphate Commission has received several messages recently from his fellow commissioners in Australia and New Zealand urging him to impress on the United Kingdom Government the need for prompt measures to evacuate the Commission's employees from both Nauru and Ocean Island. As pointed out above it is not felt that we could press for the evacuation of any one section of the communities alone but it may be possible to ascertain what efforts the Australian Commissioner has been making with the Commonwealth Government as regards the Commission's employees in Nauru.

AMT

7. Please discuss matter urgently with Commonwealth Government impressing on them our grave concern and our hope that the High Commissioner's proposal as regards small vessels will be most sympathetically considered. You should endeavour to ascertain to what plan the Commonwealth Government are working as regards relief of Ocean Island and Nauru, and future of their garrisons in those Islands, and report to me the result of your enquiries at the earliest possible moment.

1045/16

Received in War Reg. at
1936/22

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2)
D.T.D.(2)
Hd. of M.(6)
D. of L.D.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.C.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.I.C.(2)

D.P.D.
I.P.(2)
W.D.

War Diary.

16.1.1942.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U-boat
tricks.

It is known Germans have been recommended to follow directions given in C.A.F.O. 296/40. It is therefore likely that Italians and Japanese may employ the same tactics.

C.Os. of submarines are to be warned not to assume a definite hit on the target merely as a result of hearing an explosion at approx. correct striking range. (F.O.S.1747A/16 to Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, repeated C. in C. E.F.)

Ships Attacked.

COIMBRA	Sunk 15/1.	See America and West Indies.
FRISCO	Sunk 12/1.	See America and West Indies.
TOORAK.	Torpedoed 16/1.	See America and West Indies.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C., 1431A/16, 1432A/16).

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Aberdeen was re-opened at 0905 today, Blyth at 1009A, Dundee and Montrose at 1655.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, C.S.10 in NIGERIA, KENYA, SHEFFIELD, SUFFOLK, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS, ESKIMO, FAULKNER, ASHANTI, BEDOUIN, MARNE, INGLEFIELD, PANTHER, ECHO, ESCAPADE and INTREPID left Scapa at 1650A today for Hvalfiord. The Admiralty at 2046A assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping C. in C. H.F. informed of further air R/C in connection with fleet movements.

BERWICK was ordered to reinforce KENT on patrol "White" by daylight 19th but was unable to sail from Hvalfiord on account of the boom gate being out of action.

Ocean escort is not available for Convoy P.Q.9 until the present situation clears, and the convoy has been postponed.

Submarines have been ordered to patrol off Fro Havet to attack and report heavy ships.

Convoy
P.Q.8
attacked by
U-boats.
(U.454-
62.443.)

Convoy P.Q.8 was attacked by U-boats at 1955C and 2327C today. In the first attack S.S. HARMATRIS was torpedoed in 69° 18' N., 36° 15' E., and in the second attack MATABELE was torpedoed and sunk in 69° 21' N., 35° 24' E. It is feared there are no survivors from MATABELE.

M.T.B.
engagement.

3 M.T.Bs. which were supported by 3 M.G.Bs. engaged 2 armed trawlers off Gris Nez late this evening. M.T.B.47 is missing and M.T.B.38 has casualties and much superficial damage. No damage to the enemy is reported.

British Air Operations.

6 Beauforts attacked St. Peter Port, Guernsey today.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.N.⁶⁰7 reported being attacked at 1755 in 52° 14' N., 1° 56' E., and convoy F.S.700 at 1737 in 51° 44' N., 1° 24' E. WALPOLE shot down the aircraft which attacked F.S.700.

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Paddle Gun Vessel ROYAL EAGLE was damaged by the explosion of a mine in the Thames Estuary this morning. Several mines were detonated in the Estuary.

North Atlantic.

MALAYA, HERMIONE, ARGUS and destroyers for screen were ordered to be at 4 hours notice from 1200 tomorrow to proceed into the Atlantic. An oiler is to be sent as soon as practicable with 2 corvettes and CLYDE if available to a position near 31° N., 28° W.

Mediterranean.

Malta had 6 alerts from 1843/16 to 0553/17 and there were further raids from 0742 to 1114. No naval damage is reported. Hal Far and Ta Kali aerodromes are still unserviceable, apparently from rain.

Operation
M.F.3.

Force K left Malta at 1500B today to R/V with Force B and convoy M.W.8 A. Some damage was caused by a severe and unexpected gale at Alexandria when Force B was leaving harbour last night. FOXHOUND was in collision with KINGSTON and will be out of action for a month for repairs. GURKHA was torpedoed by a *U-boat and sunk at 0740 today in 31° 56' N., 25° 50' E., whilst escorting convoy M.W.8.B. 6 officers and 4 ratings are missing. * U.133. (G.3.443) CARLISLE was bombed twice this morning off Cyrenaica and shot down one of the attacking aircraft.

Malta Wellingtons bombed Tripoli last night.

China.

About 70 Navy 96 heavy bombers accompanied by fighters attacked Singapore from 0900 to 1130. Some of our aircraft were destroyed and damaged on the ground and in the air, a hangar and buildings at the aerodromes were destroyed.

/Bombs...

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

Bombs were dropped on the Naval Base and ISIS (undergoing repairs) was damaged by a near miss. Some enemy planes were brought down.

Successful air attacks were carried out today on a concentration of motor barges and sampans at Malacca.

A troop convoy from India has arrived in Burma.

(1st Jap: U/S kill
by Brit: warship)

JUPITER detached from escorting S.S. MOUNT VERNON this morning sank by gunfire and depth charges a Japanese submarine (probably I.65 class) in 6° 19' S., 104° 49' E. JUPITER had a gun rendered unserviceable by a direct hit which caused some casualties. Some survivors of the submarine were picked up.

* I. 160.

America & West Indies.

Russian S.S. KOLKOZNIK sank today in 44° 23' N., 63° 39' W. An enemy S/M is believed to have been in the neighbourhood and A/S operations were in progress.

An unknown ship reported at 0426 G.M.T. that she had been shelled by a submarine and at 0441 G.M.T. that she was sinking in 20° 35' N., 71° 40' W. U.S. planes were sent to search the area.

At 0408Z an unknown ship made S O S in 18° 16' N., 57° 35' W.

At 1400Z today MONTGOMERY picked up in 45° 35' N., 57° 45' W., 7 survivors from ?S.S. FRIAR ROCK torpedoed at 0900Z/13 100 miles S.E. of Cape Race.

DIOMEDE is to be lent to C. in C. S.A. during the refit of DEVONSHIRE. Later on 13/1 to join T.F. 3 in DESPATCH to U.S. DEVONSHIRE. Pacific - See p 440

Tug ROODE ZEE sailed from ~~London~~ today to assist ARCHER, damaged in collision on 13/1.

See p. 439.

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SATURN. In view of shortage of L.L. Trawlers at Sheerness and to avoid long passage to Port Edgar, request that instructions contained in A.M.1352A/15/10 may be waived in the case of L.L. Trawler SATURN now completing at London, and that this vessel may be worked up at its allocated base, Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore, 1716A/17 to Admty).

TRIDENT,
STURGEON. ^{N.T. in W.D.} Your 1831A/17. Approved for you to retain TRIDENT. Your proposals for STURGEON cannot be approved. (1st S.L., 2210A/17 to F.O.S.)

Movements.

Task Unit
4.1.2. Acquiesce in Task Unit 4.1.2. proceeding to Londonderry if Unit Cmdr. considers has sufficient fuel. This refers A.M.1631Z/16. (C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, 0215/17 to Admty).

CUMBERLAND. Proceed to Seidis Fjord. (C. in C. H.F., 0852A/17 to CUMBERLAND).

H.28. H.28 leaves Wolf Rock dawn 19th diving by day through following positions to arrive 050° 31' N., 000° 41' W., dawn 21st, thence to Portsmouth. (Capt. S.7., 1036A/17).

O.24. Intend to sail O.24 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH 1800A/17 routed as follows. E.T.A. Dundee 0800A/20 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1134A/17). My 1134A/17 sailed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1744A/17).

REGENT. ^{N.T. in W.D.} Following is a repetition of my 1139A/17 begins:- B.A.R.M's 1646R/15. REGENT's destination is now New London, Connecticut. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to signal to REGENT amended route and necessary Q.J.A's. B.A.R.M. is requested to arrange for REGENT to be met as necessary and supplied with chart of port. (F.O.S., 1142A/17).

MALLOW. C. in C. W.A. 0939A/17. Intend to sail MALLOW 0130A/20 to arrive Moville 0930A/20. My 1303A/14 is cancelled. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1246A/17).

SHARPSHOOTER sail to R/V M. Z. BRITOMART, SALAMANDER delayed by fog. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1549A/17 to TRINIDAD).

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

- H. 28,
O. 24. BREDA escorting H. 28 sailed Clyde 2230/16 southbound. LOCH MONTEITH escorting D.S. O. 24 sailing Belfast 1800/17th northbound may be met during dark hours tonight.
(C. in C. W.A., 1634A/17 to PALOMARES, NARCISSUS, CALDWELL).
- ASSINIBOINE. Position 1300Z/17 062° 01' N., 023° 10' W., course 188° speed 12. (ASSINIBOINE, 1644Z/17).
- C. in C. H.F. Scapa Departures. C. in C. H.F., in KING GEORGE V C.S.10 in NIGERIA, KENYA, SHEFFIELD, SUFFOLK, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS, ESKIMO, FAULKNOR, ASHANTI, BEDOUIN, MARNE, INGLEFIELD, PANTHER, ECHO, ESCAPADE, INTREPID, for Hvalfiord. E.T.A. 19 Gath 1230/19.
(A.C.O.S., 1650A/17).
- 13th M/S F. Your 1518A/17. Approved.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1746A/17 to S.O. 13th M/S F.)
- WIVERN. A.M. 1947A/12.
C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail WIVERN for Londonderry as convenient.
2. WIVERN will be required to leave Londonderry for escort duty to Gibraltar and Freetown on 29/1.
3. In the meantime N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to arrange for such working up practices to be carried out as local resources allow.
(D.O.D. (H), 1811A/17). *See also p. 425*
- TUI. Admty. 1120A/15/10 and Admty. 2020A/23/10/41.
INCHKEITH, TUI and the 7th Trawler Group consisting of SANDA, KILLNEGRAY and SCARBA will assemble at Greenock prior to their departure for New Zealand in company.
High Commissioner for New Zealand is anxious to visit the ships before they leave for the Dominion and C. in C. Rosyth is requested to report by signal firm expected dates of departure for Greenock of KILLNEGRAY, SANDA and SCARBA.
(Head of M., 1815A/17).
- UTMOST. ^{N.T. W.D.} Cancel my 2314A/13. Onward route on surface at C.Os. ~~direction~~ as follows, to R/V off (E) Bishop Rock on 26/1 as ordered by Capt. (S) 3.
2. Request H.Q.C.C. arranges bombing restrictions as follows. (F.O.S., 1842A/17 to UTMOST).

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.

- O.14. (1) Sailed O.14. Escorted by EDAY passing East of Orkneys to position (A) 060° 51' 30" N., 000° 23' W., then unescorted diving by day at C.O. discretion to position (B) 061° 50' N., 000° 00'. (C) 063° 50' N., 005° E., then submerged by day to area K.7.
(3) Request T.B.R. and S.B.R. as follows. (A.C.O.S., 2009/7). *See next page.*
- SEVERN. ^{N.T. in W.D.} Your 1338A/17. Request SEVERN pass through following positions, to R/V 24/1 off Portsmouth as ordered by Capt. (S) 5.
Request H.Q.C.C. arrange bombing restrictions as follows. (F.O.S., 2154A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)
See also p. 428
- P.C.74. ^{N.T. in W.D.} Your 1815/17. P.C.74 will be taken in hand for boiler cleaning for 7 days commencing 20th at Milford Haven. If sufficient fuel and provisions on board proceed in accordance with my 1241A/17. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2223/17). N.T. in W.D.
- PRIMROSE. Leave GULLPOOL in North Channel and proceed to Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 2334A/17 to PRIMROSE).
- KEPPEL. KEPPEL is urgently required for escort duty leaving Londonderry a.m./21 and is to be sailed accordingly.
(C. in C. W.A., 2343A/17 to N.O.I.C. Newport).
- Operations.
- A/S Patrol. Scapa arrival R.A.I.^{C.S.} in NORFOLK with BEBOUIN and ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 0518/17).
- SEAWOLF. Patrol in the vicinity of 066° N., 006° E. (Corrupt Group) Cruiser and (Corrupt Group). (F.O.S., 0824A/17 to SEAWOLF). *See also next page*
- M.G.B. engagement with two Armed Barges. M.G.Bs. 43, 8 and S.3 were despatched at 2000 yesterday Friday to investigate an R.D.F. plot of four small vessels, probably trawler size, which was proceeding westwards along the enemy coast. Contact was not made and plot entered Boulogne. M.G.Bs. 8 and S.3., observing Boulogne entrance lights, waited off the entrance and surprised two large armed barges leaving harbour about 2305.
A depth charge dropped 20 yards ahead of enemy is considered by M.G.B.8 to have seriously damaged one barge. In brief gun action in which Breakwater batteries joined hits are claimed on one barge and M.G.B's 8 and S.3 suffered superficial damage. One rating in M.G.B.8 seriously wounded.
(V.A. Dover, 0941A/17).

/S/M...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrol off Fro Havet. Bring TRIDENT to 4 hours notice forthwith. (F.O.S., 1032A/17 to Capt. S.6.)
 TRIDENT, Proceed diving by day towards Northernmost
 SEAWOLF, O.14. entrance Fro Havet. (F.O.S., 1039A/17 to SEAWOLF.) *See previous page.*
 Request you will sail O.14 as soon as ready for patrol off Fro Havet and arrange escort and bombing restrictions. O.14 to complete with fuel except for one external tank. Route on the surface at C.O.'s discretion through (a) 061° 50' N., 000° 0' (b) 063° 50' N. 005° E. thence submerged by day. (F.O.S. 1422A/17 to A.C.O.S.) *See previous page.*
 TRIDENT was due to sail shortly for Polyarnoe. During present emergency I intend to retain her under my orders and to sail her tomorrow for Fro Havet. Request S.B.N.O. North Russia be instructed to keep STURGEON in harbour and to turn her over to my operational control as she will be required shortly in order to maintain two submarines on patrol off Fro Havet. Request very early action with S.B.N.O. North Russia in order to stop him sailing STURGEON for normal patrol in Northern Waters. (F.O.S., 1831A/17 to A.C.N.S. (H.))
 (1) Following patrol zones are established off Fro Havet. Area E within 30 miles of position P. 064° 14' N. 009° 40' E. and between 360° and 90° from it. Area W within 30 miles of position P and between 270° and 360° from it. (2) Object of S/Ms ordered to these zones is to attack and then report cruiser and above. S/Ms are not to be attacked and every precaution to be taken to avoid compromising presence. (F.O.S., 1849A/17.)
 My 1849A/17. SEAWOLF patrol in Zones E and W keeping as near position P as circumstances allow. (F.O.S., 1851A/17 to SEAWOLF, Rept. O.14.) *See previous page.*
 When ready, TRIDENT is to be sailed for patrol Zone E. My 1849A/17 refers. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange escort. TRIDENT is to proceed on surface at C.O.'s discretion routed through (C) 61° 30' N. 00° 10' E. and (D) 64° 10' N. 05° 00' E., thence submerged by day through (E) 64° 51' N. 09° 30' E. to patrol Zone E. (F.O.S., 2156A/17.)

Operation E.M. Operation E.M. postponed. Remain Sullom Voe. (C. in C. H.F. 1234A/17 to CITY OF DURBAN, CALPE.)

Denmark Strait Patrol. BERWICK is to reinforce KENT on patrol "White" by daylight 19th. (C. in C.H.F. 1552A/17 to V.A.2.)
 Have altered Patrol to (a) 67° 46' N. 23° 30' W. (b) 045° (c) SWEETBRIAR 135° (d) Out. Have sent ABELIA to Hvalfiord with damaged A/S dome cover-plate. She will contact SWEETBRIAR at Straumness. (ANEMONE, 1600A/17 to KENT, SWEETBRIAR.)

East Coast Patrols. Patrol tonight. (1) 2 M.G.Bs. Q.E.3. (2) Two M.Ls. Q.E.6A shifting to four A at 2300/17. (3) One M.G.B. returning to Aldeburgh Buoy and Harwich from Eastward at daylight. (C. in C. Nore, 1650A/17.)

Patrols "C" and "D". My 1032A/17. Carry out patrol C and D tonight. Leave patrol in time to join F.S. No. 700 at daylight. (C. in C. Nore 1701A/17 to COTTESMORE, GARTH.)

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

- S.B.R. Request S.B.R. between $066^{\circ} 30' N.$, and $063^{\circ} 30' N.$, to eastward $005^{\circ} 30' E.$, forthwith until 0800/18 and in area 102 from 0800/18 until further notice. (F.O.S. 1247A/17 to H.Q.C.C.)
- C. in C. H.F. Admiralty have assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping the C. in C. H.F. informed of further air R/C in connection with fleet movements. (A.C.N.S. (H), 2046A/17)

Enemy Air Activity.

- Convoy F.S. 700 Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy "Arana" in $51^{\circ} 44' N.$, $1^{\circ} 24' E.$ (WHADDON, 1737/17).
- Convoy F.N. 7. Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy "Prize" position $52^{\circ} 14' N.$, $1^{\circ} 56' E.$ (WALLACE, 1755/17).
- A/C claimed shot down. WALPOLE escorting F.S. 700 claims to have shot down one Dornier in flames at 1745A/17. Claim will be investigated when WALPOLE returns to Harwich a.m. tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore, 1905A/17).

Mining.

- Oropesa search. My 1527/15 para. one. Cancelled due to weather. (A.C.O.S., 0953A/17).
- Sweep off Lizard. Your 1647/16. Programme for 20/1 is not clear. Q.Z.S. 180 and Q.Z.S. 305 are swept daily by local sweepers. Sweep should be continued from 180° Lizard 3 miles to north end of Q.Z.S. 315 as proposed in your programme. (C. in C. Plymouth 1202A/17 to S.O.13th M/S F.)
- Your 1202A/17. The sweep of Q.Z.S. 180 and Q.Z.S. 305 was proposed to comply with your 1724A/15 para. 2. Amended programme follows. (S.O.13th M/S F., 1507A/17 to C. in C. Plymouth). In view of C. in C. Plymouth's 1202A/17 propose amending my 1647A/16 from 20th January onwards as follows. (S.O.13th M/S F., 1518A/17).
- S.N.15 B. Cancel my 1000/15. Regret destroyer will not now be available for S.N.15 B. (R.A.D. H.F., 1512A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)
- N.P.7 B. Intend to carry out operation N.P.7 B tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1605/17).
- ROYAL EAGLE, damaged. (1) At 0918/17 in 183° West Barrow Beacon 2 miles ROYAL EAGLE struck a Mine and was damaged. Details (Cdre. I/C Sheerness, 2256A/17).

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Surface Units. My 0852A/17. Enemy surface units may be met. (C. in C. H.F., 1229A/17 to CUMBERLAND, TARTAR). From 1439 to 1758 continual plots have been received by A.E.S. (Saxavord) of a small surface craft in position 15 miles Northwest of the station. Frequent changes of course but from 1758 to 1845 course 50°. Station reports echoes are characteristic of submarine on surface. Visibility has been poor. C. in C. Rosyth pass to 18 Group. (A.C.O.S., 1853/17).

U-Boats.

CAPE VERDE. Your 2045A/16. No further information available. (C. in C. W.A., 0048A/17 to CALDWELL)

Off Ushant. By D/F at 1831/17 G.M.T. U-boat, probably inward bound, was in approx. 48° N., 7° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0635/18 to S/Ms Area A, RUBIS)

Off Valentia. U-boat within 60 miles of 51° 30' N., 16° W., probably bound to Bay of Biscay. (D.D.I.C., 1104A/17 to Escorts O.G.78, and N.A.1)

Kola Inlet. A U-boat is operating off Kola Inlet. It is possible you or convoy have been reported. (D.D.I.C., 1909A/17 to TRINIDAD, MATABELE, SOMALI, SPEEDWELL, HARRIER).

HARMATRIS (British 5395 tons). Following repetition my 1800A/17. Begins. S.B.N.O. North Russia from TRINIDAD. HARMATRIS torpedoed or mined in 069° 16' N., 036° 08' E., 1800A/17. Ends. (TRINIDAD, 1950A/17 to Admty., C. in C. H.F. C.S.10).

MATABELE sunk. (By U-454 - 6.2.443.) Regret to report MATABELE torpedoed and sunk in 069° 21' N., 035° 24' E. SHARPSHOOTER searching for survivors. (Capt. D.6., 2314A/17 to Admty., C. in C. H.F. TRINIDAD).

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Aberdeen. Port of Aberdeen open.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0905/17).

Blyth. My 1347A/16. Blyth port open.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1009A/17).

Vaternish Light. CHELSEA reports Vaternish Light extinguished at 0315 today.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1439A/17).

Rath Grounds Buoy. Rath Grounds North Light buoy extinguished. Request Q.Z.H.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1452/17).

Ice in Denmark Strait. Broken ice encountered position Y 067° 46', 024° 37' while steering 280° from patrol position 067° 40' 023° 10'. Ice edge visible westward. From 67° 45' N., 23° 57' W., until position Y there were widespread patches barely formed ice scum. Indications are that a navigable passage exists outside minefield at present.
(ANEMONE, 1600A/17 to KENT, SWEETBRIAR).

Dundee and Montrose. My 1013/16. Dundee and Montrose, open.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1655/17).

Clyde. No. 7 Channel Buoy Firth of Clyde reported extinguished. Request Q.Z.H.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1715A/17).

Technical.

Tuapse W/T Station. My 1751C/14. Cdr. Ambrose arrive Tuapse 16/1. Tuapse W/T Station now ready to communicate with Alexandria. 2 Pass to C. in C. Med.
(Ad. Miles, 1752C/17 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

CHESAPEAKE. Following paraphrase of signal from CHESAPEAKE begins. Engine disabled for four days and unable to effect repairs. My position 42° 47' N., 25° 35' W., at 2048/16. Ends.
(C. in C. W.A. 0055A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.BELLWORT,
HALCYON,
EBOR WYKE,
SHELLBRIT,
LEINSTER.

My 0147A/16. Repairs to BELLWORT will take about a week. HALCYON sustained serious structural damage requiring dockyard repair and cannot proceed with P.Q.9. Temporary repairs will be undertaken by HECLA on completion of BELLWORT. M/S Trawler EBOR WYKE damaged, water boat SHELLBRIT not seriously damaged. Seidisfjord. Minefield out of action. LEINSTER ashore at Reydarfjord. Believed undamaged and in no danger. Expected to be refloated today.

(A.C.I.C., 0205A/17).

HALYCON sustained serious structural damage requiring dockyard repairs and cannot proceed P.Q.9. Temporary repairs will be undertaken by HECLA in about 1 week. (A.C.I.C. 0302A/17 to R.A.D. H.F.)

DUCHESS OF
RICHMOND.

Position is 55° 35' N., 07° 09' W. Thick weather. Gyroscope compass out of order, magnet compass unreliable. (DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, 0418 S.M.T./17)

C.E.64.
PLOVER,
DEODAR.

C.E.64 arrived. DEODAR in collision with PLOVER in Downs. PLOVER holed above waterline. DEODAR has arrived independently. (C. in C. Nore, 1045A/17).

SHIKARI.

Port Plumber block running, am proceeding on starboard engine to Belfast. Request instructions. (SHIKARI, 1120A/17). Arrived SHIKARI for emergency repairs. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1600A/17).

R. J. CULLEN
EMPIRE HOMER
(Grounded
15/1).

Tugs and Lifeboats arrived. Crew leaving R. J. CULLEN. Master considers (?Merchant ship) total loss. My windlass broken. Am slipping starboard anchor and cable, tug TENACITY is recovering it. Am proceeding in execution of previous orders. (NORTHERN WAVE. 1215A/17).

Crew of R.J. CULLEN gone ashore in lifeboats. Master reports ship's constructive total loss. Have located EMPIRE HOMER, a total loss. No crew on board. (TENACITY 1310A/17).

EMPIRE SURF.
CHEPO.

Your 1035A/14. Report situation regarding casualties or survivors from EMPIRE SURF and CHEPO. (C. in C. W.A., 1256A/17 to DOUGLAS). Your 1256A/17. ALISMA has 6 survivors EMPIRE SURF and SUNFLOWER 21 from CHEPO. All are well. (DOUGLAS, 1925A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- STALIN. My 1325C/16. Damaged to icebreaker STALIN appears more serious than Russians originally reported. STALIN is proceeding to Molotovsk for examination due 21/1 when Russians will advise further. It seems probable she will not be available for a week or two and certainly will be unable to lead ships of convoy P.Q.8 through White Sea.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1846C/17).
- Portrush and Iceland D/F Stations. Portrush and Iceland (C) D/F Stations at present out of action.
(D.S.D., 1925A/17).
- TON S. Tug BROCKENHURST proceeding to M/V TON S, anchored in 51° 32' 45" N., 3° 56' 35" W. Lost rudder and requires to be towed into Swansea.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1931A/17).
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1805A/16. Arrived TON S.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 2253A/17)
My 1931A/17. Tug BROCKENHURST with M/V TON S arrived Swansea. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 2255A/17).
- GALLIONS REACH. GALLIONS REACH now at anchor in Grimsby Roads. YORKSHIREMAN will tow GALLIONS REACH to Hull Salvage Base tomorrow leaving Grimsby Roads at 0900. IRISHMAN proceed to Immingham at 2200 tonight. (S.O. Grimsby, 2220/17 to F.O. Humber)
- Shipping & Convoys.
- O.N. 56 ASSINIBOINE, CHICOUTIMI, LETHBRIDGE sailed for St. Johns N.F. along route of O.N.56 at 2359A.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 0235A/17).
- Convoy. Your 1551A/16. My P.C.S. are 039° 39' N., 025° 05' W., 029° 9.4 knots.
(WOODRUFF, 0500Z/17).
"Not Met". P.C.S. at 1900Z/17 040° 38' N., 023° 12' W., 317°, 9.4 knots to V.
(WOODRUFF, 1900Z/17).
- O.N.55. Following received from C.T.U.4.1.5. Heavy weather poor visibility prevented re-assembly O.N. 55 which is now comprised eleven ships escorted by SIMPSON, LEARY, SCHENCK, BABBIT at 2020Z/16. Necessary convoy heave to and ride out gale of force ten. Escorts standing by. 15 ships absent rendezvous noon 16. All believed straggling within 40 miles. Ends.
(Opnav, 0847Z/17 to Admty).

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.55
Contd. A.T. 10. Indications for M.O.M.P. will be evening 22nd or morning 23rd. Time and position for same to follow. (Opnav, 1400/17 to Admty).
Your 0847Z/17. Recommend escort should suggest R/V for re-assembly at 1200Z/18 and 19 January. (D.T.D., 1429Z/17 to Opnav).
- H.X.169. H.X.169 recommend escort should suggest new M.O.M.P. for 18/1. (D.T.D., 0942Z/17 to Opnav)
- C.W.65. My 2046A/16. Owing to adverse weather there are not sufficient ships available in Thames Estuary to warrant C.W.65 sailing on Monday. Intend to postpone sailing 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore, 1136A/17).
- W.N.31. W.N.31. E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 0830. (TANGO, 1217A/17).
- P.Q.9. Delay P.Q.9 inevitable as all ships not yet present and servicing of recent arrivals not yet possible. (A.C.I.C., 1224A/17).
Ocean escort is not available for P.Q.9 until present situation clears. (C. in C. H.F., 1504A/17 to A.C.I.C.)
Your 1224A/17. P.Q.9 is to be held until further orders. (A.C.N.S. T., 2124A/17 to A.C.I.C.)
- S.L.97,
S.L.97 G. Your 1315A/15 and F.O.C.N.A's 0422A/17. Is CAMPBELTOWN to join S.L.97 or S.L.97 G on completion of fuelling and making good minor defects. Expect to be ready to proceed 2000 G.M.T./17. (CAMPBELTOWN, 1410/17). *See p.427*
- P.Q.10 and
Q.P. Convoys. A.M. 2156A/15/11 para. 2. Ships from North American ports bound for North Russia should be sailed to Loch Ewe. Convoys will assemble there for direct passage starting 10 day cycle with P.Q.10 on 25/1.
2. Para. 5. Q.P. Convoys will continue to return via Akuyreyri for North American ports and Seidisfiord for U.K. but Loch Ewe will be first British port of call, not Kirkwall.
3. A.M.1230A/1 September is cancelled. (D.T.D., 1644A/17).

/BATORY...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Convoy Carnival
 BATTERY,
 SOBIESKI,
 ROYAL
 SCOTSMAN,
 ROYAL
 ULSTERMAN,
 ULSTER
 MONARCH.

S.S. BATTERY and SOBIESKI, speed 16 knots carrying military and R.A.F. personnel for Gibraltar and West Africa will be ready to leave Clyde for Gibraltar on 29/1.

2. Escort will be provided from U.K. to Gibraltar by LIGHTNING, DUNCAN, and WIVERN who will join Convoy as directed by C. in C. W.A.

4. After disembarkation at Gibraltar BATTERY and SOBIESKI will return to the U.K.

5. Personnel for West Africa will transfer to ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ULSTER MONARCH for onward passage to West Africa.

6. One of the above ships will be required to proceed with R.A.F. reliefs to Takoradi subsequently returning to Freetown with relieved troops for onward passage to U.K. (D.O.D. H., 1840A/17).

See p 416. (WIVERN)

U.R. 7. Reykjavik arrived U.R. 7 1400A/17 except BARBRIDGE. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 1903A/17).

C.E. 64. V.A. Dover 1108A/16. The importance of accurate time through the Dover Strait is fully appreciated. The timetable prepared by the Commodore in accordance with your 1158/13 was carefully checked and with the weather forecasted when the convoy sailed it was anticipated that the convoy would be late rather than early. Request any enquiry you may think fit should be held at the Nore before the return convoy sails. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1907A/17 to C. in C. Nore).

Reply: 1416A/18.

BATTERY,
 SOBIESKI. A.M. 1840A/17. Code name "Carnival". (D.O.D. H., 2107A/17).

MONARCH OF BERMUDA. Position 1900 G.M.T. 17th 210° 360 miles from Malaria. (MONARCH OF BERMUDA, 2120G.M.T./17).

U.R. 9. Request you will sail WHITEHORN to arrive Aultbea in time to meet convoy assembly of U.R. 9 at 1100/22 and subsequently to sail for Iceland as additional escort to U.R. 9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2134A/17).

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War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.

Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T./17.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	CAVINA	38°N.39°W.	Patrol	Blank
	MARON	38°N.44°W.	270°	10
	PRINCE HENRY	25°N.65½°W.	183°	15
	CILICIA	15°N.30°W.	Patrol	Blank
	BULOLO	Vicinity of Abrolhos Rock	Patrol	Blank
	MOA	03°N.141°E.	225°	10
	ADELAIDE	Arriving Sydney from S.E.		12
	CANBERRA & M.S.2	11°S.106°E.	340°	20
	KANIMBLA & M.S.1.	30°S.113°E.	355°	10
	Convoy C.T.9	} 40½°N.51°W.	270°	10
	VOLENDAM			
	MONTCALM			
	(D.O.D.(F) 1007Z/17 to Opanav.)			

North Atlantic.S.L.97
S.L.97G.

If successful in fuelling from BRITISH HUSSAR WISHART and VIDETTE are to remain with S.L.97 unless otherwise ordered by EGRET until prudent limit of endurance then return to Gibraltar. CAMPBELTOWN is to join S.L.97G on completion of fuelling.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0422A/17 to CAMPBELTOWN, Escorts S.L.97, S.L.97G.)
Expect one Catalina escort noon to dusk today 17th. W/T call sign 7 XMC.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0753A/17 to Escorts S.L.97, S.L.97G. Admty. etc.)

CHESAPEAKE
(disabled).

C. in C. W.A. 0055A/17. Can tug from U.K. be sent or should tug THAMES be sailed from Gibraltar? Propose LA MOQUEUSE and REINE DES FLOTS act as escort.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0433A/17 to Admty.)
Your 0433A/17 THAMES should be sailed from Gibraltar. Further signal will be made regarding escort.
(D.O.D.(F) 1109A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1109A/17. To where should CHESAPEAKE be towed?
(F.O.C.N.A. 1346A/17 to Admty.)

/A.M. ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CHESAPEAKE (disabled) contd. A.M. 1109/17 para. 2. LA MOQUEUSE and REINE DES FLOTS cannot fuel Azores and latter's endurance is low. Suggest LADY HOGARTH and ARCTIC RANGER be used as escort for S.S. CHESAPEAKE fuelling if necessary at Fayal. (D.O.D.(F) 1347A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1526/17 sailed tug THAMES.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1650A/17.)

Your 1346A/17. CHESAPEAKE should be towed to Ponta Delgada.
(A.C.N.S.(T). 1926A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ANTHONY. Your 0056A/17th. Following 2 groups uncoded weather report 8290 3172. My position 039° 27' N. 012° 13' W.
(ANTHONY 0603Z/17 to Admty.)

CAMPBELTOWN, DAUNTLESS. CAMPBELTOWN, DAUNTLESS arrived Ponta Delgada 0930 and 1000 G.M.T. respectively 17th.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 0908/17.)

Your 1926A/16. Following is intended programme subject to routing orders from C. in C. Plymouth. Ponta Delgada, Leave 1800Z/17; Position P, 0200Z/18; position Q 1900Z/18; Plymouth 0800Z/20 S. of A. 19½ knots. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange Lizard Head and Eddystone lights to be exhibited from 0200Z/20.
(DAUNTLESS, 1624Z/17? to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
DAUNTLESS left Ponta Delgada 1815 G.M.T./17.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 1643/17.)
CAMPBELTOWN left Ponta Delgada 2030 G.M.T./17 S. of A. 12 knots.
CAMPBELTOWN request Admiralty to pass her 1410/17th to C. in C. W.A.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 1835C/17 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar.) See p. 424.
/ Passing action being taken by W.R.

RUBIS. Position of F.S/M RUBIS 0800/17. In Bay of Biscay South Zone possibly proceeding submerged by day towards 048° 06' 008° 02' for vicinity of Bishop Rock.
(S.5, 1017A/17 to REGENT.)

O.G. convoy. Your 1840/16. Concur.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1045A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.S. SLEMDAL, SAN ADOLFO. One Hudson aircraft carrying out search for SLEMDAL and SAN ADOLFO from 1230A/17 to 1400A/17.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1051A/17 to SPIREA, STELLA CARINA.)
My 1416A/13 (N.T. in W.R.) para. 4. On parting company with LA CARRIERE sweep back through position X 30° 45' N. 18° 00' W. T 35° 12' 8° 30' U 35° 50' 6° 15' thence Gibraltar.
(2). Look out for tanker SAN ADOLFO proceeding Gibraltar S.O.A. 10 knots and if met provide A/S escort.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2314A/17 to AZALEA)

/PONTET ...

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War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - contd.

PONTET CANET. French ship PONTET CANET.
(N.C.S.O. Oporto 1100/17.)

UTMOST. UTMOST now passing through 043° N. 011° (?30')
W. at about 0600A/21 and has been ordered to
shift Wireless Watch at that time.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1140A/17.)

My 1136/16 Sailed UTMOST.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1202A/17.)

UTMOST sailed 1200/17 thro' position (a) 36° 00' N. 06° 00' W.
(B) 36.28, 07.05. (C) 36.40, 09.20, (D) 38.05, 11.05. at
following approx. times. (a) 1800A/17. (b) 0300A/18th.
(G) 1900A/18th. (D) 1200/19th. On the surface throughout
1750A/17.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1750A/17. to ANTHONY Trawlers W.P. repeated KENT.)

→ Orders for MALAYA, HERMIONE, ARGUS and destroyers required
Force H. for screen are to be at four hours' notice from
1200/18 to proceed into Atlantic.

2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail an oiler
as soon as practicable with 2 Corvettes and CLYDE if available
to vicinity of 31° N. 28° W.
(V.C.N.S. 1324A/17 to F.O. Force "H". F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. H.F.
C. in C. W.A. C. in C. A. & W.I. C. in C. S.A.)
Your 1324A/17 GERANIUM patrolling Straits only Corvette
available at Gibraltar. SPIREA escorting SLEMDAL due in early
20th. Propose sailing DINGLEDALE p.m./20 escorted by GERANIUM
and ? SPIREA.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2226A/17 to Admty.) Approved subject to Force H not
sailing before that date (A.C.N.S.(F) 0019A/18)
Ref. A.M.1327/17 (1324/17 intended) destroyers available for
screen from 1200/18. 5 from 2200/18 7 including WESTOOTT
slightly damaged but seaworthy.
(S.O. Force H 2339A/17 to Admty.)

SEVERN. Intend sailing SEVERN P.M./18 for U.K. SEVERN
will pass through 043° 00' 012° 00' about
1730A/20th shifting wireless watch at that time.
F.O.(S) is requested to arrange onward route and
bombing restrictions.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1338A/17.)

REINE DES N.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 0901/12. Visit of
FLOTS. trawler REINE DES FLOTS to Fayal is cancelled.
(D.O.D.(F) 1348A/17.)

Visit of trawler REINE DES FLOTS to Fayal is
not permitted. Request you will arrange to proceed direct to
Freetown calling at Bathurst if necessary for coal. 2. If
endurance is not sufficient to reach Bathurst you should call
at Gibraltar. 3. Acknowledge forthwith.
(D.O.D.(F) 1353A/17 to LA MOQUEUSE, REINE DES FLOTS)

→ Flag of R.A. Syfret assumed command of Force "H" 10/1.
R.A. Syfret. Flag transferred to MALAYA 14/1.
(S.O. Force H 1412A/17.)

/F.W. ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

F.W. aircraft activity. Three F.W. Aircraft have been active during the day, all operating in the vicinity of Convoy W.S.15, but there are no indications that the convoy was sighted.
(D.D.I.C. 1652A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U-Boat. A.M. 1412A/17. Add Bermuda 058/2, Halifax 071/2. U/B estimated to be within 40 miles of 44° 30 N. 15° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1742A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Ships. Gibraltar 0928 French survey vessel ESTAFETTE
French ship ERIDAN westbound.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1803A/17 to Admty. etc.)

R/C of Cartagena Palma. 1300/17 Cartagena Naval and Merchant shipping present (details). Palma. Shipping present.
(PRU Gibraltar 2315/17.)

South Atlantic.

Liberia. Re protection of vulnerable points. (W.O. 0200/17 to J.S.M. Washington) See Lion Copy.

RAPIDOL. Your 1230/15 RAPIDOL escorted by JASMINE will be available to sail from Bathurst P.M./18. Request you will appoint R/V.
(C. in C. S.A. 1235Z/17. to R.A.3.)

MAURITIUS. Your 2300/24. Capt. Supt. Simonstown reports necessary to renew remaining 80% of fire main in MAURITIUS. Steel pipes are available at Simonstown. Time required three months during which time plumbers work on other ships would have to be seriously curtailed and ship's presence for this period would add to berthing congestion. Work has not been put in hand pending your early instructions. (Ends). In view of this long occupation of one berth I suggest consideration be given to repairing her elsewhere.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1647Z/17 to Admty.)

/BOUGAINVILLE ...

MOST SECRET

From War Office.

Cipher

Addressed British Joint Staff Mission, Washington.

IMMEDIATE.

M.O.4. B.M. 1178 No.64745 Cipher (M.O.4.) 16/1.

Reference GLEAM 178 of 15/12/41 telegram 58635 Cipher (M.O.4.) 17/12 telegram G.O. 49 Cipher 31/12. Following received from G.O.C. in C. West Africa. "Your 58635 (M.O.4.) 17/12/41.

One.

I have discussed question with C. in C. South Atlantic and A.O.C. West Africa and we are agreed that vulnerable points Liberia should be protected.

Two.

We are also agreed that American War Department should be urged to undertake commitment as U.S.A. interests particularly aerodromes are already established in Liberia and occupation by American troops unlikely to evoke much comment, on the other hand occupation by us might well cause Vichy to react unfavourably. In addition as some American personnel are already being maintained in Liberia supplies can more easily be organised by one nation.

Three.

I have no (repeat no) troops available for this commitment as those at my disposal are adequate only (repeat only) for defence of British possessions. If I am to undertake further commitments it is essential that my forces be increased.

Four.

Reconnaissance will be necessary and presume consent of Liberia Government will be obtained.

Five.

No (repeat no) Vichy troops appear to be within striking distance, land communications are bad and danger therefore lies in air attack and attempts to seize aerodromes with air borne troops. A.A. Units and small detachments ground troops probably required. Marshall may need both heavy and light A.A. equipments but light only probably adequate for Harper. Detailed requirements can only be assessed after reconnaissance. Emphasize no (repeat no) A.A. equipments available my resources.

Six In view.....

Six.

In view of ever present shipping difficulty troops should be put into Liberia before (repeat before) emergency arises."

Seven.

In view of above and GLEAM 178 paragraph 2 request you should persuade United States War Department to reconsider their ability to undertake this commitment.

No prospect of increasing G.O.C. in C. West Africa's forces from U.K. meantime.

0200/17.

Received from War Office 0841/17.

1st Lord	War Office Distribution:-
1st S.L.	<u>Internal</u>
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.
D.D.O.D. (F)	M.O.1.4.
Duty Captain (2)	D.M.I.
D. of P. (2)	D.D.M.I. (I)
E.P.S.	M.I.3.a.
Hd. of M.	M.I. (J.I.C.)
I.P. (2)	<u>External</u>
N.I.D. 10.	War Cabinet Offices (Col. Stirling)
W.D.	Admiralty (Cdr. Jenkins)
D.N.I. (4)	Foreign Office (Mr. Mack)
Ad. Bailey.	Air Ministry (W/Cdr Vintras)
	(Plans 1)
	Admiralty (H.W.R.).

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

BOUGAINVILLE. French A.M.C. BOUGAINVILLE ex VICTOR SCHOELCHER 3,000 tons 17 knots reported A.2 sailed Dakar about 12/1 for Madagascar. Description and armament. Reported B. 2 carries fuel supplies for 35 days.
(D.N.I. 1837A/17 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. Med.)

Swordfish Aircraft from Wynberg. Your 1417Z/15 and my 1527/10/11/41. Six Swordfish not already shipped will be retained at Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 2017Z/17 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

6 R.A.F. survivors. Your 1907Z/13* survivors transferred to PARKHAVEN bound for St. Thomas.
(CILICIA, 2050Z/17.)
* Swedish ship picked up 6 R.A.F. survivors. To prevent their being interned they are being put on board CILICIA.

BRAGELAND, ELIN K. R.A.S.A.D's 1343Z/16. No movements of BRAGELAND reported since clearing from Los Angeles on 6/11/41 for Vladivostock. Matter is being further investigated.
Presume you will investigate why departure of ELIN K. from Port Stanley was not promulgated to ships at sea.
(D.T.D., 2116A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)
Reply: S.O.I. Montevideo, 1843Z/18.

Mediterranean.

BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC. Ref. my 1951R/14. It has been reported, Grade B.2, that over half of the 640 tons of rubber has been loaded on French S.S. BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC. Possibly sailing tonight. Destination unknown but probably Marseilles. Description.
(B.A.D., 0001R/17 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
N.I.D. Comment: Washington's 1405/16/1 reported that vessel left Algiers at 1830/14 for unknown destination probably Marseilles. Cancel my 0001/17. Information in my 2247/16 and 1405/16 remains correct.
(B.A.D. Washington, 0945R/17.)

U/B's. U-Boats in 031° 50' N. 026° 15' E. at 0740B/17.
(C. in C. Med., 0906B/17 to Force I Ships, Med. Fleet.)

/Vichy ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Vichy S/M's & Sloop. Both submarines and sloop left Djibuti this morning escorting ELORN. at Djibuti (F.F.N.L.O. Aden, 0948Z/17 to F.N.F.L. London.) ELORN. Daily Intell. Summary No. 624 for 24 hours ending 1500/17/1 Aden 0505, 1 Blenheim from Aisha found both submarines, sloop, and ELORN had left Djibuti harbour. 0505 to 0610 a search of neighbouring waters failed to find them. Slight A/A 0640 to 0650. 3 F.A.A. Albatroses and 1 Blenheim were despatched to search likely areas. 0800, 1 Albatros reported all 4 craft position 1111 N., 4515 E., course 90° speed 7 knots. Aircraft shadowed until 0930. 1340, 1 Blenheim sighted ships 1111 N., 4620 E course 70°. Aisha 1 Blenheim R/C. French Somaliland borders. No casualties, times G.M.T. (C.H.Q. Aden, 1823/17 to Air Ministry.)

TRIUMPH Cancel my 0917B/13. Return to Alexandria (overdue forthwith. Acknowledge as soon as safe to do since 14/1) so. (Capt. (S) I. 1001B/17 to TRIUMPH.) C. in C. Med.'s 1256B/16. Did TRIUMPH carry Recognition Key Memoranda? (D.S.D. 1656A/17 to Capt. (S) I.)

CARLISLE. CARLISLE not in communication with fighters over "Boxer." Bombed twice. Single Junkers 88. One shot down. (Capt. (D) 2. 1121B/17.)

Tobruk. Situation report. Air. No local enemy air activity. 1 JU 88 shot down over M.F.3. Naval. ISAAC SWEERS arrived and left landing 3 officers 233 ratings survivors en route from GURKHA. Canon sailed. WOLBOROUGH coaling from (?DIHEYRSHOREL). Very heavy swell prevents and impedes work on all ships. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 1153B/17 to C. in C. Med.)

P.36. Has P.36 arrived? (F.O.C.N.A. 1158A/17 to V.A. Malta.) P.36 arrived 15/1. (V.A. Malta 1445B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ GURKHA Request you will detach one destroyer to join torpedoed convoy (corrupt group) P. C. and S. 031° 55' N. Convoy M.W.8B. 025° 050° E. 284° 14 knots. GURKHA torpedoed, by U. 133. MAORI and ISAAC SWEERS standing by. (6.2.443) (LEPION 0913B/17 to Capt. (D) 2.)

/send ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

GURKHA torpedoes ~~6.7.133~~ (C. in C. Med. 0914B/17, to Mersa Matruh C. or C.O) Convoy M.W.8B. Proceed to assist (?GURKHA) in 031° 50' N. 026° 15' E. contd.
(S.O. Force I 0848B/17 to ST. MONANCE.)
Your 0913 and S.O. Force "I" 0848. Cannot spare one. (Capt.D.2 1104/17 to LEGION, (R) C.S.15.)
SAINT MONANCE sailed to you 1125/17.
(Mersa Matruh 1130B/17 to GURKHA.)
Report progress. (C. in C. Med. 1230B/17 to GURKHA, (R) ISAAC SWEERS.)
GURKHA sunk. MAORI and ISAAC SWEERS have not rejoined. Some casualties transferred to AVON VALE My P. C. and S. are at 1400 032° 18' 024° 31' 300° 13½. (LEGION 1401B/17.)
Land survivors of GURKHA at Tobruk and rejoin M.W.8B. (C. in C. Med. 1458B/17 to ISAAC SWEERS)
GURKHA torpedoes and sunk at 0740/17 while escorting M.W.8B convoy. Understood ISAAC SWEERS picked up ships company with exception of 6 Officers and 4 ratings missing. 2 Officers and 4 ratings seriously injured. No further details yet known. (C. in C. Med. 1611B/17 to Admty.)
ISAAC SWEERS sailed 1900 to rejoin "Bacon". (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 1939B/17)

AJAX. My 1948/10. AJAX cannot be counted as an effective cruiser. Request instructions regarding disposal.
(C. in C. Med. 1057B/17 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 15/1 PEONY, Departure ^{* 16} 15/1 GURKHA, LEGION, MAORI, ISAAC SWEERS, KELVIN. Departure 16/1 KIPLING, NAIAD, EURYALUS, HAVOCK, DIDO. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1156B/17 to Admty, C. in C. Med.)
** 16 p 402*

R/C of Messina & Palermo. Visual report Messina, 1 cruiser 4 destroyers, Palermo, 1 destroyer 3 medium merchant ships. (V.A. Malta, 1206B/17 to C. in C. Med.)
My 1206B/17. Photograph reveals:- Messina-Cruisers TRENTO, GORIZIA, and BANDE NERE, 4 destroyers, 2 T.B.'s and 3 S/Ms. Palermo - 5 destroyers or T.B.'s and 17 merchant ships of which 9 are above 2000 tons. (V.A. Malta 1715B/17 to C. in C. Med.)
R/C Messina 17/1. 2 8 inch cruisers one 6 inch cruiser 6 destroyers 3 S/M's.
(Capt. S.10 1923B/17 to S/Ms on patrol.)

S/M attacked. An investigating suspicious object, oil patch, in position 010° 32° N. 25° E. 16 miles. Have attacked enemy with Depth Charges.
(A/C 3 V K 1401/17.)

PORPOISE. Do not approach Candia. Keep clear of area bounded by 035° 30' N. between 025° 00' and 025° 20'.
(Capt. (S) 1, 1513B/17 to PORPOISE.)
/Operation ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Operation "Semolina". O.313. Your 918 30/12. "Semolina" completed 1500/15 operation carried out most expeditiously and satisfactorily.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1716/17 to Air Min.)

Malta C.S.R. I.33 17/1. 1500 hours 15 fighters and JU.88 bombs land 3 houses destroyed. Night 16/17th 6 alerts 1843 to 0553 hours 7 raiders bombs land sea slight damage houses 17th 0742 and 1114 hours 8 raiders bombs in sea.

Part 2. Night 16th/17th special Wellington shipping search Maritimo Cape Bonn Kerkenah sighted 3 ships 2159 hours East Melita 33 miles shadowed till 2350 hours 080° Melita 42 miles course 040°. 9 knots Albacore and Swordfish standing by but aircraft unable to pass message to base failure being investigated. 2 Wellingtons on patrol over Tripoli 2010 to 2200 hours in bad and deteriorating weather 24 250 lb. SAP bombs (corrupt group) flares dropped from 10,000 feet hits town, Spanish Fort and near transport approaching from EBTT. Fire started in railway station. 3 Hudsons 7 Wellingtons 1 Mosquito arrived ex Gibraltar 1 Hudson 2 Wellingtons missing nothing heard from these aircraft. Deluge has started again Hal Far, Ta Kali, unserviceable.
(H.Q. Malta 1730/17.)

GLOXINIA Sailed 1500B/ GLOXINIA and 1900B Force "K".
Force K. (V.A. Malta 2350B/17.)

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ELYSIA. A.M. 2358/14 is ELYSIA still at Bombay. Repeat reply to Admt. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0230Z/17 to N.C.S.O. Bombay). Your 0230/17. Yes.. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0344Z/17 to S.O.(I) Colombo).

Attack on U-Boat 22/12. Your 1727/21 October. (A) Seven (B) 1858/22/12. (C) H.M.I.S. SONAVATI (D) 14.03 N. 73.02 E. (C) H. (harry) (J) Nil. (C. in C. E.I., 0744Z/17.

M.V. KWANGTUNG. Master LEOA (?HELLAS) reported picking up Capt. torpedoed. Chief Officer and Chief Engineer of KWANGTUNG with nine of Chinese crew at 1100/4 40 miles from shore South of Java. KWANGTUNG torpedoed at 0300/3 by Japanese Submarine. Submarine shelled ship, rammed boat and left at about 0600 about 70 of crew feared lost names of survivors will follow in further signal. (C. in C. E.I., 0754Z/17 to Admt. (R) R.A. Malaya).

GLENARTNEY. Your 1548/15 (C. in C. E.I., 1548/15 intended). GLENARTNEY sailed from Bombay 17/1. E.T.A. Batavia 24/1. (P.S.T.O. India, 0947Z/17 to R.A. Malta).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Left Mombasa 1327 G.M.T./17. (N.O.I.C. E. Africa, 1331Z/17).

S.S. NEDERLAND. NEDERLAND was directed to Rangoon by my 1744/14 confirmed by my 1355/15. N.C.S.O. Colombo 1534/15 reports ship sailed Bahrein. Request confirmation that ship has been diverted to Rangoon. (D.T.D., 1434A/17 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply: 1012/18. B.A.P.C.O. requests that NEDERLAND be diverted Singapore. (N.O.I.C. Bahrein, 1517Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

Convoy W S 15. D M 3. Convoy W 3 15 due Durban about 11/2 will include direct portion for Far East to be known as D M 3 in addition to Bombay and Suez portions. (D.O.D.(F) 1533A/17 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Defence of Bases. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 20. 1. Defences for naval and air bases in Ceylon have been under consideration and following scales have been approved:-

(a) Air Defences. (Details).
 (b) Naval Defences. As at present.
 (c) Coast Defences. Trincomalee 3 - 9.2 inch (35°) 5 - 6 inch (15°)
 2 - 6 prs. Colombo 3 - 9.2 inch (35°) 3 - 6 inch (45°)
 2 - 6 inch (15°) 4 - 6 prs.

3. Marine A.A. Brigade now en route to Ceylon. Following

/distribution ...

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Defence of Bases. (contd.) distribution of its equipments is suggested. Trincomalee. Heavy A.A.guns 16, Light A.A.guns 12, G.L. sets 3, G.O.R. Organisation. Colombo. Heavy A.A. guns 8, Light A.A. guns 4, G.L. sets 1.

4. Implications of establishing an air striking force at Ceylon are being considered and a further telegram will be sent. (W.O., 1630/17, to C. in C. India).

China.

ATHENE. Admty. 1635A/19/12 and 1930A/22/12. ATHENE loaded with 39 dismantled Hurricanes mark 2B due Capetown 16/1 is now to proceed to Singapore instead of Karachi. (V.C.N.S., 0017A/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

Abdafloat Staff. I consider it desirable that R.A.Navy be represented on my staff. (2) Request if you concur provide details of a suitable Officer and send him to Batavia as soon as possible. B.A.D. pass to Opnav, Washington. (Naval Section, Supreme Command General Staff, Abda Area, Batavia, 0030Z/17 to A.C.N.B).

Aircraft Signals. From Chiefs of Staff S.W.P. No.5

1. G.O.C. Malaya has drawn attention to confusion at present existing owing to fact that Andusrec aircraft signals are being employed in Andus area and are being confused with other pyrotechnical signals.
2. Admty. suggest that whole of K L and M Series of Key Memoranda should now be used by Dutch warships and aircraft irrespective of whether British Liaison Officers are borne or not.
3. It will be necessary to consult C. in C. Pacific Fleet. *

(W.O., 0140/17 to Abdacom, Batavia).
*Request you will inform us of what you decide.

FORAFRIC. Lost off Philippine Is. by enemy action 24/12. No loss of life am taking charge of whole crew under Distress British Seamens Regulations. (Surabaya 0253Z/17).

Boundaries of Abda area. Ref. my 0849Z/13th the Abda Area is bounded as follows (as A.M.1319A/12)
(C. in C. E.F., 0445Z/17 to Eastern Theatre 53 X).
*Change of W/T organization for ships travelling between Darwin and N.E.I. and Malayan Waters.

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET ~~MESSAGE~~ 0230/17 on Jan. In

From: C. in C. Middle East.

Date 17.1.42.

Recd: 0615

Cipher

Addressed: C. in C. S.W. Pacific Batavia repeated War Office.

IMMEDIATE 253051.

CS/603 cipher 16/1.

Personal for General Wavell repeated C.I.G.S. from General Auchinleck.

Thoroughly realize urgency that was why I personally went into reasons for postponement with Blamey and others responsible. Am satisfied it is unavoidable if leading troops are to arrive reasonably ready for immediate employment. Am watching whole operation most carefully. Every effort will be made to send Armoured Bde. Staff by air. Arrangements for despatch by air of Advanced Corps. H.Q. already made. Lavarack leaving by air on 19th (repeat 19th) with portion Corps Staff. Commander Armoured Bde. will follow by air later.

0230/17.

Recd: from W.O., 1547/17

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

War Office Distribution
S of S.
C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S., Q.M.G.
D.M.O.&P.
D.D.M.O. (O)
D.P. (2)
M.O. 1.2 5 10
D.S.D.
D.M.I.
D.S.D. (W)
D.D.S.D.
D.D.S.D. (W)
S.D. 2.
D.A.F.V.
A.F.V. 1.
D.Q.M.G. (4)
D Mov. (4)
C.N.S.
D of Plans)
Hd of War Reg.) Admiralty
C.A.S.)
D of Plans) Air Ministry
Col. Jacob)
Sec. J.P.S.) Cabnt Offs.

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.U/B sunk
by JUPITER.
(I. 160.)
M 051043/42

My 0829Z/17 (N.T. in W.R.) have sunk by depth charges and gunfire in 006° 19' 30" S. 104° 49' 20" E. Have suffered one direct hit one mounting out of action. 3 killed (group omitted) seriously and 5 slightly wounded. E.T.A. (?Edi) Island 1845 G.M.T/17. (JUPITER, 0947Z/17 to R.A.Malaya). See also R.A.M.Y. 0735Z/18.

Air
Operations.

Oprep/33. Daily Operational Summary up to 1030Z/16. Result of striking force reported in my Oprep/32 despatched to attack enemy troops approaching Sungei Linggi 4 out 5 barges believed sunk. Daily R/C of East and West coasts of Malaya and to depth of 250 miles N.N.E. of Mersing. Nil sighting. R/C of coast Malacca to Ketapang resulted in nil sighting of shipping. (A.H.Q., F.E. 1015/17). 1 Blenheim successfully attacked barges off coast near Muar. Batu Pahat raided A.M. 16/1. No report of damage yet received. 2 enemy recco aircraft raided Singapore early daylight hours 16/1. Intercepted by our fighters and 1 enemy army type 97 bomber recco shot down. Singapore again raided by 19 army type 97 bombers. 30 heavy bombs were dropped in Kranji Creek and 15 in water West of Causeway. No damage reported. Enemy raid intercepted by 18 Buffaloes. Total effort for day 99 sorties - Exclusive fighter defence Singapore. (A.H.Q. F.E., 1029/17).

Situation
Report 38.

1630 G.M.T/16. Johore. Endau Area. Enemy landing supported by naval craft and dive bombing and M.G. attacks from air took place Endau early morning/16.

Batu Pahat area. Japanese landing took place south west of Batu Pahat early morning/16. Enemy strength estimated about 72 has not been rounded up yet. Air raid Batu Pahat Langkap but no details available.

Singapore. Two days light raids on the island carried out by 19 army 97 bombers and two reconnaissance aircraft. No damage caused. One enemy aircraft shot down in flames and one of our aircraft lost and pilot missing.

Borneo. Christmas Island. Nothing to report.

Air. Total effort for 16 Jan. 99 sorties exclusive fighter defence Singapore. R/C east coast Malaya nil report. Machine gun attack on barges and preparatory launches outside river Muar resulted in heavy casualties to personnel in barges and launches destroyed. (Advance H.Q. Malaya Cmd. 1204/17).

CAP DES
PALMES.

It has been decided that CAP DES PALMES is not to be fitted out either at Singapore or Sydney. (V.C.N.S., 1253A/17).

Supreme
Command.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (S.W.P.) 6. Ref. your No.48 dated 14/1 and President's signal to you dated 15/1.

1. All Governments concerned have now agreed to your assumption of supreme command and have been asked to agree to your general organization as set out in your No.9 dated 11/1. 2. Noted that you have taken over command as from Mid-day G.M.T 15/1. (W.O., 1630/17 to Supreme Comdr. S.W.Pacific).

/Enemy ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Enemy Units, Governor of North Borneo reports enemy suspected
Kudat. to be approaching Sandakan, vessels sighted off
 Kudat 6 a.m. 17/1. (Brit. Agent, Singapore,
 1840/17 to S. of S. for Colonies).

Abdacom H.Q., For Chief of Staff. Following is organisation of
Organisation. H.Q. Abdacom.

1. Staff divided into five branches, naval, air, army, administrative, intelligence.
2. Heads are (a) Naval. Adm. Hart as C.N.S. deputy, Rear-Adm. Palliser. (b) Air. A.M. Peirse as C.A.S., (Major Gen. Brereton now acting). deputy, Major Gen. Brereton (Capt. Darvall now acting). (c) Army. Lieut. Gen. Ter Poorten is Principal Military Adviser with Major Gen. Playfair as C.G.S. (d) Administrative. Lieut. Gen. Brett title Intendant-General will have two deputies, one for air, one for army administration. (e) Intelligence. Col. Field D.D.M.I. with joint service bureau.
3. All branches above will have American, British, Dutch, Australian representatives as appropriate and available.
4. Commanders. Adm. Hart and A.M. Peirse (Brereton acting) will respectively have strategic and operational command of all naval and air force Abdacom area. Gen. Ter Poorten command all R.N.E.I. land forces and have operational control any other allied land forces in N.E.I. territory.
In their capacity as commanders above have direct responsibility to Supreme Commander and meet daily under him. Gen. Brett attends both as Intendant General and Deputy Supreme Commander. Staff meetings attended by deputies under Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Pownall.
5. Naval organisation. Under Adm. Hart operations will be conducted from time to time by allied force commanders acting either separately or in (?conjunction) as ordered. For present Adm. Hart will remain in command of U.S.A. Asiatic Fleet, its operations being directed by Adm. Purnell, acting (?fleet) deputy at Sourabaya.
6. Provisional air organisation. Under A.M. Peirse command will be exercised through groups as follows:- R/C group at Batavia will be a separate group for whole area under Dutch command with U.S.A. deputy. (?Nor.) group Burma British command. West group, Singapore and (?Sumatra), British command. CEN group West Java Dutch command air H.Q. Bandoeng. (?Eas.) group East Java American Command, (?air) H.Q. will be Sourabaya. AUS. group, Darwin, Australian or American command. As far as possible groups will be self contained administratively, central supply and maintenance supervised by Intendant General.
7. Army staff organisation. Under Chief of General Staff 5 sections. Number 1 co-ordination equivalent to M.O.1 War Office. No.2 Burma Singapore. No. 3 N.E.I. No.4 Australia. Possibly No.5 Philippines. No.1 will throw off staff duties and training sections if necessary. (Supreme Comdr., S.W. Pacific, 2015/17 to W.O.)

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

B.A.D. 0001R/17, 0945R/17 see Mediterranean.

U/B's.

One submarine sighted at 2155 G.C.T. off Bar "N" Lightship buoy. Plane attacked submarine 42° 15' N. 69° 55' W. at 2105 G.C.T. Further submarine sighting at 43° 05' N. 69° 25' W. at 2015 G.C.T. All times 16/1. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0035Z/17 to Admty. etc.) Submarine sighted by Fighter Aircraft at 1600Z/16 10 miles E. of Sambro L.V. Halifax A/S vessel attacked contact at 1820Z/16. 2nd Aircraft sighted 2117Z (?16th) one mile East of (corrupt group). Same contact and attacked by 2 A/S Vessels 0040Z 17th. Search continues. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 0339Z/17). Conning Tower and Periscope observed by plane 4 miles off Coast of Georgia at 2100 G.C.T. half way between Savannah and Brunswick. (C. in C. U.S.N., 0415Z/17). Following received from PRUDENT. Passed S/M 048° 55' N. 049° 30' W. at 0530Z/17 (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0845Z/17, to Admty.) Position amended to 49° 0' N. 50° 0' W. (C.C.N.F., 0009Z/18). Submarine sighted by plane 39 - 20 N. 73 - 30 W. at 1510 G.C.T./17 Speed 3 course 270. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2040/17).

N.E.F.

Destroyers.

Your 1551Z/15. READING and RESTIGOUCHE are expected to complete refits on 22/1 and 26/1 respectively. Of 18 Long-Legged destroyers in Western Approaches Command 7 are refitting, 3 are detached, and the remainder are at sea and cannot be released from their duties. Regretted therefore that your request cannot be met from these limited resources. Suggest Opanav be asked whether they can assist. (A.C.N.S.(T) 0036A/17 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa).

O N 54.

Have been unable to contact O N 54. Now proceeding St. John's N.F. to refuel. P.C. and S. 047° 02' N. 038° (?20') W. 274°. 12. weather report. 44610353. (NANAIMO, 0200Z/17).

FRISCO

(torpedoed
12/1).

Danish MJOANES arrived North Sydney ^{216/1 p 409} 26/1 with 6 survivors Norwegian FRISCO torpedoed 2200Z/12 in 44° 50' N. 60° 20' W. (C.O.A.C., 0254Z/17 to Admty).

Air Operations. 11 BR Dartmouth one Hudson on special harbour search for enemy submarine did not sight enemy unit. 118 Fighter Sqn. Kittyhawk aircraft attacked enemy submarine with machine gun fire off Halifax Harbour no damage indicated. Three Hudsons searched coast area St. John's N.F., and Conception Bay. No enemy units sighted. Torpedoed tanker sighted at 1730 G.M.T. being towed to St. John's in position ZJYZ 0340. (A.O.C.E.A.C. 0359/17).

KOLKHO SNIK
distress.

Following received (begins). From Lands End Radio, intercept 0713 G.M.T. S O S U.S.S.R. KOLKHO SNIK 44.23 N. 63.39 W. I have damage in bottom, want salvage vessel, my ship go down. Not re-broadcast. (Plymouth C.C.O., 0724/17 0815/17 to Admty.)

/Following ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.KOLKHO ZNIK
distress.
(contd.)

Following received (begins)- From Valentia Radio, intercept, De Camperdown, Nova Scotia Radio S.O.S. KOLKHO ZNIK 44.23 N. 63.39 W. at 0700 G.M.T., vessel sinking last heard 0708 G.M.T., keep sharp lookout for boats, bearing Camperdown, 0708 G.M.T. 198° approx. (Ends). (C.C.O. Plymouth, 0902/17 to Admty.)

"S" Reports.

Following received at 0426 G.M.T. (begins) SSSS 20.35 N. 71.40 W. 3 shells. (Ends) Further signal at 0441 G.M.T. (begins) Sinking (ends). No call sign or identification (Capt. i/c Bermuda, 0736/17 to Admty.)

Unknown ship reports she is sinking in 20.35 N. 71.41 W. at 0418/17 having been shelled by S/M. U.S. Planes being sent to search area. Para. 2. S.O.S. received from unknown ship in position 18.16 N. 57.35 W. at 0408Z/17. (B.A.D. Washington, 1043R/17 to Admty.)

ARCHER.

B.A.D. Washington 1127R/14th. B.A.D. Washington has reported that U.S. salvage arrangements are inadequate. Dutch Tug ROODE ZEE has been sent from Bermuda and should reach ARCHER a.m./19. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942P/17 to Admty.)

DIOMEDE.

Admty. 2034A/14. DIOMEDE will be available 21/1. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022P/17 to B.A.D.)

but see next page

MARON.

Your 1933P/16. (a) 039° 40' N. 050° 00' W. at 1200A/17th based on S.O.A. 10 knots (b) 20/1 giving minimum 3 days fuel remaining. (2) ZEALANDIA has diesel engines. (S.O.W.P. 1030A/17 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Proceed Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1043P/17 to MARON).

Responsibility Chiefs of Staff (W) No.4 from Joint Staff Mission. for Philippines. Following from Cominch to C. in C. Asiatic Fleet despatched 16/1. begins. Number 162130. For General Wavell from President. With reference to my message to you of 16/1 authorising your proposed action as to taking over command, it must be understood that approval was not given by me to your proposal excluding Philippine Islands from your responsibility. This subject will be covered in message through prescribed Abda channels. Ends. (B.A.D. Washington, 1031R/17 to Admty.)

PANDORA.

My 1358/12. PANDORA is now delayed sailing until P.M. Wednesday 21/1. (B.A.R.M. 1042R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ALCANTARA.

ALCANTARA will sail from Norfolk for Bermuda p.m./26 or 27. C. in C. A. & W.I., is requested to issue route instructions. (B.A.R.M. 1102R/17).

/REGENT ...

War Diary.17.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- REGENT. Your 1233/15. As arrangements for ships to go to New London detailed in my 1652/15 are now doubtful suggest no arrangements be made to divert REGENT from present course to Philadelphia until further advice is given from B.A.R.M. or B.A.D. (B.A.R.M., 1128R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- FIREDRAKE. My 1316/5 sailing of FIREDRAKE is delayed 12 hours. (B.A.R.M., 1146R/17).
- Transport
GEORGE
WASHINGTON. Your 1549Z/17. C. in C. Lant is being asked to provide escort (B.A.D., 1349R/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
GEORGE WASHINGTON due to sail from New York P.M./18 for Halifax for NA 2. Her draught of 34 ft. 6 ins. necessitates routeing ship outside Nantucket Shoal. Consider ship should not sail on this route unescorted. Can U.S. escort be arranged? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1549Z/17 to B.A.D.)
Your 1637A/16. Unable to guarantee speed GEORGE WASHINGTON 14 knots. Experts all agree ship capable of 14 knots and Sparks recommends she be sailed for Halifax hoping this minimum speed can be developed on voyage. Propose ship should be sailed for Halifax as soon as arrangements can be made in accordance my 1549Z/17. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1703Z/17 to Admty.)
- GEORGE
WASHINGTON,
MONTCALM,
LARGS BAY. My 1703Z/17. It may be imperative to supply stokers for GEORGE WASHINGTON at Halifax where none are available. If necessary propose to take extra requirements from MONTCALM due Halifax late 18/1 and skeleton crew take MONTCALM to Baltimore. D. of S.T. 1800A/7 refers. 2. Has D. of S.T. considered holding MONTCALM at Halifax for use in NA 2 in case GEORGE WASHINGTON minimum 14 knots cannot be maintained? 3. Jamaica reports LARGS BAY no accommodation available at Halifax but reply not yet received to D. of S.T. 0511A/7, not to B.A.D. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2226Z/17 to Admty.)
- Marseilles & Algiers arrivals. 1. Reference my 2011/12, 1731/6, 1351/6 in view of labour involved and congestion of Signal traffic, O N 1 have asked if value of this information justifies its continuance.
2. They suggest as possible alternative sending weekly statement giving numbers of arrivals and departures and monthly list of ships concerned. After first month this latter report would consist only of additions and deletions. (B.A.D., 1411R/17 to Admty.)
- DESPATCH Your 2034A/14. Due to depletion of task force 3 by for S. Atlantic. two leaders sent to reinforce Pacific, C. in C. U.S. FLEET would much prefer that the first cruiser available namely DIOMEDE should join this force and that DESPATCH after 14 days required to making good minor defects at Bermuda should replace DEVONSHIRE in South Atlantic. To accelerate this and in anticipation of your concurrence C. in C. U.S. Fleet is issuing orders to Com. 15 Panama to send DESPATCH to Bermuda forthwith. Request early decision. (B.A.D. Washington, 1419R/17 to Admty.) Concur. (D.O.D. (F) 1653A/18)
/FRISCO ...

War Diary.

17.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

- FRISCO (torpedoed 12/1). My 2246Z/16. Survivors were picked up 14/1 in 046° 22' N. 057° 30' W. Vessel was torpedoed 2200Z/12 in 044° 50' N. 060° 20' W. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1420Z/17 to Admty, Opnav, B.A.D., C. in C. A.W.I.)
- CAMPERO. CAMPERO Spanish tanker suspected of fuelling Axis unit at sea departed Covenas 12/1 to arrive Lisbon 2/2. (Washington, 1425/17 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- SURCOUF. Your 2101A/25/12. Anticipate SURCOUF will be ready for sea by approx. 31/1. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1431Z/17 to Admty.)
- WARSPITE. Your 1143R/7 and C. in C. A. & W.I. 1012Q/8 request information as to orders given to WARSPITE. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1433A/17 to B.A.D.)
- SYDLAND. Sweden SYDLAND returned from S C 63. Heavy weather damage to deck damages require boats provisions and repairs. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1441Z/17). *too red.*
- U.S. Transports from Bombay. Your 1617/14. Destination United States, actual ports not decided. They will probably call at Trinidad. (B.A.D., 1531R/17 to Admty.)
- Asking for news of U.S. Ships. Have you any news of following U.S. ships due Los Angeles on dates indicated:-
MATHEW LUCKENBACH 27/12, STEEL EXPORTER 29/12, HENRY D. WHITON 29/12, RICHMOND 30/12, J. A. MOFFETT 30/12, PRESIDENT MONROE 31/12. All from Balboa. HUGUENOT 7/12 from Portland OREGON and VICTOR H. KELLY 24/12 from Vancouver. (D.T.D., 1834A/17 to D.N.I. Ottawa).
- CARADOC. A.M. 0035A/2/12. Request you will arrange for CARADOC, manned in accordance with A.M. 2217A/3/10 to carry out one week's work up and then to be sailed for U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1835A/17 to B.A.R.M., C. in C. A.W.I.)
- TOORAK (torpedoed 16/1) OSTENDE EMPIRE FRANKLIN. TOORAK ex O N 52 torpedoed arrived St. John's under own power. Belgian OSTENDE returned from S C 63 heavy weather damage. Also EMPIRE FRANKLIN from S C 63 heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1906Z/17).
- S.S. MADOERA. Dutch ship MADOERA due Balboa 13/1 from Batavia not arrived. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2046R/17).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- ACADIA, KENT. U.S. Army transport^{ACADIA} and ^{Navy transport} KENT sailed New Orleans 14/1 for unknown destination. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2107Z/17 to Admty.)
- WEST HONAKER. My 1139R/16. Ship arrived. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2331R/17).
- Suspicious Ship. Army patrol plane reports suspicious freighter 43.11 N. 66.05 W. at 0925 B.S.T./17 not underway X hoisted Netherlands flag when challenged then got underway course 60° speed 5. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 2355/17).

Australia & New Zealand.

- MONOWAI, A/C attack. Unsuccessful attack made by submarine and one aircraft presumed to be carried by submarine on A.M.C. MONOWAI yesterday at 17.03 hours local time, approx. 15 miles from Suva. Action lasted for only a few minutes and so far as known no damage sustained by MONOWAI which is now en route to New Zealand. Full details not available until her arrival there. (Govr. (Sir H.Luke) Fiji, 1325/17 to S. of S. for Colonies).
- U.S. SEAWOLF. Departure (?Darwin) 0248Z/16 U.S. S/M SEAWOLF for patrol in Molucca Strait Area via Sermata Island and Manipa Strait area. (Combined H.Q. Amboina informed. (A.C.N.B., 1539Z/17 to Admty. etc.)
- Identification of M/V's. Your 0618Z/14. British and Allied ships sailing independently, or in convoy, from U.K. have Aldis or similar daylight signalling lamp. A.M.S.I. 641 now in course of distribution refers. (D.T.D., 1859A/17 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

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Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approx. position of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1450A/17, 1452A/17.)

Asdic
noises.

Reports received of underwater tapping noises
having been heard on asdics. These appear to
fall under two categories:-

- (a) A rapid and irregular series of taps.
- (b) Tapping at a fixed and regular interval.

No definite conclusion reached as to source, but is known that
(a) can emanate from fish. Type (b) closely resembles echo
sounding transmissions but, although possible it may emanate
from a U-Boat, this cannot be assumed.

Ships are to continue to forward reports on this subject.
Reports not required if the noise is definitely attributable
to fish. Admty. No. 166A of 3/6/1941 is cancelled.
D.A.S.W. 1004A/17 "A" Message.)

War Diary.

18.1.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

All traffic is again suspended at Hvalfiord, as the gate vessel has again parted a mooring and fouled the entrance.

British Air Operations.

45 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Bremen last night and 19 Emden.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy aircraft dropped 2 bombs near the Outer Skerries Lighthouse today.

Mining.

Operation
S.N. 15B.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE with ADVENTURE, LANCASTER and ST. MARYS sailed from Port ZA at 0926 to lay mines off Duncansby Head.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was carried out in the Bristol Channel last night.

North Atlantic.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE, torpedoed in 45° 35' N. 20° 50' W. on 16/1 reported at 1536 today that she /required ...

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Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

required an immediate tow. At 1700 G.M.T. she was in 39° 20' N. 26° 12' W. making for Horta at 9 knots (Arrived 19/1).

H.M.T. ERIN was sunk by explosion, thought to be due to sabotage, at Gibraltar today whilst lying between H.M.T's IMPERIALIST and HONJO, both of which are badly damaged.

All ships recently in dockyard hands at Gibraltar have been ordered to carry out forthwith a very careful search of all magazines, as sabotage is suspected.

South Atlantic.

VIOLET at 1224Z today intercepted the Italian S.S. DUCHESSA D'AOSTA in 3° 53' N. 6° 02' E., steering westwards. VIOLET placed a prize crew aboard without opposition and is escorting the ship to Lagos. (See 15/1). Although it is not so stated by VIOLET, it appears that she also intercepted the two small German vessels.

Mediterranean.

There were several air attacks on Malta today, commencing at 0423. No naval damage is reported.

Operation
M.F. 3.

C.S. 15 and convoys were bombed today, apparently without damage. THERMOFYLAE is returning to Alexandria with CARLISLE, ARROW and HAVOCK, on account of defects.

/4 Swordfish ...

War Diary.

18.1.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

4 Swordfish attacked with torpedoes a convoy at 0035 41 miles S.S.W. of Lampedusa and hit a destroyer and tanker.

3 single JU.88's bombed Benghazi today, but negligible damage was caused.

China.

About 139 bombers and fighters attacked Singapore in two raids this morning.

4 tanks were set on fire at Senoko oil fuel depot and slight damage was caused in the dockyard. Damage was caused to the fixed defences at Blakang Mati and to communications and water supply.

One of H.M. Ships bombed Muar at 1545 G.M.T. today.

There was an air raid on Moulmein p.m. today but no serious damage was caused.

It is reported that the Japanese have occupied Jolo (Philippines) and are erecting aircraft there, and that 100 have already been erected. 17 enemy aircraft bombed Cebu harbour today and caused severe damage to shipping.

America and West Indies.

S.S. DIMITRIOS G. THERMIOTIS, which sailed in S.C. 63 made a submarine raider report this morning.

At 2315 Opanav reported an unknown ship torpedoed in 38° 55' N. 74° 22' W. A submarine was sighted by an aircraft at 1157 G.C.T. in 38° 56' N. 74° 32' W. and another during the afternoon off Ambrose L.V.

/Tanker ...

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18.1.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Tanker R.S. ALLEN JACKSON was torpedoed at 0740 G.C.T. in 35° N. 74° 22' W. by a submarine on the surface.

NASTURTIUM was ordered at 2152P to proceed to assist ARCHER (damaged in collision on 13/1.)

Australia. /

R.A.A.F. aircraft made a further attack on Kapinga Marangi today. The jetty was hit and a flying boat and several launches destroyed.

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

MAUVENET. On completion of satisfactory trials and after disembarking trial party about 22/1 request you will sail MAUVENET for Scapa to work up prior to joining Eastern Fleet.
(D.O.D. H. 2017A/18 to N.O.I.C. Barrow).

Movements.

LA CAPRICIEUSE. My 1101A/16. ^{N.T. N.W.D.} R/V delayed. Proceed to Scapa.
(Capt. S.3, 0049A/18 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).

SAN ZOTICO. Scapa departure SAN ZOTICO escorted by WORCESTER.
E.T.A. Skaale Fiord 1000/19.
(A.C.O.S., 1010A/18).

DAUNTLESS. To avoid submarines alter course forthwith to pass through following positions 41° 30' N. 24° W. and 43° N. 24° W., then as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. (D.O.D. F., 1013A/18 to DAUNTLESS).
DAUNTLESS routed through (A) 043° N. 024° W. (B) 048° 30' N. 016° W. (C) 049° 30' N. 011° 10' W. (D) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles (E) 180° Lizard Head 6.5.
(F.O.S., 1903A/18 to REGENT, TUNA, RUBIS).

CUMBERLAND. E.T.A. 1400A/18th. Have on board Sir Stafford Cripps for passage to U.K. (CUMBERLAND, 1032A/18 to R.N.O. Seidis Fiord).

PORT QUEBEC. R.A.(M)'s 1033A/16.
No escort is available from Portsmouth without serious interference with boiler cleaning of only available destroyer of 1st. D.F.
Can you provide escort from Portsmouth to Smalls?
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1113/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Your 1113/18. Subject to no unforeseen convoy commitments a destroyer will be available as escort.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1644/18 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

RUBIS. Escort will be at R/V 270° Bishop Rock 3 miles from 0900A until 1100A on 20th and 21st to escort you to Falmouth to await onward escort. A further signal will be made if R/V is not kept on 20th or 21st. (Capt. S.3 1853A/18 to RUBIS).

KEREN,
KARANJA. You are to take KARANJA under your orders and proceed to Loch Fyne A.M. 21st for working up exercises returning to Clyde on 28/1.
(S.O.A.S.C., 1925/18 to KEREN).

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Action with Armed Trawlers off Gris Nez on 17/1. M.T.B.47 lost. M.T.B.38 damaged.

At 2015 yesterday Saturday M.T.B. 38,44, and 47 with M.G.B. 324,328, and 330 were despatched to investigate an R.D.F. plot of three small vessels proceeding Westwards along enemy coastal route. At 2050 M.G.B's intercepted enemy off Gris Nez reporting 2 armed trawlers which they engaged for three minutes. At 2121 M.T.B's made contact and M.T.B.38 attacked unsuccessfully with one torpedo. All boats came under heavy fire. M.T.B.47 has not been seen nor replied to signals since the attack. M.T.B.38 had one serious and three slight casualties and much superficial damage. Search by M.G.B 324 and 330 for M.T.B.47 is now proceeding and if unsuccessful further search including aircraft will be made at daylight. It was notice that R.D.F. plot showed two enemy vessels remaining in vicinity of position of M.T.B. attack for about two hours before they proceeded into Boulogne. (V.A.Dover, 0046A/18).

My 0046 and 1349. Although German broadcast announces M.T.B 47 sank in flames other M.T.B's did not observe this. In view of the difficulty of sinking these craft and the fact that enemy vessels remained for about 2 hours on the scene of the attack the possibility exists that M.T.B.47 was salvaged and taken to Boulogne and the crew may be Prisoners of War. (V.A.Dover 2022A/18).

M.T.B. 47 - See also p. 453

Operations Q L 4. P W 23.

My 2300A/3. Weather permitting carry out the following operations tonight.

(1) Q L (4) with three M.L's of 51st Flotilla. Covering force two M.G.B's of 6th Flotilla in 51° 56' N. 03° 45' E.

(2) P W (23) with three M.T.B's of 4th Flotilla. Covering force two M.G.B's of 6th Flotilla on Q P (1). (C. in C. Nore, 1100A/18 to BEEHIVE).

Departure M.G.B. 320, 30, 31 and 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1634A/18).

Departure M.G.B's 64, 60, 65, 67. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1702A/18).

S/M Patrol off Fro Havet.

Though there is no evidence to indicate existence of enemy R.D.F. station near Fro Havet submarines on patrol in zones E and W are for the time being to assume such stations do exist. In consequence submarines should not approach within 10 miles of the land while on the surface. (F.O.S., 1256A/18 to SEAWOLF, TRIDENT, O.14). Admiralty's 1253A/18. If you encounter this U Boat you should attack it, but a full salvo must be retained for subsequent patrol. (F.O.S., 1546A/18 to O.14).

O.14 sailed escorted to position (A) 060° 51' 30" N. 000° 23' W. then unescorted diving by day at C.O's discretion to (B) 061° 50' N. 000° 00' (C) 063° 50' N. 005° E., then submerging by day to Area K 7. (A.C.O.S., 2011A/17 to S/M's Area A.)

SEAWOLF is to patrol zone E after 2359/19. O.14 is to patrol zone W and is expected to arrive there a.m. 20th.

(B) SEAWOLF is to leave patrol after dark 20th and proceed on the surface by day at C.O's discretion through (G) 065° N. 008° E. (H) 064° 15' N. 002° E. (J) 062° 20' N. 000° 30' W. to R/V as ordered by Capt. (S) 3 on 22nd, thence to Holy Loch. (F.O.S., 2242A/18).

S/M's in North Russia. Reference your private letter dated 3/1. After consultation with Admiralty and bearing in mind /that ...

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M's in
North Russia.
(contd.)

that enemy has recently had adequate craft available for moderate minelaying effort in these waters I am most strongly of opinion that our submarines should not penetrate or proceed inshore of Q Z R 33. I presume you will convey my view to Russian C. in C. (F.O.S., 1307A/18 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

C. in C. H.F., 1552A/17. Take up patrol approximately 15 miles S.W. of minefield and 10 miles from ice edge. Length of patrol 30 miles. (V.A.2. 1407A/18 to BERWICK).

Owing to gale it has not been possible to clear gate and BERWICK has not sailed. Further attempt will be made moment weather permits. (A.C.I.C., 1915A/18 to C. in C. H.F.) BERWICK's R.D/F out of action (F.O.2.i/c H.F., 2314A/18)
See Casualties & Defects.

Patrols "C"
and "D".

My 0800A/18 and 1200A/18. Add to group 5. C and D. Patrols PYTCHLEY. Delete from Group 6. PYTCHLEY. (C. in C. Nore, 1436A/18).

Operation
N L 52.

M.L's 101 - 104 carrying out operation N L 52. E.T.D. 2240, E.T.R. 0340/19. (V.A.Dover, 1616A/18).
Intend to carry out operation N L 52 tonight. (V.A.Dover, 1656A/18).

West Channel
Patrol.

2 M.L's on patrol 20 miles E.S.E. Start Point. (Capt. S.3, 1741A/18 to H.28).

Operation
N R.

Prepare to carry out operation N R between 21/1 and 25/1. Admiralty 1528A/1/1 to V.A.Dover only refers. (V.A.Dover, 1859A/18 to N.O.I.C.Ramsgate).

TUNA.

Cancel S M 04318/38 dated 6th January. Leave patrol as previously ordered. (F.O.S., 1921A/18 to TUNA).

British Air Activity.Bombing
Operations.

Day 16/1 to day 17/1 inclusive, no operations. On Night 17/18, 44 A/C attacked Bremen and 14 A/C bombed Emden. (H.Q.B.C., 1200/18).

Enemy Air Activity.A/C shot down
by WALPOLE
on 17/1.

My 1905A/17. WALPOLE reports that she was 3/4 mile astern of Convoy. Aircraft after dropping bombs in vicinity of rear ship of Convoy turned N. & attacked WALPOLE from astern. Aircraft was shot down at 1740/17 by close range weapons, bursting into flames and hitting the water. Fighters had left Convoy 10 minutes previously
(C. in C. Nore, 1151A/18).

/Outer ...

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - contd.

Outer Skerries Lighthouse attacked. Enemy A/C dropped two bombs near lighthouse Outer Skerries at 1138/18. One woman seriously injured in a house nearby. R/T communication bad on account of weather (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1237A/18). My 1237A/18. Two houses near Lighthouse demolished. Enemy A/C was not identified. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 2217/18.)

O.14. reported. Your movements may have been reported by enemy aircraft at about 1200/18. (A.C.O.S., 1540A/18 to O.14).

Mining.

S N 15B. Sailed R.A. (M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, ADVENTURE, LANCASTER and ST. MARYS. (N.O.I.C. Port Z A 0926/18).

Thames Estuary. Details of mines reported on 17/1. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1300/18, 1310/18, 1320/18, 1345/18, 1350/18, 1351/18, 1400/18, 1410/18, 1415/18, 1420/18, 1844/18).

Yarmouth. At 1415A/17. One mine exploded by L.L. in 52° 17' 45" N. 1° 59' 30" E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1457A/18).

Cropesa Searches. My 1527/15 para. 2. Abandoned due to weather. (A.C.O.S., 1717A/18 to R.A.M.)

Humber. At 1620/18. One Magnetic Mine detonated by L.L. in 305° 2.1 miles 57C Buoy. Details. (F.O.Humber, 2046A/18, 1555A/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface Craft. My 1853A/17. Further plots received up to 0009/18 indicate probable fishing vessel. (A.C.O.S., 0021A/18).

E. Boats. 4 Enemy War M.B's Bearing 200°. Course 157°. My position 51° 25' N. 2° 42' E. (M.G.B. 66, 2046/18).

Brest. Trondheim. 1. Brest 1645/18. Photographic R/C shews SCHARNHORST alongside T/B jetty, no netting camouflage, A/T boom withdrawn but apparently being replaced. PRINZ EUGEN and GNEISENAU in dock. 2. Trondheim p.m. 18th. Visual R/C. No main unit sighted but Fiord not completely covered. (D.D.I.C., 2234A/18).

/E. Boat ...

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

E.boat. Enemy War M.B. bearing 066° from Cromer 14 miles. (PYTCHLEY 2348/18).

U-Boats.

DIMITRIOS G. Intercept 0426 GMD De VCE SSSS De DIMITRIOS G.
THERMIOTIS. No boats no position. Rest of
message unread. (Lands End Radio 0527/18)

Information There may be a U/B in your vicinity east of 11°
for REGENT. W. bound to Bay of Biscay. (D.D.I.C. 1055A/18
to REGENT).

1200/18. U/B estimated 62° N. 1° E. 1200/18, bound for
Germany. (D.D.I.C. 1253A/18).

Convoy P.Q.8. P.Q. 8 was attacked by 1 or 2 U-boats at 1955C and
HARMATRIS 2327C/17.
damaged. 2. On the first occasion HARMATRIS (Comdre) the
MATABELE leading ship was torpedoed in 069° 18' N. 036°
sunk by U.454 15' E. TRINIDAD 3 cables on starboard bow
(6.2.443) HARMATRIS proceeded clear of area and Capt. (D)
6 reported as follows. HARMATRIS reported she
had been (?mined) and in view of depth of water this appeared
probable. A.M. 1909A/17 had at this time not been received.
3. A short but unsuccessful A/S search was however carried
out by MATABELE and SOMALI who rejoined convoy by 2124.
SPEEDWELL remained with GTWP (HARMATRIS) who showed signs of
sinking.
4. Second attack developed at 2327C/17 when MATABELE on ?star-
board beam of leading ship was hit by 2 torpedoes and blew up
in 069° 21' N. 035° 24' E.
5. High speed A/S search was at once carried out using star
shells by SOMALI and HARRIER. SOMALI and SHARPSHOOTER who
had joined convoy at 2245 both carried out attack but result
believed inconclusive.
6. 2 Survivors from MATABELE were picked up by (? HARRIER).
It is possible that EL ALMIRANTE in rear of convoy may have
picked up some more. From nature of explosion it is feared
majority must be assumed killed.
7. Convoy and escort proceeded without further incident.
(TRINIDAD 2359A/18).

Navigational.

Humber. Humber Light Float unlit. H.7 missing presumed
sunk. H.10 missing from station and at present
in Grimsby. H.8 buoy relit but cagework damaged.
(F.O. Humber 1230/18).

My 1230A/18. Add H.9 Buoy out of position.
(F.O. Humber 1556A/18).

Cancel my 1207A/8. H.9. Buoy out of position - in 55° 32' 56" N.
0° 12' 57" E. Request Q.Z.H. (F.O. Humber 1615A/18).

/Workington....

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational-Contd.

Workington. Cancel my 0419A/18/12/41. Port of Workington re-opened. TOWERFIELD refloated. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1546A/18).

Dover. No. 3 Buoy (51° 00' 30" N., 01° 45' 40" E.) missing from Station. Request promulgation. (V.A. Dover 1829A/18);

Technical.

U.S.
S/Ms. My 1702A/11. Experience with P.511 and P.551 during the Atlantic crossing has shown that the following modifications are most desirable to future submarines of these classes transferred to the British Navy. (Details). It is proposed that the possibility of carrying out this work prior to transfer be investigated in order to economise in time and in home facilities (F.O.S. 1027A/18 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

STELLA CAPELLA STELLA CAPELLA requires urgent repairs. Intend sail direct Stornoway. (A.C.I.C. 0145A/18).

LILY. Lost propeller nut. Proceeding now to Belfast Roads myself(?). (LILY 0700/18).

Convoy
P.Q.8.
HARMATRIS
(Torpedoed
17/1). HARMATRIS in tow SPEEDWELL 067° 17' N. 35° 42' E. proceeding to Teriberapt Bay with escort. Tugs to proceed. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0809A/18). SPEEDWELL arrived. ?HARMATRIS in tow. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2015A/18).

VERITY. VERITY can be docked at Belfast for repairs to A/S Dome on 21/1. Request she be sailed to arrive Belfast noon 20th. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1142/18).

WOLSEY. Arrival WOLSEY with engine defect from F.S.702 at 1235. (F.O. Humber 1303A/18).

M.T.B.47. My 0046A. Further search has proved unavailing and M.T.B. 47 must be considered to have been lost in enemy waters. No details are available as to the final circumstances of the loss. (V.A. Dover 1349A/18). See p. 449.

/Hvalfiord.....

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects-Contd.

Hvalfiord Gate. Gate vessel has again parted South East of mooring and swung across. Have instructed that if possible she be removed entirely until new permanent moorings can be laid. Meanwhile Tug FRISKY will stand by to tow clear in an emergency. All traffic suspended. (A.C.I.C. 1435A/18).

EMPIRE ATTENDANT. Following from EMPIRE ATTENDANT to Admiral Liverpool. Engine defect, cannot manoeuvre. Tug required Bar L.V. arriving 1200/19. (Port Patrick Radio 1500 G.M.T./18)

PLOVER. Your 1741/16. PLOVER can be taken in hand about 23/1 by Harland and Wolff Southampton for damage repairs, docking and refit. (D.D.O.D. M. 1600A/18 to V.A. Dover).

Iceland. Final situation report of storm damage 16/1. CITY OF SHIPPING. CITY OF FORT WORTH refloated. FORT WORTH. JESSIE MAERSK, EL ISLEO, EMPIRE CHIEF still JESSIE aground positions previously stated. U.S.S. MAERSK. STRATFORD refloated Hvalfjordur but VESTLAND EL ISLEO. still aground. Polish S.S. WIGRY foundered 16/1 EMPIRE CHIEF. off Stykkisholmur, 2 survivors from crew of STRATFORD 27. LEINSTER refloated and sailed for Reykjavik VESTLAND. 17/1. WIGRY. 2. All R.D.F's in action. LEINSTER. 3. Minefields in action but gate and loops still (Grounded under repairs. 16/1 4. Comms. repairs proceeding and main line to Reydarfjordur now working. Akureyri and North still out and not likely to be repaired for some time. (G.O.C. Iceland 1700/18 to War Office.)

SOUTHCOATES. (A/P Trawler) Grounded on 13/1 and survey has disclosed serious defects entailing renewal of stern post estimated to take three months. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/18).

RESTIVE. RESTIVE has incurred damage to hull rendering her temporarily unfit for ocean rescue work. (A.C.I.C. 1815A/18).

BERWICK. BERWICK's R.D/F is now out of action and required 2 days fine weather in harbour to repair. She will be sailing at first opportunity unless you decide to detail another cruiser. (F.O. 2 I/C H.F. 2314A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- S.L. 97. Your 1410/17. Join S.L. 97.
(A.C.N.S. T. 0136A/18 to CAMPBELTOWN).
CAMPBELTOWN is joining S.L. 97. HASTINGS is to remain with S.L. 97. (C. in C. W.A. 1023A/18).
see p. 457.
- D.S. 21. ORBITA will be used for D.S. 21, sailing Clyde 28/1. Embarkation will be carried out on 27/1 and 28/1.
2. Total numbers to embark about 1800 on outward voyage, 2,000 on homeward voyage.
(D. of S.T. 0343A/18).
- P.Q. 8. TRINIDAD, SOMALI, HARRIER, and 7 ships P.Q. 8 arrived Kogragea Inlet.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0809A/18).
- E.N. 34. My 1315/16 and my 1313/17. EMPIRE CAPE will be sailed in E.N. 34. JASON will act as her special escort within the Convoy and will escort as far as Minches.
Request you will provide escort to take over her special protection from JASON. (C. in C. Rosyth 1021/18).
- C. in C. Rosyth's 1319/11 and my 1407A/13. Sail ASPHODEL to R/V with E.N. 34 off Cape Wrath. ASPHODEL is to provide special protection within convoy to EMPIRE CAPE to Belfast, returning to Londonderry on completing escort duties.
(C. in C. W.A. 1641A/18 to C. in C. Rosyth).
- C.E. 64. Your 1907A/17/1. Long experience of coastal convoys has demonstrated the impossibility of maintaining an accurate time table under the conditions of strong tides adverse weather and the heterogeneous collection of shipping with little or no margin of speed in hand which form these convoys.
This is especially applicable to ships in ballast where if speed is too far reduced they become unmanageable. No enquiry is considered necessary. (C. in C. Nore 1416A/18 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- O.S. 17. Departure: 1230A ST. CATHAN escorting O.S. 17 to Clyde R/V thence to Loch Foyle.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1700A/18).
- P.W.F. 98. S.O.A.P's 1651/18. BEDFORDSHIRE is to pass Gate at 0700/19 and proceed to R/V Group A escorting P.W.F. 98 at D buoy at 1100/19 and continued to Swansea. (C. in C. Plymouth 1708/18).

/Q.P.4.....

War Diary.

18.1.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

- Q.P.4. My 0110A/18. Q.P.4. ready but not sailed owing to present situation. (A.C.I.C. 1832A/18).
- U.R.10. My 2344A/26/12. 45th Group will escort U.R.10 leaving Loch Ewe 27/1. (C. in C. W.A. 2240A/18).
- O.S.17. Sailed MANCHESTER CITY for Freetown with O.S. 17 in accordance with A.M. 1249A/31/12. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2358A/18).

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.

Movements summary, 1800 G.M.T./18.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	CAVINA	38°N. 39°W.	Patrol	-
	MARON	37°N. 55°W.	240°	10
	DEVONSHIRE	18°N. 33°W.	302°	18
	PRINCE HENRY	Arriving San Juan	183°	15
	CILICIA	15°S. 30°W.	Patrol	-
	BULOLO	Vicinity Abrolhos Rocks.	Patrol	-
	MOA	Equator 144°W.	225°	10
	CANBERRA with Convoy M.S.2)	Arriving Batavia	-	-
	KANIMBLA with Convoy M.S.1)	37°S. 113°E.	355°	10
	Convoy C.T.9)			
	VOLENDAM)	40½°N. 56°W.	270°	10
	MONTCALM)			
	Convoy W.S.15)			
	RESOLUTION)	37°N. 27°W.	206°	13
	(D.O.D.(F) 1002Z/18 to Opanav, SPENAVO as amended 1700Z/18)			

North Atlantic.

DINGLEDALE, CLYDE
Force H screen. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0019A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 2226A/17. Approved subject to Force H not sailing before that date.

CLYDE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0958A/18 to Admty.)

CAMPBELTOWN.
Position 038° 46' N. 024° 51' W. 006° S. of A. 12 knots, weather report.
(CAMPBELTOWN 0500Z/18 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0500Z/18. You should endeavour to join S.L.97 as soon as possible.
(C. in C. W.A. 1022A/18 to CAMPBELTOWN)

WISHART, VIDETTE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0842A/18 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

French Ship. Passings 17/1 Westward, ERIDAN.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0925A/18 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

/EXMOOR ...

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.EXMOOR,
ACTIVE.EXMOOR leave harbour at 1300 and relieve ACTIVE on Spartel patrol. ACTIVE then returns to harbour.
(Capt. D.13, 0939/18 to EXMOOR (R) ACTIVE.)WISHART,
VIDETTE,
DEMIR HISAR,
BOREAS.WISHART, VIDETTE, and DEMIR HISAR arrived Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T./18 BOREAS outside territorial waters awaiting berth.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1025/18 to S.O.I. Gib.)*See also next page.*

S.B.R.

OPS. 491 18/1. Serial G.15. Institute following S.B.R.:-
(1) Area 51 East of 006° W. from 0700/19 until 2359/19.
(2) Area 53, from 1700/19 until 2359/20.
(3) 30 miles either side of line joining 048° N. 008° W. and 049° 52' N. 006° 31' W. from 2359/18 until further notice.
(H.Q.C.C. 1130/18 to R.A.F. Gib.)Axis Ships
seized at
Fernando Po.Following received from B.N.A. Madrid. (begins) Newspaper article today states Free French warships have seized Axis merchant ships in Spanish anchorage at Fernando Po. Certain elements here using this to propose demonstration against us. Any truth in this report? T.O.O. 1658/17 (Ends.) Request you will reply.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246A/18 to C. in C. S.A. passed Admty. for information.)

SEVERN.

Your 1149A/8. SEVERN sailed P.M./18th.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1406A/18 to F.O.S.)
My 1338/17 sailed SEVERN. Only such Q Z messages affecting passage held.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1432A/18 to Admty.)LLANGIBBY
CASTLE,
disabled.Following is a repetition of telegram received from Master of LLANGIBBY CASTLE (begins). Steering gear completely disabled, request immediate tow bearings 224° Contendas Terceira distance 90 miles, making 10 knots, heading 220° please reply (ends). Note by Horta above has been conveyed to MIRROR with a view to informing her escorts.
(R.O. Horta, 1536/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
N.O.I.C. Azores reports message received LLANGIBBY CASTLE at 1700 G.M.T./18 in 039° 20' N. 026° 12' W. making for Horta at 9 knots, E.T.A. a.m./18.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2215/?18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Your ...

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.LLANGIBBY
CASTLE,
disabled.
contd.

Your 1536/18. LLANGIBBY CASTLE is to be treated as a warship which means that she should be allowed to stay in port until sufficient repairs have been completed to make her seaworthy. Inform Master and O.C. Troops that troops are not to land so as to avoid them being interned. Keep all addressees to this message informed of situation so that the whole question can be taken up in Lisbon.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2316A/18 to Brit. Consul, Horta, (R) F.O.C.N.A. N.A. Lisbon, Brit. Consul, Ponta Delgada.)

R.O. Horta's 1536/18. LLANGIBBY CASTLE has 1200 troops on board. She is to be given all possible assistance.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2318A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AZALEA.

My P. C. and S. at 1600A 030° 35' N. 019° 45' W. 0870 12 knots E.T.A. Gibraltar 1600A/21. Weather report.

(AZALEA, 1630A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ALOUETTE.

Your 0947A/18 (N.T. in W.D.) MENAPIA Northward Cape Roca in Territorial waters at 1700. Am not keeping company in view of possibility of departure from Lisbon of MENHIR-BRAZ to Southward (ALOUETTE, 1700A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ROYAL
SCOTSMAN,
ULSTER
MONARCH.

My 1840A/17. Relief crews for H.M. Ships ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH will be sent to Gibraltar in BATORY and SOBIESKI. Former 2 ships are to recommission before sailing for Freetown, relieved crews returning to U.K. in SOBIESKI and BATORY.

(D.O.D.(H) 1724A/18 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.S.A)

BOREAS,
HEEMSKERCK,
VIDETTE,
WISHART.

BOREAS, D.S. HEEMSKERCK arrived Ponta Delgada 1615 and 1900 G.M.T. respectively 18th. VIDETTE WISHART left 1600 and 1845 G.M.T. respectively. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1800/18 to S.O.I. Gib.)

Suspected
Sabotage.

Carry out forthwith a very careful search of all magazines.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1923A/18 to EXMOOR, CAMPBELTOWN, FORTUNE, WISHART, VIDETTE, SPIREA, AZALEA, Ships on Patrol, LADY HOGARTH, ARCTIC RANGER.)

Ships recently in dockyard hands are suspected of being subjects of sabotage. Carry out thorough search of magazine and vicinity.

(F.O.C.N.A. 2038A/18 to SEVERN.)

/ERIN ...

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.)

ERIN sunk. Regret to report explosion on board ERIN who has sunk. 2. ERIN lying at 44 berth between IMPERIALIST and HONJU, IMPERIALIST on wall. IMPERIALIST and HONJU badly damaged. 3. Casualties small, further report follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 1958A/18 to Admty.)
ERIN - A/S Trawler.
IMPERIALIST - A.B.V. (Trawler)
HONJU - M/S Trawler.

BOREAS, Left Ponta Delgada 2200 G.M.T./18.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 2229/18 to S.O.I. Gib,)

WISHART. Unable to comply with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1946A/18 (N.T. in W.D.). P. C. and S. at 2345A/18 037° 30' 024° 30' 051° 18. Intend R/V at 0900A/20.
(WISHART, 2305Z/18 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. Escort O.G.78, C. in C. W.A.)

Campsa Ships. C. in C. A.W.I. 1019/6 and Washington 1425/17. Consider no grounds for suspicion of Campsa tankers vide my 2340/15/10/41. Both CAMPECHE and CAMPOAMOR carried only Crude Oil.
D.E.W.D. 2329A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. For your information Dutch authorities have no objection to next voyage of NIEUW AMSTERDAM from Durban to Middle East.
(D.S.T. 0344A/18 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

WINDSOR CASTLE. Your 0628/9. WINDSOR CASTLE has arrived, request urgent confirmation ship is to proceed in accordance your 0612/5 para. 2.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0745Z/18 to D. of S.T.)

CHALLENGER, BIDEFORD, CULVER, LULWORTH, LONDONDERRY, LANDGUARD. Departure 1200/17 CHALLENGER escorted by BIDEFORD. 1500 CULVER and LULWORTH escorting (corrupt group) DEEBANK, OIL RELIANCE. 1730 LONDONDERRY, 2130 LANDGUARD. All for S.L. convoy.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0921M/18 to C. in C. S.A. Admty. C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.N.A. S.O.W.P.)

/RAPIDOL ...

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War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

RAPIDOL. My 1235Z/17. RAPIDOL's best speed is not much more than 10 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 1147Z/18 to R.A.3 B.S.)

Convoy Fully concur with P.S.T.O. Simonstown's 1049/16.
Transshipments, Most important to economise on transshipments at
Durban, Durban and Capetown to fullest extent possible.
Capetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1148Z/18 to D. of .S.T.)

DEVONSHIRE. B.A.R.M. Washington 1728/?16 (?Modify) speed
to meet pilot 4 miles east of Cape Henry at
1300Z/24.
(C. in C. S.A. 1201Z/18 to DEVONSHIRE.)

DUCHESSA Have intercepted DUCHESSA D'AOSTA in 003° 53' N.
D'AOSTA 006° 02' E. steering westwards. Have placed
intercepted prize crew aboard without opposition. Escorting
by VIOLET. to Lagos unless otherwise ordered.
(VIOLET, 1224Z/18 to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.O.I.C.
Lagos.)
N.C.S.O. Duala 1909/16. (Restricted D.N.I.
circulation) VIOLET was ordered to intercept
these ships but ran aground before doing so.
She subsequently got off and interception is
expected shortly.
(C. in C. S.A. 1011Z/18.)

DUCHESSA According to a Spanish despatch to German News
D'AOSTA, Agency, Berlin, a destroyer and tug entered
~~LIKIMBA~~, LIKOMBA harbour of Santa Isabel, Fernando Po. on night
BIBUNDI. of 14/1, destroyed the anchor cables by depth
charges, and towed out of harbour 3 Axis ships
lying there, believed to be DUCHESSA D'AOSTA
7872 tons, and 2 small German vessels, tug
LIKIMBA, 199 tons, and BIBUNDI, tonnage unknown.
(D.S. 866, 18/1.)

U.S. Task MEMPHIS, DAVIS, WINSLOW due Bahia 17/1 leaving
Forces. 18/1 through 05° S. 26° W; 02° 30' N. 47° W;
05° N. 50° W. arriving Trinidad 27/1 and San
Juan 30/1. 2. OMAHA and one destroyer leave
San Juan 18/1 to arrive Pernambuco 25/1.
B.A.D. pass to Opanav.
(D.O.D.(F) 1446A/18 amended 1820A/18. to C. in C.
S.A. R.A.S.A.D.)

Dispositions. Weekly State 17/1. Freetown: VINDICTIVE,
BRILLIANT, VANSITTART, QUEEN EMMA, MISOA,
BACHAQUERO, PRINCESS BEATRIX, 9 Corvettes.
Freetown area, CANTON, PRETORIA CASTLE, TUNNY, CHALLENGER,
LONDONDERRY, BIDEFORD, LULWORTH, LANDGUARD, CULVER, 5 Corvettes
convoying S.L.98. Simonstown, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, JANUS,

/BEAUFORT ...

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. BEAUFORT, MAURITIUS, HECTOR, Durban, ILEX, CERES
(Contd.) ENGADINE. HURWORTH, BRIDGEWATER, Port Elizabeth,
WORCESTERSHIRE. Capetown, ATHENE. Capetown Area,
EMPIRE FULMAR, DERBYSHIRE, CHITRAL, ALAUNIA, 6 Corvettes.
Home Port: NEWCASTLE. CALIFORNIA, WRESTLER, WIVERN, VELOX.
U.S.A., QUEEN OF BERMUDA, CARNARVON CASTLE, ALCANTARA, ALBATROSS.
U.K. to Freetown, CHESHIRE, BOREAS, PHILOCTETES. Freetown to
U.S.A. DEVONSHIRE. Freetown-Gulf of Guinea, WELSHMAN, VIMY,
3 Corvettes. Cape to Freetown, MILFORD, J G J.34 CILICIA,
N.30, BIRMINGHAM, ASTURIAS. Abrolhos Rock BULOLO.
(C. in C. S.A. 1557Z/18.)

BRAGELAND. Your 2116A/17 BRAGELAND arrived Montevideo today
18th in Ballast from Vladivostock.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1843Z/18 to Admty. (R) C. in
C. S.A. R.A.S.A.D.)

M.L.265. N.O.I.C. Takoradi's 0930Z/18. (N.T. in W.D.)
Injuries were due to an explosion in Motor
Launch 265. C.O., Lieut. Oswald King, R.N.V.R.
(C. in C. S.A. 1858Z/18 to Admty.)

TULIP. E.T.A. Capetown 1300Z/19.
(TULIP, 1920Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Capetown.)

VANSITTART. E.T.A. 1400Z/19.
(VANSITTART, 2115Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

MORMACYORK
"R" Report. Received 2208 G.M.T. 36-metre band de Drod.
(unidentifiable in W.R.) Allo RRRR 33.06S
50.54 W. MORMACYORK being stopped light cruiser,
2 funnels, unidentified 2005 de Drod 1650
G.M.T./18. Message is not being broadcast.
(Scapa W/T, 2309/18 Portishead Radio, no T.O.O./18
to Admty. Adm. Liverpool.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P. C. and S. of 5 enemy destroyers and 1 enemy
cruiser are 33.55 N., 17.50 E. 140° 20 knots
at 0949.
(A/C duty A. 0954/18 to Hal Far.)

Black Sea. Permission now granted by Turkish Govt. for
Turkish caiques not exceeding 300 tons to
proceed to Burgas, Bulgaria.
(D.S.866.)

/SULLBERG ...

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SULLBERG Arrived Valencia 15/1.
(German) (D.S., 866.)

LORENZ Sailed 14/1 for Marseilles.
L.M. RUSS (D.S., 866.)
(German)

CARLISLE, THERMOPYLAE and two destroyers E.T.A.
THERMOPYLAE. 1800 Benghazi Sunday. Request light.
(CARLISLE, 1246B/18 to N.O.I.C. Benghazi.)
If possible bring THERMOPYLAE back to Alexandria
keeping 30 miles off the coast. Report intention for
information of fighter protection.
(C. in C. Med., 1404B/18 to CARLISLE.)

GURKHA Request one or two destroyers be diverted from
survivors. M.F.3 to Tobruk to take survivors of GURKHA and
as striking force for convoy "Empire" sailing
a.m./20th. Insufficient accommodation in
convoy and escort for all survivors.
(S.O. Force I, 1415B/18 to Naval and Air Authorities Western
Desert, (R) CARLISLE, Capt.(D) 2, R.A. 15th C.S.)

C.S. 15 Enemy aircraft bombing MWSK (indecypherable)
A/C attack. 2231 290 13.5.
(C.S.15, 1512/18 to Alexandria.)

Benghazi. Weekly mine sweeping summary.
Fluffing for 1 G mine dropped 13th carried out
in outer harbour without result so far. 1 G
mine located by water glass in 12 feet of water, intend counter
mining when weather conditions permit.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1515B/18 to Admty.)

Air R/C. Forenoon R/C from Malta blank.
(V.A. Malta, 1605B/18 to F.O.C. 15th C.S.)
P.M. R/C from Malta blank.
(V.A. Malta, 1907B/18 to C.S. 15, S.O. Force K.)

Operation Unless you see good reason to contrary course A
M.F. 3. should be adopted.
Add LEGION to Force K.
(C. in C. Med., 1606B/18 to F.O. 15 C.S.)

/Malta ...

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta, 17th, 1422 hours 1 JU.88 in cloud intercepted and seriously damaged by a Hurricane. Night 17/18.
C.S.R. 0423 hours, 11 raiders, bombs, land, sea. No damage. Hurricanes up, no interception. 18th

3 alerts 0743, 0827, 1326 hours, 14 Me.109's and Ju.88's. Cloud cover. Bombs land, 3 houses destroyed, 1 civilian killed. Hurricanes up, no interception.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1645/18.)
(Part 2) 4 Swordfish attacked convoy 0035/18 197° Lampedusa 41 miles, course north, 15 knots. 3 torpedoes dropped. Tanker and 1 Dr. hit, both left stationary, explosion and orange flash.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1805/18.)

Operation M.F. 3. CARLISLE, THERMOPYLAE, ARROW, HAVOCK proceeding through 032° 48' 020° 00' at 1800B/18 thence through - (B) 033° 25' 021° 30' (C) 033° 14' 023° 00' (D) 031° 16' 029° 24', expected S. of A. 13 knots. 2. R.A. 15 C.S. is requested to detach 2 destroyers to join CARLISLE a.m./19. 3. GLOXINIA is to join CARLISLE a.m./19 if possible.
(C. in C. Med., 1932B/18 to Med. Fleet.)

Benghazi Raid. (a) 18/1 6/10 cloud, ceiling 2000 feet.
(b) Single JU.88 shallow dive.
(c) (1)
(d) 2 bombs 500 lbs. 1 blind, 10 were delayed. 100 yards from BAGSHOT.
(e) to (k) Nil.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2202B/18 to Admty.)

Situation Report 185. Operation M.F.3 proceeding. THERMOPYLAE returning to Alexandria with CARLISLE, ARROW, and HAVOCK due to engine and steering defects. Convoys bombed today 18th by single aircraft apparently without damage. C.S.15 and Force B parted company dark 18th for Alex.
GURKHA sunk as in my 1611/17. Survivors landed Tobruk.
2. Western Desert. DERWENTDALE has arrived Port Said on completion of successful operation. Unloading of Benghazi convoy still slow due mainly to continued bad weather.
3. Alex. Some damage caused by severe and unexpected gale when Force B was leaving harbour night 16/17. FOXHOUND and KINGSTON in collision, FOXHOUND being out of action for four weeks repairs to stem. KINGSTON now seaworthy.
(C. in C. Med., 2242B/18 to Admty.)

M.T. Ships. Your 0231A/15 acknowledged, ships will be loaded to utmost capacity.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 2341B/18 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Troop
Movements.

D.S.T. 1542/9 to P.S.T.O. Egypt ref. para. 5. Would prefer Bombay from a Sea Transport point of view. Names of oncarrying ship will be signalled as soon as possible.
(P.S.T.O. India, 0518Z/18, to C. in C. E.I.)

L. and M.
Units.

A.M. 1921/1 Para. 2. Request particulars of the personnel and equipment replacements for L. and M. units now being sent from U.K. may be forwarded by microgram as soon as possible. This information is desired in order that additional requirements may be demanded from local naval sources, Arminia and Mideast.

(2) C. in C. Med. pass to O.C. 1st R.M. Group M.N.B.D.O. (C. in C. E.I., 0550Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

EL MADINA
"Q" Report.

QQQQ from EL MADINA at 0909Z/18 in 014° 10' N. 073°. Cancellation at 0926Z/18 in plain language considered genuine. Coded cancellation awaited. (C. in C. E.I., 0950Z/18, to E.I. Sqdn. (R) Admty.)

S.S.
NEDERLAND.

Your 1434/17 (Dutch) NEDERLAND has been recalled to Colombo and will be sailed for Rangoon 19th. (C. in C. E.I., 1012Z/18 to Admty.)

China.Malaya
Reports.
Singapore
Raids.

Daily Op. Summary to 1030Z/17. Striking forces against launches and Sampans in Muar Malacca Area had several casualties inflicted by M.G. fire. Air raid Singapore early hours 17/1 by 2 enemy aircraft caused no damage. 2 further raids during morning 17/1 involved approx. 110 enemy aircraft including fighters. Targets were aerodromes, Naval Base, and Keppel Harbour. Sembawang 1 hangar demolished, several buildings damaged, 3 Buffaloes destroyed. Seletar attacked by low flying fighters 2 Catalinas sunk and 2 damaged. Tengah several buildings burnt out and 3 Blenheims (1) 3 Blenheims (4) 2 Sharks and 1 Swordfish damaged by low flying attack. R.A.F. casualties slight. Little damage Naval Base but some casualties killed and wounded. Each raid intercepted by 14 Buffaloes. Enemy losses 3 certain 2 by A.A. 3 probable 1 by A.A. and 2 damaged. Our losses 2 Buffaloes 1 Pilot missing 2 Buffaloes damaged. (A.H.Q. F.E. 0230/18).

/Burma.....

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China-Contd.

- Burma. Situation report. 1345/17/1. Moulmein air attack continues, 20 hours G.M.T. 7 bombers 7 fighters slight damage, no service casualties. Little labour left in Rangoon. (G.O.C. Burma, 0730/18).
- U-boat sunk by JUPITER. JUPITER's 0947Z/17. JUPITER reports having sunk enemy S/M in 6° 19' S. 104° 49' E. (R.A.M.Y. 0735Z/18 to Admty.) JUPITER's 0947/17 addressed to N.O.I.C. Malaya. 4 hours after distress(?signal) from merchant ship and 22 miles from distress position JUPITER, detached from escort MOUNT VERNON, obtained asdic contact at 0747Z/17 in 006° 14' S. 104° 58' E. After 2 depth charge attacks in quick succession S/M surfaced at 500 yds. down stern. Engaged by gunfire and one 4.7 hit aft obtained. Simultaneously JUPITER number one mounting hit and out of action. Submarine gun's crew continually renewed from interior of submarine. In the course of the gallant action during which JUPITER scored several hits submarine fired 2 or 3 torpedoes. JUPITER also fired (corrupt group) torpedo. When submarine gun out of action machine gun fire from conning tower continued. Depth charges from thrower finally sank submarine which went down stern first. Japanese survivors picked up. 1 has since died. British casualties. 3 killed 9 wounded. (F.O. Java, 0745Z/18 to Supreme Command Admty.) My 0745Z/18. Submarine probably* I. 65 class. Number 5 depth charge setting used in over 500 fathoms of water. Submarine slow to stop until final stage of attack when violent avoiding action taken. Japanese torpedo tracks clearly visible and loud H.E. on asdic. (F.O. Java 0749Z/18 to Naval Section Supreme Command General Staff, Abda Area, Batavia, Admty.(R) R.A. Malaya). *I.160.
- Singapore Raids. 17 /1 high bombing, 7 (7100) kg. H.E., 7 60 kg. H.E. and more in water. ISIS damaged near miss, requires docking examination. Other damage negligible. Casualties. Attack on Senoko oil fuel depot today, 4 tanks on fire. (N.O.I.C. Malaya, 0829Z/18, to Admty. C. in C. E.F)
- Movements, Reports. C.B. 3000 (38) Chapter (?7) part 2 para. 122. Daily movements of Far Eastern Sqdn. are now reported to Abdafloat. Intend to pass to Admty. and (?defined) stations information British warships proceeding outside Abda area only and to furnish weekly distribution statement. (F.O. Java 1012Z/18 to Admy.)
- Distribution Abda Area. My 1012Z/18. Disposition of British Warships in Abda Area at 0530Z/18. Batavia, ELECTRA, JUPITER, STRONGHOLD, YARRA, TOOWOOMBA, WOODLONGONG, BALLARAT, JUMNA, ANKING. Singapore, DURBAN, Sunda Strait to R/V, DRAGON, EXPRESS, THANET, TNEDOS, Indian Ocean, Eastbound, ENTERPRISE, GLASGOW, EXETER, DANAE, SUTLEJ. Westbound ?EMERALL Northbound, CANBERRA. Batavia to Sabang, ENDEAVOUR /Ambon....

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Distribution Ambon, SWAN. Darwin to Koepang, WARREGO.
Abda Area. (F.O. Java, 1125Z/18 to Admty.)
- Contd.

Nancowry. Your 63754 (M.O. 12) 12/1. Please say if any
decision reached scale of defence Nancowry.
We are concerned at quantity of oil there
unguarded. (Abdacom, Batavia, 1155/18 to W.O.)

Landing For Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Brett has cabled
Craft. Washington asking if any landing craft suitable
for combined operations available in U.S.A. Also
for specifications with view to construction
possibly Australia. Am certain (?operations)
require landing craft of type now under construc-
tion at home. Understand shortage is serious.
If you cannot provide can you send specifications
and inform us whether facilities for construction
are known to exist Australia or elsewhere?
(Supreme Comdr., S.W. Pacific, 1215/18 to W.O.)

Independent Following ships independently routed to Batavia
Shipping. are due in Sunda Strait as follows:- TAISANG
20/1 speed 12½ knots, HOSANG 21/1 speed 11 knots,
YUEN SANG 22/1 speed 10 knots. Allied warships
meeting these ships are requested to divert them
direct to Singapore joining up with appropriate
convoys if this is feasible. (F.O. Java, 1221Z/18
to ELECTRA, CANBERRA, DRAGON, EXPRESS, JUMNA,
ENTERPRISE, DANAE, YARRA).

Philippines, Following for Chiefs of Staff from Gen. Wavell.
Situation. 1. Staff Officer from Gen. Sharpe commanding
in Mindanao, arrived here by air, gives following
picture of general situation in Philippines.
2. Japanese hold only limited area round Davao
Bay where large number of ships. They are constructing coastal
defences to cover harbour. Estimated number 17,000.
3. Remainder of island held by 2 Visayan Divisions some (?600)
(?presumably) (?reserve of) troops and (?local) troops total
strength about 30,000. Only 5 field guns, no A.A. There
are 8 fighter aircraft, 1 bomber, in which staff officer
reached here. 90,000 gallons aviation spirit. Garrison very
short of S.A.A. only about 50 rounds per rifle available
otherwise well supplied.
4. Japanese have occupied Jolo and are erecting planes there
reported 100 already erected. Number of Japanese unknown
unverified estimate about 4,000.
5. Central islands of Philippines group still held by Philippines
troops and passage between islands and Mindanao by small steamers
still open.
6. Situation of Gen. MacArthur on Bataan Peninsula presumably
accurately known by you, believed no resistance by Philippines
troops in remainder of Luzon.

War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Philippines
Situation
- Contd.

7. We are taking action:
 (a) heavy bombers probably on 19/1 will fly Mindanao bombing Jolo on the way and arrive Mindanao by darkness. Will refuel and rearm during the night and return next day bombing Jolo again on the way back.
 (b) Brereton who is visiting Australia investigating possibility of sending S.A.A. to Mindanao from Port Darwin by transport aircraft.
 (c) Hart is preparing to send S.A.A. by submarine.
 (d) Signal communication by cipher with Mindanao is being arranged.
8. Is there any possibility of sending further supplies of S.A.A. to Mindanao by warship or merchant ship from East or of running in convoy with A.A. guns (?Ordnance stores or quick) reinforcements?
9. I feel if we can keep North Mindanao going may be able later to turn out Japanese from Davac Bay and Island will be an invaluable asset for subsequent counter offensive action.
 (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1225/18 to W.O.)

America and West Indies.NIKOLINA
MATKOVIC,
distress
14/1.

PRUDENT returned 17th having searched position given in Admty. 2325A/14 without (?making) contact. Last signal from NIKOLINA MATKOVIC heard by PRUDENT was at 0447Z/14. Am endeavouring to raise NIKOLINA MATKOVIC and do not intend to send PRUDENT out again unless further positions received. (C.C.N.F. 0007Z/18 to Admty. for C.C.R.T.)
 My 0007Z/18 to Admiralty only. Following from NIKOLINA MATKOVIC (begins) Noon position 046° 01' N. 056° 41' W. course Sydney (C.B) speed 6 knots, reference 1340/18. (ends). In view of present position and speed of ship do not intend sail PRUDENT.
 (F.O.N.F., 1932Z/18 to Admty. for C.C.R.T.)

U/B.

PRUDENT reports submarine sighted position now amended 049° 00' N. 050° 00' W. called him with small light having tinge of blue in it and made following 2 groups at about 5 words per minute, KORTG - HCORT. It would appear that he expected to make R/V in that position.
 (C.C.N.F., 0009Z/18 to Admty., etc.)

A/C attacks
on U/B's.

Patrol plane attacked sub. at 1600 E.S.T./17 43-35 N. 70-06 W. Another plane attacked Sub. at 1620 E.S.T./17 43-42 N. 70-05 W.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0022/18, to Admty. etc).

/D.E.M.S.....

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.D.E.M.S.
Armament.

Pass to D.E.M.S. New York and repeat Sparks. Ref. A.M. 2204/12 care is to be taken that weapons are raised to permit of fire over boats davits etc. Up to 10° depression on beam bearings is desirable. Fitting of A.A. armament is to take priority but subject to no delay 4-inch L.A. gun may be replaced by 6-in ex CATHAY. (D.T.D. 0122A/18 to B.A.D.)

GEORGE
WASHINGTON.

My 2226Z/17 not to C.S.A. N.Y., and my 0028Z/18 (0228Z/18 intended?) GEORGE WASHINGTON boiler exploded. Impossible sail for 4 days at the earliest. Further details will be reported as received from New York. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0219Z/18 to B.A.D.)

HEKTORIA.
GEORGE
WASHINGTON.

Your 1349R/17 not to C.S.A. New York. Request your permission to sail HEKTORIA (British) speed 12 knots, draft 34 feet, in company GEORGE WASHINGTON for early part of voyage. Master GEORGE WASHINGTON reports to C.S.A. New York at noon New York time 18/1 for instruction. Essential Master understands his speed must be established on voyage to Halifax and that he makes best possible speed after parting company with HEKTORIA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0228Z/18 to B.A.D.) My 0228Z/18, have discussed with Sparks. Master GEORGE WASHINGTON believes repairs will be fully complete and ready for test 20/1. If satisfactory ship can sail 21/1. He believes if following can be provided to replace most of his present stokehold crew and to maintain 200 pounds steam pressure that he can maintain minimum of 14 knots. N.O.I.C. Halifax to report number of suitable Stokers available from manning pool and now on route Halifax. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1821Z/18 to Admty.)

Search for
Boat.

Following received from Lands End Radio Intercept 0256 G.M.T. DE WSC (Tuckerton for WSC). Ships vicinity (unread) please search for 8 boat from SAN JOSE not picked up yet. 39.14 74.14. (Lands End Radio, 0400/18 to Admty.)

DIMITRIOS G.
THERMIOTIS.

Intercept from Cape Race Radio, SSSS, de DIMITRIOS G. THERMIOTIS. No boats, no position, signals QSA 4 here (ends). (Valentia Radio, 0426/18, to Admty.) 0438Z/18 and 0523Z/18 not to Admiralty. Can you give approx. position of DIMITRIOS G. THERMIOTIS? Sailed in S.C.63. F.O.N.F. reports SSSS received but no position given. St. John's Marconi Radio estimates 75 to 100 miles distant by signal strength. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0856Z/18 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.) Indicate your position using secret position method. (D.T.D. 1155Z/18 to Ship in Areas 1 or 7; DIMITRIOS G. THERMIOTIS (Gr.)). Your 0856Z/18. Position has been asked for by Broadcast and will be repeated to you when received. (D.T.D. 1728A/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/U/B.....

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War Diary.18.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

- U/B. Good radio D/F fixed enemy S/M true 0217 G.M.T. at 036° 30' N. 075° 10' W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0645/18 to Commandant 5th Naval District).
- S.C.64. S.C.64 Serial No. 10 amend M.O.M.P. to ?(f) 055° 35' N. 020° 00' W. time 1000Z/20. (Admiralty recommendation). (C.N.O. Washington, 0750/18 to Cdr. Task Unit No. 4.1.12).
- DESPATCH. When released by P.N.C.F. proceed Bermuda via Windward Passage at 18 knots. Report arrival by L/T. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1102P/18 to DESPATCH).
- ALCANTARA. B.A.R.M. Washington 1102R/17. In view of your 2028A/17 consider it most desirable that other arrangements should be made for ALCANTARA working up. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1222P/18 to Admty.)
- U/B's. (1) D/F bearings at 0218Z/18 indicate S/M possibly in vicinity of 035° N. 070° W. unreliable.
(2) D/F bearings at 0716Z/18 indicate S/M within 100 miles 050° N. 050° W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1229Z/18 to British Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav.)
- Dakar Intelligence. Dakar 11/1 A.1. 1. BEVEZIERS and S.S. RHEA arrived from Casablanca. BRESTOIS, GRAND QUEVILLY, FORT ARCHAMBAUT, and STRABON arrived from southward.
2. 60 pontoons and about 600 tons of barbed wire and iron pickets have arrived in recent convoys.
3. A.M.C. QUERCY arrived from Toulon and is said to be engaged in carrying bombs and munitions. (B.A.D., 1247R/18 to S.O.I. Freetown);
- DIOMEDE. Leave Bermuda P.M./20 and proceed via Sombrero channel to Trinidad, so as to arrive 24/1. Further instructions as to future employment will follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1302P/18 to DIOMEDE)
- S.C.65. S.C.65. Task Unit 4.1.13 ST. LAURENT (S.O.) RIMOUSKI, KAMSACK, NAPANEE, TRAIL, TRILLIUM. (F.O.N.F., 1635Z/18 to Admty., Cmdr. Task Force 4).
- ALLAN JACKSON torpedoed. This is U.S.S. ROE 1245/18 dispatch (Passed by Com 5 to C.S.N.C.F., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Cnancf, Opanav, for information) Standard oil tanker R.S. ALLAN JACKSON torpedoed 0740 G.C.T. in 35° N. 74° 22' W. by S/M on the surface. Following survivors on board. Remaining in area searching for submarine. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1645/18 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

/ELLEN.....

War Diary.

18.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

ELLEN JONES?
torpedoed.
*? ALLAN JACKSON
in previous page.*

This is U.S.S. ROE dispatch 1030/18 regarding ROE dispatch 0950/18, name of ship S.S. ELLEN JONES torpedoed, Two survivors picked up. Com. 5 passed above to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Com. N.A.C.F. Com. S.O. N.C.F., Com Norfolk, Dist. Norfolk, V.A. for info. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1646/18 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

This is U.S.S. ROE dispatch 0950/18. Com. 5 passed to following to Opnav, Cominch, Com Atlnc Com S.O N.C.F. Com Norfolk Dist Norfolk V.A. for Info. Searching in vicinity sunken ship 35.55 N. 74.22 W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1647/18 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.)

DESPATCH
for
S. Atlantic.

Your 1419/17. Concur with proposed arrangements. (D.O.D. (F) 1655A/18 to B.A.D.)

Instructions
to Shipping.

Ref. Opnav 1613/16. All merchant ships sailing independently in the Atlantic north of 32° N. carry out provisions FTP - 189 Sec. 1 par. 200, (I) which requires shipping to pass through submarine areas at night when possible and at highest speed. 2. They should zigzag during daylight and in bright moonlight. Also carry out provisions Sec. 4 of Part 1 instructions for U.S. merchant vessels in time of war. (Opnav, 1725Z/18 to C.N.A.N.C.F. C.S.N.C.F., C.C.N.C.F. C.P.N.C.F. All merchant ships in Atlantic).

Communication
with U.S.N.

Question of authorization to U.S.A. and British Commanders to communicate direct to each other was taken up with Opnav by 1st S.L. As a result of this approach and subsequent discussion, C. in C.

U.S. Fleet proposes making following signal to U.S.A. C's in C. of Atlantic, Pacific, and Asiatic Fleets if Admiralty is prepared to effectuate such agreement:- "Have agreed with British that information considered essential for others to know, including intended movements when appropriate, may, subject to whatever control C's in C. may choose to exercise, be exchanged between Commanders of approximately equivalent echelon operating in adjacent areas. On no account is this to include any matter that could be construed as an order. Whatever arrangement may result from this agreement, key idea is to use that communication network which will result in quickest exchange of essential information between those who need to know" (2) This appears to be a great stride in the right direction and early concurrence is recommended. (B.A.D., 1815R/18 to Admty.)
Concur (1st S.L., 1650A/19 to B.A.D.)

/ARCHER.....

War Diary.

18.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

ARCHER,
collision.

Proceed to assistance of ARCHER, disabled as result of collision. Last known in 031° 39' N. 074° 18' W. at noon/15, drifting 165° at 2 knots. Dutch Tug ROODE ZEE also proceeding and should be in the vicinity A.M./19. U-Boats may be in area. ARCHER is small aircraft Carrier with no superstructure. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2152P/18 to NASTURTIUM (R) S.O. (I) Kingston (Jamaica) Admty. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, ARCHER, C.C.N.F.)

FRIAR ROCK
(torpedoed
13/1).

MONTGOMERY picked up at 1400Z/17 in 045° 35' N. 057° 45' W. 7 survivors from S.S. FRIAR ROCK torpedoed 0900Z/15 100 miles S.E. of Cape Race. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2244Z/18 to Admty. etc).

Ship
Torpedoed.

Unknown torpedoed ship 38-55 N. 74-22 W. Submarine sighted by A/C 38-56 N. 74-32 W. 1157 G.C.T. (Opnav. 2315/18 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)

Australia.

Aircraft
Signals.

Admty's 0003A/17. Concur. (A.C.N.B. 0333Z/18 to Admty.) W.R. Note:- 0003A/17 is part one of Admty. 0018A/17 which is repetition of War Office 64743 16/1 circulated under T.O.O. 0140/17. (See China 17/1).

Convoys.

Your 2002A/12. List of short titles. (A.C.N.B. 0557Z/18 to Admty.) See Summaries Folder.

PERCH.

U.S. Submarine PERCH arrived Darwin 2111Z/?17. (A.C.N.B. 0746Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

S.S.
QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Your 1307A/15. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be at 48 hours' notice from Monday 19/1. Present requirements 2000 tons fuel to complete to capacity. Add harbour consumption 50 tons daily. Do you require vessel to be fully stored?(A.C.N.B. 0941Z/18 to D. of S.T.)

/U.B's....

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

U/B's.
Enemy
Air
Attacks.

U.S. Cruiser HOUSTON sighted 2 enemy submarines in (1011°) 29' S. 129° 22' E. 20 (150) Z/15th. On 16/1 enemy aircraft carried out further raid on Laha-Halong (Amboina) but did little damage. 5 enemy submarines sighted at Pirce Bay (N.W. of Amboina) 1030Z/15. Vunakonau Aerodrome (Rabaul) attacked on 16/1 20 bombs dropped, damage small. Lakunai Aerodrome (near Rabaul) also attacked 0216Z/16 by 17 aircraft. R.A.A.F. aircraft dropped 16 anti-personnel bombs on Etan and Dublon Island (Truk) 16/1 and also attacked Kapinga - Marangi 17/1. (A.C.N.B. 0949Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

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Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approximate positions of U-Boats.
(D.D.I.C., 1447A/18, 1449A/18, 1959A/18).

19.1.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C. Home Fleet in KING GEORGE V. with RODNEY, RENOWN, VICTORIOUS, 4 cruisers and 13 destroyers arrived at Hvalfiord at 1430A today. Cruisers are on patrol in Denmark Straits and between Faeroes and Iceland. Two S/Ms, assisted by weak air R/C are watching the coast of Norway. MALAYA, ARGUS and 6 destroyers are at short notice at Gibraltar.

There was some E boat activity off the East coast between midnight last night and 0300 today and minelaying is suspected between 57 D and 57 A buoys. PYTCHLEY engaged one E boat at 2348 and another at 0022 off Cromer and reports that one of the enemy was probably damaged. No attack was made on convoys and no casualties have been reported.

Four ships in convoy O.S.17 went ashore today off the Inner Hebrides. Two of them are likely to be a total loss.

Enemy Air Operations.

A single aircraft bombed Lowestoft at 1805A today, but caused no damage.

Mining.

Operations
N.L.52
P.W.23.

M.Ls, and M.T.B. and M.G.Bs carried out these operations off the French coast last night. Operation Q.L.4 was abandoned, as ice off the coast prevented navigation.

/Suspected ...

War Diary.

19.1.1942
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - contd.

Suspected minelaying by E boats, see Home Commands.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place last night in the South Western Approaches.

A sailing barge was mined and blown to pieces in the Thames Estuary this morning.

Mediterranean.

Both Ta Kali and Hal Far Aerodromes are un-serviceable as the result of a heavy air raid last night. From 1027 - 1257 today there were attacks by 72 aircraft on the convoy (see below) and on the fighter aerodromes. None of the ships was damaged, but further craters were caused on Ta Kali. A further raid on Malta was made by 20 aircraft at 1519.

Operation
M.F.3.

HEYTHROP reported her convoy unsuccessfully attacked by a torpedo bomber this morning. CARLISLE escorting THERMOPYLAE to Alexandria reported being attacked by enemy aircraft at 0942B in 34° 3' N. 24° 14' E; THERMOPYLAE was hit and set on fire and sank. She appears to have been outside the range of short range fighter protection. C.S.15 reported being bombed at 1447 and WOLBOROUGH at 1622.

Force K. and convoy arrived safely at Malta at 1530B today.

Cs. in C. M.E., today addressed a signal to Chiefs of Staff asking for a revision of the policy not to create airborne forces in the Middle East.

V.A. Sir Ralph Leatham has assumed duties of V.A. Malta.

/At ...

War Diary.

19.1.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

At 0906 today UNBEATEN fired a salvo of torpedoes at a laden 7000 ton tanker in convoy in 37° 49' N. 15° 52' E. and considers the resulting explosion and behaviour of the escort indicated that the tanker may have blown up.

8 Wellingtons attacked Catania Aerodrome last night.

East Indies.

EREBUS is to come under the orders of C. in C. E.I. forthwith for employment as he requires. ROBERTS is to proceed to the Mediterranean as already arranged.

China.

C. in C. E.I. has stressed the importance of a strong covering force for convoys carrying British personnel and supplies to ports in Malaya and N.E.I. The British forces in the Indian Ocean and Abda area do not provide sufficient support for these important movements, but no further British or Australian forces can be spared. The Americans are consequently being asked whether the U.S. Pacific Fleet can reinforce the Abda area, particularly with 8-inch or large 6-inch cruisers, so as to provide an adequate covering force for the convoys in that area.

A further commitment that will arise will be for destroyers to replace those of the Eastern Fleet now escorting the convoys in the Abda area; these destroyers will have to be withdrawn from the area as the Eastern Fleet begins to arrive in the Indian Ocean; and the U.S. Pacific Fleet is being asked whether it can replace them. (Note, however, that on 21/1 C. in C. S.W. Pacific informed the Chiefs of Staff that all British and Dutch surface forces engaged in protecting convoys to Singapore cannot at present be used elsewhere.)

/The ...

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Monday.SITUATION REPORT.China - contd.

The U.S. Chiefs of Staff have, however, already notified that they are unable to consider the proposal to reinforce the Abda area until agreement is reached as to the Anzac area and the naval forces allocated thereto; and they are clear as to the British forces allotted to Abda area.

Burma.

Our forces withdraw from ~~Tovoy~~ today in face of superior enemy forces. The Mergui frontier force column operating south of Mergui is being brought back to Mergui by sea & a demolition scheme carried out.

Malaya.

The main port of entry of supplies for the Japanese operations in Malaya appears to be Singora. A striking force successfully bombed and machine gunned enemy shipping and barges on the Muar River today.

Japanese mandated islands.

Indications of base W/T traffic point to the transfer of the Japanese naval concentration at Jaluit to Truk. It is considered that a large force including aircraft carriers and possibly battleships is now assembled.

Philippines.

Davao is reported to be held by 15,000 enemy troops and is being used as a base for their fleet, 6-inch naval guns have been mounted to protect the harbour.

N.E.I.

S.S. JAPARA on passage from Tjilatjap to Australia reports that she was followed by a submarine today 300 miles south of Tjilatjap and was later fired on.

America and West Indies.

U/Bs.

A Digby aircraft attacked a U/B in 48.30 N., 51.31 W. at 1605 G.M.T., with 6 depth charges. No apparent damage. Another Digby reported a large oil patch at 1940 G.M.T. in 48.45 N., 53.40 W.

/U.S. ...

War Diary.

19.1.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - contd.

U.S. Navy Dept. announce the sinking of U.S. CITY OF ATLANTA and torpedoing of Latvian CILTVARIA by S/M off Cape Hatteras (35° 16' N. 75° 32' W). The latter ship also is believed to have been sunk.

S.S. THE BARON reported at 0142 that she was standing by a torpedoed tanker in 112° Cape Race 420 miles, but was unable to render any assistance. ~~The ship appears to be the Belgian~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.~~

American tanker TIDE WATER was attacked with torpedoes at 1424Z today in 36° 53' N. 75° 42' W. No details are known.

At 0855 G.M.T. a signal was intercepted from U.S. Tanker MALAY, reporting that she was being shelled by a submarine 10 miles south of Wimple Shoal (35° 30' N, 75° 25' E., 35 miles north of Cape Hatteras). The tanker was set on fire, but arrived safely at a Virginian port. * U 113.

Norwegian KOSMOS II (oil refinery ship) made a submarine report at 1201 today in 35° 30' N. 75° 10' W. (17 miles N.E. of Cape Hatteras)

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S. destroyers ALDEN and EDSALL in company with oiler TRINITY were unsuccessfully attacked by a submarine at 2000Z today in 12° 8' S. 130° 10' E.

It is estimated that 3 Japanese S/Ms are operating to the south westward of Oahu.

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Fuel at
Faroes.Fuel is available Skaale Fjord Faroe Is. in oiler
SAN ZOTICO. (C. in C. H.F., 1249A/19).Co-operation with U.S.A.First U.S.
Warships in
British Port.U.S. escorts of convoy H.X.169 comprising
destroyers WILKES, ROPER, MADISON, STURTEVANT and
possibly JACOB JONES have been ordered by U.S.
Authorities to proceed to Londonderry if they have
sufficient fuel.2. As these will be the first U.S. warships officially to visit
a British port during the war, request you will arrange for an
officer of Flag rank to welcome them.

(V.C.N.S., 1830A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

Admiralty's 1830A/19. Request you will welcome U.S. destroyers.
(C. in C. W.A., 2359A/19 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).Movements.

CUMBERLAND.

Proceed to Scapa after refuelling.
(C. in C. H.F., 0302A/19 to CUMBERLAND).
E.T.A. 0400A/21 via west of Faroos.
(CUMBERLAND, 1030A/19 to A.C.O.S.)CUMBERLAND sailed Seidisfjord 1100A/19.
(A.C.I.C., 1945A/19 to A.C.O.S.)

O.24.

LOCH MONTEITH.Escort unable to make Pentland Firth due to
weather. Permission requested to proceed
independently. If possible R/V new escort South of
(corrupt group). (O.24, 1130A/19 to Capt. S.9).RUBIS,
PLADDA.Capt. S.3' 1853A/18/1/42. Owing to WHITE BEAR
having received minor damage on passage and unfit
for sea until 1200/20, intend sailing M/S.T. PLADDA
to R/V with RUBIS between 0900/20 and 1100/20
passing Falmouth Boom at 0100/20. E.T.A. R/V 0900/20 remaining in
position until 1100/20 if met escorting to Falmouth. If not met
anchoring at St. Mary's Scillies making same R/V at similar
times on 21st. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1156/19).

SEAWOLF.

F.O.S. 2242A/18. (1) After passing through position
(J) proceed on the surface at C.O.'s discretion to
R/V LA CAPRICIEUSE in position (K) 020° Muckle
Flugga 5 miles at 1500A/22. (2) If R/V not kept
LA CAPRICIEUSE will be at R/V from 1000A/23 onward.
(Capt. S.3, 1425A/19 to SEAWOLF).WIVERN,
LAMERTON,
BADSWORTH,
DUKE OF YORK,
HIGHLANDER,
HARVESTER,
LIGHTNING.Sailed WIVERN, LAMERTON, BADSWORTH through
A. 055° N. 018° 35' W. P. 054° N. 022° W. to R/V
DUKE OF YORK, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, LIGHTNING
S. of A. 17 knots in position X 053° 40' N. 022°
50' W. at 1100Z/23. 2. Inward route P 054° N.
022° W. R 056° N. 015° W. T 270° Oversay 40 miles,
thence Clyde. 4. On completion WIVERN, LIGHTNING
to Clyde, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER to Liverpool,
LAMERTON, BADSWORTH to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1556A/19).

/KING ...

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

- KING GEORGE V. Your 1650A/17. Arrived 1430A.
C.S.10. (A.C.I.C., 1813A/19 to A.C.O.S.)
etc.
- DAUNTLESS. My 1240/18, para. (3). Adjust speed to pass Gate
at 0850/21. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1822A/19 to
DAUNTLESS).
- TARTAR,
ICARUS. After fuelling at Seidisfjord TARTAR and ICARUS
are to proceed to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 2036A/19).

Operations.

- Denmark
Strait Patrol. Cancel my 1552A/17. BERWICK remaining at Hvalfiord.
(C. in C. H.F., 0304A/19).
Estimate of situation at 2200/19. Cruiser and
2 corvettes on patrol "White."
(A.C.I.C., 1701A/19).
- Situation. For information. C. in C. H.F., in K.G.V. with
RODNEY, RENOWN, VICTORIOUS, four cruisers and 13
destroyers due Hvalfiord in Iceland (C).
2. Cruiser patrols in Denmark Strait and between
Faroes and Iceland.
3. Two submarines, assisted by weak air R/C, watching Norwegian
Coast.
4. MALAYA, ARGUS and 6 destroyers at short notice at Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S. H., 0930Z/19 to Spenavo).
- Engagement with E-boats. There was some E boat activity between midnight and
0300/19.
PYTCHLEY. Reports so far received indicate that eight E boats
in all may have been operating and that they were
probably minelaying between 57D and 57A buoys.
PYTCHLEY on patrols C and D in QZS 311 engaged one E boat at 2348
in 066° Cromer 14 miles and again at 0022 in 059° Cromer 18 miles.
PYTCHLEY reports that one of these two boats was probably damaged.
Four patrols of coastal forces were unable to make interception.
No attack was made on convoys and no casualties have been reported.
(C. in C. Nore, 1101A/19).
- Channel
Patrol. 3 A/S Trawlers patrolling between St. Helens and
Beachy Head on night 19/20.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/19).
- N L 52. M L 104 leaving Dover at 2300 on a Southerly course
returning from the same direction at about 0500/20.
(V.A.Dover, 1633A/19).

/Operations ...

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - contd.

Operations My 1100A/18. 1. M.L's were unable to carry out
QL 4. Operation QL 4 due to the presence of thick ice
PW.23. off shore which rendered navigation impracticable.
Unlit whistle buoys reported in 51° 54' N. 03°
48' E. and approx. 51° 58' N. 03°45' 30" E.
M.G.B's covering QL 4 sighted nothing.
2. M.T.B's carried out Operation PW 23 successfully. ZUYDCOOOTE
pass No. 2E and 6E buoys reported in position and lit, also
conical buoy, with ball top mark in 51° 08' 36" N. 02° 32' 48" E.
M.G.B's covering PW 23 sighted 4 E or R boats in 51° 25' N. 02°
42' E. steering 300° at 20 knots approx. at 2040/18, M.G.B's
course 167°. S.O. of M.G.B's considered that they did not endanger
the operation in hand, accordingly did not engage or follow.
Nothing else sighted.
3. My 1101A/19. Four patrols of M.G.B's made no enemy contact, but
visibility was mainly nil due to snow.
(C. in C. Nore, 1754A/19).

British Air Activity.

A/C in Your 1023A/13/12. What arrangements are proposed
Iceland. for maintenance of aircraft while landed at
Reykjavik. (D.A.M.R., 1514A/19 to C. in C. H.F.).

Patrols. Patrol "Polar" is to be flown commencing first
flight 20/1. (H.Q.C.C., 1905A/19 to Iceland).
Patrol "Frice" to be flown commencing first light
20/1. (H.Q.C.C., 1920/19 to 15 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft Lowestoft bombed by single A/C at 1805A/19 A to
bombed. D. nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 2015A/19).

Mining.

Operation S N 15B completed. (R.A.M., 0152A/19).
SN.15B.

Operation QO. Eleven group unable to co-operate. Q O will not
take place today.
(C. in C. Nore, 0636A/19 to M/S 9.)

Propose operation QO be suspended from 24th - 28th January incl.
to permit SIDMOUTH to be boiler cleaned at Harwich between 0700/24
and 2359/28. This course is considered preferable to transferring
type 1133C to another ship.
(M/S 9. 1122A/19 to C. in C. Nore).

Operation Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by
"Tincture." p.m. 21st in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9/41
(D.M.S., 1100A/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

/Thames ...

War Diary.

19.1.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - contd.

Thames
Estuary.

At 0255/18 one Red Mine detonated by Sweeper. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1157/19).
At 0918/17 One Mine exploded by Sweeper. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1801/19).

DANIELS
sunk.

(1) At 0930/19 DANIELS (Sailing Barge) struck mine in 130° Van Meerlant wreck buoy - 1/2 mile. Vessel blown to pieces. Two survivors (Skipper and Mate) have been landed at Sheerness. (Commodore Sheerness, 1859A/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

E. Boats.

Am investigating a contact bearing 074° (Harwich W/T, 0016A/19).
1 M.T.B. bearing 059° from Cromer 18 miles. (PYTCHLEY, 0022/19).
1 Enemy M.T.B. bearing 077° from Cromer, distant 7 miles. (GUILLEMOT, 0219A/19).
Cancel 0219, (GUILLEMOT, 0234A/19).

TIRPITZ.

TIRPITZ expected to proceed during next few days to Trondjhem. (N.A. Stockholm, 1101/19).

Casualties & Defects.

JON
JORLATSSON.

The following has been read.
Fishing Smack JON JORLATSSON position 64° 45' N. 24° W. Have lost compass and light. Ships in this area please take care of the Boat. (Reykjavik Radio T.O.R. 0038/19).

MILOS.

Following received. Intercept. NORWEGIAN to MILOS 0500 G.M.T. 50 miles from you and proceeding your assistance at full speed. Suggest you stop or steer north west. Ends. 0516/19. Valentia Radio. (C. in C. Plymouth T.O.R. 0048/19).
Received at 0331 G.M.T. De MILOS. Position 55° 14' N. 27° 20' W., course 80° speed 5 knots or slower. Holds filling. Sinking. (Port Patrick Radio, 0331/19).
S O S De MILOS. Position is approximate. No. T.O.O./19. (Liverpool W/T, T.O.R. 0448/19).
De MILOS addressed NORWEGIAN. We have help now. Thank you very much for assistance offered. Now not necessary ends. (Valentia Radio, 0951/19).

M L 303.

Motor Launch 303 in collision with merchant ship, badly holed starboard hand. Keeping water under control. No casualties, am towing her into Yarmouth. My position 053° 04' N. 001° 20' E. (GUILLEMOT, 0359A/19, C. in C. Nore 1027A/10).
Departure Tug KROOMAN, to assist M L 303 damaged in collision vicinity Sheringham Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0919A/19).
Arrival M L 303 damaged in collision. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1331A/19).

/Hvalfiord ...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - contd.Hvalfiord
Gate.

My 1915A/18. Gate vessel now slipped and passage through boom clear but unmarked today. A vessel will be stationed to lead through.
(A.C.I.C., 0430A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOBEKA.

Aground. Position approx. 54° 50' N. 5° 5' W.
Require assistance bearing from Portpatrick 31 R' approx. (MOBEKA, 0724/19).

To Admiralty GPK. Send tug. Send immediately. Ship may be saved. (MOBEKA, 0826/19).

Request you sail ST OLAVES with despatch to assist tanker MOBEKA reported ashore in 54° 50' N. 05° 05' W. at 0720A.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0849A/19 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).

Request you sail tugs WESTWIND and LOODSWEZEN to assist unknown 2000 ton ship and drifter ashore in Carskey Bay, Mull of Kintyre. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0943A/19 to N.O.I.C. Stranraer).

Received at 0849 G.M.T. De MOBEKA. Leaving ship now too dangerous. (Port Patrick Radio, 0950/19).

Your 0943A. Vessels proceeding.

(N.O.I.C.Stranraer, 0952/19 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

My 0943A. WESTWIND unable to sail. (N.O.I.C.Stranraer 1100/19).

Latest position of MOBEKA 1/2 mile S.W. of Blackhead.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1117A/19 to ST. OLAVES).

Sailed ST. OLAVES. (N.O.I.C.Campbeltown, 1120A/19).

Proceed with all despatch to assist unknown ship ashore in Carskey Bay. LOODSWEZEN is proceeding from Stranraer.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1125A/19 to TENACITY).

Rec. at 1112 G.M.T. De MOBEKA. Ship is in critical position awaiting tugs. 1108/19 ends. (Port Patrick Radio, 1212/19).

Your 1125A/19. Proceeding. (TENACITY 1300/19 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).

MOBEKA is ashore in Carskey Bay, Mull of Kintyre. Proceed to her assistance with all despatch. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1333A/19 to ST. OLAVES, WIVERN).

Your 1125A/19. Sailed TENACITY. (N.O.I.C.Londonderry, 1340A/19 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

Impossible to proceed under present conditions. Am now hove to with starboard lifeboat adrift. When secure propose to return to Campbeltown. (ST. OLAVES, 1530A/19).

Your 1258A/19. Position of MOBEKA has now been found to be Carskey Bay, Mull of Kintyre. Tugs have been sent.

(C. in C. W.A., 1533A/19 to WIVERN).

Unknown ship in Carskey Bay identified as MOBEKA. Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1539A/19 to TENACITY, ST.OLAVES).

Your 1812A/19. Crew of MOBEKA have been taken off. Proceed Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 2150A/19 to WIVERN).

CHARWOOD
LYNG.

FOLDA reports CHARWOOD sunk after collision with unknown vessel close to S.W. of 56 Buoy. All CHARWOOD's crew picked up by FOLDA. None of close escort report witnessed sinking. (QUORN, 1117A/19).

My 1117. Unknown ship was Norwegian LYNG 953 tons who has damaged bows. Collision occurred about 2230/18. (QUORN, 1141/19).

GORECHT.

(Dutch M.V.) Left High Bridge River Parret 2216/5 for Newport has not arrived at her destination and no trace in Bristol Channel Ports. Visibility has been low for some days.

(F.O.I.C.Cardiff, 1412A/19). /WITHERINGTON ...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - contd.

- WITHERINGTON. WITHERINGTON docked for A/S repairs.
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1452A/19).
- CORNISH ROSE. My 1016/6/1. Details of CORNISH ROSE salvaged by tug MASTADONTE are as follows. Details.
(N.O.I.C.Oban, 1520A/19).
- EMPIRE TARPON. Your 1330A/19. Report if EMPIRE TARPON requires assistance. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1619A/19 to AIREDALE).
- Cancel all previous orders. Proceed with all despatch to assist EMPIRE TARPON in difficulties in 55° 20' N. 05° 55' W. at 1330A today. AIREDALE standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1625A/19 to TENACITY).
Your 1619A/19. Have lost touch with EMPIRE TARPON in 055° 15' N. 005° 54' W. Visibility half to one mile. Her course when last seen 140° speed 3 knots. (AIREDALE 1745A/19 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1955A/19 to TENACITY).
Your 1330A/19 and 1745A/19. Check and repeat name of ship. EMPIRE TARPON is not believed to be in this area. Endeavour to regain contact and report position. Rescue Tug TENACITY keeping constant W/T watch on 500 KC/S. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 2003A/19 to AIREDALE).
Your 2003A/19. Am in touch with EMPIRE TARPON. My position 055° 12' N. 5° 42' W. F.O.I.C. Greenock pass to TENACITY.
(AIREDALE, 2240A/19).
My 1625A/19. Position of EMPIRE TARPON at 2240A/19 was 055° 12' N. 005° 42' W. AIREDALE standing by. Proceed to that position with all possible despatch.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 2359A/19 to TENACITY.)
- LARISTAN. Received at 1930/19 G.M.T. S O S De LARISTAN. Ashore off Tiree, approx. 56° 33' N. 7° W.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1930/19).
Received from LARISTAN at 1929 G.M.T. LARISTAN ashore off Tiree position approx. 56° 33' N. 7° W. At 1936 G.M.T. LARISTAN reports leaking water fast. Require immediate assistance. Malin Head Radio. Ends. (Port Patrick Radio, 1938/19).
R.A.F. interception from Port Patrick Radio. LARISTAN Shore Islay, position 56° 32' N. 06° 56' W. Water in engine room over foot plates, pump room half full. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2039/19).
Your 2120/19. Proceed to assist LARISTAN. Tobermory life boat being sent. (C. in C. W.A., 2315A/19 to SNOWDROP).
- HARPOON. Impossible to raise steam. Require tug immediately. Approx. position 180° 5 miles Mull of Kintyre.
(HARPOON, 1945/19).
Request you sail ST. OLAVES to assist HARPOON in approx. position 180° Mull of Kintyre 5 miles at 1945A.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 2225A/19 to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown).
- EUGENIE S. S O S. Big damages on tiller and propellers.
EMBIRICOS. Bearing from GPK 325 uncalibrated Sector.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1947/19).
The following has been read. S O S S.S.EUGENIE
EMBIRICOS. My steering gear and propeller is disabled. I require /immediate ...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS. (contd.) immediate assistance salvage in 66° 15' N. 7° 9' W. (Port Patrick Radio, 2229/19). Following received begins:- EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS position now given as 56° 15' N. 7° 09' W. Malin Head Radio. 2144 G.M.T/19. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2250A/19).
Am proceeding to assist EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS. (SENNEN, 2316A/19). Following received from EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS. Aground at reefs. I am afloat. Steering gear and propeller is disabled and has sprung a leak Number 3 hold. I require towing 56° 23' N. 7° W. (Rosyth, No. T.O.O. Recd. 2356/19).
- FLORISTAN. S.O.S de G.S.P.W. FLORISTAN. Ashore probably on Islay require immediate assistance taking boats. (Port Patrick Radio, 2033/19) (Rosyth W/T Recd. 2129/19).
Ashore on West Coast Islay, about six miles north of Oversay Light. (FLORISTAN, 2255/19).
- INGRID. Following received. Intercepted 2110 G.M.T. De INGRID. S O S now very close to Barra Head and aground. Require immediate assistance. (Port Patrick Radio, 2103/19).
We are now very close to Barra Head and we are sending up lights. (INGRID, 2208/19).
Following received begins. Received from INGRID at 2138 G.M.T. Standing on ground and it seems to be in a dangerous position. Ship most likely sinking and we may have to take to boats. Malin Head Radio 2145/19. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2252A/19).
- NORFOLK. Your 1853/15 and 1127A/15 and my 1533A/17. Consider NORFOLK should now proceed to Tyne for repairs. (C. in C. H.F., 2125A/19 to Admty.)
- HARMATRIS, MATABELE, Russian M/S 68. Soviet Naval Authorities report (A) HARMATRIS torpedoed at 2000/17 in 69° 16' N. 36° 08' E. but now being escorted in Kola Inlet. (B) MATABELE torpedoed and sunk at 2325/17 in 69° 20' N. 35° 27' E. No information of survivors yet. (C) Russian Minesweeper Number 68 torpedoed and sunk at 0720/17 in 69° 30' N. 39° 55' E. (Ad. Miles 2227C/19).
- TOTLAND. TOTLAND has not yet sailed for O S 17 owing to main engine defect. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2310A/19).
- ALDERSDALE. Following received from ALDERSDALE. Begins. M/V SVENOR, while tied alongside ALDERSDALE at anchor, broke adrift during squall 8/1 causing some damage to superstructure of ALDERSDALE. T.O.O. 0921/16. Ends. (HECLA, 2349A/19 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- XAT 10.** Convoy A.T.10 comprising STRATHAIRD and CHATEAU THIERRY due Belfast 0800/26.
2. STRATHAIRD has on board for disembarkation at Belfast 2509 personnel. After disembarkation she will proceed to Liverpool to disembark remaining passengers and discharge cargo.
3. CHATEAU THIERRY has about 1600 personnel on board but details not yet known. Cargo on board for discharge at Belfast will be notified as soon as possible.
4. After discharge of cargo CHATEAU THIERRY should proceed to Clyde for further orders. (D. of S.T. 0359A/19).
- N A 1.** Clyde arrival convoy N A 1 consisting BERGENFJORD and STRATHEDEN escorted by ROCKINGHAM and BEVERLEY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0948A/19).
- F S⁷⁰_A 4.** On completion of duty with VERNON M/S today proceed to overtake F S⁷⁰_A 4 and act as its additional escort to Sheerness. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1019/19 to VANITY).
- SOBIESKI.** D. of S.T's 0746A/17 and my 1140/16/1 and 1739/18. Request SOBIESKI may be sailed from Inveraray after discharging all landing craft and naval personnel so as to arrive Gourock as early as convenient on 24/1. (S.O.A.S.C., 1130/19 to V.A.C.T.C.)
- O S 17.** O S 17. To avoid alteration in course during dark hours tonight. From R/V off Oversay steer direct to O omit N. (C. in C. W.A. 1218A/19 to WESTON). PHILOCTETES is to proceed along convoy route. WESTON is to send one escort back to meet her and escort to convoy. If not met by dark both ships report situation and proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 1250A/19).
- O N S 57.** Commodore requests following be broadcast to O N S 57. "When weather moderates and (changes?) join Commodore who will proceed to R/V noon 19th and thence to R/V noon 20th."
CHELSEA now out of touch with all ships. (CHELSEA, 1221A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
CHELSEA's 1221A/19 and C. in C. W.A. 1402A/19. Indicate present position of convoy and estimated R/V for Noon 20th and Noon 21st so that necessary signal can be made to stragglers. (C. in C. W.A. 1559A/19 to Escorts O N S 57).
From Commodore. Conditions appear favourable, Convoy collected and proceeding. R/V position 059° Barrahead 10 miles at 0900A/20. If approved request signal be made to Convoy and Escort to avoid Commodore breaking W/T silence. (CAMELIA, 2002A/19).
- Q P 5.** When Convoy splits TARTAR and ICARUS are to proceed to Seidis Fjord. (C. in C. H.F., 1247A/19 to TARTAR, ICARUS).

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Following has been made to LLANGIBBY CASTLE begins. Your signal to Admty. If making water or unseaworthy proceed Ponta Delgada. Otherwise unless orders to contrary received from Admty. proceed best speed to Freetown. T.O.O. 0033Z/19 (ends). (F.O.C.N.A., 0036A/19 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., COREOPSIS). Your 2316A/18. Understand casualties on board. If M.O. considers it advisable is it permissible to transfer seriously wounded to local hospital on arrival? (R.O. Horta, 1012/19 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A., N.A.Lisbon, N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada), Your 1012/19. Approved. (D.O.D.(F). 1639A/19 to R.O.Horta). Your 1012/19. Naval Authorities inform me any men transferred to hospital will be interned. (N.A.Lisbon, 1644/19, to R.O. Horta (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.) (?) 17th LLANGIBBY CASTLE arrived, details in due course. (R.O.Horta, 1030/19 to Admty.) My 1030, clearing wreckage, will endeavour to report extent of damage tomorrow. (R.O.Horta, 1555/19, to Admty.)

Troop Transport. Admty. 1840/17. Request urgent report of numbers of troops which ULSTER MONARCH, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, and ROYAL SCOTSMAN can accommodate from Gibraltar to Freetown. (D.S.T., 0400A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DEMIR HISAR. Minor damage sustained to stem piece whilst berthed Ponta Delgada for fuel, which can be made temporarily seaworthy by cementing, by local labour immediately. Ship should be ready for sea with seaworthiness and speed unaffected about noon tomorrow Tuesday. Intend to rejoin W.S.15. Ship will require docking for permanent repairs later date. (DEMIR HISAR, 0800N/19).

NORMAN, HEEMSKERCK. NORMAN arrived Ponta Delgada 0915 G.M.T./19. HEEMSKERCK left 0900 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1000/19). NORMAN left Ponta Delgada 1430 G.M.T./19. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1250/19 to S.O.I. Gib.,)

S B R. My Ops. 491/18/1. Serial G.15 para.2 for 1700/19 read 1030/19. Institute S.B.R. in Area 41 from 1700/19 to 1200/21 and in Area 52, East of 06° 30' W. from 1600/20 to 1000/21. (H.Q.C.C., 1105A/19 to R.A.F. Gib.)

COREOPSIS. Arrived Ponta Delgada 1230 G.M.T./19th. (N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 1125/19).

Spanish Sailings. Although no written guarantee of Immunity has been received from Germany, orders have been given that Spanish sailings may be resumed to U.S. at discretion of Companies concerned. (N.A.Madrid, 1159/19 to Admty.)

/HESPERUS ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - contd.

- HESPERUS. Your 1148A/15 and my 1024A/17. HESPERUS will be ready for sea by noon 24/1. (F.O.C.N.A., 1218A/19 to Admty.)
- Axis Ships seized at Fernando Po. My 1246A/18. Following from B.N.A., Madrid. Spaniards including Navy take grave view, describe this as worse than the ALTMARK, but their information still slight. Essential repudiate as soon as possible. T.O.O. 1209/18 (ends). F.O.C.N.A. 1220A/19 to C. in C. S.A., passed Admty. for information).
- LEESEE. Arrival 17 LEESEE to load iron ore. Expect to be loaded Wednesday evening 21/1. (Consulate, Bilbao, 1249/19 to Admty.)
- QUANZA. Leaves Lisbon 20/1 with troops for Angola. (F.O.C.N.A., 1433A/19 to N.A.Stn.)
- P.38. ^{N.T. in W.D.} My 1438/18. Sailed S/M P.38. (F.O.C.N.A., 1604/19 to C. in C. Med.)
- Losses of H.M.Ships. I am continually being informed by C. in C. Med. that the loss of an H.M.Ship on North Atlantic Station has been officially announced. If it is the policy to inform Senior Officers when losses are announced, request information may be passed to us direct to avoid unnecessary signalling. (V.A.C.N.A., 1743A/19 to Admty.)
- PONTET
CANET
(French). Arrival 19th. (Lisbon, 1833/19 to D. of S.T.)
- Orders for Force H. Your 1324/17. In the event of bad weather precluding oiling on arrival in position in para. 2, MALAYA (?could) barely await for 24 hours before having to return to Gibraltar and destroyers would have to be sent to Ponta Delgada to fuel, leaving no screen. (ii) Propose oiler should initially proceed to vicinity of 33° N. 22° W. subsequently (? proceeding) to westward when first oiling is completed. (S.O. Force H., 2145A/19 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.) Approved. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1617A/20).
- ERIN,
(sunk 18/1). My 1958A/18. Preliminary investigation strongly supported ~~by~~ theory that depth charges on upper deck exploded probably due to sabotage. (F.O.C.N.A., 2236A/19 to Admty.)

/French ...

War Diary.

19.1.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - contd.

French Shipping.

French armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE escorting French M/V's CEVENNES, AUVERGNE, MONTAIGNE and *MONT CASSEL, all laden, passed Gibraltar westbound 0850/19. (D.O.R., 20/1). *A.P.V.

Air R/C.

PRU/GIB/W1/19/1. B S DUNKERQUE remains unchanged in position at Mers El Kebir. (P.R.U., Gib., 2355/19 to 4.30 Min.)

South Atlantic.

MORMACYORK
"R" Report.

RRR at 1650Z/18 from MORMACYORK in 33.06 S. 50.54 W. was probably U.S.S. SAVANNAH. (D.D.I.C., 0034A/19 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I., R.A.S.A.D.) (C. in C. S.A., 0121Z/19 to BULOLO, CILICIA).

BIRMINGHAM.

Falkland Isles departure 0005/19, R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM on patrol. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 0325Z/19 to Admty.)

DUCHESSA
D'AOSTA,
LIKOMBA and
BIBUNDI.

My 1011Z/18/1. (N.T. in W.D.) VIOLET on patrol in Gulf of Guinea intercepted Italian ship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA in 3° 53' N. 6° 20' E. at 1224Z/18/1. Prize crew was placed on board and ship being taken to Lagos. (C. in C. S.A., 0643Z/19 to Admty.) Ref. (corrupt group) request very early guidance as to how these seized ships are to be dealt with as if through Prize Court true facts must be revealed. Large ship should arrive Lagos (Nigeria) tomorrow 20/1 and I am directing N.O.I.C. Lagos to retain her in naval custody pending further instructions. (C. in C. S.A., 1559Z/19 to Admty.) F.O.C.N.A.'s 1246A/18 and 1220A/19 are being passed to Admty. Request you will reply. (C. in C. S.A., 1934Z/19 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

JASMINE,
RAPIDOL.

Leave with RAPIDOL so as to be in position 050° 150 miles from Sal Island, Cape Verde Is., at 0800Z/22. RAPIDOL will be required to fuel RESOLUTION and possibly VANSITTART. (C. in C. S.A., 1041Z/19, to JASMINE (R)

VANSITTART, F.O.3.B.S.) approaching 161° My 1041Z/19. Amend position to 020° N. 021° 36' W. at 1000Z/22/1./ (C. in C. S.A., 2355Z/19 to JASMINE (R) V.A.3, VANSITTART).

See also next page

MAURITIUS.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1647/17. MAURITIUS is to return to U.K. to refit. She may be used by you

/for ...

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.MAURITIUS
(contd.)

for searching while on passage. Intended programme should be reported. Refitting port will be signalled later.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1043A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

3 B.S.
Fuelling.

Your 0601N/18. You may find N.E. trade is strong in this area necessitating fuelling head on to it. Am therefore detaching VIMY from another service to join you at RAPIDOL's R/V.
(C. in C. S.A., 1325Z/19 to F.O.3.B.S.)

*See previous page*EREBUS,
ROBERTS.

EREBUS is to come under orders of the C. in C. East Indies forthwith for employment as he requires. ROBERTS is to proceed to Mediterranean as already arranged. (D.O.D.(F) 1742A/19 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Med.)

CILICIA,
CANTON.

Shift your patrol to H 34 C. I will send CANTON to join you in this area on completion of boiler cleaning about 24/1. Report percentage of fuel remaining on leaving present patrol.
(C. in C. S.A., 1829Z/19, 2019/19 to CILICIA).

VANSITTART.

V.A.C.3 B.S. 1147/19 (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed to comply. You should fuel from RAPIDOL when RESOLUTION has completed.
(C. in C. S.A., 2347Z/19 to VANSITTART).

*See previous page*Mediterranean.Bandar
Shahpur.

Have orders for cranes for Bandar Shahpur been placed if so when is delivery expected? Assembly plant capacity.
(C. in C. M.E., 0405/19, to W.O.)

Operation
M F 3. A/C
attack,
THERMOPYLAE.

Convoy attacked by torpedo bomber, 1 torpedo fired and missed. My P.C. and S. 031° 44' N. 026° 23' E. 295° 7½ knots. (HEYTHROP, 0844B/19 to R.A. Alex. S.N.O. Tobruk, Air H.Q. W.D.)
Following received. Alexandria W/T from C.S.15. Am being shadowed by one enemy A/C my position 33.31, N., 22.36 E. Course 090°. Speed 20 knots.
(Nore W/T. 0921/19 to Whitehall W/T).

Following received from Alex. W/T from CARLISLE. Convoy "Boxer" two" position 34° 3' N. 24° 14' E. is being attacked by enemy aircraft. (Nore W/T., 0942B/19 to Whitehall W/T).

/THERMOPYLAE ...

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation M F 3. A/C attack, THERMOPYLAE. (contd.) THERMOPYLAE hit. (CARLISLE, 0944B/19 to R.A. Alexandria 15th C.S.) My P.C. and S. 33.29 N., 22.50 E., 130° 25 knots. (CARLISLE, 1001/19 to C. in C. Med.) My 0944. THERMOPYLAE burning, destroyers taking off survivors. (CARLISLE, 1010B/19 to R.A. Alexandria, C.S.15). THERMOPYLAE sunk. My P.C. and S. 33.02 N., 24.16 E., 110° 22 knots (CARLISLE, 1201B/19, to C. in C. Med.) My 1201/19. ARROW and HAVOCK have about 350 survivors including 16 cot cases, 12 man cot. (CARLISLE, 1611B/19, to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.D.F. Med.)

Ship for GURKHA survivors. S.O. Force I 1415B/18. F.O.C. 15th C.S. detach, one destroyer. GLOXINIA proceed to Tobruk. (C. in C. Med., 0930B/19 to F.O.C. 15th C.S. CARLISLE, GLOXINIA (R) No.201 Naval Co-operation Group, S.O. Force I., C.O.M. Tobruk.)

TORBAY. From 1900B/21st you have freedom of action North of Line Cape Alice, Cape Maria Di Louca and all U-Boats encountered are to be attacked. (Capt. S.10, 1145B/19 to TORBAY).

U/B. One submarine sighted between Convoy and Filfla. (Malta, 1247/19 to S.O. Force K.)

Air R/C. Forenoon R/C from Malta blank. (V.A.Malta, 1359B/19 to C.S.15).

Airborne Troops. For Chiefs of Staff from C. in C.
1. Present policy is to create airborne forces in U.K. and in India and not in Mideast. We are to have operational call on overseas force being created in India and if this is not available at the time required, we are to get gliders, aircraft and pilots from India for employment with our own troops.
2. We are convinced this policy needs revision and that an airborne force should be formed in Mideast (reasons and proposals) (C. in C. M.E., 1439/19 to W.O.)

A/C Attack. 15 C.S. Enemy are bombing. (S.O.15 C.S., 1447/19 to Alexandria W/T).

Force K. Convoy. Force 'K' and convoy arrived safely 1530B/19th. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1529B/19 to C. in C. Med.)

/Tripoli ...

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

- Tripoli bombed. 4. Night 16/17 Jan. Malta Wellingtons bombed Tripoli, starting fire at railway station. Other bombs on Spanish Fort and near misses M.T. approaching town from East.
- Benghazi bombed. 7. Three single JU 88s bombed Benghazi during day. Damage negligible.
(C. in C. M.E., 1540/19 to W.O.)
- WOLBOROUGH A/C attack. Following received, addressed Tobruk from WOLBOROUGH. Enemy bombing.
(Nore W/T, 1622/19 to Whitehall W/T).
- Malta Air Report. Following summaries action regarding convoy which did not reach harbour until 1300 hours. Night 18/19 own action. 8 Wellingtons attacked Catania Aerodrome with instantaneous and delay action bombs from 1726 to 1845 hours. Bombs, incendiaries and flares dropped at least 7 fires started visible 40 miles. Numerous explosions. Yellow fire south of town. 19th, Blenheims cloud cover attack at dawn on Catania Aerodrome, no attack made, no cloud cover, 4 Hurricane bombers attacked Comiso at dawn. 2 fires of burning aircraft visible 15 miles. Continuous patrol of 12 Hurricanes over convoy from dawn to 1300 hours also patrols over Luqa during alerts. 93 flights made by Hurricanes. Luqa only aerodrome serviceable as both Ta Kali and Hal Far unserviceable from heavy raid during night. Continuous anti/sub. patrol over convoy. Enemy action. 1027-1257 hours, 72 raiders ME 109's and JU 88's, attacks on convoy and on Fighter Aerodromes. No hits on ships, 4 craters on Ta Kali, some airmen and civilians killed and wounded. 1 JU 88 probably destroyed 2 others hit hard. 1 ME 109 severely damaged, 2 hit. Albacore on A/S patrol shot down by ME 109's, crew rescued. 18th p.m. R/C Southern and Western Ionian Sea sighted nothing. 1535 hours, 2 raiders approached did not cross coast. Hurricanes up. Night 18/19, 4 alerts, 1732, 2007, 2119, 2209 hours, 5 raiders. Bombs land and sea, no damage. 19th, 2 alerts 0632 and 0712 hours, 6 raiders approached, did not cross coast. 1318 hours, R/C aircraft crossed coast great height. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1815/19).
- V.A. Malta. Vice Adm. Sir Ralph Leatham has assumed the duties of V.A. Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1900B/19 to Admty. etc.)
- Benghazi. 19/1 heavy swell but slight sea causing much less interference. Discharged 274 tons. Coal not reached. Libyan labour not available before 0915. Hope complete CRISTA, HARBOE JENSEN, 25/1. Salvaged one flat-topped lighter, two diving pumps, two diving suits, one boat. One Jaffa Tug working. No air activity.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1914B/19 to C. in C. Med.)
- Malta Movements. 19/1. Arrival PENELOPE, MAORI, ZULU, SIKH, LEGION, LANCE, LIVELY. Departure UPRIGHT.
(V.A. Malta, 2021B/19 to Admty.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.

19.1.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

Enemy Units. Position of 2 destroyers (? No. of) M/V 140
34° N., 11° E., 20, 340° 8.
(A/C of Station H.Q. Kalafrana Malta Cmd.
(Duty S.) 2116/19 to Air H.Q., Malta).

KELVIN. Sailing KELVIN with all despatch through position
Z and O, E.T.A. Alexandria 0900/20 as she has no
R.D.F. and no asdic and GLOXINIA's asdic also
defective. 170 survivors on board.
(S.O. Force I., 2125B/19 to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.19.1.19422
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

COLOMBO left Mombasa 0715/19 to escort convoy
W.S.14A. W.S.14A Aden.
D.O.R.20/1.

B.M.11. Departure CALEDON escorting B.M.11.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0726Z/19.)
Details of Route etc. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0737Z/19.)

KWAI SANG. My 1131/9 and your 0650/11 KWAI SANG cannot now
be taken in hand in Calcutta owing to shortage of
labour. Can ship be fitted out in Colombo. if
not ship will be despatched Bombay.
(P.S.T.O. India, 1058Z/19 to C. in C. E.I.)

ELYSIA. Your 2358/14 para.4. ELYSIA arrived Bombay
27/12/41 and is still there. She was not
reported overdue by S.O. (I) Colombo.
(C. in C. E.I., 1143Z/19 to Admty.)

China.

Surabaya. For Chiefs of Staff from Gen. Wavell. Visited
Surabaya Naval Base and Seaplane Base today 18/1
while my H.Q. being moved. Facilities for repair
and construction at both bases excellent but they present
vulnerable and congested targets and air defences are weak and
land defences I understand are none too strong. In view great
importance of base will strengthen defences with fighter aircraft
and A.A. guns as soon as we can make any available.
(Abdacom, 0500/19 to W.O.)

Singapore 18/1 high bombing by about 18 planes three tanks
Raid. Senoko oil fuel depot on fire, one still burning
slight damage Fleet shore accommodation, casualties
(R.A. Malaya, 0531Z/19 to Admty.)

JUPITER. If you agree I propose sailing JUPITER for
Surabaya arriving a.m./22 to hoist out a gun
mounting for repair at armament depot. JUPITER
to return to Batavia with suitable convoy as soon
as temporary repair has been completed.
(F.O. Java, 0541Z/19 to C.Z.M. (R) JUPITER,
C. in C. E.F. Abdafloat, Admty.)

Burma, enemy Situation report. Enemy commenced penetration
advance Tenasserim 15/1 advancing by Tenasserim river
against Tavoy. route against Tavoy and are now also reported
advancing by converging tracks from south
against Mergui. Situation up to 1800/18 Tavoy
/garrison ...

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Burma, enemy garrison one battalion forced back and portions advance reported cut off by Japanese advance. Situation against Tavoy. obscure but reinforcements of two companies have arrived Tavoy. Owing to isolated situation contd. Mesohd I have ordered garrison withdraw and present intention is to concentrate it at Tavoy. Withdrawal will be carried out in small boats and motor launches. Next reinforcements convoy with 48 Brigade ex India expected to arrive early February, meantime situation may become difficult if enemy advance increases in strength.

3. Air raid Moulmein p.m. today no serious damage or service casualties.
(G.O.C. Burma, 0555/19.)

Singapore Air raid during 18/1 by about 140 enemy aircraft. Raid. Bombs fell in several districts. Four oil tanks set on fire at Naval Base and slight damage to dockyard. Fires under control.

Attack on Blakang Mati caused some damage to fixed defences. Minor damage to water supply and communications. Military casualties 5 killed 15 wounded. No damage to R.A.F. establishments today. Some civilian damage.
(Adv. H.Q. Malaya Command, 0706/19.)

139 Bombers and Fighters attacked Singapore 2 raids morning 18/1. 3 Oil tanks on fire Naval base slight damage Dockyard. Bombs Keppel Harbour, Blakang Mati and Thompson on Road-McRitchie reservoir. Damage fixed defences water supply and communications. No R.A.F. damage, 20 military casualties. Enemy losses 3 certain, 5 probable, 3 damaged. Our losses 3 Buffalos. 5. Japanese order of battle. In view of number heavy bombers including especially Navy 96 employed over Singapore consider possibility that heavy bombers Sqdns. Malaya have been reinforced. Pending confirmation propose no change order of battle.
(A.H.Q. F.E., 0730/19 to Air Min.)

PEREKOP. PEREKOP sunk by Japanese bombers 18/12 near Senoa, East Coast Natuna Islands. 8 killed 29 saved including Captain and 7 wounded. Survivors boats were machine-gunned.
(S.O.I. Singapore, 07312/19 to Admty.)

Stores & machinery at Singapore. All stores and supplies petrol bombs and ammunition in excess of 90 days requirements and also all non essential machinery and tools will be shipped to N.I. This is due to enemy air activity., is necessary shipping available if not state extra requirements. Cable amount all articles you propose to despatch.
(Abdacom 1500Z/19 to F.O. Malaya.)

Convoy Escorts. My 2352A/26. Request you will keep Admty. informed of the ocean escorts that you intend to give to B.M.11 and other heavily laden troop convoys.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1615A/19 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Japanese ...

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

1655/19th January. I N

Date 20.1.42.
Recd. 1312.

From N.A. Stockholm.

Recirculation at request
of D.N.I.Interdepartmental Cypher (One Time Table)
by Cable.

Addressed D.N.I.

Part I. Following statements were made by Axis Ministers and Attaches at private meetings on January 15th and January 16th.

(1) Japanese.

(a) They expect capture of Singapore by February 10th.

(b) Another step is to attack and destroy Australian Ports in particular Darwin, Sydney, Melbourne and one other which source could not remember. This was continuation of policy to destroy bases before British and American forces are able to operate and to prevent Australia rendering further assistance to war effort.

(c) At the same time threat to India was to be continued.

(d) Any project by Russia to lend port facilities to British or American Warships would be answered at once by Japanese attack on those ports. Minister said he felt certain that under present commitments Russia would not dare to risk hostilities with Japan.

(e) Minister further expressed contempt for stupidity of Americans in permitting them to choose this moment to enter War.

2. German.

(a) Though previously unenthusiastic about Japanese German Legation is now informing other Axis Attaches the great advantages they are deriving from weakening of strength and loss of British Prestige in Far East.

(b) Naval Attache who is recently back from Kiel and Berlin stated there would be no more ship sorties like the Bismarck raid which was carried out entirely against Naval Staffs wishes. Future raids would be undertaken when Squadron could be formed in accordance with tactical force.

A.O. repeat A.O.

Part 2.

Swedish Military Attache from London is giving Confidential Lecture to Swedish Staff on Friday January 23rd on Britain's Strategical Position to-day. Some of responsible Swedish

Officers

Officers are influenced already by Japanese Success and no doubt heed Japanese Legation Statements based partly on substance expressed in part one.

Rosen wants to show Britain in most favourable light and I shall be grateful if you could telegraph any convincing points regarding Naval Strategy in Far East embodying if possible questions of strength, bases and raw materials. *

1655/19

- 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)

* Reply 6022 (23, page 621).

- Secretary
- Nav. Secretary.
- P.A.S. (S)
- M.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D. of P. (3) for action
- Head of M. (35)
- D.A.S.W.
- D.N.A.D.
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.N.I. (7)
- D.S.D.9.
- E.P.S.
- Admiral Somerville
- Admiral Bailey
- Admiral Bellairs
- W.D.
- I.P. (3).

HR.

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.Japanese
mines.

Your 1401Z/16. Can report in accordance with my 1949/29/12, addressed to C. in C. E.F. now be forwarded as details of Japanese mines are very urgently required.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1734A/19 to R.A. Malaya.)

Request for
Minesweepers.

R.A. Malaya's 1401/16. Request your proposals observing that no Fleet Minesweepers, Danlayers, of Motor Minesweepers are at present available other than those now on the original China, East Indies, and Australian Stations. Information available in Admiralty indicates that Fleet Minesweepers, BATHURST and LISMORE and A/S M/S Trawlers BALTA, FARA and HOXA have at least reached Colombo.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1753A/19 to C. in C. E.F.)

JUPITER,
U/B sunk.
(I.160)

T.L. congratulate you, your Officers and Ship's company on destruction of a Japanese U-Boat on 17/1/1942.
(1st S.L. 2000A/19 to JUPITER.)

Cover for
convoys in
Abda Area.

Personal for Gen. Wavell from C.O.S. No. (S.W.P.) 7. We are anxious about the arrangements for the protection of convoys proceeding to Abda area. If Commodore Collins is not satisfied with escort arrangements he should represent the matter to you. Meantime, we have sent following telegram to Combined Chiefs of Staff at Washington.
(No C.O.S.(W)4). (quotes Admty. 1636A/19 - see America & West Indies.)
(W.O. 2000/19 to Supreme Comdr.) S.W. Pacific.)

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B's.

- (i) D/F bearing at 1955Z/18 indicates S/M within 100 miles of 048° N. 050° W.
 (ii) D/F bearing at 1958Z/18 indicates S/M within 100 miles of 044° N. 050° 30' W.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0048Z/19 to British Warships Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav.)

S O S
Unknown
Ship.

^{THE (P-479)}
 S O S BARON, torpedoed and helpless, tanker with 8 men on board, standing by for salvage, position Cape Race 112° distance 420 miles, tanker drifting about 2 miles an hour S.E. Ourselves unable to render assistance but standing by.
 (BYMB (Ship unidentifiable), 0142/19 to Admty., (R) Adm. Devonport.) (D.T.D., 1050A/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)
 Your 1050A/19. PRUDENT being sent. Latest position 108° 430 miles from Cape Race.
 (F.O.N.F., 2152Z/19 to Admty.)

MEMPHIS,
DAVIS.

Admty. 1446/18. Modify as follows: MEMPHIS and DAVIS leave Bahia 21/1 passing through 005° S. 026° W., 005° N. 026° W. thence Recife arriving about 28/1. S. of A. 15 knots.
 (U.S.C.N.O., 0620/19 to Admty.)

U.S.S.
MALAY,
U/B attack.

Intercept De VCS Camperdown, Nova Scotia, Radio. SSSS MALAY nothing further heard (ends).
 (Valentia Radio, 0850/19 to Naval Wireless Admty. London, Adm. Devonport.)
 0855 G.M.T. intercept. SSSS De MALAY, ten miles S. of Wimble Shoal Buoy, fire on back shelled by
 *submarine, de VCS. *U.123.
 (Halifax W/T, 0907Z/19, Valentia Radio 0912/19 to Admty.)
 W.D. Note: 35° 30' N. 75° 25' E. 35 miles N. of Cape Hatteras.
 S.S. MALAY shelled by submarine 35.40 N. 75.20 W. 0905 G.C.T./19. Another submarine sighted afternoon of the 18th, vicinity Ambrose L.V.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1300/19 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

O.N. 58,
O.N. 59.

O.N.58 Task Unit 4.1.11 designated escort, POLYANTHUS, CELANDINE, AMHERST, FENNEL.
 O.N.59 Task Unit 4.1.2 designated, WILKES, ROPER, STURTEVANT, MADISON, JACOB JONES.
 (Opnav, 0930Z/19 to Admty.)

DIOMEDE.

My 1302P/18. After arrival at Trinidad place yourself at disposal of Commander Task Force 3. Commander Task Force is in U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS and is due at Trinidad 27/1. B.A.D. pass to U.S. Authority concerned.
 (C. in C. A.W.I., 1042P/19 to DIOMEDE.)

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- WARSPITE. Your 1433A/17. Copy of sailing orders issued WARSPITE have been sent by hand of Paym. Capt. Brockman to Admty. WARSPITE has acknowledged and is sailing from Esquimalt, on 22/1 after completing preliminary working up practice. R/V has been arranged with R.F.A. BISHOPDALE on 6/2, that is 24 hours later than R/V given in sailing orders. Further signal containing route will be made as soon as received. Request Admty. may transmit necessary information to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B. Melbourne, and N.Z.N.B. Wellington, in due course.
(B.A.D., 1151R/19 to Admty.)
My 1151/19 add: WARSPITE has only one Swordfish aircraft.
(B.A.D., 1733R/19.)
- KOSMOS U/B attack. Received 1137 G.M.T. SSSS 35.30 N. 75.10 W. KOSMOS.
(Cape Beale Radio, 1201Z/19.)
- ALCANTARA. Your 1222P/18 and B.A.R.M. Washington 1102R/17. Concur. Locality of work-up is left to your discretion.
(D.O.D.(F), 1330A/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- Washington Report. Washops 39.
(2) Hawaii Is. Estimated that 3 Japanese S/Ms are operating to S.W. of Oahu.
(3) N.E.I. U.S. M.A. Melbourne, reports that Ambon was raided twice on 16/1. Targets East Indies Forces barracks and harbour, and Laha aerodrome. Work on runway interfered with, and Catalina on the beach was machine-gunned.
(4) (? Marshall Islands) and Caroline Islands. Indications of base W/T traffic points to transfer of Japanese naval concentration at Jalua (? Jaluit) moving to Truk. Considered a large force including aircraft carriers and possibly battleships is now assembled.
(J.S.M. Washington, 1335R/19 to Admty., etc.)
- Casablanca Intelligence. Meter. Casablanca 17/1. A.2. S.S. PARAS^ME, IMERENTHIE II, FAUZON, ARCTURUS are due to depart in convoy for Marseilles - 19/1. Time of departure unknown. Carrying general cargoes.
(B.A.D., 1351R/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- TIDEWATER torpedoed. American tanker TIDEWATER attacked with torpedoes 36.53 N. 75.42 W. at 1424Z/19, damage as yet unknown.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1521/19 to Admty., C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I.)

499A
MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E

1240/19th January.

From: The War Office.

Date. 19.1.42.

CYPHER.

Addressed: British Joint Staff Mission, Washington, repeated
O.C. Troops Jamaica, O.C. Troops Curacao,
O.C. Troops, Aruba.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

0146/1288 (M.O.4). No. 65163 cipher (M.O.4) 19/1.

MOST SECRET.

First. Ref. O.C. troops Jamaica No. 0/531 of 18/1. Under no (repeat no) circumstances will a representative of British Joint Staff Mission Washington go to Curacao to discuss possible relief without the sanction of the U.S. and Netherlands Governments and approval of the British Embassy Washington and the War Office.

Second. The suggestion in telegram No.0/524 of 15/1 from O.C. Troops Curacao to War Office that on withdrawal of British troops from Curacao the defence of the oil installations will be taken over by mixed Dutch units is most unsatisfactory. Convey this opinion to U.S. War Department emphasising our view that it is most desirable to get the Netherlands Government to agree to the oil installations in both Islands being protected by U.S. troops. Make it quite clear that defence against sabotage in these oil installations is of paramount importance.

1240/19.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

Received from the War Office 1513/19.

War Office distribution:

1st Lord.	D.M.O. & P.
1st S.L.	D.D.M.O. (O)
4th S.L.	M.O.1.4.
V.C.N.S.	D.Q.H.G.
A.C.N.S. (H)	Q. (Ops).
A.C.N.S. (F)	S.T.2.
N.A.1st S.L.	Admiralty (War Registry)
D.O.D. (H)	Air Ministry (A.M.C.S.)
D.D.O.D. (H)	Foreign Office (Mr. Makins)
D.O.D. (F)	
D.D.O.D. (F)	
D.N.I. (6) and for D.N.L.O.	
D. of P. (2)	
D.C. (2)	
E.P.S.	
Head of M.	
I.P. (2)	
W.D.	
D.D.I.C. (2)	

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.EMPIRE
KINGFISHER
sunk.

H.M.C.S. LYNX reports S.S. EMPIRE KINGFISHER sank a.m./19, 7 cables S. of Bantam rocks buoy where ship had been anchored after striking submerged object 4 miles S. of Cape Sable, Nova Scotia, at 1500Z/18. Passengers and crew safe. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1531Z/19 to Admty.)

Sailing
Telegrams.

Your 1605Z/15 (re despatch of advance sailing telegrams three days before sailing of convoy.) * (D.T.D., 1559A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) * Concur.

Cover for
Convoys
Abda area.

For J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 4. Following for Combined Chiefs of Staff:-

1. Importance of the provision of a strong covering force for convoys carrying British personnel and supplies to ports in Malaya and N.E.I. has been stressed by C. in C. Eastern Fleet, after a meeting with the Allied Naval Commanders at Java. (Extract from his 0504Z/15).
2. It appears from C. in C. E.F.'s 0504/15 that British forces in Indian Ocean and Abda area are to be left to deal with these important convoys alone. We do not think that this provides sufficient support for such important movements.
3. It is recognised that a force is required in Eastern side of Java and Banda Seas to prevent a Japanese advance through the Strait of Macassar, and it may not be possible for Adm. Hart to provide a force for the above and also to strengthen the cover for the convoys.
4. After a thorough survey it is regretted that no further British naval forces can be made available due to our heavy escort commitments, particularly in Indian Ocean, nor can Australian 8" cruisers be spared as they have been allocated to Anzac area.
5. Requested therefore you will consider whether U.S. Pacific Fleet could reinforce the Abda area particularly with 8" or large 6" cruisers so as to provide an adequate covering force for the various convoys moving in that area.
6. A further commitment that will also arise will be for destroyers to replace those of the Eastern Fleet now escorting the convoys inside the Abda area. As the Eastern Fleet begins to arrive in the Indian Ocean it will be necessary to withdraw these destroyers from the Abda area, and it is requested that you will consider whether it would be possible for the U.S. Pacific Fleet to replace these destroyers in the Abda area. (1st Sea Lord, 1636A/19 to B.A.D.)

Communication
with U.S.N.Your 1815R/18.
We concur and will issue similar instructions. (1st S.L., 1650A/19 to B.A.D.)

/ U/B attacked ...

501

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- U/B attacked by A/C. Following received from Eastern Air Command: S/M sighted by A/C and attacked in $049^{\circ} 30' N.$ ($? 045^{\circ}$) $31' W.$ at 1605 G.M.T. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1750Z/19 to Admty.)
- E.A.C. advised correct position of attack made by aircraft on submarine to be $048^{\circ} 30' N.$ $051^{\circ} 31' W.$ Refers our 1750Z/19. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1925Z/19 to Admty.)
- COIMBRA (torpedoed) 2 U.S. Destroyers with some survivors from COIMBRA are expected to arrive New York 2200Z/19. Nominal List if possible will be my 0100Z/20 to Admty. repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (C.S.A. New York, 1754Z/19 to Admty.)
- S.W.Pacific. Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 5. Presumably you are dealing with para. 8 of Wavell's 00100 of 17/1. (1st S.L., 1823A/19 to B.A.D.)
- PRINSES MARIA PIA, report of torpedoed tanker. Belgian PRINCESS (? PRINSES) MARIA PIA reported torpedoed and helpless tanker in position bearing $112^{\circ} 420$ miles from Cape Race at 0200Z/19, drifting S.E. at about 2 miles per hour. Standing by but unable to render assistance. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1835Z/19 as amended 2045Z/22 to G.B. 7A, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Opnav, B.A.D., Admty., C.C.N.F., C. in C. A.W.I.)
- Abdacom Signals. We have agreed with American Chiefs of Staff Secretariat that all signals to Abdacom from Combined Chiefs of Staff Washington, will, in future, be given a D.B.A. serial number.
- (ii) Your outward messages which are for consideration of Combined Chiefs of Staff, including situation reports, should be prefixed "for Combined Chiefs of Staff" in order to ensure correct distribution.
- (iii) We should prefer them routed through naval signals which are better organized to handle traffic here than army signals. (J.S.M. Washington, 1845R/19 to Abdacom.)
- U/B's. Plane sighted submerged S/M at 1315Z/19 in $35^{\circ} 30' N.$ $75^{\circ} W.$ Aircraft sighted submerged S/M and attacked at 1205Z/18 26 miles east of Lakehurst. Results unknown. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1929Z/19 to Admty., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)
- QUERCY. Meter. My 1247/18. QUERCY carries three 130 m.m. guns, one forward two aft. (B.2). (B.A.D., 1941R/19 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.

O.N. 53

Serial 7, disperse after dusk tonight 19th.
(Opnav, 1943/19 to Com. Task Unit 4.1.4.)Coding
of S O S
messages.

1. I strongly recommend that Merchant vessels should be ordered to code S O S messages when time permits. A number of Merchant vessels have recently been unable to steam due to weather damage and have made S O S giving their positions

in P/L.

2. U-Boats may listen out on 500 kc/s for such messages or the position of damaged ships may be passed to them from Germany.

3. The following two recent cases make it certain that information of this type could be passed to U-Boats.
E. Canadian Station rebroadcast an S O S. S O S was rebroadcast first by an U.K. Station and then by Station Dan.
(B) Canadian Station read and then rebroadcast an S O S from a ship near Majorca.4. If S O S preceded the coded groups it would ensure speed in handling by receiving stations.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2047Z/19 to Admty.)

QUEEN

ELIZABETH,
NORMANDIE.

For War Cabinet Office from J.S.M. Your No.1 T.O.O. 2046A/10. 1. U.S. War Dept. at present in favour of keeping capacity of QUEEN ELIZABETH at 6000 as considered this greatest number safely carried in unescorted ship. Also increase of

troops renders more difficult maintenance shipping problem which is already stretched to limit. Sparks informed accordingly.

2. Requirements for on-carriage from Australian ports will depend upon allocation by U.S. of contents of QUEENS between Abda and Pacific areas.

3. Refitting of NORMANDIE not expected to be completed before end February.

(B.A.D., 2135R/19 to Admty.)

N.A. 2.
MONTCALM,
GEORGE
WASHINGTON.Your 2226/17 and 1821/18. MONTCALM cannot be used for N.A. 2.
2. No objection to crew of MONTCALM being used as required for GEORGE WASHINGTON.
(D. of S.T., 2256/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)S.W.Pacific
Command.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 6.

Your 1925R/16 (N.T. in W.D.) We concur in terms of American Chiefs of Staff telegram to Abdacom, subject to following amendments:-

(1) Sub-para. (b). Add after Supreme Command at end of second sentence, "This does not debar local commander A.V.G. forces in Burma being placed under operational control of A.O.C. Burma as may be arranged by you with Gen. Magruder".

(ii) Sub-para, (b) penultimate sentence. Delete "on call from Chiang Kai Shek", and substitute, "after consultation and agreement between you and the Generalissimo".

(1st S.L., 2258A/19 to B.A.D.)

/Japanese ...

503

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Japanese
use of
Gas.Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No.
(W) 7. Your 2031R/16. Suggest we await
further reports before considering publicity
for discovery of gas grenades.
(1st S.L., 2259A/19 to B.A.D.)U.S.N.
Dispositions.Serial 5. Changes my 2315/12 locations.
Atlantic: BBS. TEXAS, en route Iceland. IDAHO
due Panama 20/1. CVS. WASP en route Argentina.
CAS. QUINCY en route Iceland. CLS. SAVANNAH
at Montevideo. MEMPHIS leave Bahia 21/1. MILWAUKEE at San
Juan. NASHVILLE at Bermuda. OMAHA left San Juan 18/1.
Pacific: BBS. MISSISSIPPI, NEW MEXICO due San Francisco 22/1.
CVS. YORKTOWN, ENTERPRISE in Samoan Area. LEXINGTON, SARATOGA
at Pearl. CAS. NORTHAMPTON, SALT LAKE CITY, CHESTER, SAN
FRANCISCO, LOUISVILLE off Samoa. PORTLAND left Pearl 17/1.
At Pearl ASTORIA, PENSACOLA, MINNEAPOLIS, INDIANAPOLIS, CHICAGO.
NEW ORLEANS at Mare Island. CLS. ST. LOUIS in Samoan Area.
HELENA at Mare Island. HONOLULU due San Francisco 21/1.
PHOENIX en route Brisbane.
Asiatic: HOUSTON Banda Sea. MARBLEHEAD, BOISE Flores Sea.
18 V.P.Bs. remain N.E.I. Area.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2334/19.)Australia and New Zealand.Tankers for
Palembang,
Pladjoe.D. of S.T. has ordered following tankers to
Palembang: MARPESSA, ERLING BROVIG, SEIRSTAD,
MANVANTARA, and following to Pladjoe: ELSA,
MARIDAL. MERULA is ordered to Ceram but
further instructions have been sought from Admty.In view of enemy activity in Sunda area propose to sail these
vessels in convoy leaving Fremantle about 28/1 escorted by one
6-inch cruiser. No ship will have been delayed more than 7
days. Delay involved in waiting for M.S.3 leaving Melbourne
about 10/2 is not acceptable. Request early remarks.
(A.C.N.B., 0534Z/19 to A.B.D.A. Filipinos, (R) F.O.J., F.O.C.
Australian Sqdn., Admty., N.Z.N.B. Wellington.)U.S. Ships
in Australia.Arrival Darwin U.S. S/M SEARAVEN 2203Z/18;
U.S. A/C Tender HERON 0028Z/19. In future
A.I.G. 115 will include Abdafloat.
(A.C.N.B., 1053Z/19 to Abdafloat, Admty., etc.)

/ M/Vs ...

War Diary.19.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

M/Vs. Admty. message "HR". When in Area 11, merchant
Zigzagging. ships of a speed of 10 knots or over proceeding
independently or after dispersal from convoy are
to zig-zag by day and on moonlight nights, except
in heavy weather or fog, when in open waters in the following
localities:-

- (a) When within 200 miles of coasts of New Zealand.
 - (b) When within 200 miles of islands comprising Fiji group.
2. These instructions are additional to those already
promulgated. C.A.M.S.I. will be amended.
(D.T.D., 1106Z/19 to G.B.M.S. all areas except A.I.G. 12.)

Z.T. Your 1545A/5. Proposed nomenclature Trans-
Convoys. Tasman convoys, Wellington - Sydney, Z.T.
(N.Z.N.B., 1637M/19 to Admty.)
(Original in Summaries Folder.)

MONOWAI. My 0652Z/16. Aircraft attack report due to
2 heavy explosions 1400 yards on port quarter.
Explosions now believed to be torpedoes exploding
at end of breakwater. (? Submarine) surfaced 5 minutes later
7500 yards on port quarter.
(? H.M.N.Z.S. MONOWAI) and submarine exchanged shots, no hits
either side.
(N.Z.N.B., 2237Z/19.)

Minesweepers. Your 1501M/27/12. Regretted that immediate
commitments in other areas do not for the
present allow the allocation of any more M/S
vessels to New Zealand. T.L. fully appreciate possibility
of enemy minelaying in N.Z. waters, however, and keep the
matter constantly in view.

- 2. Every effort will be made to ship to N.Z. some H.D. M.Ls.
building in U.S.A., the first being due to complete by May.
- 3. Meanwhile, suggested that any available local craft should
be fitted with guns and Asdics, the latter of which can be
supplied from U.K. on receipt of number of sets required.
- 4. Also request information whether hulls of 72 ft. H.D. M.Ls.
can be constructed locally. Drawings and specifications are
being despatched. (Approximate details.)
- 5. Position concerning supply of cables pattern 6181A (Demand
757) is being investigated and a further signal follows.
(Hd. of M., 2345A/19 to N.Z.N.B.)

War Diary.

19.1.1942.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1415A/19, 1416A/19.)

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

At 0726 today S.B.N.O. North Russia forwarded to Admty a report graded B.3 that the ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ was at Trondheim yesterday; and a photographic R/C at 1615 today showed GNEISENAU in dock at Brest and GUEYDON off Point Doubidy proceeding N.W. in tow.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V had proposed to leave Hvalfiord at 1600N today with RENOWN, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS, SUFFOLK, SHEFFIELD, and 13 Destroyers for a position south of Reykjavik, but at 1447A this proposed sailing was deferred.

CLEOPATRA and ARETHUSA remain on patrol in the Iceland-Faeroes passage, and KENT is to leave the Denmark Strait Patrol at daylight tomorrow for Hvalfiord.

The newly installed D/F station in Iceland is now in action. (517)

The use of Trondheim as a base by enemy heavy ships necessitates constant watch by cruisers on the northern passages. C. in C. H.F. sends today a statement showing that for several months he will have insufficient cruisers for this purpose, apart from his other commitments.

British Air Activity.

The Patrol "Polar" is now to be flown continuously until further notice.

Enemy Air Activity.

Two A/C from Trondheim were reported in about 65° 30' N., 2° 30' W., at 1051A today.

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

A heavy explosion off 57 E Buoy at about 0500 today which caused slight damage to the M/S Trawler FILEY BAY is thought to have been due to a self-detonated mine.

North Atlantic.

As 5 of the 7 ships in his local escort force are long over their boiler hours and 2 badly need docking, F.O.C.N.A. asks if he can detain the remainder of escort group 36 until the sailing of H.G.79.

If Portuguese Govt. agree, it is proposed to embark personnel of LLANGIBBY CASTLE at Horta in ALMANZORA for passage to U.K.

South Atlantic.

Axis Ships
from
Fernando Po.

VIOLET, which intercepted DUCHESSA D'AOSTA on 18/1, has been instructed she should not be sighted from Fernando Po. If essential she may proceed to Port Harcourt or Victoria, but not Duala or other Free French ports.

VIOLET has left DUCHESSA D'AOSTA in charge of prize crew and is searching for NUNEATON, which with LIKOMBA and BIBUNDI in tow was last seen apparently broken down 10 miles 000° from Cape Formosa, Fernando Po, at 1700/15.

An unknown ship made an SSSS report at 2217 today in 5° 4' or 40' N., 27° 09' W.

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta. 5 alerts were sounded last night between 1823 and 0554, and there were several alerts today; some damage was caused in the dockyard. The enemy are laying German T type mines off Malta. 1 was identified in approaches to Valetta Harbour today and sunk.

Eleven Wellingtons successfully attacked Catania Aerodrome last night.

CLEOPATRA and ARETHUSA from the Home Fleet are to join the Mediterranean Fleet and to sail as soon as convenient after 24/1.

Partial repairs are to be made to AJAX, after which she is to sail for U.K.

The appointment of Rear-Adm. Med., Fleet Aircraft Carriers is to lapse when Rear-Adm. D.W. Boyd hoists his flag in INDOMITABLE. (see ~~China~~ Med: P. 532)

7 untlage.

Landing Craft. (See China)

M.W.9. In view of the urgency of M.W.9, Admty. today advised C. in C. Med., that the inclusion of 14-knot ships appeared inevitable and made certain proposals but C. in C. is unwilling to accept ships of less than 15 knots for a Malta convoy under present circumstances.

Libya and Western Desert. N.O.I.C. Benghazi disagrees with the exclusion from the round up of all Italians over 50, and asks C. in C. Med., to call for the limit to be raised to 70.

Enemy aircraft bombed PEONY in 31.43 N., 26.17 E. at 1014 today apparently without result.

U. 374 sunk. UNBEATEN is returning to Malta and reports having sunk a German U-boat at 1025/12 in 37° 50' N., 16° 0' E., and taken one prisoner.

Enemy Units. 1 cruiser and 1 M/V were reported by aircraft 210° 38 miles from Marsala at 1516 today.

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.Addu
Atoll.

A War Office appreciation on the estimated scale of attack on Ceylon and Addu Atoll was sent to C. in C. India today.

Aircraft
Carrier
Command.

Rear-Adm. D.W. Boyd is appointed Rear-Adm. Eastern Fleet Aircraft Carriers, and will transfer his flag to INDOMITABLE on her return to Aden or other convenient opportunity.

*See Me 2. - p. 532*Abda Area.

A summary of the organisation of Abda area was issued as on Admty. "A" message today. Short titles for the respective chiefs are:
Supreme Commander (Gen. Wavell), Abdacom;
Head of Naval Branch (U.S. Adm. Hart), Abdafloat;
Head of Land Branch (Dutch Gen. Ter Poorten) Abdamil; Head of Air Branch (Air Marshal Peirse) Abdair.

British Naval Forces in Abda area will in future be known as "China Force" under immediate command of Commodore Commanding China Force (short title C.C.C.F.) with shore H.Q. at British Navy Office, Batavia. Commodore may be replaced by a junior flag officer later. (Although not specifically stated C.C.C.F. evidently supersedes F.O.J). China Force is to be regarded as a detachment from Eastern Fleet. The latter comprises all British fighting ships on East Indies Station and in Abda area. The responsibility of C. in C. E.F. for the Conduct of Allied naval strategy and operations in Abda ceased with the appointment of the Supreme Commander, but he remains in general strategical control of all Allied naval forces on East Indies Stn.

War Diary.20 . 1. 1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.China.

Malaya.

SCORPION and DRAGONFLY, gunboats, bombarded ~~Miear~~ Muar last night, firing 313 rounds.

R.A. Malaya reports that the scale of air attack appeared heavier over Singapore today. Damage was caused to the Dockyard and KUNG WO, examination vessel, and there were some service casualties. Considerable damage was also caused at both aerodromes. Details are incomplete as communications are affected by bomb damage. As repairs for ISIS, destroyer, and ROVER, submarine, would take 5 months and 3 months respectively under peaceful conditions, R.A. Malaya, proposes to send them elsewhere in tow, with Batavia as first step.

Burma.

There was an air attack on Moulmein at noon today. The garrison at Mergui is being evacuated by sea.

Enemy fleets
and transports
reported.

A Japanese force of 15 warships and 30 to 40 transports was reported this morning by Dutch Naval Aircraft in S.W. Celebes Sea on a southerly course. There are also indications that the Japanese combined fleets are concentrated in the Eastern Carolines and Marshall Islands, with a large number of transports and supply ships in company. The possibility of an attack on Fiji or the New Hebrides or New Caledonia in the near future must be considered.

Landing
Craft.

In reply to a request for landing craft, Abdacom is informed that none are available from home, but C. in C. Med., is asked for his remarks on the implications of the immediate despatch of some from Middle East. Chiefs of Staff estimate that after these were sent he would have enough left to land 1 infantry brigade group.

N.E.I.

Bandjermasin (South Strait), Belawan (Port area Medan in North Sumatra) and Pangkalan Boeoen (S.W. coast of Borneo) were bombed today. A flying boat was destroyed at Bandjermasin. Norwegian S.S. EIDSVOLD was torpedoed whilst stopped off Christmas Island, south of Sunda Strait at 1105 G.M.T. today and became a wreck. The submarine surfaced and was engaged by the fixed defences and is believed to have been hit.

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

U/Bs.

At 0937Z/20, a D/F bearing placed a U/B in vicinity of 35° N., 70° W.

^{m/v}
S.S. ATHELVIKING reported at 0720 having sighted a U/B in 10.50 N., 61.20 W. Air patrol has been established from Trinidad.

Australia.

s.s. QUEEN ELIZABETH is to be sailed for San Francisco as soon as possible.

About 0249Z today after air R/C about 100 enemy aircraft attacked Rabaul; several of our aircraft were destroyed. M.V. HERSTEIN was (?) destroyed and damage was caused in the port.

War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Trawlers in Nore Command. Admiralty 1725A/17. These Trawlers can ill be spared from their present duties as additional escorts to coastal convoys where they have proved of the greatest value in dealing with and towing damaged ships. The present numbers available only allow one trawler with each convoy. If the six A/S Trawlers withdrawn from this command in October 1941 could be returned it is considered that the seven referred to in Admty. 1725A/17 could be released two at a time for fitting LL. (C. in C. Nore 1132A/20 to Admty.)

Destroyer for R.A.M. R.A.M. has requested that consideration may be given to the allocation of another ship to the 17th Division in place of BRIGHTON who is about to pay off for a refit expected to last until end of March.

2. At present only 4 out of the 7 destroyers in his Command are running and one of these is due for refit in February which will mean that no more than 4 destroyers at a time are likely to be available until about end of March.

3. Request you will consider lending one destroyer to R.A.M. until BRIGHTON completes her refit. It is suggested that an "Esse" would be suitable. (A.C.N.S. H. 1724A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

14th M/S Flotilla. 14th Minesweeping Flotilla consisting of CROMER, CROMARTY, POOLE, BOSTON, ROMNEY, BEAUMARIS, SEAHAM, WHITEHAVEN are being ordered to assemble at Greenock.

2. On completion of fuel and stores they are to be sailed in groups of two or three at best speed to the Cape. Their eventual destination will probably be the Mediterranean but this will be confirmed later. (A.C.N.S. F. 2020A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Home Fleet Cruisers. Use of Trondheim as base by heavy enemy ships necessitates constant watch by cruisers on northern passages. Nine cruisers are required to maintain this and provide cruisers for support force. This does not include Russian convoy escort. Following statement of conditions of Home Fleet cruisers shows only eight will be available for several months.

(2) Satisfactory. SHEFFIELD, NIGERIA, KENYA, TRINIDAD, ARETHUSA.

(3) Refit. NORFOLK, refitting now with a turret out of action and other weather damage. CUMBERLAND early February, weather damage and many leaky fuel tanks. SUFFOLK early March, hull and machinery defects and leaky tanks. BERWICK on completion of NORFOLK, serious leaks in fore and after Peaks, bilge and fuel tanks. After two fresh water tanks only are serviceable. None of these refits can be deferred.

(4) KENT also likely to develop leaky tanks and is not fitted for Arctic conditions.

(5) If personnel changes are not too drastic, LONDON should be worked up by mid-February, EDINBURGH by 20th March, and SHROPSHIRE by 1st April. (C. in C. H.F. 2044A/20 to Admty.)

War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia.

North Russia, Air defences. Your 2258A/17th matter has been investigated thoroughly. A.A. defences are those given in my 2309/7/10 para (b). Increases mentioned in para (B) 2 which consists of 38 m.m. gun mounts in dock not yet made. C. in C. Northern Fleet has requested further increases in A.A. guns at Murmansk. 30 additional Hurricanes promised for Vaenga. Suggest Moscow be asked to ensure their arrival. Consider A.A. defences Kola Inlet inland good and Russians fully alive to danger from air attack including minelaying. Am assured mine watchers are stationed. There is danger of aircraft becoming fog bound by local fog with consequent failure to provide fighter protection to ships at sea. Although attacks cannot be prevented owing to proximity of enemy aerodromes 50 miles do not expect them to develop with success.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1536A/20 to Admty.)

Movements.

RUBIS. My 1156/19. S/M met 0830/20.
PLADDA. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0954/20.)
Arrival PLADDA and RUBIS.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1645/20.)

MAUVENET. MAUVENET delayed 24 hours due to weather.
Intend to sail 1500A/22. E.T.A. Clyde 1600A/23.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1105A/20.)

TUNA. Intend sailing SCARRON passing Falmouth Boom at 0615/21 to R/V with TUNA between 0900 and 1100/21 in 180° Lizard Head 3 miles, escorting S/M to Falmouth. Speed 9 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1126/20.)

PRINCE LEOPOLD. Intend to sail PRINCE LEOPOLD at 1500/20. Request code word, fighter protection and that the following lights be exhibited. E.T.A. 0030/22.
(V.A. C.T.C. 1132A/20.)
My 1132/20. PRINCE LEOPOLD sailed 1600.
(V.A. C.T.C. 1602/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

AMARANTHUS. My 1233A/19th and 2050/19th. Intend to sail AMARANTHUS 1330/20th by convoy route to "D" buoy speed 12 knots to anchor Dungeness West road by 2000/20th till C.W. convoy has passed Westernport in time to arrive Dumpton 0900/21st.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1133/20.)
My 1133/20. Sailed 1400.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1452A/20.)

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- P.42. Postponed 24 hours. Intend to sail 1730A/25.
E.T.A. Clyde 1330A/26. Request CUTTY SARK be
instructed to arrive Barrow 1700A/24.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1141A/20.)
*My 1451A/19. Add twenty five hours to all times.
(Capt. S.3. 1348A/20.) *N.T. N.W.D.
- WORCESTER. Return to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1155A/20 to WORCESTER.)
- KING GEORGE V. Intend to sail from Hvalfiord at 1600N/20 in
KING GEORGE V. with RENOWN, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS,
SUFFOLK, SHEFFIELD, and 13 Destroyers and proceed
to vicinity of 061° N. 25° W.
(C. in C. H.F. 1316A/20.)
My 1316A/20. Movement deferred.
(C. in C. H.F. 1447A/20.)
- KARANJA ^{N.T. N.W.D.} My 1925/18 and 1558/19. ^{N.T. N.W.D.} KARANJA is to proceed
KEREN. independently. KEREN is to wait for issue of
hooks.
(S.O. A.S.C. 1553/20 to KEREN, KARANJA.)
- SEVERN. (i) F.O.(S)'s 2154A/17. From position (D)
proceed through 050° 12', 001° 18' to R/V 050°
31', 000° 41' at 0845A/24. Inform me at least
24 hours beforehand if you will be late.
(ii) S.B.R. arranged as follows.
(Capt. S.5. 1820A/20 to SEVERN.)
- TARTAR Seidisfjord sailed TARTAR, ICARUS for Scapa.
ICARUS E.T.A. 0900A/22.
(TARTAR 2201A/20.)
- SENNE. My 2017/13. SENNEN. Expected to arrive Las
Palmas 30/1.
(Head of M. 2208A/20 to N.A. Madrid.)
- TRIDENT. My 1846/20. TRIDENT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE
sails Blyth 2300 northwards.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2231/20.)
My 1840/20. Submarine and escort passes May
Island 0730/21 northward.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2240/20 to FOXTROT, etc.)

*See next page*Operations.

- S/M patrol Intend sailing STURGEON for patrol Vardo area as
off Fro soon as repairs to periscope can be affected.
Havet. Repairs estimated taking 24 hours.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0908A/20.) *See also next page*

/Intend ...

War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

S/M Patrol Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting TRIDENT
off Fro at 1900A/20 in accordance with F.O.(S)'s 2156A/17.
Havet - Routed through searched channel to position (A)
contd. 5 miles 090°. Out Skerries thence position (C)
speed of advance 11 knots.
2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter
protection.
3. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange T.B.R. as
follows.
(Capt. S.6. 1230A/20.) *See previous page.*

My 1849A/17. After 0001/21 0.14 is to patrol in zone E & W
keeping in vicinity of pos. P if circumstances allow. TRIDENT
is expected to arrive in zone E p.m./23rd, routed through (d)
064° 10' N. 005° E. and (e) 064° 51' N. 009° 30' E. 0.14 is
to resume patrol in zone W. at 0600/23.
(F.O.S. 1608A/20 to 0.14.)
Request you will sail STURGEON to arrive on patrol off Fro Havet
p.m.31st. Under present circumstances on completion of patrol
STURGEON will probably rest and refuel in a British port.
My 1849A/17 H.S.518 1026A/19, H.S.542 and 1256A/18 H.S.529 refer.
(F.O.S. 2026A/20 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Denmark CLEOPATRA and ARETHUSA are to leave patrol "Black"
Strait and at 1200A/22 and proceed to Scapa.
Iceland - (ii) NIGERIA and KENYA are to sail from Hvalfiord
Faroes at 2200A/21 and proceed NIGERIA to north "Black"
Patrols. and KENYA to south "Black" as ordered by C.S.10.
(iii) Failing further developments KENT is to
leave patrol "White" at daylight 21st and return
to Hvalfiord.
(C. in C. H.F. 1302A/20.)

As ice now covers part of previous patrol in N.E. and S.Wester-
ly direction it has been adjusted as follows. (A) 067° 40' N.
023° 10' W. (B) (corrupt group) (C) SWEETBRIAR 135 (D) out.
(ANEMONE 1530A/20 to KENT.)

Operation Request you sail operation E.M. if you concur.
E.M. R.A.(D) H.F. inform necessary authorities.
(C. in C. H.F. 1317A/20 to Admty.)

Channel 2 M.Ls on patrol 20 miles S.E. Start and 2
Patrols. M.Ls on patrol 10 miles S. Portland Bill at 1800.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1438/20.)

British Air Activity.

Patrol "Polar" is to be flown continuously until
"Polar" further notice.
(H.Q.C.C. 1755A/20 to R.A.F. Iceland.)
"Polar" in Operation 1400 to 1515A. Thick fog
north of 067° N. Nil report.
(A.C.I.C. 1756A/20.)

War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

At 1051A/20 two aircraft from Trondheim were in approx. 65° 30' N. 2° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1201A/20.)

Faroes. 1 enemy A/C believed Focke Wulf over Faroos between 1224 and 1246 today. No incidents reported.
(N.O.I.C. Faroos 1655A/20.)

Mining.

Operation Q.O. Your 1122A/19 and 1950A/19. Approved.
(C. in C. Nore 1015A/20.)
In view of weather forecast operation Q.O. is cancelled tomorrow.
(C..in C. Nore 1546A/20 to M/S 9.)

Drifting Mines. Drifting mines close to 54 F buoy.
(LIDDESDALE 1130A/20.)

Thames Estuary. At 0814/19. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper.
Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1600/20.)

S.N.26 B. Intend to carry out with AGAMEMNON and ST. MARYS on 23/1 as follows. Details.
(R.A.M. 1626A/20) See Lion Copy.

Explosions off 57 E. Buoy. My 1101A/19. Following received from F.O.I.C. Humber begins. At about 0500 there was a heavy explosion in close vicinity of FILEY BAY causing minor damage. From investigations consider this was probably self detonated mine unrelated to proximity of FILEY BAY. It might have been laid earlier. Another distant explosion was heard about 0400. FILEY BAY was patrolling at 57 E buoy but may have been slightly out of position. LL sweepers carried out 90 per cent sweep of Q Z S 308 and of Q Z S 311 from Sheringham to 57 D buoy on 19/1 without result. 0925A/20. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore 1717A/20.)

Enemy Intelligence.

VON TIRPITZ ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ reported at Trondheim B.3
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0726A/20.)
TIRPITZ reported at Trondheim 19/1. Graded B.2.
(D.D.I.C. 1121A/20.)

/E-Boat ...

MOST SECRET

516A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1626A/20 January IN.

From: R.A.(M)

Date: 20.1.42

Recd: 1940

Naval Cypher A1 by T/P

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

Intend to carry out operation S N 26 B as follows:

- (a) Deep minefield
- (d) H.M.S. AGAMEMNON, ST. MARY'S
- (e) Air A/S escort is requested from 1430 till dusk January 23rd.
Initial R/V 115 degrees Butt of Lewis 6 miles
- (f) from (1) 58 degrees 36' 36" north 6 degrees 4' 42" West
through (2) 58 degrees 40' 48" 6 degrees 35' 54" and (3)
58 degrees 45' 00" 6 degrees 4' 42" to (4) 58 degrees 49' 12"
6 degrees 35' 54"
- (g) 0900 January 23rd.
- (j) and (n). direct
- (k) 14 knots.
- (l) 1610 January 23rd.
- (o) and (p) Port ZA 0100 January 24th
- (q) GAP
- (w) 15.6 miles. 10 knots X mark XIX/19 set to 80 120 and 160
feet in rotation
- (y) 624 units. Combined depth to form a standard line.
- (z) As for single line ships in area B.

1626A/20

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (H) L.D.O.D. (M)

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)

D. 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.
D.D.I.C. (2)
E.P.S.
N.I.D. 10
D.D.O.D. (M)

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War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence -contd.

E-Boat. My 1101A/19. F.O. Humber reports that FILEY BAY heard fast motor craft to Eastward of Q.Z.S.308 at about 0200/19.
(C. in C. Nore 1717A/20 to Admty.)

GNEISENAU A.M.1506A/20. Further Brest photographic R/C
GUEYDON. shows at 1615/20 GNEISENAU in number nine dock. GUEYDON seen S.W. of Point Doubidy in tow proceeding N.W.
(D.D.I.C. 2050A/20.)

U-Boats.

S/M Am over enemy S/M in 60° 20' N. 8° 28' W.
sighted. Sighted on the surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C L. 1337/20 to 336 Sqdn.)

Navigational.

Ice in Denmark Straits. Contacts heavily packed ice extending from 068° 13' N. 24° 5' W. trending 070° for 10 miles and thence 037°. Small growlers and brash extending 5 to 10 miles south of pack ice.
(SWEETBRIAR 1700A/20 to KENT, ANEMONE.)

Dover Channel. My 1931A/5/10. Experience is not considered to have shown that the alternative channel has proved advantageous from the shelling point of view. Being unlit the channel has disadvantages navigationally for both convoys and Dover minesweepers and it means an additional channel to search. It is accordingly suggested that the use of the alternative route, which has never been promulgated as a Q Z S. should be discontinued.
(V.A. Dover 1734A/20.)

20 A Buoy. 20 A Buoy Light extinguished.
(LOWESTOFT 2252A/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Technical.

Iceland D/F Station. Admiralty's 1925A/17 A.F.O. S2/41 page 49. Iceland D/F Station now in action.
(D.S.D. 1637A/20.)

Tuapse Station. Please pass following to C. in C. Med. Begins. My 1751C/14 para 2. Tuapse has been endeavouring to communicate with Alexandria daily since 17th January without success. They confirm new call signs given for Tuapse and ask confirmation that Alexandria still used KLG M (Russian SHA) DSU GPCZ WFNA.
(Ad. Miles 1649C/20 to Admty.)

War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

EUGENIA S. Sailed SOUTHERN STAR at 0015 to assist EUGENIA
 EMBIRICOS. S. EMBIRICOS.
 (N.O.I.C. Oban 0030A/20.)
 Your 2316A/19. Return to Londonderry. BEVERLEY
 is proceeding to assist EMBIRICOS.
 (C. in C. W.A. 0054A/20 to SENNEN.)
 Following received from EMBIRICOS Begins. Lying in outer
 anchorage with two anchors 56° 35' N. 7° W. Please tow me
 to nearest port. Breaking rudder post. Ends.
 (Greenock 0120/20 to Admty.)
 Request you sail CAROLINE MOLLER to assist EMBIRICOS. Vessel
 is to be towed to Clyde.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0145A/20 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
 Your 2230/19. Report situation.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1010A/20 to BEVERLEY.)
 EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS in tow proceeding to Clyde.
 (CAROLINE MOLLER 1545/20.)

EMPIRE Your 1625A/19 just received. Have passed through
 TARPON position indicated at 1700/19. No vessel in sight.
 (Grounded Now returning.
 19/1) (TENACITY 0145A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
 Your 1950A/19. Remain in company with EMPIRE TARPON
 until TENACITY arrives and connects up, when you
 are to report situation.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0149A/20 to AIREDALE.)
 AIREDALE position at 2335A/19 055° 13' N. 005° 55' W. Inform
 AIREDALE your E.T.A. at that position.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0159A/20 to TENACITY.)
 EMPIRE TARPON now being towed by tug ST. OLAVES in position
 055° 19' N. 005° 29' W. Am remaining in vicinity.
 (AIREDALE 0304A/20.)
 Your 0149A/20. EMPIRE TARPON in tow tug ST. OLAVES. TENACITY
 proceeding independently. Am remaining in company.
 (AIREDALE 0530A/20.)
 Your 0400/20. Report your position. Tow vessel to Rothesay
 Bay.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0559/20 to ST. OLAVES.)
 Tow proceeding satisfactorily. TENACITY standing by but not
 required. Amend E.T.A. Rothesay Bay 1400A/20.
 (ST. OLAVES 1115A/20.)
 Operation completed.
 (ST. OLAVES 1500A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DOMBY. Following received. Intercept 0214 G.M.T. bearing
 northerly. De ULSTER QUEEN to DOMBY begins.
 I am standing by and cannot do anything until
 daylight but (unread) show some lights, ends.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 0316/20.)

FLORISTAN Controller R.A.F. Port Ellen reports FLORISTAN
 (Ashore ashore North West Islay. Crew landed. Ship,
 19/1) which is loaded with War Office Cargo, is breaking
 up but large part of this cargo salvable if work
 undertaken immediately.
 (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 0500A/20.)

/When ...

War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

FLORISTAN When no longer required to stand by EMPIRE TARPON
(Ashore proceed with despatch to assist FLORISTAN ashore
19/1) on North West Coast of Islay about six miles North
Contd. of Oversay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015A/20 to TENACITY.)
N.O.I.C. Campbeltown's 0500A/20. Every endeavour
should be made to salve this cargo. Report proposed action.
(C. in C. W.A. 1127A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 1015A/20. Have searched along West coast of Islay
vicinity Machir Bay no trace of FLORISTAN. Visibility now near
shore nil. Suggest continue search daybreak.
(TENACITY 2000A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 2000A/20. Position of FLORISTAN one mile south of
Kilchiaran. Continue search at daybreak.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2357A/20 to TENACITY.)

INGRID. Request you sail JAUNTY to assist INGRID ashore on
LARISTAN. Barra Head.
(Ashore (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1025A/20 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)
19/1.) My 1025/20. INGRID is ashore in 56° 31' N. 07° W.
off Tiree not Barra Head. LARISTAN in 56° 31' N.
6° 56' W. N.O.I.C. Stornoway to pass to JAUNTY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1145A/20.)
Sailed JAUNTY.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1226A/20.)
Vessel ashore Beist Bay. Have been in communication with Naval
vessel this morning who has ordered salvage tugs immediately.
Doubtful whether able to refloat owing to pump room being
flooded and no steam.
(LARISTAN No T.O.O. Recd. Port Patrick 1735/20.)
Amended position of INGRID 56° 32' N. 06° 56' W. and LARISTAN
56° 31' N. 07° W. There appears to be some chance of
refloating LARISTAN.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2053A/20 to JAUNTY.)

R.J. CULLEN Following received from R.N.O. Inverness begins.
EMPIRE HOMER Customs report that local inhabitants may be pilfer-
(Ashore 15/1)ing stores etc. from 2 ships ashore Barra Island
and they suggest that a guard may be necessary as
the vessels have not been abandoned by the
Admiralty and therefore do not come under receiver of wrecks. Ends
As no Military are in vicinity it is suggested that R.J. CULLEN
and EMPIRE HOMER be turned over to receiver of wrecks.
(C. in C. W.A. 1125A/20 to Admty.)

LOCH HOPE H.M.T. LOCH HOPE in collision with S.S. SANDENBURGH
SANDENBURGH. 0030/20. SANDENBURGH damaged entered Tees in
tow of tugs. LOCH HOPE also damaged returned to
Hartlepool under own steam.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1144/20.)

/ERIKA ...

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

- ERIKA Following received via Port Patrick Radio from ERIKA. 159° 72 miles Skunk 13 (?00) G.M.T. bad stoker.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1345/20.)
- Unknown ship. Unidentified vessel stranded in 075° 07' N. 007° 16' W. north of Eriskay apparently in no immediate danger. Unable to close without risk of damage. Request instructions.
(MIGNONETTE 1420A/20.)
- H.28. Your 1056A/20. Request you will arrange to sail H.28 for Portsmouth with special escort in next W.P. convoy 22/1 in accordance with S W M 6 part 1 and for defects to exhaust system to be made good as far as possible in the time available. It being acceptable that submarine may not be able to dive except in emergency.
(S.5. 1707A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 1056/20. H. 28 put in with defect to muffler valve or exhaust trunking.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1831A/20.)
- MARKLYN. MARKLYN ashore Mull of Galloway - require assistance please.
(MARKLYN 2100/20.)
- ONEIDA. Following received from V A X intercept from V A W 2115. S O S ONEIDA foundering 62° N. 23° 48' W. Help requested immediately. 2104Z/20 (signed) O.I.C.
(Halifax N.S. No T.O.O. Recd. 0139/21) (Burnham Radio 2114/20) (C. in C. Plymouth 2223A/20)
- LOCH GARRY. 165° good class bearing LOCH GARRY distress message received 2347 G.M.T.
(Tiree Radio 2400 G.M.T./20.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- E.N.34. E.N.34 scattered due to weather.
(TANGO 1025A/20.)
- HORSA If you can communicate with HORSA (Your 1739A/19) she should be routed through Skopenfjord.
(D.T.D. 1604A/20 to A.C.I.C., S.O.N.T.)
If HORSA is encountered she is to be directed to proceed to her destination through Skopenfjord.
(S.O. N.P.T. 1657A/20 to Trawlers.)
Your 1604A/20. HORSA (R/T only) sailed 2300A/19.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1951A/20 to Admty.)

War Diary.20.1.1942
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.57 O.N.57 BADJESTAN, CAPSA weather damage. STOCKPORT lost touch. EMPIRE PORPOISE, CHR. J. KAMPMANN defects. All returned or returning Clyde. INGRID, LARISTAN, EUGENIA S EMBIRICOS Marine casualties.

(C. in C. W.A. 1634A/20.)

Following is being made to Opnav. Estimate O.N.57 will be 24 hours late at M.O.M.P.

(C. in C. W.A. 1709A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

Following received by aircraft R/53 Squadron, begins, from CHELSEA. ONS 57 formed up twelve ships. SNOWDROP and MIGNONETTE missing from escort, standing by wrecks TANTRID and PARISTAN. 1426 ends.

LARISTAN

(C. in C. W.A. 2205/20.)

O.N.S.58 ACANTHUS to join O.N.S.58 in position 000°. ACANTHUS. Altacarry 8 miles at 1600A/21.

(C. in C. W.A. 1734A/20.)

A.T.10. My 0359/19. Details of personnel and cargo loaded are as follows.

(D. of S.T. 1827A/20.)

Operation "Magnet". STRATHAIRD and CHATEAU THIERRY carrying American Military Personnel for Northern Ireland sailed from New York with Convoy A.T.10 and American escort on 15/1. 2. Request you sail three destroyers to M.O.M.P. in position and at a time to be signalled later. After meeting they will escort above mentioned ships to Belfast.

3. Remainder of convoy and escort will be proceeding to Iceland (C) 5. Belfast portion of convoy has been routed as follows. 6. Commodore of convoy is Commander James Davis in CHATEAU THIERRY. 7. Available ships of 13th M.S.F. should minesweep from Position F on reverse track out to 100 fathom line subsequently returning to Belfast with convoy as additional A/S escort.

(D.O.D. H. 1915A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

A.M.1915A/20 para 2. M.O.M.P. in 54° 43' N. 26° W. at 1100A/23.

Convoy speed of advance is 13 knots.

(D.O.D. H. 2224A/20)

Q.P.4. Q.P.4 sailed Seidisflord 1300A/20 routed as in your 1744A/19. Consists of DAN-Y-BRYN, CAPE CORSO, BRIARWOOD, TEHATA, EL CAPITAN and SUKHOMA. E.T.A. Kirkwall 1700A/23. WANSTEAD and COCLE should sail with Q P 5.

(A.C.I.C. 2130A/20.)

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War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 2358A/14. ELYSIA arrived safely so no evidence of presence of Japanese unit.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1959A/20. to C's in C. etc.)

North Atlantic.

COREOPSIS. Left Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./20.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 0946/20.)

EMPIRE PANTHER. H.G. EMPIRE PANTHER will be only ship. On completion of loading at Lisbon propose she sails direct to U.K. escorted by three (?Possibly "available") escorts of O.G.78. Date of sailing from Lisbon will be communicated. Request route and destination.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1128A/20. to Admty.)

Escort Refits. Of my local escort force 5 out of 7 ships available are long over their boiler hours. This is due to extra and unexpected commitments demanded by Admiralty viz escorts for oilers into Atlantic, extra escort for MIRROR, CHESAPEAKE etc. 2 are well overdue and badly need docking. Future commitments are heavy, therefore request permission to detain remainder of escort group 36 until sailing of H.G.79. My 1128A refers.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1134A/20, to Admty.)

T.B.R. Capt. (S) 8 1138A/13. Request T.B.R. in area G.4 from 0600A/22 until 0100A/24 and in area G.1 from 2100A/23 until 1000A/25.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1140A/20 to Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

PACHECO, DEWDALE. Your 0217A/20 (N.T. in W.D.)(Requesting verification of ship named in 2028A/18/1.) Confirm PACHECO. (2) If C. in C. S.A. agrees intend to sail PACHECO about 3¹/₂ escorted by 2 corvettes. Escorts to transfer DEWDALE in about 023° N. and escort her to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1152A/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.) Agree. (C. in C. S.A., 1128Z/22.)

DEMIR HISAR. Left Ponta Delgada 1430 G.M.T./20.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 1232/20.)

/T.B.R. ...

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

T.B.R. Ops. 513 20/1. Serial G.18 Institute T.B.R.
S.B.R. (A) from 0400/21 until 1200/21 in Area 51 south
of 050° N. and east of 006° 30' W. (B) from
0400/21 until 2000/22 within 30 miles either
side of line joining 043° N. 012° 50' W. and 046° N. 012° 50' W.
Institute S.B.R. from 0300/21 until 2359/22 within 30 miles
either side of line joining 046° N. 012° 40' W. and 049° 30' N.
010° W.
(H.Q.C.C. 1242A/20 to R.A.F. Gibraltar.)

TEMPEST. Intend sailing TEMPEST (for?) working up patrol
in the vicinity Alboran Island p.m. 21st.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1306A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

ELSA Your 1939/16 to Corunna. C. in C. Ferrol
ESSBERGER. reported to Minister of Marine that investig-
ations assured him there are no prisoners on
board. Chief of Naval Staff is positive
search was thorough. Vessel had been slightly damaged forward
apparently by near miss and by machine gun fire.
(N.A. Madrid 1414/20 to Admty.)

BENNO. It proved impossible to salve diesel oil from
German tanker BENNO before bad weather. Ship
now broken in 2. Salving some oil from fore
part later.
(B.N.A. Madrid 1613/20.)

DINGLEDALE, GERANIUM, SPIREA, and CLYDE escorting R.F.A.
escort. DINGLEDALE notified as leaving Harbour 2000
tonight Tuesday.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1613/20 to Ships on Patrol, CROOME.)
Your 1324/17. Departure, CLYDE, GERANIUM, SPIREA, DINGLEDALE.
CLYDE keeping wireless watch in accordance with S 1/41 Sec.
N A para. 8 B. DINGLEDALE reading 33 B.M.S. routine and
carrying recoding tables number 16 and Indship 2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2006A/20 to Admty.) *See also next page*

Force H Your 2145A/19 Approved.
Oiler. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1617A/20 to F.O. Force H.)

LLANGIBBY Admty. please copy to Owner. From Master
CASTLE, LLANGIBBY CASTLE (begins)- Torpedoed 0817 G.M.T.
(torpedoed 16/1.) ¹³⁰⁰ 16/1 046° 04' N. 019° 06' W. proceeded average
speed 9 knots arrived Horta Fayal 1300 G.M.T./19.
Preliminary report. After part of ship complete
with steering gear, rudder and main armament
blown away. After peak leaking and forward
bulkhead buckled but watertight. Propellers apparently not
damaged. Main engine in good order. Holding survey detailed
report following. Ship's Boatswain wounded. 26 Service
casualties missing believed killed, 4 transferred to hospital
Horta, detailed report follows. (Ends).
(R.O. Horta, 1658/20. to Admty.)

/Subject ...

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War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

LLANGIBBY
CASTLE,
(torpedoed
16/1.)
contd.

Subject to agreement of Portuguese Govt. it has been decided that personnel now in LLANGIBBY CASTLE at Horta are to be embarked in ALMANZORA for passage to U.K. (2) Owing to possibility that U-Boats may be operating near Azores, F.O.C.N.A. is requested to detail two of the destroyers held as escort for Force H to accompany ALMANZORA during the operation until HESPERUS can join (A.M.1743/14 and F.O.C.N.A. 1218A/19). (3) Suggested that destroyers detailed should fuel from DINGLEDALE before joining ALMANZORA so as to avoid fuelling at Ponta Delgada. (4) You are requested to issue necessary instructions for this operation in anticipation of Portuguese approval. (5). Authorities in Azores should not be informed until Admty. inform you of Portuguese concurrence.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2051A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P list. P list amend number 20 and 34 to Genoa 19/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1736A/20 to TURBULENT, P.39.)

U/B's at
Vigo.

Ref. (?submarines) entering Vigo. Consul Vigo reports difficult to establish exact facts but apparently German crew still on board German ship. Minister of Marine away but Chief of Naval Staff swore complete precautions had been taken. He did not know what precautions as orders were given by Minister himself by telephone direct to respective C's in C. Chief of Staff objects to my visit to Vigo officially in this connection as reflecting on Minister, so I shall wait for Minister to return and go unofficially. Precautions undoubtedly have been taken but I am not satisfied they are adequate.
(N.A. Madrid, 1913/20 to Admty.)

O.G.78. To avoid U-Boat Area alter course forthwith to pass 20 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent and then direct to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. W.A. 2009A/20 to Escorts of O.G.78 for Cmdre.)

TALISMAN. Your 1149A/8 and your 0112A/10 TALISMAN sailing P.M./21. (a) 6 Mark 2. (b) 8 knots half power both engines. (c) Unfit. (d) 3 and 2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2140A/20 to F.O.S.)

CLYDE. My 1934A/20 not to Admiralty. Para. (2) from position A steer direct for new position C 033° 00' N. 022° 00' W. omitting position B. Acknowledge forthwith.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2234A/20 to CLYDE (R). Admty.)
GERANIUM, SPIREA, S.O. Force H, Capt. (S) 8.)

See previous page
/CHESAPEAKE ...

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

CHESAPEAKE. Tug THAMES due R/V with CHESAPEAKE about noon G.M.T./21. If not met by dark/21 endeavour to establish communication on 600 metres between 2115 and 2130 G.M.T. and every 2 hours as requisite using this recoding table and call sign M T U M and G G O L respectively. CHESAPEAKE report position, THAMES endeavour to D/F. Trawlers ARCTIC RANGER and LADY HOGARTH should be with CHESAPEAKE. (Adm. Gibraltar, 2335Z/20 to CHESAPEAKE, THAMES.)

South Atlantic. (1942 490)

Axis Ships
seized at
Fernando Po.
VIOLET.

Your 1559/19. It is of the utmost importance that nothing should transpire to connect H.M.G. with this operation. Consequently it is suggested that:-

(a) Presence of Colonial Tug should be explained as having been diverted to provide assistance

for VIOLET.

(b) Raiding party must be taken off captured ships and Colonial Tug before arrival at Lagos.

(c) Crew of VIOLET must be silenced and greatest care taken to ensure that no leakage occurs through crew of Colonial Tug.

(d) Steps should be taken to see that all members of the raiding party including natives are prevented from returning to Lagos until after all official inquiries or other resulting proceedings have been completed.

(e) All members of enemy crews should be kept under closest guard.

2. Vessel should not be placed in prize pending instructions. Request very early report of her cargo and in particular whether there is any evidence in Cargo, Wireless Log or Ships Papers of Vessel having given assistance to enemy.

3. Following is text of interim communique issued in consequence of enemy allegation that Axis Ships were cut out by British or Free French Warship -(begins)-

"In view of the German allegations that Allied Naval Forces have executed a cutting out operation against Axis Ships in the Spanish Port of Santa Isabel, Fernando Po, the British Admiralty consider it necessary to state that no British or Allied Warship was in the vicinity of Fernando Po at the time of the alleged incident. As a result, however, of the information obtained from the German broadcasts, the British C. in C. despatched reconnaissance patrols to cover the area. A report has now been received that a large unidentified vessel has been sighted, and British Naval Vessels are proceeding to the spot to make investigations." (Ends).

(Head of M, Approved by 1st Lord 0039A/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

Your 1930/19. VIOLET should not (?be) sighted from Fernando Po. Do not understand necessity for lubricating oil and provisions yet, but if essential proceed to Port Harcourt or Victoria and not Duala or other Free French ports.

(C. in C. S.A. 0543Z/20 to VIOLET.)

/My ...

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20.1.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Axis Ships My 1011Z/18. VIOLET reports that NUNEATON with seized at LIKOMBA and BIBUNDI in tow was last seen by Fernando Po. DUCHESSA ~~OF~~ AOSTA apparently broken down ten VIOLET. miles 000° from Cape Formosa, Fernando Po, at 1700/15.

(2) VIOLET who was escorting DUCHESSA ~~OF~~ AOSTA has left her in charge of prize crew and is now searching for NUNEATON. I have directed that ship is not to be sighted from Fernando Po. (NT W.D.)

(3) DUCHESSA ~~OF~~ AOSTA E.T.A. Lagos 21/1 but tug is short of coal.

(4) Suggest communique referred to in your 1828A/17 as regards DUCHESSA ~~OF~~ AOSTA might now be released. This will provide a story for personnel engaged to tell which is better than complete silence.

(C. in C. S.A. 0645Z/20 to Admty.)

My 1259/18 to F.O.C.N.A. I showed Chief of Naval Staff copy of Admiralty Communique as taken down from B.B.C. He said news of Fernando Po still very confusing. No note had yet been prepared by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his opinion was Free French had done it without orders. D. of N. (I) then observed report had come from ships had been taken in vicinity which in view of Admiralty Communique I denied. Feeling here very hot against us, but Falange prevented police action.

(N.A. Madrid, 2101/20 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Troopships Troopships with total capacity of some 15,000 Required for are required to be made available at New York New York. by about 8/2 or as soon afterwards as possible. 2. Ships proposed are as follows:- (1) FRANCONIA 2500, (2) SAMARIA 2500, (3) ORONSAY 3000, (4) DUCHESS OF ATHOLL 3000, (5) SCYTHIA 3000, (6) CAMERONIA 3000, Total: 17,000. 3. Request urgent report. (a) Dates by which above vessels could reach New York and (b) whether capacities quoted are correct. (D. of S.T. 0704A/20 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

JASMINE, Departure 0800 JASMINE escorting R.F.A. RAPIDOL. RAPIDOL. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0833N/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

MAURITIUS. Your 2041/19 (N.T. in W.D.) Can Sunday 25th be accepted as date of sailing from Simonstown to enable firing programme to be carried out and ship to be utilised in accordance with para. 3 of A.M. 1513A/21/11? (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0909Z/20, to C. in C. S.A.) Your 0909Z/20. It is important to get

MAURITIUS into mid Atlantic and onward as soon as possible and fire up and duty mentioned in para. 3 of A.M. 1513/21/11 must give way. (C. in C. S.A. 1847Z/20 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

BULOLO. Proceed Montevideo for fuel to arrive 1230Z/24 If you are unable to arrive this time report immediately you E.T.A. repeating signal to S.O. (I) Montevideo. (R.A.S.A.D. 1103Z/20 to BULOLO.)

/U.S. ...

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

U.S. Navy, Your 259 A.G. 15th Basegram. Propose following
Inter- arrangements be brought into force in S.A.
Communication. Station. From recent visits of DEVONSHIRE and
CANTON to Pernambuco it is understood they
would be acceptable to U.S. Naval authorities.
They take into account limited personnel and equipment of A.M.
cruiser and small size of units normally operated.
(i) all enemy reports of mutual interest to be in British/U.S.
code or cypher.
(ii) U.S. Navy to maintain a guard on S.A. Station normal
high frequency at Pernambuco.
(iii) Enemy reports from British ships and aircraft to be made
in normal way. Freetown to be responsible for passing them
to U.S. guard at Pernambuco who will be responsible for passing
to U.S. ships.
(iv) Enemy reports by U.S. ships and aircraft to be passed on
U.S. wave to guard trawlers Pernambuco who will be responsible
for passing on S.A. Stations normal H/F to Freetown for British
ships.
(v) Enemy reports and distress messages from merchant ships
received at Freetown to be passed to Pernambuco and vice versa.
(vi) U.S. 500 kc/s guard at Pernambuco to act as W/T station
as regards answering and broadcasting mercantile enemy reports
and distress messages.
(vii) British or U.S. ships experiencing difficulty in
communicating with own W/T station to pass to station of the
other navy. The latter to include U.S. guard at Pernambuco
which should materially improve ship to shore communication in
area B where difficulty in communicating with British shore
stations, particularly by day, is the normal experience.
(viii) Request latest information regarding frequencies and
call signs of U.S. stations likely to be of use to ships in
S. Atlantic area including guard at Pernambuco may be
communicated. Request Admty. pass similar information
concerning British Shore Stations to U.S. authorities.
(ix) S. Atlantic stations normal H/F to be used for Inter-
communication between British and U.S. units should direct
co-operating development. U.S. units are to maintain guard
on this wave.
(C. in C. S.A. 1501Z/20 to Admty.)

WELSHMAN. Departure 0900/20.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1601Z/20.) *See also next page*

Zigzagging. Ships are still being instructed by N.C.S.O.s
in your area to zig-zag east of 10° W. in South
Atlantic. Admty. lettered message HJ refers.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1620Z/20 to S.O.I. Kingston.)

Defence of Portuguese Guinea. I am reliably informed Governor Portuguese
Guinea has received circular telegram addressed
all Portuguese Colonies from Ministry of
Colonies Lisbon asking defence etc. available
"should another case of aggression occur
similar to Timor". Reply stated only native
troops available armed with rifles and machine

/guns ...

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Defence of Portuguese Guinea contd. guns, no heavy or A.A. guns no warship or harbour defences and enough ammunition to last approx. 1 hour. Ends.
(2) Practically all troops now concentrated in Bissao approx. strength 20 Portuguese officers and men and 450 native other ranks.
(R.O. Bissao 1708/20. to Admty.)
- Report 1607/20. Ascension report unknown station heard making position $000^{\circ} 47' N. 028^{\circ} 07' W.$ on 500 kc/s at 1607/20. Nothing further intercepted. Any ship having intercepted any other portion of this signal is to report.
(C. in C. S.A. 1830Z/20 to S.A. Stn.)
- WELSHMAN. Intend shipping 174 cases of Bullion in WELSHMAN leaving Freetown 22/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 1831Z/20 to Admty.)
See pt. 20's page.
- CILICIA. My 1829Z/19. Cancel 1st para. CILICIA proceed to patrol H 34 D passing S. and E. of position $010^{\circ} S 025^{\circ} W.$ and to Eastward of $007^{\circ} S. 025^{\circ} W.$
(C. in C. S.A. 2229Z/20 to CILICIA.)
- BIRMINGHAM. Your 1122Z/20 (N.T. in W.R.). I should like (?BIRMINGHAM) to move towards Plate area now.
(C. in C. S.A. 2235Z/20 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Cancelled 21/1 - p. 565 -
- A.F. Message. Ref. Admty. Message A.F., $5^{\circ} 4' N. 27^{\circ} 09' W.$ at 2217.
(C. in C. S.A. 2258Z/20 to G.B.M.S. 6A,(R) Admty.)
- MEMPHIS, DAVIS. Admty. 1446A/18 Amend para. 1. U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS and U.S. Destroyer DAVIS leave (?Bahia) 21/1 passing through $005^{\circ} S. 026^{\circ} W.$ thence to $005^{\circ} N. 026^{\circ} W.$ thence to Pernambuco, E.T.A. 28/1. S. of A. 15 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 2259Z/20 to S.A. Stn.)
- "S" Report. SSSS Monte X331 $5.40 N. 27.09 W.$
(Ascension Radio, 2324/20 to Admty.)
(W.D.Note:- Latitude position differs from that in A.F. message 2258Z/20.)

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Ships for
M.W.9. Malta
Capacity.

Your 1215/17. P.S.T.O. Egypt 1614/16. As W S 14 is not due at Suez until 29/1 it appears improbable that EMPIRE ORIOLE, EMPIRE PINTAIL, EMPIRE EGRET, can be discharged and reloaded in time for M W 9. In any event special approval of U.S. Govt. must be obtained before these ships can be used, either for M.W.convoys or for Hush. 2. DEUCALION, ABBEKERK, referred to by P.S.T.O. Egypt are not in Persian Gulf and could not arrive in Egypt in time for M W 9. 3. Only 15 knot ships which could be made available in time are CLAN CAMPBELL now at Port Sudan and CLAN CHATTAN which is being sailed to Suez from Persian Gulf forthwith. 4. In view of urgency of this requirement the inclusion of 14 knot ships appears inevitable. It is accordingly proposed that in addition to CLAN CAMPBELL and CLAN CHATTAN, NIGERSTROOM, speed 14 knots, should be included. M.W.T. are also prepared to seek agreement of Norwegian Authorities to inclusion of 2 or 3 of the following, all now in Middle East:- TARIFA, TRICOLOR, TROJA, TAIYIN. All of these ships are reported capable of 14 knots or more. 5. Request urgently (a) whether speed of 14 knots can be accepted, (b) whether 6 ships can be included to enable a really substantial tonnage of supplies to be lifted. 6. W.O. and M. of W.T. agree. (D.O.D.(F) 0023A/20 to C. in C. Med.) Your 0023/20. Am unwilling to accept ships of less than 15 knots for Malta Convoy under present circumstances. Intend M.W.9 to consist of CLAN CAMPBELL, CLAN CHATTAN, *ROWLAND CASTLE and any of 4 Norwegian Vessels which are found to be capable of 15 knots on arrival. Cargo available for loading on 1/2 will not exceed 40,000 tons. Request ships for M.W.10 to load about 15/2 may be allocated. Opinion of Malta Shipping Committee that not more than 35,000 tons can be off landed per month at Malta under existing scale of air attack. V.A.M. is requested to remark. (W.D. Note. See 2133B/22). V.A.M. pass to Governor Malta. *?ROWALLAN/CASTLE (C. in C. Med., 1646B/20 to Admty.)

UNBEATEN. All torpedoes expended. One German U-Boat sunk, (U.374) one prisoner. One 7500 ton tanker probably sunk. (U.374 sunk.)
(Capt. Rowbotham.) E.T.A. 1600B/20. (UNBEATEN, 0420B/20 to Capt. S.10, V.A. Malta).

UNBEATEN has left N E half area J which P 34 will enter P.M./21. (Capt. S.10, 0857B/20 to UNIQUE).

Internment of
Italians,
Benghazi.

As a result of considerable pressure O.E.T.A. have consented to a round up tomorrow Wednesday of Italians under age 50. To consider a man over 50 incapable of doing harm to his enemies seems to be nonsense. To cover nearly all enemy agents submit you call for the limit to be raised to 70. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 0954B/20 to C. in C. Med.)

PEONY,
bombing.

Following has been read, addressed Mersa Matruh W/T. Enemy aircraft bombing in 31° 43' N. 26° 17' E. (PEONY, 1014/20).

P.35, Vichy
Convoy.

Escorted southbound Vichy convoy of about 8 ships may be encountered during daylight today 20th. (Capt. S.10, 1039B/20 to P.35).

/ENGADINE

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

ENGADINE. Now en route for Suez with 5 Pegasus XXX engines for M.E. is to load 16 erected or 13 crated Fulmar II aircraft at Suez from Mediterranean reserves for passage to Trincomalee. 2. After delivering these aircraft ENGADINE is at disposal of C. in C. E.I. for ferrying Naval aircraft as required. 3. Aircraft damage beyond the resources of the E.I. Stations can be shipped to Fayid for repairs. 4. If crated aircraft are sent ENGADINE's petrol tank compartment should be kept flooded for stability reasons. (D.N.A.D., 1219A/20 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I.)

Benghazi, weather casualties. CRISTA broke adrift during the night, set down on HARBOE JENSEN and later on MAUSANG and wrecked. Is now insecurely moored with both latter a few feet under her lee and seriously menacing MAUSANG. All ships damaged above water. CRISTA steering gear badly damaged. Propeller fouled possibly damaged. Request largest manilas obtainable be forwarded at first opportunity. C 307 still out of action. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1245B/20, to C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

CLEOPATRA, ARETHUSA. To join Med. Fleet. They are to sail as soon as convenient after 24/1. 2. C. in C. Med. is requested to signal his wishes whether they should proceed through Mediterranean or via the Cape. AJAX. 3. C. in C. Med's 1948B/10, Approved to make partial repairs to AJAX and to sail her for U.K. on completion. Probable date of sailing should be reported. (D.O.D.(F) 1327A/20 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Units. Following has been read. 1 Cruiser 1 Merchant vessel 5000 210° Marsala 38, 030° 8. (A/C using call sign B6KY, 1516/20) (V.A. Malta, 1725B/20 to S/M's on Patrol).

LORENZ L.M. RUSS, OTTO LEONHARDT. Arrival 20th LORENZ L.M. RUSS, Departure 19th OTTO LEONHARDT Savona Via Genoa, Oranges, Onions, Iron Ore, Iron Plate. (Valencia, 1705/20, to M. of W.T.)

GLAUCOS, Greek S/M's. Admty. 2034A/15. (A) This can be arranged. It is recommended however that this gear should be fitted and trials carried out at Malta in the first ship of the class to be modified. If NEREUS is still to refit at Malta this gear might be fitted in her first. Estimated time for fitting in GLAUCOS 10 days, Fitting of gear where pad pieces not already fitted would take (? approx.) 5 (? weeks). (B) Request whether details and arrangements of tubes and firing gear in KATSONIS class are identical with GLAUCOS. Am relying on delivery from U.K. of all necessary settings of springs referred to in V.A. Malta's 1820B/30/12 not to C. in C. Med. or Admiralty. (A.S. Malta, 1730B/20, to C. in C. Med.)

/Air ...

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Air R/C Positions. Following received from H.Q. Med. begins:-
Addressed 201 Group, H.Q. M.E., N.O.I.C. Malta, Med. Fleet, F.O.C.N.A., 200 Group, From 0001B/22/1, all sighting reports made by R/C aircraft based at Malta will give positions as a bearing and distance from one of the following pre-arranged data points. These will be changed when compromised. A A 037° 30' 011° 40' B B 035° 50' 012° 20' C C 034° 30' 012° 30' D D 033° 30' 014° 30' F F 032° 40' 016° 40' G G 035° 50' 017° 20' H H 037° 50' 018° 30' ? J J 036° 50' 018° 40' K K 035° 40' 020° 30'. T.O.O. 1740B/20 (ends).
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1832B/20 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, 1910B/20 to S/M's on Patrol).

THUNDERBOLT. THUNDERBOLT sailed 1000B/21 and after exercise in accordance with R.A. (D) Med's 1610/20 (N.T in W.R.) proceed from end of searched channel through 035° 00' 021° 00' 037° 23' 020° 25' to establish patrol in area P within 48 miles 038° 11' 020° 21', W of 020° 40'.
(Capt. S.1., 1845B/20 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Report. CSR Malta 20/1/42. Part 1, 19th casualties 1027 to 1257 hours. Airmen killed 3, wounded 3, civilians killed 11, wounded 10, houses destroyed. 1519 hours 20 M.E. 109FS and JU 88's bombs land sea no damage A A fired.
Night 19/20, heavy rainstorms and cloud, 5 alerts 1823 - 0554 hours, 11 raiders bombs land sea Kalafrana 1 airman wounded.
20th, 4 alerts 0650, 0729, 0933, and 1206 hours, total 62 bombers and fighters. Bombs land, sea, damage not yet available, none at aerodromes. Hurricanes up no interceptions.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1854/20).

Benghazi report. 20/1 nothing discharged today. CRISTA still off MAUSANG and wreck. Weather moderating slightly. Shall try re-berthing CRISTA if C 307 propeller clears and weather permitting. No enemy aircraft activity. "Jumbo" not yet repaired.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1913B/20 to C. in C. Med.)

S/M's. 20/1 arrival UNBEATEN, departure P.34.
(V.A. Malta, 1924B/20).

M. T. B's for Greece. Your 1141B/15. Concur. Main limitations on provision of your M.T.B. Force are shipping facilities. When sufficient boats have arrived to enable you to spare some for the Greeks request you will then arrange for the local Greek crews to be trained. (A.C.N.3. (F) 1935A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

SOKOL. O.R.P. SOKOL P.C. and S. at 1830B/20 038° 56' 017° 37' 200° 10. (Capt. S.10, 1935B/20 to UPHOLDER, UNIQUE, UNA, P.34).

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

- P.35
Enemy M/V's. 6 vessels left Kuriat Southbound slow speed. All torpedoes 21 inch expended. Returning to base. (P.35, 2149B/20 to V.A.Malta).
- R.A. (A). Rear Adm. D.W.Boyd C.B.E. D.S.C. is appointed Rear Adm. Eastern Fleet Aircraft Carriers. He is to transfer his flag to INDOMITABLE on her return to Aden or other convenient opportunity, date to be reported by signal. The appointment of Rear Adm. Med. Fleet Aircraft Carriers is to lapse when his flag is hoisted in INDOMITABLE. (1st S.L. 2222A/20 to C's in C., Med., E.F., E.I., etc.)
- Enemy
Units (?) Following has been read. P.C. and S. 5 Merchant Vessels 1 Destroyer with full navigation lights on bearing 070° from Kuriat 6 miles course 325° Speed unknown. (Med. A/C, 2227/20) Presumed French (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1800/21).
- Enemy Mines,
Malta. Enemy are laying German T type mines off Malta. One was identified in approaches to Valetta Harbour today 20/1 and sunk. (V.A.Malta, 2229B/20 to Admty.)
- Landing Craft. Following for C. in C. M.E. and Med. from Chief of Staff No. M.E. 226. Abdacom asks whether any landing craft can be made available for Far East. None available from home. Request comments on implications of the immediate despatch by you of 3 M.L.C., 19 A.L.C., 9 S.L.C., and 13 R craft. We estimate you would still have sufficient craft left to land one Infantry Brigade Group. (1st S.L., 2232A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

P 210

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

WEST ZEDA.

Overdue WEST ZEDA (U.S.A.) left Mikindani (010° 20' S.) 10/1 for Beira. Not armed. (S.O.I., Colombo, 0556Z/20 to Admty. etc).

KWAI SANG,
BARALA.

(1) Your 1058/19. As KWAI SANG cannot be fitted out at Calcutta request you will sail her for Colombo forthwith. Enquiries being made whether work can be done at Colombo, if not ship will be sent to Bombay.

(3) In view of delay that has already occurred request you will make every effort to hasten completion of BARALA and to make up the third ship asked for. (C. in C. E.I., 0710Z/20 to P.S.T.O. India).

FLAMINGO.

C. in C. Med.'s 2102B/16. Can repairs to FLAMINGO be taken in hand at Bombay?. (D.O.D. (F), 1312A/20 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Addu Atoll
scale of
possible
attack.

Ref. para. 7 your 663/G of 11/1.

1. Scale of attack on Ceylon estimated two divisions made on assumption that Japanese had attained high degree of control in Indian Ocean.
2. On assumption that Singapore, Sumatra and Java remain in allied hands in area E. of 60° E. and S.

of 10° N., it is unlikely that attacks in this area could be continued for a long period and might consist of:-

(a) Bombardment by cruiser with 12-inch or lesser guns and by smaller ships.

(b) Attacks by aircraft from carriers to a total of 100 aircraft which are likely to be in proportion 60 TSR to 40 fighters.

(c) Landings from troop transports carrying a force up to one brigade group equipped to seize and hold a lightly defended base or to smash and burn the facilities of an important base.

(d) Attack by submarines, minelayers, ship-borne M.T.Bs., midget submarines and human torpedoes.

3. It is recognised at such bases as Addu Atoll the space available strictly limits the strength of army units which can be maintained for defence.

4. Scale of defences now under examination by inter-service committee. Summary of report will be cabled as early as possible (W.O., 1430/20 to C. in C. India.)

Troop
Moves.

C. in C. India's VVY/1033/G Cypher 16/1 proposed to W.O. that Brigade Group of 14th Indian Div. proceed to Ceylon temporarily, continuing to Malaya when ready about end of March. 2. W.O. have no objection. 3. Presume you are advised of such moves by C. in C. India. (D.O.D. (F) 1729A/20 to C. in C. E.I.)

Persian Gulf
possible
attack.

Air H.Q. report possibility of enemy submarines and surface craft operating in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. 4 Vincents 244 Sqn. being despatched Sharjah.
(General, Iraq, 1810/20 to C. in C. M.E.)

/Diego...

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Diego Garcia. Your 1416Z/20/12 and O.C. Troops Mauritius 1625/16/12. W.O. concurs in your proposal to supply Diego Garcia from Ceylon. (Head of M. 2206A/20 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Japanese Mine. C.Z.M. reports Japanese mine disarmed at North coast of Banka resembling German mine of World War one type. The charge consists of 400 pounds picric acid and an ignition charge of .11 pounds (?pulverised) (picric acid). Abdafloat and C. I/C Australian Fleet informed. (S.O., Far Eastern Squadron 0130Z/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Burma. Situation report 19/1. 1. Our forces have (?withdrawn) today from Tavoy in face of superior enemy forces to more favourable positions. Our aircraft operating in the vicinity (?reported) enemy fighter aircraft presumably based at Tavoy. (G.O.C., Burma, 0155/20).
Mergui frontier force column operating South of Mergui being brought back to Mergui by sea. Demolition scheme being carried out. Final withdrawal by sea.
Tavoy. Reinforcements have reached Ye but have been ordered not to advance further South than Kalienlung as it appears likely Tavoy may fall to-day. (?Fighter) protection was provided at Ye Ferry. Withdrawal from Tavoy will be by sea and by road to Kalienlung.
Moulmein. No enemy activity.
Rangoon. Port is working but labour quite insufficient. (G.O.C., Burma, 0450/20).

Malaya. Intelligence Summary No. 59 0800.19/1 to 0800 20/1. 9. No raids Singapore possibly due to heavy fighter cover? provided for ground troops leaving insufficient aircraft to protect bombers. (A.H.Q., F.E., 0554/20).

Japanese Force. 00176, 20/1. A Japanese Force consisting of 15 x Warships and 30 to 40 Transports was reported AM/20 by Dutch Naval Aircraft in S.W. Celebes Sea on a Southerly course. (Abdacom, Bandoeng, 1245/20 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

/Bombardment.....

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Bombardment.
Singapore
Raids.

SCORPION (? DRAGONFLY) bombarded ^{near} 19th/20th firing 313 rounds. Heavy aircraft activity Singapore Island today. Bomb in dockyard caused damage to workshop and KUNG WO. Casualties. Oil tank reported burning 18th now out. No details of other raids as communications affected by bomb damage. Scale of air attack appeared heavier. No S/M activity or bombing attack on shipping north of Sumatra. No apparent change from D/F but bearings lacking due to loss of communications.
(R.A. Malaya, 1336Z/20 to C. in C. E.F.)

ISIS.
ROVER.

ISIS damaged by near miss would take further 5 months to repair under peaceful conditions. ROVER would take 3 months to complete under peaceful conditions. Consider it desirable to send them elsewhere in tow. Intend arrange accordingly to Batavia as first step.
(R.A. Malaya 1435Z/20 to C. in C. E.F.)

Abda
Area,
Limits and
Command.

Following summary of Naval situation in Far East arising out of recent decisions on joint allied action and command is promulgated for information.

2. Gen. Wavell, Supreme Commander of all allied Naval, Military and Air Forces in S.W. Pacific Area, has established his headquarters in Java.

Boundaries of S.W. Pacific Area are defined in para. 19. Short title of this area is Abda Area.

3. Supreme Commander is responsible for co-ordination in his Area of strategical operations of all land, sea and air forces of American, Dutch, British and Australian Governments. He will command all land, sea and air forces of above governments which may be stationed in Abda area or located in Australian territory when such forces have been allocated by respective governments for service in or support of Abda area.
4. Supreme Commander has under him a Deputy Supreme Commander (U.S. Gen. Brett) and Chief of Staff (British Gen. Pownall).
5. Under above, the Command is divided into Naval, Land, Air and Administrative branches.
6. Head of Naval branch is U.S. Adm. Hart with British Adm. Palliser as Deputy, and suitable British, American and Dutch Staff.

Duties of Naval Branch are:-

- (i) Advise Supreme Commander on all Naval questions;
- (ii) Exercise operational control over all Naval Forces in Abda Area.

7. Normally, Naval Forces in Abda area will operate under own national Commanders, efforts being co-ordinated by directives issued by Naval Branch. Forces consisting of units of more than one nationality may be formed for particular operations, in which case a Commander for the force will be designated by Naval Branch.
8. Land and Air branches will be organised on lines similar to Naval Branch. Head of Land Branch will be Dutch Gen. Ter Poorten with British Deputy. Head of Air Branch will be British Air Marshal Peirse.

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Abda Area,
Limits and
Command.
(Contd.)

9. Following short titles for above are established:- (i) Supreme Commander - Abdacom. (ii) Head of Naval Branch - Abdafloat. (iii) Head of Land Branch - Abdamil. (iv) Head of Air Branch - Abdair. Groups for these four words are being promulgated in codes and cyphers.

10. British Naval forces in Abda Area will in future be known as "China Force" and are under the immediate command of Commodore Commanding China Force (Short title C.C.C.F.) whose shore Headquarters have been established at British Navy Office, Batavia. Commodore may be replaced by a junior Flag Officer later.

11. This China Force consists at present of DRAGON, DURBAN, DANAE, JUMNA, YARRA, JUPITER, ENCOUNTER, EXPRESS, ELECTRA, VAMPIRE, together with any units which may enter Abda area from time to time for operational purposes.

12. It is not possible to separate entirely the conduct of naval operations in the Abda area from those on the adjacent stations. China Force is therefore to be regarded as a detachment from Eastern Fleet. While responsibility of C. in C. E.F. for conduct of Allied naval strategy and operations in the Abda area has ceased with the appointment of Supreme Commander, very close co-operation between C. in C. E.F. and Abdacom will be essential.

13. R.A. Malaya will continue to carry out his present duties under the commander of Abdacom and will operate the forces based on Singapore for local defence and as escort for convoys.

14. Eastern Fleet comprises all British capital ships, carriers, cruisers, minelayers, destroyers and submarines on the East Indies Station and in Abda area. Cruisers on East Indies Station will be operated and administered by C. in C. E.I. C. in C. E.F. remains in general strategical control of all Allied naval forces on E.I. Station. Question of strategical control on Australian and New Zealand Stations is now under discussion and a further signal will be made.

15. Matters of purely British administrative nature will be dealt with by C.C.C.F. or R.A. Malaya as appropriate. All other naval matters will be dealt with by Head of Naval Branch of Abdacom and signals should be addressed to Abdacom for Abdafloat.

16. Telegraphic addresses have been registered as follows and are to be inserted in Appendix to G.T.C.: "Abdacom Batavia" for Supreme Commander, "Britnavy Batavia" for British Navy Office Batavia including Commodore Commanding China Force.

17. 18. (Cyphers).

19. Abda Area is bounded as follows:-

(i) On north by boundary between India and Burma thence eastward along Chinese boundary and coastline to 30° N. thence along parallel 30° North to meridian 140° E. Note: Indo-China and Thailand are excluded from the area.

(ii) On east by meridian 140° E. from 30° North to the Equator, thence east to 141° E., thence south to boundary between Dutch and British New Guinea on South Coast, thence E. along New Guinea Coast to 143° E. then south down this meridian to the coast of Australia.

(iii) On the south by the Northern coast of Australia from 143° E. westward to meridian 114° thence north-westward to position 15° S. 92° E.

(iv) On West by meridian of 92° E.

(Head of M., Approved 1st S.L., 1511A/20, "A" Message, Home and Abroad.)

/Aircraft ...

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China-Contd.

Aircraft.

Burgroups A.418 18/1 to Gen Wavell. While the reinforcements asked for are undoubtedly required it is not known whether they would have to be found from the total number of aircraft already allotted to Abdacom. The need in the South Malayan theatre is more immediate than that in Burma and before agreeing to allotments for Burma out of the total pool at this stage I must know the full position. (Abdacom 1600/20 to Air Min.)

Japanese Fleets.

00179 20/1. Ref. recent intelligence reports from Commandant 14 Naval Div. There are indications that the Japanese combined fleets are concentrated in the Eastern Carolines and Marshall Islands with a large number of transports and supply ships in company. Graded A.2. The possibility of an attack on Fiji or the New Hebrides or New Caledonia in the near future must be considered. (Abdacom, Batavia, 1635/20 to N.Z.N.B. A.H.Q. Wellington, (R) Admty., R.A.M.Y. A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.F.)

U.S. Pacific Fleet, Asiatic Fleet.

A.M. 1121A/7. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Pacific Fleet.
 Battleships. MISSISSIPPI, NEW MEXICO, due San Francisco 22/1.
 Seaplane Carriers. YORKTOWN and ENTERPRISE in Samoan area. LEXINGTON and SARATOGA at Pearl Harbour.
 8" Cruisers. NORTHAMPTON, SALT LAKE CITY, CHESTER, SAN FRANCISCO, LOUISVILLE, off Samoa. PORTLAND left Pearl Harbour 17/1. At Pearl Harbour ASTORIA, PENSACOLA, MINNEAPOLIS, INDIAN-APOLIS, CHICAGO. NEW ORLEANS at Mare Island.
 6" Cruisers. ST. LOUIS in Samoan area. HELENA at Mare Island. HONOLULU due San Francisco 21/1. PHOENIX en route Brisbane.
 Following changes in U.S. Asiatic Fleet:-
 6" Cruisers HOUSTON Banda Sea. MARBLEHEAD, BOISE, Flores Sea,
 18 patrol bombers remain N.E.I. area. (D.O.D. (F) 2022A/20 to C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q., amended 1209A/21).

Borneo.

Small British ships (list) presumed lost owing to Japanese occupation. (D.S. 868).

Aircraft-carriers.

Appointment of R.A. (Admty. 2222A/20) See Mediterranean.

Landing Craft.

Following for Abdacom, (R) Britman, Washington and Cs. in C. M.E. and Med. from Chiefs of Staff No. S.W.P.9. Your 00099. Cypher 17/1. We confirm shortage is serious. Small number possibly up to 5 M.L.C., 19 A.L.C., 9 S.L.C., 15 R Craft might be available now from M.E.

6510

/who.....

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Landing
Craft.
-Contd.

who are being asked implications. Would this be of value to you bearing in mind their transportation will interfere with movement of important stores. To enable us to review future production and allocation request forecast of your requirements in landing craft by numbers and types. No knowledge of construction facilities in Australia but further investigation will be made both there, in South Africa and in New Zealand. (1st S.L., 2255A/20 to C. in C. Med?)

America and West Indies.

COIMBRA
Survivors.

My 1754Z/19. These destroyers carried no survivors from COIMBRA. Survivors are believed by U.S. N.I. Division to be on board certain U.S. Destroyers whose identity and movements cannot indtly. be ascertained. (C.S.A. New York, 0100Z/20 to Admty.)

U/B
attacked.

Operations January 19th. Digby 756 attacked enemy submarine in 48.50 N., 51.51 W. at 1605 G.M.T. Six depth charges dropped, aircraft remained over area twenty minutes but (?group omitted) evidence of damage to submarine appeared. Digby 739 reported large oil patch in 48.45 N. 53.40 W. at 1940 G.M.T. (A.O.C., E.A.C., Halifax, N.S., 0559/20).

HAVORN
U/B
attack.

Norwegian HAVORN reported attacked by submarine 046° 35' N. 054° 44' W. at 1715 G.M.T./19. 2 torpedoes were fired and missed. U.S. Destroyer ELLIS and (?U.S. Destroyer GREER) being sailed to search area. C.C.N.F. pass to Airjohn for information. Our planes will search. (Cmdr. Task Force No. 4. 0520/20 to C.C.N.F.)

MARON.

Your 1943P/16. My P. C. and S. 037° 00' N. 052° 16' W., 270°, 10 knots, fuel remaining for 9 days at 10 knots. In absence of further orders intend steering 270° until 0900Z/21 then making for Bermuda. Wireless watch on routine L. and G.A. Weather report. (MARON 0900Z/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/J.S.M.....

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.-Contd.

- J.S.M. Message from P.M. to Sir John Dill re his position as Head of J.S.M., Washington. (Head of M., 1105A/20 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.
- Enemy Unit. D/F station reports enemy unit bearing 349° probably south of 020° north. (N.C.S.O. Georgetown, 1240/20 to Admty.)
- ALCANTARA. Your 1742/18.
DELHI. (1) Arrangements made for ALCANTARA to carry out practice in Chesapeake Bay starting 26/1.
(2) DELHI is to make all arrangements both ships with Commander Train Atlantic Fleet on arrival at Norfolk. (B.A.D. 1339R/20 to C. in C. A.W.I. ALCANTARA, DELHI).
- Washington Washops 40.
Report. (i) Philippine Is. A report from U.S. source in Darwin dated 19/1 states every effort is being made to evacuate the trained combat crew personnel of 19th Bombardment Group in Mindanao but this can only be done by infrequent plane trips through enemy lines at great hazard. Operations are being carried out against enemy bases established at Jolo where reports indicate a large number aircraft are being erected by German personnel. Mindanao is completely encircled. Davao is held by 15,000 enemy troops and is being used as a base for their fleet. 6-inch Naval guns have been mounted to protect harbour.
(ii) N.E.I. Celebes. On 17/1 aircraft from 19th U.S. Bombardment Group bombed Manado. (B.A.D. 1347R/20 to Admty. etc.)
- U/B. D/F bearing at 0957Z/20 indicating S/M in vicinity of 035° N. 070° W. unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1348Z/20 to British Warships in Area 7A., Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.N.F. Opnav, C.O.A.C.)
- H.X. 171. My 2158/16 amended. GLEAVES Senior Officer. (Opnav, 1454/20 to Admty.)
- TUNISIEN. Algiers. 15/1. B.2., French Tanker TUNISIEN foundered and was lost near Bizerta on 11/1. (B.A.D., 1501R/20 to Admty.) N.I.D. comment - TUNISIEN is a wine carrier of 1126 tons.
- U/B. A.M. 1113A/20. U/boat estimated to be within 120 miles of 32° 00' N. 72° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 1507A/20 to Opnav, etc.)
- U/B. ATHELVIKING reports sighting Submarine at 0720/20 in 010° 50' N. 061° 20' W. Air patrol established. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1522Q/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/My.....

1105A/20 January

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To B.A.D. Washington 643

DATE 20/1/42

NAVAL CYLINDER (ONE TIME TABLE)

From Admiralty.

AIDAC.

Following personal from Prime Minister to Sir John Dill begins:-

"1. After much reflection I have come to the conclusion that it would be better to simplify and regularize your position by making you the actual head of the Joint Staff Mission which now will represent the British Chiefs of the Staff in the Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee. A suitable post will be found for General Wemyss, whose duties in the United States have been discharged excellently.

2. I propose to cut out altogether your special personal relation to me as Minister of Defence, as this is anomalous and might require lengthy explanation. I shall of course address you as our principal official representative on the Joint Staff Mission, and you are free to communicate with me either directly or through your official channel with the Chiefs of the Staff in London.

3. Besides representing us with your two colleagues on the Combined Staff Committee, you should co-ordinate as proposed the work of the Supply Mission, and in this capacity you will speak for the Chiefs of the Staff in London or their representatives in Washington on the question of the assignment of weapons in accordance with strategy and policy.

4. Lest this work should prove too heavy, a Major-General agreeable to you will be appointed as your deputy, though in this case of course the senior officer present will speak for us.

"5. I am cabling a copy of this to Mr. Hopkins and you are free to discuss the matter with him to make sure there are no difficulties I have not foreseen. It seems to me that General Marshall and Admiral King would prefer to have you as a member of their own body, namely the Combined Chiefs of the Staff, than in a somewhat loosely defined position of great influence. I should rely on Mr. Hopkins to put this point to these two high officers. Your position and that of Mr. Hopkins as now defined, would seem to give us the most effective means of representing our views and also to concert into the most powerful body the Combined Chiefs of the Staff Committee in Washington. See my following Personal and Private telegram". Ends.

1105A/20
for Head of M. (558)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.C.D. (F)
D.D.C.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Captain (2)
E.P.S.

Head of M. (10)
I.I. (2)
N.I.D. (10)
W.D.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U/B
contd.

My 1522Q/20. Interrogation of Master makes report doubtful. Only periscope reported as sighted about 3 miles away. Ship altered towards and lost sight when 2 miles away. Other shipping in vicinity. Air patrol gives nil report. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1931Q/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Curacao
Defence.

Your 65163 (M.O.4.) 19/1. U.S. War Dept. are aware both of importance of Curacao and danger of entrusting its defence to mixed Dutch units. They agree with our opinion on necessity for its defence being carried out by U.S. troops. Meantime we await political decision from London that Dutch agree to U.S. troops taking over Aruba and Curacao from us. (J.S.M. Washington, 1624/20 to W.O.)

Troop
Movement.

Your 1909/15. (Re D. of S.T. requested to provide ship for moving of 900 troops from Halifax to St. John's to relieve same number.) Agree. (D.S.T. 1628A/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

R/T
call
signs.

Request arrangements to provide a standard R/T procedure and R/T call signs for use on 2410 kc/s between allied ships and between allied ships and allied aircraft. Arrangement is desirable now and will be essential should joint escorts for convoys be employed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1651Z/20 to Admty.)

GEORGE
WASHINGTON.

Your 1149/17, my 1821/18. Request escort will be provided for GEORGE WASHINGTON ready proceed to anchorage 2230Z/22. HEKTORIA will proceed in company as in my 0028/18. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1655Z/20 to B.A.D.)

S.S. DAYROSE.

S.S. DAYROSE torpedoed and sunk 2340A/14 in 46-32 N. 53-00 W. all C.B's definitely went down with ship. My 1645Z/22 with list of survivors follows. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1658Z/20).

^S
KOLKHOZNIK.

^S
Russian KOLKHOZNIK made following distress message 17/1 (Begins) - OXOO GQHG SDE KOLKHOZNIK 44.23 N., 63° 39' W. I have damage in bottom and ship go down, want salvage vessel. (Ends). Crew abandoned ship and landed on Sambro Island. One missing, one died of exposure, remainder saved. Wreckage sighted at daylight 1 to 2 miles S. of Sambro Island Light. Master and crew interrogated with difficulty through interpreter and all claim ship was 8 miles S.E. of Sambro Island Light. No explosion but dull thud noticed in vicinity of No. 2 hold, ship did not lose way but sank in about 15 minutes. This time is

/probably....

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

KOLKHOZNIK
- Contd.

probably underestimated. Enemy submarine believed to have been in vicinity and A/S operations were in progress. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1701Z/20 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Opnav, B.A.D., C.N.A., Washington).

Convoy
A.T.10.

Your 1400/17. Request M.O.M.P. may be signalled forthwith. (D.O.D. (H) 1745A/20 to Opnav).

U.S.
Forces.

Admty. 1636A/17/12. Following changes U.S. forces on A. W.I. Station since Admty. 1805A/13:-
Battleships:- TEXAS - en route Iceland. IDAHO - due Panama 20/1. NEW MEXICO and MISSISSIPPI now in Pacific.
Aircraft Carriers:- WASP -en route Argentina.
8" Cruisers:- QUINCY - en route Iceland.
6" Cruisers - MILWAUKEE - at San Juan. NASHVILLE - at Bermuda. OMAHA - left San Juan 18/1. SAVANNAH at Montevideo. (D.O.D. (F) 1846A/20 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.N. 57.

Ref. A.M. 1512Z/19. Convoy delayed by weather estimate 24 hours late at M.O.M.P. (2) Escort EGLANTINE Senior Officer, SNOWDROP and MIGNONETTE will remain to hand over O.N. 57 when remainder leave to meet H.X. 170. (D.T.D. 1858A/20 to Opnav). (Opnav, 2049/20 to Com Task Unit 4.1.6, Com Task Group 4.6.)

Ships for
Russia.

A.M. 1644A/17. Ships for North Russia should be sailed to Clyde as first destination. (D.T.D. 1917A/20 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Pacific
Defence.

For Chiefs of Staff from J.S.M. Request full text of C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 0504/15 or part of that message which amplifies para. 2 and 3 of your W.4. (B.A.D., 1953R/20 to Admty.)

Enemy
Unit or
U/B.

(1) D/F bearings at 1529Z/20 and 1630Z/20 indicate enemy unit using submarine frequency within 50 miles of 055° N. 070° W. See also my 1548Z/20 and 1229Z/18, giving unreliable fix in same area. Bearing at 0855Z/20 may have originated from possible supply ship in the same area. (2) D.F. bearings at 1611Z/20 indicate submarine within 100 miles of 44.30 N. 40° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2100Z/20 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

/Torpedoed....

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Torpedoed
Tanker.

For C.C.R.T. Ref. Admty. 1050A/19 and my 2125Z/19. PRUDENT has sailed escorted by SUDBURY. Owing to the route with MACBETH and position of Submarine concentration they have been directed to tow this tanker by Great Circle route to North Channel thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A. (F.O.N.F., 2106Z/20, to Admty.)

Various
ships.

Your 1854A/17. Arrivals were reported to M.W.T. as follows: MATHEW LUCKENBACH, STEEL EXPORTER, and RICHMOND in my 2247Z/29/12. HENRY D. WHITON and PRESIDENT MONROE in my 2219Z/31/12. Information re JA. MOFFETT, HUGUENOT and VICTOR H. KELLY is being requested of N.C.S.O. San Pedro. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2138Z/20 to Admty.)

NASTURTIUM.

My 2152P/18. Proceed on your voyage when ARCHER is clear of submarine waters. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152P/20 to NASTURTIUM).

DIOMEDE.

Bermuda departures H.M.S. DIOMEDE for Trinidad Isles ?Isla Trinidad in accordance with my 1302P/18. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2213P/20 to Admty.)

N.A.3.
ALCANTARA.

Your 1102R/17 Admty. 1350A/15. If N.A.3 sails from Halifax as anticipated about 9/2 accommodation in ALCANTARA now expected to sail from Halifax early February will not be required for Air force personnel. If it is decided she proceed direct to U.K. from Bermuda not calling Halifax suggest you make arrangements with Sparks that cargo space be utilized from Norfolk. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2220Z/20 to B.A.R.M.)

Australia and New Zealand.

U/B.

MAORI 3. 2300Z/19, Nukunono Island reported submarine on surface, course north, distant one mile. Graded D.2. (N.Z.N.B., 0543Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

Aircraft
Signals.

Admty's 0018A/17 (Repetition of War Office 0140/17) Concur. (N.Z.N.B. 0858Z/20 to Admty.)

/A.C.N.B.....

War Diary.20.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.-Contd.

A.C.N.B. R.A.A.F. Aircraft carried out further attack on
Digest ✓ Kaping Amerangi 18/1. Result, jetty hit, one
No. 1. T.97 Kanawaishi flying boat and several launches
destroyed, fuel fire observed at end of jetty.
Unidentified aircraft over Vila 0855Z/18. A.T.97
flying boat also sighted Emirav Island Kavieng
Tabar Island and Anir Island (New Guinea). Cargo vessel JAPARA
en route from Tjilatjap for Australia reports 19/1 that she was
being followed by a submarine 300 miles south of Tjilatjap and
later that she was fired on. Note: Abdafloat and Australian
N.L.O.Noumea are being included in this and future Digest signals
Australian N.L.O.Noumea to pass contents to French H.C. Pacific.
These messages will be numbered serially in future. This
is Serial No. 1. (A.C.N.B. 1031Z/20 to Admty., etc.)

AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIA wearing flag of F.O.C. Australian
LEANDER. Sqdn. with LEANDER and PERTH in company arrived
PERTH. Sydney (N.S.W.) 0315Z/19. Departure Noumea
→ CAP DES 0400Z/19 CAP DES PALMES for Sydney. (A.C.N.B.
PALMES. 1109Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

~~S.S.~~
QUEEN Your 0941/18 not to other addressees. S.S.
ELIZABETH. QUEEN ELIZABETH should be sailed for San Francisco
as soon as possible. She should not be held for
additional storing.
2. Understand Dawson of Cunard, Sydney has mail
for QUEEN MARY. Request this be shipped in
QUEEN ELIZABETH. (D.S.T. 1301A/20 to A.C.N.B.)

Convoy short Your 1637M/19. Concur. (D.T.D. 1547A/20 to
titles. N.Z.N.B.)

→ CAP DES French High Commissioner Pacific has informed
PALMES. Admiral F.N.F.L. London that CAP DES PALMES
is going to be converted at Sydney commencing
22/1 into an auxiliary cruiser armed with 6 4-inch
guns, 2 Pom Poms, 4 20-m.m. machine guns, Asdics,
R.D/F, 4 Torpedo Tubes, and one Seaplane.
Work to be completed in three months. Request
Admiralty may be informed if this action has had
your concurrence. (D.O.D. (F) 2121A/20 to
A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

20.1.1942.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approx. position of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1356A/20, 1357A/20).

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

Following has been read Addressed No. 336 Sqdn.
Enemy submarine previously reported was when
first sighted on course 140° estimated speed 8.
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and
estimate hits nil. Am returning to base SWSA
52 40. My. E.T.A. is 1447 vis. 20.
(A/C using call sign CS1 1357/20) Position
indecypherable.

War Diary.

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The shortage of destroyers is still serious and it is important that the priority given to destroyer repairs and refits over all other work should be fully exercised.

Home Commands.

MONTBRETIA and 6 ships in Convoy O.N. 58 went ashore today in the North Channel and the northern part of the Irish Sea. Most of the ships have refloated, but MONTBRETIA is unlikely to get off. A fifth ship of Convoy O.S. 17 went ashore at Barra Island and is a total loss; and two ships sailing independently and a Fleetwood Trawler are also ashore near Mull of Galloway, Rathlin Island and the Isle of Man respectively.

Archangel is now closed by ice and ships are being diverted to Murmansk.

British Air Operations.

18 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Emden last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Fair Isle was bombed and machine-gunned about 1600 today. The lighthouse was damaged and the light is out of action. There were some casualties.

Bombs were dropped near H.M.S. DEVON CITY in Loch Ewe at 1229A today. No damage is reported.

/H.M.T.....

War Diary.

21.1.1942
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations - contd.

H.M.T. MILFORD PRINCESS was bombed and damaged at 1816A off the Norfolk coast and was towed to Yarmouth.

Great Yarmouth was bombed at 1804A; superficial damage resulted to H.M.S. MIDGE building.

A dan-layer and two trawlers are reported to have shot down an enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary about 1930 today.

WHITE BEAR reported being attacked at 1905 today, the position probably being north of Lands End.

Mining.

Operation
F.D.36

It is reported that RUBIS laid 4 groups of mines on 16/1 in positions about 45° 27' N. 1° 37' W.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the outer Thames Estuary.

South Atlantic.

LIKOMBA and BIBUNDI were intercepted and boarded south of Lagos (Nigeria) today and are being sent into Lagos under armed guard (see 15/1) The two ships and DUCHESSA D'AOSTA all arrived at Lagos today.

Mediterranean.

There were several air attacks on Malta last /night ...

War Diary.

21.1.1942
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

night and today, but no naval damage is reported. Hal Far and Ta Kali Aerodromes are still under water but a limited number of fighters is operating from Luqa.

3 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli last night and obtained hits on the town, harbour, seaplane base and probably Mellaha Aerodrome.

PEONY in company with S.S. MANDULA (Greek 1965 tons) ran aground north of Bardia at 0714; help was sent.

East Indies.

The flag of C. in C. Eastern Fleet was transferred to shore at Colombo today.

China.

Abdacom considers that the time has come for all merchant ships entering the Abda area to do so in convoy. The Torres Strait route for ships entering should not normally be used. In view of reports of Japanese forces advancing down Macassar Strait an American force consisting of one cruiser and 6 destroyers is being concentrated towards the southern end of the Strait for offensive action if opportunity offers. This will leave the area between Australia and Borneo temporarily uncovered. The situation emphasises the urgent need for larger naval forces in the Abda area.

U.S. Cruiser BOISE has been damaged by grounding and will need to dock for repairs.

Malaya.

Light naval forces bombarded Muar last night.

War Diary.

21.1.1942
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - contd.

A concentration of 40 native boats was sighted at Pulo Tinggi (20 miles E.S.E. of Mersing) today. Aircraft were despatched to attack them but were unable to locate the target.

There was the same scale of enemy air activity over Singapore last night but no naval damage is reported. About 100 enemy aircraft raided Singapore today. Tengah Aerodrome was heavily bombed and was damaged. Several enemy aircraft were brought down.

Successful air attacks were made on Kuantan Aerodrome last night

S.S. ZANNIS L. CAMBANIS was mined and sunk today in approx. 1° 15' N. 104° (?31')E. (at the south end of Malacca Straits), presumably in a Dutch minefield.

Burma The evacuation of Mergui is proceeding.

It is reported from Rangoon that S.S. NORD was sunk by a U-boat off Cape Negrais (mouth of the Irrawaddy) p.m. today.

Borneo. The oilfields of Balikpapan are being destroyed on account of the sighting yesterday of 38 Japanese transports accompanied by 15 warships within a day's steaming.

N.E.I. Enemy submarines are operating in the Sunda Strait.

Philippines The enemy is landing a new force in Subic Bay and Lingayen Gulf area. The entire 14th Army is now committed here.

America and West Indies.

LIYZ(?) reported being torpedoed at 1200 today in 41° N. 65° 53' W.

/Norwegian ...

War Diary.

21.1.1942
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - contd.

Norwegian tanker ALEXANDRA HOEGH (sailing independently) was torpedoed at 2027 G.C.T. today on passage to Halifax; her noon position was 40° 53' N. 65° 53' W.

Catalinas attacked an enemy submarine at 1855 G.M.T. and 2040 G.M.T. in 45° 13' N. 58° 7' W; oil was still rising over 3 hours later, when the second Catalina left the position.

ARCHER (damaged in collision 14/1) arrived at Charleston today in tow.

Australia and New Zealand.

Enemy aircraft carried out widespread attacks on New Guinea today. It is reported that 60 fighters, 12 heavy bombers and 18 dive bombers attacked Rabaul today, Lakunai and Vunakaam Aerodromes being attacked. 60 aircraft attacked Kavieng (New Ireland) today and 50 attacked Salamoia (New Guinea) and other objectives in that area. A light attack was made on Madang (New Guinea). Flying boats, carrier based and shore based aircraft were used in these attacks. Damage is believed to be considerable.

Two 8-inch and 2 6-inch enemy cruisers were sighted at 0431Z/21 by a Catalina in 3° 22' S. 150° 9' E. steering 130°.

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

ARETHUSA. Admiralty 1327A/20. It is to be recalled that ARETHUSA has only one high angle control system and has been preparing for second to be installed at short notice.
(C. in C. H.F., 0030A/21 to Admty.)

Destroyer for R.A.M. SKATE. One destroyer of 21st Group is to be lent to R.A.M. till about the end of March. SKATE will be available at Londonderry 22/1 to sail as required by R.A.M.
(C. in C. W.A., 0958A/21.)

C. in C. W.A. 0958/21. In present circumstances SKATE will not be required until 30/1. Request you will sail her to arrive Port ZA on that date.
(R.A.M., 1657/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.) *Cancelled 24/1 - Supp. 668.*

Destroyer Repairs. Priority. The shortage of destroyers is still a serious matter and it is important that the priority given to destroyers repairs, and refits over all other work should be fully exercised.
(Controller, 1950A/21.)

Movements.

TRIDENT. My 1230A/20. Sailed 5 hours late.
(Capt. S.6, 0004/21.)
Report E.T.A. out Skerries and TRIDENT's subsequent S. of A. F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE pass to TRIDENT.
(F.O.S., 1434A/21 to LA CAPRICIEUSE.)

ST. ELSTAN. Failed to make (? lower) Barra Head, poor visibility, standing off until daylight. Arrival at Loch Ewe will be greatly delayed.
(ST. ELSTAN, 0130A/21.) *See also p. 552*

TUNA. SCARRON. My 1126/20. SCARRON sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0625/21.)
My 1126/20. S/M met.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0915/21.)

Task Unit 4.1.2. My 2240/19. Shall be 3½ hours late.
(Task Unit 4.1.2, 0700/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

/AUSONIA ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

AUSONIA, Admiralty 1350A/15.
 RANPURA, (1) Sailing AUSONIA, RANPURA, GARLAND from
 GARLAND, Clyde 24/1.
 SHERWOOD. (2) Sailing SHERWOOD from Londonderry to R/V
 as arranged by N.O.I.C. Greenock.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1047A/21.)

(1) and (2) as previous signal.
 (3) Route to Halifax.
 (4) Destroyer to escort to Halifax.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1049A/21.)

OTTAWA. My 1100Z/21 amended. ^{N.T. in W.D.} E.T.A. 0600Z/22.
 (OTTAWA, 2133Z/21.)

TALISMAN. A. onward route on surface at discretion through
 (a) 46°, 12° 45' thence submerged by day through
 (b) 47° 40', 11° 50'
 (c) 49° 15', 11° to R/V on 29/1 vicinity Bishops
 Rock as ordered by S.3.
 (F.O.S., 1123A/21 to TALISMAN.) *See p. 662*

WHITE BEAR. Intend sailing at 1300/21 WHITE BEAR escorting
See also p. 554 TUNA and RUBIS to Holy Loch. E.T.A. 0830/23.
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1200/21.)
 My 1200/21. Sailed.
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1340/21.)

H. 28. ARCTIC EXPLORER is required to escort H. 28
 sailing p.m. tomorrow to R/V with W.P.100.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1211A/21.)
 Your 1707A/20. Intend to sail H.28 p.m./22/1
 with W.P.100.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1708A/21 and 1940/21.)

NORFOLK. Assume C. in C's 2125A/19 was made after receipt
 of C.S.1's 1658A/19 (N.T. in W.D.) When do
 you intend to sail NORFOLK to implement F.O.i/c.
 Tyne 1651/20 (N.T. in W.D.) (not to A.C.O.S.)
 (A.C.N.S. H., 1332A/21 to C.S.1.)
 C. in C. H.F's 2125A/19. Propose to sail NORFOLK for Tyne
 after discharging 1500 tons oil fuel a.m. 22nd.
 (C.S.1, 1844A/21 to Admty.)
 My 1844A/21. Owing to weather oil cannot be discharged in time
 to enable NORFOLK to catch tide on 23rd. Intend to sail
 p.m./23rd subject to escort being available.
 (C.S.1, 2247A/21.)
 My 2247A/21. (1) Request R.A.D. detail WORCESTER to escort
 NORFOLK to Tyne entrance. (2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested
 to detail second S.A. Destroyers to provide escort from vicinity
 Fifeness to Tyne. (3) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide
 fighter protection.
 (C.S.1, 2311A/21.)

/ST. ELSTAN ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- ST. ELSTAN. Hove to. Position 1600A 056° 32' N. 007° 45' W. course 224°, 3 knots.
(ST. ELSTAN, 1600A/21.) *See p. 550*
- O.24. Dundee arrival O.24. LOCH MONTEITH delayed by weather. E.T.A. a.m./22.
(Capt. S.9, 1715A/21.)
- VANITY. Leave Sheerness at 1515 tomorrow and proceed by following route to Southampton.
Adjust your speed to pass Sandy Head Buoy in The Downs at 1845 and E.A.3 Buoy at daylight 23rd. 2. Fighter protection arranged.
(C. in C. Nore, 2356A/21 to VANITY.)

Operations.

- Convoy C.W. 65 attacked by E-Boats. Three or four E-Boats attacked C.W. 65. when passing C one buoy off Hastings about 2345/20. Their approach was reported by Y at 2145 and R.D.F. at 2302 which enabled escorts to be warned and attack to be driven off.
Attack which lasted over an hour was unsuccessful as far as is known.
M.G.Bs 322 and 328 despatched from Dover to intercept E-Boats returning to Boulogne did not make contact.
(V.A. Dover, 0228/21.)
- N.Q. My 1308A/15. Intend to carry out operation N.L. 53. N.Q. group B tonight.
(V.A. Dover, 1134A/21.)
Intend to carry out operation N.L. 53 tonight.
(V.A. Dover, 1231A/21.)
- PLOVER escorted by M.G.Bs 324, 322, 328, 330 carrying out operation N.Q. Group B. E.T.D. 2245. E.T.R. 0815/22.
M.Ls 104, 101 carrying out operation N.L. 53. E.T.D. 0030/22. E.T.R. 0600/22.
(V.A. Dover, 1656A/21.)

British Air Activity.

- Patrols. Pass to C. in C. H.F. Patrol "Frice" will be withdrawn temporarily at 0430/21 owing to weather.
(D.O.D. (H), 0039/21 to A.C.I.C.)
- "Polar" in operation 1100A.
(A.C.I.C., 1309A/21.)
- "Polar" returned 1800A. Nil report.
(A.C.I.C., 1916A/21.)

/Admiralty ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

Patrols. Admiralty 1850A/19, 1209A/20, and 0039A/21.
(Contd.) Patrol "Frice" was originally allotted to R,A,F, Iceland. Request information with what aircraft and from what station "Frice" is now operating and if it is intended to continue this policy.
(A.C.I.C., 1931A/21 to Admty.)
Patrol "Polar" may be discontinued until further notice.
(H.Q.C.C., 2310A/21 to R.A.F. Iceland.)
Air Patrols "Frice", "Polar", and "Stopper" prevented by weather today.
(D.O.D. H., 2332A/21 to A.C.I.C.)

Bombing operations. Day 18/1 to day 20/1 inclusive, no operations. On Night 20/21, 14 A/C bombed docks and shipping at Emden.
(H.Q.B.C., 1200/21.)

Surface Bombing Restrictions. Request surface bombing restrictions between 2245 today and 0815/22 within a radius of twenty miles round West Hinder Buoy. My 1308/15 refers.
(V.A. Dover, 1607A/21.)

Enemy Air Activity.

DEVON CITY (Boom Carrier) attacked. One Ju.88 crossed Loch Ewe at 1229A today dropping 3 bombs near DEVON CITY.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1245M/21.)
My 1245A/21. A/C came in from N.W. flying very low, circled to the eastward, and departed to the North. No warning of any sort was received, and fire was not opened.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1717A/21.)

Fair Isle South Light-house bombed. At about 1600 hours today Ju.88 bombed and machine-gunned Fair Isle. One civilian killed, one injured, one soldier injured. No plots. Light A.A. opened fire.
(N.L.O. Fair Isle, 1702/21.)

At 1600/21 Junkers 88 approached Fair Isle south lighthouse from south at a height of 50 feet dropping 2 bombs which struck the lighthouse living quarters which are now on fire. The fire is not yet under control and every endeavour is being made to prevent it spreading to the lighthouse tower and engine room which are close by and are damaged by blast, extent unknown. Lighthouse-keeper's wife and daughter killed, and one soldier seriously injured. Meanwhile the light is not available.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1856/21.)

Yarmouth bombed. Great Yarmouth bombed 1804A. A to D Nil. Superficial damage to MIDGE building.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1855A/21.)

/WHITE BEAR ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

WHITE BEAR. Am being attacked by enemy A/C in position
KFUW 1715 (Position indecipherable).
(WHITE BEAR, 1905/21.)

MILFORD PRINCESS. Departure Tug KROOMAN to assist H.M.T. MILFORD
PRINCESS vicinity No.6 Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2205A/21.)

Mining.

Operation F.D. 36. RUBIS reports - 4 Groups of mines laid 16/1
in positions (A) 43° 25' 35" N. 001° 40' 45" W.
(B) 43° 27' N. 001° 37' 35" W. (C) 43° 27' 45" N.
001° 36' 05" W. (D) 43° 29' 25" N. 001° 35' 10" W.
(F.O.S., 0928A/21.)

S.N. 17. Subject to satisfactory completion of operation
S.C., propose to carry out operation S.N. 17
sailing 1/2 with SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS,
AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC and either ADVENTURE or MANXMAN which
ever is available. 3 of 17th Destroyer Division, should be
available, and no additional destroyers will be required
provided MANXMAN or ADVENTURE can take part. If neither of
these vessels available further A/A support will be (? required.)
(R.A.M., 1137A/21.)

Off 51 Buoy. Mine seen to drop 350° 2 cables from 51 buoy.
(SLEIPNER, 1255/21.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. R/Cs of Brest and Trondheim unsuccessful.
Trondheim. (D.O.D. H., 2332A/21.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat Positions. RUBIS reports one U-Boat at 0730A/15 in 45° 36'
N. 4° 19' W., course 270°.
(F.O.S., 0928A/21.)

Approx. positions of U-Boats are:-
045° 30' 020° 00', 045° 30' 024° 00', 045° 30' 025° 30',
043° 30' 029° 30', 042° 30' 029° 30'.
(F.O.S., 1926A/21 to REGENT.)

D/F bearings at 1708Z/21 indicate that U-Boat may be in your
vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 2118A/21 to ARETHUSA, CLEOPATRA.)

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Dover New Channel. Your 1734A/20. Concur.
(C. in C. Nore, 1045A/21 to V.A. Dover.)

Ice in Baltic. Report 21/1.
Colder weather has caused quick development in icing in enclosed waters of Scandinavia. Details.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1714/21.)

Casualties and Defects.

LOCHGARRY. Following received at 0030 G.M.T. De LOCHGARRY addressed to Master GIKM. Pumps holding water meantime steaming slow astern. Estimated position 153° 6 miles from Mull Light.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0133/21.)
S O S LOCHGARRY making water fast forward. Send immediate assistance. Bearing from GPK 303° unreliable sector and from GMH 105°.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0001/21.)
Cancel my 0033A/21. ST. OLAVES is to be sailed with all despatch to assist LOCHGARRY ashore on Mull of Kintyre. Crew taking to boats. BOARHOUND is also to be sailed as soon as possible to assist crew.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0059A/21 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
My 0059A/21. LOCHGARRY reports her position 153° Mull of Kintyre 6 miles, pumps holding water, steaming slow astern. Position unlikely unless ship has refloated. ST. OLAVES should proceed through this position to Mull of Kintyre then if ship is not sighted to Fair Head, Antrim when D/F bearings place LOCHGARRY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0209A/21.)
Following received from Port Patrick Radio. Intercepted at 0137 G.M.T. de LOCHGARRY addressed to LAIRDSGROVE. Will you make all possible speed, we are making water now rapidly.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0238/21.)
Intercepted at 0202 G.M.T. de LOCHGARRY to LAIRDSGROVE. Position doubtful. Am going to abandon ship now. Bearing from Port Patrick Radio still 303°, unreliable sector from Port Patrick Radio.
(Port Patrick, 0304/21.)
Received at 0233 G.M.T. de ST. OLAVES. Proceeding to assistance of LOCHGARRY. Please report latest position.
(Port Patrick, 0333/21.)
Ship reported by coastguards 4 miles N.N.E. Tor Point, Antrim is probably LOCHGARRY badly holed and drifting towards Altacarry Head.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0339A/21 to ST. OLAVES, BOARHOUND.)
Your 0059A/21 and 0209A/21. Sailed ST. OLAVES.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0340A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 0059A/21 and 0209A/21. Sailed BOARHOUND.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0410A/21.)

/Coast ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

LOCHGARRY. Coast Guard Port Patrick.
(Contd.) Received at 0450 G.M.T. de LAIRDSGROVE. Made
LOCHGARRY position, have searched, found nothing.
Now abandoning search. ST. OLAVES also
acknowledges.
(Port Patrick, 0554/21.)
Extensive search cannot locate LOCHGARRY. Am returning to
Campbeltown.
(ST. OLAVES, 1200A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Coast Guard Ballycastle reports that LOCHGARRY from Glasgow
to Oban in ballast struck Rock in vicinity of Tor Point N.
Ireland and foundered. 27 survivors 22 missing. 8 unidenti-
fied bodies washed ashore. Captain safe and awaiting instruct-
ions at local post office. BOARHOUND searching until dark
for survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1449A/21.)

MARKLYN. Request you will sail LOODSWEZEN at 0700 today
to assist MARKLYN ashore on Mull of Galloway.
MARKLYN was proceeding from Belfast to Barrow
and is believed to be ashore on S.W. corner of the Mull.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0107A/21 to N.O.I.C. Stranraer.)
My 0107A/21. MARKLYN is ashore on Crammag Head 54° 40' N.
04° 58' W. Request you will also sail R.E. Tug WEST WINCH
to MARKLYN's assistance if available a.m. today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0307A/21 to N.O.I.C. Stranraer.)
Water gaining, require pump.
(MARKLYN, 0318/21.)
MARKLYN ashore Crammag Head, Mull of Galloway, reports water
gaining and requires pump. Request you will arrange for a
pump to be sent to her from Belfast. LOODSWEZEN proceeding
from Stranraer is unable to procure one.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0537A/21 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)
Your 0107A/21. Sailed LOODSWEZEN 0700.
(N.O.I.C. Stranraer, 0712/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Received at 0913 G.M.T. de MARKLYN. Amended position Port
Logan.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0808/21.)
Following received from MARKLYN. Impossible to state rate
but leakage gaining slowly on maximum pumping capacity at low
water. Have rockets been seen please.
(Greenock, 0828/21 to Admty.)
Your 0537A/21. Regret that all available pumps are required
for vessels ashore off Strangford Lough.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1001/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 0712/21. WEST WINCH unable to assist owing to boiler
defects.
(N.O.I.C. Stranraer, 1115/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Following received: From SEMNOS. Salvage tug essential.
Ship unable to cope with water.
(MARKLYN, 1118/21.)
BRETWALDA is proceeding from Campbeltown with portable pump
at 1430A today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1355A/21 to MARKLYN.)
Following received from BRETWALDA escorting NAMUR with salvage
pumps to Port Logan begins:- NAMUR making very bad weather
crossing, has suggested lying under Lee Corsewall Point. Under
circumstances E.T.A. Port Logan 1000A/22. 1800A/21 Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1855A/21.)

/WILLIAM ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.WILLIAM
HANBURY.

Following received from N.O.I.C. Isle of Man begins:- Vessel ashore off Santon Burn, four to five hundred yards east of Santon River, is the WILLIAM HANBURY Trawler of Fleetwood. Crew of 12 came ashore on raft O110/21 ends. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, O201A/21 and O345A/21.)

→ DOMBY.

Intercept 0203 G.M.T. from DOMBY to ULSTER QUEEN. Begins: We are now aground. Ends. (C. in C. Plymouth, O304/21.)

Intercepted at 0206 G.M.T. from DOMBY. We are now aground. (Port Patrick Radio, O306/21.)

Request you will sail rescue tug SCHELDE as soon as possible to assistance of S.S. DOMBY ashore one mile North of Bally Quintin Point, Lough Strangford, Ireland.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, O433A/21 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Received 0325 G.M.T. from DOMBY. To N.O.I.C. Greenock.

Succeeded in getting off, only slight leak, will advise if any change, proceeding R/V.

(Port Patrick Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. O453/21.)

Received 1243 G.M.T. de DOMBY. We have been reported as sending distress message. That is not true. We are O.K. Now entering harbour.

(Port Patrick Radio, 1343/21.)

Unknown
Ship
(?GIPK)

On 1650 kc/s. On rocks require assistance Master. No position given. Wants qte. on 1650 kc/s.

(? GIPK, O314/21 to RY. Land Line.)

Coastguard Port Patrick intercepted at 0302

G.M.T. de GIPK on 1650 kc/s S O S GIPK on rocks. Require assistance.

(Port Patrick Radio, O420/21 to Admty.)

S O S de GIPK. Ashore one mile north Strangford Lough leaking hold. Require assistance.

(Greenock T.O.R. O710/21.)

BRONXVILLE,
MONTBRETIA,
ORMINSTER,
BROWNING,
ASIATIC.
DOMBY.

Following received from Port Patrick Radio. Intercepted at 0400 G.M.T. de Seaforth Radio. S O S de BRONXVILLE. On ground probably near South Rock Light.

(Port Patrick Radio, O355/21.)

(BRONXVILLE Recd. O456/21.)

My O433A/21. DOMBY refloated.

Proceed to assistance of 3 other vessels including MONTBRETIA aground in approximately same position. Position of MONTBRETIA 54° 20' N. 05° 30' W. TENACITY also proceeding.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, O457A/21 to SCHELDE.)

→ Proceed to assist DOMBY and MONTBRETIA one mile North of Bally Quintin Point, Lough Strangford.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, O459/21 to SCHELDE.)

/Cancel ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

BRONXVILLE, Cancel previous instructions. Proceed with
 MONTBRETIA, all despatch to assist three ships including
 ORMINSTER, MONTBRETIA ashore on Bally Quintin Point, Lough
 BROWNING, Strangford. Position of MONTBRETIA 54° 20' N.
 ASIATIC, 05° 30' W. SCHELDE also proceeding from
 (Contd.) Milford Haven.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0505A/21 to TENACITY.)
 Intercepted at 0410 G.M.T. de ORMINSTER.

Ashore in vicinity South Rock. Position uncertain, visibility
 bad, vessel bumping (unread). Master. 0405. Bearing
 from G.P.K. 204°. Port Patrick Radio.

(Port Patrick Radio, 0510/21.)

Intercepted at 0430 G.M.T. de BRONXVILLE. Cancel my S O S
 at 0355.

(Port Patrick Radio, 0530/21.)

Vessels ashore at Bally Quintin are MONTBRETIA, ORMINSTER,
 BRONXVILLE and a small motor vessel. BRONXVILLE has cancelled
 her S O S.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0619A/21 to TENACITY, SCHELDE.)

My 0619A/21. BROWNING and ASIATIC have also been reported
 aground in vicinity of Bally Quintin.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0855A/21 to TENACITY, SCHELDE.)

Your 0505A/21 just received. Now proceeding at best possible
 speed.

(TENACITY, 1130A/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Request you will sail ST. OLAVES with despatch to assist
 BRONXVILLE aground at South Rock North of Bally Quintin Point
 at 0600A today.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1321A/21 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

Following received from MONTBRETIA begins. Assume am in
 neutral waters. Burning all S.Ps except Fleet Code in case
 confiscation. Have closed down 107 kc/s. 0517/21. Ends.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1405/21 to Admty.)

Salvage vessel urgently required. Holds one and ? third (full
 of) ? water. Bulkhead giving.

(BRONXVILLE, 1910/21 G.M.T.)

KING S O S. Ashore south of Chickens Rock. Require
 EDWARD. immediate assistance.

(KING EDWARD, T.O.R. 0449/21.)

S O S de KING EDWARD. Ashore off South Rock.

Require assistance.

(Port Patrick Radio, 0454/21.)

KING EDWARD requires assistance of tugs, water gaining rapidly.
 P.C.S. 054° 31' N. 005° 19' W., 000°, 3 knots.

(HIBISCUS, 1000A/21 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

My 1317A/21 and 1433A/21.

KING EDWARD has reached port.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1813A/21 to FREEBOOTER.)

FLORISTAN.

Request you will sail FREEBOOTER as soon as
 possible to stand by FLORISTAN ashore 1 mile
 south of Kilchiaran, Islay.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0515A/21 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

Sailed FREEBOOTER.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0745A/21.)

/EUGENIA S. ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

EUGENIA S. Intercept. 0818 G.M.T. de EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS.
EMBIRICOS. On shore, and take water ? room full.
 (C.C.O. Plymouth, 0819/21.)
 S O S de EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS. My ship is
broken in two pieces and I want boat service for crews.
Position unknown. Bearing from Malin Head Radio 355° and
from Port Patrick Radio 321° approx.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1442/21.)
EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS broke adrift 0810 today. Weather too
bad to carry out orders. Drifted to Castle Bay, Barra.
Weather too bad to reconnect.
(CAROLINE MOLLER, 1500A/21.)
SOUTHERN BREEZE sailed at 1400 to contact EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1611A/21.)
Aground, seriously damaged, total loss. I require immediate
assistance; you should send lifeboats to take off crew.
My position very near to R.J. CULLEN.
(EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS, T.O.R. 1620/21.)
Vessel ashore at Leanish Point Barrow, identified as EUGENIA
S. EMBIRICOS has now broken in two. Lifeboat standing by,
but weather too bad to take off crew at present. Position
stated to be serious.
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh, 1640/21.) Coast Guard report EUGENIA S.
EMBIRICOS has now broken in two and is aground total loss at
Leanish Point Barra near wreck of R.J. CULLEN. Lifeboat
standing by to take off crew when weather moderates.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1649A/21.)

MATABELE Soviet Naval Authorities report that MATABELE
(Sunk 17/1.) was hit by two torpedoes and sank almost
 Ly U. 454. immediately. Feared there are no survivors.
 (Ad. Miles, 1042C/21 to Admty.)

EMPIRE Coast Guard Port Patrick Radio intercepted at
ARUN. 1321 G.M.T. de Malin Head Radio S O S de EMPIRE
 ARUN 4 miles S.E. Ardmore Point. Am unable to
 maintain steam, require immediate assistance.
Bearing from Malin Head 067°.
(Greenock, 1248/21.)
My 1317A/21. Pass through position 4 miles S.E. Ardmore Point,
Islay where EMPIRE ARUN requires immediate assistance.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1433A/21 to FREEBOOTER.)

LARISTAN Following received from JAUNTY.
(Grounded Have been in V/S communication LARISTAN. Cannot
19/1.) approach until weather moderates, southerly gale.
 Request proceed Tobermory until weather moderates
 also endeavour to procure large scale charts.
(Greenock, 1300/21.)
JAUNTY has been ordered to proceed Tobermory. Request you
will supply her with large scale chart of Tiree and sail her
to assist LARISTAN as soon as weather permits.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1655A/21 to WESTERN ISLES.)

/BARON ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

BARON GRAHAM. S.M.B. BARON GRAHAM. Water under control. Hopeful steamer can eventually proceed without necessity of lightening. Sea water damage to cargo is meantime confined canned goods. (M.O.W.T. Iceland, 1501A/21.)

BRITISH LADY. Departure tugs KENIA and LADY BRASSEY to assist BRITISH LADY aground off Cliff Foot Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1549A/21.)
BRITISH LADY grounded one cable S.E. by S. Cliff Foot Buoy at 1500. Vessel surveyed 2100 on even keel, no damage. Fully laden. Endeavour float, 0400. (Salvage Officer, Harwich, 2000/21.)

Unknown Ship. Position is 150° 80 from Skunk 1600 (? B.S.T.) speed 10 knots. Returning Clyde. Cargo has shifted. (Port Patrick Radio, 1555/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

B.P. Target. Battle practice target is adrift in position 110° Noss Head one and half miles at 1600/21, and is a danger to navigation. (A.C.O.S., 1726A/21.)
Scapa arrival 1726 Tug MARAUDER. Target broke adrift vicinity Noss Head. (A.C.O.S., 1903/21.)

SEAHAM. SEAHAM. Probability of cracked cylinders. Intend to sail for Greenock when weather moderates. (WESTERN ISLES, 1814A/21.)

ONWARD II. (Kite balloon vessel) Sunk in collision. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1839/21.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Troopships for "Pilgrim". Following is position regarding troopships held for "Pilgrim". Details. (D. of S.T., 0633A/21.)

S.L. 97G. Your 0146A/21st. ^{N.T. in W.D.} SCIMITAR detailed. (EGRET, 1218A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.58. O.N.S.60. O.N. 59. O.N.S.58 is cancelled. Ships should be sailed in O.N.S.60 which will probably be sailed in two groups. O.N.59 is to be delayed 24 hours. (C. in C. W.A., 1201A/21.)

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.S. 58
O.N.S. 60
O.N. 59.
(Contd.)
1. Owing to bad weather O.N.S. 58 returned to harbour and is cancelled. Ships will join O.N.S. 60 which may have to be sailed in two portions if number of ships necessitates.
2. O.N. 59 sailing postponed 24 hours.
(D.T.D., 1249Z/21 to Opnav.)
- F.S.¹⁰6.
EMPIRE CAPE.
- Act for the special protection within the convoy of EMPIRE CAPE now at Methil and sailing in F.S.⁷6.
Return to Rosyth when Nore covering destroyers have made contact with convoy in Humber/Flamborough area on 23rd. Before sailing from Methil you are to contact the Master of EMPIRE CAPE and co-ordinate necessary measures for his protection.
Fighter protection category two is being asked for "Merit".
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1237/21 to VORTIGERN.)
- Convoy
F.S.⁷5.
EMPIRE
CLIFF.
- EMPIRE CLIFF, specially protected by WINCHESTER, joins F.S.⁷5 tonight. Request covering destroyer may take over this duty on joining in Humber/Flamborough Area.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1507/21 to C. in C. Nore.)
Cancel my 1507/21. Ship not sailing in F.S.⁷5.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1751/21 to C. in C. Nore.)[^]
- W.N. 33.
- My 1225. W.N. 33 is proceeding Loch Eriboll for shelter.
(A.C.O.S., 1514/21.)
- HORSA.
- Encountered HORSA 062° 23' N. 014° 12' W. and directed him proceed destination through Skopen Fiord.
(NORTHERN FOAM, 1540A/21.)
- Convoy
"Carnival".
CALIFORNIA.
- My 1840A/17. CALIFORNIA is to leave U.K. with Convoy "Carnival" sailing from Clyde on 29/1. CALIFORNIA will part company as convenient to proceed independently to Freetown and is to carry personnel in accordance with my 2220/2/12/41. Embarkation is to take place at Greenock on 28/1.
(D.O.D. H., 1553A/21.)
- Ocean
Routes.
- Amendment No. 47 to A.M. 0001/1/5/1941.
(D.T.D., 1846A/21 to A.I.G.21, etc.)
See Summaries Folder.
- S.D. 20.
- BATORY, NEWARK, WELLS sailed 1945A. E.T.A. Greenock 1100A/24.
(A.C.I.C., 2010A/21.)

/Murmansk ...

War Diary.

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Murmansk
discharging
facilities.

1. As Archangel now closed and ships being diverted Murmansk request outline your arrangements for assisting Russia reception British equipment Murmansk.

2. Anticipated you may be able transfer sufficient personnel from Archangel to meet requirements but would like assurance that effect.

3. Can you provide sufficient personnel for Archangel and Murmansk if these subsequently receive shipping simultaneously.

4. Owing apparent Russian reluctance grant visas you will no doubt agree undesirable despatch separate Base Unit organisation of other arrangements possible. Considered however additional movement control staff and port workshop department may be necessary if present personnel not quickly interchangeable between the two places.

(War Office, 2345/21 to 30 Military Mission.)

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Gibraltar passing at 1811/20 (D.O.R. 21/1.)

LOCH OSKAIG. Departure LOCH OSKAIG for Y.I.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0901Z/21 to Admty.)

French Shipping. Passings 20/1 eastward ARCTURUS, SCHIAFFINO,
IMERETHIE II, FAUZON, all full.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0925A/21 to Admty.)

TALISMAN. My 0936/20. Sailed TALISMAN, only such A.M. QZ
affecting passage to port of destination held.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1232A/21 to Admty.)

REINE DES FLOTS,
LA MOQUEUSE. Your 1234A/12, arrival 21st REINE DES FLOTS
bunkering. LA MOQUEUSE in company, expected
sailing 1230 G.M.T./22nd. Your 1028A/10
request instructions re ferries.
(R.O. Horta, 1418/21. to Admty.).

TEMPEST. My 1306/20, sailed TEMPEST.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1732A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE PANTHER. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1128A/20 and 1134A/20. No escort
for O.G.80 will be available until 36th Escort
Group have returned from Gibraltar and have
boiler cleaned in U.K. If escort is required
for EMPIRE PANTHER and M/V now at Madeira request that not
more than 3 Corvettes in all be detached and that remainder
of 36th Escort Group be sailed to U.K. after two night's rest
at Gibraltar.
(C. in C. W.A. 1735A/21 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1128A/20, Concur. Route and destination will be given on
receipt of date upon which ship can be sailed escorted as
agreed. Your 1134A/20 escort group 36 is required for O.G.80
and remainder of this group should therefore be sailed for U.K.
as soon as practicable after arrival.
A.C.N.S.(T) 1843A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE. etc. Proceed with DINGLEDALE direct to 035° 00' N.
025° 30' W. to R/V and fuel EXMOOR and CROOME
at 0900A/25. (2) On completion of fuelling
proceed position (C) in accordance with my
2234A/20.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1810A/21 to CLYDE, GERANIUM, SPIREA,
Admty. S.O. Force H.)
W.D. Note:- This was cancelled by F.O.C.N.A.
0600A/22, q.v. p. 596

LLANGIBBY CASTLE. A.M. 1639A/10 received 1433 G.M.T. and with
permission of Civil Governor of Horta brought
ashore and transferred to hospital 3 Army,
1 R.A.F. wounded. B.N.A. Lisbon ref. 1644/19
/received ...

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War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

LLANGIBBY received 0012 G.M.T./20 via Portuguese Radio.
CASTLE. (R.O. Horta, 1840/21, to Admty. (R) JANUS,
contd. N.A. Lisbon.)

Your 2051A/20 CROOME, EXMOOR detailed.*

(ii) LAFOREY, ACTIVE sail p.m./22nd to join
H.G.73. (iii) This leaves WHITEHALL, FORTUNE available for
escort to Force H, but FORTUNE's main armament defective.
(iv). ANTHONY, WESTCOTT completes defects 24th. (v) Your
1324A/17 para. 1 refers.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1948A/21 to Admty.)

* ESCORTE AL MANZORA. See
p. 524

ACTIVE, Return to harbour by 0930/22.
FORTUNE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1941A/21, to ACTIVE, FORTUNE.)

South Atlantic.

Axis Ships Your 0645/20. Nature of final communique
ex cannot be decided until all British and enemy
Fernando Po. ships involved in the operation have reached
safety. Request very early report concerning
LIKOMBA, BIBUNDI and NUNEATON, particularly
the last named of which nothing is known here. 2. Further
interim communique will be issued on following lines when
DUCHESSAD'AOSTA has reached Lagos. (Begins) With reference
to other previous statements concerning the Axis ships reported
by the Germans to have sailed from Fernando Po, Admty. announce
that the British warships despatched to make investigation
have intercepted and captured the 8,000 ton Italian ship
DUCHESSAD'AOSTA. The Italian ship, which was in difficulties
when intercepted, has been taken into a British port. (ends).
(Head of M. Approved 1st Lord 0222A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 0222A/21st. LIKOMBA is small German tug shown in Lloyd's.
NUNEATON is launch from Lagos, forming part of "Postmaster"
(as decyphered). BIBUNDI have no details but presume is similar
vessel. (2) The above have not been located since 1700Z/15.
Concur in proposed communique. Air R/C yesterday shows DA
should arrive Lagos today 21st.
(C. in C. S.A. 0535Z/21 to Admty.)
LIKOMBA and BIBUNDI have been intercepted and boarded south of
Lagos (Nigeria) today 21/1 and are being sent into Lagos under
armed guard. (C. in C. S.A. 2247Z/21 to Admty.)

"S" Report. Following message was incompletely received.
Portion missed S S S S 5° 40' N. 29° 0' W.
Portion missed.
(Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 0244Z/21.)

/M.L.'s ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- M.L.'s in
PARDO. PARDO in convoy W.S.15 is carrying H.D.M.L's Nos. 1086 and 1088 for discharge at Durban. Weight of each M.L. about forty tons. Special lifting gear now in this ship should be retained at Durban to deal with M.L.'s arriving later. (D.S.T. 0632A/21, to S.T.O. Durban.)
- U/B 20/1. My 2258/20 Referring to Admty. Message A.F., based on a partially received S.S.S.S. message. Not now considered a submarine. (C. in C. S.A. 0904Z/21, to Admty.)
- VIMY
A/C report. Large unidentified flying boat French or U.S. Navy tail markings, 4 engines, twin rudders, single canted high wing level with tail span, pointed nose colour silver, similar to American Liberator except Catalina type fuselage. Making for O.S. Convoy in position 012° 52' N. 018° 22' W. Height about 1000 feet. My P. C. and S. are 013° 13' N. 018° 29' W. 330° 17' knots. Weather report. (VIMY 0909Z/21 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Capt. D.18) RESOLUTION, Escort of O.S.16.)
- BIRMINGHAM. Cancel my 2235Z/20. Further appreciation of the situation indicates that delay is acceptable but I would like your Squadron complete on the trade routes by 29/1. (C. in C. S.A. 0911Z/21 to R.A.S.A.D.)
- ATHENE. Ref. A.M. 0017/17 0942/20 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown only. ATHENE departed Capetown 0410 G.M.T./21 for Port Louis, Mauritius. E.T.A. 0300 G.M.T./28. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1053Z/21 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I. N.O.I.C. Mauritius.)
- ELIN K,
BRAGELAND. Ref. A.M. 2116Z/17. Departure ELIN K was promulgated in F.S. 284 T.O.O. 1335N/27/11. 2. Ref. 1343Z/16 from R.A.S.A.D. para. 2. no information was received at Freetown that ship was proceeding to Port Stanley. Lloyd's Index of December states ship sailed Port Alberni, British Columbia, 26/10 for (Wake?). (C. in C. S.A. 1112Z/21 to Admty.)
- FRANCONIA. Your 0704/20/1(?). FRANCONIA is due Freetown 24/1 en route for U.K. with 442 passengers. These cannot be removed or transferred to another ship at Freetown and FRANCONIA will not arrive in U.K. before about 6/2. (C. in C. S.A. 1251Z/21 to D. of S.T.)
- ARNDALE. Proceed at best possible speed to arrive at Port Stanley 25/1 if possible. Report E.T.A. when known. (R.A.S.A.D. 1256Z/21 to ARNDALE.)

/Force ...

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- Force Q refits. A.M. 0627A/29/12. In view of A.M. 2120/14/1, is it now desired to send any ships of Force Q to South Africa for docking?
(C. in C. S.A. 1403Z/21 to Admty.)
- O.S.16. Departure 0731/21, FREESIA, BURDOCK, WALLFLOWER escort to southbound portion O.S.16.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1425/21 to Admty. etc.)
- MAURITIUS. My 1043A/19 MAURITIUS will be taken in hand for refit at Devonport Dockyard. Due Plymouth about 12/2.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1556A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)
- Vichy Shipping. Two Vichy merchant ships escorted by a light cruiser or large destroyer sighted in 3° 14' N. 2° 18' W. at 0900/20/1, steering 70°, speed 8 knots zig zagging. Are future reports of this nature required please?
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1559Z/21 to Admty.)
Reply: Yes, (D.D.I.C. 1055A/23.)
- ISLAY. ISLAY has essential main engine defects which will be made good by noon 25/1.
(N.L.O. Durban, 1642Z/21, to Admty. etc.)
- Communications with U.S. Navy. B.A.D. Washington 2021R/21 to C. in C. S.A.
(See America & West Indies.)
- Swordfish Aircraft from Wynberg. Cancel my 2017/17/1. Aircraft have already been shipped.
(C. in C. S.A. 2042Z/21, to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
- Freetown, Harbour Craft. Your 1742Z/16. Steam lighters will be sent as soon as practicable but unlikely that opportunity for shipment of first craft will occur before next voyage of MARY KINGSLEY. 2. Request whether these will provide at least a partial solution of problem referred to in C. in C.'s 1158N/24/10.
(D. of S.T. 2256A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)
- ULSTER MONARCH, ROYAL ULSTERMAN & ROYAL SCOTSMAN. Will arrive Freetown latter half of February. One of them may be employed for one voyage from Freetown to Takoradi for relief of R.A.F. They may be used for move of West African Brigades from Lagos and Takoradi to Bathurst and Freetown. Request outline programme proposed for these ships after consultation with C. in C. S.A. but note that their use for coastal troop movements is subject to their being kept available for operation "Pilgrim". Please pass to C. in C. S.A. Agreed with Admty and M.W.T.
(War Office 2310/21 to G.O.C. W. Africa.)

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

A/C Report. Following received from Med., A/C CG 85 No.2. No enemy has been sighted. Am returning to base. (A.H.Q., Malta, 0100/21 to all ships)

Enemy Units. P.35 reports 6 vessels left Kuriat southbound slow speed. (V.A. Malta, 0225B/21 to Med. Fleet)

PEONY, MANOORA. Send SAINT MONANCE (2 corrupt groups) PEONY and MANOORA, aground 114° Ras Azzaz 3. (C. in C. Med., 0714B/21 to Mersa Matruh).

CLELIA CAMPANELLA, (sabotage Massawa). C. in C. M.E. pass to L.E.W.A. Captured prize CLELIA CAMPANELLA sailed for Aden under tow. (?S.S.T.O. Port Sudan, 0910Z/21 to D. of S.T. etc)

SULTAN HISAR (Turkish). Admty 1831A/25/12/41 and 1712A/19/12/41. Approx. one week in British port before final sailing for Turkey will be advisable for boiler cleaning, painting, and minor repairs which include lifting and replacing of corticene. Docking will be necessary to remove and probably renew chernikeef Log. No spares carried. (SULTAN HISAR 1010Z/21, 1340Z/21, to C. in C. Med)

KURTULUS Aground. KURTULUS 19th. Ship now (?aground) near Marmara Island. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1025B/21 to Admty).

TRIUMPH. My 1256B/16. In absence of further news TRIUMPH must now be considered lost. Capt. (S) 1 signal casualty list to authorities concerned. (C. in C. Med., 1037B/21 to Admty).

Malta Convoys. Admty 0023A/20 and my A.Q.A. 0119/12/1 (N.T.in W. E to C. in C. Med., only. Cosup 1611. In view of non-arrival of fourth ship in M.W.8 and present supply situation we are prepared to take six large ships in next convoy. V.A.M.agrees. C. in C. please pass to C. in C. M.E. and P.S.T.O.Egypt. (Govr. Malta, 1114B/21 to C. in C. Med)

Air Cover for Convoy M.W. 8. Following is brief summary air operations 16/1 to 19/1 covering movement of 4 M/Vs escorted by H.M. Ships from Alexandria to Malta. Striking force Blenheims, Albacores, Swordfish, stood by at Beira 16/1 to 18/1 inclusive to attack enemy Naval Forces attempting to intercept Convoy.

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air Cover
for Convoy
M.W.8.
contd.

Searches of Ionian Sea by Blenheims based Berka and aircraft from Malta during three days made no sightings. A.S.V. Wellington search Gulf of Taranto night 17/1/18/1 also negative. A/S Patrols were provided by A.S.V. Sunderlands, Swordfish, and Walrus ahead of Convoy continuously from Mid-day 16/1 to Mid-day 17/1, between Alexandria and point North of Bardia. Dawn to dusk fighter cover was provided on 16/1 and 17/1 by Beaufighters based Alexandria Area, and Hurricanes, Martlets, Fulmars, based between Maaten Bagush and Tobruk. Hurricanes shot down single JU. 88 which unsuccessfully attacked Convoy N.W. Tobruk 17/1. Beaufighters based Berka effectively continued protection 18/1 forcing total 8 enemy aircraft which attacked Convoy during day to jettison bombs and damaging 4 of them. Beaufighters also provided afternoon cover 18/1 for 1 ship THERMOPYLAE which developed engine trouble and turned back with Naval escort to Alexandria. 1 Beaufighter missing. In early morning 19/1 single JU.88 attacked and sank THERMOPYLAE 64 miles N.E. Derna shortly before arrival of escort Beaufighter from Tobruk. At the time ship was out of range of short range fighters despite warning from Naval Authorities that it was to follow inshore route. Further operations by Malta covering arrival of convoy there reported in Malta C.S.R. for 19/1. Egypt 20/1. Single enemy aircraft attacked small ship 24 miles West Alexandria during afternoon details awaited. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1138/21, 1259/21.)

UNSENTEN.

*R. & P. (Capt. S. 10, 1205 B/21) See page 601.*G/R Sqdns.,
Malta & M.E.

Following for C's. in C, M.E. and Med. from Chiefs of Staff No. M.E. 227. Necessity for providing G.R. Squadrons and striking force squadrons for control of sea communications on scale set out in your Defence Committee Appreciation D.C.41 (11) 27/12 has been agreed, A.O. C. in C. has at present half a G.R. squadron at Malta and one G.R. squadron in Egypt. A further G.R. squadron is en route but will not arrive in M.E. until approx. end of February. To assist in meeting immediate requirements for increasing sea R/C Admty. have agreed to loan R.A.F. 20 trained naval observers. These observers are in England and will be sent out as quickly as possible. A.O. C. in C. M.E. should now take steps.

(a) to expand the half squadron at Malta to a full squadron as Baltimores become available.

(b) convert one of the existing L.B. squadrons to G.R. using trained naval observers and Baltimore aircraft as soon as available. These measures will provide 3 G.R. squadrons until such time as the squadron forming in U.K. arrives. Realized that these steps will reduce the number of bomber squadrons available to participate in land operations and the number of squadrons available for move to northern front. In existing circumstances, however, it is considered this should be accepted as no more G.R. squadrons can be spared from Coastal Command.

(1st Lord, 1240A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

TORBAY,
URGE
P. 36.

In view of TORBAY's 0624B/21 (N.T. in W.D.) and anticipated enemy movements request TORBAY may establish patrol in vicinity of 039° 30' 017° 27' until 2359B/23. I have no submarine /available ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

TORBAY, available for Taranto and am sending URGE and
URGE P.36 to intercept in vicinity of Khoms Bay.
P.36 - contd. Details follow.

(Capt. S.10, 1345B/21 to Capt. S.1.)
My 1215B/21 to TORBAY and Capt. (S) 10 only,
and Capt. (S) 10's 1345B/21. Establish patrol forthwith in
vicinity of 039° 30' 017° 27'.
(Capt. S.1, 1621B/21 to TORBAY.)

Consider convoy with important covering force may be
encountered during night 22/23. A/S Schooners have been
observed patrolling in vicinity of 038° 27' 017° 24' and
destroyer traffic apparently passes through 039° 27' 017° 24'.
Consider you should disregard these until daylight 23rd.
(Capt. (S) 10 1918B/21 to TORBAY.)

Enemy Following for C's. in C. M.E. and Med. from
Convoys, Chiefs of Staff No. M.E. 228.
Tripoli. Ref. M.K.1938, the importance of preventing
convoys reaching Tripoli is doubtless clearly
in your mind and we have no doubt that every
effort will be made by sea and air forces; even should this
necessitate the temporary concentration of effort by air and
light naval forces at the expense of other commitments.
(1st S.L. 1440A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Proposed Mining V.A. Malta 1625B/21. See 0835B/22.

GEORGIC, F.O.C.R.S. 1858B/20 (N.T. in W.D.) alternative
CLAN CAMPBELL. GEORGIC going to Massawa instead of MOHAMED
GULISAGE. If PAULINE MOLLER not already sailed
with CLELIA CAMPANELLA for Aden suggest she
should assist to tow GEORGIC to Massawa first. 2. Intend to
order CLAN CAMPBELL proceed Port Said immediately after loading
2000 tons Malta cargo at Port Sudan. Request your concurrence.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1704B/21 to C. in C. Med.) Concur GEORGIC,
(C. in C. Med. 1756B/22.)

Malta 20/1. Four alerts 0650 to 1304. Slight
Report. damage docks. Few civilians injured. 1333,
22 JU.88's and ME. 109F's. Cloud cover target
Hal Far. No damage. Hurricanes intercepted,
scoring hits. Night 20/21. Foul weather, rain and low
cloud. 3 alerts, 1747 to 0030, 18 bombers, 5 crossed coast.
Bombs land sea. No damage. 21st, 0735, 16 JU 88's and M.E.
109F's. No bombs on land. Hurricanes up, no interceptions.
0830, 15 JU.88's and ME. 109F's target Hal Far. One army
killed, 3 wounded, 3 Hurricanes damaged. Good bombing on
dispersal area. 1211, 27 JU. 88's and ME.109F's target Hal Far.
No damage. Hurricanes up no interceptions. 1345, 10 raiders
approached did not cross coast. 1412, 2 raiders, target Hal
Far. No damage. Hurricanes up, no claims. Our fighter
operations seriously hampered Hal Far and Ta Kali under water.
Limited number fighters operating from Luqa.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1755/21.)

Night 20/21. 1 Special Wellington shipping search Maretime
Cape Bon Tripoli sighted 2020 hours 5 M/Vs 1 escort vessel 070°
Kuriat 6 miles, course N.W. Navigation lights. Presumed
French. 3 Wellingtons IC Tripoli 2005 to 0420 hours, hits
town harbour and Seaplane Base. Fire started West Castello.
2 large fires visible 50 miles started probably Mellaha
Aerodrome. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1800/21.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy M/V.

One escorted merchant ship E.T.A. A.M./22nd.
from East.
(Capt. S.1. 1921B/21 to PORPOISE.)

~~C~~HRISTA.

My 1245/20. Re ~~C~~HRISTA's damage and temporary
repairs. Minimum time required seven days.
If work proves beyond local resources propose
flying to Alexandria where identical repair is
known to have been made.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2150B/21 to C. in C. Med.)

U/B.

Ismailia bearing (?transmission) U-Boats B
barred B barred transmission. Time 1921
frequency 4440 bearing 3050/2.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 2208B/21 to V.A. Malta,
(F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Escort of Troop Convoys. We have been considering problem of providing heavily laden troop convoys with 'R' Class Battleship escort while on passage to the Sunda Straits. Clearly we do not want to subject these ships unnecessarily to submarine and air attack and therefore, provided steps are taken by air R/C to ensure that no hostile surface forces are in the Sunda Strait area, it is suggested that they could be turned back well clear of the danger zone. Suggest you should take up with Abdacom the question of provision of long range air R/C to cover the approach to Sunda Straits from Westward. (1st S.L., 0145A/21 to C. in C. E.F.)

Your 0145/21st. It has been the policy for Dutch army aircraft to search approaches to Sunda Straits to cover arrival of each convoy, the depth of search depending upon position of convoy at dawn on the day concerned. This search, whose arcs are limited, has sometimes reached 150 miles but can not extend before arrival of more long-distance R/C aircraft. In addition daily R/C E. and W. of Borneo may give warning of enemy surface ships attempting to break into Indian Ocean.

2. Lack of secure harbours and fuel facilities preclude the use of (R) Class battleships East of approx. 090° E., where they must detach to return to port T or Trincomalee for fuel.

3. No destroyers can be spared from those available to act as a screen for heavy ships. All are employed screening convoys between Sunda Strait and Singapore.

4. In view of above and increasing risk of S/M attacks to West as they find they are attacked in Sunda Strait area, I am inclined to use battleship escort as far as longitude of Colombo only, but not further. (C. in C. E.F., 1635Z/21 to Admty. (R) Abdafloat, C.C.C.F.)

WEST ZEDA. Cancel my 0556/20. Ship arrived Beira.
(S.O.I., Colombo, 0936Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

C. in C. E.F. Flag C. in C. Eastern Fleet transferred to Shore at Colombo 21/1.
(C. in C. E.F., 1125Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

B M 11,
D M 2,
Escorts. Your 1615/19. Escort B M 11 will be GLASGOW who will be joined by DRAGON and DURBAN about position 002° S. 096° E. and by 3 destroyers about position 006° S. 102° E. GLASGOW will continue with B M 11 to Singapore. ROYAL SOVEREIGN will be used for D M 2 as far as Port T.
(C. in C. E.F., 1154Z/21 to Admty.)

Convoys M R 1, B A 14, B M 12. Following is a repetition of my 0059/20 (received undecypherable) begins:- C. in C. E.I. (R) D. of S.T., F.O.C.R.I.N. from S.S.T.O. India. My 0539/13 Madras Rangoon moves 2/2 and 9/2 are now named M R 1 and M R 2. B A 14 to be renamed B A (? 13 or 11) and will now consist of TALMA, RAJULA, WESTERNLAND, all with personnel and stores. Revised date of sailing is 0930Z/26/1 S. of A. without zigzagging is 11 knots. My 0604/5/1 B M 12 now consisting of EMPRESS OF ASIA, FELIX ROUSSELLA, DEVONSHIRE, PLANCIUS, revised date of sailing 0930Z/23 S. of A. without zigzagging 12 knots. (S.S.T.O. India, 1155Z/21 to C. in C. E.I.)
(Convoys ...

War Diary.

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

Convoys for all M/V's. 00142 19/1. Consider time has arrived for all merchant ships entering Abda area (? so doing) in convoy. 2. Owing to difficulty of providing A/S escort the employment of small and slow ships should be avoided as far as possible. 3. Consider that Torres Strait route for ships entering Abda area should not normally be used. Special arrangements will have to be made for the escort of ships which use this route.
(Abdacom, 1317/21 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B)

Shipping. (i) Owing to presence of submarines in Sunda Strait the instructions in my 1150/16 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 3 and 4 may have to be amended.
(ii) Pending decision of Abdafloat, ships carrying M.T., war stores or food are to call at Colombo from whatever (?port) for further orders or to await formation of a convoy.
(iii) F.C. Java is requested to inform Abdafloat. My 0116/19 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(C. in C. E.I., 1541Z/21 to E.I. Stn.)

Policy for Use of Naval Forces. For C.O.S. from Gen. Wavell. Your No. (? S.W.P.7) (W.D. Note - see 2000/19 from W.O. to Wavell). After discussion with Hart, Palliser, and Dutch Naval Representative this morning, following policy for surface Naval Forces decided for immediate future.
(a) All British and Dutch surface forces engaged in protecting convoys to Singapore cannot at present be used elsewhere.
(b) In view reports Japanese forces advancing down Macassar Strait, American force of 1 cruiser, 6 destroyers being concentrated towards Southern end of Strait for offensive action, if opportunity offers. This will leave area between Australia and Borneo temporarily uncovered. Situation emphasises urgent need larger Naval Forces in Abda area.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 2215/21 to W.O. (R) J.S.M.Washington).

Persian Gulf possible attack. Your G/257 of 20/1 (1810/20). Please quote evidence. Presume C. in C. East Indies and S.N.O.P.G. informed.
(W.O., 2345/21 to G.O.C. Iraq).

China.

BENNEVIS. British, 5356 tons, which sailed from Hong Kong on 6/12 for Singapore, where she has been overdue since 15/12, is presumed captured by Japanese.
(D.S., 869).

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Malaya Air Report. Daily Op. Summ. up to 1030Z/20. Air raids on Singapore Island by approx. 100 enemy aircraft, bombs dropped on N.W. of town, slight damage. Sembawang suffered damage to buildings, 1 hangar, 20 craters aerodrome. 1 Hudson 1 Moth destroyed 2 Buffaloes slightly damaged. No fatal casualties personnel. Naval dockyard slight damage. Casualties. (Air H.Q. F.E., 0140/21).

S.T.O's for N.E.I. ports. Consider it desirable that S.T.O's be appointed for duty in N.E.I. ports. Suggest Tanjung Priok, Surabaya, a Sumatra port (to be selected later) should be available first if required. (Abdacom (?) 0180Z/21 to Admty.)

Air Report. Intelligence summary No.60. Period 0800 hours 20/1 to 0800 hours 21/1.
6. Singapore attacked 3 waves of bombers, escorted by fighters. At 0807 by 30 enemy aircraft. At 0918 by 45, and 1104 by 45. Our fighters intercepted, enemy casualties 3 bombers 1 fighter certain 3 other aircraft damage. Our casualties 3 Hurricanes missing. Bombs were dropped at Sembawang, Seletar, Naval Base, causing unimportant damage and number of Casualties, few fatal. Bombs also dropped Government House Compound, and various main streets in town, causing fires and damaging gas and electric cables. (Air H.Q. Far East, 0700/21, 0850/21).

AQUITANIA. Air R/C indicates that troop transfer was completed and that AQUITANIA had proceeded by 0330Z/21. (F.O. Java, 0743Z/21 to Abdafloat).

Malaya Army Report. Sitrep No.42 1630 hrs. G.M.T. 20/1. Singapore. Two raids today by about 90 heavy bombers escorted by fighters. Bombs fell in Naval Base, Seletar and Sembawang aerodromes, and Singapore town. At Naval Base some damage to buildings, machinery, and KUNG WO, and a few killed and wounded. At both aerodromes considerable damage to buildings and hangars. Both aerodromes still serviceable. Christmas Island. Enemy submarine torpedoed Norwegian vessel off Behring Point 1105 hrs. G.M.T./20. Submarine surfaced and was engaged by fixed defences in failing light. Believed hit before submerging. Torpedoed vessel believed still afloat. (Adv. H.Q., Malaya, 0807/21).

Malaya Navy Report. Estimated one battalion occupied Endau 19/1. No report change from other area. (?Light force) bombarded Muar 20th/21st. Own aircraft bombed Kuantan and Kuala Lumpur aerodrome night 19th. Same scale enemy air activity over Singapore to daylight. Bombs dropped on fleet, shore accommodation, and dock side accommodation area. 6 Asiatics killed, 4 R.N. ratings 5 Asiatics wounded. On 20th bombs also dropped on Seletar, Sembawang,

/Singapore ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Malaya, Navy Report. (contd.) Singapore town, no major (?damage) reported. 12 enemy aircraft shot down by fighter and anti-aircraft fire during raid to-day, our losses 2 unspecified. An intercepted radio telephony message from enemy aircraft states "battle is desperate". Slight enemy air activity Northern-most Sumatra. No Submarine indicating light Sunda Strait and Singapore. (N.O.I.C.Malaya, 1121Z/21, to C. in C. E.F.)

ISIS, ROVER. Your 1435/20. Concur. Fleet Engineer Officer should investigate possibility of repairs in N.E.I. (C. in C. E.F. 1124Z/21 to R.A.Malaya.)

U.S. Asiatic Fleet. My 2022A/20. Amend 18 destroyers N.E.I. area to read 18 patrol bombers N.E.I. area. (D.O.D.(F) 1209A/21 to C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., etc.)

U/B. Following has been read. Enemy Submarine reported in 005° 53' S. 105° 15' E. at 0841Z/21st. (Singapore, 1326Z/21).

Policy for use of Naval Forces.

C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 2215/21 to W.O. (Sec East Indies).

BOISE (U.S.) Number 00203 dated 21/1 T.O.O. 0815Z/21. Cruiser BOISE damaged by grounding. Extent at present unknown but believe propellers not affected. Can she be received for docking and repair at Colombo, Sydney, or Newcastle? (Abdafloat, 2330/21 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.)

Burma, appreciation by C. in C. India. 027643 1314/G cipher 21/1.

1. Following comments forwarded on your 60087 (M.O.1) of 17/1 and 000116 of 18/1 in view of para. 3 Troopers 63795 (M.O.10) of 12/1.
2. So far as events and available intelligence indicate, increased land and air threats to Burma much more imminent than these and other appreciations suggest. See also para. 5 Troopers 60456 (M.I.J.I.C.) of 26/12.
3. Our appreciation. Japan must appreciate vulnerability of their land and air communications between Malaya and Thailand to land and air threats from Burma. Must also desire stop flow of supplies to China earliest possible. Also essential interfere to maximum with movements supplies and reinforcements from India to Burma, Malaya etc. (?Clearly) realizes we will reinforce Burma with land and air forces and increase air defence Rangoon. Must appreciate climatic factor as regards timing operations. Hence will lose no time in anticipating us and exploiting our present weakness.
4. Indications now of immediate threat to Moulmein, and lower Tenasserim already in their hands. Japanese land forces Thailand ample for further operations. Unlikely any major attack will develop in northern front for the present, but Japan's essential objects outlined above achievable by successful attack southern front which we feel they are now initiating. Capture of Moulmein area will enable them infiltrate toward Rangoon by small water-borne expeditions combined with land and air operations. (C. in C. India, 2345/21 to C. in C. S.W.Pacific).

1809/21 January.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From Governor (Sir S. Thomas)
Straits Settlements.

Date: 22.1.42.
Recd: 1445.

CYPHER.

Addressed Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 77 Government House.

Following are, and have been, the main duties of the Malayan Government in time of emergency as laid down by the War Committee, consisting of the C. in C. Far East, C. in C. China, G.O.C., A.O.C., Rear Admiral Malaya, Colonial Secretary, Federal Secretary, three unofficial members of the Legislative and Federal Councils and myself.

(1) Guarding vulnerable points as decided by the G.O.C. All manned in few hours after receipt of order and satisfactorily maintained to the time of military withdrawals.

(2) Blackout. Good.

(3) Mobilisation of volunteers. Completed quickly.

(4) Air Observation Posts. Of necessity these were manned for the most part by Asiatics many of whom did not stand when the enemy began to make progress. 92 Europeans, now available from occupied areas, have been given to the R.A.F. for this work, and more are being selected. Performance satisfactory.

(5) Internment of Japanese. Completed by police without incident in short time. Most key men were taken by dawn of 3th December.

(6) Denial of small craft in creeks and rivers. Before the war it was intended that this would be done by sending all craft well up stream and it was so done according as the locality became threatened and military authorities advised. But enemy tactics of infiltration through jungle paths and appearing behind the lines made it necessary at very short notice to order the destruction of craft which could not be got down south to more safe anchorage. Many have been got away or destroyed but inevitably many have had to be left in their original berth upstream. Practically all power craft have been got away.

(7) Denial of motor transport in coastal areas. Plans were to remove this on threat of invasion by sea whereas in fact menace in many places came from inland and plans had to be revised at very short notice. Heavy requisitioning by the Services left few vehicles to be dealt with by the Civil Government and most were got away.

(8) Denial of petrol and oil. This was to be done on the advice of the military authorities and it has been done whenever time allowed after receipt of request for areas to be evacuated. When time has not allowed this, destruction has been placed in the hands of the Services.

(9) Seizure of/.....

574^B

(9) Seizure of enemy fishing boats, Singapore. Completed with the co-operation of the Services before dawn of 8th December.

(10) Local Defence Corps. Mixed force of Europeans and Asiatics, approximately 3,700 strong at the outbreak of war. By general consent has done well and has been of the greatest value in various ways. For example, four Europeans brought down \$8,000,000 in lorries from Perak to Singapore. On the whole Asiatic members have been steady, especially when compared with other Asiatics.

(11) Passive Defence Services. By general consent, these have done well and Asiatics and Europeans have for the most part stayed at their posts often in hazardous circumstances until ordered to leave. With (10) they have been credit to those who have organised them.

(12) Food supplies and control. I have reported separately. When free dispersal to native population was ordered owing to enemy threat, everything possible was done, for example 10,000 tons of rice was disposed of in a few days in Kuala Lumpur and 4,000 tons in two days at Seremban. In other matters such as shipping control, export of rubber and tin, foreign exchange, restricted imports, censorship etc. there has been little or no public criticism and Government departments concerned have been always in the closest touch with interests involved.

I send this in view of the criticisms which are apparently being made at home and in justice to my officers.

1309/21.

Received in War Registry at
1429/24.

- 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,
- D.N.A.D.
- M. (2)
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.A./S.W.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- Admiral Bailey.
- Admiral Bellairs.
- E.P.S.
- Admiral Somerville.

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- ALLAN JACKSON. U.S. tanker, torpedoed 18/1, has sunk. (D.S., 869).
- VINCENT. U.S. ship, which left Sydney N.S.W. on 21/11 for Balboa, where she has been overdue since 23/12, is now presumed lost by enemy action. She made a raider signal on 12/12 in 26.41 S., 118.19 W. (D.S. 869).
- ASSINIBOINE. Position 0100/21, 52.50 N. (? 36) 50 W. Weather. (ASSINIBOINE, 0102Z/21 to Admty.) ASSINIBOINE's 1557Z/20 (N.T. in W.D.) Abandon search for convoy, return to St. Johns N.F. (F.O.N.F., 0258Z/21 to ASSINIBOINE, CHICOUTIMI, LETHBRIDGE). Position 1700Z/21 51° 50' N. 38° 50' W. weather report. (ASSINIBOINE, 1815Z/21 to Admty.)
- U/B. Army plane sighted S/M 032° 30' N. 079° 10' W. at 2143 G.M.T. heading S.E. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0110Z/21 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Cdr. S.N.C.F. (R) Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.) At 1616 G.C.T./20, plane sighted submerged submarine 35.50 N. 74.52 W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0250/21 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- CHATEAU THIERRY. Your 1649/18. Request report whether CHATEAU THIERRY is U.S. Navy Vessel. If not, what is her status? (D.S.T., 0634A/21 to B.A.D.)
- BISHOPDALE. Departure Balboa 2300 zone plus 5/19 Oiler BISHOPDALE. (C.S.A., Panama, 0801/21 to Admty.)
- DEVONSHIRE. Your 0001Z/21. Do not proceed to Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0912P/21 to DEVONSHIRE).
- O N 55. In view of your 0230/21, recommend abandon attempts to reassemble. Admiralty will direct ships by G.B.M.S. (D.T.D., 0930Z/21 to Opnav). O N 55, serial 8, convoy dispersed. Escort proceed to port. (Opnav, 1413/21 to Comtask Unit 4.1.5.)
- SURREY. SURREY reports rudder lost, 091° 850 miles from Bermuda at 0930/21. Can CAVINA render assistance towing towards Bermuda? Endeavour will be made to send tug. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1013P/21 to S.O.W.P.)
- OTTAWA, HEPATICA, MOOSEJAW, BUCTOUCHE. E.T.A. 0800Z/22 ships in company HEPATICA, MOOSEJAW, BUCTOUCHE. Class "A" defects. (OTTAWA, 1100Z/21 to Capt. (D) Londonderry. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., F.O.N.F. U.S. C.N.O.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.

21.1.1942.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Enemy Units. D/F Bearings at 0324Z/21 indicate enemy units using submarine frequency in vicinity of 32° N. 74° W. Unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1124Z/21 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav.)

WARSPITE. My 1151R/19. (1) Route for WARSPITE is as follows from Swiftsure L/V through positions:-
 (a) 048° 00' N. 128° 00' W. (b) 046° 00' N. 132° 00' W. (c) 022° 00' N. 129° 00' W. (d) Henderson Island. (e) 027° 00' S. 129° 00' W. (f) 031° 00' (? S.) 150° 00' W. (g) 033° 00' S. 180° 00' W. (h) Sydney (N.S.W.)
 (2) Dates: Leaves (? Esquimalt) 22/1 arrives Henderson Island 6/2 leaves Henderson Island 7/2 arrives Sydney (N.S.W.) 1600 zone minus 10, 20/2.
 (3) S. of A. Esquimalt to parallel 030° 00' N. average 14 knots. 030° 00' N. to Henderson Island, average 12.7 knots. Henderson Island to Sydney (N.S.W.) average 14.5 knots.
 (4) A/S and air escort: from Esquimalt to parallel 042° 00' arranged from thence as far South as possible requested but not yet confirmed.
 (5) Above programme has been based on as high a speed as possible for A/S protection consistent with endurance and allowing fuel for onward passage to alternative R/V at Bora Bora should R/V with BISHOPDALE fail. The route has been chosen to keep a good offing from West Coast but not outside shore based aircraft R/C.
 (6) Notification of all necessary U.S. Authorities and known Intelligence of friendly ships in general area traversed has been arranged with U.S. Authorities.
 (B.A.D., 1205R/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I.)

Enemy Reports. Your 1620/15 (709 AZ) para. 7. Navy Dept. state that the Station which it is desired to contact should be called rather than the call sign NSS in all instances. (B.A.D., 1221R/21 to Admty.)

Washington Report. Washops 41. (2) N.E.I. Military observer Bandoeng in a message dated 20/1 reports Japanese air raids 19/1 as follows:-
 (a) Sabang by 3 planes, damage slight, Balik Papan by 9 bombers escorted by 6 fighters, damage slight, Sibonga by one plane, damage nil. (c) Dutch coast watch service reports on 20/1 that 38 Japanese transports accompanied by 15 warships had been located in Macassar Strait within a day's steaming of Balik Papan. Oil fields are being demolished.
 (J.S.M. Washington, 1255R/21 to Admty. etc.)

Autogyro Trials. Following from B.A.S.R. Ref. Briny 19 from B.A.C. to M.A.P. and para. 2 of B.A.D. 1923/9. In interview with Adm. Towers he has agreed to go ahead with production of two prototypes of latest pattern autogyro. 2. Am endeavouring to arrange for platforms to be built on stern of four Ocean Class M/V's now building. 3. First Ocean completes about middle of March and if these arrangements can be made will expedite final operational trials.
 (B.A.D., 1545A/21 to Admty.)

War Diary.

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

O N 58. O N 58, Serial 2. Convoy has returned port due to weather and will not be sailing. Ships will join O N S 60 which may have to be sailed in 2 Sections. (U.S.C.N.O., 1630Z/21 to Cdr. Task Group No.4.6, Cdr. Task Unit No. 4.1.11).

O N 59. O N 59, Serial 2. Convoy sailing delayed 24 hours. (Opnav, 1631/21 to Com Task Unit 4.1.2.)

INDOCHINOIS. My 1949/9. The St. Pierre incident still being under discussion, H.M.G. are anxious that S.S. INDOCHINOIS should not visit St. Pierre on return voyage. (Hd. of M. 1706A/21 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

Forces in From J.S.M., Washington, to Chiefs of Staff, Abda Area. number 5. Your (W) 4, addressed Combined Chiefs of Staff. U.S. Chiefs of Staff have notified before in writing that they are unable to consider proposed Naval reinforcement of Abda area until.

- (a) Agreement is reached as to Anzac area and Naval Forces allocated thereto.
- (b) they are clear as to British forces allotted to Abda Area.
- (ii) As regards (a). Adm. King is impatient to get this matter settled. Since allocation of Dominion Naval Forces to Anzac area affects what is left over for Abda area (613 Grey Admty. para. 4 note 1) King is using this as lever to get Anzac proposals accepted quickly.
- (iii) As regards (b). Please inform us by name what British Naval Forces are allotted to Hart. Presumably this British contribution will often be temporarily reinforced by escorts under C. in C. E.F. accompanying convoys into Abda areas as far as destination at expense of other Indian ocean convoys. Confirmation of this intention would help us to present our case.
- (iv) U.S. Chiefs of Staff also hint that they do not understand how C. in C. E.F. comes into the picture. Request further information as to present position and future intentions regarding
- (a) who commands British Forces Afloat in Abda area.
- (b) What will be extent of Somerville's command.
- (c) Line of demarcation between C. in C. East Indies and C. in C. E.F. (B.A.D., 1711R/21 to Admty.) *Reply: Admty 1304A/22, para 649*

STEEL TRAVELER. STEEL TRAVELER (U.S.) due Balboa 18/1 from Brisbane not arrived. (Capt. i/c Jamaica, 1719R/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Defence of From J.S.M. for Chiefs of Staff number 7. Tahiti, We have received a request from New Zealand New Zealand. representative on J.S.M. that New Zealand should be Request. relieved of responsibility for defence of Tahiti. We propose to lay following memorandum before combined Chiefs of Staff Committee. (Begins).

In 1940 N.Z. Govt. undertook to supply defence needs and generally to afford assistance to Free French colonies in N.Z. Naval area. This undertaking was conveyed in a letter dated 4/8/1940 from

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Defence of
Tahiti,
New Zealand
Request.
(contd.)

Prime Minister of U.K. to General de Gaulle.
2. Since then a certain amount of equipment has been supplied including rifles and ammunition. This was supplemented in July 1941 by equipment from Free French H. Q.
3. Requests have been received from time to time for long range R/C bombers, heavy A/A machine guns, signal equipment and ammunition: Governor of Tahiti has now asked for a force of 200 men to be despatched from New Zealand if information is received of movement of Japanese or French troops from French Indo China to attack French Oceania.
4. New Zealand Chiefs of Staff in present situation find themselves unable to spare any further equipment: unable if they had any spare equipment to ship it, and unable, if they were able to ship it, to protect it en route.
5. They have been therefore informed by Free French Commissioners for Western Pacific and Governor of French Oceania that U.S.A. assistance is being requested and will they hope be forthcoming. It will be noted that this request conforms with tasks assigned in A B C - 1 to U.S.A. naval forces in Pacific area, namely, "protection of territory of associated powers in Pacific area east of 180th meridian and preventing extension of enemy military power into Western Hemisphere by destroying hostile expeditions and by supporting landings and air forces in denying enemy the use of land positions in that Hemisphere".
6. Since Tahiti, although not on reinforcing route, does possess one of the few harbours in mid-Pacific, its retention by a united nation must be a matter of some concern which can only be heightened by information recently received of a decline in morale of French community. Governor of Tahiti considers that although a show of resistance would be put up against attack by Japanese, occupation by Vichy French would be welcomed by many.
7. In order to bolster public morale, Governor has, through F.O., asked for a public statement of intentions on part of Great Britain and more particularly of United States to give effective assistance in event of attack or threat.
8. It would appear a matter of urgency that such an assurance should be given and that U.S. should relieve N.Z. Govt. of their responsibility toward French territory in Pacific area. (Ends.)
Do you concur? (B.A.D., 1819R/21 to Admty.)

GEORGE
WASHINGTON.

Your 1655/20. C. in C. U.S. Fleet has informed C. in C. Atlantic Fleet of this requirement. (B.A.D., 1839R/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U/B.

Submarine sighted by aircraft in (? 045°) 13'N. 058° 07' W. at 1855 G.M.T. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1924Z/21 to Admty., Opnav, etc.)

Darwin and
Abda Area.

For Chiefs of Staff from J.S.M., number 6. Question of inclusion of Darwin in Abda area may be raised on Abdacom 00053 at meeting of combined Chiefs of Staff proposed for Friday 23/1. Grey 302 of 11/1 refers. What is present position with Australia? (B.A.D., 1915R/21 to Admty.)

/Vichy ...

War Diary.

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Vichy
Shipping.

My 1641/14 para. (b) Same source reported 20/1 that ships sailed with JAMAIQUE and cleared for southern ports French West Africa but he believes they all proceeded to Madagascar. (B.A.D., 2019R/21 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.). Ships Not believed proceeding Madagascar. (B.A.D., 1507R/22. see 22/1).

Communications
with U.S.
Navy.

Your 1919/30 to Admty. It has now been agreed that U.S. and British Commanders of approximately equivalent echelons operating in adjacent areas may communicate directly with each other. (a) to pass essential information and (b) to inform others of intentions or movements but on no account to contain matter which might be considered as an order. (2) It is therefore in order for you or R.A.S.A.D. to exchange information with Commander Task Force 3 in order to co-ordinate patrol areas. (B.A.D., 2021R/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

ALEXANDRA
HOEGH
torpedoed.

2026 G.M.T. Intercept 500 kc/s. S O S LIYZ torpedoed 41° N. 65° 53' W. at noon (Ends). Bearings Camperdown 197½, Canso 213, Yarmouth 170, all approx. (Halifax N.S., 2030 G.M.T./21 to Admty.)

Following received from V C S 2034 G.M.T. LIYZ says sinking standing by lifeboats. (Halifax N.S., 2045 G.M.T./21 to Admty.) My 2030Z/21 LYNX being sent from Shelburne. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 2149Z/21 to Admty.)

ALEXANDRA HOEGH en route Halifax torpedoed 2027 G.C.T./21, noon position 40° - 53' N. 65° - 53' W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2224Z/21 to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty. etc.)

CHESAPEAKE.

Position 304° 262 miles from Hickery, engine disabled since 13/1, require towing, please advise. (CHESAPEAKE, 2045/21 to Admty.)

U/B.

Ref. Admty. Message A.F. 41° N. 065° 53' W. at 1600Z/21. (D.D.I.C., 2255Z/21 to G.B.M.S. Area 7).

Australia.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Your 1307A/15 and A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0941Z/18 and your 1301A/20. Ship's draught precludes refuelling at an established base in the Pacific. Organizations for refuelling at remote anchorage will require some time to organize. It is for your consideration that ship proceeds via Cape of Good Hope to a port on the east coast of North America. (A.C.N.B., 0309Z/21 to D. of S.T.) Reply by D.O.D.(F), see 1958A/22.

/LE TRIOMPHANT ...

War Diary.21.1.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia. - contd.

→ LE TRIOMPHANT, Arrival F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT escorting FALKEJELL.
FALKEJELL. A.C.N.B. is requested to pass to second third and fifth addressees also any other authority as necessary. (D.N.O. Queensland, 0330Z/21 to A.C.N.B., (R) F.O.C. Australian Squadron, N.O.i/c Sydney N.S.W. N.O.i/c Townsville, F.N.F.L.London).

Convoy
M S 1.

HOBART departed Fremantle 2220 (corrupt group)/19 to R/V KANIMBLA and Convoy M S 1, comprising British ships CITY OF MANCHESTER, PEISANDER, DERRYMORE, GORGON, Armed Escort Ship SIRDAR, Dutch ship PHRONTIS, TJIKARANG, TJIKANDI, ENGGAND. JAVA, and Tanker PAN EUROPE. (A.C.N.B., 0415Z/21 to Admty.)

DONERAIL
survivors.

*Beautiful.
Tarawa occupied
by Japanese.*

Your 1923Z/15/12. (re arrival of DONERAIL at Honolulu) HWP (as received) reports 8 survivors DONERAIL (Panamanian) reached Tarawa Island Gilbert group 17/1. Request confirmation re ship arriving Honolulu.
(N.Z.N.B., 1600M/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Rabaul air
attack.

Serial No.2. At 0249Z/20 approx. 100 enemy A/C including 36 type 96 Mitsubishi bomber 9 type 97 Kawanisi flying boat 12 fighters (type uncertain) and 24 type 97 (modified) Kawasaki dive bombers launched attack on Rabaul. (Number of fighter A/C and W/T intelligence suggest presence of possibly 2 carriers in adjacent waters). Result of attack: 5 R.A.A.F. Wirraway totally destroyed, and one R.A.A.F. Hudson, several damaged in unequal combat. HERSTEIN present in harbour (? destroyed) (? also) Copra Wharf. No damage done to Rabaul township and casualties other aircrews practically nil. U.S. destroyer ALDEN in company U.S. destroyer EDGALL and oiler TRINITY unsuccessfully attacked by S/M 2000Z/19 in 012° 08' S. 130° 10' E.
(A.C.N.B., 1759Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

U/B attack.

→ LE TRIOMPHANT, Arrival Brisbane 0330Z/21.
FALKEJELL. (A.C.N.B., 1822Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

21.1.1942.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1455A/21, 1456A/21).

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Instructions were issued today detailing the extent to which British and U.S.A. naval commanders may communicate with one another.

Home Commands.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 20 rounds at Dover between 0927 and 1237 today. No naval damage or casualties were caused.

British Air Operations.

28 aircraft bombed Bremen last night, and 36 Emden.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy "Breast" called for help at 1732 in 53° 55' N. 0° 19' E.

Mining.

Operations
N Q Group B.

PLOVER escorted by 4 M.G.B's carried out this operation last night from Dover.

N L 53.

2 M L's from Dover carried out this operation in the early hours of today.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the east coast between Cromer and the North Foreland. Mines were detonated in the war Channel off Yarmouth today.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. suggests that now that ships of all speeds between 14.5 and 7.5 knots are included in S L convoys, these convoys should be organized into slow and fast portions. (Admiralty concurrence to the proposal was given on 23/1).

/about ...

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - contd.

About midnight an explosion, believed to be due to sabotage, occurred in the magazine of S.S. ARCHANGELOS bound for Halifax and U.K.

(Nigeria) At 1300Z today an unidentified aircraft bombed Fort Lamy, setting fire to the petrol dump. The bombs were of German origin. (page 691)

Mediterranean.

Further damage was caused at Hal Far in enemy air attacks today. The aerodrome is still under water, but Ta Kali is improving.

The enemy's advance threatens Benghazi. BAGSHOT and ABERDARE have no coal and the only coal present, in S.S. MAUSANG is still under ammunition and bombs and cannot be obtained for 2 days.

8 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli harbour from 1720 to 1910, hitting and setting on fire a naval vessel and a suspected A.A. ship.

East Indies.

S.S. VAN OVERSTATEN^R was reported gunned by a submarine at 1130Z today in 1° 40' N. 90° 13' E. (On arrival at Colombo on 24/1 the master of Hospital Ship TALAMBA reported passing a U Boat on the surface about 4 miles distant some 6 hours before VAN OVERSTRATEN was attacked and in the same approximate position. TALAMBA was not molested).

/ s/m ...

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. - contd.

S/M in Gulf
of Aden.

Aircraft reported a submarine at 0630Z in 11° 30' N. 45° 4' E, steering west. An Albacore attacked at 0808Z and again at 1320Z when the S/M was reported damaged. The submarine was last seen at 1645C in position 206° Ras Marshag 72 miles. When bombed the S/M emitted a large quantity of red oil. It was later reported that, a 1500 ton submarine arrived at Jibuti today.

China.

Malaya.

Singapore was raided A.M. today by two formations each of 27 heavy bombers escorted by fighters. Sembawang Aerodrome was rendered unserviceable and some aircraft were destroyed and damaged. Kallang aerodrome was also attacked and damaged. There were losses of aircraft in the air by both ourselves and the enemy. Extensive civil damage was caused in the island and casualties are reported to number about 800.

Burma.

G.O.C. Burma reports that he cannot guarantee the safety of Burma with the forces now available. The War Office, have informed C. in C. India that they would like him to consider measures to accelerate the arrival of reinforcements.

Moulmein was bombed at 1010 local time by 10 bombers escorted by 16 fighters; damage was caused at the aerodrome which was already partially evacuated.

A second ship has been sunk off the mouth of the Irrawaddy; this was S.S. CHAK SANG, sunk by a submarine today off Cape Negrals.

Nancoory.

As Nancoory is not essential for our air operations, no adequate garrison could be formed from Abda resources and there is understood to be water shortage and very bad malaria. C. in C. S.W. Pacific proposes to dismantle and destroy the facilities. (Chiefs of Staff however directed that the water storage was not to be destroyed.)

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.China. - contd.

N.E.I.

It is reported that S.S. JALAR AJAN was sunk by a submarine on 14/1 in $0^{\circ} 18' S. 97^{\circ} E.$ (off Mentawai Is.)

~~M.V.~~ RAUB and ~~M.V.~~ LARUT are reported to have been bombed and sunk north of Sumatra. H.M.S. KELANTAN and VYNER BROOKE were attacked by enemy aircraft whilst on patrol off Sabangam today. KELANTAN reports that one 4 engine enemy bomber was destroyed, but the plane is believed to have been actually a flying boat. Enemy aircraft have made repeated attacks on naval patrols off Sabang and Medan this is considered by R.A. Malaya to indicate a possible infiltration into Sumatra.

S.S. LEMATANG was bombed and sunk at Belawan today.

America & West Indies.

Canadian minesweeper GEORGIAN reports early today contact with a submarine and S.S. WILLIAM HANSEN torpedoed off Ferry Land Head, between Cape Race and St. John's N.F.

S.S. NORTH GASPE, under charter to the U.S. Army was reported torpedoed about 0200 G.M.T. today in $46^{\circ} 38' N. 53^{\circ} 0' W.$ The report was false and ship arrived at Halifax undamaged on 23/1; she probably experienced the bump from detonation of a depth charge.

Tanker ATHELCROWN was torpedoed at 2210 G.M.T. in $45^{\circ} N. 40^{\circ} 56' W.$; she had dispersed from Convoy O N 56.

A submarine was reported on the surface attacking a Steamer in $42^{\circ} 53' N. 61^{\circ} W$ about 1320 G.C.T.; a special A/S sweep was carried out by aircraft, without result.

S.S. INNERÖY (Norwegian) was torpedoed at 2045 G.M.T. in approx. $42^{\circ} 30' N. 61^{\circ} 0' W.$ (this was a different vessel from that attacked at 1320 G.C.T.)

Greek S.S. VASSILIAS A POLEMIS was torpedoed and sunk at 1930Z in $42^{\circ} 32' N. 52^{\circ} 38' W.$

/CAMPBELL ...

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - contd.

* U.S.S. CAMPBELL reports a ~~successful depth charge~~ attack ^{on 4/6} in 42° 34' N. 62° 27' W. at 2335 G.C.T. today, and an aircraft dropped 6 depth charges, one of which made a direct hit, on a S/M in 48° 3' N. 52° 35' W., without visible results.

* See p. 610. 7647.
(Success not confirmed.)

Several submarines were reported off the Canadian and U.S. Atlantic coasts today.

Australia & New Zealand.

After heavy bombings at Lorengan, Kavieng, Salamoia and Bulolo Japanese forces landed at Mussau (Museau) Islands and at Kapsu, New Ireland (approx. 2° 41' S. 151° 4' E) and Rabaul, this morning. In the attack on Kavieng a laden Australian army ship was sunk.

A U.S. tanker was sunk 100 miles S.W. of Honolulu today.

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.British and
U.S. Naval
Inter-com-
munication.

Agreement has been reached with U.S. Navy Dept. permitting direct exchange of information between authorities of the British and U.S. Navies by signal subject to following limitations:-

(a) Information is to be limited to essentials. Intended movements may be included.

(b) The exchange of information is only to be made between authorities of approximately equal status operating in adjacent areas.

(c) On no account is any matter to be included which could be construed as an order.

2. The general intention is to utilise the British and U.S. communication networks so as to give speediest possible dissemination of information to those concerned.

3. Intercommunication will normally be on flag officers level but other essential intercommunication is permissible, for example between Senior Officers of a British and U.S. escort regarding turn over of a convoy.

4. This signal cancels previous instructions forbidding direct intercommunication.

(V.C.N.S., 2124A/22).

Co-operation with Russia.Loan of 2
Russian
S/Ms.

Your 1918A/3. C. in C. Northern Fleet has received no instructions on this question but states K Class S/M will probably be detailed. Information required in para. 2 (b) will be signalled when this is decided.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1351A/22 to Admty).

Railway from
Murmansk.

Murmansk Soroka section of railway has been bombed on three occasions since 16/1 at the following six stations.

22/1 reported from Kandalaksha that enemy raid from the north of Oukh (corrupt group) penetrated about 50 miles, reaching railway line before withdrawing. Damage uncertain, believed not serious.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1506A/22).

Movements.

NIGERIA and KENYA sailed 2250A/21. KENT arrived 0030A.

(A.C.I.C., 0109A/22).

"Saxhorn".

My 1221/17, 1049/19, and 0731/21. Codeword "Saxhorn". Sailing from Fishguard postponed a further 24 hours.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0907/22 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

MAUVENET. My 1105A/20. MAUVANET delayed further 24 hours due to weather prohibiting adjustment of compasses (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1118A/22).

DUNCAN. DUNCAN is to leave Sheerness at 1330 tomorrow and proceed by swept channels in force to Greenock. Weather permitting S.A. gear is to be operated whilst on passage and S. of A to be 20 knots to be adjusted when North of May Island so as to pass through Pentland Firth in daylight. Fighter protection arranged for whole passage. Codeword "Scurry".
(C. in C. Nore, 1126A/22 to DUNCAN).

SWORD DANCE. Your 1012A/22. ^{N.T. in N.D.} Not anchoring Thurso Bay. Intend proceeding through Pentland Firth. (SWORD DANCE, 1145A/22 to A.C.O.S.)

NORFOLK. My 2311/21. 1. Intend to sail NORFOLK escorted by WORCESTER at 1800A/23. Expect to pass 26 buoy at 0200A/24. Request second S.A. escort join at 26 buoy. E.T.A. Tyne 0900A/24.
(C.S.1., 1602A/22).
LAIRDS ISLE is to leave Rosyth at 1500/23 and anchor at Methil. Leave Methil to R/V with NORFOLK and WORCESTER at 0200/24th at 26 buoy and provide S.A. escort to Tyne.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2203/22 to LAIRDS ISLE).

ARETHUSA and CLEOPATRA will join the Mediterranean Fleet and will be sailed as soon as convenient after 24/1.

(2) Request you will inform (?C.Os) and report if CLEOPATRA is sufficiently worked up, particularly with regard to high angle practices.
(C. in C. H.F., 2059A/22 to R.A.D., H.F.)

Operations.

Russian S/M Patrol off Vestfiord. 2 Soviet K Class submarines proceeding patrol in an (?area) bounded North parallel 68° N., to South by parallel 66° N., to West by 08° E., and to east by coast. Route through position (a) 72° N., 20° E. (b) 68° 20' N., 10° E.

K.3 sails Polyarno p.m./22nd. Request T.B.R. as follows.
(2) (?C. in C.) has been requested to issue instructions to S/Ms in the sense of F.O.S.1849A/17.

Admiralty pass to all addresses except Admiral Miles.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1119A/22).

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Denmark Strait Patrol. Estimated 2200 tonight. One Cruiser and one corvette on patrol "White". (A.C.I.C. 1816A/22).

Dover shelled. Enemy Coastal Batteries fired twenty rounds between 0927 and 1237 today. Two fell in the town damaging house property. Remainder all fell in the harbour most of these within a radius of 100 yards of a position close Eastward of Prince of Wales Pier. No casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1832A/22).

British Air Activity.

Patrol "Frice". Your 1931A/21. "Frice" was flown by aircraft of 18 Group from Invergordon as detailed by H.Q.C.C. (D.O.D. H., 0209A/22 to A.C.I.C.)

Bombing Operations. On night 21/22, 24 A/C bombed Bremen and 20 A/C bombed Emden. (H.Q.B.C., 1308/22).

Enemy Air Activity.

3 Trawlers attacked on 7/1 (CAPETOWN) Further to my 1211/10/1. Later news now available of Trawlers being watched by enemy seaplane on water from 1600 to 1830/7th Jan. when three trawlers were attacked by two Heinkels and not one as reported. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1511/22).

West Coast Ports. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Enemy air R/C of West Coast ports yesterday indicates strong possibility of air attack on ships in harbour in near future. Masters of M/Vs are to be warned accordingly. (A.C.N.S. T., 1706A/22 to N.O.I.Cs. Aultbea, Oban)

Fair Isle South Lighthouse (Bombed 21/1). My 1856/21. Fire now confined to coal bunkers and unlikely to spread. Repairs to lantern windows proceeding. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1714A/22).

Convoy Help "Breast" 53° 55' N., 0° 19' E. (SHELDRAKE, 1732/22).

A/C shot down on 21/1. From F.O.I.C. Harwich reports:- At approx. 1930/21 SPINA at Andrews Spit on A/A duty and EXYMANE and WARWING at anchor east of Cork, all hit A/C which was seen, and independently reported, to have crashed in flames. 1905/22/1/42. Ends. (C. in C. Nore, 2147A/22).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- Operation Q.O. Carry out Q.O. today according to programme. (C. in C. Nore, 0914A/22 to M/S 9).
- Operation N.Q. Group C. Intend to carry out operation N.Q. group C tonight. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange that surface bombing restrictions be imposed between 2330 today and 0830/23 within radius of 20 miles round position 051° 15' N., 002° 15' E. My 1308/15 refers.
(V.A. Dover, 1102A/22).
PLOVER and M.G.Bs. 324, 322, 328, 330 carrying out operation N.Q. group C. Expected time of departure 2315. Expected time of return 0830/23.
(V.A. Dover, 1621A/22).
- N.R. Carry out operation N.R. on 23rd, zero hour 2359. (V.A. Dover, 1259A/22 to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate).
- Search of Gap. S.O. Minelayers 1137A/21. On completion of operation S.T. propose if time permits that 4th M/S Flotilla carry out search of route of Minelayers lying within limits of existing Gap Prior to laying S.N.17.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1315/22).
- Yarmouth. L.L. Sweeper detonated magnetic mine between 57 B Buoy (53° 1' N., 1° 45' 24" E). and 57 D Buoy (53° 4' 32" N., 1° 26' 12" E).
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1336A/22).
My 1336A/22. Mine detonated at 1040A/22. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1351A/22 and 1758A/23).
L.L. Sweepers detonated red mine at 1517A/22 in position 4 cables 286° 56 B Buoy. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1541A/22 and 1711A/22)
- M/Vs to adhere to routes ordered. Pass to N.C.S.Os.
An examination of the causes of recent casualties from mines reveals that in a large number of cases the ships concerned were outside the swept channel.
N.C.S.Os. are to impress on the Masters of all ships the vital importance of adhering strictly to the route ordered when navigating coastal channels and escorts are to be instructed to report immediately on arrival the names of any ships who disobey these instructions or who do not comply with instructions given them by the escorts.
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1536A/22).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.Thames
Estuary.

There was enemy activity over the outer estuary between 1945 and 2020/21st. Ships R.D.F. Plots indicate activity, probably minelaying, in the Northern End of Barrow Deep and a report has been received from a Brightlingsea Patrol Drifter of an Aircraft laying mines in the vicinity of B96 A buoy. It is not thought that more than six enemy aircraft at the most were engaged and there are no reports indicating possible minelaying in the inner estuary.
(S.O., T.L.D.F., 1543/22).

Escort for
S.N. 26 B.

Your 1626/20 para. (e). Expect escort by 1 Hudson A/C of 18 group.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1715/22 to R.A.M.)

Search of
Q. Z. X. 403.

Propose sailing from Harwich at 1015/23 via positions G and A at 12 knots to search remaining overlapping portion Q. Z. X. 403 between 1415 and 1530.
Returning from 51° 44' N., 2° 32' E., at 1545 via position G.
(M/S 9., 2035A/22 to C. in C. Nore)
Your 2035A/22 approved.
(C. in C. Nore, 2231A/22 to M/S 9).

Enemy Intelligence.Convoy off
Borkum.

P.R.U. Sortie at 1530/22 shows 2 M/Vs 300/350 ft. and 1 Escort Vessel being part of Convoy reported by the pilot to be westbound off Borkum.
(P.R.U., Benson, 1545/22).

KONGRING.
SORÖY,
(Norwegian)
reported
sunk.

(i) Norwegian KONG RING sunk off North Norway between 5/1 and 10/1. Graded B.3.
(ii) Norwegian SORÖY reported sunk by S/M 18/1 off north Norway. Press report.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1602/21).

E-boat.

Suspected E-boat activity G. (52° 38' 36" N., 2° 9' 12" E). (Harwich W/T, 2130/22)
E-boat bears 040° approx. from G. by D/F.
(Harwich, W/T 2214/22).
E-boat bears 050° approx. from position G by D/F.
(Harwich W/T, 2248/22).
E-boat bears 055° approx. from position G.
(Harwich W/T., 2255/22).

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

Off
Varanger
Fiord.

Reliable fix and D/F bearing of enemy unit shows one U-boat at 0825Z/22 in about 69° 33' N., 33° 22' E.
(S. B. N. O. Murmansk, 1009A/22).

Navigational.

Q. Z. S. 316.

Reference Q. Z. S. 316. Owing to the proximity of the R. N. Air Station Crail and consequent danger to training aircraft it is requested that a message be promulgated prohibiting this channel to all vessels flying balloons except by the special permission of C. in C. Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1820/22).

Casualties & Defects.

MILFORD
PRINCESS.

Arrival in Roads Tug KROOMAN towing Trawler MILFORD PRINCESS at 0011A.
(F. O. I. C. Gt. Yarmouth 0023A/22).

→ EMPIRE
ARUN.

My 1813/21. EMPIRE ARUN now reported at anchor one mile east of McArthur's Head.
(F. O. I. C. Greenock, 0045A/22 to FREEBOOTER).

WHITE BEAR.

WHITE BEAR has developed leaks. Consider a Hull survey in the vicinity is essential as soon as possible. Request arrangements accordingly.
(Capt. S. 3., 0917A/22 to F. O. I. C. Glasgow).

→ EMPIRE
ARUN.

EMPIRE ARUN refuses assistance, can steam three to four knots. If weather does not moderate will require tugs.
(FREEBOOTER, 1150/22).
Your 1150/22. Stand by EMPIRE ARUN until relieved by CAROLINE MOLLER.
(F. O. I. C. Greenock, 1409A/22 to FREEBOOTER).
My 1409A/22. If not required at once by EMPIRE ARUN proceed to Campbeltown.
(F. O. I. C. Greenock, 1618A/22 to FREEBOOTER).

PORT
WYNDHAM.

Number 4 port engine transverse beam wrecked. Unable to repair. Speed of advance towards Belfast now 11 knots.
(PORT WYNDHAM, 0108/22).

S. S. SURREY.

S. O. W. P. 0124A/22 See A. W. I.

MARITIMA.

Adrift and in collision off Gourock. Send tugs and pilot immediately.
(MARITIMA, 0118/22).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BRITISH
LADY.
(grounded 21/1)
CHAMPION proceeding to assist BRITISH LADY.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0205A/22).
My 1549/21 and 0205/22. Tugs KENIA, CHAMPION,
and LADY BRASSEY entering Harbour with BRITISH
LADY.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0408/22).
BRITISH LADY refloated 0355. Anchored in
Quarantine anchorage Harwich. No damage.
(Salvage Officer, Harwich, 0830/22).

Recent Groundings. Following is a summary of recent casualties through grounding. Convoy O.S.17.
MOBEKA at 0724/19 ashore Mull of Kintyre. In hands of Salvage Co.
FLORISTAN at 2112/19 ashore West Coast of Islay. Little hope of salvaging.
INGRID at 2209/19 ashore in 56° 31' N., 7° 00' W., Likely to be total loss.
LARISTAN at 1939/19 ashore in 56° 31' N., 6° 56' W. May be refloated. Tug JAUNTY standing by.
EMPIRE ARUN at 1248/21 4 miles S.E. of Ardmore Head. Later reported at anchor 1 mile east of McArthur's Head.
EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS at 1425/21 engine defects later blown ashore at Barra Island. Total loss. Ship broken in two. Lifeboat standing by to rescue crew when weather moderates. Convoy O.N. 58.
KING EDWARD 0349/21 ashore off Strangford Lough. Refloated and proceeded to Belfast Lough.
DOMBY refloated and proceeded to Belfast under own steam.
BRONXVILLE vicinity Southrock. Chance of refloating.
ORMINSTER Kerney Point, Knockenelder Bay. Chance of refloating.
ASIATIC 0850/21 5 miles south of South Rock. On sand. Good chance of refloating.
BROWNING 0619/21 near Ballyquintin on rock. Unlikely to be refloated.
MONTBRETIA near Tara Signal Station. Badly aground. Unlikely to be refloated. Crew ashore.
Independent Sailings.
MARKLYN Belfast to Barrow. 2220/20 Port Logan, Mull of Galloway. Situation obscure.
LOCH GARRY Glasgow to Oban in Ballast. 0036/21 Tor Point near Rathlin Island. Sunk. 27 crew saved. 22 missing.
WILLIAM HANBURY Fleetwood trawler. Isle of Man. Crew got ashore on rafts.
(C. in C. W.A., 0503A/22)

MELODY. M.F.V. MELODY has received damage to engines as the result of enemy action. Vessel can no longer be considered servicable. Request disposal.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1142A/22).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.B.P.
Target.

Have located target in Sinclair Bay close inshore. Conditions unfavourable to attempt recovery. Request instructions.
(BANDIT, 1330A/22 to A.C.O.S.)
BPT 39 parted from MARAUDER whilst on tow from Invergordon on 21/1 and is now adrift off Wick. Weather has prevented BANDIT recovering it today. Further attempt will be made as soon as weather moderates.
(R.A. Scapa, 1701A/22).

EUGENIA S.
EMBIRICOS.

Following received from Wick Radio Begins:-
Intercepted at 1351 G.M.T. from S.S. EUGENIA S. EMBIRICOS. 30 men have been landed but one loss of life. Remaining on board four. My lifeboat useless very high sea.
(A.C.O.S. 1452/22) (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1455/22)
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1500A/22)

FLORISTAN
(grounded
19/1).

ST. OLAVES and TENACITY returned Belfast Lough. Salvage operations will be resumed daylight tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1655A/22)

ONWARD II.

C. in C. Plymouth's 1839/21. ONWARD II has now been raised and is in dockyard. Hull reported repairable.
(S.T.O. Devonport, 1744/22).

HAV,
SHIKA.

Have you any information of Whalers HAV and SHIKA which were sailed from Stornoway to Seedisfjord on 10/1.
(C. in C. W.A., 1852A/22 to A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

BRITISH
YEOMAN.

Following message received by W/T addressed Port Patrick from BRITISH YEOMAN. Require tugs as have run aground. Position follows. On Lady Isle. (Ardrossan 2005/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Cancel previous orders. Proceed with all despatch to assist tanker BRITISH YEOMAN aground on Horse Island, Ardrossan.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2019A/22 to FREEBOOTER).
Request you sail local tugs to assist. BRITISH YEOMAN aground on Horse Island Ardrossan.
FREEBOOTER is proceeding from vicinity of Islay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2025/22 to N.O.I.C. Ardrossan).

AMAKURA.

Following received from Port Patrick Radio. Intercepted at 2104 G.M.T. De Malin Head Radio. AMAKURA begins. Your D/F bearing is 321° at 2101. From Port Patrick Radio at 2101. Your D/F Bearing is 311° unreliable sector.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2204/22).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.59. QN. 59. My 1201A/21. Owing to weather at Liverpool convoy is delayed a further 24 hours. (C. in C. W.A., 1221A/22). Request Opnav may be asked to issue sailing orders for Task Unit 4.1.2 which is now at Londonderry to overtake O.N.59 in 024° W. and provide onward escort. (C. in C. W.A., 2326A/22 to Admty).
- F.S.⁷⁰₆,
F.S.⁷⁰₇,
EMPIRE CAPE,
EMPIRE CLIFF. Cancel my 1237/21. S.S. EMPIRE CAPE will not sail in F.S.⁷⁰₆ owing to weather. VORTIGERN replace QUANTOCK as second escort to Sheerness. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1113/22). EMPIRE CAPE and EMPIRE CLIFF are not to be sailed in F.S.⁷⁰₇. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1909/22).
- ON.S.59. O.N.S.59 delayed by fog a further 24 hours. Sails 23/1. (D.T.D., 1222Z/22 to Opnav).
- O.N.58,
O.N.S.58 My 1130A/21 and your 1055A/22. If ships are part of O.N.S.58 escort them to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1311A/22 to ACANTHUS)
- Q.P.4. Request route for further 2 Q.P. ships Seidsøfjord to Loch Ewe. (A.C.I.C., 1436A/22 to A.C.O.S.)
- Ships for Eastern Canada. All vessels proceeding to Eastern Canadian Ports are warned to take requisite precautions to avoid freezing of telemotor and other steering gear, winches, and deck service pipes etc. (D.T.D., 1535Z/22).
- O.N.M.59 O.N.M.59. My 1050A/22 postponed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1550A/22).
- S.C.62 S.C.62 Average speed 6.27 knots. Heavy N.E. gale on 1/1 and Southerly gale on 12th, which forced convoy to heave to. BARON ERSKINE could not maintain convoy speed owing to bad coal and is understood to have stood by DIMITRIOS INGLESSIS former not yet reported. All other ships accounted for. (D.T.D., 1614A/22 to Opnav).
- S.D.20. My P.C.S.2000A/22, 059° 55' N., 019° 25' W., 149° (710) knots. (NEWARK, 2001A/22).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.LLANGIBBY
CASTLE.

B.N.A. Lisbon's 1622/21 and A.M. 2051/20. It will not now be possible to arrange for transfer of troops foreshadowed in A.M. 2051/20.
2. Request you will report in due course what arrangements can be made for LLANGIBBY CASTLE to be sailed either to Freetown or Gibraltar in accordance with last sentence of B.N.A. Lisbon's 1622/21. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0030A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HERMIONE.

Request you will sail HERMIONE forthwith to carry out a patrol in a square bounded by:
Long. 22° W. and 25° W, and Latitudes 41° 30' N. 43° 00' N. 2. Weather permitting she should reach patrol area not later than dawn on 24/1. Patrol to be continued to limit of prudent endurance. 3. Object: interception of returning Axis shipping. Enemy S/M escort may be present.
(1st S.L. 0128A/22 to F.O. Force H.)
Your 0128A/22 HERMIONE delayed with engine room defects, expected to sail 1615/22.
(S.O. Force H, 1502A/22 to Admt. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0128/22 Sailed HERMIONE 1622. Departure delayed 7 hours due to engine room defects.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1648A/22 to Admt. C. in C. W.A.)

Ferries,
Horta.

R.O. Horta's 1418/21. Ferries should be sailed to Freetown in company with REINE DES FLOTS and LA MOQUEUSE.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0136A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Admt. 0136A/22, confirmed ferries are being sailed as ordered.
(2) Route from Horta to Port Kennedy, (G) 020° 00' N. 023° 00' W. thence Freetown as ordered by C. in C. S.A.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0946A/22 to R.O. Horta.)

CLYDE.

721. Cancel my 1810A/21. Proceed in accordance with my 2234A/20.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0600A/22 to CLYDE.) *See p. 563.*

CAVINA,
to assist
SURREY.

Your 0124A/22 (CAVINA to proceed to assistance of SURREY) received. Weather. report.
(CAVINA, 0812Z/22 to S.O.W.P. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
See also America and West Indies. *p. 609.*

^H
MENIR BRAZ
French.

My 1655/13. Ship expected sail tonight or tomorrow.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1313/22 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

CHESAPEAKE,
in distress.

CHESAPEAKE 2045/21 read Portishead. Assume ship was from O.S. 16. If not request co-ordinates of position HICKORY. "Hickory."
(F.O.C.N.A. 1358A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
From CHESAPEAKE 2045/21 it appears my 2335Z/20 has not been received. Request it may be broadcast for another 24 hours from Rugby. (F.O.C.N.A. 1453A/22 to Admt.)

/Your ...

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War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.CHESAPEAKE,
distress.
contd.

Your 1358A/22 CHESAPEAKE sailed in O.S. 16 and was detached from Convoy at night-fall 11/1. Position given CHESAPEAKE 2045/21 put ship in 042° 22' N. 028° 48' W. ~~Hickory~~, 040° 00' N. 024° 00' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1612A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 2335Z/20. Not met. Have called tanker for 2 days. Returning to harbour tonight. Reply if unacceptable.
(THAMES, 1835/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Following is a repetition of my 1351A/22 (begins) LADY HOGARTH, ARCTIC RANGER, THAMES, CHESAPEAKE in position 042° 26' N. 028° 47' W. at 2045Z/21. Drifting (corrupt group).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1523A/22 to Tug THAMES.)

ROSALIND.

ROSALIND arrived 0945. Ships in company separated during heavy weather off Fastnet Rock.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1644A/22 to Admty.)

U/B's.

There are 4 or 5 U-Boats within 200 miles of 043° N. 031° W.
(F.O.S. 1646A/22 to REGENT)

Strain on
Escorts.

Your 1802/17/12. Ref. your 1134A/20/1, an examination of Ships' logs show that for the first 14 days of December, prior to leaving Gibraltar for 13 days sea passage, DEPTFORD, PENSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, CONVULVULUS and VETCH have only 1, 2, 3, 3, and 4 nights in harbour respectively. Whilst fully appreciating the many calls on escorts in Approaches to Gibraltar, this routine is too strenuous, and is already having detrimental effects on personnel and material, and must lead to breakdown of morale. I would most urgently request that Western Approaches escorts should always be given a minimum of four days in harbour immediately on arrival from and again prior to their departure for U.K. unless in extreme urgency.
(C. in C. W.A. 1655A/22 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

O.G.78.

Departure LAFOREY, EXMOOR, CROOME, as additional escort to O.G.78.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1822A/22 to Admty. etc.)

PONTET
CANET.
(French)

ALOUETTE boarded French PONTET CANET out of Lisbon. Ship fully navicerted. Released.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 2018A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

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War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

ARUNDEL
CASTLE. Your 0727/16. Request confirmation that ARUNDEL CASTLE requires six weeks for overhaul. (D.S.T. 0328A/22 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

Axis Ships
ex Fernando
Po. DUCHESSA D'AOSTA, LIKOMBA and BIBUNDI all arrived (?Lagos) between 1600Z and 1800Z/21. It appears that their wish was to reach Vichy territory when intercepted. (C. in C. S.A. 0335Z/22 to Admty.)

VIOLET,
CLOVER. Arrival 22/1 VIOLET. Departure CLOVER, escorting NEW BROOKLYN to Freetown, E.T.A. 0700/29. (N.O.I.C.Lagos, 1101Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

RACHECO,
DEWDALE. Your 1152A/20. Agree. This fits well. (C. in C. S.A. 1128Z/22. to F.O.C.N.A.)

JASMINE. My 1041Z/19 and my 2355Z/19. Return Freetown with R.F.A. RAPIDOL on completion of fuelling. (C. in C. S.A. 1157Z/22 to JASMINE.)

MAUNA KEA
"Q" Report. Following has been received QQQQ 14° 27' E. 31° 44' S. S.S. MAUNA KEA, suspicious Vessel. (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1224Z/22.)
Following received. Slangkop W/T from MAUNA KEA. Cancel my QQQQ at 1221/22. (Freetown, T.O.R. 1305Z/22. 1431Z/22 to Admty.)

S.L. Convoys
division. Now that ships of all speeds between 14.5 and 7.5 knots are included in S.L. Convoys, it is suggested that these convoys should be organised into slow and fast portions. The convoy could then be split if desired and if escorts were available in Western Approaches and it is thought this might help to relieve congestion in home ports. In S.L. 99 there will be 12 ships of speed ten knots and above and this number will be larger when the effect of A.M. 1605A/12 becomes fully operative. (C. in C. S.A. 1259Z/22 to Admty. Concur (D.T.D. 1312A/23.)

SEMLA. Admty. 2045/14. Temporary repairs to SEMLA completed in Capetown and vessel will sail shortly for East London where approx. 3 weeks required for further essential repairs.
(2) Endurance can be increased by approx. 800 miles by stowage of 40 tons oil fuel in drums.
(3) C. in C. E.I. is required to issue onward routing orders to N.L.O. Durban in due course. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1426Z/22.)

/Axis ...

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War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Axis
Shipping,
Brazil.

Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed Ambassador, who passed to F.O. asking for immediate reply, as follows:- To ensure security Brazilian Authorities want to bring following ships to Rio de Janeiro (1) at once

ANTONIO LIMONCELLI from Maraham, AIDA LAURO from Pernambuco, TEBRO from Santos; (2) later, CONTE GRANDE from Santos. (3) Ships will fly Italian flag but crews will be Brazilian; Italian crews will be left at Santa Isabel Port. (4) Ambassador has been asked to give assurance ships will not be interfered with on passage to Rio De Janeiro.
(S.O.I. Rio de Janeiro, 1501Z/22 to Admty.)BIRMINGHAM,
ASTURIAS,
BULOLO.My 2049Z/13. Following are present and intended future dispositions of S. America Division. 2. BIRMINGHAM leaves vicinity Falkland Isles 26th arrives Point Du Mole, S. Nicolas area, 29/1. 3. ASTURIAS at Rio de Janeiro 25th to 27th and BULOLO Montevideo 24th to 25/1. A.M.C's making R/V in K.33 29/1 thence patrol J.33 (D?) and J.34 (C) and (D) in mutual support as ordered by ASTURIAS.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1851Z/22 to C. in C. S.A. B.A.D. S.A.D. Admty. N.O.I.C. Falklands.)WINDHUK
(attempted
scuttling)
CONTE GRANDE,
TEBRO.My 2151Z/19. Examination of WINDHUK shows much machinery destroyed. All feed and water cooling pipes full of cement and motors damaged by running without cooling. Officers and crew were removed on Sunday and are under arrest after attempting to scuttle. Ship will have to be towed to Rio De Janeiro for repairs which will take six months. CONTE GRANDE and TEBRO have been taken over by Brazil but Italian crews still aboard.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1921Z/22 to Admty.)Shipping
Intelligence
for U.S.N.Reports received that U.S. T.F. 3 receive no merchant shipping intelligence. Consequent necessity disclose identification of shipping may give rise to further false raider reports such as MORMACYORK on 18/1. Intend making arrangements forthwith with Commandant 15th Naval District Balboa for U.S. Ships to read S.A. shipping information routines which will in future be transmitted in British U.S. cypher.
(C. in C. S.A. 2015Z/22 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. R.A.S.A.D. S.O.I. Montevideo.)MADRYN,
suspicious.Argentine ship MADRYN which was ship used to warn German ERLANGEN at Mar-Del-Plata last July has recently been at Comodoro Rivadavia. Secret sources consider her activity there suspicious and suggest some connection with possible presence of French PERSEE in vicinity. MADRYN now reported at Puerto Deseado. Am keeping close watch on her movements.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2234Z/22 to Admty.)

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War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Proposed Mining. Your 2348B/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Following is repetition my 1625B/21. (Begins). C. in C. Med. from V.A. Malta ?, A.O.C. proposed laying magnetic mines at Burat El Sun in near future, do you see any objection? T.O.O. 1625B/21. (Ends.) (V.A. Malta, 0835B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

KURTULUS. My 1025B/21. Vessel has sunk. (S.O.I. Istanbul 0930B/22 to Admty.)

TUAPSE. Russian tanker TUAPSE sailed night of 21/1 in charge of Lieut. Cdr. Harkness, expects to clear Dardanelles night 22/1. 2. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles. (A.B.N.A. Istanbul, 0943B/22 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

My 0943/22. At request of Russian N.A. acting on instructions from Moscow, am endeavouring to stop TUAPSE entering Aegean and instruct her to remain in Sea of Marmara until further orders. 2. It seems that TUAPSE may be required to return to Black Sea. 3. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles. (A.B.N.A. Istanbul, 1638B/22 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

? LUCANIA
LUCIANA (Italian). Italian tanker LUCIANA, black hull, national flag with 2 white discs each side of it painted on side, leaves Taranto 0700/24 for Genoa in connection with repatriation. She is not to be molested. (Capt. S.1. 1121B/22 to S/M's on Patrol)
9 knot Italian tanker LUCIANA leaves Taranto dawn/24 for Messina and Genoa and must not be molested. Particulars. Navigation and lights over colours on side will be burning at night. (Capt. S.10, 1231B/22 to S/M's on Patrol).

Command of F.A.A. Units. A.T. 2222A/20. It is agreed that appointment of R.A.(A) M. should now lapse but a relief is essential to command F.A.A. units in Mediterranean. Suggested that a captain of some seniority with F.A.A. experience (not a captain A) should be appointed. It would be desirable that he should be sent so as to arrive before R.A. Boyd leaves the station. (C. in C. Med. 1148B/22 to Admty.)

M.W.8B. Your 2240B/20 (N.T. in W.R.) LEGION reports M.W.8B sailed nearly 1 hour late. Head wind reduced speed of merchant ship to 12½ knots on first night and through day 2. No delay was due to sinking of GURKHA. (V.A. Malta, 1151B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT. Patrol vicinity Gallo. No. 705 in C.A.F.O. 422/40 expect to leave Palermo dawn/23rd westbound at 13 knots. (Capt. S.10, 1153B/22 to UPRIGHT.)

/URGE ...

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

URGE
P.36. My 1345B/21 URGE and P.36 sail p.m./23rd for 32° 56' 14" 32' and 32° 50' 14" 23' respectively. On completion of operation URGE proceed to North Peninsula, Sicily, and P.36 to Kerkenah area routed past Zuara and Turgeuness. (Capt. S.10, 1159B/22. to Captain S.1.)

URGE and P.36 sail tonight 22nd in accordance with 1159B/22. URGE returning to Malta before proceeding to North of Sicily. (Capt. S.10, 2243B/22 to Capt. S.1.)

V374

UNBEATEN
R. of P. (i) UNBEATEN reports at 1025/12 in 037° 50' 016° 00' firing salvo range 1400 yards at westbound German U-Boat 2 hits, one survivor. (ii) At 0906/19 in 037° 49' 015° 52' firing salvo mark 4 - 35 knots (?torpedoes) at laden 7000 tons tanker (?course) 090° in convoy with one merchant ship one destroyer and one bomber. Firing range 7000, track angle 145, visibility variable misty, sea (?rough). (iii) 7 1/4 minutes after firing 2 faint but definite explosions heard, subsequently H E of destroyer indicated change of speed and course. (iv) UNBEATEN opened range for 15 minutes then resumed patrol at periscope depth, nothing in sight. At 0948 extremely heavy but distant explosion shook submarine, all-round look showed no aircraft or surface disturbance near but 2 bombers circled expected position of convoy. Nothing sighted owing to mist. Consider tanker may have blown up. (v) At 1622/20 when 4 miles from entrance to Marsamxett Harbour UNBEATEN was diving for aircraft when Messerschmitt hit conning tower with 3 cannon shell and many bullets, damage superficial. (Capt. S.10, 1205B/21 to Capt.S.1.)

Italian
Repatriations. Your 1238A/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Warning has been passed to units concerned, but it is considered that Italians should be warned that errors may easily occur in operational area such as Gulf of Taranto and it would be much safer (?comma) if tanker were sailed from a point other than a main naval base. (C. in C. Med. 1208B/22 to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta, (F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy Units,
TORBAY. P. C. and S. of enemy are 039° 40' 017° 27' 140° 20. 3 Cruisers 6 destroyers. Torpedo missed. (TORBAY, 1347B/22 to S/Ms on patrol. (R) C. in C. Med.)

ARETHUSA. Admty. 1327A/20. ARETHUSA is at present fitted with only one H.A.C.S. and no Type 285. She could be fitted with second H.A.C.S. and two Type 285 in a period of six weeks in U.K. In view of the low degree of A.A. efficiency possible with her present equipment and of new developments in barrage firing it is intended unless you signal otherwise to carry out the /modifications ...

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War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

ARETHUSA modifications in para. 1 before sailing her to
contd. join Med. Fleet.)
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1400A/22 to C. in C. Med.)

INDOMITABLE's It has been brought to my notice that the control
S.R.A/A of INDOMITABLE's short range A/A weapons entails
weapons. the use of a trainer and a layer at the
Director. Experience has shown that this with
the consequent lag at the gun in following the
Director is not capable of making use of the few seconds
grace allowed by a dive bomber. One set of gear and drawings
of the one-man control of pom-poms has been sent to INDOMITABLE.
(C. in C. Med. 1443B/22 to Admiralty.)

Movements. Movement summary 230, Part (a-) AJAX leaving
Alexandria 1700/22 due Port Said 0730/23.
HOTSPUR, ISAAC SWEERS, escorting AJAX 20 miles
beyond searched channel then returning to Alexandria.
THORGRIM due Port Said 1100/23 with 2 ships from Haifa. ERICA
and tanker due Alexandria 1200/23 from Haifa. SNAPDRAGON with
4 ships leaving Port Said 1600/22 due Alexandria 1000/23
KLO with "A" lighter 104 leaving Port Said 1300/22 due
Alexandria 1400/23. (C. in C. Med. 1530B/22.)
W.R. Note:- Part one only received of this signal.

Malta Report. C.S.R. Malta 22/1 Night 21/22, 1701 hours, 1
raider approached, did not cross coast, bombs
sea. 22nd. 2 alerts 0928 hours 9 ME.109 and
JU.88's. Target Hal Far. 12 craters aerodrome. Slight damage
buildings. 1 Hurricane damaged. Hurricanes intercepted.
3 JU.88's hit 1 very unlikely to reach base, 1 with engine on
fire and much shot about and 1 damaged. 1 Hurricane shot
down by own A/A, pilot killed, another damaged.
1208 hours, 17 fighters 2 JU.88's Target Hal Far. 2 craters
aerodrome, Hurricanes intercepted. 1 JU.88 probable and 1
Macchi 202 damaged.
Weather impossible for full fighter programme. Hal Far under
water, Ta Kali improving.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1714/22.)

Bomb damage, On 20/1, 1 bomb hit Nos. 4 and 5 docks pumping
20/1. station causing damage. Damage to machinery
and putting station out of action. One
drainage pump now working and it is hoped to
have 1 main pump available in 2 or 3 days time.
(V.A.M. 1724B/22 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Force K. Force K consisting of PENELOPE, MAORI, LEGION,
LANCE, LIVELY have steam at one hour's notice.
(V.A. Malta, 1727B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

GEORGIC. Your 1704/21 re: GEORGIC. Concur.
(C. in C. Med. 1756B/22 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

/M.F.3 ...

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

M.F.3. Operation M.F.3. Passage of Force K to join Force B uneventful. Fighter cover from Malta over convoy from 0820/19 and later A/S patrol by Albacore(s). Unidentified plane sighted to eastward at 1000 and again at 1033. No attack on convoy until it reached searched channel when JU.88's were sighted intermittently but fighters kept them away from convoy except 2 snap attacks when 2 sticks of bombs were dropped 1 close to SIKH and 1(athwart) of convoy and later bombs fell close to LANCE. No damage or casualties. A/S Albacore was shot down by enemy fighter. Crew saved slightly wounded.
(V.A. Malta, 1759B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

Benghazi situation. Enemy advance threatens Benghazi. BAGSHOT, ABERDARE have no coal. G (5 groups omitted) Coal in MAUSANG still under ammunition and bombs, not obtainable for two days at least. In the event of evacuation intend BAGSHOT, ABERDARE to be towed by MAUSANG and HARBOE JENSEN: (corrupt groups) rigging hands (?incomplete) Navy providing extra hands (?colon) 2 A and 2 D lighters proceeding (?under own steam) to Tobruk escorted by WOLBOROUGH, SOIKA, HAILSTORM. S.O. Force "I" here.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1942B/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force I, N.L.O. 8th Army.)

F.A.A. Aircraft, Aden. It is requested you will assume operational control of Fleet Air Arm Aircraft disembarked at Aden. They will be administered by me through Fleet Air Arm, Mediterranean. N.O.I.C. Aden pass to A.O.C. Aden.
(C. in C. Med. 1954B/22 to A.O.C. British Forces Aden (R) N.O.I.C. Aden, A.O.C. M.E. R.A.(A) Med. G.H.Q. M.E. C. in C. E.I. F.O.C. Red Sea Force, Admty.)

Malta Capacity. Your 1646/20. With present scale of air attack estimate that 2,400 tons a day can be off landed from four or more ships. C. in C. please pass to P.S.T.O. Egypt and G.H.Q. M.E.
(V.A. Malta, 2133B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Nancowry. Ref. our 65405 cipher (M.O.12) 20/1. Preliminary examination suggests infantry defence force equivalent of one battalion necessary for Nancowry. Considered here Abdacom's resources insufficient to provide in which case grateful if you can provide as matter of urgency.* (W.O., 0315/22 to C. in C. India, (R) Abdacom, Batavia, C. in C. E.I.) * Abdacom please confirm to C. in C. India. Your 65310 (M.O.10) 19/1. Nancowry not essential for our air operations. No adequate garrison could be found from Abda resources. Understand there is water shortage and very bad malaria. Propose therefore to remove fuel and W/T equipment and destroy water storage and other facilities. 2. Fuel will be sent to Java. Do you agree? 3. Admty. opinion requested regarding denial of anchorage by mining. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1515/22, to W.O.)

SULTAN Sailed for Mombasa, S. of A 15 knots E.T.A. HISAR. 0600Z/27. Routed as in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1110Z/18/4/41. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0703Z/22).

Trincomalee Mines. In order to increase seaward defence of Trincomalee it is intended to lay minefield as follows. (a) 2 lines of mines covering Back Bay. (b) 1 line of mines covering Dutch Bay. (c) 2 lines of mines between Round Island and Norway Island. (d) 1 line of mines covering seaward entrance to Lake Tamblegam. These lines would be laid by TEVIOT BANK, operation commencing approx. 25/1. Number of mines required amount to 540. Minefields should retain their full efficiency until beginning next October when N.E. monsoon season commences. (C. in C. E.I., 0815Z/22 to Admty) Reply: 1631A/23.

SPETSAI. Barry advises electrical trials of Greek destroyer SPETSAI carried out satisfactorily. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0847Z/22 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 0150Z/21 EMERALD wearing the flag of C. in C. E.F., 0330Z/21 GLASGOW. Departure 1210Z/21, KALAVATI. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0949Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

Troop Movements. Following is a revised programme. (P.S.T.O. India, 1036Z/22 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

India Reinforcements No.21. Personal for C. in C. from Chiefs of Staff (India) for Burma. In view of situation developing in Burma and of the extreme importance of Burma both to you and to China we would like you to consider measures to accelerate the arrival of reinforcements.

You will appreciate that time is of the essence of the contract. Suggestions.

If by any means you can make shipping available these should be in addition to the existing programme which includes an Indian

/Infantry ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 10547/22nd Jan. III

From P.S.T.O. India.

Date 22.1.42.

Recd 2007.

Naval Cypher (C) by W/T

Addressed C. in C. East Indies, repeated D. of S.T., F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy, Arm India.

IMPORTANT.

The following is a revised and up to date programme of troop movements which have been arranged.

A. S.R.4. 5 personnel ships GRYL (VARSOVA), GFTR (ETHIOPIA), GJWN (ERINPURA), VRBR (WINGSANG), GRZC (KAROA) (? sailed) 25th January and 2 M.T. ships RISALDAR, VWDQ (JALARAJAN) sail 28th January.

B. Latest S.R.5. One Mule ship ICIQ (MANON) with 800 mules, 120 personnel sails 2nd February.

C. S.R.6. 2 personnel ships CHILKA, VRBR (WINGSANG) and 2 M.T. ships RISALDAR VWDQ (JALARAJAN) sail 15th February.

D. S.R.7. 1 Mule ship ICIQ (MANON) with 800 mules 16th February.

E. M.R.1. 3 personnel ships VPDN (KUTSANG), FOIK (PRESIDENT DOUMER), GMLS (NEURALIA) sailing 26th January.

F. M.R.2.1. personnel ship GCSL (ELLENGA) sailing 2nd February.

G. M.R.3. 4 personnel ships GRYL (VARSOVA), GFTR (ETHIOPIA), GJWN (ERINPURA), GRZC (KAROA) sailing 9th February.

H. BP 32 from Karachi. 2 personnel ships GCSF (EGRA) sailing 24th January VWJL (EL MADINA) sailing (group missing) January.

I. BP 33 7 personnel ships SUBR (KHEDEVE ISMIL) sailing 27th January CITY OF LONDON, GRYB (VARELA) sailing 28th January GMLT (NEVISA), GLZC (LANCASHIRE) 30th January GJFY (NOVA SCOTIA), GYOV (DILWARA) 1st February from Karachi 1 personnel ship (group missing KYV) 28th January.

J. Bombay Karachi one personnel ship GSMP (ESPERANCE BAY) sailed 31st January.

K. B.M.12 4 personnel ships VGKT (EMPRESS OF ASIA), FOIV (FELIX ROUSSEL) GTTV (DEVONSHIRE) PKEB (PLANCIUS) sailed 23rd January.

L. B.M.13.....

604^B

L. B.M. 13 2 personnel ships VWJC (ISLAMI)
VWJL (EL MADINA) sails 10th February.

M. B.M. 14 9 personnel ships names to be given
later sails 20th February.

N. B.A. 13 three personnel ships GJXN (TALMA)
GMSN (RAJULA), WESTERNLAND, sails 27th January.

O. B.A. 14 3 personnel ships GFFX (STRATHALLAN)
GPGP (DURBAN CASTLE), GQCV (ANDES) sails 5th February.

1036Z/22.

- 1st Lord
 - 1st S.L.
 - V.C.N.S.
 - A.C.N.S. (T)
 - A.C.N.S. (F)
 - N.A. 1st S.L.
 - D.O.D. (F)
 - D.D.O.D. (F)
 - D.N.I. (4)
 - D.S.D.
 - D. of P. (2)
 - Duty Capt. (2)
 - E.P.S.
 - Hd. of M. (8)
 - & for W.O.
 - I.P. (2)
 - W.D.
 - D.D.I.C. (2)
 - D.T.D. (4)
 - D. of S.T.
 - Admiral Somerville.)
- } Only

jr

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

India
Reinforcements
for Burma
(contd.)

Infantry Brigade arriving Burma early February. If shipping cannot be made available then we suggest it would be eminently desirable to consider the despatch of British Battalions in the shipping now allotted to the Indian troops. (W.O., 1300/22 to C. in C. India).

China.

FORAFRIC. British, 3475 tons, was sunk off Philippine Islands by enemy action on 24/12. No casualties. (D.O.R., 22/1).

Control of
Australian
Ships. Outward cable 00242. It appears that relations between Area Combined Hqs. Amboina and Darwin and S.O. Far Eastern Squadron may require definition in regard to the control of H.M. Australian Ships in the Eastern N.E.I. Archipelago. C. in C. E.F.'s 0440/15 addressed Eastern Theatre, para. 2 refers. 2. It seems that the operational control of these ships should continue to be exercised by the Area Combined H.Q. concerned, S.O. Far Eastern Squadron being kept informed. Request your early remarks as uncertainty exists at present as to the responsibility for ordering immediate movements of H.M.A. Ships in that area consequent upon receipt of enemy reports. (Abdafloat, 0630Z/22 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F., S.O. Far Eastern Sqdn., Admty.)

Malaya
Report. Sitrep No. 43 1630 G.M.T/21.
Singapore. Air raid by approx. 100 aircraft. Tengah heavily bombed. Runway unserviceable, one aircraft destroyed, several damaged and some casualties. Other bombing appeared to be indiscriminate. Casualties. 9 enemy aircraft shot down by A.A. defences. 4 Aircraft destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 4 aircraft damaged by our fighters. Our losses were two Hurricanes, 1 pilot safe, 1 missing. (Adv. H.Q., Malaya, 0704/22 to W.O. etc.)

JALARAJAN,
EIDSVOLD,
ZANNIS L.
CAMBANIS. JALARAJAN sunk by S/M 000° 18' S. 097° E, 14/1. EIDSVOLD torpedoed when stopped off Christmas Island 20/1. Ship abandoned and now a wreck. Captain and 31 survivors ashore. ZANNIS L. CAMBANIS mined and sunk 21/1 approx. 001° 15' N. 104° (? 31') E., presumably Dutch minefield. Master and one missing. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0755Z/22 to Admty.)

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Intelligence Summary 61. 0800/21 to 0800/22. 4. Enemy aircraft have made repeated attacks on naval patrols off Sabag and Medan. This is considered by R.A.M.Y. to indicate a possible infiltration into Sumatra. 5. Singapore Island again attacked by approx. 100 aircraft in 3 waves. Damage to Naval base buildings few casualties. Tengah bombed temporarily unserviceable. Extensive damage to buildings and communications. 3 dead and some slightly injured. Further damage to Singapore town over extensive business area. Civilian casualties 287 dead, 529 injured. 6. Enemy aircraft casualties. 13 destroyed certain, 3 probable, 4 damaged. (Air H.Q. F.E. 0823/22).

Defence of Burma. Appreciation and urgent need for reinforcements. (G.O.C., Burma, 1235/22 to C. in C. S.W. Pacific). See Lion Copy.

Burma Report. Mergui. Evacuation proceeding according to plan, first ship left night 20/21 with approx. 600 Army and R.A.F. and 170 civilians and stores due Rangoon a.m. 22/1. Tavoy. A number of military personnel from Tavoy reported arrived area YE. All R.A.F. ground party reported arrived safe Moulmein also number of civilian refugees. Report of small parties on west Tenasserim coast indicate some other are proceeding by sea. Moulmein area. Heavy fighting continuing. Andamans. Motor launch sighted off Kutland Island by B.O.A.C. pilot 21/1. R/C aircraft investigating 22/1. Rangoon (? all quiet). (G.O.C., Burma, 1320/22, to W.O.)

Defence of New Bases. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 22, to Supreme Commander Abda, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. India, G.O.C. East Africa A.O.C. in C. India, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A. (Begins).

- (a) The provision, administration and maintenance of efficiency of defence measures for new bases in Indian Ocean area will be the responsibility of the C. in C. of the Service which is normally responsible for each form of defence.
- (b) In isolated bases where at present there is no co-ordinating authority for defence measures, and at which the interests of one Service will pre-dominate under the new arrangements, the local Commander of that Service will be vested with limited operational control of the forces allocated for the defence of the base. The limited operational control will consist of:-
- (i) Co-ordination of the defence plan and scales of reserves.
 - (ii) Appreciation of defence requirements and making proposals for the improvement of defences.
 - (iii) Local re-deployment and adjustment of existing defences.
 - (iv) Operational command in action.
- (c) This Commander will be styled "The Officer Commanding Base." e.g. Adm. Comdg. Addu Atoll, Col. Comdg. Port Blair, Air Off. Comdg. Cocos. He will deal direct in respect of matters set out in para. (b) above, with:-
- (i) The Supreme Commander or such other authority as the latter may direct, in the Abda area.
 - (ii) The Naval, Army and Air Commanders of the area in which the base is situated, in other areas.

/(d) ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1235/22nd January

IN

From G.O.C. Burma.

Date 23.1.42.

Reed. 0125.

CIPHER

Addressed The C. in C. S.W. Pacific, Repeated C. in C. India
The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

027815 0397 cipher 20/1.

1. Reference appreciations by A.O.C. and myself and your directive must stress importance of Burma and China as air and military base for eventual reduction of Japan as well as for defence of India. It is therefore essential to provide now (repeat now) sufficient air forces and troops to hold Burma in all circumstances.
2. Experience in Malaya seems to show that paucity of communications will not prevent employment of very large nos. of Japanese and these communications are being rapidly improved. Previous estimates of scale of attack are thus invalid. There is no reason why Japan should not launch at any time an attack greater than we can withstand with troops and air forces now available. There are signs that this may have already started and I cannot guarantee safety of Burma with forces now available I have therefore asked India to accelerate despatches. If Malaya and Phillipines fall greatly increased resources will become available to Japan. Owing to lack of Intelligence and difficulty of air reconnaissance over jungle surprise attack is always possible. Scale of attack on shipping by air sea or submarine may become serious at any time and it is most desirable to get reinforcements in while conditions are good.
3. Consider a total of four divisions should be completed earliest possible and that priority should be given to provision of necessary shipping. Total includes Bns. Burma rifles which are very immature and weak with practically no trained reinforcements and thus unfit for serious fighting request that in view of urgency H.M.G. and India be asked to give absolute priority to Burma's needs over those of Mideast and Iraq. Also that one additional division should be got ready by India for despatch to Burma if necessary.
4. If investigation shows it to be practicable request authority to bring in 49th Chinese division of 6th Army in addition to 93rd and for these to become responsible for the whole N.W. Frontier of Thailand.
5. Above dispositions and reinforcements should provide reasonable degree of security and may enable some offensive action to be taken before monsoon. Am considering possibilities.
6. Provision of Air Forces to meet A.O.C.s needs is equally urgent and there is so far little sign that adequate provision is being made. Burma's situation is particularly favourable for effective air attack even after loss of Tavoy.

✓.....

7. Consider Navy should be able to take some action to control coastal waters. S.N.O.s resources are almost negligible but he can state what is needed.

1235/22.

Received from War Office at 1726/23.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (7)

D. of P. (2)

D.N.A.D.

Duty Capt. (2)

E.P.S.

P.A.S. (S)

Head of M.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

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

Admiral Somerville.

War Office Distribution:-

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. 10. 12

D.M.I.

D.D.M.I. (1)

M.I. 2. (2)

D. Mov.

Q(M) 2. 3.

Q.M.G.

D.Q.M.G.

Q (Ops.)

C.N.S. Admiralty

D. of Plans Admiralty

Head of War Registry, Admiralty

C.A.S. (Air Ministry)

D. of Plans, Air Ministry

Burma Office (War Staff) (3)

Foreign Office (Mr. Sterndale Bennett)

Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China, contd):

Defence of New Bases. (contd.) (d) The Chiefs of Staff when communicating plans for the defences of new Bases will as necessary recommend the appointment of an O.C. Base. An O.C. Base, should, however, be appointed locally for any base or area, if the C. in C. concerned consider such action is desirable. Admty., W.O., and A.M., should be informed by message of such appointments. (Ends.)
C. in C. E.I. pass to G.O.C. Ceylon.
(1st S.L. 1623A/22 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.
(R) F.O.I.C. Simonstown, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Japanese force of warships and transports. 00256 22/1. My 00171 (?00176) 20/1 this force has since been reported in Taradan (? Tarakan). (Abdacom, 1646/22).

Denial of facilities at Penang. Your 63834 (M.O.10) 12/1. (0201/13, N.T. in W.D.) Regret delay in replying caused by efforts to obtain further details which have failed. See Governor Straits Settlements telegram 52, 16th to Colonial Office which answers your A and B.
C. and D. Have been unable to obtain any more information from Navy or civil. Assembly and use of craft for West Coast landings could have been prevented only by strong Naval and Air Forces which were not available. Fact that craft had been left at Penang was reported to C. in C. E.F. who decided to mine Penang South channel which was done.
E. Not known whether delay action demolitions were successful. Late Commander Penang fortress is Brig. C.A. Lyon who left for U.K. (G.O.C., Malaya, 1758/22 to W.O.)

Abdacom Naval Appreciation. From Gen. Wavell to Chiefs of Staff. Your message No. S.W.P.7 19/1 (2002/19) and C.O.S.(W) 4 (0820/15) to Combined Chiefs of Staff Washington. Following are my views after consulting Adm. Hart.

1. Concur that surface attack on reinforcement convoys must eventually be expected. Escorts are at present normally provided by British and Dutch Forces strengthened by retention of E.I. or Australian cruisers through Abda area as far as Singapore, which reduces their availability outside the Abda area.
2. Present American force of cruisers and destroyers is inadequate for performance of duties of (A) Covering Malayan convoys.
(B) Preventing Japanese Southward advance eastward of Borneo.
(C) Providing cover and escort for U.S. reinforcements entering Abda area through Torres Strait.
3. Need for A/S destroyers or other escorting vessels is increasing since all important merchant vessels have had to be put in convoy owing to submarine activity.
4. Noted that no further British cruiser reinforcements can be expected and that the five Eastern Fleet destroyers now in area are planned for withdrawal when E.F. arrives in Indian Ocean.
5. Obvious that further Japanese success against Malayan and Northern and Central N.E.I. aerodromes would eventually make it possible for them to employ heavy ships and carriers in the Java, Flores, and Banda Seas against which not less than a portion of Eastern Fleet would be effective. Till the arrival of that Fleet,

/what ...

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. contd.

Abdacom Naval what is needed is a modern cruiser and modern
Appreciation. destroyer force capable of
(contd.) (A) Providing cover for convoys whose close escort
would consist of old cruisers and destroyers.
(B) Acting as an effective striking force at
detached units of enemy and for raiding operations.
(C) Making use of speed to extricate themselves if faced by
unacceptable odds.

6. Considered that minimum striking and covering Force required
is 4 cruisers, either 8" or large 6", and 9 modern destroyers.
These would comprise a powerful striking force if concentrated
or two adequate covering forces if separated. Of these one 8"
and one large 6" cruiser only are at present available in area
and latter is now damaged and may be out of action for some time.
The immediate cruiser and destroyer reinforcement required is
therefore 3 8" or large 6" and 9 modern destroyers.

7. British and Dutch cruisers and destroyers (less 5 British
destroyers if returned to Eastern Fleet) and the old American
6" cruiser and destroyers now in the area would be employed as
escorts for the reinforcement and merchant convoys.

8. A great addition to the security of convoys and the striking
force would be the provision of two A.A. cruisers in the
Abda area.

9. As well as reinforcements in Paras. 6 and 8 there is need for
additional A/S and M/S vessels and for local defence material
which will form subject of further signal.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1815/22, to W.O. (R) J.S.M. Washington).

Air Report. Singapore raided a.m. 22/1 by two formations each
of 27 heavy bombers escorted by fighters.
Sembawang aerodrome rendered unserviceable several
bombs on main runway. Two Glenn Martins destroyed, 4 Hudsons and
3 Glenn Martins damaged. No R.A.F. casualties. Kaylang also
attacked with damage to hangars and buildings. Two Buffaloes
destroyed on ground. Light R.A.F. casualties.
(A.H.Q., F.E., 1927/22, to Air Min.)

Burma Your 0397 and Stevensons 441.
Situation. 1. Can add little to my 00208. I have no resources
with which I can assist you. India as usual is
providing all possible help (Armindia 1349G).
Cannot understand why with troops at your disposal you should be
unable to hold Moulmein and trust you will do so. Nature of
country and resources must limit Japanese effort.

2. If necessary you should withdraw troops from North and replace
with Chinese.

3. You are doubtless watching for any sign of Japanese attempt
to use boats for landing forces from vicinity of Mergui or Tavoy
towards Rangoon.

4. Ref. para. 4 0803. Japanese have not yet employed anything in
nature of 600 planes against any objective and most unlikely they
can do so against Rangoon.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 2010/22, to G.O.C. Burma).

Moulmein Raid. Intelligence Summary 24, 1800 hours 21/1 to 1800
hours 22/1. Moulmein bombed 1010 hours local
time by 10 enemy aircraft with escort of 16 fighters

/Aerodrome ...

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. contd.-

Moulmein Raid. Aerodrome already partially evacuated, 1 unserviceable Blenheim 1 damaged, 1 hangar burnt, no casualties. (Norgroup, No. T.O.O./22 to Abdacom).
(contd.)

America & West Indies.

DAY ROSE. Torpedoed near Cape Race on 15/1, is presumed to have sunk (D.S., 870).

SURREY. C. in C. A.W.I., 1013P/21 CAVINA is to proceed to assistance of SURREY reported rudder lost in position 091° 850 miles, from Bermuda at 0930/21. SURREY is to be towed towards Bermuda and endeavour will be made to send tug. (S.O.W.P., 0124A/22 to CAVINA). *See p. 596*

NORTH GASPE torpedoes. Following received from Camperdown intercepted from Cape Race Radio W U V Z (undecypherable in W.R., but apparently NORTH GASPE) torpedoes 4 miles off Cape Race, 46.38 N. 53.00 W. bearing from Canso 75° approx. (Halifax, N.S., 0211Z/22 to Admty.) Also received from C. in C. Plymouth, ex Lands End Radio, no T.O.O., C. in C. Rosyth, ex Cullercoats Radio, no T.O.O., and Freetown W/T, 0800/22. NORTH GASPE torpedoes 46.38 N. 53.00 W. about 0200 G.M.T./22, chartered by U.S. Army. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0346Z/22 to F.O.N.F.)

WILLIAM HANSEN torpedoes. Following has been received, addressed, Admiralty, Canadian Minesweeper GEORGIAN reports contact with submarine and WILLIAM HANSEN torpedoes off Ferry Land Head South Bay Bullis. (F.O.N.F., 0231Z/22).

A/C attack on U/B. Catalina W8432 attacked enemy submarine at 1855 G.M.T. in 45.13 N., 58.07W. Two depth charges dropped. 5 minutes later definite oil bubbles and patches appeared remained over area for 2 hours 47 mins. At 2040 G.M.T. Catalina W8431 dropped two depth charges same position remained over area 35 mins. Oil still rising. (A.O.C., E.A.C., 0359/22 to Air Min)

U/B. D/F bearings at 0515Z/22 indicate submarine within 100 miles of 47° 30' N. 51° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0757Z/22 to Brit. Warships Area 7A., etc.)

/ D/F ...

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.U/B.
(contd.)

D/F bearings at 0216Z and at 0314Z indicate submarine in the vicinity of 044° N. (? 067°) (30') W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1330Z/22 to Brit. Warships, Area 7A, etc.)

Washington Report.

Washops 42 (1) Philippine Islands. The harbour of Cebu was attacked by 17 Bombers on 18/1. Damage to shipping in harbour severe. Aerodrome untouched. Commander, P.I. reported 21/1 enemy pressure in Luzon increasing rapidly. Enemy is landing new force in Subic Bay and Lingayen Gulf area.

(2) N.E.I. U.S. Military Observer Bandoeng reports following objectives bombed 20/1. Bandjermasin (South Strait) Belawan (Port area Medan in North Sumatra) Pangkalan Boeoen (S.W.Coast of Borneo). No military damage at Bandjermasin but a flying boat was destroyed. Demolition of Samarinda oil field in Eastern Borneo has been accomplished.

(3) New Guinea area. U.S. Military observer Melbourne stated 20/1 that reports were received from Tabar Kavieng Lorengao (Admiralty-Island) that Japanese were carrying out air R/C. This preceded a heavy attack on Rabaul (New Britain) on 20/1. More than 100 aircraft fighter and bomber carried out attack. On 21/1 60 aircraft attacked Kavieng (New Ireland) 50 aircraft attacked Salamao (New Guinea) and other objectives in that (?area). A light attack was made on Madang (New Guinea). Flying boats, carrier based and shore based aircraft were used in these attacks. Damage believed considerable. (J.S.M. Washington, 1345R/22 to Admty. etc.)

CIRCA^SSSIA.
A

A.M's 1350A/15 and 1805A/5. CIRCA^SSSIA can be taken in hand for docking and refit about mid-February by Harland & Wolff, Belfast.

2. Request CIRCA^SSSIA's anticipated date of arrival in U.K. may be signalled. (D.O.D.(F) 1402A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

BARFLEUR.

French X C L BARFLEUR departs Fort de France evening 23/1 for Guadeloupe. Returning to Martinique 26/1. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1405Z/22 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. Lant, Carib N.C.F.)

Ship Attacked by U/B.

Sub. on surface attacking steamer 42° 53' N. 61° W. at about 1320 G.C.T./22. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1409/22 to C. in C. Lant (R) C.N.A.N.C.F. Comtask for 4, C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty., C. in C.A.W.I.)

U.S.S. CAMPBELL at 1315 G.M.T. in 042° 53' N. 061° 00' W. sighted submarine on surface apparently engaged with steamer. S/M submerged and surface vessel answered challenge with G.C.Q.J., call assigned to British A.M.C. KING GRUFFYD. S/M surfaced 1430 in 042° 44' N. 060° 50' W. and submerged when fired on. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2228/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C. Newfoundland). KING GRUFFYD is at Table Bay. (D.D.I.C., 1023A/23).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- O N 57. U.S. escort Commander was unable to sail O N J 57 separately. That part of Opnav Serial 9 was cancelled by Serial 10. ACONITE escorting S.S. ONEIDA back to Reykjavik with serious list due shifting ballast had not rejoined. KENOGAMI returned to same port with hospital patient. (Opnav, 1504/22 to Admty.)
- Vichy Shipping. Meter. Ref. my 2019/21. Owing cypher error report wrongly received. Ships are not believed proceeding Madagascar. (B.A.D., 1507R/22 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)
- South American States. Adm. King referred yesterday to South Atlantic S. of 020° S. in Western Hemisphere and said he hoped S.A. States would assume full belligerent status and take over this area with a "Token" ship of U.S. Navy. Embassy tells me there is no sign of this at present and best will be a unanimous decision to "sever diplomatic relations" with Axis. (B.A.D., 1529R/22 to Admty. for 1st S.L.)
- O N 59. O N 59, serial 4, convoy sailing postponed until 23rd. (Opnav, 1537/22 to Com Task Unit 4.1.2.)
- W.H. LIBBY,
VANJA,
NYHOLT. Your 1758N/4. Panamanian W.H. LIBBY, Norwegian VANJA and Norwegian NYHOLT have not arrived New York. Have you further information? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1617Z/22 to N.C.S.O. Reykjavik).
- READING,
RESTIGOUCHE. A.M. 0036A/13 (?0036/17 intended). (1) Request READING may be sailed to arrive St. John's N.F. not later than 4/2 to sail with escort S C 68. (2) Also desirable RESTIGOUCHE arrive St. John's N.F. not later than 11/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1630Z/22 to Admty.)
- BURWELL,
RAMSEY. My 1115/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Navy Dept. have requested the use of BURWELL and RAMSEY to escort QUEEN MARY since they have no suitable vessel available. Intended to place these destroyers at disposal of Commandant, North Atlantic Naval Coastal Frontier, in anticipation of approval of C. in C.A.W.I. (B.A.D., 1641R/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 1641R/22. Concur.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2202P/22 to B.A.D.)
- Ice Precautions. Masters of all ships bound for ports on East coast of Canada are to be advised to take appropriate measures to prevent freezing of winches, deck service pipes and telemotor and other steering gear. (D.T.D. 1656A/22 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

N A 2. Convoy N A 2 composed of VOLENDAM and GEORGE WASHINGTON will be ready to leave Halifax carrying personnel for U.K. on 26/1. 2. Speed 14 knots. 3. Destination of VOLENDAM is Clyde, GEORGE WASHINGTON Liverpool. 4. Through A/S escort will be provided by FIREDRAKE and BELMONT also MONTGOMERY if repairs have been completed before convoy sails. 5. Delay up to three days in sailing of convoy can be accepted if inclusion of GEORGE WASHINGTON in accordance with A.M. 1637A/16 can thereby be effected. 6. If GEORGE WASHINGTON cannot comply with conditions convoy will consist of VOLENDAM only and sail on 26/1 in accordance with your 1553Z/20. 7. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail convoy as requisite to position "X" in 42° N. 57° W. 8. Admty. will promulgate onward route to U.K. 9. Date of sailing and composition of convoy should be signalled as soon as decided. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1733A/22 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

U/B's. S/M sighted attacked by A/C in 048° 03' N. 051° 25' W. at 1542Z/22. S/M sighted by A/C in 046° 20' N. 052° 42' W. at 1515Z/22. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1800Z/22 to Admty.)

VAN KINSBERGEN. My 2008A/19/12. When U.S.A. Naval Authorities release VAN KINSBERGEN from this service she should be sailed to U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 1801A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

EXTERMINATOR. EXTERMINATOR (Panama) arrived St. John's N.F. 21/1 from S C 65 with damage to steering gear. (N.C.S.O. St. John's 1810Z/22 to Admty.)

FRANCIS SALMAN. FRANCIS SALMAN (U.S.) sailed from St. John's N.F. 17/1 due Cornerbrook 20/1 has not arrived. (N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 1815Z/22).

Pacific Defence. For Joint Staff Mission. Your 1953R/20. First reference to C. in C. E.F., 0504Z/15 in para. 1. of C.O.S. (W) 4 is incorrect and should read "extract from his signal 0549Z/15 reads." Except for opening sentence, which reads "we have now successfully passed 3 convoys through to Singapore," the whole of this message is quoted in C.O.S. No. (W) 4, para. 1. 2. C. in C. E.F., 0504Z/15 referred to in para. 2 of C.O.S. No. (W) 4 was repeated to B.A.D. Washington originally. (1st S.L., 1818A/22 to B.A.D.)

U/B. D/F bearings at 1335Z indicate submarine within 100 miles of 44° 30' N. 30° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1908Z/22 to Admty. C. in C.A.W.I. etc.)

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- WARSPITE. My 1205R/21 para. 4. 2 Canadian corvettes will escort WARSPITE until passed Swiftsure Light Vessel. One U.S. Destroyer from Esquimalt as far as parallel of 042° 00' N. from there onward air escort to 035° 00' N. and possibly further.
(B.A.D. 1915R/22 to Admty.)
- DIOMEDE. DIOMEDE coming under your orders from 0001 G.M.T. 25/1. She will maintain watch on "Fox" scheduled until other arrangements are made.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1940/22 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) C. in C. A.W.I., DIOMEDE, Admty. Cmdr. Task Force No.3).
- Japanese use of Gas. Your number (W) 7 (2259A/19). U.S. Authorities concur in your suggestion and await contents of further reports on which they hope to be kept informed.
(J.S.M. Washington, 1953R/22 to Chiefs of Staff).
- HAMILTON. (?) Complying with (corrupt group) reference (?) 1500Z/22. Ref. my (?) 2217Z/21, no contact obtained from patterns dropped on heaviest part of oil patch, no visible results. E.T.A. Halifax ((?)2100)Z/23rd. FREDERICTON, CLAYQUOT, SASKATOON, WEYBURN in company.
(HAMILTON, 2000Z/22 to C.O.A.C. Halifax). *NT in W.D.
- PICTOU. My 1900Z/8. Defects PICTOU completed.
(C.O.A.C., 2000Z/22 to N.S.H.Q.)
- PRINSES MARIA-PIA. My 1835Z/19 should have read as follows -
Report of torpedoed tanker. "Belgian PRINSES MARIA-PIA reported torpedoed and helpless tanker in position bearing 112° 420 miles from Cape Race at 0200Z/19. Drifting S.E. at about 2 miles per hour. Standing by but unable to render assistance." (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2045Z/22 to G.B.7.A., N.S.H.Q., Opanav, B.A.D., etc.)
- VICTOR H. KELLY, My 2138Z/20. U.S. Ships VICTOR H. KELLY sailed
J.A. MOFFETT, San Pedro 12/1 for San Francisco. J.A. MOFFETT
HUGUENOT. sailed San Diego 4/1 for San Francisco.
HUGUENOT in San Francisco 20/1.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2057Z/22 to Admty.)
- U/B's. One sub. reported 49° N. 48° 20' W. about 1610 G.C.T./22, two more sighted on surface at 1517 G.C.T./22 39° 20' N. 74° 05' W.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2101Z/22 to Info. Admty., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. A.W.I., Bermuda, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary.22.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.ATHELCROWN
torpedoed.

Following received from Camperdown N.S. Radio V C S
2219 G.M.T. 3333 45.06 N. 40.56 W.
ATHELCROWN torpedoed 2210 G.M.T/22 (signed O.I.C.
2239Z/22 C. in C. Plymouth, 2341/22, Port Patrick
Radio, 2341/22) W.D. Note. Last 2 signals give
position 45.00 N., 40.56 W.

STEEL
TRAVELER.

My 1719R/21. Ship arrived.
(S.O.I., Jamaica, 2301R/22, to N.S.H. Q. Ottawa etc.

Australia & New Zealand.Enemy
Landings.

Japanese forces have landed Mussau Island and at
Kapsu, New Ireland, (approx. 002° 40' S. 151°
04' E.) (A.C.N.B., 0057Z/22 to Admty., F.O. Java,
C.Z.M., N.O.I.C. Darwin, C. in C. Pacific Fleet
(U.S.) Naval Board, Wellington, F.O.C. Australian
Squadron Abdacom, Abdafloat).

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Departure Brisbane 0400Z/21 Free F.S.
LE TRIOMPHANT for Sydney (N.S.W.)
(A.C.N.B., 0111Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

New Zealand
Report.

Maori 4. (i) Daily R/C of Gilbert Is. since 14/1
apparently by 2 flying boats based at Makin.
(ii) Japanese R/C of Ellice Is. 17/1 and 20/1.
(iii) 19/1 fresh oil patch about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in extent
seen 14 miles south of Suva.
(iv) 8 survivors landed at Tarawa Island 17/1 from Panamanian
DONERAIL sunk by gunfire from S/M 9/12, ~~S.E. of Bombay~~
(N.Z.N.B., 0342Z/22 to Admty., etc.) *480 miles NE of Christmas.*

Australia
Report.

Digest serial number 3. 2 8" and 2 6" enemy
cruisers sighted by Catalina 0431Z/21 in 003°
22' S. 150° 09' E. course 130° Japanese Force
landed Mussau Island and at Kapsu (002° 41' S.
151° 04' E.) a.m./22nd. On 21/1 enemy aircraft
carried out widespread attack on New Guinea namely at Kavieng,
Lorengau, Salamoia, Bulolo. Several civil aircraft and one Hudson
destroyed in attack on Salamoia and Bulolo. Bombers were supported
by "O" type fighters (corrupt group) Kapsu and Port Kennedy.
(A.C.N.B., 0614Z/22 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.,
C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.Z.N.B., CZM., Opanav., C. in C. U.S. Asiatic
Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet).

/DONERAIL ...

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - contd.

DONERAIL.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1923/15 and my 1600/21. Reported that Panamanian DONERAIL was sunk on 9/12 by gunfire from Submarine when S.E. of Hawaii Islands.
(N.Z.N.B., 0934Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

S.S. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Your 0309Z/21 to D. of S.T. Undertaking has been given to U.S. Govt. that QUEEN ELIZABETH shall be immediately available to transport personnel from San Francisco to Abda area. Delay in proceeding via the Cape would be unacceptable.

2. It would appear that if arrangements can be made to top up with oil fuel to capacity at, say, Firth of Thames, Auckland, she should have sufficient endurance to make the onward voyage to San Francisco in one leg by more or less a direct route.

3. Consideration might also be given to embarking an emergency reserve in barrels.

(D.O.D.(F). Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1958A/22 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

22.1.1942.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approximate positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C., 1415Z/22, 1421A/22).

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Whilst present enemy dispositions remain it will be necessary to maintain the major portion of the Home Fleet at Hvalfjord.

The agreed areas of responsibility of British and U.S. Naval Authorities in the Atlantic are given in C. in C. S.A. 1447Z/23.

B.A.D. Washington sent today a statement of the proposals as to North Atlantic escort operations, resulting from a conference of representatives of the three services concerned.

British Air Operations.

6 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Dunkirk last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Oiler SAN ZOTICO was unsuccessfully bombed in Skaale Fiord at 1256 today. N.O.I.C. Faeroes has asked for close Skaale air patrol to be flown whilst oiler remains here.

Mining.

Operation
S N 26 B.

AGAMEMNON with ST. MARYS laid mines today off the Butt of Lewis.

3 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Is. and 2 in the Jade and Weser Rivers.

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

There were continual air raids on Malta last night and today. The targets being the Grand Harbour and Hal Far, which latter received some damage. Slight damage was caused to ships in harbour.

The enemy are evidently attempting to run an important convoy across to Tripoli. A large enemy naval force is at sea, apparently conveying a liner and 3 large merchant vessels. At 1500B 1 battleship, 4 cruisers, 15 destroyers and 3 merchant vessels were reported in 33° 30' N. 17° 40' E. steering 190° at 15 knots and at 1534B 1 battleship, 5 destroyers were in 34° 10' N. 18° 15' E. steering 180° at 18 knots; later, the number of merchant vessels was reported to be 4. Submarines have been disposed to intercept them. Aircraft from Egypt and Western Desert attacked at intervals throughout the day but no direct hits are claimed. Albatrosses at 1838 attacked and obtained a hit with torpedo on the 20,000 ton liner and on a destroyer in 33° 28' N. 17° 58' E. 7 Wellingtons from Malta attacked between 2119 and 2300 and report two large explosions on the liner, probable hits on 2 other merchant vessels and on a warship believed to be a cruiser; as the result of this attack the convoy stopped.

Captain S 10 reports that P 35 torpedoed and sunk S.S. RAMPINO (salvage vessel) which she mistook for a U-Boat, in 35° 59' N. 10° 46' E. at 0320/17, well outside territorial waters off Cape Kuriat.

ISAAC SWEERS is to proceed to the Abda area as soon as convenient.

China.

Burma.

There were 2 air raids on Rangoon today, No damage is reported, but it is believed the enemy suffered heavy loss.

With regard to the operations of enemy submarines off Rangoon the Governor of Burma points out the complications which any serious dislocation of our sea communications to India will cause. Up to date his appeals for naval forces to operate from Burma waters have been turned down. He has

/one ...

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.China.

one M.L. on patrol and two making their way back from Mergui and if the Japanese have also laid a few mines as the R.N.O. anticipates his problem will be even more difficult. The R.N.O. is not stopping sailings from Rangoon, else the port will become intolerably congested, as every outward bound ship is a refugee ship.

Malaya.

Singapore Island was raided today; some damage was caused at Seletar Aerodrome where some aircraft were damaged and destroyed. Kluang Aerodrome has been demolished.

N.E.I.

*Action in
Macassar
Strait.*

A Japanese convoy of 31 vessels was sighted today in Macassar Strait, about 100 miles N.E. of Balik Papan, steering south; U.S. S/M STURGEON attacked the convoy last night and hit a large cruiser or aircraft carrier, which is believed to have sunk. Dutch bombers this evening obtained 12 direct hits on 8 Japanese warships and transports, all the aircraft returning safely. The Balik Papan oil fields have been set on fire without waiting for enemy attack. 27 enemy bombers attacked Palembang today, causing superficial damage to the Aerodrome. The Dutch authorities informed F.O. Java today without prior warning that there is no oil fuel remaining in Batavia. Fuel is required in the next 48 hours for two 8 inch cruisers and several destroyers. F.O. Java is diverting to Batavia a tanker bound for Australia.

Philippines.

U.S. military losses amount to 35% of the entire force.

America & West Indies.

At 0620 G.C.T. today a burning tanker or burning oil from a sunken tanker was reported in approx. 42° 36' N. 61° 0' W.

Norwegian tanker LEIESTEN was torpedoed at 1325 G.M.T. in 45° 27' N. 43° 19' W.

/Honduras ...

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Honduras S.S. TANAMO reported at 2308 G.M.T. that she was zigzagging to evade a submarine in 36° 23' N. 74° 22' W.

S.S. THIRLBY was torpedoed and sunk at 0600Z today, 12 miles 240° from Seal Island, Cape Sable.

Minesweepers. Admiralty concur in the request made by Canada on 13/1 that 6 R.N. BANGOR class minesweepers building on the Pacific Coast shall be allocated temporarily to the Pacific Coast Force. The R.C.N. will man 4 of them for as long as they remain in Canadian waters.

Australia & New Zealand.

Japanese Marines landed at Kavieng today; the aerodrome has been demolished.

A launch from Apia was attacked at 0030Z today in 11° 40' S. 172° 30' W. by a single engine seaplane which carried U.S. markings but is thought to have been Japanese.

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23.1.1942.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Far East
Situation.

Your 1655/19. ^(p. 496A) It is difficult at present to show Far East situation in a favourable light. Japanese have command of the sea north of line Sumatra Java Darwin and at present are making good use of it to land where they like. It will take time to restore situation in view of our and U.S. naval losses. Looking ahead, however, there are the following points which might be useful. First. Military power of Japan is a wasting asset in view of almost complete blockade being exerted by denial of imports at source. In particular shortage of oil and steel should prove serious embarrassment. Second. When it has been possible to restore balance of naval strength vis-a-vis Japan the assets which Japan is now seizing will turn into liabilities which they will have great difficulty in maintaining without dissipating their naval strength and thus putting themselves in a position of Naval inferiority. Third. All that Japan is now gaining must inevitably be lost as soon as Germany is beaten and combined British and U.S. forces are turned against Japan. (A.C.N.S. [F] 0022A/23 to N.A. Stockholm).

Railway
from
Murmansk.

My 1506A/22. Later information reveals that attack occurred 50 miles south of Clarkka Belomorsk Party of 500 Finns succeeded cutting railway line at May Cuba in 63° 48' N., before being driven back. Effects of this raid only likely to effect Medvejegorsk Sector. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1122A/23).

JASON.
GLEANER.

It has been decided that JASON and GLEANER are to be converted to Fleet Minesweepers on the next occasion they are taken in hand for refit. (D.M.S. 1140A/23).

Your 1140A/23. Not to C. in C. W.A. GLEANER cannot be spared to commence refit until about 3/2. My 1119/11/1. If one or both of these ships are removed from escort duty in my command it is requested they may be replaced by other suitable escort vessels. If these two ships are removed without relief, not more than 50% of E.N. and W.N. convoys will be able to have a sloop escort which I consider to be absolutely essential both for A.A. protection and for controlling the convoys. (C. in C. Rosyth 1555/23 to Admty.)

British and
U.S.A.
Naval
Inter-
communication.

Your 1650A/19. Instructions have now been issued by C. in C. U.S. Fleet as in my 1815R/18. (B.A.D. 1327R/23 to Adty.)

H.F. at
Hvalfiord.

While present enemy dispositions remain it will be necessary to maintain the major portion of Home Fleet at Hvalfiord. Request early action to despatch food supplies for 11,000 men as in paras. (3) and (4) either in R.U. convoy or from North America. (C. in C. H.F. 1514A/23 to Admty.)

/Repair.....

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy-Contd.

Repair
Priority
List.

Your 1950/21 implies that destroyer work already has priority over all other work. The last priority instructions received are contained in D.O. 15958/41 dated 17/9/41 which shows destroyers priority 5 (ships of the active fleet). In view of 1950/21 it is assumed priority list should now read:- 1. Destroyers. 2. SIRIUS. 3. ANTONIA. 4. Ships of the active fleet. 5. CAMERON (Experimental work). 6. Submarines P.327 and P.328. 7. A.F.D.S. XVIII and XXI. Confirmation is requested. (A.S. Portsmouth 1949A/23).

Movements.

AUSONIA.
RANPURA.
GARLAND.

Admiralty 1350A/15. Intend sailing AUSONIA, RANPURA, and GARLAND to pass Clyde Boom 0100A/25 to R/V with SHERWOOD from Londonderry in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0930A/25, thence Halifax as in C. in C. W.A. 1049A/21.
2. S. of A. 14 knots to R/V thereafter 13 knots. (S.O.W.P. 0900A/23).

NORFOLK.
WORCESTER.
LAIRDS ISLE.

WORCESTER proceeding passing Switha 1745 today to R/V off Hoxa with NORFOLK at 1800. Provide S.A. escort to Tyne in accordance with C.S.1. 1602A/22. (corrupt group).
2. LAIRDS ISLE from Rosyth will join in the vicinity

26 buoy and provide additional escort.

(R.A.D. H.F. 0942A/23).

Scapa departure C.S. One in NORFOLK escorted by WORCESTER.

(A.C.O.S. 1644A/23).

My 1602A/22.

(1) WORCESTER, unable to keep up owing to weather, is following NORFOLK.

(2) After R/V intend proceeding at maximum speed which LAIRDS ISLE can maintain.

(3) N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne requested to state latest time NORFOLK can be received at Pierheads.

(4) If unable to make this time intend to proceed Rosyth.

(C.S.1. 1836A/23)

My 1836A/23. (1) Intend to proceed to Rosyth. E.T.A. 0530A/24.

(2) WORCESTER is to follow to Rosyth (3) If not met by 0245A

LAIRDS ISLE is to return to Rosyth. C. in C. Rosyth pass to

LAIRDS ISLE. (C.S.1. 2216A/23).

Your 1836A/23. Up to 1600. Not later, owing to flood tide

making. (N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne 2320A/23 to C.S.1.)

SEAWOLF.

LA CAPRICIEUSE unable to R/V. Proceed independently to Lerwick, local authorities warned (F.O.S. 1036A/23 to SEAWOLF).

Request my position by D/F Bearing. (SEAWOLF 1600A/23).

My 1551/23. Nothing heard. Make P ones on 375 K/Cs at 1900A for 3 minutes. (D.S.D. 1728A/23 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).

Your 1600A/23. Following from Admiralty to LA CAPRICIEUSE. No fix obtainable at 1900A. (Capt. S.9. 2201A/23 to SEAWOLF).

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

PANDORA. Intend sailing PANDORA 1600R/24 routed direct. E.T.A. Bermuda 1200Q/27. In view of presence of enemy S/M PANDORA will be diving by day on 25/1. Request all U.S.A. Authorities be informed. (B.N.L.O. Portsmouth 1103R/23).
should be under A.T.W.I. p. 648

^A
DORICA. Adty. 2006/3/1, my 1200/5/1, 1225/9/1 and 1425/17/1
DERINCE. These ships will be ready to sail on 26/1.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1130/23).

MAUVENET. Intend to sail MAUVENET 1630A/23 Southabout. E.T.A. Clyde 1200A/24. Speed trials will be carried out A.M./24 South of Cumbraes and East of Arran. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1135A/23).

PLOVER. Intend to postpone sailing of PLOVER escorted
ADAM. by ADAM until 2000 tomorrow due to weather. Speed on passage 8 knots. E.T.A. Portsmouth 0930/25. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail ADAM for Dover as convenient making the latter part of the passage in darkness. (V.A. Dover 1151/23).

CAIRO. When ready for sea request you will sail CAIRO for Scapa to work up. (D.O.D. H. 1405A/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.) A.M. 1405A/23. Anticipate sailing CAIRO 5/2. (C. in C. Plymouth 2107/23).

P.551. (1) Intend sailing P.551, RUBIS, and UREDD
RUBIS. escorted by WHITE BEAR at 1700A/26 for Scapa
UREDD. E.T.A. 1500A/28.
(2) Thence P.551, RUBIS, and WHITE BEAR proceed Dundee. E.T.A. 0800A/29.
(3) Thence WHITE BEAR and P.551 proceed Blyth. E.T.A. 1700A/29.
(5) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange following fighter co-operation.
(Capt. S.3. 1439A/23).

SEVERN. R/V CAMBRIDGESHIRE and KINGSTON CEYLONITE 050°
CAMBRIDGESHIRE 31', 000° 41' at 0845/24. Both may be flying
KINGSTON balloons.
CEYLONITE. (2) Sanctuary in force 0745 to 1145.
GARTH. (3) Weather permitting 3 A/C will be near R/V to assist making contact with trawler.
(4) Movements affecting you tonight GARTH arrives junction Q.Z.S. 169 and 271 from east at daylight. (Capt. S.5. 1703A/23 to SEVERN.)

NEWCASTLE. A.M. 1332A/15. Anticipate sailing NEWCASTLE 27/1. (C. in C. Plymouth 2105A/23).

/ALHERNI.....

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

ALBERNI. ^{N.T.K.W.D.} My 0900/22. Delete ALBERNI included in error.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2214A/23).

Operations.

Patrols. Patrol C. and D. not required tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 0932A/23).
Brightlingsea patrols sheltering in Harbour until
weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1140A/23).
Brightlingsea and Harwich Auxiliary and M/S Patrols remaining
in Harbour until weather moderates.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1553A/23).
Night 23/24. No patrols due to weather. (V.A. Dover 1555A/23).

Operation "Magnet". A.M. 1354A/22. Operation "Magnet". Intend
sailing M/S Flot. 13 consisting of FELIXSTOWE,
EASTBOURNE, PETERHEAD 0500A/24 to proceed to
000° Inistrahull 5 miles. Request M/S Flot. 13
may be informed of details of route to be followed
from this position and meeting position for
Convoy. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1302A/23).

Operation E.M. Sail at daylight tomorrow for Scapa with despatch.
(R.A.D. 2225A/23 to CALPE).

British Air Activity.

Escort for S.N.26 B. My 1715/22 A/C cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1257/23 to R.A.M.)

Skaale Fiord (Faroes). Consider it most desirable that a close air
patrol of Skaale Fiord should be flown while
Oiler SAN ZOTICO remains here. (N.O.I.C. Faroes
1540A/23).
F.O.I.C. Faeroes 1540/23. Request that this
Patrol of Skaale Fiord may be arranged.
(A.C.O.S. 1800/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

A/C for Wick. Four aircraft of 612 Squadron to move from Iceland
to Wick forthwith on operational requirements.
Maintenance personnel not required to move.
Duration of detachment not known. (H.Q.C.C.
1903A/23 to R.A.F. Iceland).

Four aircraft 612 being despatched tomorrow morning weather
permitting. E.T.A. 0730 G.M.T. (R.A.F. Iceland 2331/23 to
H.Q.C.C.)

Hurricane II aircraft may be seen flying with 2 cannon underslung
from the wings, a tail span apart protruding in front of the
leading edge of the wing. Aircraft bears standard operational
camouflage colouring and marking. Request notification to all
pilots and A.A. defences may be confirmed.
(Air Ministry. Recd. 0930/24).

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

625

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Ships
through
Skopenfiord.

There will be a considerable number of ships passing through Skopenfiord during the next few days. You are to report by immediate signal if you have any reason to suppose any of these ships has been sighted by enemy aircraft. (A.C.O.S. 1128A/23 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).

SAN
ZOTICO
attacked. ✓

One JU 88 attacked oiler SAN ZOTICO in Skaale Fiord at 1258 today. Attack was made from 3000 feet. All bombs missed, no damage or casualties. Own Hudson aircraft patrolling over Nolso at time of attack. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1540A/23).

MILFORD
PRINCESS
(M/S Trawler)
damaged.

MILFORD PRINCESS was attacked by enemy A/C at 1816A/21 when in vicinity of No. 55A Buoy. Damage by 4 near misses, boiler room holed and auxiliary machinery damaged. Vessel was towed into Yarmouth by ARKWRIGHT and subsequently rescue tug KROOMAN, and arrived in harbour at 0200A/22. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1822A/23).

Mining.

S.N.17. ✓

Your 1137/21. Concur. ADVENTURE or MANXMAN will probably be available. (A.C.N.S. H. 0023A/23 to R.A.M.)

Operation
"Q.O."

Operation "Q.O." postponed today until 29th. (C. in C. Nore 0920A/23).

Gap E.

Your 1916A/29/12 para. 2. For any future operation that may be ordered in Eastern North Sea consider route south of mine barrier would be preferable to gap E in view of S.O. 9th M/S Flot. negative report of yesterday. Propose therefore that gap E be closed. Before laying can take place sweeping will be necessary. If you concur propose to organise an operation in conjunction with 11 Group on completion of operation "Q.O.". Request I may be informed of date PLOVER will be available for operations in the Nore Command. (C. in C. Nore 1150A/23 to Admty.)

Thames
Estuary.

One Ground Mine detonated at 1455/22. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1236/23).

S.N.26B. ✓

My 1715/22. A/C cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1257/23 to R.A.M.)

Operation
"N.R."

Cancel my 1259A/22. Operation "N.R." postponed due to weather but will be carried out tomorrow if conditions permit. (V.A. Dover 1551A/23).

/CHARLESTOWN.....

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining-Contd.

CHARLESTOWN. Request CHARLESTOWN may be sailed for Port Z.A. on completion. (R.A.M. 1606/23 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

Search off Forth. Provided it can be completed before dark on 1/2 4th M.S. F. with TENBY and RYE is to carry out one S.A. and Oropesa Sweep search of the following routes after completing Operation "S.C." Centre line joining the following positions.
1. No. 26 Buoy. 2. $056^{\circ} 35' N. 001^{\circ} 13' W.$
3. $056^{\circ} 23' N. 001^{\circ} 27' W.$
(C. in C. Rosyth 1709/23).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. E-boats bear 131° approx. from G by D/F. (Harwich W/T 0013/23).

Trondheim. Partial photographic R/C of Trondjheim area carried out to-day 22/1. No shipping sighted in parts covered. Aas Fjord was not photographed. Brest. R/C of Brest failed owing to weather. (D.D.I.C. 0053A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

TIRPITZ. Photographic R/C at 1300/23, located TIRPITZ in AAS Fjord $63^{\circ} 33' 30'' N. 10^{\circ} 55' 50'' E.$ Ship partly camouflaged lying head east with A/T boom close to southward and westward of ship. (D.D.I.C. 2001A/23 and 2227A/23). ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ sighted in Trondhjem today. (F.O.S. 2309A/23 to S/M's on Patrol.)

U-boats.

U-boat. From Reykjavik W/T addressed GBXZ (undecipherable) Begins unread 400 position of U-boat $65.10 N. 23.02 W.$ ends. (Valentia Radio 1321/23) (Iceland W/T Recd. 1421/23) Intercept de MAS addressed GBXZ. Begins. Correct position of U-boat to read $64^{\circ} 10' N. 23^{\circ} 02' W.$ T.O.R. 1448 Ends. (Valentia Radio 1556/23).

Navigational.

Wreck Buoy. Commodore F.N.10 reports light on wreck buoy in $53^{\circ} 22' 28'' N. 01^{\circ} 00' 04'' E.$ Extinguished, 0600/21. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1127/23).

/Ice.....

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational-Contd.

Ice in
Danish
Waters.

My 1714/21. Following received from D.I.S.
1. Ice is now developing quickly in Fjords
closed waters of Denmark.
2. Difficulties in keeping open swept channel
are steadily increasing. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1201/23).

B.7 Buoy.

B.7 buoy in Barrow Deep is 3.75 cables 315°
from correct position. (C. in C. Nore 1457A/23).

Fair Isle
South
Lighthouse.

Your 197 Q.Z.H. (T.O.O. 2316A/21/1). Latest
report received this forenoon was that light
though damaged is still available.
(N.L.B. Edinburgh 1925/23).

Casualties and Defects.

RUNSWICK.

S.O.S. de GKR. RUNSWICK collision 30 buoy.
(Wick Radio 0512/23).
RUNSWICK collision 8 miles E.N.E. Peterhead.
Trying to make Peterhead. (Wick Radio 0555/23).
See also next page.

MILOS.

Arrived Canadian ~~destroyer~~^{corvette} BARRIE escorting
MILOS. Latter holed and requires salvage tug
pumps before proceeding. Is in no immediate
danger. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0527A/23).
MILOS anchored off Wilsons Point required salvage
tug. Holds flooded over cargo of Phosphates.
Matter is being attended to.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2125A/23).

EMPIRE
SQUIRE.

Following received. Damaged in collision,
returning to Methil. Master EMPIRE SQUIRE?
(Rosyth 0600/23).

GORECHT.

My 1412A/19. Dutch M/V GORECHT must be
considered lost. Cause unknown. (F.O.I.C.
Cardiff 0946A/23).

EUGENIA S.
EMBIRICOS.

On arrival of CAROLINE MOLLER at Ardrossan
request you will investigate and report circumstances
under which she was unable to maintain contact with
EUGENIA EMBIRICOS after tow parted at 0810/21.
EUGENIA EMBIRICOS subsequently became a total loss.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1029A/23 to N.O.I.C. Ardrossan).

LOCHGARRY.

Your 0948A/23. LOCHGARRY struck Rock vicinity of
Tor Point North Ireland 20/1 and foundered.
(C. in C. W.A. 1423A/23 to S.O.N.T.)

23.1.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

BRITISH
YEOMAN.

BRITISH YEOMAN refloated at 1600 today with assistance of tugs FREEBOOTER, WARRIOR, and COCKSPUR, and proceeds up river. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1625/23).

*RUNSWICK.
SALTWICK.
FIDRA.

Following ships ex convoy E.N. 35 now anchored Peterhead Bay.
(1) RUNSWICK considerable collision damage above and below water forward also superstructure and boats Port side, waiting Lloyds survey.
(2) SALTWICK slight damage above water forward also waiting Lloyds survey.
(3) FIDRA slight damage above water forward but expect to sail her p.m. 24/1 to join E.N. 36 off Peterhead.
(1) and (2) can proceed subject to Lloyds survey and weather to any Port ordered for repairs. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1714/23).

** see previous page.*

Fair Isle
South
Light.

My 1856/21. Fair Isle South Light, manned by one lightkeeper and one rating volunteer, is now available. Living quarters have been entirely destroyed and keeper has to travel considerable distance. As much notice as possible should therefore be given when Light is required. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 2047A/23).

Shipping and Convoys.

HAV.
SHIKA.

Your 1852A/22. These are awaiting P.Q. convoy at Seidis Fjord. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0128A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

A.T.10.

Admiralty's 1915A/20. Propose sailing 13th M.S.F. from Belfast 24 hours before convoy's E.T.A. at 100 fathom line. Request this time may be passed to me. (S.O. 13 M.S.F. 0930A/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Convoy.

Following received, VOLUNTEER begins. Cannot reach M.O.M.P. in time. Am proceeding to meet convoy on line joining M.O.M.P. to position G. My position 1800A/22 055° 18' N. 018° 06' W., 248°, 12 knots. WITHERINGTON in company, ends. (C. in C. W.A. 0951A/23 to TEXAS).

Convoy.
F.N.612.

In present weather longitude 12 may reach 20 C buoy about 1930 today. Convoy somewhat scattered in Southerly gale, snow fall and bad visibility. (WESTMINSTER 1030A/23).
My 1130A/23. These 3 ships and 3 remaining Humber joiners are now reported by F.S.106 to be ahead F.N.612. (WESTMINSTER 1425A/23).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.Convoy.
F.S. 705

Five ships and M.L. 214 missing at daylight muster. 28 ships in company. Have ordered SHELDRAKE to search 10 miles astern. (MEYNELL 1044A/23).

MEYNELL's 1044/23. M.L. 214, FIRCREST, PHAEACIAN, DALEGARTH FORCE, 4 to 5 miles astern breast. WYETOWN and GALACUM 12 miles astern. Have searched 15 miles astern. No other ships in sight. (SHELDRAKE 1225A/23 to MEYNELL). SHELDRAKE 1225A/23. Two ships are now missing. BIRKER FORCE and EAGLESCLIFF HALL. Total M/V's in company after number five buoy 30. (WINCHESTER 1400A/23 to MEYNELL).

"Object".

My 0912A/23. "Object" returned to harbour 1044A/23. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1058A/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

O.G. 79.

O.G. 79 is delayed 24 hours. (C. in C. W.A. 1315A/23).

F.S. 708.
EMPIRE CAPE.
EMPIRE CLIFF.

Give special protection within the convoy to EMPIRE CAPE sailing from Methil in F.S. 708. WORCESTER joins convoy with EMPIRE CLIFF at 20C Buoy giving her similar special protection on passage. EMPIRE CAPE and EMPIRE CLIFF are bound to Thames for onward routeing. (C. in C. Rosyth 1509/23 to LIDDESDALE).

R.A.D. 0942/23rd. WORCESTER after completing her present duty is to be sailed so as to give special protection to EMPIRE CLIFF whilst joining F.S. 708 and within the convoy. Close escorts of F.S. 708 will be LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON. Special protection to EMPIRE CAPE from Methil will be LIDDESDALE. (C. in C. Rosyth 1511/23).

W.P. 102.

My 010/108 dated 30/12/41. W.P. 102 delayed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1720A/23).

H.X. 168.

Gales during whole passage. Hove to on 9/1, scattered by next day, thick weather, did not reform and was ordered to disperse on 13th. Average speed to 9th, 8.7 knots. YNGAREN not yet reported. All other ships accounted for. (D.T.D. 1739A/23 to Opanav.)

Torpedoes
for C.E.
and C.W.
Convoy
Escorts.

Intend as an immediate future policy to arrange that two of the M.L.'s with each C.E. and C.W. Convoy should carry torpedoes. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1745A/23)

F.S. 706
WAR NIZAM.Your 1425. ^{NTMWS} WAR NIZAM put into Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth 1756/23 to VIVIEN).

/P.Q.....

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

- P.Q. and
Q.P.
Convoys. Your 1436A/22 P.Q. and Q.P. routes are issued by Admiralty to whom application should be made. Route given in A.C.O.S. 2147A/22 is approved. (D.T.D. 1824A/23 to A.C.I.C.)
- P.Q. 10. My 1935A/11. Either 41st or 42nd A/S group was expected to be available to escort P.Q.10 from Loch Ewe on 25/1 in accordance with Adty. 1236A/10 para. 5. Request information whether group has sailed. If not I will provide escort on this occasion. (C. in C. W.A. 1838A/23 to A.C.I.C.) Your 1838A/23, my 1439A/22 refers, Para. 1. Owing to delay to Q.P.4 BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO cannot now arrive Loch Ewe by 25th. (A.C.I.C. 2056A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X. 170. H.X. 170 14 hours late. (S.O. Task Force 4.1.3. 2018/23).
- P.W.100. My 1531/23 and 1821/23. St. Ives Bay becoming untenable owing to weather. XABANVILLE and SAN ANTONIO sailed 1900/23 unescorted. MARENA and DE RUYTER expected to sail shortly. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 2030/23). *x not identified.*
- O.N.M. 59. O.N.M. 59. Have just received report from X.D.O. Belfast that British WHITECREST and Dutch Tanker MACUBA sailed at 0405A/23 and 0340A/23 respectively Report is result of enquiries instituted owing to non-location of these vessels in Belfast Lough when distributing sailing orders P.M. today. Vessels sailed without permission. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 2050A/23).

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

1622A/23 January
OUT.

To: "A" Message Home 720 A Z.
 "A" Message North Atlantic 275 A.K. Date. 23.1.42.
 "A" Message South Atlantic 264 A.G.
 "A" Message America & West Indies 286 A J.
 Repeated O P N A V.

Naval Code J & Type X (U.S.A) WILLPRINT.

From: Admiralty,
 BASEGRAM NITE.

Amend A.M. 596 A.Z., 228 A.K., 228 A.G. and 240 A.J. of
 23rd October as follows.

Para. 1. (a) delete "evening".

Para 2. (a) after "normal evasion undesirable" amend to
 read "the convoy should either -

(i) Alter slightly away from the mean line of advance soon
 after daybreak, continue on this course throughout the day and then
 make a broad diversion shortly after dark the same night, or

(ii) Alter away from the mean line of advance well before
 dark and back after dark.

In both cases the convoy should, if possible, be once
 more upon the mean line of advance shortly before daybreak, and
 should never be more than 20 miles off the route (which will thus
 provide for a 40-mile lane in which to manoeuvre."

At end of para.2 add - Note. - The Commodore should
 bear in mind that the Admiralty will not be aware in which direction
 the course has been altered under (a) above. Should a recommended
 alteration be received under (b) above, therefore it must be remembered
 that this recommendation will have been based on the assumption that
 the convoy is on the mean line of advance.

2. I.C.O.C. 25 is amplified accordingly.

1622A/23.
 for D.T.D.

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

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CHESAPEAKE, Your 1835/22. CHESAPEAKE in 042° 26' N. 028°
distress. 47' W. at 2045 G.M.T./21, drifting. Continue
to search for 2 days, then if not met return to
Gibraltar reporting E.T.A.
(V.A.C.N.A., 0031Z/23 to THAMES.)
Following received from THAMES addressed Admiral, Gibraltar.
Your 1532A/22 (? 1523A/22 intended) cannot (? decode) table 15.
(Lands End Radio, 0750/23 to Admty.)
Cancel 0031B/23. Search is to be continued for 10 days.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0923A/23 to THAMES.)
Have searched for CHESAPEAKE and THAMES without success and am
refuelling. Expect to R/V CHESAPEAKE noon/25th. Request
aircraft may assist in search if possible on 25th.
(LADY HOGARTH, 1030/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)
LADY HOGARTH and ARCTIC RANGER arrived Ponta Delgada 1000
G.M.T./23rd.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1035/23 to S.O.I. Gib.)
My 1351A/22 informed you CHESAPEAKE was drifting in 042° 26' N.
028° 47' W. at 2045Z/21. Continue search for 10 days.
(Adm. Gibraltar, 2215A/23 to THAMES.)

O.G. 78. E.T.A. 0900A/24. 16 Ships, Merchant Ships.
Oporto and Lisbon portion left 1900A/22.
Following ships not yet accounted for LEADGATE,
CISNEROS, OPORTO.
(PELICAN, 0910A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

S.L. 98. Your 2221A/21 (? 2221A/22 intended) concur.
Presume you are issuing necessary instructions
to (? N.C.S.O. Funchal) and escort of S.L.98.
C. in C. W.A. 2352 and 2349/22 refer.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1030A/23 to Admty.)
Your 1030A/23. Request you will inform NURTURETON and arrange
and promulgate suitable R/V with the escort unit detached to
meet her also R/V for joining convoy. C. in C. W.A. 2349A/22
and 2352A/22 and A.M. 1149A/23 refer.
(D.T.D., 1539A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1529/19. Escort will be in position 3 miles south of
Funchal at 0900 G.M.T./25 NURTURETON is to be sailed to R/V
accordingly. If not met by 1800 NURTURETON is to return
Funchal.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1804A/23 to N.C.S.O. Funchal.)

P.39. Do not cross 05° 00' W. before 1000A/24. Arrive
(? 180°) Europa Point 1 mile at 1130A/24.
Convoy arriving from West at 1000/24.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1037A/23 to P.39.)

/O.G. ...

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

O.G. and H.G. Convoys. 1. Moonlight sailing seems of doubtful value and is liable to be nullified by irregular sailing from Gibraltar due to submarine situation.

2. I consider therefore that most economical 2 group cycles should be adopted, O.G. and H.G. convoys sailing at 22 day intervals.

3. Sailings to be adjusted to allow escorts 4 days at Gibraltar and 10 days at home. This would give a 26-day turn-round for shipping at Gibraltar.

4. Propose following sailings: O.G.79, 25/1; O.G.80, 23/2; H.G.78, 29/1. Subsequently O.G., H.G. convoys at 22 day intervals.
(C. in C. W.A., 1054A/23 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Bombing Restrictions. Serial G.23. Ops. 534, 23/1. Institute submerged bombing restrictions 30 miles either side of line joining 049° 30' N. 010° W. and Bishops Rock from 1200/24 until 1400/26.
(H.Q.C.C., 1121/23 to R.A.F. Gib.)

EUGENIO C., LESSEE. Arrival 21st EUGENIO C. to load iron ore at Castro Urdiales. LEESEE in outer harbour, loaded and ready for sea since Wednesday evening 21/1.
(Consul Bilbao, 1228/23 to Admty.)

Hudson Aircraft. Ops. 535, 23/1. 5 aircraft of 233 Sqdn. to move from Thorney Island to Gibraltar forthwith. Maintenance personnel not required. 233 Squadron to provide flying crews. Duration of detachment not known.
(H.Q.C.C. 1235A/23 to 16 Group.)

MIRROR cables. Following from MIRROR 2335/22. (Begins) - Porthcurno-Fayal cable restored, proceeding Operation A. (Ends).
(F.O.C.N.A., 1546A/23 to Admty.)

TURBULENT. Your 1301B/21 (N.T. in W.R.). 2 Cylinder covers will be sent in TURBULENT sailing from Gibraltar 27/1.
(Capt. S.8, 1552A/23 to Capt. S.1.)

ELSA ESSBERGER. Your 1030/12. Vessel is blockade-runner from Japan. Report extent of damage and any intended movements. It is possible cargo may be transhipped and action by M.E.W. through diplomatic channels is being taken.
(D.N.I., 1900A/23 to Consul Corunna, (R) N.A. Madrid.)

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

O.G. 78 Intend to operate to starboard of Convoy during night.
(Capt. D.19, 1906A/23 to PELICAN, (R) F.O.C.N.A., CROOME, EXMOOR, Ships escorting O.G.78.)

NAVEMAR, Intercept de EAL Las Palmas S O S de NAVEMAR, torpedoed. 36.48 N., 15.46 W., torpedoed, require immediately assistance.
(Valentia Radio, 2346/23 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Axis Ships from Fernando Po. Your 0335Z/22. Likely that prize proceedings will have to be taken on DUCHESSA D'AOSTA, but these will be deferred until ship's arrival in U.K. 2. Request early report on her prospects of making the passage. 3. LIKOMBA is at your disposal for use at Freetown under White Ensign. Name should be changed after leaving Lagos. 4. BIBUNDI may be treated similarly if she is of any service to you. 5. Communique mentioned in A.M.1828A/17 will not be issued. 6. Opinion of Ambassador Madrid has been sought as to advisability of issuing communique in A.M.0222A/21.
(Hd. of M. Approved 1st Lord, 0111A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Shipping Intelligence for U.S.N. I have been informed that U.S. Task Force 1 is experiencing difficulty in obtaining adequate Merchant Shipping Intelligence and that consequently necessity for close identification of ships met is giving rise to false raider reports e.g. MORMACYORK, on 18/1. I would suggest that U.S. Warships operating in S. Atlantic area should read the Merchant Shipping reports already transmitted by W/T daily to British Warships thus enabling U.S. Warships to keep a Merchant Shipping plot. If you agree full details of these messages which would be cyphered in British U.S. cypher, will be passed to you for the information of U.S. Warships.
(C. in C. S.A., 0541Z/23 to Commandant 15th Naval District Balboa).

FRANCONIA. Your 1251/21. Request you instruct FRANCONIA to proceed from Freetown to New York, the 442 passengers remaining on board.
(D.S.T., 0800A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

See also last page

/Troopship...

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- Troopships
Required for
New York. Your 0704A/20. Ships and approx. arrival dates
New York:-
FRANCONIA 8/2; SAMARIA 19/2; ORONSAY 19/2;
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL 13/2; SCYTHIA 21/2; CAMERONIA
19/2. Personnel numbers. C. in C. S.A.
1251Z/21 refers to FRANCONIA. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has already
sailed for New York. Request instructions urgently regarding
remainder which will be sailed via Freetown unless contrary
instructions received.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0857Z/23 to D. of S.T.)
- PRETORIA Your 1624/22. PRETORIA CASTLE's (? reported)
CASTLE. S. of A. 13 knots. Should reach position Q
at 2100/27.
(C. in C. S.A., 1005Z/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- S.L. 99 Request route for convoy S.L. 99.
(C. in C. S.A., 1013Z/23 to Admty.)
- French
Convoy
Movements. Your 1559/21 (Asking if future reports of coastal
movements of French convoys in Gulf of Guinea
are required.) Yes.
(D.D.I.C., 1055A/23 to S.O.I. Freetown.)
- R.D.F.
Beacons,
Bathurst,
Freetown. Ref. C.A.F.O. 2396/41 insert the following
details.
(C. in C. S.A., 1232Z/23 to S.A. Stn.)
- Takoradi. Your 1501Z/13, approved to extend baffles. A.M.
1808A/5/12/41 date of shipment will be signalled.
Request confirmation (1) that from experience
obtained A/T baffles in this exposed locality
can be effectively maintained. (2) That no extension to the
shore facilities when completed will be necessary to enable
the augmented boom defences to be maintained ultimately without
a boom carrier.
(D.B.D., 1236A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)
- S.L.Convoys
Division. Your 1259Z/22 (Re organisation of S.L. Convoys
into slow and fast portions.) Concur.
(D.T.D., 1312A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)
- British
and U.S.
Zones. Following are agreed areas of responsibility of
British and U.S. Naval authorities in the
Atlantic.
(a) U.S. to westward of 26° W. except (1) the
whole coast of Greenland, which is included in
U.S. area; (2) between 043° N. and 020° N. where British area
extends to 040° W; (3) South of 020° S. where control of area

/to west ...

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.British
and U.S.
Zones.
(Contd.)

to west of 026° W. remains under British control temporarily.
 (b) British to eastward of 026° W., except as above.
 2. The dividing lines are not to be regarded as rigid boundaries by either British or U.S. authorities.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1447Z/23 to S.A. Station.)

Bullion in
WELSHMAN.

My 1831Z/20. ^{p. 528} 174 boxes shipped in WELSHMAN.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1631Z/23 to Admty.)

S.S.
ARCHANGELOS.

ARCHANGELOS bound for Halifax and U.K. with cargo iron ore and small quantity copper. Approximately at midnight 22/1 fire occurred in magazine causing fixed shell ammunition to explode 47 out of 52 rounds. Sabotage suspected and may have been caused by (A) Enemy action when ship was at Lourenco Marques where many visitors boarded ship. (B) Personal action members or members of crew to prevent ship sailing. Master officially only person who knew ship's destination.
 (2) Magazine not locked but door secured by piece of thin wire giving easy access to any unauthorized persons.
 (iii) Written report follows.
 (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1717B/23.)

DEWDALE.

Your 1403Z/21, not at present, but ^{/N.T. in W.D.} movement of DEWDALE proposed in your 1117Z/17 should be proceeded with.
 (D.O.D.(F), 1737A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

DUCHESSA
D'AOSTA
etc. seized
at Fernando
Po.

Your 0039A/20 para. 2. Cargoes carried. No evidence yet found of vessel having given assistance to enemy. No W/T message sent since Italy entered the war, transmitter being sealed. This is confirmed by W/T Operator and feel confident is the truth. Will signal again when further investigation made. R.N.O. Lagos is continuing this investigation.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1955Z/23 to Admty.)

Italian
ships to
be brought
to Rio.

My 2007Z/22 am informed Ambassador Rio de Janeiro has received reply that he may give assurance provided vessels also wear international code flag third substitute. Ships should also keep as close inshore as possible.
 (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2001Z/23.)

Aerodromes
near Freetown.

Situation and considerations.
 (C. in C. S.A., 2045Z/23, 2315Z/23.)

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

W.S. 15. A.M. 1503/16. W.S.15. Destination of AAGTEKERK and PORT CHALMERS is now Singapore. (D.O.D.(F), 2205A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Movements of Enemy Fleet and Convoy.

P.C. and S. of 1 Liner, 1 Battleship, 3 destroyers, plus 2 unknown. Position 325 H H 60?. Course 180°. Speed 15 knots. (Med A/C T., 0105/23.) (Capt. S.1, 0255B/23 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Following has been read - All ships. Following is what was made: My 0105 - corrected position at 0056 - 356 H H 48. (Med. A/C., 0235/23.)

1 battleship, 1 liner, 3 destroyers, 2 unknown vessels, 180° 15 knots 30.03 E. of Cape Colleone at 0105B. (Capt. S.10, 0203B/23 to URGE, P.36, (R) Submarines on Patrol, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med.)

Following has been read:-

P.C. and S. of enemy is 34.47 N. 19.00 E., 020° 12 knots. (Med. A/C R3ZD, 0930/23.)

Following received. A/C using call sign R3ZD, P.C. and S. of 1 enemy battleship, 2 cruisers, 7 destroyers is 34.47 N., 19.00 E., 010°, 12 knots. (Nore W/T, 0945/23.)

P.C. and S. of 3 enemy cruisers and 4 destroyers is 34.47 N., 18.55 E., 200°, 20 knots. (Med A/C, 0950/23.)

My 1345B/21 to Capt. (S) 1. Remain on patrol unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S) 1. You will be withdrawn immediately enemy heavy units have retired northwards.

(Capt. S.10, 1054B/23 to TORBAY, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.) 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, 20 destroyers are at sea. You should patrol vicinity 040° 00' 017° 15', await their anticipated return p.m./25.

(Capt. S.10, 2104B/23 to TORBAY, (R) Capt. S.1, C. in C. Med.) At 0950B/23, 034° 47' 019° 00', 1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 7 destroyers, course 010°, 12 knots. 3 cruiser, 4 destroyers, course 200°, 20 knots.

(V.A. Malta, 1055B/23 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Aircraft report P.C. and S. of enemy Battle Fleet at 0938B/23 127°, G G 104, 020°, 12.

(Capt. S.1, 1058B/23 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Following received. 0939 1 B.S. (CAVOUR Class), 4 Dr., 35.49 N. 18.15 E. course 180°, speed 16 knots. 1055 3 Cr., 4 Dr., 35.08 N. 18.30 E. course 180° 16-20 knots. 1100, 8 Dr., 3 M/V., 35.14 N., 18.40 E., course 180° 16 knots. (A/C call sign ON1, 1305/23.)

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Movements of Enemy Fleet and Convoy. - Contd.

My 1320B (Requesting whether Battleships or Merchant Ships first priority air attacks. Not circulated.) R.A.F. sighting as follows: at 0940, 1 battleship, 1 merchant ship, 4 destroyers, P.C. and S. of enemy are $035^{\circ} 49' 018^{\circ} 40'$, 180° , 16 knots. At 1055, 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers, $035^{\circ} 08'$, $018^{\circ} 30'$, 180° , 18 knots. At 1100, 8 destroyers, 3 merchant ships, $035^{\circ} 04'$ $018^{\circ} 40'$, 180° , 16 knots.

(Benghazi W/T, 1324B/23 to C. in C. Med.)

Your 1320. Battleship. Advanced Air H.Q. 201 Naval Co-operation Group has instructions.

(C. in C. Med., 1452B/23 to Benghazi.)

Following has been read:- Enemy not located, have you a new position?

(A/C call sign QIQA, 1405B/23.)

P.C. and S. of enemy, 1 battle-cruiser, 3 cruisers, 11 destroyers, one M/V (exceeding 10,000 tons) 078 DD 147 200° . 15 knots.

(A/C call sign C8G, 1435B/23 to Hal Far.)

Following received.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 1 battleship, 5 destroyers, $34^{\circ} 10'$ N. $18^{\circ} 15'$ E., 180° 18 knots.

(A/C call sign R3ZV, 1534/23.)

Following received.

1 battleship, 4 cruisers, 11 destroyers 175 - 205 - 40 - 4 B 9 230° , 14 knots.

(A/C call sign R3ZA, 1600/23.)

Following has been read. A1611, 23/1, estimated position of target at 1730 hours will be 33.18 N. 17.12 E. Proceed this point and carry out square search, acknowledge.

(A/C call sign H6WI, 1625/23.)

Following has been read:

My 1550 (N.T. in W.D.) P.C. and S. of enemy, 3 cruisers, 7 destroyers, 3 M/Vs., 6 aeroplanes. $33^{\circ} 52'$ N. $18^{\circ} 15'$ E., course 180° , 16 knots.

(A/C call sign R3ZV, 1650/23.)

1 battleship, 4 cruisers, 15 destroyers, 3 Merchant ships $033^{\circ} 30'$ $017^{\circ} 40'$, 190° , 15 knots at 1500B, and 1 battleship, 5 destroyers, $034^{\circ} 10'$, $018^{\circ} 15'$, 180° , 18 knots at 1534B.

(Capt. S.10, 1655B/23 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

The total enemy forces sighted up to the time indicated consist of 1 battleship, 3 cruisers, 12 destroyers, 3 merchant vessels, 6 aeroplanes. Enemy 3 cruisers, 7 destroyers, 3 merchant vessels are stationed bearing 180° 15 miles distant from 1 battleship, 5 destroyers.

(A/C V.4, 203 Sqdn., 1715/23 to 201 Group H.Q.)

Proceed with all dispatch by day, estimated enemy will pass your positions 0200B/24.

(Capt. S.10, 1725B/23 to URGE, P.36, (R) Capt. (S)1, C. in C. Med.)

Aircraft will attack with bombs and torpedoes about midnight. No friendly surface force will be near you.

(Capt. S.10, 1740B/23 to URGE, P.36 (R) Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med.)

/Both ...

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Movements of Enemy Fleet and Convoys - Contd.

Both torpedo squadrons already despatched, estimated strike 2245 hours. Wellington E.T.A. target 2315 hours. Begin illuminating then remain in contact enemy forces as late as possible, till dawn if you can, shadowing. Second torpedo strike 201 striking 2200 hours. (H.Q. Malta Command, 1936/23 to ?(ILCT.))

1 battleship, 3 cruisers, 16 destroyers, 4 merchant vessels, 033° 34' 016° 52' 240° 15 knots at 1740B. (A/C W. Squadron, 2005/23, Capt. S.10, 2010B/23 to P.36, URGE.)

Following read. P.C. and S. of enemy Battle Fleet 33° 15' N. 16° 45' E., 187°, 14 knots.

(A/C P. Malta Cmd., 2020/23.)

Enemy has altered course to 260°.

(A/C P. Malta Cmd., 2155/23 to ? B5T.)

Large enemy naval force now at sea.

In anticipation of units proceeding northwards Cape Matapan, Straits of Messina, patrol following positions from 0001B/24 for 24 hours, after which time you have freedom of action in your areas, UPRIGHT 038° 27' 015° 32', P.34 037° 52' 015° 40'. (Capt. S.10, 2155B/23 to UPRIGHT, P.34, (R) Capt. S.1, C. in C. Med.)

P.C. and S. of enemy Battle Fleet, 32.58 N., 16.35 E., 260°, 15. (Med. A/C, 2225/23.)

Albacores scored 1 hit and stopped large M/V and 1 hit on destroyer in 033° 28' N. 017° 58' E. at 1838. Lieut. Com. Corbett missing.

(Benghazi, 2301B/23 to C. in C. Med.)

P.C. and S. of enemy is 051° MISU (Cape Misurata?) 70, stopped. (Med. A/C, 2315/23.)

Position of enemy 058° MISU (Cape Misurata?) 80. Have attacked with torpedoes, result unknown.

(Med A/C, 2325/23.)

P.C. and S. of enemy Battle Fleet 32° 46' N. 16° 16' W. 260° 15 knots.

(A/C P., 2330B/23 to B5T Med. A/C.)

P.C. and S. of convoy, 33° 15' 16° 45', 187°, 14 knots at 2020B. Alter course to 260° at 2155B.

(Capt. S.10, 2337B/23 to P.36, URGE, (R) Capt. S.1, C. in C. Med., S/Ms on Patrol.)

Convoy stopped 51° Cape Misurata 70 miles at 2315B.

(Capt. S.10, 2351B/23 to S/M on Patrol.)

War Diary.

23.1.1942
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

- U/B. Following has been read. Submarine suspected position 120 32° N. 28° E., 14.
(A/C call sign GYZ 7 0435/23.)
- U/B Ismailia bearing German U-boat. Time 0508/23
T.O.O. (?) frequency 5660 groups 18 bearing 309/2.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria 0832B/23 to V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A.)
- CLEOPATRA
ARETHUSA Your 1327A/20. Para 2. Through Mediterranean please. It would be convenient if JAVELIN could come in company.
(C. in C. Med., 1051B/23 to Admty.)
- Monster
Liners at
Aden. Your 1054/22/1. Neither MAURETANIA ILE DE FRANCE nor NIEUW AMSTERDAM can enter the inner harbour at Aden and if for any reason they have to be held they will require oil in quantities outside the capacity of Aden to lift. When N.O.I/C Aden reports name of a suitable Oiler Admiralty approval to hold at Aden will be sought.
(F.O.R.S., 1111B/23 to C. in C. Med.)
- ? My 1731/22.* Amend Fremantle to read Wellington N.Z. Para (2) It is not intended to include ships taking part in "Stepsister" and associated operations in the signal.
(F.O.R.S. 1229B/23 to Admty.)* No trace in War Reg Repetition requested.
- S/M
Signalling. Following "Scramble" is to be brought into force 0001 G.M.T/5/2. K series used with February are first month. Delete all figures in column headed Day Month and substitute the following in order shown : 5 9 21 18 31 12 19 1 20 3 22 4 28 23 2 29 6 30 11 26 15 10 25 8 13 17 24 14 27 16 7.
2. Signal changed daily (A) 0000 - 0800
(B) 0800 - 1200 (C) 1200 - 1600 (D) 1600 - 2000
(E) 2000 - 2400, all times G.M.T. 3. Admty.
896 A, 903 A, and 921 A, are cancelled from 5/2.
(Capt. S.1, 1237B/23 to S/Ms on Patrol.)
- Convoy A.J.1 Sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 1507Z/23, 1509Z/23.)

War Diary.23.1.1942
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

P.35 attack on RAMPINO C.A.F.O. 1278/41. Read in 5 cols. (a) (b) (c) (g) (j) 17/1 1942. RAMPINO, Salvage vessel from Tripoli westbound from Kuriat, escorted by trawler. P.35. 3 mark (8) 2 star A A 1755 and 1766, R.N. Torpedo Factory, 13 49. One hit, sank. 1 survivor fireman, talkative about Tripoli. 20/1/1942, eastbound fully illuminated convoy passing Kuriat. Considered to be well outside territorial waters and were rounding Kuriat to area where French traffic not allowed at night even inside territorial waters. P.35. 5 mark (8) 2 star A A 1691, 1704, 1772, R.N. Torpedo Factory, 1291 and 1304, all due to underestimation of range. (Capt. S. 10. 1527R/23 to Admty. etc.)

Taranto R/C. Visual R/C Taranto, 1 Battleship outer harbour. (V.A. Malta 1550B/23 to C. in C. Med.)

TUAPSE My 1638/22. TUAPSE is now anchored in Sea of Marmara awaiting further orders. 2. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles. (A.B.N.A. Istanbul, 1647B/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med., N.A. Ankara.)

Malta Report. C.S.R. 23/1. 22nd, 1345 hours, 23 fighters and bombers approached, did not cross coast. Bombs sea. Night 22/23, 5 alerts 1951 to 0455 hours, 13 raiders, bombs land and sea, no damage., 23/1 alerts 0529 0623 0842 0940 1011 1246 hours, 70 ME 109s and JU 88s cloud cover. Targets Grand harbour and Hal Far. 4 big craters Hal Far, no other damage, slight damage ships in harbour details not yet available. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1800/23.) 8 Wellington 1C attacked Tripoli Harbour 1720 to 1910 hours, bombs dropped from 8000 feet average 2 sticks on Harbour and Spanish Quay causing fire Spanish Fort. Naval Vessel at Karamanli Mole hit by first aircraft and burning well throughout attacks. Probably flak ship silenced and set on fire. Both fires visible 20 miles. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1810/23.)

Benghazi. Weather fine. Discharged 522 tons. Coal reached in 2 holds. ABERDARE, BAGSHOT coaling. Expect to complete CRISTA 26th HARBOE JENSEN 25th MAUSANG uncertain. No enemy air activity. JUMBO out of action for 2 days at least. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2015B/23)

/T.L.Cs. ...

War Diary.

23.1.1942
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

T.L.Cs. Experience in the Mediterranean has shown that the new 13 knot tank landing craft compares very unfavourably with the old (corrupt group) knot T.L.C. in regard to both reliability and handling. It is requested therefore that in future the old type of landing craft be sent to the Mediterranean instead of the new type. (C. in C. Med., 2141B/23 to Admty.)

Tripoli air attack If target not illuminated by 2315 L.T. 50% to be dropped on road, remainder Tripoli Harbour. H.Q. Malta 2206/23 to A/C B of "A" Flight, No.3 A A C U, Malta Command.)

ISAAC SWEERS Decided in consultation with B D Z that ISAAC SWEERS is to proceed to Abda area.
2. Maximum speed ship can maintain is 28 knots. Bofors pom pom fire control in one mounting is defective but can be operated in hand control.
3. C. in C. Med. is requested to sail ISAAC SWEERS for Aden as soon as convenient.
4. C. in C. E.I. is requested to provide onward route to join C Z M.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2334A/23 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

6419

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From:- War Office;

2110/23rd January

Date. 23.1.42.

CIPHER

Addressed:- C. in C. Middle East, C. in C. India,
ABDACOM, Batavia, repeated G.C.C. Burma.

IMMEDIATE

66199 cipher Q (M) 2a/23/2 of 23/1.

It is considered necessary to re-allocate Hospital ships and the following is suggested.

First. Under control C. in C. Middle East.

For evacuating British personnel ships ABA, ATLANTIS, LLANDOVERY CASTLE, SOMERSETSHIRE, RAMB '4 and AMRA.

For evacuation of British and Indian sick from Middle East and Persian Gulf to India ships KARAPARA and DORSETSHIRE.

For evacuation Australian and New Zealand sick from Middle East ships MANUNDA and MAUNGANUI.

Second. Under control Supreme Commander and to be held and allocated by him. For evacuation of British, Indian and East African sick from Malaya, Dutch East Indies and Burma to India ships TAIREA now at Suez capacity 150 British, 300 Indian, and TALAMBA capacity 350/400 now proceeding Singapore.

For evacuation to Australia ships ORANJE and WANGANELLA.

For local service ship WUSSEH.

Two new Hospital Ships could be taken up for Supreme Commander at expense of troopships one of which could be fitted for all British sick and the other for British or Indian sick. These two additional ships could not however be available for some three months.

Third. In view of shipping position essential that fullest use be made of hospital accommodation in all troop transport.

Fourth/

MOST SECRET

641^c

MOST SECRET

• B •

Fourth. Request your comments and will Middle East state whether they could release any ships permanently to Supreme Commander to avoid fitting the two new ships mentioned in para. two above or alternatively lean a Hospital Ship or Ships immediately under arrangements to be made mutually. Agreed.

2110/23

Received in War Registry at 1722/24

Copies circulated by War Office to:-

AMT

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st Lord | A.G. |
| 1st S.L. | D.Q.M.G. |
| 2nd S.L. | D.G.M.S. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.Mov. |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | D.D.M.O. |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | M.O.I. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Q.(M)2c |
| D.O.D.(F) | Q.(M)2cc |
| D.D.O.D.(F) | A.M.D.198 |
| D.of P.(2) | D.D.M.S. (M.E. & H.D.) |
| D.C.(2) | Ministry of War Transport |
| D.D.I.C.(2) | (J.N.Wood, Esq., for D.of S.T.) |
| E.P.S. | Admiralty (Plans Division) |
| Hd. of M.(2) | |
| I.P.(2) | |
| W.D. | |
| D.of S.T. | |
| M.D.G. | |

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

KWAI SANG. KWAI SANG on T.97 A 0800/21st. Sails 23/1 due Colombo 29/1.
(S.T.O. Calcutta, 0347Z/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

Convoy Details.
B.M.12. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0938Z/23, 0942Z/23).

REINA DEL PACIFICO. In view of increasing numbers personnel for passage to and from Colombo, request approval REINA DEL PACIFICO sails from Bombay to U.K. via Colombo to embark naval draft of approx. 100 officers and men and one personnel ship per month be allotted to include Colombo in homeward itinerary in future. P.S.T.O. India please signal total number service personnel embarking Bombay in order that steps may be taken to comply with Admty. 1936/25/9/1941 reference unescorted vessels.
(S.S.T.O. Colombo, 1249Z/23 to P.S.T.O. India).

"Q" Report 1. A.O.C. Iraq states following messages
18/1. received from Khor Kuwai (Straits of Hormuz)
18/1 (Q). " Following has been read QQQQ
1629 62.40 east recorded starshells. (2) QQQQ
recorded being chased 5 minutes east of former position".
Further signal from S.N.O.P.G. dated 19/1 as follows:-
"Ref. QQQQ message following received from recorder begins.
No sign suspicious vessel daybreak. Was star shelled fairly
close range. Followed over one hour. Not Challenged".
2. S.N.O.P.G. informed. C. in C. E.I. not informed.
(General Iraq, 1355/23 to W.O. (R) C. in C. ME.)

VAN OVERSTATEN, reported gunned by submarine
NORD, in 001° 40' N., 090° 13' E., at 1130Z/22nd.
CHAK SANG, (2) Catalina from Ceylon searching area for
U/B submarine or survivors from 0050Z/23 to 0530Z/23.
attacks. Result negative, visibility nil to 5 miles, sea
moderate to rough.
(3) (?Reported) from Rangoon that NORD and
another ship probably CHATSANG (CHAK SANG) (?sunk
by submarine) Prepara North Channel 015° 28' N.
094° 36' E. P.M./21 and A.M./22.
(C. in C. E.I., 1503Z/23 to E.I. Sqdn).

Defence of Two ships have been sunk by enemy submarine off
Rangoon Bassein.
approaches 2. Up to date our appeals for naval forces to
against S/Ms. operate from Burma waters have been turned down.
We have been told that there is not one ship
available for use for this task.

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Defence of Rangoon approaches against S/Ms. 3. Clearly any serious dislocation of our sea communications to India will complicate an already somewhat difficult situation. I can only hope that sailors will be able to find something to deal with this situation.
4. As far as we are concerned we have one M.L. on patrol and two making their way back from Mergui. If Japanese have also laid a few mines as R.N.O. anticipates our problem will be even more difficult as we are ill equipped to deal with mines.
5. R.N.O. is not stopping sailings from Rangoon, else the port will become intolerably congested as every outward bound ship is also a refugee ship probably over-crowded (?aggregate) defection is considerable. I am instructing authorities not repeat not to overload beyond safety point.
6. May I have urgently your view on this naval problem which also brings out our need for coastal patrol aircraft. (Governor, Burma, 2145/23 to S. of S. for Burma).

Trincomalee
Mines.

- Your 0815/22.
1. Use of independent mines in the manner intended is not favoured.
 2. Request you will postpone these operations pending receipt of a more detailed statement of Admty. views.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1631A/23 to C. in C. E.I.)
(Further remarks, see Admty, 1432A/25).

Position
for M/Vs.

- Pass to N.C.S.Os. Attention is drawn to necessity of providing adequate lettered reference positions for all Merchant ships to enable diversions from known or suspected dangers to be made. (A.M.1954/7/7 refers).
(D.T.D., 2258A/23 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B(R) F.O.C. R.I.N.)

OLTENIA II.

- My 2241/2 understand ship now due. Arrival should be reported by immediate signal.
(D.T.D., 2329A/23 to N.O.I.C. Mombasa).

WARSPITE.

See also p. 647

- A.T. 2201A/27/10. After completing preliminary working up, WARSPITE sailed from Esquimalt, 23/1 routed from Swiftsure Light through
- (a) 48 00' N., 128 00' W. (b) 46 00' N., 132 00' W. (c) 22 00' N., 129 00' W. to (d) Henderson Island, where she will fuel from oiler BISHOPDALE, leaving there 7/2..
2. Thence through (e) 27 00' S., 129 00' W. (f) 31 00' S., 150 00' W., (g) 33 00' S., 180 00' W. to (h) Sydney N.S.W. where she is due 1600 (Zone minus 10) on Friday 20/2.

War Diary.

23.1.1942
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies

WARSPITE - 3. Should R/V with oiler fail, ship will fuel
contd. at Bora Bora. 4. Intended ship should remain
See also p. 647 at Sydney about one week to complete working
up and then proceed to Trincomalee to embark
outfit of 5/10 C.R.H. ammunition and two Walrus Aircraft.
5. A.C.N.B. is requested to pass this signal to WARSPITE on
arrival, and to arrange her practices and onward passage to
Trincomalee.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2331A/23 to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

China.

Malaya Sitrep No.44. 1630 hrs G.M.T. 22 Jan.
Report. Singapore. One raid over the island by 54
heavy bombers. Considerable damage to hangars
and buildings on Sembawang and Kallang
aerodromes. Sembawang unserviceable.
Casualties. Own aircraft seven destroyed four missing, eight
damaged. Personnel five pilots missing two pilots wounded.
Enemy. Six aircraft destroyed two probably destroyed five
damaged. Civilian casualties.
(Adv. H.Q. Malaya, 0215Z/23.)

Malaya Period 0800 hrs. 22/1 to 0800/23/1.
Air Report. 3. ~~██████~~. VYNER BROOKE on patrol off Sabang
attacked by enemy planes, no details received.
5. Singapore raided 2 waves each 27 heavy 96
heavy bombers. Damage to hangars and buildings at Kallang and
Sembawang aerodromes, latter being unserviceable due to bomb
craters. Some damage to civilian property about 50 civilians
killed.
(A.H.Q. F.E., 0425/23.)

Communications. Technical matters.
(R.A. Malaya 0527Z/23 to C. in C. E.F.)

Alternative No.00267 23/1. Increasing enemy pressure on
Storing Base Singapore may result in need for alternative
to Singapore. victualling storing and ammunitioning arrangements
for ships operating in Abda area. F.O. J has
no administrative staff or facilities.
(Abdacom 0730/23 to Admty.)

/Fuel Batavia ...

War Diary.23.1.1942
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Fuel, Batavia. I have been informed today by Dutch Authorities without prior warning that there is no oil fuel remaining in Batavia. Fuel is required in next 48 hours for two 8-inch cruisers and several destroyers. I am therefore diverting to Batavia tanker BRITISH JUDGE bound Australia with diesel fuel. Vessel at present in Lampong Bay awaiting escort. No tankers with furnace oil in vicinity.
(F.O. Java 0905Z/23 to D. of S.T.)

EXETER My 1154/21 EXETER will escort B.M.11 in place of GLASGOW joining about (200?) miles west of Sunda Strait. GLASGOW returns to Colombo.
B.M.11 (C. in C. E.F. 0930Z/23 to Admty. (R) Abdafloat.)

Singapore, W/T. My 0527/23. (N.T. in W.D.) (Technical matters) Policy to be that Batavia ultimately takes over all Singapore present fixed services thus ensuring good communication for Abdafloat. Operators will be provided from Singapore as service closed down. Your type 25 B sets can be sent.
(R.A. Malaya, 1150Z/23 to C. in C. E.F.)

Malaya Report. H.M.S. RAUB, H.M.S. LARUT sunk. Our forces in contact with enemy Mersing area. No apparent increase in enemy's strength. In central sector withdrawal in progress Labis Yong Peg Road. Heavy fighting Batu Pahat area, enemy infiltrating south of Batu Pahat and situation obscure. Air raids on Singapore 21st, 22nd directed on aerodrome, also Singapore Town. Considerable damage to hangars and buildings Sembawang, Kallang. On 22nd, 6 enemy A/C destroyed 2 probable. Intercepted R/T indicates at least 3 other forced landings on return journey. Slight air activity north Sumatra, RAUB and LARUT bombed and sunk in this area. No evidence of S/M or air activity Banka Strt. to Singapore.
(R.A. Malaya 1203Z/23 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Java, Admty.)

Wavell General Wavell has left by air for Rangoon returning probably 25th.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1245/(? 23))

Administration of Naval forces. My 0753/3 and my 0440/15. As from 24/1 C. in Eastern Fleet will administer direct all ships Eastern Fleet other than the cruisers on East Indies Station, ships of Far Eastern Squadron, and those under R.A. Malaya. F.O. 3rd B.S. and F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers will assume normal administrative responsibility for their squadrons on arrival in Eastern Theatre.
(C. in C. E.F. 1745Z/23.)

War Diary.23.1.1942
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Defence of Burma. Reports from Burma have been arriving with great delay and up to short time ago did not indicate any sign enemy attack. Agree that defence Burma of vital importance but have no resources of any kind available.

2. Am most grateful for help you are giving. Am flying Rangoon tonight with Air Officer to see Hutton and Stevenson. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 2007/23 to C. in C. India.)

Sunda Strait Air R/C No.00318 dated 24/1. Your 0145A/21. At present it will be possible to provide a special air R/C to a depth of 200 miles to S. and W. of Sunda Strait when a convoy was approaching in addition to those now arranged covering its advance from Sunda Strait to Singapore.

2. R/C commitments in Eastern part of Abda area are, however, increasing and it may not be possible to guarantee an efficient Sunda Strait R/C in future. (Abafloat T.H.I. 2200/23 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O. Java.)

Malaya Air Report. Daily Op Summ. up to 1030Z/23. Further Patrols covering reinforcement Convoys despatched. Sighting Reports confined to one which saw a Motor Launch towing 5 barges position 1° 28' S., 105° 24' E. proceeding West.

F.O. Java and C.Z.M. informed no P R Aircraft available for today. Air Raid Singapore Bombs dropped Seletar damage mostly to Aerodrome. 1 Walrus 1 Swordfish 1 Hudson destroyed, casualties slight. (A.H.Q., F.E., 2325/23.)

646A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN ~~1835/23~~ January

From ABDACOM

Date 31.1.42.
Recd. 2120.

INTERSERVICE SPECIAL (X) BY W/T

Addressed Troopers Repeated Arminia, C.in C. Eastern Fleet.

00287 25/1 your 065798 21/1 No doubt necessary defend Nancowry if to be used. Is it the intention to use? Understood not required by Navy or Air. See also my 00236 22/1.

1835/23

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F).
D.D.I.C. Hd. of M for W.O.

Are defence force necessary for Nancowry.

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.

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of M. (35) and to pass to W.O. for action).

D.O.D.(H).

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

D.O.D.(F).

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

D.C.(2).

D.N.I.(7) and for R.E. and D.N.L.O.

D.D.I.C.(2).

D. of P.(2).

D. S.W.

I.P.(2).

W.D.

D.P.D.

D.S.D.

Ad. Bailey.

Ad. Bellairs.

Ad. Somerville.

E.P.S.

Reply of CLCEF, 1552 Z/26, page 758

MOST SECRET

646B

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1850/23 January IN

From G.O.C. Burma.

Date 24/1/42
Recd. 0045

CYPHER

Addressed C. in C. S.W. Pacific, repeated C. in C. India,
The War Office, Military Attache, Chungking.

IMMEDIATE

O.433. cipher 027972. 23/1.

Personal for Wavell from Hutton.

Immediate situation has improved and it appears probable
attack on Tavoy and Kawkaroik may have been isolated operation
and not first stage of general offensive. Present estimate of
total Japanese in Thailand is 3 possibly 4 divisions and last
few days operations show Thailand troops are prepared to
take an active part in operations. General offensive may
therefore begin any time and would obviously be sound tactics
while our forces are so weak. Acceleration of reinforcements
remains therefore of first importance but urgency is no longer
so great as indicated in my 0410 Jan. 21st not to M.A. China.
If situation permits propose to visit Chungking 27th.

1850/23

Recd. in War Reg. at 1537/24.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.C.(2)
D. of P.(2)
C.P.S.
Hd. of M.(2)
I.P.(2)
N.I.D.10
W.D.
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.I.C.(2)
Admiral Bellairs.
Admiral Somerville

War Office circulation:-

S. of S.
C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S.
D.M.O. & P.
D.P.(2)
D.D.M.O.(O)
M.O.1.10.12.
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I.(I)
M.I.2.
C.N.S. Admiralty.
D. of Plans, Admiralty.
C.A.S. Air Ministry.
Director of Plans Air Ministry.
Sec. J.P.S.
Colonel Jacob.
Burma Office (War Staff)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

646C

~~MOST SECRET~~

M E S S A G E

2151/23rd January.

IN

From C.in C. S.W.Pacific.

Date 25.1.42.
Recd. 0025

Cypher.

Addressed - The War Office, British Joint Staff Mission,
Washington.

028239 00278 cipher 23/1.

War Office for C.O.S. British Joint Staff Mission
for Combined C.O.S.

From General Wavell.

Although Russia unlikely to attack Japanese
in Manchuria am in hope she is being urged to take all
measures that will keep Japanese land and air forces in
constant apprehension of attack and prevent withdrawals.

2151/23

Received from War Office 1347/25

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

War Office circulation.
S.of S.
C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S.
D.M.O. & P.
D.P.
D.D.M.O.(O).
M.O.I.
M.O.I.O.
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I.(I).
M.I.2.3.
C.N.S. Admiralty.
D.of Plans, Admiralty.
C.A.S. Air Ministry.
Director of Plans, Air Ministry.
Secretary, Joint Planning Staff.
Col. Jacob.
Foreign Office (Mr. Sterndale
Bennett).
" " (Mr. Cavendish Bentinck)
Head of War Registry, Admiralty.

ML.

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.CITY OF
ATLANTA,
CILTVAIRA.

U.S. Navy Dept. has announced sinking of 2 M/Vs on 19/1. U.S. CITY OF ATLANTA, 5269 tons, was sunk by U/B off Cape Hatteras, believed only 2 survivors of crew of 46. Latvian CILTVAIRA 3779 tons, was torpedoed and is believed sunk. 2 of her crew missing. Was bound from Hampton Roads for Savannah. (D.S., 871).

Abda Area.

Australian telegrams to P.M. and comments by Chiefs of Staff, No. (W) 8, and 9. (1st S.L., 0051/23 and 1542A/23 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Bases.

At Jamaica, Bermuda, Trinidad, etc. Assessed scales of attack. Review. Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 10. (1st S.L., 1805A/23 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

WARSPITE.

Esquimalt departure WARSPITE escorted by QUESNEL and DAWSON and U.S. Destroyer GILMER. (C.O.P.C., 0200Z/23 to Admty).

My 1915/22. Destroyer escort is now being continued to 036° 20' N., and air escort till 26/1.

(B.A.D., 1505R/23 to Admty). See p.p. 643 7644

U/B.

D/F bearing at 2149Z/22, indicated enemy submarine within 150 miles of 049° 30' N., 044° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0346Z/23 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)

Air Report.

Operations Jan. 22 all times GM.T.

3 Hudsons No. 11 Sqdn. Dartmouth special A/S Sweep to investigate report of U-boat attacking ship in 42° 53' N., 61° 0' W. time on patrol 1726, time of patrol 2209. No enemy units sighted.

Digby 740 attacked submarine 48° 3' N., 52° 35' W. 6 depth charges dropped, no visible results.

Direct hit made by depth charge.

(A.O.C., E.A.C., 0601/23).

U/B attacked
by
U.S. CAMPBELL
22/1.

CAMPBELL reports successful depth charge attack 42° 34' N., 62° 27' W., at 2335 G.C.T./22. At 0620 G.C.T./23 sound searching 8 miles W., of burning object either burning tanker or burning oil from sunken tanker approx. position 42.36 N., 61.00 W. Will approach by early daylight for survivors.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0930Z/23 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.).

/U/B...

MOST SECRET

Date: 21.1.42.

647A

To: B.A.D. Washington. 709.

Naval Cypher One Timetable

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE AIDAC

For Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff No. (W)8.

*Australia
and Defence
of ABDA
Area.*

- A. The following telegram to the Prime Minister has been received from Australia and is passed to you for communication to the American Chiefs of Staff.

Begins:-

1. War Cabinet and Advisory War Council have examined naval arrangements proposed for the Anzac area in order to bring it more closely into the sphere of operational activity of the United States Pacific Fleet.
2. They agree to the appointment of an United States Flag Officer in command of the forces employed and to be employed in this area, in view of the fact that strategical control of the whole Pacific area is vested in the Command-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet who is not only responsible for the security of the air ferry route and convoys and supplies between the United States and Australia but whose forces can alone provide potential reinforcements for this area
3. They assume that the United States Government will have no objection to the retention afloat of a British Flag Officer who will work under and in the closest co-operation with the United States Flag Officer in command and be charged with the administration of the British units and advising on British commitments and base facilities thus following the principles now established for naval control in the ABDA area.
4. They agree to the tasks assigned but would stress the fact that the protection of Australian vital overseas and coast shipping in the area will become the responsibility of the United States Flag Officer and occasions may arise when these vital interests may necessitate their making some special call on him for provision of protection from forces assigned to the area. They assume therefore that he will be directed to co-operate closely with the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board in matters affecting local naval defence of Australia and the protection of convoys and shipping to and from Australia.
5. They would also point out that under the present arrangements provision of adequate escorts

/ for

for convoys. to the ABDA area can only be provided by force assigned to the Anzac area and it will be essential to ask for the necessary detachments of cruisers when the troop or supply convoys are despatched unless they are furnished by the Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Fleet. We also desire to know what is contemplated in regard to the naval protection of the area to the west of the Anzac area and the coast of Western Australia.

6. Reinforcement of Samoa and Fiji by the United States and the recent recommendation that the United States will now undertake the defence of New Caledonia emphasises necessity for close co-operation between Pacific Fleet and naval forces in the Anzac area and for extending strategical control of the Command-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet. Denial of these island bases to the Japanese and their use by the Allies will reduce the possibility of attack on the Australian coast and in the Tasman area, as the whole of Australian naval forces except the Local Defence Forces, will be allocated either to the Anzac or the ABDA area.
7. Situation developing at Rabaul at the present moment, where an attack by 100 aircraft from carriers has just taken place and a possible landing by heavy ships may be impending, points to much stronger forces being required in the Anzac area than the Air Council allocated. The continuance of this Southern advance will produce a threat on the flanks of both the lines of communication across the Pacific and the land and air route to Darwin from the east coast of Australia.
8. Importance of Australia as a base for American operations has been indicated by the conclusions reached by the President and yourself and it is also apparent from information of their plans conveyed to us by General Brett and his staff. We hope however that the Americans have a full realisation of the fact that their capacity to launch a counter offensive with land and air forces might be frustrated by inadequate naval strength in this region. Ends.

B. The following are our comments on the above:-

- 1.
1. Para. 3. It is not seen how the British Flag Officer will be able to advise on British commitments as he will presumably be at sea and rarely in contact with the U.S. Flag Officer.

As stated in para. 4 the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board is the only authority who can advise the U.S. Flag Officer on convoy and other requirements in the Anzac area.

A solution might be for the U.S. Flag Officer to be at the Australian Navy Office and also from the point of view of his communications.

MOST SECRET

2. Para. 5. The command of the C. in C. Eastern Fleet will extend to the Western limit of the ABDA area and on the South and West of Australia to the Western limit of the Anzac area.

The provision of escorts for convoys proceeding to the ABDA area will have to be by arrangements between the Commanders-in-Chief Eastern Fleet and the Naval Commanders-in-Chief of Anzac and ABDA areas.

0051/23

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.I.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- Duty Captain
- E.P.S.
- Head of M. (10)
- I.P. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson)
- W.D.

For 1st S.L.

J.R.2.

647D.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1542A/25th January CUT
MOST SECRET
Date 25. 1. 42

To. B.A.D. Washington 720

NAVAL CYPHER (ONE TIME TABLE)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following for Joint Staff Mission from C.O.S.
No. (W) 9.

Reference GREY 300 and 302.

A. Following is text of telegram from Government of Australia.

Begins. Chiefs of Staff advise that alternative methods of resolving this difficulty appear to be:-

(a) To leave the responsibility for the defence of Darwin and the north west coast of Australia in Australian hands. As a corollary this will mean that the south east boundary of the Abda area which at present follows the Australian coastline must be moved some 300 (300 miles out from the Australian coast. Preferably this forward area should include the island of Timor, the defence of which is important to the successful defence of Darwin. In other words, boundary of Australian responsibility should remain that fixed at the Singapore Conference and which was accepted prior to Mr. Churchill's and Mr. Roosevelt's conferences in Washington last week: or

(b) To allot not only the responsibility for the defence of Darwin to General Wavell, but also such portion of the north west coast of Australia which is necessary for the successful defence of Darwin against enemy land and air operations from a base on the Australian coast in that area.

2. Second alternative represents a reversion in part to what was mentioned (corrupt group ? afterwards) as Abda area and our advisers regard it as strategically the more sound of the alternatives. The defence of Darwin depends on the defence of the neighbouring areas both to seaward and landward and the defence of those areas depends on Darwin. As General Wavell is now responsible and has the means that are provided ? to defend areas to the seaward of the Darwin and will use Darwin and the areas to landward as strategic and operational bases, Commonwealth Government think that responsibility for defence of landward areas should pass to him.

3. Accordingly, it is suggested that the portion
/of.....

MOST SECRET

of Australia lying to the north of a line running from Onslow in Western Australia to the south east corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria should be included in the Abda area. If this approved we will advise as soon as possible of the forces to be allotted by us to this area and placed at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief. Ends.

B. We agree with Australia and are strongly of opinion that alternative (b) should be adopted. If U.S. Chiefs of Staff agree presume Wavell will be informed direct from Washington of combined Chiefs of Staff decision and that you will repeat to us for intimation to Australian Government.

1542A/23
Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

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

War Diary.

23.1.1942.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B Report. C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 2228/22. (Re sighting by U.S.S. CAMPBELL of a submarine with ship which gave call sign GCQJ) Ship allotted signal letters GCQU (KING GRUFFYD) is at Table Bay. (D.D.I.C., 1023A/23 to Opanav)

PANDORA. See p. 623.

Movements. Summary at 1800 G.M.T./23.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
→ CAVINA	33° N., 46½° W.	235°	12
REGENT	42° N., 30° W.	253°	11
DIOMEDE	14° N., 63° W.	152°	15
DESPATCH	21° N., 73° W.	022°	14
CILICIA	Equator, 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
WARSPITE	46° N., 132° W.	174°	14
MOA	Due arrive Tahiti	179°	10
AQUITANIA	25½° S., 111½° E.	160°	20
DEVONSHIRE	32° N., 71° W.	322°	18
(D.O.D. (F) 1030Z/23 to Opanav)			

U/B D/F bearing at 0410Z indicates enemy S/M vicinity 042° N., 059° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1209Z/23 to Brit. Warships in Area A, etc).

→ CAVINA to assist SURREY. Your 1013P/21 and my 0124A/22. Estimate CAVINA should coal not later than 2/2 when four days coal will remain. (2) Request you will make necessary arrangements and sail CAVINA for normal length patrol on completion. (3) Estimated requirements. (S.O.W.P., 1210A/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Washington Report. Washops 43. (1) Philippine Is. Luzon: Commander, Philippine Is. report heavy fighting 22/1. Enemy has been repulsed everywhere. He has adopted a policy of attrition as his command of the sea enables him to land reinforcements at will.

U.S. losses have been very heavy and are now 35% of entire force. This will soon necessitate a shortened line on which a final stand will be made.

Mindanao: Enemy activity limited to patrolling 10000 former residents of Davao are now being armed and organized by enemy.

2. N.E.I. U.S. Military Observer Bandoeng reports that without waiting for an enemy attack Balikpapan oil fields have been set on fire.

(J.S.M., Washington, 1215R/23 to Admty. etc).

ARCHER. Your 2152/20. Request report on situation of ARCHER. (D.O.D. (F), 1217A/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ARCHER arrived Charleston 21/1 in tow. Survey of damage now being carried out. NASTURTIUM did not make contact and is proceeding St. Johns N.F. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2159P/23 to Admty)

/ALCANTARA...

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

ALCANTARA Your 2220Z/20 and 1615Z/22. Owing to U-boat situation arrangements have been made for ALCANTARA to work up in Chesapeake Bay from 26/1 She will not call at Bermuda.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1253P/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

Burning Ship. Aircraft report burning ship and empty lifeboat in 042° 30' N., (1061°) 07' W., at 1245Z/23.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1330Z/23 to N.S.H.Q. etc).

British Forces for Abda Area. Following is reply to Joint Staff Mission's No.5 (B.A.D's 1711/21):-
Para. (iii) (a) British forces allocated to Abda area (China Force) are:-
DRAGON, DURBAN, DANAE, JUMNA, YARRA, *JUPITER, *ENCOUNTER, *EXPRESS, *ELECTRA, VAMPIRE, TRUSTY, TRUANT, ABDIEL.
(* temporarily. Will be withdrawn when required for Eastern Fleet as escorts for Battleships and Aircraft Carriers).
It is confirmed that from time to time forces from the Indian Ocean will proceed into Abda Area escorting convoys in which case they will form part of China Force for as long as they remain in Abda area.
(b) In addition to above are local defence forces at Singapore consisting of 4 "S" Class destroyers, 7 "Bathurst" Class M/S and local A/S and M/S craft. These forces are available for convoy escort duty in Abda Area as required by Adm. Hart.
Para. (iv). (a) British forces afloat in Abda area except local defence forces at Singapore under R.A. Malaya are under command of Commodore Collins as Commodore Commanding China Force (C.C.C.F.) under Adm. Hart. While responsibility of C. in C. E.F. for the conduct of Allied Naval strategy and operations in the Abda Area has ceased, it will be necessary from time to time for forces from the Indian Ocean to enter Abda Area and C. in C. E.F. has, therefore, been instructed to co-operate closely with Adm. Hart.
Para. (iv) (b) The extent of Adm. Somerville's command depends on establishment of Anzac Area. If the latter is established it is the intention that Adm. Somerville's command should extend over the area of the present British East Indies Station except for the Abda area and also over the part of the Australian Station to S. and W. of Australia which is excluded from Anzac Area.
Para. (iv) (c) Relations between C. in C. E.I. and C. in C. Eastern Fleet have not been finally settled, but it is probable that C. in C. E.I. will remain ashore in Ceylon in order to carry out the normal duties of E.I. Station including the operation of convoys. C. in C. E.F. will thus be freed for wider strategical duties. In effect therefore, the C. in C. E.F. will have strategical command over the present E.I. Station, except for the Persian Gulf and certain parts of the Arabian Sea, and also over the Australian Station up to the Anzac and Abda Areas.
(d) Ref. C.O.S. (W) 4 (A.T.1636A/19) When C. in C. E.F. made his 0549Z/15 from which an extract was quoted, he was conducting operations in the Abda Area before Adm. Hart assumed command. (1st S.L., 1344A/23 to B.A.D., Washington).

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

NORSEMAN
cable
repairs. Departure 23/1 NORSEMAN Kingston (Jamaica) via Holyrood, cable repair, date of arrival unknown, coastwise south of Puerto Rico and Haiti, knots 10, ref. nil days 20 independent (1) (13) (16). (St. Thomas V.I., 1350/23 1410/23 to Admty).

LEIESTEN
torpedoed. Following received 1325 G.M.T SSSS 45. 27 N., 43.19 W. LEIESTEN torpedoed. (Halifax W/T, 1400Z/23).

DONERAIL. Your 1600M/21 re Panamanian DONERAIL. Unable to confirm my 1923Z/15. Report of arrival at Honolulu evidently in error. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1403Z/23 to D.N.I. Wellington).

OCTAVIAN. Norwegian OCTAVIAN due St. Johns, N.B. 18th from Galveston has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1516/23 to Admty).

St. Pierre. Your 1706A/21. Ammunition and stores for St. Pierre landed at St. Johns N.B. Request instructions as to disposal. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1534Z/23 to Admty).

U/B D/F bearings at 1017Z/23 indicate submarine in vicinity of 044° N., 035° 30' W. unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1540Z/23 to Brit. Warships in area 7A., Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

U/B. Ref. Admiralty Message AF, 45° 37' N., 43° 19' W., at 1325/23 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 1625Z/23 to G.B.M.S., Areas 7 and 1).

S.S.
LADY
HAWKINS. LADY HAWKINS left Boston 16/1 now 4 days overdue at Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1759P/23).

S.C.66 Sailed ST. CLAIR, EYEBRIGHT, ALGOMA, PICTOU, QUINTE, GANANOQUE local escort S.C.66. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1759Z/23 to Admty etc).

Martlet A/C
ex ARCHER. My 1651/14. Considered that Martlet could not be crated before 20/2 which is tentative date of completion of ARCHER. Proposed therefore to keep Martlet on board ARCHER.
(2) Question of bringing Swordfish Aircraft from Jamaica is being investigated.
(3) Proposed to ship urgently spares direct to U.K. Ship's name will be reported.
(B.A.D., 1931R/23 to Admty).

/Minesweepers...

MOST SECRET

1805/23rd January.

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

OUT

Date 23.1.42.

To B.A.D. Washington 722.

Repeated C. in C. America and West Indies 987.

Naval Cypher (F).

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Following for Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 10, (R) C. in C., America and West Indies.

When the U.S. Bases Agreement was approved the Governors of each Colony concerned were furnished with a scale of attack. This was done :-

- (a) To give the Local Defence Committees a basis on which to work.
- (b) To deter the Americans from establishing an unduly high scale of defence.

2. There have been difficulties in some of the Defence Committees, particularly at Trinidad, as the American Commanders do not accept our scales of attack. In this case the local U.S. Army Commander insists on the necessity of defence against attack by parachute troops.

It appears that the Commander-in-Chief Caribbean Command leaves the decision to local discretion so far as military matters are concerned. It is not known to what extent the Commander of the Tenth Naval District at Porto Rico directs the local U.S. Naval Officers.

3. No satisfactory plans can be made unless scales of attack are agreed. We shall probably have to accept some higher scale of attack but leave this to your discretion. You are desired to discuss these scales with U.S. Authorities.

4. The assessed scales of attack were as follows:-

- (a) Jamaica.
Danger of mine-laying from armed merchant vessels of mines or torpedoes in Approaches from submarines.
- (b) Bermuda.
Danger of attack by:-
 - (i) Heavy ship or cruiser raid.
 - (ii) Mine-laying from armed merchant vessels.
 - (iii) Mines or torpedoes in Approaches from submarines.
- (c) Trinidad. - Danger of:-
 - (i) Heavy ship or cruiser raid.
 - (ii) Gun-fire landing party or mine-laying from armed merchant vessels.
 - (iii) Gun-fire mines or torpedoes in Approaches or torpedoes in harbour from submarines.
 - (iv) Occasional air attack by ship-borne aircraft.
- (d) British Guiana. - Danger of :-
 - (i) Landing party or mine-laying from armed merchant vessels.
 - (ii) Mines or torpedoes in Approaches from submarines.
 - (iii) Occasional air attack by ship-borne aircraft. (Considered remote).

(e)/.....

(e) Bahamas, Windward and Leeward Islands.

No attack considered likely.

5. Above has been reviewed in light of events in the last six weeks, and it is considered:-

- (a) Entry of Japan into the war has not increased risk of attack on British Colonies.
- (b) Possible methods of attack remain as set out in paragraph 4 above.
- (c) Active participation in war of U.S.A. and benevolent attitude of Central American Republics have if anything reduced the risk to bases.

6. It may prove necessary to revise the agreed scale of attack from time to time in the light of the changing war situation.

7. Governors of above mentioned Colonies are being informed in the sense of this signal and are being asked to communicate where necessary with you direct.

8. As satisfactory solution is reached regarding each territory please cable result to us, to the Governor concerned and to Commander -in-Chief America and West Indies.

9. In the meanwhile the Governor and Resident British Senior Naval and Military Officers are being instructed by cable to accept local U.S. views as a temporary measure and without reference to higher authority. They have also been informed that it is hoped eventually to issue directives agreed by you with the U.S. Authorities in Washington.

1805A/23.

Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 P.A.S. (8)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D. of P. (2)
 E.P.S.
 Head of M. (10)
 I.P. (2)
 N.I.D. 10 Payr. Cdr. Wilson.
 W.D.
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.C. (2)

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War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.

Minesweepers for Pacific coast. Your 1652Z/13. Concur with Para. 2. Para. 3 has been noted.
(D.M.S., 1937A/23 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa).

U/B Following received from Camperdown addressed C.O.A.C. Halifax (begins). Intercepted on 500 kc/s at 2308 G.M.T. from WSL. SSSS HRBV 36° 23' N., 74° 22' W., zigzagging to evade submarine sighted at 1700 E.S.T. 5 P.M. E.S.T. HRBV not heard QT Camperdown - signed O.I.C.++ (Halifax, N.S., T.H.I., 2000/23 to Admty).

North Atlantic Escort Operations.

Following are proposals as to North Atlantic escort operations resulting from conference of representatives three services concerned. As hereinafter used, western local means between Halifax and Westomp, in about longitude 45° W. Mid-ocean between Westomp and Eastomp in about longitude 20° W. Eastern local between Eastomp and Londonderry.

2. S.C. - O.N.{S} Western local, 5 short-leg R.C.N. destroyers, 21 R.C.N. corvettes and minesweepers to maintain 3 groups of 1 destroyer and 5 corvettes each. Mid-ocean and eastern local, 8 long-leg R.C.N., 4 long-leg R.N. destroyers 43 R.C.N. 12 R.N. and 3 Free French corvettes to maintain 7 groups of 1 destroyer and 5 corvettes each.
3. H.X. - O.N. Western Local, 12 short-leg R.N. destroyer, 6 R.C.N. corvettes to maintain 3 or 4 groups of 4 or 3 each. Mid-ocean and eastern local, 46 R.N. corvettes to maintain 7 groups of 4 to 5 each. Between Halifax and Londonderry, 24 long-leg U.S. destroyers to maintain 8 groups of 2 each.
4. Eastern local, to replace destroyer and some corvettes in O.N. and O.N.{S} escorts to Eastomp and to relieve when necessary eastbound escorts running short of fuel. 12 short-leg R.N. destroyers.
5. Iceland traffic sails with and breaks off from alternate S.C. convoys and joins alternate O.N.{S} convoys at Eastomp and to be handled by 5 short-leg U.S. destroyers running shuttle service between Eastomp and Iceland.
6. Of the 225 craft available, these allocations leave 10 long-leg British destroyers for T.C.-C.T.-N.A. duties and 4 long-leg U.S. destroyers for troop and other escort assignments, and 10 short-leg U.S. destroyers that will be employed to cover and slant or escort Atlantic seaboard traffic. To avoid congestion at St. Johns, R.N. corvettes operating with H.X.-O.N. convoys may make use of Argentia as western terminus. Moorings fuel and repair ships facilities can be made available and R.N. Captain (D) and staff can be accommodated. It is agreed that shift of operational control between C. in C. U.S. Fleet and Admiralty would pass from U.S. to British Authorities (and vice versa) at the time ocean group is expected to move from one area into the other. There is visualized no change in U.S. control as now exercised except that Cinclant will establish at Londonderry a unit headed by a destroyer Squadron Commander who will exercise functions similar to those now at Iceland which latter position will be continued. C. in C. U.S. Fleet has no objection to U.S. Escort Commanders attending final departure conferences at Halifax though this is not to be taken as a precedent.

(B.A.D. 2007R/23 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.)

/My...

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.North
Atlantic
Escort
Operations
Contd.

My 2007/23. Para. 1. The proposal that Canadian corvettes should escort H.X. and O.N. convoys was not acceptable to Canadian representatives, chiefly for political reasons and also because they desired to preserve the continuity of their present group training. They wish to retain in their own control the escort of S.C. convoys. We could not well tell the Canadians that whilst we thought that they ought to work under U.S. Officers we were not prepared to do so ourselves. The Canadians are very reasonable about some things but in others most unreasonable.

Para. 2. The S.C. Local escort (Eastern Section) is intended primarily to relieve the R.N. or R.C.N. long-legged destroyers to and from Eastomp. It appears, however, that the endurance of the corvettes varies greatly and some doubts were expressed as to whether they could all escort the whole way from 45° W., to Londonderry. In view, however of the economy in escorts entailed it was considered well worth while to give the scheme a trial.

Para. 3. It was definitely considered that the endurance of some of the corvettes would be insufficient to permit of them escorting the O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys from Londonderry to 45° W., in the winter months and it is consequently proposed that destroyers of the S.C. local escort (Eastern Section) should where necessary replace the corvettes of the O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys out to about 20° W., the corvettes coming out at economical speed.

Para. 4. If the endurance of the corvettes is insufficient to escort the H.X. and S.C. convoys as far as Londonderry, it is realised that the 12 destroyers allocated below for S.C. local escort (Eastern Section) is inadequate but it is proposed to accept this risk in view of the very real necessity of having some destroyers for escort work on the American Seaboard at the earliest possible date.

Para. 5. Though not specifically stated in my 2007/23, it is intended Western local escort groups shall be based on Halifax or Shelburne and refuel at St. John's or Argentia before returning with O.N. or O.N.(S) convoys.

Para. 6. Ref. para. 6 of message quoted, it is proposed to obtain an understanding from C. in C. U.S. Fleet that the U.S. destroyers spared for service on East coast will still be available for Atlantic convoys if from experience the scheme is shown to require them.

(B.A.D., 2055R/23 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.)

OREGON
(French)

St. Thomas arrival and departure today Friday.
OREGON due Guadeloupe tomorrow. R.O. St. Thomas reports requested 7007 tons oil fuel nothing supplied. Ship to return St. Thomas 28/1.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2051R/23 to Admty etc).

U/B, VENORE
torpedoed.

(1) Honduras ship TANAMO reports sighted submarine at 2200Z/23 in 036° 23' N., 074° 22' W.
(2) U.S. Ship VENORE torpedoed twice 15 miles S. of Diamond Shoal, Cape Hatteras, at 0040Z/24.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2209P/23 to DEVONSHIRE (R) Admty etc).

/U/B...

652A

1018Z/23 January.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OIN.

From: Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. Date: 2/2/42

Recd: 1502.

Naval Cypher M by W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty C. in C. Eastern Fleet C. in C. East Indies C.O I.S. Singapore New Zealand Naval Board C Z M OHAY Washington C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

676 Serial No 4 17 warships and transports sighted from Uluputur (West coast of New Ireland) 0630Z 22nd proceeding towards Rabaul. In anticipation of early enemy occupation of Rabaul commercial wireless station has been demolished and town evacuated. During air attack on morning of 22nd January fixed defences at Praed Point Rabaul had been put out of action. Gavutu (Solomon Is.) bombed by type 97 flying boat No damage

... 1018Z/23.

Advance Copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Naval Sec.
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- Capt Pim Admiralty Hsq.
- D.N.A.D.
- M. (35)
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (7) and for A.E. and D.N.L.O.
- O.I.C. (3)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.A.S.W.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D. .D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- Admiral Bailey
- Admiral Bellairs.
- E. P.S.
- Admiral Somerville.

War Diary.23.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B

D/F bearings at 1948Z/23, indicate S/M within 50 miles of 48° N., 41° W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2222Z/23 to Brit. Warships Area 7A., etc).

U/B

One submarine sighted on surface 37.44 N., 68.34 W. about 2000Z/23.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2231/23 to C.N.A.N.C.F. Repeated Admty. C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.N.F.)

Australia and New Zealand.S.S. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Admty (?19)58A/22. Ship will be sailed calling at Suva for fuel. Request arrangements be made for supplying 3,000 tons oil fuel in Lighters.
(A.C.N.B., 0819Z/23 to N.Z.N.B.)

A.M.1958/22. Request anticipated amount fuel required. Prefer anchorage off Rangitoto from defence point of view and oiling facilities available.

(N.Z.N.B., 1625M/23 to A.C.N.B.)

Your 0819Z/23. In view N.Z.N.B.'s 2237Z/19 reporting submarine attack on MONOWAI, it is considered essential that QUEEN ELIZABETH should avoid Suva unless some form of A/S defence has been installed of which Admty. has no knowledge.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1632A/23 to A.C.N.B. (R) N.Z.N.B.)

Australian
Troop
Convoys.

Standing orders for Australian troop convoys dated 1/8/1940 are cancelled and are to be destroyed by fire.
(A.C.N.B., 1229Z/23 to all H.M.A. Ships etc).

War Diary.

23.1.1942
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-Boat positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1402A/23, 1403A/23.)

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

The Admiralty at midnight 24/25 Jan. handed over again the responsibility for ordering air R/C in connection with enemy movements.

Dundee, Montrose and Aberdeen were closed this evening on account of the weather. LA CAPRICIEUSE (sloop) suffered weather damage a.m. today 25 miles east of Lerwick.

North Atlantic.

REGENT, north of Ponta Delgada has damaged her after hydroplane and cannot dive, and her main engine is inefficient. She is making for Ponta Delgada at 4 knots and HERMIONE is proceeding to her. (REGENT arrived at Ponta Delgada 1400 G.M.T./27.)

S.S. NAVEMAR (Spanish) was torpedoed shortly after midnight 23/24 Jan. in 36° 48' N. 15° 46' W. (another report gives position 36° 40' N. 17° 6' W.) No British or Allied S/M was near this position. COLTSFOOT searched the area but could find no trace of the ship.

Mediterranean.

There were a large number of air attacks on Malta last night and today. Damage was caused at Hal Far and Luqa.

The attacks on the heavily escorted convoy in approx. 33½° N. 18° E. (see 23/1) were continued today. At 0135 2 Swordfish secured two probable hits with torpedoes on the liner, no trace of which could be found today and H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. consider her sunk. The convoy was later sighted 20 miles east of Tripoli, and was reported to consist of 4 large merchant vessels escorted by 7 destroyers.

/URGE ...

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

URGE heard one torpedo hit, presumably from Swordfish aircraft at 0530B. At 0800 3 west-bound merchant ships with destroyer escort passed 7 miles south of URGE, and about 0855 one torpedo hit from P.36 was heard, following 32 depth charges.

C.S.15 in NAIAD sailed from Alexandria today with DIDO, EURYALUS, CARLISLE, and 6 destroyers, escorting BRECONSHIRE.

East Indies.

Certain anchorages in the Andaman Islands are to be mined.

Far East.

The southern limit of the Abda area is extended to include Darwin and such portion of the north-west coast of Australia as is necessary for the successful defence of Darwin against enemy landings and for air operations from a base on the Australian coast in that area.

(See A.M. 1720A/26.)

As from today C. in C. Eastern Fleet will administer direct all ships of the Eastern Fleet other than the cruisers on East Indies station, ships of Far Eastern Squadron, and those under R.A. Malaya.

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Burma.

There were two air raids on Rangoon early this morning; slight damage was caused at Mingaladon Aerodrome. The enemy lost several planes, all 7 enemy bombers making the first attack being brought down, in addition to 6 or 8 fighters destroyed; we had no losses. The demolition of Mergui Aerodrome has been completed. A ship was attacked at 0510 G.M.T. today by a submarine in 15° 47' N. 93° 57' E. (off Cape Negrais) but is believed to have escaped. This is the third ship to be attacked off Rangoon since 21/1 inclusive.

F.O.C.R.I.N. has suggested that he might be able to assist in the local defence of Burma.

Malaya.

The infiltration of the enemy down the west coast of Malaya appears in the first place to have been made possible owing to craft having been left at Penang when the place was evacuated. Attacks have been made on shipping by a Japanese submarine south of Fassien River during the last two days. There are reported to be indications that a submarine base is being established at Penang.

S.S. TAI SANG in Convoy S.S.1 was sunk in mine-field in 0° 56' N. 103° 35' E. (off Singapore) today.

Siamese aircraft were identified today for the first time, operating against us.

N.E.I.

Palembang is reported to have been raided by 27 enemy fighters: slight damage was caused. A heavy air attack has been made on the port of Medan and damage was caused at the docks. Samarinda II Aerodrome was attacked and some aircraft were destroyed.

A further attack was made today on the enemy convoy in Macassar Strait. U.S. cruiser MARBLEHEAD and 5 destroyers carried out two attacks this evening, and sank 5 or 6 transports without loss other than slight damage and 4 wounded in U.S. destroyer FORD. (Another account states 5 or 6 torpedo hits and close range shell hits claimed: 1 large ship seen to blow up, one sank, one listing heavily. The U.S. ships fired 48 torpedoes.)

C. in C. S.W. Pacific reports that Dutch bombers from Samarinda II also attacked the Convoy, today and caused one large transport to capsize and secured direct hits on a destroyer and a transport.

/Enemy ...

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.China.N.E.I.
(Contd.)

Enemy forces estimated at the strength of one division landed at Balik Papan last night, and a brigade near Kendari today. 36 mixed enemy bombers and fighters attacked Ambong today, causing considerable damage. It is believed the aircraft were carrier-borne.

Philippines.

Fresh enemy forces have landed in Subic Bay and along the coast on the left of the U.S. position on Bataan Peninsula.

America and West Indies.

WARSPITE sailed from Esquimalt ~~today~~ for Sydney N.S.W.

23/1

See p. 644

S.S. VENORE (ex-CHARLES G. BLACK) was torpedoed twice about 0040Z/24, 15 miles south of Diamond Shoal (11 miles S.S.E. of Cape Hatteras, 35° 16' N. 75° 32' W.) and sank later. Tanker EMPIRE GEM was torpedoed about 0145 G.M.T. in 35° 6' N. 74° 58' W.

S.S. ^{EMPIRE} WILDEBEESTE reported being torpedoed at 0458 G.M.T. in 39° 30' N. 59° 54' W.

Norwegian S.S. RINGSTAD reported being torpedoed at 1332 G.M.T. in 45° 50' N. 51° 4' W.

It is reported (graded B.2) that S.S. DALWARNIC was missed by a torpedo at 0340 in 18° 3' N. 63° 37' W. (100 miles west of Antigua.)

SPIKENARD today picked up a swamped lifeboat with dead bodies, possibly from BELIZE, 25 miles east of St. Johns N.F. BELIZE has been overdue at St. Johns N.F. since 21/1.

U.S. S/M 26 was sunk today in the Gulf of Panama, after collision with her escort.

It is reported from Lisbon that Portuguese S.S. CATALINA has been mined and sunk off the coast of Newfoundland.

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

The U.S. War Department has agreed to provide temporarily the necessary garrison to defend New Caledonia.

5 enemy float planes attacked Manus (Admiralty Island) today and inflicted considerable damage.

A U.S. Naval force consisting of 2 aircraft carriers, 6 cruisers and 3 destroyers is carrying out a sweep from Samoa towards the Gilbert Islands.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Repair
Priority.

Admiralty 1950A/21. Instructions requested whether all destroyers are now to be priority 1, observing that Admiralty letter D.O. 19277/41 dated 25.10.41 places destroyers which cannot be completed within 2 months in the lowest priority. Destroyers affected are FAME, VEGA, MANSFIELD, VELOX, and WOLFHOUND when taken in hand.

(Dockyard, Chatham 1105/24 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS.

(A) In view of heavy submarine training commitments two large S/M's of reasonably modern construction are required continuously with

7th S/M Flotilla. OBERON and OTWAY are at present so employed.

(B) OBERON and OTUS due to refit 1/3 at Portsmouth and Devonport respectively.

(C) OLYMPUS due to refit in June in U.S.A. She is at present in 8th S/M Flotilla and employed principally on ferry service to Malta. The need for a S/M to be specially detailed for this duty appears to have considerably decreased, since new construction submarines and submarines returning to Mediterranean from refit are constantly making the passage from Gibraltar to Malta. OLYMPUS' mechanical condition is no more than moderate.

(D) Propose that C. in C. Med. and V.A. Malta be asked to release OLYMPUS from her present duties and that F.O.C.N.A. be ordered to sail OLYMPUS not later than February to join 7th Flotilla at Rothesay.

(F.O.S. 1234A/24 to Admty.) *See also 26/1 - p. 751 -*S/M Escort
Vessel
required.

A suitable vessel for escorting S/M's is urgently required by 3rd S/M Flotilla to replace WHITE BEAR and LA CAPRICIEUSE. Requirements for escort vessel are as follows.

(F.O.S. 1301A/24 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.Portsmouth
A/A Defences.

Admiralty 1754/10. MANCHESTER will be required to man short range self defence A/A guns air raid precautions at Portsmouth.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1757A/24 to B.A.R.M. Washington.)

Lough Foyle.

Your 2141/15. The Chief of Naval Operations has given his consent the removal of A/T net from Lough Foyle.

(B.A.D. Washington 2031R/24 to Admty.)

Movements.NORFOLK,
LAIRDS ISLE,
WORCESTER.

If NORFOLK not met by 0245 return to Rosyth (C. in C. Rosyth 0221/24 to LAIRDS ISLE.) NORFOLK arrived Rosyth and will proceed Tyne when weather moderates sufficiently for screen to keep up. (C. in C. Rosyth 1215/24.)

/WORCESTER ...

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

NORFOLK,
LAIRDS ISLE,
WORCESTER.
contd. WORCESTER and LAIRDS ISLE are to escort NORFOLK to Tyne. On arrival WORCESTER remain Tyne for escort duty on 27th, LAIRDS ISLE return to Rosyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1325/24.)

DUKE OF YORK. E.T.A. 2300A/24.
(DUKE OF YORK 0345A/24 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

PORT QUEBEC. My 1033A/16 and your 1747A/19. ^{N.T. in W.D.} LANCASTER detailed. Request time of R/V. (R.A.M. 0926/24 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

ROMNEY. If you concur propose sailing ROMNEY with C.W.66. (C. in C. Nore, 0950A/24 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) My 0950A/24. As C.W.66 is not now sailing until 27/1 propose sailing ROMNEY independently to arrive Portsmouth daylight/26. (C. in C. Nore 1422A/24 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

DAUNTLESS. A.T. 1737A/1. DAUNTLESS' stay at Portsmouth is extended to three weeks from 22/1.
2. She should then be sailed to Clyde for 14 days working up before proceeding on foreign service. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0955A/24.)

CUMBERLAND. My 1426A/9. Can approx. date of arrival of CUMBERLAND be given please. (C. in C. Nore 1130A/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

SHERWOOD.
(AUSONIA,
RANPURA,
GARLAND) My 1049A/21. Condensers of SHERWOOD are unreliable and it is unlikely that she will complete passage without trouble. There are, however, no other long leg destroyers available before Feb. 1st. Request that if possible escort may be reinforced in Canadian waters. (C. in C. W.A. 1130A/24.) *See also p.668*

PLOVER,
ADAM. Cancel my 1151A/23.
(V.A. Dover, 1152A/24.)
Intend to sail PLOVER for Southampton escorted by ADAM and M.L.120 for Portsmouth at 2000 today routed as follows. E.T.A. Portsmouth 0930/25. (V.A. Dover 1333/24.)
Intend to sail PLOVER for Southampton escorted by ADAM, and M.L. 120 for Portsmouth at 2000 today, routed as follows. E.T.A. Portsmouth 0930/25. (F.O.C. Dover 1750A/24.)
My 1333A. Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(V.A. Dover 1808A/24 to H.28.)

TRIDENT. It is my intention that TRIDENT shall have her rest period in U.K. after present patrol. (F.O.S. 1201A/24 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/UTMOST ...

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

- UTMOST. F.O.S's 1842/17 (1) After passing 049° 30', 010° proceed thro' 270° Bishops Rock 5 miles to R/V with ROSEMARY at 0845A/26 in 250° Trevoise Head 10 miles for onward passage to Holy Loch. (T.B.R. as follows. (Capt. S.3. 1217A/24 to UTMOST.)
- B.P.T. 35. Sailed 1310 B.P.T. 35 towed by DANUBE VI escorted by LADY ROSEMARY. Cancel my 1558A/23. Speed 5 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 1402/24.)
- CLEOPATRA. Anticipate CLEOPATRA will be ready to sail from Scapa 30/1 having made good defects and completed practice. (R.A.D. H.F. 1421A/24.) When ready CLEOPATRA should be sailed for Clyde to embark stores, ammunition and personnel. (D.O.D. H. 1601A/24 to A.C.O.S.) *See also p. 675.*
- ROSEMONDE. My 1237A/13. Request information as to whether ROSEMONDE has arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1519A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- PRETORIA CASTLE. HESPERUS. F.O.C.N.A. 1624A/22 and 1550A/23. Onward route from position Q 038° 15' N. 020° W. to X 053°, 018° Y 054° 50', 010° Z 000°. Tory Island 8 miles. Thence Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1616A/24 to PRETORIA CASTLE, HESPERUS.) My 1616A/24 and F.O.C.N.A. 1624/22 and 1550A/23. Proceed from (Q) 038° 15' N. 020° W. to (R) 043° N. 020° W. Thence to (X) and as ordered. (C. in C. W.A. 1824A/24 to PRETORIA CASTLE.)
- M.M.S. 92. M.M.S. 92 should be sailed for Swansea as convenient without waiting for extra D.G. equipment. (D.M.S. 1655A/24 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
- TALISMAN. Cancel my 1123A/21. (A) New route on surface at discretion to (a) 46° N. 12° 45' W. thence submerged by day through (b) 49° N. 12° 45' W. (c) 49° 30' N. 09° W. to R/V on 30/1 vicinity Bishop Rock as ordered by S.3. (B) Bombing restrictions as follows. (F.O.S. 2306A/24 to TALISMAN.)

Operations.

- Denmark Strait Patrol. NIGERIA is to leave patrol and proceed Scapa. KENYA is to carry out patrol "Black". (C. in C. H.F. 0107A/24.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Operation "Magnet". My 1302A/23. Add ILFRACOMBE.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1028A/24.)

S/M Patrol off Fro Havet. TRIDENT and O.14 are to exchange patrol zones between 0001 and 0100/27. TRIDENT passing north of and O.14 south of 064° 30' N.
(F.O.S. 1126A/24.)

Operation E M. Owing to continuous gale ships have been lying with both anchors down. CAPE SABLE on attempting to shift berth today after dragging found port anchor foul of starboard cable. Impossible to clear except in very calm weather. Ship at present immobile unless both cables are looped.
(CITY OF DURBAN 1500A/24.) (steps)
On arrival at Lerwick, optional proceed to Scapa shelter until weather moderates.
(R.A.D. 1540A/24 to CALPE.)
Your 1700/24. Smoke lights are ordered until daylight. Did you pass SEAWOLF on passage. Present gale likely to last 3 or 4 days. Admiralty 1607A/24. Take no further action.
(A.C.O.S. 2015A/24 to CALPE.)
Your 1919/24. Proceed Scapa if weather permits.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2207A/24 to CALPE.)

Admty. Present situation no longer justifies retention responsibility by Admty. of responsibility for ordering air R/C for A/C etc. and signal cancelling A.M.'s 0854A/17 and information. 2046A/17 is being made at 2359/24..
(D.O.D.(H) 2212A/24.)
Cancel A.M.'s 0854A/17 and 2046A/17.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2359/24.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Your 1758A/22 para. 2. A.O.C. Iceland informs me that owing withdrawal four long range Whitleys from Iceland for unspecified time he may not be able fully implement undertakings. H.Q.C.C. Signal to Admiralty Ops. 537/23/1 refers. (A.C.I.C. 0201A/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
Four Whitleys 612 Squadron on detachment to Wick returned Reykjavik owing to weather. Last aircraft landed 1002 G.M.T.
H.Q.C.C. OPS/537/23/1 refers.
(R.A.F. Iceland 1052/24 to H.Q.C.C.)

Search for SEAWOLF. SEAWOLF's 1000A/24. ^{W.D.} As soon as weather and visibility justify this, request air search may be made for SEAWOLF.
(F.O.S. 1303A/24 to A.C.O.S.)

Own A/C engaged. It is reported that at 1110A today an A/C approaching Lowestoft from the Eastward at about 500 feet and in low visibility was thought to be a Dornier. Fire was therefore opened on it until

/it ...

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Own A/C
engaged.
contd.

it was seen to be a Hampden Bomber.
This A/C flew at a low altitude directly over
Lowestoft Harbour and the centre of the town, and
no recognition signals were observed to be made.
(C. in C. Nore 1656A/24.)

Escort for
PORT WYNDHAM.

Expect an escort about 0745 G.M.T. tomorrow.
A/C will carry out homing procedure.
(Admiral, Liverpool 1826A/24 to PORT WYNDHAM.)

Enemy Air Activity.LA
CAPRICIEUSE.

1 A/C shadowing me. My position is 60° 8' N.
0° 55' W. (LA CAPRICIEUSE 1450/24.)

Mining.

S.N.26B.

Operation S.N.26 B completed.
(R.A.M. 0017A/24.)
Arrived AGAMEMNON and ST. MARYS.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA 0050/24.)

Approaches
to Lerwick.

Numerous drifting mines in inlet Southern
Approaches to Lerwick Harbour. Proceed with
caution. (A.C.O.S. 1139/24 to SEAWOLF)
About 2030/23 2 mines drove ashore in Braewick
Bay, Lerwick and detonated. Two more mines detonated about
0130/24. In consequence of these explosions there were several
civilian casualties three of whom have since died and minor
structural damage. The Gilbert Bain Hospital and most of the
houses facing the bay have been evacuated. During this forenoon
several more mines, all British Antenna, were sunk or detonated
in the bay. A S. by E. gale and high sea have prevailed
throughout the period. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1811/24.)

RUBIS.

RUBIS may be required to carry out specially
important mine lay shortly. Request you will
investigate with S 9 possibility of embarking
mines in Clyde Area and report date RUBIS could
sail for this operation, taking into account her
general condition and length of her recent patrol.
(F.O.S. 1302A/24 to Capt. S.3.)

Harwich.

At 1010/24 one Ground Mine exploded by Sweepers
in 51° 57' 20" N. 1° 30' 35" E. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1403A/24.)

Operation
N R.

My 1551A/23. Operation will not be carried out
today. Carry out operation N R on night 25/26.
Zero hour 0200/26. (V.A. Dover 1714A/24.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats.

There may be U/Bs in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1055A/24 to KENYA, NIGERIA.)
/Position ...

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

- Position M Z. K I G M Section 2, para. 1 (B) and paragraph 2, and H Y appendix 2 para. 2. Consider position M Z should be changed at intervals. As from 0001C/1/2 position M Z will be 360° Teriberski 20 miles. Soviet authorities in agreement. Request necessary amendment may be made.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1011A/24 to Admty.)
- 20.Q Buoy. Commodore F.N.612 reports light on 20 Q Buoy
20.T Buoy. extinguished 1642/23 also 20 T Buoy light flashing every 15 seconds 2205/23.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1108/24.)
- Fair Isle South Light. Fair Isle South Lighthouse fog signal unreliable.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1221A/24.)
(Bombed 21/1) Fair Isle South Light no longer available as one remaining lightkeeper reported unfit for duty.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1301A/24.)
- My 1221A and 1301A/24. Fair Isle South Light fog signal out of action. The Light can be shown by sending a keeper from the North Lighthouse. As much notice as possible should be given.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1821A/24.)
- Dundee, Ports of Dundee and Montrose closed due to weather.
Montrose. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1659/24.)
- No. 34 A/S Trawler reports that on the night of 22/23 the
Buoy. light on No. 34 buoy was extinguished.
(A.C.O.S. 1726/24.)
- Aberdeen. Port of Aberdeen closed 1745/24, weather.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1756/24.)
- Casualties & Defects.
- LA Heavy weather damage. Forward bulkhead stove in.
CAPRICIEUSE. Forecastle deck fractured. Ship making water forward. Request ship may be sent to stand by me. Approx. position 25 miles east of Lerwick.
(LA CAPRICIEUSE 0650A/24.)
- Proceed to assist LA CAPRICIEUSE with engine defects 25 miles east of Lerwick at 0700. Tug left Scapa at 0800. On arrival of tug return to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0845/24 to CALPE.)
- S.O.(D)'s 0845A/24 and your 0915/A. My position 1000 A now established as 060° 19' N. 0° 41' W., course 218°. speed of advance 3 knots. Have now damaged compartment under control. Providing no further damage is received E.T.A. Lerwick 1630A.
(LA CAPRICIEUSE 1034/24 to A.C.O.S.)
- RUNSWICK. RUNSWICK dragged on shore 0020/23. Engine room flooded. All crew off. Position Peterhead Bay
/between ...

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.RUNSWICK
contd.between Brickwork Bay and Smith's embankment.
Ship probably holed from stern to engine room.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0830/24.)EUGENIA S.
EMBIRICOS.Your 1029A/23. As CAROLINE MOLLER is now at
Campbeltown, will investigation now be carried out
by N.O.I.C. Campbeltown?
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 0847/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

YUKON.

U.S. Ship YUKON reports broken air pump and
drifting in 056° 04' N. 022° W. at 0130A/24.
U.S. Destroyer TRUXTUN standing by. RESTIVE
escorted by BUTTERMERE are being sent to her assistance.
(A.C.I.C. 1245A/24 to Admt.)
My 1245A/24. U.S. Naval Authorities have arranged towage for
YUKON. RESTIVE and BUTTERMERE not proceeding.
(A.C.I.C. 2343A/24 to Admt.)

DIVERSION.

Tug DIVERSION defective. Probable duration
1200A/25. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1608A/24.)

THYRA II.

THYRA II, 165 miles 267° from Barrahead require
immediate assistance. Bearing from Malinhead
297° approx. Bearing from Port Patrick 298°
approx.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1641/24 (Nore W/T. Recd. 1729/24)
Proceed forthwith to assist THYRA II.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1749A/24 to JAUNTY.)
THYRA II's S.O.S. JAUNTY being sent. Detach one Trawler to
stand by THYRA II. (C. in C. W.A. 1816A/24 to ST. KENAN.)
Not in contact with THYRA II. Weather moderating.
(ST. KENAN 2255R/24.) See also p. 668.

M.3.

M.3 reports having sustained slight damage with
unknown M/V while in convoy 22/1.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2200/24.)Unknown
Ship.R.A.F. Interception from Portishead. Unknown
ship in distress 3 miles north east from Sarclett
Head. (C. in C. Plymouth 2250/24.)Unknown
Ship.Distress signals reported 180° Noss Head 5 miles.
Investigate if weather permits. Group one A and
two lights ordered until further notice.
(A.C.O.S. 2315A/24 to DUNCAN.)Shipping & Convoys.Murmansk.
Discharge and
Repair
facilities.Discussion and arrangements as to British
Personnel (British Military Mission, Moscow 0903/24
to War Office) See Lion Copy.
I intend flying to Archangel on 26/1 or as soon
/after ...

666A

MOST SECRET **M E S S A G E** **MOST SECRET** IN
0903/24th January.

Date. 24.1.42.
Time. 1220.

From: British Military Mission, Moscow.

CYPHER.

Addressed: The War Office, repeated Base Commandant
Archangel.

IMMEDIATE.

Murmansk Facilities.

028077. MIL. 2481 cipher 23/1.

Your 65740 (S.D.1) 21/1.

1. A discussion on the requirements of Murmansk was held in Archangel on 21 December as a result of which Maclay agreed to carry out a preliminary reconnaissance during his meeting with the Director of Sea Transport at Murmansk and to forward recommendations.
2. As a result of Maclays report an advance party consisting of Callaghan and four O.R.'s flew to Murmansk on 5/1. Parker now awaits Callaghan's final report before despatching such further Movement Control staffs and port workshop personnel as are considered necessary. Accommodation immediately available limits this party to two officers and ten O.R's.
3. Parker has already submitted proposals to me for increases in existing establishments of Movement Control and port workshop which he considers essential to deal with the simultaneous working of Murmansk Molotovsk and Economia. These proposals forwarded to the Soviet General Staff for their agreement in principle before taking the matter up with the W.O. (Parker also has at his disposal all personnel of the Base Ordnance detachment who have not gone up country).
4. As a result of this Panfilov told me last night that the whole question of the numbers of British Technical personnel required by the Soviet authorities to assist them in the reception despatch and maintenance of stores and equipment from U.K. was now under active consideration by the Army Navy and Airforce Depts. concerned.

Herewith part two my MIL.2481 23/1 he made much of the point that the Soviet authorities to assist them in the reception despatch and maintenance of stores and equipment from U.K. was now under active consideration by the Army Navy and Air Force Depts. concerned.

Here ends Part One.

Part II./

666^B

Part II

My MIL.2481 23/1 he made much of the point that the Soviet authorities did not wish to deprive us of the services of a single technical specialist if that specialist could not be fully employed in Russia.

5. This is very probably an indication that we may shortly be asked to cut down the number of British personnel out here. I said that I too hoped that all our personnel would be fully employed and reminded him that Fedorenko had now asked that every tank and carrier arriving Russia should be passed through our port workshop before being issued to the Red Army. I pointed out that our existing establishments could not possibly cope with this commitment without being considerably strengthened. I also insisted that I must be consulted over any suggested revision of my organisation. To this Panfilov agreed without reservation.

6. I suggest that we should take no further action until I hear again from Panfilov and Fedorenko. In the meantime I do not anticipate much difficulty other than accommodation in transferring the necessary personnel from Archangel to Murmansk especially as latest reports indicate that Economia may not be used again this winter. I am informed that the local Russian authorities have so far made no difficulty over providing air transport between Archangel and Murmansk and if this is so our personnel should be quickly interchangeable. There can be no question of despatching a separate base unit for Murmansk in the meantime.

7. I hope myself to visit Archangel soon after my return from the front when I shall be able to consult with Parker and Callaghan.

8. Parker forward gist of Callaghans report soonest possible.

0903/24

Recd from War Office at 1732/25
War Office circulation:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.O.M.G. | Sigs. 1. |
| 1st S.L. | D.S.D. | S.D. 1.12. |
| 2nd S.L. | D.A.F.V. | A.F.V. 1. |
| 4th S.L. | D.Mov. | A.G. 1. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.Tn. | A.M.D. 8. |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.G.A.E. | C. (Ops) 2. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | D.M.I. | C. (M) 1.2.3. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.S.D. (W) | C. (O.S) 1.2. |
| D. of P. (2) | D.Sigs. | W.S. 1. |
| D.O.D. (H) | D.D.S.D. | N.A.B. |
| D.D.O.D. (H) | D.D. of O. (L) (P) (C) | F. 1. |
| D.C. (2) | D.D.A.F.V. | Army Council |
| D. of L.D. | D.D. (Q. Maint.) | Secretariat. |
| I.P. (2) | D.D.A.E. | Admiralty (War Reg.) |
| W.D. | D.D. Mob. | Air Ministry (W.O. 9) |
| Hd. of M. | D.D. Mov. (S) (P) | |
| D.T.S.D. | D.D.M.I. (O) | |
| D.D.I.C. (2) | M.I.I. Im. (J.I.C) | |
| D.T.D. (2) | R.L.G. | |
| D.T.D. (M) | | |
| D.T.D. (C) | | |
| D. of S.T. | | |
| E.P.S. | | |

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- Murmansk. after as an aircraft can be made available. I
Discharge and propose spending two days at Archangel and then
Repair fly on to Murmansk for a day to see Maclay before
facilities - he goes home. 2. I shall return via Archangel
contd. and should arrive back Moscow seven days after
leaving. (Ad. Miles 1229c/24.)
Following for M.W.T. repeated Admiral Miles from
- Maclay. Your 1920/15. Although 12 ships can lie alongside
quays at Murmansk only 6 ships can discharge simultaneously.
Local railway improvements now in hand will shortly increase
this number to 8 ships. 2. Prospects further improvements
not likely. 3. If recent bombing of railway between Kam (?Kem)
and Sovoko continues it is doubtful if quays will be cleared at
even 2000 tons per day. 4. If convoys arrive every 10 to 14
days consider 8 ships absolute maximum meantime, otherwise
Port will become congested specially if some ships require
ballast or cargo outwards. 5. Will advise more fully on
arrival Murmansk.
(126 Base Unit, Archangel 1401/24 to War Office.)
- C.W. 66. Intend to sail C.W. 66 from Southend on 27/1.
One destroyer from 21st Flotilla is required as
escort. (C. in C. Nore 1144A/24.)
Your 1144A/24. GARTH detailed.
(D.21. 1955/24 to C. in C. Nore.)
- O N M 59. Request information whether British WHITECREST
WHITECREST. or Dutch tanker MACUBA which sailed from Belfast
MACUBA. without permission A.M. 23rd have arrived at
your port.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1230A/24 to N.C.S.O.'s.)
Your 1230A/24. WHITE CREST arrived Oban
1930/23/1. Sailed in O.N.59 0530/24/1 with complete
instructions. MACUBA arrived Oban 1050/24/1 too late for O.N.O.
59. Both ships sailed Belfast through some confusion regarding
Commodore's red light at Triatic Stay and incomplete instructions.
MACUBA will sail in O.N.O. 61.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1555A/24 to N.C.S.O. Belfast.)
- Q.P. 5. Reykjavik arrival Q.P.5.
(A.C.I.C. 1414A/24.?)
- S.C. 65. WALKER, VANOC, are to sail with 5th escort group
to meet S.C. 65.
(C. in C. W.A. 1516A/24.)
- F.S. 3.708 Recall WOOLSTON to F.S. 3.708.
EMPIRE CLIFF EMPIRE CLIFF will not be sailing. In view of
EMPIRE CAPE. weather use your discretion whether to retain
EMPIRE CAPE in convoy or to put into Tyne or
other port with her. Remain with her in any
case.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1643/24 to LIDDESDALE.)

/Your ...

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.F.S. 8.708
EMPIRE CLIFF,
EMPIRE CAPE.
(Contd.)

Your 1643/24. Master of EMPIRE CAPE informs me that all is satisfactory under present conditions. Intend to continue with F.S. 8.708. (LIDDESDALE, 1833A/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Tankers
in E.N.
Convoys.Of the last 13 E.N. Convoys 9 have arrived at the Orkneys R/V off Dunnet Head in dark hours. The majority of ships sailing westward from the Orkneys are large and in ballast with a high proportion of tankers. It is undesirable to sail these ships in dark. (A.C.O.S., 1743A/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
For Corrected Version see A.C.O.S. 0934A/25.)

P.Q. 10.

P.Q. 10 is not to be sailed until further orders. (D.T.D., 1924A/24.)

R.U. 7

R.V. (? R.U.) 7 scattered owing to weather. All have to in the vicinity of THYRA II. (ST. KENAN, 1950A/24.) *See p. 666.*Escort
Groups for
Atlantic
Convoys.B.A.D. Washington 2007R/23 and 2055R/23. Comments and proposals. (C. in C. W.A., 2042A/24 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

E.N. 35.

E.N. 35 scattered by gale in vicinity of M.5 buoy. (FOXTROT, 2150A/24.)

D.S. 21.
SKATE.

Cancel my 1657/21A. Request SKATE may be held in readiness to R/V with D.S. 21 a.m./29th. (R.A.M., 2201A/24 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2042A/24 Jan, IN

From: C. in C. Western Approaches. Date 24.1.42.

Recd: 2123.

P/L by T/P

Addressed: Admiralty

Escort Groups for Atlantic Convoys.

761.

B.A.D. Washington 2007R/23. 2055R/23.

(1) I share Canadian desire to preserve the continuity of group training. The Senior Officer of my escort groups are able and experienced officers and I would most strongly urge that they should retain their positions.

(2) 2007R/23 para 3. envisages 8 groups of U.S. destroyers working with 7 groups of R.N. corvettes which suggests that corvettes would be constantly working under different S.O.'s.

(3) I had hoped to shift 7 S.O.'s of groups into the 5 H's and 2 F's to operate through escort with 7 corvette groups. I still consider that this would make greatly for efficiency.

(4) In this event long leg American destroyers would be free to perform the invaluable service of operating as supporting groups.

(5) If this is not acceptable propose 14 corvettes groups be formed as suggested and that S.O.'s of groups should be 5 R.N. 5 R.C.N. 4 U.S.N. such a compromise would at least preserve continuity of training in 10 groups out of 14.

(6) 2007R/23 paras 2 and 6 mention 14 R.N. long leg destroyers. Anticipated strength in my command not including CLARE, BRADFORD & CAMERON, is however 22 namely: 5 H's FIREDRAKE, FAME, PIORUN, GARLAND, CHURCHILL, BELMONT, CHESTERFIELD, BUXTON, SHERWOOD, BEVERLEY, ROCKINGHAM, RIPLEY, plus BURNHAM, BROADWAY, BURWELL, RAMSEY, READING, lent to Newfoundland force. If 7 of the foregoing were used as group leaders as suggested and 4 allocated to S.C.O.N.S. convoys as proposed in 2007R/23 para 2 11 would be available for T.C - CT - N A duties and to replace casualties in group leaders.

(7) Otherwise concur.

2042A/24.

Advance Copy sent Ops., O.D., Trade.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T)

Secretary

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.C. (2)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.A/S.V.

Hd of M. (2)

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.C. (C)

D.N.I. (4)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Ad. Bailey

Ad. Bellairs.

War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

NAVEMAR torpedoes Ref. message T.O.R. 0046 at G Y U 2. (? 2346/23 from Valentia Radio re NAVEMAR torpedoes - requesting assistance.) Am going to assistance of NAVEMAR. Was in that position at 1700. Request confirmation. (COLTSFOOT, 0009Z/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Following received via Lands End Radio. Intercept 2335 G.M.T. S O S NAVEMAR 36.48 N 17.06 W., torpedoes. Not rebroadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth 0036/24 to Admty.)

Following has been read 36° 40' N. 17° 06' W. torpedoes. (NAVEMAR, 0039/24) Note difference in latitude. Fuel permitting proceed to assistance of NAVEMAR torpedoes in 036° 48' N. 015° 46' W. at 0058A/24. (F.O.C.N.A. 0129A/24 to COLTSFOOT.)

Report received Spanish NAVEMAR torpedoes at 0058A/24 in 036° 48' N. 015° 46' W. No British or Allied submarine was in vicinity of this position. (F.O.C.N.A. 0930A/24 to N.A. Madrid (R) Admty.)

Your 0105A/24th*have searched the area. Visibility good. No trace. Fuel (?short). (?Returning to) Gibraltar. My P.C. and S. 036° 44' N. 015° 39' W. 095° 8 knots weather report 6582 8903. (COLTSFOOT 1501Z/24 to F.O.C.N.A.) * Presumably 0129Z/24.

O.G.78 O.G.78 all accounted for except LEADGATE which parted company p.m./14. (V.A.C.N.A. 1137A/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

S.S.

LEADGATE.

O.G.78 Arrivals a.m./24 LAFOREY, WISHART, VIDETTE, PELICAN, GARDENIA, SAMPHIRE, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, RHODODENDRON, MARI GOLD and O.G. 78. (F.O.C.N.A. 1158A/24 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

? Your 1722A/21 (N.T.in W.D.) (A) 2nd February. (B) 10 Knots (C) In view of possible engine trouble and seasonable conditions suggest 2 powerful tugs to stand by. Jury rudder impossible. (R.O. Horta 1240/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Corvettes. Your 1907A/23. Propose two corvettes of 36th Group to be detailed by PELICAN remain at Gibraltar and two of your corvettes return to U.K. with 36th Group for fitting Type 271. (2) Similar procedure to be adopted on next arrival of 37th Group at Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1457A/24 to V.A.C.N.A., PELICAN.)

/REGENT ...

War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

REGENT damaged. After hydroplane damaged cause kitchen rudder effect ship to uncontrollably dive. Main engine losing efficiency rapidly. Request immediate assistance proceeding direction Ponta Delgada unless otherwise ordered. My P.C. and S. $042^{\circ} 44' 024^{\circ} 54'$ 186° , 4 knots. Special uncoded weather report 5572 2456. Read in addition G S routine. Acknowledge. (REGENT 1545Z/24 to F.O.(S) repeated F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A. & W.I.; Capt (S) 5, Capt (S) 8.) REGENT in $042^{\circ} 44'$ N. $024^{\circ} 54'$ W. course 186° speed 4 knots at 1545Z 14th. (F.O.C.N.A. 2326A/24 to HERMIONE.)

U/Bs. Fishermen report submarines, one of them very large, are seen these days between Estaca Point and Cape Finisterre. (Coruma 1600/24 to Admty.)

HESPERUS My 1550A/23 ^{N.T.W.D.} Departure HESPERUS. Admty. message QZF 41, H 204, S 319, X 320? Y 313. (F.O.C.N.A. 1830A/24 to Admty. etc.)

LLANGIBBY CASTLE. A.M.0030/22. Request proposed destination for LLANGIBBY CASTLE so that arrangements for oncarriage of personnel may be put in hand. (D.O.D.(F) 1925A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 0030A/22 intend to bring LLANGIBBY CASTLE to Gibraltar (?assisted by) tug THAMES. Escort 3 destroyers. Approx. date of departure from Horta 2/2. Suggest either BATORY or SOBIESKI for onward passage of troops. Your 1840A/17 refers. (? F.O.C.N.A. 2252A/24 to ? Admty.)

Catalinas at Gibraltar. Reinforcement of 202 Squadron is intended up to 9 Catalinas, all fitted long range A.S.V. Two at present fitted short range A.S.V. are ready to leave when weather permits. A third should be ready to leave on 30/1 and a fourth a week later, both fitted long range A.S.V. Dates of departure of remainder not yet available. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1926A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

HERMES. HERMES will be ready to sail p.m./31 after completing exercise programme. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0837Z/24 to C. in C. E.I.)
/EREBUS ...

War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

EREBUS False Bay departure 0935 G.M.T./24 EREBUS for Durban by inshore route. S. of A. 8 knots. E.D.A. 28/1. (2) Capetown arrival 23rd, M.L. INSIZWA. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0943Z/24)

EVAGORAS Overdue shipping, EVAGORAS due Durban 19th from Fremantle not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1101B/24 to Admty. etc.)

Landing grounds in Liberia. Question of protection of landing grounds in Liberia now matter of urgency as Panair are starting to use Marshall as regular stop on their Accra Bathurst service as from 25/1. Request earliest reply. (G.O.C. in C. W.A. 1150/24 to W.O.)

ORIZABA My 2009A/27/11. U.S. Navy Dept. agree U.S. L. WOOD Transports ORIZABA, LEONARD WOOD and ^{SEPT} DICKMAN JOSEPH T. DICKMAN. returning to U.S. Ports unescorted. (D.O.D.(F) 1244A/24 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

DEWDALE Your 1618A/23. Intend now to sail DEWDALE for CROCUS Gibraltar 26/1 with CROCUS and STARWORT as escort STARWORT. instead of sailing these corvettes to U.K. with S.L. 99. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail CROCUS and STARWORT on to U.K. for refit and fitting R.D.F. respectively as soon as practicable. (C. in C. S.A. 1357Z/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Fort Lamy bombed. Following received through R.A.F. Begins. From Brazzaville to Freetown. At 1300Z/22 one unidentified aircraft bombed Fort Lamy. Stick 12 bombs German origin dropped. Hit petrol dump and in flames. Saved only 60,000 litres. Wounded 2. T.O.O. 0940/23. (C. in C. S.A. 1427Z/24 to Admty.)

O.S.16. Convoy O.S.16 arrived 23rd Jan. one straggler RIO BLANCO. (C. in C. S.A. 1447Z/24 to Admty.) (W.D. Note ? RIO BRANCO. Ship arrived see C. in C. S.A. 1714Z/25.)

S.L.convoys. C. in C. S.A's 1259Z/22. Concur, but observing that there will seldom be escorts available in Western Approaches for reinforcement: consider that convoy should only split when the estimated U/B dispositions on their route make it appear relatively safe to do so. It is not anticipated that a decision could be made until convoy reached 35° N. (C. in C. W.A. 1755A/24 to Admty.(R) C. in C. S.A.)

/DUCHESSA ...

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War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

DUCHESSA Ref. Admty. 0111A/23 N.O.I.C. Lagos reports
D'AOSTA, machinery and engines of DUCHESSA D'AOSTA and
LIKOMBA LIKOMBA in good condition. BIBUNDI is a steel
BIBUNDI. motor barge of about 70 tons in good condition
but her engine is in hold of LIKOMBA. Estimated
speed of DUCHESSA D'AOSTA in present state of
bottom 7 to 8 knots. Bunker capacity 1910 tons oil fuel,
consumption 50 tons per day.

2. Am taking steps to man ships with Naval crew and steam them
to Freetown when DUCHESSA D'AOSTA will be included in S.L.
convoy if her speed sufficient.

3. Presume ships should be sailed under white ensign and not as
prizes.

4. Captured crews will be sent to U.K. separately.
(C. in C. S.A. 1901Z/24 to Admty.) *[Reply: Admty 0018A/29, p. 946]*

CANTON Departure 24/1 CANTON patrol H.34 D.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2107Z/24)

Dispositions Weekly state 24/1 Freetown. VINDICTIVE,
BRILLIANT, WILD SWAN, MILFORD, QUEEN EMMA, MISOA
BACHAQUERO, 12 Corvettes, PRINCESS BEATRIX.

Freetown area. W.S.15. RESOLUTION, VANSITTART, BOREAS, NORMAN
Netherlands light Cruiser HEEMSKERCK, DEMIR HISAR, (?CHESHIRE)
ASCANIA,*CANTON, VIMY 2 Corvettes. * See above.

Bathurst IBIS, WALNEY, ABERDEEN, ENCHANTRESS.

Lagos (Nigeria) VIOLET.

Simonstown JANUS,*BEAUFORT,^x EREBUS, HERMES, BRIDGEWATER, EMPIRE
FULMAR. * See p. 678 * See p. 671.

Durban ALAUNIA, ILEX, ENGADINE,* CERES, HURWORTH, ROBERTS, SULTAN
HISAR. (left 22/1 for Mombasa - See p. 604.)

Port Elizabeth WORCESTERSHIRE.

Cape area DERBYSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, 6 Corvettes.

Home port NEWCASTLE, CALIFORNIA, WRESTLER, WIVERN, VELOX.

U.S.A. DEVONSHIRE, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, CARNARVON CASTLE, ALCANTARA,
ALBATROSS.

U.K. to Freetown PHILOCTETES.

Freetown to U.K. PRETORIA CASTLE escorting until relieved by
Western Approaches destroyer.

Freetown, Gulf of Guinea, 3 Corvettes.

Cape to Freetown, MAURITIUS.

Montevideo BULOLO.

Off Falkland Is. BIRMINGHAM.

K.32 C. ASTURIAS.
(C. in C. S.A. 2359Z/24.)

* Left Durban 22/1 See Pencil List 30.1.42

War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.A/C Reports
and Attacks
on escorted
convoys.Over Convoy S 7 us (as received) await orders.
(A/C call sign 1 LKT, 0030/24 to Air Hq. Malta
Command.)Following received from R/C A/C. P.C. and S.
of enemy is 32° 46' N. 16° 16' E. course 260°,
speed 15 knots T.O.O. 2330B/23.

(Capt. S.10 0131B/24 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Return to Base.

(H.Q. Malta Command 0225B/24 to A/C T. Sqdn.)

Have attacked enemy one unidentified. Position of enemy 000°
Misurata 30.

(A/C "B" Malta, CMD 0550/24 to H.Q. Malta.)

KLO*N.T.M. W.D*My 1248/23 KLO damaged by grounding. Tugs RESPOND and ATID
sailed unescorted 0700.

(R.A. Alexandria 0945B/24.)

Benghazi.Preparations to evacuate Benghazi are being made
as a precautionary measure only. Demolition
work is not being ordered yet. Non-fightingpersonnel in the circumstances are being moved eastwards as far
as possible at night. Work at Ras Hilal is in abeyance.
Request wireless sets and personnel be not sent forward at
present. Should Benghazi be evacuated evacuation of Derna
will follow.

(N.L.O. 8th Army 1005B/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Am informed air force in Benghazi and Gebil area may be ordered
to withdraw at short notice. Request policy for keeping port
open if fighters withdrawn.

(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1026B/24 to C. in C. Med.)

My 1026/24. R.A.F. Unit(s) withdrawing. Intend sailing all
ships as soon as possible. Route follows. Request escort to
meet.(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1220B/24 to C. in C. Med., Repeated R.A.
Alexandria, S.O. Force I, N.L.O. 8th Army, N.O.I.C. Tobruk,
N.O.I.C. Derna.)Add to my 1240. Local army Commander has no information of
impending withdrawal.

(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1343B/24.)

My 1044/24 sailing of "Profit" delayed. BAGSHOT, ABERDARE have
sufficient coal to make Tobruk.

(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1425B/24.)

My 1240/24.(1220/24 intended) Now informed fighters remain and
would only be withdrawn if position untenable. "Jumbo" gone.
Discharging recommenced.

(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1555B/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Air. Own. 2 fighter squadrons remain Benina, remainder including
R.A.F. section combined operations staff withdrawn.

Enemy. 2 R/C over harbour, Barce-Benghazi road bombed.

Military. Some A/A and 6 searchlights withdrawn leaving 6
searchlight 11 heavy 19 light guns but no G.L. sets. No "Jumbo".

Local information indicate no great change in situation.

Naval. BAGSHOT, ABERDARE each have 140 tons coal. WOLBOROUGH,
HAILSTORM, sailed for Tobruk 20 tons of Breda ammunition in
former. SOIKA only sufficient oil for passage to Tobruk,

/supply ...

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War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. contd.

Benghazi - contd. supply requested in my 2209/21 urgently required. Expect complete CRISTA 26th HARBOE JENSEN 25th MAUSANG 30th, my 2152/24 refers. 280 tons coal and over 140 tons stores discharged today. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2158B/24 to C. in C. Med.)

URGE P.36 At 1900B/24 carry out previous orders. URGE to arrive Marsamxett dawn/26th. (S. 10 1040B/24 to URGE, P.36.)

Destroyers at Malta. Your 1039 (?21st) not to C.S.15 and 1733/23rd. Owing to SIKH and ZULU being out of action (my 2222/20 to C. in C. Med. only refers) LEGION has not been docked but will be on completion of operation M.F.4. MAORI also requires docking for split bottom plating. 2. Intend detaching LANCE from Force K. to join Force B. 3. I do not at present consider it necessary to make special arrangement to relieve destroyer(s) here but if necessary will remark again after more experience. (V.A. Malta 1127B/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Russian tankers from Black Sea. Your 1604A/18 (1604/19 intended) Very close liaison exists with U.S.S.R. Naval Attache who fully appreciates that we control onward passage arrangements. 2. He has pressed for provision of escorts and on 16/1 wrote officially requesting such, all on instructions from his Government. I replied in writing on lines of C. in C. Med.'s 1309B/19/12 (1307/19 intended) which signal has been basis of our discussions. 3. Present position is as follows -
 (a) completed passage south, 2 ships. Icebreaker^A MIKOTAN 3/12: tanker SAKHALIN IS. 22/1.
 (b) At Istanbul. 3 ships. Tanker CUTURIER awaiting discharge (?as ordered) if Turkey will not accept cargo of low quality benzine ship will probably return to Batum discharging before proceeding south. Negotiations continue. Tanker TQUAPSE recalled from off Chanak 22/1 (having commenced passage south) on instructions from Russian Gov, who may require her return to Black Sea. S.S. SVANETIA awaiting passage south of all tankers before making attempt herself.
 (c) Tanker AVANESOV^A off Cape Baba 19/12.
 (d) Russian N.A. was informed early December that an additional tanker would arrive Istanbul in due course.

4. Intention is for all ships to run gauntlet as opportunity occurs.
 5. Please inform C. in C. Med. and Adm. Miles. (N.A. Ankara 1145B/24 to Admty.)

CLEOPATRA My 1051B/23. In view of Admty. 1400A/22
 JAVELIN propose CLEOPATRA and JAVELIN should come through Mediterranean as soon as possible. ARETHUSA to follow on completion of high angle fire controls and type 285 provided a second ship is available to accompany her. (C. in C. Med., 1212B/24 to Admty.)

-VARLAAM
sunk

/Your ...

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War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. contd:CLEOPATRA
JAVELIN
contd.

Your 1051B/23. CLEOPATRA will not now be ready to leave U.K. before 2/2.

2. JAVELIN has been delayed and will not complete working up until early March.

3. Do you wish CLEOPATRA to pass through Mediterranean alone?
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1320A/24 to C. in C. Med.)
Reply 1227/25.

Force K.

Force K. returned at 0900, no interception. Result of torpedo bomber attack to eastward on enemy convoy and escort at present uncertain.
(V.A. Malta, 1254B/24 to C. in C. Med.)

M.E. Air
Report.

Following operations during day against Italian convoy located previous night by Malta A S V Wellington about 105 miles E.N.E. Cape Spartivento steering south estimated speed 15 knots. Enemy force was resighted by 201 group Blenheim early morning/23 and shadowed throughout day exact composition and formation of force still very uncertain but reports indicate 3 large merchant ships heavily escorted by 2 battleships 4 cruisers 16 destroyers moving in 4 separate groups. End of part 1 part 2 follows.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1333/24.)

Part two. All available light bombers in Libya and medium bombers from Delta were placed under operational call 201 Group as striking force at first warning. At midday 6 Blenheims left to attack 1 Battleship 2 Cruisers 7 Destroyers reported 200 miles North of Benghazi but failed to make contact presumably on account of large alteration of course 2 Fortresses left shortly after 1 failed to locate second near missed Battleship by 100 yards and merchant ship by 50 yds late afternoon, 6 Blenheims attacked force reported as 24 ships 170 miles North-East Misurata. No hits. 3 Beauforts subsequently located force about 40 miles further east and fired torpedoes at Battleships. Results unobserved 4 Blenheims despatched to continue attack at dusk failed to locate convoy. 1 Blenheim missing from shadowing. Night 23/24 Jan, 4 Albacores located force about 175 miles N.E. Misurata and torpedoed M/V estimated 20,000 tons bringing it to a standstill. Hit on Destroyer caused violent explosion. Third torpedo aimed at Battleship. Results unobserved Albacore squadron Commander missing. Further 3 Albacores failed to locate convoy further details to follow. End of Part 2.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1359/24.)

Motor
boats.

A.M. 2229A/9. Ten motor boats will be shipped from U.S.A. in approx. six weeks.
(D.S.V.P. 1430A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

S/M Jibuti

One submarine 1500 tons arrived Jibuti 22/1.
(F.F.N.L.O. Aden, 1445Z/24 to F.N.F.L. London.)

/C.S.R. ...

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War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

C.S.R. Malta. Night 23/24. No damage ships in Harbour. 9 alerts 1645 to 0345 hours 15 raiders. Bombs land sea 1 searchlight generator destroyed. No casualties. 24th 3 alerts 0704 0902 1133 hours 67 fighters and bombers. Fighter sweeps and attacks Luqa and Hal Far. Hal Far 10 craters aerodrome and numerous in dispersal areas. Slight damage 2 Swordfish since repaired. At Luqa 3 Wellingtons hit. 1 direct hit burnt out second near misses seriously damaged. Third special equipment Wellington damaged 1 Hurricane 1 direct hit burnt out. 2 Marylands damaged 1 seriously and slight damage 1 Blenheim. 1 civilian killed 4 airmen injured. Hurricanes intercepted 1 JU.88 probably destroyed. 3 JU.88s and 1 ME.109 hit Italian rescue service busy this afternoon.

Part 2 23rd. Photos Taranto Messina Palermo unsuccessful owing cloud. P.M. Reccos South Ionian sea sighted 1 battleship 4 cruisers 15 destroyers 1 large liner 3 M.Vs 12,000 tons 1307 hours 054° Misurata 140 miles course 200° 15 knots 1540 hours 050° Misurata 109 miles course 240° 15 knots. 2 Blenheims despatched to attack but returned lack cloud cover. Night 23rd 24th special Wellington left late owing defects engine and apparatus. Apparatus failed to work but convoy found 2040 hours 056° Misurata 70 miles convoy shadowed and illuminated until 0115 hours when aircraft recalled. 9 Swordfish and Albacores sent to attack. Weather Malta to target very poor with rain. 6 returned unable to keep formation. Remainder did not find. 1 Albacore missing search all day failed to find. 7 Wellington IC attacked 2119 to 2300 hours 21-500 lb GP, 41-250 lb SAP bombs and 49 flares. Attacks from 2000 feet. Greater proportion of bombs dropped on large liner. 2 large explosions on liner seen by shadowing Wellington. End of Part 1, part 2 follows. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1805/24.)

Part 2. Probable hits on 2 other merchant vessels and hits on a warship believed to be a cruiser. At 2223 hours liner was still moving with clouds of smoke coming from it. 2 Wellingtons crews and shadowing Wellington report fire in another merchant vessel. After bombing Wellingtons attacked destroyers and merchant vessels with machine gun fire from 300 feet. No battleships seen. At 2300 hours liner and convoy stopped. Second wave of 6 Swordfish sent to attack. 2 returned engine trouble. At 0135 hours 2 Swordfish scored 2 probable hits on liner with torpedoes. Shadowing Wellington reports seeing the strikes amidships on liner. Nothing seen of battleships or cruisers. Smoke screen very effective throughout attack AA very intense. No trace of liner today in spite of thorough search. 24th recco. North East Misurata found nothing. 1020 hours convoy sighted with heavy air escort by photo recco. East Tripoli 20 miles course West reduced speed of 6 knots. 4 M/Vs 8000 (or 7000 corrupt) tons 7 D/Rs no trace of liner. Night 23/24 1 Wellington unable find convoy bombed Tripoli harbour starting fire visible 15 miles. (C.S.R. Malta 1820/24.)

liner sank at 1910

/Convoys ...

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War Diary.24.1.1942
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Convoys. Two small escorted convoys E.T.A. A.M./25 from Eastward. One escorted convoy leaves Alexandria (1630B or 0630B) westbound. (Capt. S. 1 1935B/24 to THRASHER.)

U.Boats Ismailia bearing German U-Boats. (Corrupt Group) 1720 T.O.O. 1901/24 frequency 7640 Groups 59 bearings 294 degs (?2nd Class). (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2002B/24 to V.A. Malta.) Ismailia bearing German U-Boat. Time 1854 T.O.O. 2017/24, frequency 5660 groups 38 bearing 293° 2nd class. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2132B/24.)

Destroyers to be manned by Greeks. BOLEBROOKE and BORDER have been selected for manning by Greeks. Selection of third destroyer deferred until the crew question has been settled. 2. Re.manning. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2131A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

U-boat Intelligence ^(or 2/1) Interrogation of survivors ex U-boat ^(U.374) sunk by UNBEATEN. 3. U-boat endeavoured to pass Gibraltar during daylight, but depth charged, finally passing on surface at night, probably not in Spanish territorial waters, having left Brest 18/12. 4. Attacked convoy off Tobruk about 1600 probably 8/1. Claim 2 hits on merchant ship, 42 depth charges followed from 2 destroyers in pattern. 5. U-boat went to great depth not specifically stated but considered at least 600 feet, when attack developed. Stated entire crew confident depth charges not vital since explosion must be above. Prediction correctly stabilised attack resulting in severe damage to compass, instruments, lights and guns but nothing vital. Left after dark for Messina. 6. Consider that prisoner was genuinely in ignorance of number of U-boat which he states is no longer known to crew. 7. Comment. Great depth may make asdic contact difficult. (V.A. Malta 2134B/24 to C. in C. Med. Repeated Admty., F.O.C.N.A. S.O.(I) Alexandria Capt (S) 1, F.O.C.(S))

Information for C.S.15. WOLBOROUGH and HAILSTORM pass through 033° 09' N. 023° 00' W. at 1700/25 bound for Tobruk. (S.O. Force 1 Tobruk 2146B/24 to C.S.15.)

6 enemy ships. 6 ships probably including one cruiser 6 miles north of Tripoli course and speed 315° 20 knots at 2015. (V.A. Malta 2301B/24 to S/Ms on patrol.)

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

BEAUFORT. . Departure BEAUFORT for Kilindini E.T.A. 1400/30.
S. of A. 14 knots routed in accordance with
C. in C. E.I. 1110Z/18/4/41.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0455Z/24).

Local Naval defence of Burma. (1) 76 F.O.C.R.I.N. has suggested that he might be able to assist in the Local Naval Defence of Burma.
(2) Both C. in C. E.F. and my command lack resources for sending any assistance.
(3) Would you consider approaching Govt. of India as soon as possible requesting them to place at the disposal of N.O.I.C. Rangoon any ships and personnel which may be available.
(C. in C. E.I. 0531Z/24 to Abdacom.)

U/B attack. This message has been repeated for information to Admiralty. GBMS 3B. From Admiral Colombo. U-boat attack in 15.47 N. 93.57 E. at 0510 G.M.T. today 24/1. (Adm. Colombo 0740/24 to Admty.)

Mining of Andamans Is. The Chiefs of Staffs Committee in India have requested me to consider the mining of certain anchorages in Andamans Is.
2. I had already appreciated that the retention of these islands and their denial to the enemy was vital to defence of India and shipping in Bay of Bengal and had accordingly considered possibility of mining.
3. With limited resources available any mining defences afforded can only be small but nevertheless has considerable deterrent effect.
4. C. in C. E.F. concurs and it is intended therefore to carry out mining operation in these waters in the immediate future.
5. A defensive minefield will be laid at Port Blair and possibly Port Cornwallis.
6. Preventive minefields will be laid in approach to following anchorages:- Temple Sound, Port Anson, Port Campbell, Port Mouat, McPherson Strait, Alderney Sound, Further Meadows, Kotara anchorage, Elphinstone Harbour.
7. C. in C. E.F. has made ABDIEL available and she is sailing from Storm Bay to commence these (?operations) 24/1.
(C. in C. E.I. 0814Z/24 to Admty.)

PACIFIC. Arrived 24/1 Cable Ship PACIFIC vessel sustained damage to bow sheaves in collision with ORDUNA damage to latter vessel slight.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0831Z/24 to S.O. (I) Colombo).

/U.B.....

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War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

U/B. On arrival Colombo master of hospital ship TALAMBA reported passing U/B on surface about 4 miles distant about 6 hours before VAN OVERSTRATEN was attacked and in same approx. position. My 1503/23 refers. (2) TALAMBA was unmolested. (C. in C. E.I., 1452Z/24 to Admty.)

S/M in Gulf of Aden. N.O.I.C. Aden reports:- Submarine unknown nationality reported by aircraft at 0630Z/22 in 011° 30' N. 45° 04' E. steering west. S/M attacked by one Albacore at 0808Z/22 bombs dropped close proximity and S/M submerged. S/M again sighted and attacked at 1320Z/22 and reported damaged. Ends. E.C. following intercepted addressed SHOREHAM, NETRAVATI from N.O.I.C. Aden begins - S/M last seen at 1645C/22 in 206° Ras Marshaq 72 miles. S/M bombed from air and emitted large quantity red oil. Proceed this position and carry out Asdic search to channel south of Arab Shoal. Submarine is to be attacked if located. Ends. (F.O. Red Sea 1717B/24).

M/V Aircraft Recognition. Your (10243)/8. (Request for report re Merchant vessels aircraft recognition.) My 1406/15/12 refers. (C. in C. E.I. 1851Z/24 to Admty.)

INDORA. Have you any news of INDORA due Bandar Shapur 12/1 from Karachi? (D.T.D. 1902A/24 to S.O.(I) Persian Gulf).

THORDIS. THORDIS sailed Suez 18/1 for Bahrein required urgently Rangoon. Request information action taken. (D.T.D. 2215A/24 to C. in C. E.I., S.O. (I) Colombo.)

PLANCIUS. MELCHIOR TREUB. OPHIR. MERAK. At request of N.E.I. authorities ships named in margin have been placed at our disposal by the Netherlands Govt. for trooping service. (Accommodation, sailing arrangements, fitting for trooping). (D. of S.T. 2226A/24 to P.S.T.O. Bombay.)

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Small
Craft left
at Penang.

It appears that the infiltration of the enemy down the coast of Malaya was in the first place made possible owing to craft having been left at Penang of which fact you were apprised by G.O.C. Malaya. Request information as to what steps were taken to destroy these craft by Naval resources. (1st S.L., 0127A/24 to C. in C. E.F.)

Following received from Admiralty: (As 1st S.L. 0127A/24). Request you will report to Admiralty, repeated C. in C. E.F.
(a) What steps were contrived to destroy useful shipping up to time of completion of evacuation.
(b) (?What) vessels were R.F.A's intact giving individual approximate tonnage.
(c) When and where first confirmed enemy landings on West Coast took place.
(d) Whether there is any confirmed evidence that large vessels from Penang, as opposed to local lighters and fishing vessels, were in fact employed. (C. in C. E.F. 0915Z/24 to R.A. Malaya).

*(Reply 1511Z/30 page 889)*Rangoon
Raids.

Air raid over Rangoon area this morning approx. 25 enemy aircraft. Believed 6 fighters destroyed, 3 probably, and several damaged. One R.A.F. pilot missing. Second air raid over Mingaladon area. 12 enemy bombers came over with escort of approx 30 fighters. Believed 9 fighters and 4 bombers destroyed 4 fighters probable, and several fighters and bombers damaged. One A.V.G. Pilot missing. (G.O.C. Burma 0235/24 to C. in C. India).

Japanese
S/MS.

Number 00300 dated 24/1. Attacks on shipping by Japanese Submarine South of Fassin River during last two days. Indications Submarine Base being established Penang. Grade (A.2.) (Abdacom 0510/24 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., N.O.I.C. Rangoon., C.Z.M., R.A.M.Y., C. in C. Asiatic Fleet, A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

Singapore
evacuation of
stores and
machinery.

Ref. Abdacom's order to Comdre. Malaya timed 1500/19/1 to ship all stores, and supplies (?heavy) bombs, ammunition in excess of 90 repeat 90 days requirements, together with non essential machinery and tools to Netherlands East Indies, please pass to chief of Asiatic Petroleum Co. London. A.P.

Co's. Kallang (corrupt group) Factory. It is intended to (?dismantle) (?this) and ship elsewhere, to N.E.I. expect to arrive first instance. Please confirm or if not approved cable immediately alternative instructions to A.P. Co., Singapore. Their 424 last part refers. (R.A. Malaya, 0327Z/24 to Admty. G.O.C., A.H.Q., F.E.)

Pass to C.Z.M. (a) Ref. Abdacom's 1500/19 addressed R.A. Malaya for Services Singapore, not to Admiralty, or C.Z.M. ordering, inter alia, aviation spirit, lubricants and general stores to be shipped away.

(b) Asiatic Petroleum Company Singapore cabling Oosten regarding disposal products and materials being shipped.

(c) Inform Oosten of sense of (A) at your discretion so he may appreciate urgency of implementation and desirability.

/(d).....

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War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Singapore
evacuation of
stores and
machinery
- Contd.

(d) Asiatic Petroleum Company London have been asked to arrange urgent tankers to remove 100 Octane 14000 tons, 90 Octane 16300 tons, no longer required by R.A.F. from Singapore.
(e) This is in addition to quantity to be shipped out already advised by my 0355/14 to Admty., not repeated to C.Z.M. (R.A. Malaya 0341Z/24 to F.O. Java (R) Admty. A.H.Q. F.E.)

Air
Intelligence
Summary
0800/23 to
0800/24.

1. Reported 27 enemy Fighters raided Palembang no details. If Fighters possibly Navy type O Ex Kuantan or aircraft from a carrier.
2. H.M.S. KELANTAN and VYNER BROOKE attacked by enemy aircraft A.M. 22/1 off Sabang. KELANTAN reports 1 x 4 engined enemy bomber destroyed. No reliable confirmation here existence enemy four engined bomber, suggest this aircraft four engined flying boat. Further details awaited.
3. Singapore raided 24 heavy bombers 40 Plus fighters. Bombs dropped Seletar. Some damaged buildings depot area and aerodrome. 1 Hudson 1 Swordfish 1 Walrus destroyed. One Vildebeest seriously damaged minor damage 8 other aircraft. Hurricanes claims one enemy bomber certain 1 probable A.A. 1 bomber our losses Nil. (A.H.Q. F.E. 0344/24).

Convoy
M.S.2A.Convoy M.S.2A arrived without incidents.
(R.A. Malaya 0400Z/24).

Nancowry.

Your 65798 (M.O.10) 21/1. No doubt necessary defend Nancowry if to be used. Is it the intention to use it? Understood not required by Navy or Air. See also my 00236 22/1. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0510/24 to W.O. (R) C. in C. India, C. in C. E.F.)

British
dispositions
in Abda
Areas at
0430Z/24.

Batavia, CANBERRA, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, ? STRONGHOLD, ANKING. Sunda Strait to Batavia, TENEDOS. Berhala Straits to Batavia, EXETER. Nearing Singapore, VAMPIRE, THANET, JUMNA. Banka Strait to Singapore, ENTERPRISE, DANAE, SHEBA, SUTLEJ. Sourabaya JUPITER. Indian Ocean DURBAN, DRAGON. Padang, ENDEAVOUR. Ambon to Darwin, WARREGO. (?Abda float's) 0301Z/17th.
(B) JUPITER fitting single gun and mountings in lieu of A gun mountings. Estimated ready for service 27/1. ENCOUNTER boiler cleaning ready 25/1. (S.O. F.E.S. 0648Z/24).

VENDETTA.

Your 1435/20 I hope you are keeping your eye on VENDETTA and shifting her also if necessary. (C. in C. E.F. 0700Z/24 to R.A. Malaya.)

/011.....

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Oil fuel
at
Batavia.

Your 0905/23rd use every endeavour to get Dutch to replace and maintain stock at Batavia. WAR SIRDAR may be used at your discretion to assist. Keep me fully informed your proposals. What is position at Padang? EMERALD expects to fuel there about 5/2. C.C.C.F. pass to Abdafloat.
(C. in C. E.F., 0713Z/24 to C.C.C.F.)

Mine-
watching at
Rangoon.

Reference A.M.1925A/5. Comprehensive mine-watching arrangements were prepared but difficulty of providing mine-watching personnel increased after first bombing raid. Modified scheme embodying fewer watches now being prepared but such scheme far from efficient. Magnetic mine sweeping force comprising 3 skid towers and 3 skids also 5 comb S (corrupt group) awaiting cable. Completion of M.M.S. at Rangoon and elsewhere on E.I. Station delayed by considerable difficulty and non arrival of machinery. None will be completed in the immediate future. There are no L.L. sweepers in operation on (?this) (corrupt group) and E.I. Station except those now in Persian Gulf and at Singapore. No L.L. sweepers can be (?spared) from Singapore. I am reluctant to reduce Persian Gulf L.L. force to meet threat Rangoon unless Persian Gulf L.L. force can be reinforced from (?other) Far Eastern resources before the Spring. If this guarantee can be given propose to sail 2 L.L. S.A. whalers to Rangoon now. One skid (?towing) vessel at Rangoon is (?fitted) S.A. and is awaiting hammers which are being sent from Colombo.
(C. in C. E.F., 0849Z/24 to Admty).

W/T Stns.
Boundaries.

My 0849/13 A.C.N.B. 0600/15 and R.A. Malaya 0527/23. Propose following re-organisation to cover period which must elapse before long term policy envisaged in Admty. 1653/15 can be implemented. Consider it of first importance to implement scheme at earliest possible moment in order to safeguard (?ship) communications in present China W/T Stations. These are at present inacceptably vulnerable should Singapore W/T be put out of action.

2. Paras. 6, 7 and 9 are broadly the same as current practice but require more general promulgation.
3. S.W. and E. boundaries of China Stn. South of equator for W/T purposes to become coincident with those of Abda Area viz. Southern. From 15° S., 92° E., to Australian Coast in 114° E. thence along coast to 143° E. Western Meridian 92° E., as far 15° S. Eastern Meridian 143° E., from Australian Coast to southern New Guinea Coast, thence along coast and meridian 141° E., to equator thence as formerly.
4. Coonawarra W/T to cease taking part in group A.Z. and to join group U using 150 kc/s and 13355/7750 kc/s simultaneous transmission. H.M. Ships, whether British or Australian within Abda Area to shift from group A.Z. to group U at the time ordered without further orders. Batavia W/T base ship (MXW) also to take part in group U. (5,6,7,8,9, further details)

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

W/T Stns. 10. If Abdacom and A.C.N.B. concur in above
Boundaries. proposals and they are approved request
Contd. Admiralty may promulgate them generally so as to
bring them into force at the earliest possible
date. C.C.C.F. pass to Abdacom.
(C. in C. E.F., 1302Z/24 to Admty, Abdacom,
A.C.N.B.)

Singapore Technical matters.
W/T (C. in C. E.F., 1309Z/24).

S/M off Intelligence Summary 1800/23 to 1800/24. 1
Alguadr ship was attacked by 1 enemy submarine off
Light. Alguadr Light, 2 Blenheims despatched and on
arrival the submarine which had fired 1
torpedo which had missed had disappeared the
ship was undamaged.
(Norgroup, 1330/24).

Extension D.B.A. No.2. Ref. your 00053 of 15/1 (1610/15)
of Abda Area. (1) Combined Chiefs of Staff agree with proposal
made by Govt. of Australia that responsibility
should be laid on you, not only for the defence
of Darwin, but also such portion of N.W. Coast of Australia as
is necessary for successful defence of Darwin against enemy
landings and for air operations from a base on the Australian
coast in that area.
(2) The southern limit of Abda area is hereby extended to
include the mainland of Australia northward of a line running
from Onslow on Western Coast to S.E. corner of Gulf of
Carpentaria.
(3) You are being informed as soon as possible by Australian
Govt. of the forces allotted by them to you for operations in
this area.
(Combined Chiefs of Staff, 1743R/24 to Abdacom).

J.S.M.report. Washops 44. (1) Philippine Is. Luzon.
Fresh enemy forces have been landed in Subic Bay
and along the coast on left of U.S. position on Bataan. These
landings are supported by enemy warships and aircraft U.S.
Forces are counter attacking to relieve the pressure but are
showing fatigue resulting from practically continuous fighting.
(2) N.E.I. Belawan. The port of Medan sustained a heavy
Japanese air attack, the docks were damaged.
The Japanese convoy of 31 vessels was sighted on 23/1, in
Macassar Strait about 100 miles N.E. Balik Papan steering South.
Dutch bombers are reported to have scored 12 direct hits on 8
Japanese warships and transports in Macassar Strait.
R.A.A.F. R/C aircraft on 19/1 reported 40 enemy bombers at an
aerodrome east Menabo and 25 fighters at Kewa Bay both in
North East Celebes. Enemy fighters attacked the R/C aircraft
without success.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

J.S.M. (3) New Guinea area. After heavy bombings at
Report Lorengau, Kavieng, Salamoia and Bulolo on 21st,
Contd. Jan. the Japanese landed successfully at
Museau Is., Kapsu and Rabaul during morning of
22/1.

(4) Wake Is. Increased W/T activity indicates that Island is now
defended by a garrison, aircraft and possibly submarines.

(5) Hawaii Is. A U.S. tanker was sunk 100 miles W.S.W. of
Honolulu on 22/1 Jan.

(J.S.M. Washington, 1415R/24).

Tankers, Re loading.
Singapore. (D.T.D., 2213/24 and 1508A/25 to R.A. Malaya,
C.C.C.F.)

Burma Mergui. Withdrawal proceeding according to
Sitrep 23/1. plan.
Moulmein area. After (?confused) fighting 16
Inf. Bde. disengaged and withdrawal westward
continues slowly with air support.
Rangoon. At 0950 hours local time approx. 25 enemy fighters
came over total result not yet received but believed 6 fighters
were destroyed 3 probably and 9 damaged 1 R.A.F. pilot missing.
In second attack 12 enemy bombers escorted by approximately
(?35) fighters approached Mingaladon when our fighters attacked
bombers turned away from Rangoon and jettisoned bombs over
paddy fields in Mingaladon and Zayatkwinn area. Total result
not yet available but believed 9 fighters and 4 bombers destroyed
4 fighters probably and 7 fighters and 3 bombers damaged
(one group omitted) A.V.G. pilot missing.
(G.O.C. Burma 2300/24).

Convoy Sailed from Bombay 23/1 (composition)
B.M.12. (P.S.T.O. Singapore, 0703/24).
India,

MOST SECRET

684A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1400, 26th Jan. IN

From: Military Attache
Chungking.

Date 27.1.42.

Recd: 0145

Cipher

Addressed: War Office repeated C. in C. S.W. Pacific (for
D.D.M.I.) G.O.C. Burma. C. in C India.
C.G.S. Australia.

IMPORTANT.

028795. M 146 cipher 24/1.

Following details Japanese strength casualties, also military lessons learnt in Hong Kong obtained from escaped officers.

Strength. Estimated 2 Japanese divisions plus 2,000 specially trained storm troops plus Army artillery. Probably 1½ divisions on (?island) December 25th.

2. HongKong. Own. Very rough guess 4,000 killed and wounded. Japanese: estimate impossible.

3. Tactics (a) Infantry. Spearhead of advance special storm troops. These (?group omitted) armed with Tommy guns, automatics, half-inch machine guns for piercing P.B. shutters, abundant grenades and high scale long range mortars. Fire of latter weapons particularly effective. These troops fight very light carrying arms and iron rations only, wearing rubber soled shoes and are extremely silent (? and) (?good) at cover taking. Move by night and lie up in scrub or dig in by day. (?Ammunition) supply excellent by (? impressed) (?coolies). Every soldier had 1: 20000 map. Our positions in red, starting line, route and objectives in blue. Map reading excellent and (?officers) had probably "WALKED Course". Japanese excellent mountain warfare going for hilltops ~~and~~ ~~going~~ above P B's and localities, avoiding roads and tracks and by passing known defences. (?Then) continually getting sniper parties behind our lines. These most difficult to locate. Method of attack when resistance hardens, severe artillery, Dive bombing, mortar and machine gun support then advances by rushes in parties of 10, Final assault with Tommy guns, showers of grenades and bayonets. Japanese use stalking tactics. Light equipment effective against clumsy booted British. Infantryman audible a mile off. Silk (?communication) flag used to indicate forward positions to aircraft. Ordinary infantry similar tactics but less heavily armed.

(b) Artillery/....

(b) Artillery. (?Material) inferior. Gunnery good. One in 7 shells dud. Most accurate bombardment fixed defences data probably predetermined by survey methods. Counter battery good. Sound ranging, flash spotting and air observation used. Use of former indicated by intercepted W/T. Our counter battery stopped Japanese night bombardment except supporting attacks. Ammunition supplies excellent, and plentiful. Field 10.5cm. howitzers 75 mm. guns. Medium 15 cm. howitzers and heavy artillery up to 9 inch used. 4 inch guns firing A.P. shells used for systematic destruction of P.B's. 1 pdr A.T. shell recovered.

(c) Other arms. A.F.V's used. Three destroyed by our 2 pdrs. Shallow draft landing craft in threes, leading boat powered out-board engine used for harbour crossing. Possibly rubber boats for first flight as landing absolutely (?depended) on moonless night with abnormal high tide.

(d) Naval. Blockading warships kept out of range. One destroyer near missed fled.

(e) Air. Chief points. Destructive raid Kai Yak destroyed (? four) R.A.F. (?eight) civil aircraft. (?with) incendiary bullets. Both high level and dive bombing used. Much air and artillery reconnaissance. Frequent pamphlet raids. Subversive Loud Speaker broadcasts from Kowloon. A.A. destroyed 7 certain more disabled.

(f) 5th Column. No sabotage but some sniping and V/T to enemy definitely established. Plain clothes Tommy gunners used harass our (?signal company) Kowloon. These were mastered by police with assistance Chan Chaks organisation.

4. Military Lessons.

(a) Enemy underestimated. First class troops and excellently equipped.

(b) Japanese trained best principles of mountain warfare. Always go for hilltops. We must be or get there first. They keep off tracks and paths hence active patrolling essential particularly by night.

(c) Concrete mindedness fatal. P.B's can be deathtraps. Alternative positions essential and (troops) trained digging in anywhere and provided with adequate tools. Situation always liable to change from static to mobile warfare.

(d)

MOST SECRET

- (d) Mobile reserves essential. Carriers and armoured cars most valuable.
- (e) Sound administration essential fighting value one unit seriously curtailed due failure feeding arrangements. Alternative methods essential.
- (f) Except on marches troops must fight light. Excess equipment dumped or in M.T. rubber soled shoes worn during close contact. Absolute silence instilled during training.
- (g) Coolie labour for supply carriage of heavy equipment should be studied. Japanese do it.
- (h) M.T.B's highly successful against landing craft but vulnerable except at night.
- (i) Liaison officers essential for obtaining information.
- (k) Co-operation with Chinese largely non effective since tended help accepted far too late. Most useful help against (?5th) (?column). Stood bombing excellently. Co-operation whole-hearted if trusted.

War Office pass to all addressees.

1400/26

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- Naval Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.N.A.D.
- Hd of M.
- D.o.D (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- Duty Capt (2)
- D.M.I. (?) and for A.E. and D.N.L.O.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D of P (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D.
- Adm. Bailey
- Adm. Bellairs.
- E.P.S.
- Adm. Somerville

Recd: from War Office. 0434/28.
 War Office Distribution
 D.M.O & P. D.D.M.O.(O) D.P. D.M.I.
 D.D.M.I. (I) M.I.2.10., M.I. 2 c. (5)
 M.O.1.10. (5) Admiralty (Cmdr Barry)
 Admiralty (Hd of Watch War Registry)
 Air Ministry (A.C.A.S.(I)) A.M.C.S.
 Foreign Office (Mr. Sterndale Bennett)
 M.I. (J.I.C.) (6) India Office (War Staff)

addition, see 2000/26, page 759A.

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

VENORE (late CHARLES G. BLACK) torpedoed. De unknown station SSSS KGDD* VENORE 15 miles South of Diamond Shoal, torpedoed, unread, ship still afloat but leaking badly. 0059/24 (Ends). (Valentia Radio, T.H.I. 0203/24) W.R.Note:- *KGDD According to S.P. 02329 are the signal letters of CHARLES G.BLACK. W.D.Note:-Diamond Shoal 11 miles S.S.E. of C.Hatteras, Virginia C. Hatteras Lt. Ho. 35° 16' N. 75° 32' W. Intercept Norfolk, Virginia, Radio to KGDD (VENORE) assistance en route and very near. (Valentia Radio, 0123/24 to Admty.) At 0045Z VENORE torpedoed twice, 15 miles South of Diamond Shoal bearing 320½° from Yarmouth (Halifax N.S., 0125Z/24 to Admty.) Following received. My 0125Z/24 bearings received as follows. Yarmouth 220½ approx. Camperdown 228 approx. Red Head 215 approx. Canso 238½ approx. (Halifax N.S., 0239Z/24 to Admty.)

Burning Freighter. 23/1 all times G.M.T. Burning Freighter sighted 1243 position 42° 25' N. 61° 20' W. (A.O.C. E.A.C., 0359/24).

QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY. Your 2135/19. Noted that U.S. Authorities do not wish to use H.T. QUEEN ELIZABETH to increased capacity. Sparks has reported similarly respecting QUEEN MARY.
2. It is, however, intended in accordance with Grey 240 and Taut 403 that additional fitting should be carried out for use when vessels carry British personnel.
3. Request you arrange with Sparks for both ships to be fitted accordingly at San Francisco and Boston respectively so far as possible in time available, subject to no delay in sailing being involved. (D.S.T. 0602A/24 to B.A.D.)

EMPIRE
WILDEBEESTE torpedoed. Following has been read. Intercept from Cape Race Radio. SSSS De GNKK ^{EMPIRE} WILDEBEESTE torpedoed 39.30 N. 59.54 W. at 0458 G.M.T/24 ends. (Valentia Radio, 0546/24 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth) Halifax 0610/24. (C. in C. Plymouth 0645/24 to Admty.)

GOTHIC.
ALEXANDRA HOECH (Nor.) 28 survivors of ~~GOTHIC~~ landed Shelburne at 2100Z/23 by GRANT MARSHALL none missing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0640Z/24).
x not identified

Enemy Unit. Bearing at 0357Z/25 indicates enemy unit may possibly be in the vicinity 037°N 061° W. unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0819Z/24 to British Warships in Area 7 A., Admty., C.O.A.C. C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, F.O.N.F.)

S/M's. D/F bearings indicate Enemy S/M's (1) on 4790 Kc/s within 100 miles of 043° N. 061° W. at 0420Z/24th. (2) on 5660 Kc/s in vicinity of 048° N. 038° W. at 0517Z/24th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1036Z/24 to Br. Warships in Area 7A. Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav., C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)
*/Algiers ...

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War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- Algiers Intelligence. Meter. Algiers 5/1 C.O. U.S. Vice Consul reports S.S. XVILLE DE BIZERTE carries Dried Fruit, Oil, Spaghetti and fresh vegetables from Bizerte to "Neighbouring Islands" (Sic.) Italian Warships then pick up food supplies for Pantelleria and Libya. B. Sperio, Rue de Tunis, Bizerte, is the principal agent in these transactions. (B.A.D., 1241R/24 to Admty.) X *Not identified*
- S.S. RINGSTAD torpedoed. Received 1332 G.M.T. SSSS 45.50 N. 51.04 W. RINGSTAD torpedoed de VCE (Cape Race Radio). (Halifax W/T, 1400Z/24).
- J.S.M 1415R/24 see China.
- Darkening ship and zigzagging. Vessels in coastal lanes Atlantic North of 029° proceeding completely darkened and zigzagging during daylight and bright moon. (U.S.N.O., 1433/24).
- Reinforcement of Abda area. Following for J.S.M. from C.O.S. No. (W) 11. Reference Wavell's 00235 cipher 22/1 on need for increased naval escorts in Abda area, our comments follow. (1st S.L. 1512A/24 to B.A.D.).
- SUDBURY. Position 1500Z/24 47.18 N. 38.38 W. SUDBURY not met. (?Returning St. Johns N.F.) due to fuel shortage. Passed through position of torpedoed S.S. LEIESTEN at 1630Z/23. Weather report 6882 0461. (ASSINIBOINE, 1518Z/24).
- S.S. THIRLBY sunk. British S.S. THIRLBY torpedoed and sunk 0600Z/23rd 12 miles 240° from Seal Island, Cape Sable. 42 survivors picked up by S.S. BELLE ISLE and landed at Halifax 3 killed total 45. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1542Z/24).
- U.S. Troop Convoys. J.S.M., 1629R/24, 1641A/24. See Australia.
- 2 Lifeboats. 2 lifeboats with Survivors sighted by aircraft in 039° 44' N. 060° 02' W. at 1600Z/24th H.M.C.S. MIDLAND left Halifax 1615Z/24 to search. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1655Z/24).
- SURCOUF. My 1431Z/17. Now anticipate F.F.S/M SURCOUF will be ready to sail for Bermuda p.m./27. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1657Z/24 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- RESTIGOUCHE, READING, MONTGOMERY. Your 1630Z/22 and A.M.0036A/17 neither to Capt. D.Greenock. RESTIGOUCHE is now likely to be delayed owing to turbine defects reported in /Capt. ...

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War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- RESTIGOUCHE, READING, MONTGOMERY. (Contd.)
Capt. D. Greenock's 1659/22. READING is also delayed owing to trials disclosing further defects and will not be ready to leave U.K. until about 6/2. MONTGOMERY may therefore be retained until READING arrives in Canadian waters. (D.O.D.(H), 1819A/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- Peru. Peru broke off diplomatic relations with Axis at 23 G.M.T. (S.O.(I) Callao, 1840R/24).
- NORTHTON. Have you any news of NORTHTON due Santa Lucia 11/1 from Hampton Roads. (D.T.D., 1901A/24 to Consul, Havana). Reply: 1514/25.
- S.S. NORTH GASPE. NORTH GASPE WUVZ Arrived Halifax undamaged 2200Z/23 SSS was made at 0225Z/22nd after experiencing bump probably depth charge dropped by escort. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1926Z/24 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, C.C.N.F., Admty., Opnav, C. in C. A.W.I., G.T.G.4. Cominch).
- SURREY. Your 0408Z/24th addressed SURREY. Request position recoded same time and wavelength tomorrow 25th. My estimated position 2000Z/24th 031° 48' N. 049° 38' W. (CAVINA, 2017Z/24 to N.O.I.C.Bermuda).
- PANDORA. B.N.L.O. Portsmouth N.H. 1103R/23. PANDORA's departure delayed five hours. Will submerge at 1000/25 in 040° 14' N. 071° 00' W. and surface at 2300/25 in 039° 48' N. 070° 37' W. New E.T.A. Bermuda 1000/28. All times G.M.T. U.S. authorities informed. (B.A.D., 2045R/24 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- READING, BURNHAM, RAMSEY. My 2102Z/24 and N.S.H.Q.'s 1568Z/20. Request READING be held in U.K. to join Task Unit 4.1.14 vice BURNHAM upon arrival at Londonderry. RAMSEY although short legged will take the place intended for READING in Task Unit 4.1.16. (F.O.N.F., 2106Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.) (W.R.Note. Message 2102Z/24 has not yet been circulated by War Registry).
- Torpedoed Tanker. My 2106Z/20th. PRUDENT has steering gear defect necessitating return to St. John's N.F. There is now no ship available to search for this tanker and eight men. (F.O.N.F. 2220Z/24 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, U.S. C.N.O., Commander Task Force 4.)

MOST SECRET

687A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1928A/24th January OUT

Date 24. 1. 42

To: B.A.D. Washington 748
Repeated: ABDACOM

NAVAL CYPHER (ONE TIME TABLE)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following for Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 12.

Following is gist of telegram from Governor, Burma. Begins.

"Stevenson reports that Chenault has issued following order to O.C., A.V.G. Quote. Advise A.O.C. and C. in C that A.V.G. will withdraw all units by Jan.31st because of continuing losses of aeroplanes and no replacements Unquote. Stevenson considers that such move would be disastrous as he would be left with two Hurricanes and 4 Buffaloes. Yesterday scale of enemy attack was 80. A.V.G. now have 20 machines here serviceable." Ends.

2. Please take this up with American Chiefs of Staff as matter of extreme urgency. You should emphasise that Rangoon is just as vital to General Chiang Kai-Shok as it is to us, and that the removal of Chenault's air squadrons might easily lead to its loss. You could add that 36 Hurricanes have been despatched by air for Rangoon, of which further dribble will be arriving in next few days.

3. Please inform ABDACOM direct what you have been able to arrange with American Chiefs of Staff, and repeat to us.

1928A/24.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

D.C.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

Duty Captain.

E.P.S.

Head of M. (10)

I.P. (2)

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

W.D.

SECRET

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

SHERWOOD.

C. in C. Western Approaches reports. My 1049A/21. Condensers of SHERWOOD are unreliable and it is unlikely that she will complete passage without trouble. There are however no other long leg destroyers available before 1/2. Request that if possible escort may be reinforced in Canadian Waters. 1130A/24. Ends.
2. Request you will comply if practicable. (D.O.D.(H), 2313A/24 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

See p. 661

Australia and New Zealand.

S.S. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Your 0819/23. Lighter facilities not available Suva herewith suggest (a) Bora Bora, fuelling from U.S. Oiler RAMAPO E.T.A. 27th (W.D.) (b) Admty. proposal amended by my 1625/23. (Navy Office Wellington, 0010M/24 to A.C.N.B., N.C.S.O. Auckland, Admty.)

Rabaul and Kavieng areas. A.C.N.B. Serial No.5. No communication at present with Australian Military forces Rabaul and Kavieng areas. Air R/C Rabaul 23/1 revealed eleven merchant ships Rabaul harbour and three cruisers one destroyers and one aircraft carrier 5 miles from Praed Point. Enemy aircraft have carried out R/Cs Trobriands and Solombo Island (? Kangean) (China Strait). In air attack Kavieng 21/1 3 enemy aircraft were brought down. Loss of 3 enemy aircraft also claimed by A/A defence during air attack on Rabaul 20/1. (A.C.N.B., 0946Z/24.)

CAP DES
PALMES.

Your 1253A/17 and 2121A/20. Request to fit out CAP DES PALMES was received from Free French Naval Authorities, my 1137Z/3 refers. Examination of the ship reveals that conversion to an A.M.C. would require minimum time of three months and seriously inconvenience repair work in Sydney. A.C.N.B. strongly recommend that ship be not converted. It is considered she can be employed between Sydney and New Caledonia. Request Admiralty confirmation that ship will not be converted to A.M.C. (A.C.N.B., 0954Z/24.)

/New ...

War Diary.24.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.New
Caledonia,
Free
French
Resistance.

No.9. Ref. W.W.13 para. IX (d).

(1) Australian Chiefs of Staff are of opinion that unless properly equipped it is unlikely that Free French in New Caledonia will offer serious opposition to a strong enemy attack but if properly equipped and given our assurance of substantial support as quickly as possible then they will do their best to resist any attack and will fight fairly well. Although their standard of efficiency is unlikely to be high initially it will improve particularly if they are fighting with good British or U.S. troops.

(2) Australian Chiefs of Staff are strongly of opinion that equipment required by Free French should be supplied and are shipping the following - 20 tons barbed wire, one ton staples, quantity of explosives and safety fuses, pair of surgical panniers, tobacco, 160 haversacks with shell dressing, 3000 field dressings, quantity of medical stores, 10 field telephones, quantity of cable and drums, quantity of clothing and personal equipment.

(3) No other stores can be sent from Australia.
(J.S.M., 1629R/24 to Chiefs of Staff.)

U.S. Troops
for Abda
Area and New
Caledonia.No.10. Following message despatched from War
Dept. (Begins). Personal from Gen Marshall
to Gen. Wavell.

Brett. For indefinite time U.S. army forces in Abda area will necessarily be limited largely to air, anti-air and technical troops. Convoys will arrive in Australia about 20/2 on which there will be additional U.S. air and air base organisations 3 A/A regiments and 3 A/A battalions. All the above totalling over 20,000 officers and men are for service in Abda area. There will also be in convoy a battalion of 100 55 mm. howitzers, which we intend to substitute for one of the 77 mm. regiments in the brigade now in Australia. In addition to troops listed above there will arrive with same convoy a heavily reinforced infantry brigade earmarked for the defence of New Caledonia. The 75 mm. regiment above mentioned is scheduled for attachment to this force, assuming that Gen. Wavell has no particular objection to the contemplated exchange. U.S. War Dept. has agreed to provide temporarily the necessary garrison in New Caledonia because of inability of Australia to furnish balance of force required. The safety of that island is vital to Australia and continued support of Abda area. It is felt Dutch and Australians should be so alive to danger outlined in your number 11 dated 16/1 that they will take extraordinary measures particularly with infantry to assist defence of Timor and neighbouring areas. Some artillery from brigade now in Australia and A/A units arriving with convoys would be available for supporting this infantry contingent. Due to unavoidable reasons the ships of convoy are not unit loaded. Brig.-Gen. A.M. Patch has been designated as Commander Caledonia force and will come to Australia ahead of convoy forces beginning arrangements of assembly and trans-shipment of his forces. This must be expeditiously accomplished and I will appreciate it if you will see that Patch obtains every possible assistance.

/The ...

War Diary.

24.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S. Troops
for Abda
Area and New
Caledonia.
(Contd.)

The potentialities of shipping situation are so unfavourable that additional ground reinforcements from U.S.A. cannot be expected for a considerable time. Request after consideration of above and of all local possibilities you advise me further with respect to subject of your number 11. (Ends.)
(J.S.M. Washington, 1641A/24 for Chiefs of Staff.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approx. positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C., 1452A/24, 1453A/24.)

War Diary.

25.1.1942
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

DUKE OF YORK arrived at the Clyde at 0004 today from Bermuda. She requires another month to work up.

It is reported that at 1400 today TIRPITZ was not in the berth she occupied on 23/1, but there is no other evidence of her leaving the Trondheim area.

Photographic R/C of Brest at 1610 today showed GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST alongside the T.B. station with all camouflage removed, and it is thought they may leave Brest very shortly (cf Enemy Air Operations). PRINZ EUGEN was in her usual dock.

At 1904A UTMOST was ordered to proceed to patrol near $47^{\circ} 25' N.$ $6^{\circ} 30' E.$ to intercept.

The ports of Peterhead, Tees and Hartlepool were closed this forenoon on account of the weather. A north westerly gale is blowing. VERVAIN is returning to the Clyde with heavy weather damage.

British Air Operations.

Enemy activity is developing in the North Sea and the Admiralty at 1833A informed A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command that special fleet reconnaissance must now take precedence of trade protection.

At 2140 an aircraft on patrol reported and attacked with depth charges 5 enemy torpedo boats steering 311° at 10 knots in $48^{\circ} 3' N.$ $5^{\circ} 0' W.$

War Diary.

25.1.1942
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

In addition to the usual zenith flights 3 aircraft from Brest area carried out R/C this forenoon, covering St. George's Channel, Liverpool Bay and North Channel.

Norwegian S.S.LOM was damaged by air attack off Linney Head at 1840 today.

Mining.

Several mines were exploded in the Humber area today.

S.S. SWYNFLEET in Convoy F.S.⁷⁰ was mined and sunk this afternoon off Landguard Point Lighthouse. The ship was well off channel when hit. Harwich was closed for a short time.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. is to sail corvettes TULIP, ASTER, MARGUERITE, VERBENA and HOLLYHOCK as soon as possible to join the forces under the command of C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

War Diary.25.1.1942
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

There were several air attacks on Malta today and some further damage was caused at Hal Far.

Convoy
M.E.9

Force K (PENELOPE, ZULU, LANCE, LEGION, LIVELEY and MAORI) sailed from Malta with GLENGYLE at 2000B today.

8 Wellingtons from Malta made a successful attack on shipping at Tripoli last night.

Evacuation
of
Benghazi.

At 1415 the Army Commander ordered the evacuation of Benghazi. All ships, minesweepers and lighters with stevedores and dock personnel sailed about midnight 25/26 for Tobruk, escorted by 3 "Hunts". A naval party remained to complete the demolitions.

Air attack
on U-boats
in Arabs
Gulf.

Last night, A.S.C. Swordfish and Sunderland made a successful A/S sweep in Arabs Gulf where a concentration of enemy U-boats was suspected, and report having apparently sunk 2 submarines and possibly damaged a further two. An aircraft this evening attacked a U-boat off the coast of Egypt and considered it severely damaged.

C. in C. Med. reports that on 11/1 PORPOISE laid mines off Cape Delpano, Crete, and saw a patrol craft blown up on 15th. At 0722/18 PORPOISE in 35° 42' N. 24° 21' E. obtained 2 hits on a convoy of 3 5000 ton merchantmen and escort entering Suda Bay; one of the merchant ships was seen to sink.

East Indies and China.

A submarine threat is expected shortly in the Bay of Bengal and Colombo areas. The Admiralty today ordered C. in C. Eastern Fleet in consultation with C. in C. E.I. and Abdacom to reallocate the available A/S forces so as to assist Abdacom to deal with the submarine threat expected in the Burma area. Five corvettes are being sent from South Atlantic.

/Burma ...

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Burma. Aircraft from Burma last night made a successful raid on Bangkok docks and commercial area.

F.O.C.R.I.N. is being asked to assist in the local naval defence of Burma (see 24/1). There is a possibility of sea-borne attack or infiltration from small boats by the enemy in the Moulmein sector and against Rangoon. Increased submarine activity also may be expected in the Approaches to Rangoon, where 3 ships have already been attacked.

Malaya. There were two air attacks on Singapore today. In the second, damage was caused to a small ship and some lighters. Successful air attacks were made today on Muar Harbour and Town and on Batu Pahat; a 600 ton ship was damaged at Muar.

N.E.I. The enemy convoy in the Macassar Strait was attacked twice again. At dawn today U.S. army bombers from Malang made 3 attacks on the convoy, sinking one transport and setting a second on fire. Five enemy fighters were shot down without loss. Dutch bombers from Samarinda II carried out another attack and obtained 4 direct hits on 2 cruisers and one transport; one Dutch bomber was shot down. There have been several enemy air attacks on shipping off the west coast of Sumatra during the last few days and one ship containing internees has been sunk. 81 aircraft attacked Samarinda II today, 9 attacked Halong (Ambong) and 24 Namlea; damage was caused at Samarinda II and Halong. Air R/C today revealed the presence of numerous warships and transports in the Celebes - Halma Hera area.

America and West Indies.

Tanker POINT BREEZE made a submarine distress signal at 0314 off Cape Romain.

/Greek ...

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Greek S.S. MOUNT KITHERON in Convoy O.N.55 reported being torpedoed this morning off St. Johns N.F.

S.S. VARANGER was torpedoed at 0310 E.S.T. today in 38° 58' N. 74° 6' W.

An unknown ship made a submarine distress signal at 1227 G.M.T. in 45° 13' N. 43° 35' W.

It is possible that S.S. LADY HAWKINS who is overdue at Bermuda was the unknown ship reported torpedoed at 2315/18 in 38° 55' N. 74° 22' W.

A total of 6 ships are overdue on passage from the Atlantic coast of North America and Canada to the U.K.

Australia and New Zealand.

As the result of further discussions in Washington a revised agreement for the Anzac Area has been proposed. The area comprises approximately the north-eastern portion of the Australia Station. Anzac Force is to be under the strategical direction of the C. in C. U.S. Fleet exercised through one or more U.S. Flag Officers assisted by one or more Flag Officers named by Australia and/or New Zealand. Initially, the British will provide an aircraft carrier and the U.S. one heavy or one new light cruiser and two destroyers, Australia and New Zealand providing the remainder of the seagoing force. Details, including the tasks to be assigned to Anzac Force are in B.A.D. Washington 1925R/25. A.C.N.B. concurred in the scheme, but strongly suggested that consideration should be given to stationing submarines in the area. Combined Chiefs of Staff suggested amendments are in their 2157R/27.

5 R.A.A.F. Catalinas bombed Rabaul last night and obtained 2 probable hits on a warship.

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Australia and New Zealand.- Contd.

U.S. and Australian A/S units have sunk one large enemy submarine, ~~and probably one small~~, off Darwin. The large S/M is reported to have been sunk by DELORAINIE (minesweeper) with other Australian and U.S. units during A/S operations on 20/21st and the wreck was subsequently located in Clarence Strait, about 60 miles west of Darwin.

One or two Japanese submarines bombarded Midway Islands today, but caused no damage.

Now credited to
+ M.A.S.

DELORAINIE

LITHGOW

KATOOMBA

(CB.04050/42(3))

I.124 sunk -

U.S.S. EDSALL also

took part - (Cmdr:
Rusbotham's list.)

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

CONQUEROR. Auxiliary A/A Ship CONQUEROR is allocated to I.S.E.F. and is to be based at Milford Haven. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship to Belfast when ready.
(C. in C. W.A., 1035A/25.)

Fuel Oil in Faroos. Cancel my 1249A/19.
(C. in C. H.F., 1155A/25.)

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK. Clyde arrival DUKE OF YORK, WIVERN, LIGHTNING.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0004/25.)
(Return from Op. "Arcadia")

NORFOLK, Rosyth departure C.S.1 in NORFOLK escorted by WORCESTER and LAIRDS ISLE for Tyne.
WORCESTER, (C. in C. Rosyth, 0021/25.)
LAIRDS ISLE. C.H.L. Station have no indication of your position. Transmit to Crown D/F Stn. on 375 Kc/s.
Use call sign FPD. Receive bearing on 600 Kc/s.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1022/25 to NORFOLK.)
Your 1139A/24. WORCESTER has been sailed to rejoin Nore Command as instructed by Admiralty.
(R.A.D., 1054A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 1325/24. NORFOLK and WORCESTER arrived. LAIRDS ISLE proceeded.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1130/25 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

AUSONIA, Sailed AUSONIA, RANPURA, and GARLAND in RANPURA, accordance with S.O.W.P. 0900/23.
GARLAND, (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0124A/25.)
SHERWOOD. C. in C. W.A. 1049A/21. Sailed SHERWOOD.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0700A/25.)
Estimated an eastbound Convoy 2 ships and 3 destroyers escorting will pass about 5 miles south of you about 1300A today.
(C. in C. W.A., 1049A/25 to AUSONIA, GARLAND.)

GOLIATH. Following received from Lands End Radio. For F.O.I.C. Falmouth from GOLIATH. Owing to heavy sea, can only make 2 knots. Present position 7 miles West Lizard Head. Escort has not arrived. Request instructions.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0920/25.) *See p. 702*

SEAWOLF. Your 0530A/25. Indicate your position as soon as known.
(A.C.O.S., 1014A/25 to SEAWOLF.)
Your 1306/25. Proceed to Sullom Voe until the weather moderates when onward escort will be arranged.
(A.C.O.S., 1429A/25 to SEAWOLF.)
Your 1429A/25. Remaining in position 060° 41' 00" 11' W. Proceeding to Sullom Voe as soon as visibility allows.
(SEAWOLF, 1930A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

/BADSWORTH ...

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.BADSWORTH,
HESPERUS,
ALMANZORA.

BADSWORTH from Londonderry is to R/V with HESPERUS escorting ALMANZORA in position (S) 048° N. 019° W. at 0900A/29. Route to Clyde. BADSWORTH proceed to Londonderry on passing. HESPERUS proceed to Liverpool on completion. (C. in C. W.A., 1037A/25.) *See 26/1 - p. 733*

P.551,
RUBIS,
UREDD.

My 1439A/23. Weather permitting intend sailing submarine and escort referred to at 1700A/25th. Request that all time of E.T.A. read 24 hours early.
(Capt. S.3, 1047A/25.)
Cancel my 1047A/25.
(Capt. S.3, 1344A/25.)

WOODRUFF.

Sail WOODRUFF to Falmouth, Q.Z.F. 18 should not be used.

(C. in C. W.A., 1140A/25 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

Your 1030/25. Comply with my 1040A/25. Proceed by Hartland Gap. Attention is drawn to Q Z S 315.
(C. in C. W.A., 1457A/25 to WOODRUFF.) *See p. 704*

P. 37.

When ready in all respects request you sail P.37 for Lerwick where she is to remain at 4 hours notice until required to sail for patrol.
(F.O.S., 1241A/25 to Capt. S.9.)

BLENHEIM.

WOLSEY will arrive off Tyne 0945/27. WOLSEY and WORCESTER will provide S.A. escort for BLENHEIM's trials and passage. BLENHEIM is

then to re-enter Tyne and be sailed for Methil as soon as tide permits after dark on 27th.

BLENHEIM will sail from Methil after dark on 28th for Scapa escorted by WORCESTER and LUDLOW, with LAIRDS ISLE to provide S.A. escort as far as Fife Ness.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1309/25 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

PLOVER.
M.L. 120.

My 1706A. Sailing of PLOVER and M.L. 120 cancelled owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover, 1741A/25.)

PORT
QUEBEC.

My 1747A/19. Intend sailing PORT QUEBEC escorted by KUJAWIAK from Needles 1600/26 for R/V with LANCASTER 180° Helwick Light Vessel 1 mile at 1700/27 and thence escorted by LANCASTER for Port Z A. Routed as follows to arrive Port Z A 1000/29.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1813A/25.)

ANEMONE.
ABELIA.
SWEETBRIAR.

Cancel para. 3 of my 1839A/13. Owing to convoys being routed to southward, request you sail ANEMONE and ABELIA to Londonderry and SWEETBRIAR to Liverpool as soon as relieved.
(C. in C. W.A., 1903A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Denmark Strait Patrol. Admiralty 1452A/24. Patrol is to be maintained north of 061° 30' N. (C. in C. H.F., 0011A/25 to KENYA. Reptd. CUMBERLAND.)

Operation "Magnet". Unable to make R/V due to weather. Flotilla hove to in 055° 22' N. 008° 45' W., course 285°, speed 3 knots. (S.O. 13th M/S.F., 0431A/25.)

UTMOST Patrol. (To intercept SCHARNHORST 1 GNEISENAU off Blust.)
A. Proceed forthwith diving by day to establish patrol in vicinity 47° 25' N. 06° 30' W. Object cruisers and above.
B. H.Q.C.C. is requested to institute submerged bombing restrictions as follows. (F.O.S., 1904A/25 to UTMOST.)
Owing to mines do not proceed east of line joining 048° N. 6° 30' W. 047° 12' N. 5° 50' W., 046° 45' N. 5° W. (F.O.S., 1926A/25 to UTMOST.) *cancelled 21/1/42 see p-775*

British Air Activity.

Patrols. "Polar" in operation 1115A. (A.C.I.C., 1217A/25.)
"Polar" returned 1430A. Nil report. (A.C.I.C., 1800A/25.)

North Sea. Enemy activity is developing in the North Sea and Special Fleet R/C must now take precedence over trade protection. (A.C.N.S. H., 1833A/25 to A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

818, 819, 820, 822, Squadrons. The following movements are to take place as soon as arrangements for move can be made. Details. FORMIDABLE is requested to issue orders for embarkation of air parties at 888, 818, 820 Squadrons direct to Machrihanish. (V.A. N.A.S., 1833A/25.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy R/Cs. In addition to usual zenit flights, three A/C from Brest area have carried out R/C this forenoon, covering St. George's Channel, Liverpool Bay, and North Channel. (D.D.I.C., 1521/25.)

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Harwich.

Port of Harwich closed owing to mine.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1709/25.)
My 1709/25. Normal conditions restored.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1845A/25.)

N.R.

My 1714A/24. Operation N.R. will not be
carried out tonight owing to weather conditions
and is postponed until February.
(V.A. Dover, 1839A/25.)

SWYNFLEET
(British,
1168 tons)
sunk.

At 1642/25 SWYNFLEET, struck mine in $51^{\circ} 55.7' N.$
 $1^{\circ} 19.2' E.$ Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1920A/25.)
SWYNFLEET mined and sunk 204⁶, 2.2 cables from
Landguard Point Lighthouse. After end sunk
in about 12 ft. L W O S. Bows intact, and
appears buoyant forward of engine room bulkhead.
Intend to carry out pumping test on engine room
tomorrow.
(Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1925/25.)

Humber.

The following eight mines exploded today by
Sweepers. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 2322A/25.)

Enemy Intelligence.

No R/C of Brest or Trondheim on 24/1.
(D.D.I.C., 0120/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

HELENE RUSS.

Intercept at 0220 G.M.T. Begins. Urgency
from HELENE RUSS (German) bearing 094° . Am
being crushed by ice. Need help position 57°
 $16' N.$ $11^{\circ} 30' E.$
(Scapa W/T, T.O.R. 0338/25.)

W/T
activity.

(? W/T) Unit reports (? unusual) activity on
5850 Kc/s 0700 to 0900 G.M.T.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0855A/25.)

TIRPITZ
on 23/1.

Photos taken on 23/1 show that TIRPITZ is lying
bows east alongside two fenders built from the
North shore of the Fiord with her bow in
position $077^{\circ} 3400$ ft. from the point in 63°
 $33' 40'' N.$ $10^{\circ} 55' 10'' E.$ on chart 3105. An A/T baffle about
200 feet from ships side extends from abreast B turret on
starboard side to 250 ft. fine on port quarter. Some
camouflage is in place round bow and on starboard quarter.
(D.D.I.C., 1239A/25.)

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.TIRPITZ
on 23/1.
(Contd.)

A.M. 2001A/23. Crew of aircraft state definitely that at 1400/25 TIRPITZ was not in berth occupied on 23/1. No photographs taken.

There is no other evidence of TIRPITZ leaving the Trondheim area.

(A.C.N.S. H., 2002A/25.)

SCHARNHORST,
GNEISENAU,
PRINZ EUGEN.

There are indications that enemy main units may leave Brest very shortly.

(F.O.S., 1924A/25 to S/Ms Area A.)

Photographic R/C of Brest at 1610/25 shows GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST alongside T/B station, all camouflage removed. PRINZ EUGEN in usual dock.

(D.D.I.C., 2156A/25.)

5 Destroyers
off Brest.

P.C.S. of enemy 5 destroyers 48° 3' N. 5° 0' W., 330°, 10 knots. 311 4 unknown.

(A/C Duty K., 2140/25 to 19 Group.)

(C. in C. Plymouth 2226A/25 to Admty.)

Enemy - 5 destroyers are in single line ahead.

Am returning to base - recalled.

(A/C K.224, 2200/25 to 19 Group.) Note. This message has been passed to Admty. for information.

Navigational.Humber
Light
Float.

Humber L/F is off station.

(F.O. Humber, 1056A/25.)

Superintendent Trinity House reports:- Humber Gas Bell Float capsized on station.

(F.O.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1145A/25.)

My 1056. Humber L/F reported to be floating bottom up and a danger to navigation. Red and white striped dan buoy with red flag and green light laid approx. ¼ cable West of float also small green can buoy attached mooring. Trawler showing three white vertical lights will also be in vicinity weather permitting.

(F.O. Humber, 1208A/25.)

After some months experience of a light float at Humber request that present opportunity may be taken to replace it with Light Vessel which will enable light to be controlled. A trawler is always stationed close to give protection. The most economical and satisfactory arrangement would be for the Light Vessel to have naval defence personnel and suitable armament.

(F.O.I.C. Humber, 1256A/25.)

Peterhead.

Port of Peterhead closed owing to weather.

(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1130/25.)

Tees.
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed 1105/25 owing to weather.

(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1141/25.)

D Buoy.

D Buoy. Light extinguished. Request Q Z H.
(V.A. Dover, 1502A/25.)

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE SHOAL. EMPIRE SHOAL off Wolf Head requires tugs.
(Lands End Radio, 0021/25.)
EMPIRE SHOAL engine trouble off Trevoze Head.
(Lands End Radio, 0100/25.)
Your 0129 and 0130 EMPIRE SHOAL engine trouble off Trevoze Head.
Tug being sent from Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0236A/25 to TYNEDALE.)
TYNEDALE standing by EMPIRE SHOAL 50° 31' N. 05° 08' W. at
0258.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0330A/25 to GOLIATH.)
TYNEDALE reports EMPIRE SHOAL drifting ashore near Kelsey Head
at 0445.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0622A/25 to GOLIATH.)
GOLIATH sailed 0245/25 to assist EMPIRE SHOAL. *See p. 697*
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0814/25.) III
Sailed Rescue Tug CHERBOURGEOIS_A to assist EMPIRE SHOAL.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1341/25.)

EMPIRE SQUIRE. Your 1320A/24. EMPIRE SQUIRE now returned Methil
after collision.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 0936/25 to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)

ISLE FORD. Small coaster presumably S.S. ISLE FORD en route
from Lyness to Invergordon lost with all hands
under North Head Wick 0015/25/1/42. Vessel
total loss.
(R.N.O. Wick, 1005/25.)

X POSANKE,
X SCHULTZ.
x not identified. Intercepted 1138 G.M.T. de DYAL begins. Please
render assistance immediately. Ends.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1238/25.)
Intercept at 1135 G.M.T. from DYAL begins.
Please send help immediately. Here POSANKE (DYAL). I am
lying on your starboard bow within visibility distance. Ends.
(Scapa W/T, 1248/25.)
Following received from Wick Radio begins: Following inter-
cepted at 1204 G.M.T. de DYAL begins. Position OO SML NNW.
SCHULTZ stuck in ice. Request despatch of icebreakers EVTL.
Inform me when icebreakers will arrive.
(Scapa W/T, 1310/25.)

THYRA II. Any further information THYRA. We have been
hove to since 0800 off Barra Head, whole westerly
gale.
(JAUNTY, 1400/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 1400/25. Assistance no longer required. Return to
Stornoway.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1943A/25 to JAUNTY.)

VERVAIN. VERVAIN returning to Clyde with stove in wheel
house and main W/T office flooded, keeping M/F
watch only.
(WANDERER, 1446A/25.)
Returning to Base with damage through stress of weather to

/upper ...

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War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

VERVAIN. Upper Deck W/T. (Corrupt group). E.T.A.
(Contd.) Clyde 0900 tomorrow.
(VERVAIN, 2105A/25.)

ZURICHMOOR. Intercept at 1939 G.M.T. de Malin Head Radio.
S O S de ZURICHMOOR. Please send tugs to
assist us in Oban anchorage. Drifting.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1933/25.)
Intercept at 1947 G.M.T. de Malin Head Radio.
S O S de ZURICHMOOR. Please send tugs to assist us position
4 cables North East of Eileen Dubh, Lynn of Lorn.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1942/25.)
(Scapa W/T, T.O.R. 2108/25.)
Received at 1956 G.M.T. de ZURICHMOOR. Please phone Oban
and inform them we are in distress.
(Port Patrick Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 2135/25.)

SALTWICK. SALTWICK and FIDRA both dragged anchors and
FIDRA. grounded, former at Smith's Embankment at 0830/
25, latter at Brickwork Bay at 1730/25 in
Peterhead Bay.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 2055/25.)

EMPIRE Intercept at 2220 G.M.T. Begins Bearing 148°
PILGRIM. approx. From Wick Radio. De EMPIRE PILGRIM
begins. S O S. Am aground, unknown position,
close inshore, pounding heavily but considered
no immediate danger to life.
(Scapa W/T, 2322/25.)
Received at 2240 G.M.T. bearing to EMPIRE PILGRIM 148° from
Wick Radio, 352° from Cullercoats Radio (unreliable).
(Wick Radio, 2340/25.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Not able to find convoy this morning. Have
anchored Kirkwall Bay.
(CAPE MARIATO, 0315/25.)

W.N. 35. Full gale and very heavy seas in vicinity of
Orkney. W.N. 35 is to seek shelter in
Thurso Bay.
(A.C.O.S., 0830/25.)
Commodore proposes to endeavour re-assemble W.N.35 Dunnet
Bay 1100A/26. My 0400^B/25 request light may be burnt and fog
signals sounded until daylight as ships may attempt to make
Dunnet independently.
(TARANTELLA, 1930A/25 to A.C.O.S.B.) *See also p. 705*

/Tankers ...

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War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.Tankers
in E.N.
Convoys.

Following is a corrected version of my 1743A/24. Of the last 13 E.N. Convoys "9" have arrived at the Orkneys R/V off Dunnet Head in dark hours. The majority of ships sailing westward from the Orkneys are large and in ballast with a high proportion of Tankers. It is undesirable to sail these ships in dark hours in view of their unhandiness and the strong tides in the entrance to Scapa and the Pentland Firth. The shortage of escorts precludes these valuable ships being sent to Loch Ewe out of convoy. It is therefore requested that every endeavour may be made to sail these convoys from Methil so as to pass the Pentland Firth in daylight.

(A.C.O.S., 0934A/25 and 1005A/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 1743A/24. It is appreciated that the effect of passage by convoys through Pentland Firth in dark hours is undesirable, but the necessity for it arises through two operational considerations.

(a) The flexibility in E.N. sailings referred to by Admiralty 1907A/12/11/41.

(b) The general improvement and speed-up in the turn round of shipping instanced in my 1519/1/11/41.

2. Sailing times of the convoys are now proposed Admiralty, based on ocean convoy requirements and agreed to by me having regard to (a) above and your own desire for daylight passage in Pentlands.

3. With these conflicting interests it cannot guarantee ideal results on either hand, but with lengthening days and improving weather more satisfactory results all round should be obtained. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1203/25 to A.C.O.S.)

S.L 97.
WOODRUFF.

My 1830Z/24. ^{N.T. N.W.D.} Unable to make Lough Foyle due to strong N.W. gale. Request permission to proceed Falmouth direct using Q Z F 18. Proceeding meantime to shelter in North Channel. My position 20 miles 000° from Lough Foyle. (WOODRUFF, 1030/25.) *See p. 696*

F.N. 613.
MARIANNE.

MARIANNE of F.N. 613 bound for Humber missing at daylight.

(WINCHESTER, 1044A/25.)

MARIANNE not seen.
(PYTCHLEY, 1126A/25 to WINCHESTER.)

P.W. 101.

P.W. 101. has been ordered into Falmouth and Plymouth. Weather permitting will sail from Falmouth, 26/1.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1114A/25.)

EMPIRE CAPE.
F.S. 708.

Master of EMPIRE CAPE thinks it advisable to put into Humber, I agree. Am proceeding at best speed with her.
(LIDDESDALE, 1205A/25.)

/Remain ...

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War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- EMPIRE CAPE. Remain in Humber until the weather moderates sufficiently for EMPIRE CAPE to sail.
F.S. 708. (Contd.) (C. in C. Nore, 1540A/25 to LIDDESDALE.)
F.S. 708 is to keep to extreme western side of channel between 57 E and 57 D Buoy, turning one mile south of 57 D Buoy, thence one mile South of centre line channel 57 D and 56 B Buoy.
Particular care is to be taken that EMPIRE CAPE follows these instructions. LIDDESDALE pass to TURQUOISE.
(C. in C. Nore, 1240A/25.)
- S.L. 96. Warmest congratulations on the safe arrival of all the ships of your convoy S.L.96 with the exception of MARKLYN which went ashore off Mull of Galloway.
(C. in C. W.A., 1203/25 to Commodore F.H. Taylor, R.N.R.)
- F.S. 708. My position 17 buoy. Earliest E.T.A. 62 D buoy 1800. Only 2 ships of F.S. 708 in company. Visibility 3 cables.
(LOWESTOFT, 1330A/25.)
- D.S. 21. ST. MARYS and SKATE detailed for D.S. 21.
(R.A.M., 1231/25.)
- W.N. 35. W.N. 35 badly scattered and delayed by gale. Shall be unable to reach Dunnet Head Bay by dark. Request Dunnet Head Torness lights from dark until further notice.
(TARANTELLA, 1400A/25.) *See p. 703*
- W.P. 103. My 010/108 dated 30/12/41. W.P. 103 delayed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1504A/25.)
- P.Q. 10. P.Q. 10. Admiralty 1520A/25. Report when Convoy ready to sail.
(C. in C. W.A., 2231A/25 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea.)
P.Q. 10. is to be sailed to Seidisfiord as soon as practicable. Route instructions follow.
(D.T.D., 1520A/25.)
Request you will nominate 2 destroyers for P.Q. 10 leaving Seidisfiord about 29/1.
(C. in C. H.F., 2152A/25 to R.A.D. H.F.)
- Convoy Short Titles. A.M. 9A of 5/1/42 is to be amended as follows.
(D.T.D., 1623A/25.)
See Summaries Folder.

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.N.M. 59.
WHITECREST.
MACUBA.

Request written report giving full facts as to the sailing of No. 11652 from Belfast without orders.
(D.T.D., 1650A/25 to N.C.S.O. Oban.)

R. 9.

R.9 cleared Skopen Fiord westwards 1500 today.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1715A/25.)

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ROSEMONDE. Your 1519A/24 (N.T. in W.D.) Ship has not arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0041A/25 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, (R) Admiralty).

REGENT. My 2326A/24 REGENT is partially disabled. Unless otherwise ordered by Admiralty close her at daylight and if she is not able to reach Ponta Delgada under her own power, instruct LADY HOGARTH to proceed to her assistance. Use 500 kc/s single operator period and pass message to me for broadcasting.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0050A/25 to HERMIONE (R) Admty., F.O.S., REGENT, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. A.W.I. S.O. Force "H")
Your 1545Z/24 acknowledged.
(F.O.S., 0104A/25 to REGENT).
Your 2326/24 and REGENT 1545/24. Request you will direct HERMIONE to render assistance to REGENT.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 0227A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Keep watch on G.S. and H.S. routine until otherwise ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(F.O.S., 1159A/25 to REGENT (R) F.O.C.N.A., Admty., C. in C.W.A. C. in C. A.W.I.)
REGENT in 041° 11' N., 024° 43' W. Course and speed 186° 4½ knots for Ponta Delgada. After hydroplane damaged, cannot dive main engine inefficient. Dockyard or depot ship assistance required. Request LADY HOGARTH be ordered to stand by. A tow to Gibraltar will probably be necessary. My fuel insufficient to stay. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1600A/27.
(HERMIONE, 1331A/25 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty. F.O.S. C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 1331A/25 and my 0050A/25. LADY HOGARTH estimated position at 2000A/25 is 043° 30' N., 029° 00' W. Instruct her by W/T to join REGENT. (? I am) unable to contact her on 500 kc/s single operator period, broadcast several times on 160 kc/s single line period and inform me.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1800A/25 to HERMIONE)
Your 1331A/25. Remain in support REGENT until relieved by LADY HOGARTH, refuel from DINGLEDALE or at Ponta Delgada if necessary.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1846A/25 to HERMIONE).
In view of your 1846A/25, cancel my 1832A/25.
(V.C.N.S., 2305A/25 to F.O.C.N.A., (R), FO. Force H., HERMIONE, C. in C. S.A.)

NAVEMAR Weather and time permitting pass in the vicinity of position 036° 48' N., 015° 46' W. when (?where) NAVEMAR was reported torpedoed at 0058A/24. Probably drifting to Southward. COLTSFOOT formerly searching, returning Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0935A/25 to HESPERUS).
My 0930A/24. Search for survivors during daylight
Good visibility yesterday 24th unsuccessful. Fuel permitting search continues.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/25 to N.A. Madrid).
Your 0935A/25 acknowledged. My P.C. and S. 036° 34' N., 009° 28' W., 268° 13 knots. Ship quite seaworthy. Weather report.
(?HESPERUS, 1200A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Bombing Restrictions. Ops. 545. 25/1. Serial No. G.25. Cancel para. B of serial No. G.24. Institute submerged bombing restrictions. 35 miles either side of line joining 46° 12' 45' and 49° 12' 45' from 0400/27 and 0800/28.
(H.Q.C.C., 1058/25 to R.A.F. Gib.)

NURTURETON. Your 1804A/23 NURTURETON sailed under escort 1130 G.M.T./25th. Temporary repairs to boiler effected but condition unsatisfactory. Master anticipates having to put into Glasgow for further repairs. Request N.C.S.O. Gibraltar to include necessary information in his routing signals.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1201/25 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)
NURTURETON has developed serious boiler defect necessitating return to Funchal maximum 4 knots. Am escorting. My position 32.58 N. 18.12 W. oil fuel remaining 65 per cent. Weather.
(CULVER, 2240Z/25 to LONDONDERRY.)

TURBULENT. Intend to sail TURBULENT p.m./27 for Malta. TURBULENT will pass through 038° 12' 009° 00' E. at about 0730A/30 thence as ordered by N.O.I.C. Malta.
TURBULENT has been given copy of N.O.I.C. Malta 1741/9. C. in C. Med. pass to Capt. (S) 1.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1206A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

LOCH OSKAIG A/C attack. Following has been read. Help 38.37 N., 9.27 W.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1355A/25.)
My 1355A. A/C British markings presumably Wellington on attacking course to 1000 yards range. Opened A/C flew off towards land.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1430A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Wellington aircraft reported sighting what may have been submarine stationary on the surface 5 miles North West Cape Espichel.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1701A/25 to LOCH OSKAIG.)

MALAYA. Intend to exercise MALAYA and 8 destroyers to Eastwards of Gibraltar on Tuesday 27/1.
(S.O. Force H., 1418A/25 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B. Following received. One submarine in position 32.00 N. 19.50 E. No T.O.O.
(Nore W/T, T.O.R. 1448/25 to Whitehall W/T.)

CHESAPEAKE. N.C.S.O. Gibraltar Message addressed to V.A.C.N.A. from LADY HOGARTH. ARCTIC RANGER not in company and whereabouts unknown, intended returned to Gibraltar direct. THAMES has further DHMV (corrupt group) us.
(CHESAPEAKE, 2000/25 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- ARUNDEL
CASTLE. Your 0328A/22. Confirm ARUNDEL CASTLE requires six weeks for boiler and engine repairs. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0903Z/25 to D. of S.T.)
- EVAGORAS. Overdue shipping cancel my 1101/24 EVAGORAS arrived Durban. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0921B/25).
- EMPIRE
BAXTER. Admty. 1511/14 (EMPIRE BAXTER due Durban, destination changed to Singapore) D.S.T.O. M.E. is inquiring whether Naval Armament stores in EMPIRE BAXTER consigned to M.E. are to be transhipped at Durban. (S.S.T.O. Durban, 1054Z/25 to D. of S.T.)
- FRANCONIA Your 0800A/23. FRANCONIA delayed at Freetown for 48 hours defective generator. Expected to sail 27/1. (C. in C. S.A., 1237Z/25 to D. of S.T.)
- DEWDALE. My 1357Z/24. DEWDALE escorted by STARWORT and CROCUS leaves Freetown 1800Z/26 for Gibraltar routed through (a) 10° 40' N., 17° W. (b) 15° N., 19° W. (c) 20° N., 18° 30' W. (d) 23° 20' N., 17° 40' W. (e) 28° N., 13° 30' W. (f) 32° 43' N., 10° 10' W. (g) 35° 50' N., 6° 30' W., thence to Gibraltar S. of A. 7 knots E.T.A. 8/2. (C. in C. S.A., 1245Z/25 amended 1824Z/26 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty).
- ASTURIAS. Pass to F.O. S.A. Sq. and S.A. Sqdrn. repeated, C. in C. S.A. and Admty from B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro. Your 0525Z/21. ASTURIAS arrived 1230Z/25. (Rio de Janeiro, 1307Z/25 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).
- ANTONIO
LIMONCELLI,
(Italian). Was handed over complete with cargo to Lloyd Brasileiro yesterday, 24th. (Montevideo, 1447Z/25 to Admty).
- RIO BRANCO. My 1447Z/24. RIO BRANCO arrived Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1714Z/25 to Admty).

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

TULIP, Admiralty's 1118A/25 (see China). Request you
ASTER, will sail these corvettes as soon as practicable
MARGUERITE, in consultation with C. in C. East Indies.
VERBENA, (C. in C. S.A., 1723Z/25 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown
HOLLYHOCK. (R) C. in C. E.I. Abdacom, C. in C. E.F., Admty).

W.S.15 Convoy W.S.15 arrived Freetown (?a.m.) 25/1.
Intend to sail by direct route 29/1 with Ocean
A/T Escort of MILFORD and DEMIRHISAR also
local escort from Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1853Z/25 to Admty).

Arrivals 25/1, RESOLUTION, ASCANIA, CHESHIRE, NORMAN, BOREAS,
DEMIR HISAR, VIMY, VANSITTART, HEEMSKERK, COLOMBIA with W.S.15.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1935Z/25 to Admty etc).

Mediterranean.

CORONA Have received signal that CORONA aground
aground. 017° 17' 038° 56'. She has leak in tanks, cannot
refloat by own power. Am sending tugs TSIN,
ROCKET, and VALKYRIE, to assist.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 0835Z/25 to F.O.C. R.S.)

Probable N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1942/22nd and all subsequent
evacuation of signals were made with my approval.
Benghazi. (S.O. Force I at Benghazi, 0901B/25 to C. in C.
Med). *? SNOIS*

Situation Operation M.F.4. begun. Force B has left Alex.
report 187. 2. Italian Battlefleet was at sea 23/1 apparently
escorting one large liner and three merchant
ships to Tripoli. Day and night bombing and
air torpedo attacks were launched from Malta and Benghazi.
Definite results so far reported are oneliner and one destroyer
torpedoed by 826 Squadron whose Leader Lieut. Comdr. Corbett is
missing. Only one further sighting yesterday 24th of cruisers.
Owing to uncertainty of military position further convoys to
Benghazi have been suspended temporarily. (U.574)
4. Submarines. My 2014/20. UNBEATEN sank U-boat at 1025/12 in
37.50 N., 16.00 E., with two torpedo hits. One survivor.
Laden 7,000 ton tanker and one merchant ship eastbound in convoy
attacked at 0906/19 in 37.49 N., 15. 52 E. Two probable torpedo
hits followed forty minutes later by very heavy explosion
indicated tanker blew up.
5. PORPOISE laid mines off Cape Drepano, Crete on 11/1 and saw
patrol craft blown up on 15/1. At 0722/18 in 35° 42' N., 24°
21' E., PORPOISE obtained two hits on convoy of 3-5,000 ton

/merchant...

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation merchant ships and escort entering Suda Bay.
report 187. One merchant ship seen to sink.
Contd. 6. U.S.S.R. Tanker SAKHALIN has arrived
Famagusta.
(C. in C. Med., 0915B/25 to Admty).

C.S.15, One shadowing aircraft 32.17 N., 25.18 E.
A/C. unable to communicate with fighter on ? 6000
kc/s.
(C.S.15, 1000B/25 to C. in C. Med).

URGE. Reference your orders, URGE will not be sailed
for North Sicily.
(Capt. S.10., 1001B/25 to UPRIGHT).

A/C One aircraft overhead at height of 1,000 feet,
position 009° 32° N., 22° E., 16 miles.
(WOLBOROUGH, 1045/25 to F.H.Q., W.D., Alexandria
Port Wave)

INDOMITABLE. My 1639/1/1. (re landing of torpedoes and
aircraft by INDOMITABLE) Request you will
investigate why INDOMITABLE failed to carry out
these orders.
(C. in C. Med., 1131B/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

COETLOGON Departure 24th for Sete.
(French). (Barcelona, 1144/25 to M. of W.T.)

Enemy By aircraft from Malta, re coding.
reports. (C. in C. Med., 1145B/25 to Admty).

CLEOPATRA. Your 1320A/24 para. 3. No. If no other ship
can be sent with her consider she should wait
for whichever of JAVELIN or ARETHUSA is ready
first.
(C. in C. Med., 1227B/25 to Admty).
My 1227B/25. Request ship over stows magazine and shell boom
with 5.25 ammunition for Malta to limit compatible with
fighting efficiency.
(C. in C. Med., 1359B/25 to Admty (R) V.A. Malta).

Pantellaria My 1811A/13/1/42 and B.A.D. Washington 1903R/12/
R/C. 1/42. Results of photographic R/C Pantellaria
14/1 not yet received. Did it or subsequent R/C
confirm concentration of fast motor boats?
(D.N.I., 1246A/25 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta,
C.O.I.S. Alexandria, F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H).

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War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation M.F. 3. Following is a summary.
 (a) Force B delayed sailing 3 hours by unpredicted gale and sandstorms p.m./17th KINGSTON fouled boom and was rammed by FOXHOUND. HOTSPUR fouled screws in A.T. net. (b) Convoy M.W.8 B unable to make speed owing to weather. GURKHA torpedoed and sunk 0739/17 with this convoy. (c) Convoy R/V a.m./18th whole force was 4½ hours late at (?2100/18th) Norwegian THERMOPYLAE lagged at 10 knots reporting defective steering and engines. She was detached with CARLISLE and two destroyers to return and then made 13 knots. Cause of this cab-horse behaviour being investigated. (d) THERMOPYLAE bombed a.m./19th went heavily on fire and had to be sunk. She was beyond range of S.E. Fighters and Beaufighters were at that time refuelling after return from Berka where they had operated previous day. (e) Remainder of convoy reached Malta 1530/19. Although convoy was far behind time Malta fighters did excellent work and held off all attacks. (f) Total of air attacks 57(17)*on Force B. CARLISLE and THERMOPYLAE 2(2) all were by single Ju. 88's except one attack by 3(3). Fighters shot down three damaged two. One badly damaged by gunfire. (g) Feature of operation was excellent air co-operation under 201 N.C. Group. Very full (REEE)** was flown giving good security. Fighter aircraft worked well particularly from forward area under difficult conditions.
 (C. in C. Med., 1351B/25 to Admty) *As received. **Corrupt group.

*Recco**"recco"*

Benghazi Withdrawal. Army received orders to withdraw. Am sailing ship 1800 tonight. N.O.I.C. Tobruk sail escort immediately to meet. Route follows.
 (?Benghazi, 1405B/25 to C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Tobruk, (R) R.A. Alexandria, N.L.O. 8th Army, N.O.I.C. Derna).
 Army Commander has (?ordered) the evacuation of Benghazi. (N.L.O. 8th Army, 1415B/25 to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. Force I, N.O.I.C. Benghazi, N.O.I.C. Tobruk).
 The following will sail about 2000/25 to Tobruk coastwise in 3 groups. (1) Codeword "Local" A.9. and A.19 S.O.A. 8 knots. (2) Codeword "Bosom" C307 and 1C D, lighter TRUSTWORTHY JAFFA tug S.O.A. 7 knots. (3) Code word "Reappoint" (3 corrupt groups) R.64 R.68 S.O.A. 10 knots. Single operator period to be kept on 425 kc/s. E.T.A. Tobruk to be signalled to Port War Signal Station, Derna, when passing.
 (?N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1422B/25 to R.A. Alexandria, Capt. (S)1 No. 201 Groups, N.O.I.C. Derna, Benghazi, Tobruk, Mersa Tobruk (? S.N.O. Red Sea).
 My 1405. Sailing delayed 4 hours. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1555B/25 to A.I.G.72)
 My 1505/25 (?1555 intended) For 4 hours read 6 hours. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1555/25 to A.I.G.72, S.O. Force I).

(SNOIS)

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

GLOXINIA
enemy A/C. Am being shadowed by enemy A/C my position TYSP
32.29 (indecypherable).
(GLOXINIA, 1455/25 to Mersa Matruh W/T, Alexandria
W/T)

C.S.15
bombed. Enemy A/C are bombing.
(C.S.15, 1520/25 to S.O.(I))

HYDRAIOS,
SNAPDRAGON. My 1522C/25 (N.T. in W.D.) R.A. Alexandria's
1005B/25 (N.T. in W.D.) just received. Cancel
my 1410C/25 (N.T. in W.D.) not to SNAPDRAGON.
(?) N.O.I.C. Port Said latest to sail HYDRAIOS
to R/V with SNAPDRAGON near Port Said 1200B/26
for onward escort to Beirut. S. of A from
Port Said will be 7½ knots. E.T.A. off Haifa to be
amended to 1200C/27. E.T.A. Beirut 1800C/27.
R.A. Alexandria pass to FALK.
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1525C/25 to R.A.
Alexandria, (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Port Said,
SNAPDRAGON, Capt. (D) 15, FALK).

M.W.9.,
15-knot
and 14-knot
ships. Your 1646/20. No objection to use of CLAN
CAMPBELL, CLAN CHATTAN and any suitable
Norwegians for M.W.9. CLAN CHATTAN is expected
to arrive Suez about 2/2.
2. Use of fully refrigerated vessels such as
ROWALLAN CASTLE most undesirable. Delays and
casualties resulting from their use in Mediterranean make it
impossible to fulfil essential civil programmes to U.K. and
elsewhere which are already seriously in arrears.
3. Hoped the three ships of M.W.8 may be made available for
M.W.10. The only other 15-knot ships which could be in position
by 15/2 are EMPIRE ORIOLE, EMPIRE PINTAIL, and EMPIRE EGRET
and possibly EMPIRE FULMAR. U.S. Govt. is being pressed to
agree to their being used for this purpose if necessary but they
must not be used without American consent.
4. War Office are most anxious that each convoy shall comprise
the maximum number of ships consistent with the availability
of supplies and the capacity of Malta to discharge them.
Governor Malta's 1114/21 and V.A. Malta's 2133/22 refer.
Request you will therefore reconsider the inclusion of 14-knot
ships in both M.W.9 and M.W.10.
5. W.O. and M.W.T. agree. V.A. Malta to pass to Governor Malta.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1527A/25 to C. in C. Med).

U/B S/M reported 032° 00' N., 019° 50' ^E W., at 1550/25.
(S.O. Force (I) Tobruk, 1601B/25 to N.O.I.C.
Benghazi).

/Movements...

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd. *Kingston*

Movements.

Departure 24/1 NAIAD, EURYALUS, DIDO, GRIFFIN, ARROW, HASTY, KELVIN, ISAAC SWEERS, KIPLING, AVON VALE, HEYTHROP, ~~CLYTHAM~~, SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON, CARLISLE, HYACINTH, BRECONSHIRE, MARINES.
 Departure 25/1 GLOXINIA.
 (R.A. Alexandria, 1634B/25 to Admty, C. in C. Med.)
**not identified*

U/B

R.A.F. report sighting S/M 2 miles S.W. of Benghazi course 080° at 1520.
 (N.L.O. 8th Army, 1645B/25 to C. in C. Med., (R), Benghazi W/T).

Malta
Air Report.

CSR 25/1 Part 1. Night 24/25, 4 alerts. 2026 to 0001 hrs. 4 raiders 2 crossed coast bombs land sea no damage A.A. fired Hurricanes intruder patrols see part 2. 25th 4 alerts 0626, 0829, 0943, 1214 hrs. 69 Me. 109's and
 Ju. 88's cloud cover target Hal Far craters on aerodrome 1 Swordfish destroyed other very slightly damaged. No casualties 1 Me. 109 and 1 Ju. 88 seriously damaged 5 Hurricanes shot down 4 Pilots safe 1 missing 2 more Hurricanes damaged A.A. fired.
 Part 2. 24th. Cape Bon Kerkenah R/C S.W. 1342 hours 2 Schooners 2,000 tons 200° Sfax 38 miles course N.W. 5 knots P.M. R/C saw no trace of liner.
 Night 24/25. 8 Wellingtons in successful attack shipping Tripoli weather very hazy over Tripoli smoke screen effective over harbour. Bombs flares dropped 1750 to 1910, hits harbour, main quay, and Spanish Quay. Photos 25 show water in harbour covered oil.
 (Malta, 1740/25).
 Part 2. 25th photos Tripoli, arrived 5 DRS, 4 M.Vs. 8,000, 7,000, 6,000, 5,000, tons, no trace of liner. Departed 1 submarine, 1 M/V 300 tons.
 (Malta, 1741/25).

Massawa.

Re. construction of refitting base at Massawa a decision is required on the retention or disposal of Italian boom defence torpedo and mine depots. Propose that boom defence and torpedo depots should be retained and refitted for use with new base but that mine depot should be made available for conversion to other purposes as may be required by the American Mission.
 (C. in C. Med., 1811B/25 to Admty).

/Benghazi...

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War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd. *S No 13*Benghazi
long
range
fighters for
15 C.S.

Precautionary evacuation of Benghazi has been ordered. S.O. Force I is sailing ships in convoy from Benghazi at 2200/25. Route not yet known. Availability of long range fighters for you tomorrow doubtful. Advance No. 201 Naval co-op Group will inform you what if anything can be done.

(C. in C. Med., 1813B/25 to F.O. 15 C.S. (R)
S.O. Force I., 201 Naval Co-op Group)

U/B
attacked.

Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges and estimate one hit. Enemy S/M has been severely damaged; has dived bearing 126° 32' N., 27° E. 32.

(Med., A/C, 1851/25 to Group 207 H.Q.)
attacked by Swordfish, see C. in C. Med., 2017B/26

Second U/B
attacked.

S/M has dived bearing 169° 32' N., 28° E., 49. Have attacked enemy S/M with depth Charges and estimate 1 hit and has been severely damaged. (Med., A/C 1925/25 to No. ? Sqdn. M.E.)

M.E.9

Tact. M.E.9. E.T.A. 0800B/28th.
(F.O.I.C. Malta, 1918B/25 to R.A. Alexandria
(R) R.A. 15 C.S. S.O. Force "K", C. in C. Med,
GLENGYLE).

Force K and M.E. 9 sailed 2000B/25.

(V.A. Malta, 2145B/25 to C. in C Med., (R) F.O.15 C.S. N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Admty).

Departures 25/1 PENELOPE, GLENGYLE, ZULU, LANCE, LEGION, LIVELY, MAORI.

(V.A. Malta, 2151B/25 to Admty).

U/Bs.

1 submarine unidentified 31.14 N., 28.16 E.,
1 submarine unidentified 31.40 N., 27.31 E.
(Alexandria, 1950B/25 to Area 2 General Broadcast)

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop Movements, B.P. 32. B.P. 32 EGRA with troops, ^{X not identified} MIRPURA with Mules sailed 1330 G.M.T/24 EL MADINA with troops sailed 0400 G.M.T/25 for Basra due Rooka 0300 G.M.T/28 A.M./30 and 1500 G.M.T/28 respectively. Route P G W Knots 14, 11 and 14. All hold 13 16 Indship (1) (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 0422Z/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.IN S.N.O.P.G. Cdre. R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Basra, N.C.S.O. Bombay.) H.T's KAROA, VARSOVA, WINGSANG, stores motor vehicles and personnel; ETHIOPIA, ERINFURA, stores and personnel, sailed 26/1. Due Rangoon 31/1. (S.T.O. Calcutta, 0641Z/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

174th & 175th Groups. Re movements and conversion (C. in C. E.I., 0820Z/25 to Admty.)

THORDIS. Your 2215/24 THORDIS ordered by W/T to report at Colombo for orders. (C. in C. E.I., 0828Z/25 to Admty.)

Proposed Mining Trincomalee. Further to my 1631/23. 1. Experience has shown the employment of independent mines in the immediate vicinity of Fleet bases to be undesirable. 2. Main disadvantages are (technical). 3. In addition, it is of particular importance to avoid depletion of our mine reserves for purposes that do not give an adequate return. In Admiralty view, the laying of mines in the manner described in your 0815/22 would not increase the security of Trincomalee to an extent that warrants the expenditure involved. 4. Request you will review the matter in the light of the foregoing considerations. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1432A/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Nancowry. From Chiefs of Staff No. (S.W.P.) 13. Your 00236 cipher 22/1. 1. We should like to hold Nancowry but as adequate forces cannot at present be found to garrison it, we agree that you should remove fuel and W/T equipment and destroy all facilities with exception water storage. 2. If Japanese occupy island they will surely bring water with them; if we should require to reoccupy Nancowry before their arrival, water storage will be valuable to us. 3. Your para. 3. Admty. have no objection to mining but do not think it has any lasting value. (W.O., 0100/25 to Supreme Commander S.W. Pacific (R) C. in C. India, G.O.C. Burma).

NORD,
LEMATANG.

NORD sunk by S/M 21/1 015° 28' N. 094° 36' E. Ship was torpedoed and shelled. Gunfire heard and burning vessel seen same area 22/1.

/CHATSUNG ...

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War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.NORD,
LEMATANG.
(contd.)CHATSUNG (? CHAK SANG) overdue Rangoon.
PKEZ (LEMATANG) bombed and sunk at Belawan
January 22nd. Could be salvaged if situation
permitting. (S.O.(I) Singapore 0121Z/25).Abdacom
Information
No.1.For C.O.S. Propose to start periodical perhaps
daily information telegrams to cover operations
which would not be covered by normal sitreps from
Burma Singapore and P.I. Following is first of
series. Information No.1, to 1200.

Three attacks made on enemy convoy Macassar Strait.

1. By Dutch bombers from Samarinda II yesterday evening. Total 12 (?direct) hits on 8 warships and transports. No aircraft lost.
 2. By Cruiser MARBLEHEAD and 5 destroyers last night. 5 or 6 transports sunk no loss to ourselves.
 3. By 7 B-17s from Malang dawn today. 1 transport sunk, 1 on fire. 5 attacking enemy fighters shot down no loss to ourselves.
2. During air attack today on Samarinda II, 6 enemy aircraft shot down by Dutch fighters (1) by A/A for loss of 1 Buffalo and 1 civil aircraft shot down taking off.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0238/25 to W.O., etc.)

TAI SANG.

TAI SANG (?struck) a mine and (?sunk in) minefield
in approx. 000° 55' N. 103° 35' E. at 0415 GH/24
latest casualties 31 crew including Capt. plus
4 passengers. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0345Z/25).

B M 10.

Convoy B M 10 arrived without incident.
(R.A. Malaya, 0415Z/25 to Admty.)Dutch
ships'
silhouettes.Netherlands (?ships) in the N.E.I. are changing
Silhouettes by removing after mast and plane
platform abaft it only Destroyer VAN GHENT being
completed to date.
(Corrupt group) (?previous) cable 00325.
(Abda, 0455Z/25 to Comdre. Malaya, Opnav, Admty.
C. in C. Pacific Fleet, C. in C. E.I., C. in C.
U.S. Asiatic Fleet (Administration) C. in C. Eastern
Fleet, F.O. Java, Repeated C.Z.M.)Oil Fuel at
Batavia.Your 0713Z/24. Dutch are taking all possible
steps to replenish oil stock. Expect to have
10,000 tons of furnace oil by 27/1. Am retaining
BRITISH JUDGE until oil arrives and intend to
use WAR SIRDAR when available to augment existing
arrangements. (F.O.J., 0500Z/25 to C. in C. E.F.)Malaya
Report.Singapore. Nothing to report. No enemy aircraft
activity 24/1 probably due to weather.
General. Today is a first time Thai aircraft have
been identified operating against us.
(Adv. H.Q., Malaya, 0737/25).

/Burma ...

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - contd.

Burma. 24/1. Situation report. Withdrawal area Moulmein continues, troops tired and somewhat scattered. Much equipment and motor transport lost. Rangoon air raid, 7 enemy bombers with 20/30 fighters bombed Mingaladon 0419 hours G.M.T., damage slight no casualties. Enemy losses believed 7 bombers 3 fighters destroyed 3 fighters probable. Ours nil. Second raid 0535 G.M.T. bombs dropped near (?rail), no casualties or damage. Mingaladon ground machine gunned by 23/25 fighters, one Hurricane about to land intercepted and dispersed enemy. No casualties or damage either side. Andamans. Nothing to report beside the 3 ships sunk recently shipping route off mouths Irrawaddy. One ship was attacked today with torpedo but escaped. (G.O.C., Burma, 0740/25).

Singapore Oil Stocks. Pass to Asiatic M and S.V.O.C. New York, U.S.A., C.Z.M. pass to Oosten. Ref. Asiatic Petroleum Co., Singapore's 438 etc., and my 0341/24 emphasize time factor is of utmost importance, and essential valuable 100 octane aviation gasoline lifted earliest possible. (Stocks). (R.A. Malaya, 08012/25 to Admt.)

U.S.S. BOISE. Can a reply now be given to my 0815Z/21? (Abdafloat, 1005/25 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.)

TULIP, ASTER, MARGUERITE, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK. C. in C. S.A., is requested to sail the following corvettes: TULIP, ASTER, MARGUERITE, VERBENA and HOLLYHOCK, to join the forces under the command of C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 2. C. in C.E.F. in consultation with C. in C. East Indies and Abdacom is requested to reallocate A/S forces so as to assist Abdacom in dealing with submarine threat in the Burma area. A submarine threat in the Bay of Bengal and Colombo areas must be expected shortly. (1st Sea Lord, 1118A/25 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

Bangkok. Attacked last night Bangkok Dock and commercial Area alongside by 9 Blenheims from low altitude in clear moonlight. 1 crew attacked Thai electric power station and claim direct hit subject to photographic R/C. All bombs burst in target area large fires observed. (Burgroup, 1120/25 to Abdacom., (R) Air Min., A.H.Q.India).

Japanese Convoy. Attacked and some ships damaged and sunk by U.S. Destroyer Division. (J.S.M. Washington, 1309R/25). See America & West Indies.

VAN OVERSTRATEN. (Dutch). Reported shelled by S/M on 22/1 in 01.40 N., 90.13 E. (D.S., 873).

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25.1.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Burma Local Coast Defence. No.00343 25/1. Joint Command Burma has pointed out possibility of sea borne attack or infiltration from small boats by enemy in Moulmein sector and against Rangoon. Increased submarine activity also may be expected in approaches to Rangoon.

2. C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. E.I. lack resources to deal with this and ships from Abda area cannot be spared from their many commitments here.

3. Request you will ask F.O.C.R.I.N. if he can assist in local naval defence of Burma.
(?Abdacom, 1410/25 to Armindia, (R) Admty., etc.)

Tankers, Singapore. My 2213/24, address has been amended to include C.C.C.F., (D.T.D., 1508A/25 to R.A.Malaya).

Mines, Singapore. Stock of A mark 1 mines at Singapore is in excess of requirements. Of utmost importance that none of these mines should be allowed to fall into enemy hands. Balance of stock not required by R.A. Malaya for offensive or defensive operations should be transferred, half to Trincomalee at earliest opportunity and half to Batavia if C.C.C.F. can arrange suitable stowage there or at Sourabaya. Personnel capable of setting and preparing the mines to accompany the latter. C.C.C.F. pass to C.Z.M. and Abdacom. (C. in C. E.F., 1605Z/25 to R.A. Malaya (R) C. in C.E.I. Admty., C.Z.M., Abdacom, C.C.C.F.)

Torpedo Reserve, Singapore. It is intended to have in Singapore only such reserve torpedoes as N.O.i/c Singapore considers essential for vessels under his command. This will include all submarine torpedoes and torpedoes whose conversion for submarine use in accordance with Admiralty's 1221A/29 can be undertaken, reserve torpedoes for ships of Far Eastern Squadron are to be transferred to Java. Torpedoes not in either of above categories being transferred to Australia, subject to A.C.N.B's confirmation that these can be accepted. C.C.C. is to investigate whether torpedoes can be accepted in Java and Palawan arranging with N.O.i/c Singapore for provision of suitable maintenance personnel. (C. in C. E.F., 1620Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Singapore, C.C.C.F. A.C.N.B., (R) Admty. C. in C.E.I. Abdacom, as amended 0625Z/26).

INDOMITABLE. C. in C. Med. *2222/20. On conclusion of operation ~~OFFENSE~~ intend INDOMITABLE to proceed to Ceylon for fuelling boiler cleaning and making good minor defects. Duration of stay will be 7 to 10 days. INDOMITABLE probably leaves for Aden about 10/2 to re-embark her Squadron or be ready for a second ferrying operation. (C. in C. E.F., 1845Z/25, 1945Z/25).

* A.M.2222/20 intended. Re transfer of Flag of R.A. Eastern Fleet aircraft carriers to INDOMITABLE on her return to Aden.

/Alternative ...

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - contd.

Alternative Storing Base to Singapore.

Presume you are making the necessary arrangements to meet Abdacom's 0730/23. As regards staff, account should be taken of the personnel that R.A. Malaya may be able to spare in accordance with instructions contained in A.M. 1720A/21 to R.A. Malaya only.
(Hd. of M. Appd. A.C.N.S.(F) 2129A/25 to C. in C. E.F.)

Cruiser Escort for Convoys.

Your 0716Z/19 (not to Admiralty or A.C.N.B). Present cruiser escort of convoys available from Abda resources is two class "D" or equivalent cruisers to each convoy. As this is considered inadequate the practice has been to retain one of the adjacent station cruisers as far as vicinity of Singapore. Until reinforcements for Abda area can be provided I fear this must continue though position will be constantly re-examined.
(2) Position has been accentuated by recent arrival of four convoys in seven days and as a result two cruisers from each adjacent station have been simultaneously detained in Abda area. Importance of rapid arrival of reinforcements is fully appreciated but provision of escorts would be facilitated if five to six day cycle of arrival could be maintained. Co-ordination of convoy arrivals between A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.I. and F.O. J. might assist in this.
(3) A/S escorts from a point 200 miles outside Sunda Straits have involved the use of eight destroyers and three escort vessels. Two destroyers borrowed from R.A. My. have been offered to him again in view of his pressing needs in Malacca Straits. This leaves F O J with only six destroyers one of which is undergoing after-action repair.
(4) The escort vessels possess best anti-aircraft armament as well as A/S protection and together with destroyers are continuously employed. I cannot release them without prejudicing safety of reinforcements.
(Abdafloat, 2225/25 to C. in C. E.I., (R) A.C.N.B., Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O.J.)

Burma Situation Report.

On Moulmein front our new positions have been taken up without interference, down but continued advance by sheer weight of numbers. Demolitions were not successful. It can now be revealed that Chinese reinforcements have been pouring into Burma during the last few weeks and that the stream has and is still being maintained.
(G.O.C., Burma, 2300/25 to C. in C. India).

Resume of Attacks on Enemy Convoy, Macassar Straits.

Information Bureau of Netherlands Govt., states that the following official report was issued by G.H.Q. of South-West Pacific Command 25/1. During the past 48 hours a large enemy convoy which was attempting to pass Southward through the Macassar Straits (between Borneo and Celebes) has been subjected to constant attacks by Allied naval and air forces.
Dutch aircraft began the action in the afternoon of Jan. 23 when they scored a total of 12 direct hits with heavy and medium /calibre ...

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Resume of
Attacks on
Enemy Convoy,
Macassar
Straits.
(contd.)calibre bombs on 8 enemy ships.
On Jan. 24 the attack was resumed by both Dutch
and American aircraft and by American naval
forces. During the air action 2 large enemy
transport ships are known to have been sunk and
2 severely damaged, while a direct hit was scored
on a destroyer.In the naval action against the same convoy one
enemy transport blew up and another was left in a sinking
condition. Our forces suffered only slight damage to one ship.
A conservative estimate of the enemy total losses during this
series of engagements is 3 sunk 4 probably sunk and no fewer
than 12 damaged.The losses inflicted on this Japanese convoy are the heaviest
which the enemy has suffered in any single operation since the
war began.An announcement issued yesterday by H.Q. of the Netherlands
East Indies forces adds that the 8 Japanese ships which were
hit during the first bombing on Jan. 23 were all left
burning. (The Times, 26.1.1942).America & West Indies.

Tahiti.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No.
(W) 14. Your No.7 on Tahiti. We concur.
Foreign Office and Dominions Office have been
consulted. (Admty., 0002A/25 to B.A.D.)

POINT BREEZE.

Via Camperdown Radio, following has been read
(begins). Intercepted at 0315 G.M.T. on 500 Kc/s
SSSS K J E I (POINT BREEZE) 120° 7 miles Cape
Romain Gas Buoy 0314. Bearing from Camperdown
236½° approx. O.I.C. (Ends.) 0316 G.M.T./25.
(Halifax, N.S., 0345Z/25 to Admty.)

MAE.

0413 G.M.T. intercept 500 kcs. SSSS from
S.S.MAE. Position 34° 06' N. 75° 44' W. at
11 p.m. at 0418, true course 66° Bearing 240°
approx. from Camperdown signals weak. O.I.C.
0320 G.M.T./25. (Halifax N.S., 0440Z/25 to Admty)Following received from Yarmouth (begins) 0437 G.M.T. intercept
from MAE "SSSS to A L L O, submarine came up under stern and
disappeared when Radio transmission started, now true 66".
O.I.C. Yarmouth Radio. (Halifax N.S., 0638/25 to Admty.)Enemy Unit,
U/B.(1) D/F bearings at 2146Z/24, indicate enemy
unit possibly in vicinity 044° N. 059° W.
(2) Bearings at 0122Z/25 indicate submarine in
vicinity 035° N. 073° W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0610Z/25).

/MOUNT ...

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25.1.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

MOUNT KITHERON. Following received from Camperdown addressed C.O.A.C. (Begins). Immediate 0726 G.M.T. SSSS MOUNT KITHERON torpedoed off St. Johns Newfoundland 2 miles, bearing Cape Race 35, St. Pauls 75 1/2, both approximate, too weak for bearing here, S G D O.I.C. (Valentia Radio, 0741/25, Halifax, N.S. 0801Z/25 to Admty.)

REGENT. Arrival of REGENT at Philadelphia is delayed about a week; further signal will be made. (F.O.S., 1146A/25 to B A R M).

LADY HAWKINS My 1759P/23 and C.O.A.C. 1536Z/14, and 1537Z/14 (?torpedoed 18/1). LADY HAWKINS now 5 days overdue. It seems probable that all Naval passengers must be considered lost. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1154P/25 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C.)

C. in C. A.W.I. 1759P/23 not to Opnav. It appears possible LADY HAWKINS was torpedoed in 038° 55' N. 074° 22' W. at 2315/18. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1601Z/25 to Admty.)

CIRCASSIA. A.M. 1402A/22. With view to (? expediting) arrival of (? vessels) in U.K. and in view of U-boat situation in Western Atlantic, Commander Task Force 2 has agreed that CIRCASSIA should proceed direct to U.K. from patrol.
(2) CIRCASSIA is to leave position (a) 031° (730') N. 038° 30' W. at 1200Z/29 and proceed to Belfast passing through following positions (b) 041° 20' N. 035° 00' W. (c) 052° 40' N. 022° 30' W. C. in C. W.A. is requested to communicate onward route from (c).
(3) Anticipated date of arrival at Belfast is 5/2.
(4) CIRCASSIA report (? E.T.A.) position (c) and latest Q Z messages held. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1232P/25 to CIRCASSIA, Admty.)

GEORGE WASHINGTON, VOLENDAM. Your 1733A/22 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1711Z/21. GEORGE WASHINGTON arrived 0900Z/25 capable of 14 knots but requires 4 days engine repair. N.A.2 consists of VOLENDAM and GEORGE WASHINGTON sailing 1200Z/29 in accordance with your 1733A/22. (C.O.A.C. 1251Z/25 to Admty.)

Washington Report. Washops 45. (2) Netherlands E.I. C. in C. Pacific reports that U.S. Destroyer Division made night attack on convoy off Balik Papan (believed to be same convoy as in Washops 44 para. 2), consisting of 4 cruisers 12 destroyers 15 transports. 5 or 6 torpedo hits and close range shell hits claimed. Observed results 1 large ship blew up, 1 sank, 1 listing heavily. U.S. destroyer slightly damaged by 1 shell hit, few casualties. U.S. Marine Office Bandoeng reported 24/1. Japanese landing Balik Papan. 8 Japanese warships in Bay of Kendari (south east Celebes). Small force landed at Kendari No.1 aerodrome. 27 Japanese bombers did slight damage Palembang aerodrome. U.S. M.A. Melbourne reported 23/1 R/C from Laha and Namlea towards Menado and East Halmahera reveals no activity. R/C being carried

/out ...

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Washington
Report.
(contd.)

out P.M./23 from Koepang to locate 50 Japanese ships in Sape Straits and 7 in Waworada Bay reported on 22/1.
(3) Melanesia. 3 Japanese cruisers, 1 A/C carrier 1 destroyer, 11 transports sighted by air R/C 24/1 in harbour of Rabaul. U.S. M.A. Melbourne reports air attack on Rabaul on 21/1 was by 60 fighters 12 heavy bombers 18 dive bombers. Lakunai and Vunakaanu aerodromes attacked. Praed Point battery destroyed, inhabitants fled, town without food, naval codes destroyed. Japanese bi-planes reconnoitred Amari and 1 fighter bomber bombed Tulagi. During raid on Salamoia hangars damaged, 1 Hudson destroyed on ground, 1 Catalina destroyed in air and another missing north west of New Ireland. In attack on Kavieng 22/1 Japanese sank (laden) Australian army ship, destroyed houses and Copra shed, but runway undamaged and no casualties.
(4) New Guinea. U.S. M.A. Melbourne reports enemy reconnoitred on 22/1 Trobriand Island (north of south east tip of New Guinea) Ioma (east coast New Guinea) and aerodrome near port Moresby. (J.S.M. Washington, 1309R/25 to Admty. etc.)

U/B attack.

Following message has been read. Received at 1227 G.M.T. SSSS 45.13 N. 43.35 W. unread from VCE (Cape Race).
(Cape Race, 1330Z/25).

NORTHTON.

Your 1901A/24. I have no news but as quickly as possible endeavouring to obtain information.
(N.C.S.O. Havana, 1514/25 to Admty.)

TINTAGEL,
explosion
report.

U.S. TINTAGEL reports on arrival at Halifax felt heavy bump and heard sharp explosion in 43° 33.5' N., 64° 57.5' W. at 0345/23. No objects sighted and no damage resulted. Weather overcast, light snow, visibility good, slight sea, depth of water 42 fathoms.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1527Z/25 to Admty.)

Sinking of
S.S. EMPIRE
KINGFISHER.

My 1531Z/19. Investigation indicates ship struck a submerged object which passed under ship with a rumbling sound and very slight shock. One man reports hearing an explosion. Engines stopped, ship did not lose way but noise stopped.

Engines started after two minutes and sound again heard following by jamming of rudder. Engines stopped. Ship settled rapidly on even keel. Was abandoned and anchored but sank before tugs arrived. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1528Z/25 to Admty.)

C.O.S.(W) 6.

No. 11. Ref. your Chief of Staff (W) 6.

(i) Americans would not accept your second amendment fearing political repercussions on Generalissimo for whom A V G is primarily intended to work.
(ii) D B A No.1 addressed Abdacom repeated to you containing final agreed text. You will see that personal message to

/Pedagruder ...

War Diary.25.1.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

C.O.S.(W) 6. Pedagruder from Marshall provides for consultation before recalling.
(contd.) (J.S.M. Washington, 1627R/25 to Chiefs of Staff).

MARON. Request you will sail MARON 29/1 for W P Area N.46. (S.O.W.P., 1658A/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Anzac Area, Following revised agreement for the Anzac area is
Anzac Force. the result of further discussions in Washington. (Begins). Combined Chiefs of Staff recommend immediate establishment of "Anzac Area" and corresponding "Anzac Force."

1. Boundaries. Beginning at longitude 141° E. at equator eastwards along equator to longitude 170° E. thence south easterly to point in latitude 20° S. longitude 175° W. thence due south; from point of beginning south along Meridian 141° E. to the South coast of New Guinea, thence eastwards along the said coast to Meridian 143° E., thence due south in sea areas only.
2. Anzac Force to be under strategical direction of U.S. exercised by C. in C. U.S. Fleet through one or more U.S. F.O's assisted by one or more F.O's named by Australia and/or New Zealand.
3. All practicable use will be made of Naval supply communication and repair facilities in Australia and New Zealand.
4. Initial assignment of ships to Anzac Force, British one carrier, U.S., one heavy or one new light cruiser and two destroyers, N.Z., 2 light cruisers 1 auxiliary cruiser, Australia 2 heavy cruisers 1 light cruiser, 3 auxiliary cruisers 2 destroyers, 2 A/S patrol ships 6 600 ton A/S vessels (remainder of Australian seagoing force, namely, 2 light cruisers, 2 destroyers 3 sloops, to be assigned to Abda Command). All other Australian and N.Z. naval units to remain at disposal of their respective Governments for local defence.
5. Tasks to be assigned to Anzac Forces, in co-operation with air forces available in area, are first, cover E. and N.E. approaches to Australia and N.Zealand by destroying enemy force; second, protect shipping and safeguard convoys in Anzac area by escort patrols and/or covering operations; third, support defence of Islands in Anzac area with emphasis on key points and attack adjacent enemy Islands' key points; fourth, Co-relate operations with forces in Abda area and with U.S. Pacific Fleet as well as with local defence forces of Australia and N.Zealand.
6. Naval forces assigned to Anzac and adjacent area authorized to extend operations into other areas as circumstances may require.
7. Effective date for foregoing organization of allocation and appropriate control of operation Feb. 1st or as soon thereafter as practicable. (Ends).

Request remarks may reach B.A.D. Washington if possible by noon/27 for meeting that afternoon at which it is hoped to reach an agreement. (B.A.D., 1923R/25 to Admty., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

Raider
Report.

Following read on 12685 KC/S at 1920 first portion missed begins: Position 29° 58' N., 81° 10' W., course 180. Raider gaining on us fast. (C. in C. W.A., No. T.O.O. to Admty.)

/BURWELL ...

Amendments to paras 4 and 5
See 2157 R/27, page 802.

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

BURWELL,
RAMSAY.

139 Your 1651R/22 (?1641R/22 intended, use of BURWELL & RAMSAY for special escort duties). Consular Shipping Adviser, Boston, reports BURWELL sailed 1700Z/24 for New York. RAMSAY sailed 0300Z/25 but broke down and returned to Boston. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1959Z/25 to B.A.D.)

PANDORA.

Any submarine you encounter on passage to Bermuda will be hostile. As all navigational lights at Bermuda are extinguished you should amend E.T.A. to 1200 G.M.T./28. U.S. Authorities Bermuda informed. B.A.D. Washington pass to Opnav. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2222P/25 to PANDORA (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, Opnav).

U/B.

D/F bearing at 1917Z indicates enemy submarine within 50 miles of 038° N. 057° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2239Z/25 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)

VARANGER.

S.S. VARANGER attacked by two submarines 0310 E.S.T./25 38° 58' N. 74° 06' W. hit by three torpedoes. Crew of 45 rescued. Bow of vessel remains above water. Position 39° 10' N. 73° 45' W. at 0950 E.S.T. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 2326Z/25 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I. Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

PRUSA.

Ref. Washops 19 para. 2. 12 survivors including Master S.S. PRUSA landed Nukunau, Gilbert Islands, 19/1. 4th Officer proceeding Beru, Gilbert Islands. U.S. Authorities informed. (N.Z.N.B., 0251Z/25 to Admty.)

Noumea
P.W.S.S.

A Port War Signal Station now established at Noumea in 022° 16' S. 116° 27' E. Procedure laid down Andusrec (1) is to be used with this station as British recognition Key Memorandum are not held. Responsible officer will be trustworthy N.L.O. on passage. Point of arrival Amedee Light. F.O.J. pass to C.Z.M. and Abdafloat. (A.C.N.B., 0306A/25 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.J. N.Z.N.B., Navy Office Wellington, Admty.)

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - contd.

N.Z. Report. Maori 5. (1) Launch from Apia attacked by single engine bi-plane seaplane in 172° 30' W. 011° 40'S. at 0030Z/23. Plane carried U.S. markings but is thought to be Japanese. Full details have been passed to C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.)
(2) 12 survivors U.S.A. ship PRUSA arrived ?Nukunau (Gilbert Is.) Washops 19 para. 2 refers. (N.Z.N.B., 0654Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

S.S.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

(1) Endurance of QUEEN ELIZABETH in present dirty bottom condition does not permit of plan in your 1958A/22. Total fuel capacity 7,000 tons. Reserve in barrels not practicable.
(2) Propose QUEEN ELIZABETH proceed via New Zealand to arrive Controller Bay, Nukuhiva, 08° 54' S. 140° W. Sunday 15/2 to R/V with BISHOPDALE. BISHOPDALE to proceed Nukuhiva after fuelling WARSPITE vide your 2328A/23 and 2331A/23.
(3) Alternatively tanker at Bora Bora to be ordered to Nukuhiva.
(4) Fully fuelled QUEEN ELIZABETH has insufficient depth of water at Bora Bora. Consider plan which includes oiling alongside tanker at Henderson Island too risky.
(5) Consideration given to filling water tanks with fuel but necessary conversion work will take one month.
(A.C.N.B., 0939Z/25 to Admty. (R) N.Z.N.B.)

ACHILLES.

Departure Auckland ACHILLES to R/V with convoy 20 13 and escort PRESIDENT MONROE to Suva (Fiji). E.T.A. 1900M/28.
(N.Z.N.B., 1205M/25 to Admty. B.A.D., A.C.N.B., F.O. Australian Squadron C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Colombo, N.O.I.C.Fiji.)

Rabaul,
New Guinea,
etc.

Details of Japanese attacks 21/1 et seq. (J.S.M. Washington, 1309R/25). See America & West Indies.

Anzac Area.

B.A.D. Washington, 1923R/25. See America & West Indies.

AQUITANIA.

Arrival Fremantle 0406Z/25 H.M.T. AQUITANIA. (A.C.N.B., 1706Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

25.1.1942.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1415A/25 1608A/25).

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Aberdeen and Peterhead were reopened this morning. Blyth was closed on account of the weather. Dundee and Montrose were opened this afternoon.

R/C of Brest at 1215 today showed that 5 T.Bs. have arrived from St. Nazaire. SCHARNHORST was alongside the T.B. Station, bows west; at 1645 the A/T boom was seen to have been removed. GNEISENAU was then moored north of Lanveoc bows west, with two probable tugs at her bows. Two ALTMARK class tankers were seen in St. Nazaire today.

*Not confirmed by
Cmd: 6543 or
Cmdr: H. Botham's
list of U/S losses.*

WANDERER and escorts of O.N.59 attacked a U-Boat at 1950 in 54° 35' N. 12° 36' W. (90 miles W.N.W. of Achill Head), with unknown results. At 2248 F.F.S. ROSELYS rammed a U-Boat and attacked with depth charges near the same position, but the result is not known. ROSELYS received same damage from ramming the submarine.

British Air Operations.

45 aircraft attacked the enemy battle cruisers at Brest last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

The Trondheim Zenit proceeded today in a north-westerly direction and two aircraft from Trondheim patrolled this forenoon 120 miles off the coast of Norway between 63° N. and 66° 30' N. Since 20/1 a new Zenit flight has operated from Stavanger towards the Shetlands and Faeroes as far as 14° W.

729

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

At 1739A the Admiralty sent orders to Force H to raise steam for full speed; this was put back to 2 hours' notice at 2211A.

Mediterranean.

Force K.

Convoy M.E.9 was lightly bombed 3 times this morning. The only damage reported is that a near miss put LEGION's asdics out of action. Force K and BRECONSHIRE were bombed twice p.m. today and were attacked by torpedo boats at dusk, but no damage was caused. There were indications this evening that 3 U-Boats were endeavouring to intercept Force K.

At 1319B C. in C. Med. asked Malta for maximum air R/C to ensure the safety of the light forces, intercept having shown enemy forces 120 miles to the northward. Only one Maryland was available, it left at 1600 but returned unserviceable at 1646B.

Aircraft from Malta attacked Catania aerodrome from 2205 to 2330 and caused some damage.

Evacuation
of Benghazi.

Force B.

At 0014 a message was received from N.O.i/c. Benghazi that all craft except minelayers (? M.Ls.) and R-Boats had left harbour. HEYTHROP, SOUTHWOLD and DULVERTON with the main convoy reported being attacked from 1615B to 1630 by torpedo bombers, 8 torpedoes being fired, the only damage being to one torpedo boat; one enemy aircraft was damaged.

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.China.Burma.

General Wavell reported today on the situation in Burma. He does not consider it immediately serious provided certain steps which he outlines are taken as early as possible. Naval measures include an anti-submarine flotilla based on Rangoon to keep the approaches clear; no vessels are available from Abdacom resources. The evacuation of Mergui was completed today except for a few troops due at Rangoon tomorrow. About 20 enemy fighters approached Rangoon this morning (local time) but were driven off with loss.

Andaman &
Nicobar Is.

General Wavell considers the retention of these islands vital for the protection of shipping in the Bay of Bengal and for the future security of India. Furthermore, the islands can provide us with advanced bases from which in due course offensive action can be launched against enemy forces operating on the coast of Malaya. He therefore recommends that Nancowry should be defended.

Malaya.

An enemy force estimated at 2 battalions landed at Endau this morning. The landing was supported by 2 cruisers, several destroyers or gunboats and possibly also by aircraft carriers. During the afternoon the R.A.F. made two attacks on this force in face of strong air opposition and claim hits on 3 transports or merchant ships and one on a cruiser in addition to a hit on stores dump. Seventeen British and at least 12 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Tengah aerodrome (Singapore) was heavily bombed by 27 aircraft this morning and is temporarily unserviceable.

N.E.I.

Dutch S/M K.18 reports having sunk a Japanese destroyer and secured a hit on a cruiser in Macassar Strait. She is damaged by depth charges and unable to submerge, but reached her base safely under her own steam.

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War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.

An unknown ship made a submarine distress signal at 1900 G.M.T. about 12 miles from Sandkey (80 miles N.N.E. of Havana). This was apparently U.S.S. GREEN ISLAND.

S.S. CLEARPOOL sighted a submarine at 1512 G.M.T. in 44° 25' N. 51° W.

Greek S.S. ICARION was torpedoed and sunk at 2220 today in 46° 2' N. 52° 22' W.

Australia and New Zealand.

The Japanese are believed to be in occupation of Buka Passage (Solomon Is.)

I. 173
sunk 27/1
(Cmd. 6843
9 Cmdr:
Rawbathorn's
list of enemy
s/m losses.)

Enemy S/Ms have been attacked without positive results near Midway Is. and Canton Island and also at points about 325 miles S.E. of Oahu (see 19/1), though U.S. S/M GUDGEON claims to have sunk a Japanese S/M of the I.68 class about 220 miles west of Midway Is. today. (27/1)

R.A.A.F. Catalinas raided Rabaul at 1500Z today and set 2 ships on fire.

732

26.1.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.DUKE OF
YORK.

DUKE OF YORK reports that defects mentioned in his 1454A/4/12 will take 10 to 14 days to make good.

4. Subject to your concurrence it is proposed to sail DUKE OF YORK about 29/1 to work up at Scapa, where the repairs mentioned in para. 1 can be undertaken concurrently.

5. A.M. 1502A/10/1. It is for your consideration whether you can accept DUKE OF YORK as sufficiently worked up to enable RODNEY to proceed to Liverpool to refit between 14/2 and 17/2. To enable arrangements to be made at Liverpool a decision on this must be made by 7/2 at the latest. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 1352A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

P.512.
P.514.
L. 27.

My 2207A/26. It is necessary to arrange for administration of P.512, P.514, and L.27 while employed in N.A. waters.

Suggest it would greatly simplify administration if crews of these three vessels could be lent to Royal Canadian Navy while in this employment and that ships be commissioned as tenders to AVALON and administered by F.O.N.F. Reasons. Action now is required, as crews for P.512 and P.514 leave England very shortly. (F.O.S. 2214A/26 to Admty.)

Movements.

NIGERIA.

Scapa arrival C.S.10 in NIGERIA. (A.C.O.S. 0150A/26).

PORT
QUEBEC.

C. in C. Portsmouth 1813/25. You should endeavour to arrive by 0700/29. You will be required to embark on arrival. (R.A.M. 0929/26 to PORT QUEBEC).

Intend to sail LANCASTER in accordance with R.A.(M) 2042/25 at 1745A today. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1044A/26).

My 1813A/25. Passed Needles 1710. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1728A/26).

Sailed LANCASTER. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1745A/26).

BLENHEIM.

Your 1509/25. Intend to sail BLENHEIM for Methil escorted by WOLSEY and WORCESTER at 2100/27. E.T.A. Methil 0800/28. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0945/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

LONDON.

Intend to sail LONDON for Scapa at 1045/1st. Request S.A. Escort and Fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1019/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 1019/26. Ship is to be sailed after dark. Report why S.A. escort is required as it is understood that ship is S.A. fitted. (C. in C. Rosyth 1729/26 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

/CUMBERLAND.....

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

- CUMBERLAND. Your 1426A/9. Intended date of sailing Scapa is 2/2. (C. in C. H.F. 1026A/26 to C. in C. Nore) Your 1908A/24. Arrived 1200A. (A.C.I.C. 1342A/26 to A.C.O.S.)
- ALMANZORA. Your 1037A/25. Intend substituting LAMERTON for HESPERUS. BADSWORTH. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1044A/26 to LAMERTON. C. in C. W.A.) *See p 698*
- ALYSSE. F.O.N.F.'s 2135Z/27/12. Request you will sail ALYSSE to Londonderry to-morrow. ALYSSE is to return to N.E.F. in company with Task Unit 4.1.12. (C. in C. W.A. 1210A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- ICARUS. Your 1214A/25. ICARUS is expected to undock 30/1 TARTAR. and will be sailed for Hvalfjord. TARTAR will SOMALI. be sailed on completion of repairs and after undocking about 5/2. Suggest SOMALI joins you on parting company with Q.P.6. (R.A.D. H.F. 1447A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
- H.50. At 1700/26 intend to sail H.50 escorted by LADY SHAHRAZAD via Sound of Mull and Islay. E.T.A. Rothesay 1300/27. Submarine is unable dive. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested arrange Fighter Protection. (WESTERN ISLES 1601A/26).
- B.P.T. My 1144A/25. Tow sailed Fowey 1100/26. Making 35. good 6 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 1624/26 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
- NEWCASTLE. Intend to sail NEWCASTLE 1730/27 to Scapa. (C. in C. Plymouth 1628/26).
- STRAIDE. Admiralty's 1054A/19 and your 2045A/21. Request when STRAIDE may be expected to arrive. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1658A/26 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).
- RUBIS. RUBIS, UREDD, and P.551 escorted by WHITE BEAR UREDD. Northbound from Clyde may be met during dark P.551. hours. (C. in C. W.A. 1710A/26 to WALKER, LADY ELSA). WHITE BEAR, P.551, RUBIS, and UREDD sailed in accordance with S.S. 1439A/25. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1738A/26).
- WOODRUFF. Proceed Plymouth by Q.Z.F. 278 to de - ammunition before refitting. Adjust speed to arrive ?at Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0930/27. (C. in C. Plymouth 1746A/26 to WOODRUFF.)

*Cancelled 27/12 See p 773
/My.....*

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

WOODRUFF.
- Contd. My 1808. Amend position to read at 2359, 307°
Bull Point 24, bound Plymouth 9 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2320A/26).

TALISMAN. Request you sail MAN OF WAR to R/V with TALISMAN
in vicinity of Trevoze Head at 0845/30 and
escort submarine to Holy Loch. S.3 is to amend
time of R/V if necessary.
(C. in C. W.A. 1829A/26).

PLOVER.
ADAM. Departures PLOVER for Southampton escorted by
ADAM for Portsmouth. E.T.A. 0930.
(V.A. Dover 1850A/26).

SAN ZOTICO. Oiler SAN ZOTICO escorted by CAVA and VISENDA
sailed Thorshavn for Sullom Voe 1655/26. E.T.A.
about 1300/27. (A.C.O.S. 2004/26 to CITY OF
DURBAN).

HIGHLANDER. Intend sailing HIGHLANDER at 1500A/27 for
Sheerness. Speed 16 knots. E.T.A. Sheerness
0900A/30. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2207A/26).

Operations.

Channel
Patrol. 2 M.L.'s on patrol 10 miles S. of Portland Bill.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1537A/26 and 1717A/26).

Denmark
Strait
Patrol. My 0213A/26. BERWICK is to return to Hvalfiord..
(C. in C. H.F. 1621A/26).
Estimated at 2200 tonight. 2 cruisers on patrol
"White". (A.C.I.C. 1701A/26).

STURGEON
Patrol. Your 2026A/20 and my 1149A/21. Departure
STURGEON delayed by dense fog.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1656A/26 to F.O.S.)

Dover
Patrols. Dover, for night 26/27. No patrols.
(V.A. Dover 1713A/26).

British Air Activity.

Torpedo A/C
for Iceland. Twelve aircraft of 42 Squadron armed with
torpedoes and two spare aircraft with maintenance
personnel are to stand by to proceed Iceland as
from daylight 26/1. Warning signal.
(H.Q.C.C. 0300/26 to 18 Group.)

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity-Contd.C.W.63.
Height
of
Balloons.

Nore No. 314/497A of 19/1. Astral's report shows that balloons of C.W. 63 were not close hauled until South Fork Buoy instead of at Foreland Buoy in accordance with what are understood to be existing instructions. Despite R.C.M. action it is thought enemy R.D.F. may detect balloons as far away as North Foreland. It is considered most desirable that balloons should normally be close hauled at the Foreland Buoy, at any rate whilst enemy air activity remains on so reduced a scale and unless air attack is threatened. (V.A. Dover 0929A/26 to C. in C. Nore). Attention is called to my 1700A/15/9/41 and my 1236A/22/9/41 regarding close hauling of balloons. These instructions were not complied with in the case of C.W. 63. (C. in C. Nore 1534A/26).

Patrols.

"Polar" on patrol 1110A. (A.C.I.C. 1155A/26). My 1155/26. Returned owing to fog. (A.C.I.C. 1339A/26).

Hudson on "Hval" sweep from 0930. 1232 aircraft on "Polar" Patrol and "Ice" recco recalled owing to weather. Time G.M.T. (H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland 1409/26).

Patrol "Frice" is to be flown as from noon 27th. (H.Q.C.C. 1450A/26).

Biscay 7 and 8 to be flown from first light 27/1. (H.Q.C.C. 1725/26 to 19 Group).

Patrols "Sentry II" and "III" are being flown from 1930 tonight 26th. (A.C.N.S. H. 2023A/26)

Your 1450A/26. Owing present unserviceability in Whitleys 612 Squadron it will be necessary to retain the four Whitleys ordered to Limavady in your Ops 553/26/1 if force is to be covered. Situation can be relieved when Northrops to reinforce Budareyri can be despatched from Reykjavik there. Hudsons could only cover by operating from Hofn which is not equipped for such operation at present. Request signal your concurrence retention Whitleys. (R.A.F. Iceland 2040/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Bombing
operations.

Day 23/1 to 25/1 inclusive no operations took place. On Night 25/26, 45 A/C bombed the docks at Brest, where bursts were seen. (H.Q.B.C. 1419/26)

Enemy Air Activity.Zenit
Flights.

(1) Today Trondheim Zenit is proceeding in a N. Westerly direction, and two A/C from Trondheim are patrolling 120' off Norwegian Coast between 65° N. and 66° 30' N.

(2) Since 20/1 a new Zenit flight has operated from Stavanger towards Shetlands and Faroes as far as 14° W. (D.D.I.C. 1158A/26).

/LOM.....

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

LOM
(Norwegian,
1268 Tons)
damaged
on 25/1. Norwegian S.S. LOM when off Linney Head at 1840/
25 was attacked by low flying Heinkel 111.
C.H.L. Station plotted for four minutes presumably
when it rose to attack.
Six near bomb misses. No casualties. Damage
to Engine Room Structure.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1213/26).

Mining.

Gap E. I have no objections to proposals in C. in C.
Nore's 1150A/23. (F.O.S. 1012A/26 to Adty.)

SWYNFLEET
(Sunk 25/1.) SWYNFLEET sunk by mine in 187° 6 cables from
lookout station Landguard Point. Ship well off
channel when hit, sank almost immediately.
Position indicates ship not following route
instructions. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1135A/26).

Yarmouth,
mines. Your 331B/41. Details of mines rendered safe,
week ending 24/1. (R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth 1732/26)

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface
Unit. D/F bearings at 0142Z indicate enemy surface
unit in Boulogne - Calais area.
(D.D.I.C. 0312A/26).

SCHARNHORST. Photographic R/C Brest 1215/26. SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU. alongside T/B station, bows West. PRINZ EUGEN
PRINZ in usual dock, all light coloured camouflage
EUGEN. removed from bow and stern. GNEISENAU not in
Rade Abri. 5 T/Bs. have arrived from St. Nazaire.
(D.D.I.C. 1654A/26).

My 1654A/26. Further R/C of Brest at 1645/26 shows:-
1. GNEISENAU moored N. of Lanveoc, 500 yards offshore, bows
West, 2 probable tugs at bows, double boom Starboardside.
2. GUEYDON off Point Doubidy as on 20/1.
3. SCHARNHORST - at T/B jetty, A/T boom removed.
4. PRINZ EUGEN in usual dry dock.
5. 5 T/B's still at West Jetty.
(P.R.U. St. Eval 2100/26, D.D.I.C. 2159A/26).

U-boats.

H.X. 170. D/F bearings at 0930Z indicate U-boat in area
O.N. 59. within 25 miles of 54° 40' N. 13° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1113A/26 to Escorts of H.X. 170).
Am investigating suspicious object possible
periscope in 53° 40' N. 14° 45' W.
(A/C Duty G 1153/26 to 15 Group)

/My.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

H.X. 170.
O.N. 59.
- Contd.

My 1153. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate no hits. AAA. Request instructions. (A/C Duty G. 1215/26 to 15 Group). D/F bearings indicate that 4 U/Bs. may be in vicinity of Convoy H.X. 170 or Convoy O.N.59. (D.D.I.C. 1608A/26). Your 1410A/26. This supports other evidence of possible presence of U-boats in that area. Request you will take any steps possible. (C. in C. H.F. 1748A/26 to A.C.I.C.) D/F Bearings at 1811Z/26 indicate a U/Boat still in vicinity of Convoy H.X. 170. (D.D.I.C. 2010A/26).

WANDERER
attack.

Position 054° 35' N. 012° 36' W. U-boat sighted by WANDERER inside turning circle close ahead of convoy low visibility. Full pattern dropped close. Contact gained but soon lost among convoy. depth charges dropped intermittently by escort of convoy, resuming course 270° 9 knots. (WANDERER 1950A/26).

Navigational.

Aberdeen.

Port of Aberdeen open 0915/26.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0924/26).

Peterhead.

Peterhead Bay Open 0915/26.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0926/26).

Fairway
Buoy.

Blyth Fairway buoy out of position and drifting westward. Request Q.Z.H. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0943A/26).

Plough
Buoy.

Coastguard Holy Island reports Plough Buoy out of position drifting towards Rose Sands.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1000/26)

Blyth.

Port of Blyth closed due to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 1013A/26).

D. Light
Buoy.

D. Light Buoy superstructure is badly damaged and requires replacement. (V.A. Dover 1236A/26).

Dundee and
Montrose.

Port of Dundee and Montrose open.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee 1546/26).

20 Q. Buoy.

20 Q. buoy light extinguished.
(VIVIEN 1945A/26).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Machine
Guns for
S/M's.

Proposals have been forwarded to fit single 0.5. machine guns in S/Ms. Principal object protection against air attack if unable to dive. Guns must be unshipped before diving and stowed in conning tower or pressure tight case on bridge.

It is unlikely Bren guns will be available for some time to replace Lewis guns. It is anticipated supply of Thomson sub machine guns will be approved for all S/Ms shortly. Request your very early opinion by signal as to whether: (1) all 3 types of guns are considered desirable (2) the 0.5. machine guns should replace one or both Lewis guns.

Weight 0.5 guns is approx. 90 pounds.
(F.O.S. 2302A/26 to Capts. S.1., S.8., S.10.)

Casualties and Defects.

Convoy E.N.36. Following received at 0510 G.M.T. from EMPIRE EMPIRE PILGRIM Begins. EMPIRE PILGRIM ashore Collieston, PILGRIM. 13 miles North Aberdeen. 2 landed. Officers on board. Ends. (Wick Radio 0416/26).
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0500/26).

Received at 2355 G.M.T. De EMPIRE PILGRIM. Begins. Breeches Buoy now established. Ends.
(A.C.O.S. No T.O.O. Recd. 0537/26).

Following received 1321 G.M.T. from EMPIRE PILGRIM. Vessel in rock surrounded cove, crew all safe, landed breeches buoy except officers. We require smooth weather and high tide to refloat and tugs assistance. Propellers O.K., engines and boilers O.K. Vessel upright pounding slightly at high water.
(Scapa W/T T.O.R. 1438/26).

My 0500/26. EMPIRE PILGRIM ex Convoy E.N. 36 aground near Old Slains Castle 14 miles North of Aberdeen. 28 of crew landed by Breeches buoy, 13 remaining on board. Not in serious danger at present. Aberdeen lifeboat now investigating.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1603/26).

SHELDRAKE. SHELDRAKE developed boiler defects.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0930/26).

H.50. H.50 ashore 2 cables South of Rudha Nagall lighthouse. No assistance required at present. Hoping to tow off at high water. (WESTERN ISLES 1102A/26).
My 1102/26. Submarine refloated. Being towed to harbour Rudder still jammed, no other damage apparent. (WESTERN ISLES 1343A/26).

LESRIX. C.G. Aberdeen reports S.S. LESRIX ashore at Hackley Head 2 miles north of River Ythan. Newburgh lifeboat proceeded at 0830 to investigate and unconfirmed report states lifeboat capsized, 4 saved from LESRIX, 10 missing, and 2 lifeboat crew dead. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1345/26).

/My 1345.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

LESRIX
- Contd.

My 1345/26. Further information re S.S. LESRIX states vessel broken in two and 4 of crew believed only survivors rescued by Breeches Buoy. Newburgh lifeboat overturned on shore, 2 of crew dead remainder ashore recovering from exposure. Communication by telephone much interrupted and roads impassable through snow. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1547/26).

Unknown Ship.

Following from LNAB* 053° 36' N. 007° 08' W. Considerable damage to steering gear, proceeding Belfast. Please arrange strong tug to meet and stand by. (Port Patrick Radio 1515/26)
* Signal letters undecypherable.

EMPIRE SHOAL.
(Damaged 25/1)

Your 1205. If practicable transfer tow to CHERBOURGOIS and comply with my 1310/26. ^{N.T. & W.D.}
(C. in C. Plymouth 1522A/26 to TYNEDALE).

: YUKON.

YUKON being towed by ^{S.S.} ALEXANDER HAMILTON (whose services are required). Request tug relieve ^{S.S.} ALEXANDER HAMILTON as soon as possible and tow YUKON to Belfast. Estimated position 1900Z/26, 56.50 N. 19.10 W. speed 2.5, course 100°. (Onav, 1710Z/26 to Admty.)

Proceed with despatch to Lough Foyle where corvette detailed by N.O.I.C. Londonderry will R/V with you and escort you to S.S. YUKON broken down in 56° 50' N. 19° 10' W. at 1900Z/26 and in tow of ^{S.S.} ALEXANDER HAMILTON, course 100°, speed 2.5 knots. Report E.T.A. Lough Foyle. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2357A/26 to ZWARTE ZEE). *See p 778*

BOSTON.

Cancel my 1233A/21 ^{N.T. & W.D.} owing to minor defects which developed in full power trial today. (BOSTON 1730/26 to N.O.I.C. Ardrossan)

ST. LOMAN.

W/T Defective. E.T.A. Stornoway 2300 tonight. (ST. LOMAN 1800A/26).

BATNA.

Following received from Barrow begins:-
BATNA grounded vicinity of No. 6 Buoy in Walney Channel last night. No immediate danger anticipated. Unlikely to refloat until A.M. 28/1
Channel considered to be clear. Ends.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1809/26).

STURGEON.

STURGEON starboard forward engine lubricating oil pump seized and coupling sheared whilst leaving harbour for patrol. STURGEON returned to Polyarnoe. Repairs estimated 48 hours. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2144A/26).

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- CHATEAU
THIERRY. My 0359/19. CHATEAU THIERRY is U.S. Army Transport. (D. of S.T. 0235A/26).
- E.N. 36. E.N. 36 became scattered owing to heavy weather and zero visibility. Am now searching for ships of convoy. My present position is 5 miles E.N.E. Duncansby Head. Unable to transmit sooner owing to weather damage to W/T.
(SWORD DANCE 0940/26). *See also p. 742*
- F.N. 614. My 1740/25. No sailings from Humber owing to adverse weather. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0947/26).
- F.S. ~~8~~⁷⁰709. F.S. 9. Humber sailings cancelled on account of weather. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0953/26).
- P.Q. 10. P.Q.10 8 knots "Credence". Sails 2230/26. Three ships. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1012A/26).
- N.C.S. 1264. Propose following amendment to N.C.S. 1264. Add to para. 1 (B). Should however any ship consider her navigational danger such that it would be unwise to proceed to either of these ports she should proceed to the nearest port which it is considered safest to make for, reporting her intentions to Admiral Liverpool and the Flag Officer in Charge of the port concerned. (C. in C. W.A. 1036A/26 to Adty.)
- P.Q. 9.
P.Q. 10. Your 2152A/25. If P.Q. 9 and P.Q. 10 are combined FAULKNOR and INTREPID. If convoys are sailed separately add ASHANTI and ORIBI, last 3 do not (? hold) K.I.G.M.S. FAULKNOR and ORIBI overdue for boiler cleaning request they may wash through before sailing. (R.A.D. H.F. 1051A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
- D.S. 21. Admiralty 1616A/19. D.S. 21 route. Through Minches to (a) 270° Cape Wrath 8 miles. (b) 059° N. 007° W. (c) 062° 012°. (d) 063°, 020° thence Reykjavik. (C. in C. W.A. 1136A/26).
- EMPIRE CAPE. Arrivals EMPIRE CAPE escorted by LIDDESDALE at 1200. (F.O. Humber 1215A/26).
- P.Q. 9. My 1309A/23. 8 ships now ready to sail. (A.C.I.C. 1232A/26).
- S.C. 63. S.C. 63. Scattered by hurricane 9/1 and ordered to disperse on 13th, average speed to former date 6.6. knots. Fog on 6/1 and bad weather set in on 7th.

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War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- S.C.63.
-Contd. CALEDONIAN MONARCH and DIMITRIOS G. THERMIOTIS not reported. All other ships accounted for. (D.T.D. 1242A/26 to Opnav).
- O.N. 59.
CONSUELO.
EMPIRE ROWAN. Inform Vice Commodore that CONSUELO has returned Oban due to shifting of cargo. (C. in C. W.A. 1514A/26 to WANDERER).
O.N. 59. To endeavour to keep clear of U-boats. Convoy steer 270° forthwith maintain course until further orders. Signal R/V for stragglers for 1200Z/27. (C. in C. W.A. 1545A/26).
Request you will investigate and report the circumstances in which the EMPIRE ROWAN in O.N. 59 was forced to return owing to bad weather and insufficient ballast. (C. in C. W.A. 1553A/26 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)
- SOLHAVN. Coast watcher reports small M/V in approx. 065° 54' N. 015° 30' W. fired two white Very lights at 1253A/26. Ship probably collier SOLHAVN without escort bound for Seidis Fjord. (A.C.I.C. 1410A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
- F.N.615.
F.N.616S. My 1117A/26. All ships of F.N.615 returned owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1411A/26).
F.N.615 cancelled owing to weather. Intend to sail F.N.616 with double escort LOWESTOFT S.O., WHADDON, WOOLSTON, and QUANTOCK. (C. in C. Nore 1440A/26 and 1511/26).
- F.S.710. There will be no Harwich additional escort for F.S.710. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1443A/26).
Intend sailing F.S.710 from Tyne as slow convoy 1800/27. Route. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1715/26).
- Convoy. Many congratulations on the success of your convoy all ships of which have now arrived safely. (C. in C. W.A. 1536A/26 to Commodore D.S. Robinson.)
- O.G. 79. Admty. 1528/12/4. 1244. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1631/26 to Admty.)
- F.S.8.108
MOUNT BATTOCK. My 1512/26. MOUNT BATTOCK has now arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1714A/26).
- 2 M.V's. 2 M.V's escorted by 2 A/S trawlers reported by HUGH WALPOLE as Q.P. 5 cleared Skopen Fiord south eastwards. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1745A/26 to A.C.O.S.)

/E.N. 36.....

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

- E.N. 36. Proceeding with 3 ships from Kirkwall for Loch Ewe, Stornoway, and Belfast. Propose on reaching Tiumpan Head to send on Belfast ship then search back along track and contact other ships of E.N. 36. Request approval. (SWORD DANCE 1800/26). *See p 740.* E.N. 36 is divided into two parts. "Paddle I" following the usual route. "Paddle II" proceeding by route 'G' each having one trawler escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 2041/26).
- O.S. Convoy Sailing Telegrams. Subject to your concurrence and having regard to the information contained in C. in C. W.A. situation reports, it is intended to omit the estimated 2000 position from O.S. Convoy sailing telegrams and to re-letter the remaining paras. (A), (B) and (C). (C. in C. W.A. 1815A/26 to C. in C. S.A.)
- W.N. 35. My 1614/26. Convoy W.N. 35 probably 2½ hours ahead of estimate. (C. in C. Rosyth 1838/26).
- Convoy. Hearty congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. all the ships of your convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1905A/26 to Commodore D.A. Casey).

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

HERMIONE Arrange for 500 tons fuel Ponta Delgada, E.T.A. noon/27th.
(HERMIONE, 0015/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Request arrangement be made.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0130A/26 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, Admty., N.A. Lisbon.)

REGENT Ref. A.M. 2305A/25. Cancel my 2126A/25. Comply with my 1846A/25. ^{N.T. W.D.}
(F.O.C.N.A. 0017A/26 to HERMIONE, (R) S.O. Force H, REGENT, Admty., F.O.S.)

U/B. There are indications of Italian U-Boat within 150 miles of 035° 00' N. 020° 00' W. at 1915 G.M.T.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0039A/26 to N.A. Stn.)
There may be a U-Boat between Terceira and San Miguel.
(D.D.I.C. 1045A/26 to HERMIONE, REGENT, (R) F.O.C.N.A., F.O.S.)

COLTSFOOT E.T.A. Gibraltar 2300/26. My position is 036° 13' N. 007° 46' W.
(COLTSFOOT 1003A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PRETORIA To clear S L 98 amend position C to 034° 50' N. 019° 30' W. thence Q.
CASTLE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1016A/26 to PRETORIA CASTLE, (R) Escort S.L.98, HESPERUS.)
My 1616A/24 and 1824A/24. Route is for ALMANZORA. When relieved position (Q) by HESPERUS proceed execution previous orders received C. in C. S.A.
(C. in C. W.A. 1727A/26 to PRETORIA CASTLE, (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A., HESPERUS, S.O.W.P., N.O.i/c Greenock.)
See also South Atlantic.

ROSEMONDE Your 1519/24. ROSEMONDE has not yet arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1032A/26 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, (R) Admty.)

CULVER S.L.98. Your 2240Z/25. On reaching vicinity of Funchal rejoin convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 1132A/26 to CULVER, (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A., LONDONDERRY.)

CHESAPEAKE CHESAPEAKE in tow THAMES escorted by LADY HOGARTH
THAMES arrived Ponta Delgada. THAMES left with escort
LADY HOGARTH 1300 G.M.T./26th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1205/26 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada's 1205. Is there any objection to THAMES proceeding to Horta now and waiting on LLANGIBBY CASTLE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2228A/26 to Admty.)
LADY HOGARTH and tug THAMES are to proceed to Horta. Tug THAMES to attend on LLANGIBBY CASTLE. LADY HOGARTH will receive further orders from R.O. Horta.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2357Z/26 to THAMES, (R) Admty.)

/LEESEE ...

War Diary.26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.LEESEE
EUGENIO C.

Departure 24th LEESEE, departure 25th EUGENIO C., both loaded with iron ore, destination believed to be Gaete. The latter left from Castro. (Consul, Bilbao, 1249/26 to Admty., 1313/26 to M. of W.T.)

LLANGIBBY
CASTLE.

Your 1662/21 para 2. Jan. 22nd local authorities granted permission to land small parties for exercise but cancelled almost immediately. Neither ships' companies nor troops allowed to land. Understand question being reconsidered in Lisbon. Master and O.C. troops would appreciate your further assistance. (R.O. Horta, 1250/26 to N.A. Lisbon.)
Your 2252A/24. BATORY and SOBIESKI cannot be used for onward passage as they are required in U.K. 2. Following arrangements must therefore be made: (a) 1150 Troops ex LLANGIBBY CASTLE plus 630 ex BATORY and SOBIESKI to proceed to Freetown in 3 ULSTERS. (b) 2 ULSTERS to return to Gibraltar to embark balance of 1150 troops ex BATORY and SOBIESKI and convey them to Freetown. 3. Troops ex LLANGIBBY CASTLE will be on carried from Freetown in W.S.16 (due 26/2). 4. W.O. are telegraphing Governor and C. in C. Gibraltar and G.O.C. West Africa details of transshipment. (D.O.D.(F) 1752A/26 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C.W.A.)

NAVEMAR
(torpedoed
24/1)

Your 0931A/24, your 0950A/25. Spanish Ministry of Marine states that all except First Officer and Chief Engineer saved from ISLA DE TENERIFE. (N.A. Madrid, 1350/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Escorts,
leave and
harbour time.

Admty. 0622A/26 (requesting repetition previously received indecpherable). Repetition of my 1302A/25 (begins) Addressed C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty., from F.O.C.N.A. Your 1655A/22. Your figures in para. one should read 32335.
2. During 33 days that 36th Group was at Gibraltar they averaged 16 days in harbour. 3. Otherwise they were employed on an operation ordered by Admty. whose 1835A/26/11 refers. 4. During same period local escorts who do not get home leave average 9 days. which includes boiler cleaning of 3 ships. 5. Any marked disparity in favour of ships from Home waters who also get regular leave at home can only tend to make trouble here. T.O.O.1302A/25/1 (Ends).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1424A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

NURTURETON.

My 1201/25 NURTURETON returned to port 26/1 owing to further boiler trouble, report on survey follows.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1730/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Force H. ...

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War Diary.26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Force H. Raise steam for full speed.
(D.O.D.(F) 1739A/26 to F.O. Force H.)
A.T. 1739A/26. Keep steam at two hours' notice.
(D.O.D.(F) 2211A/26 to F.O. Force H.)

NAVEMAR R R message from Madrid quoted in Portuguese
(torpedoed Press today states Spanish S.S. NAVEMAR torpedoed
24/1) by British Submarine off Cadiz and sunk with all
hands. N.C.S.O. Lisbon informed by Master of
British ship that NAVEMAR's S O S received 2343/23
giving position 036° 248' N. 015° 46' W. Submit
official denial of presence of British or Allied Submarine in
vicinity or responsibility be issued immediately.
(N.A. Lisbon 1809/26 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A., N.A. Madrid.)

TEMPEST Cancel my 1538A/26 (N.T. in W.D). Return to
Gibraltar forthwith by outward route to arrive
1000A/27. Do not cross 005° W. before 0830A/27.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1838A/26 to TEMPEST, S.O. Force H.)

WESTCOTT Your 1845/26. E.T.A. Dockyard 2115.
(WESTCOTT, 1933/26 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt.D.19.)

ARCTIC RANGER Return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2255A/26 to ARCTIC RANGER (R) Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Freetown lighters. Your 2256A/21. These Lighters will be of great
use for general purposes, but will not contribute
to the solution of the problem referred to in
C. in C. S.A's 1158/24/10. Essential that they
should be capable of a speed of 8 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Freetown 0716Z/26 to D. of S.T.)

NORMAN Sailed NORMAN 0800Z/26 for Pointe Noire by
direct route thence to Simonstown. S. of A.
20 knots. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0700Z/30. E.T.A.
Simonstown 1600Z/3/2.
(C. in C. S.A. 0931Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/DERBYSHIRE ...

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War Diary.26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

DERBYSHIRE

Leave Patrol Area at 1100 G.M.T./27 and if possible during daylight to fuel and subsequently escort ORDUNA filled with service personnel to U.K.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1023Z/26 to DERBYSHIRE.)

Visit to
Sal Island.

Ref. British Consul, St. Vincent, report of American Warships visit to Sal Island, these ships appear to be RESOLUTION, VANSITTART, JASMINE and RAPIDOL. V.A.3 used Murdeira Bay as lee for fuelling on 23/1, but no personnel were landed.
(C. in C. S.A., 1109Z/26 to Admty.)

PRETORIA
CASTLE
CANTON
CILICIA.

My 1825/19 para.3 to PRETORIA CASTLE only, and Admty. 1743A/14. When 2nd destroyer has joined, PRETORIA CASTLE is to proceed to H.34 D passing through position (A) 037° 00' N. 022° 50' W. (B) 016° 50' N. 029° 10' W. then to R/V with CANTON and CILICIA in 005° 00' N. 025° 00' W.
2. PRETORIA CASTLE is to report 48 hours after parting company from ALMANZORA time and date at which R/V will be reached.
3. When PRETORIA CASTLE has joined CILICIA is to return to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A. 1245Z/26 to PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON, CILICIA (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty., C. in C. W.A.) *See next page*

VANSITTART

VANSITTART due to proceed to U.K. for refitting with S.L.99 fuelled (St. Vincent Cape Verde Is.) in Dec., therefore unable fuel Ponta Delgada. Intend sailing VANSITTART to Gibraltar but she has insufficient endurance to proceed to Gibraltar even fuelling at Bathurst without running dangerously short. Request arrangements be made for VANSITTART to fuel at Las Palmas about 6/2.
(C. in C. S.A. 1333Z/26 to Admty (R) N.A. Madrid, F.O.C.N.A.) as amended 1730Z/26.

U.S. Task
Forces.

OMAHA and MCDUGAL leave Pernambuco 26/1 through 10° N. 26° W. and 10° N. 30° W, to arrive Pernambuco 31/1. 2. CINCINNATI and MOFFETT leave San Juan 27/1 arriving Bahia 4/2.
(D.O.D.(F) 1550A/26 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

JACOB VAN
HEEMSKERCK.

Sailed p.m./26 JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK by direct route for Simonstown E.T.A. a.m./4/2. Ship has some minor structural defects which should be completed at Simonstown. Estimated time 48 hours.
(C. in C. S.A., 1659Z/26 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/ROBERTS ...

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War Diary.26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- ROBERTS. E.T.A. 1000Z/27.
(ROBERTS 1709Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Durban.)
- O.S. Convoy Positions. Subject to your concurrence and having regard to the information contained in C. in C. W.A. situation reports it is intended to omit the estimated 2000 position from O.S. convoy sailing telegrams and to reletter the remaining paragraphs (A) (B) and (C).
(C. in C. W.A. 1815A/26 to C. in C. S.A.)
- LAUREL WOOD. Oiler LAUREL WOOD has defect which prevents her sailing with S.L.99. Expect to sail her with S.L.100.
(C. in C. S.A. 1815Z/26 to Admty. (R) IBIS, C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)
- Escort for DEWDALE My 1245Z/15 (1245Z/25 intended)
For CLOVER read CROCUS.
(C. in C. S.A. 1824Z/26 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See p. 709*
- ASTURIAS ASTURIAS has engine defect which will take probably 20 hours longer. She has been granted 24 hours extension visit Rio de Janeiro and expects to be at her R/V not more than 3 hours late.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 2013Z/26 to Admty.)
- CANTON CILICIA. A.M.C. P.C. and S. at 2100Z, 03° 08' N. 25° W. 75° 14 knots. Fuel remaining CANTON 87%, CILICIA 64%. Intend making position 04° 30' N. 20° W. and then steer 270° to 25° W. when course will be altered to approx. 130° for S.E. corner of area. 4752 1383.
(CANTON 2100Z/26 to C. in C. S.A.) *See previous page.*
- HERMES. My 0837/24. Due to an urgent defect having developed in after main circulatory engine HERMES will not be ready to sail until p.m./2/2
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2123Z/26 to C. in C.E.I.)
- Brazil Precautions. Vice Consul Natal reports last night 25/1 all Brazil armed forces in Natal including police were recalled and ordered to stand by. R.O. Victoria, Brazil, reports local authorities have sealed all radio transmission sets in that state.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2229Z/26 to Admty.)

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War Diary.26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Benghazi** All craft except Minelayers (? M.Ls intended) and R boats have left harbour. (Groups missed) (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, T.O.R. 0014/26 to C..in C. Med.)
Following received from N.O.i/c Benghazi addressed 8th Army (begins): Am closed down ?(after) this ?(signal) T.O.O. 2308 (Ends).
(S.O. Force I. Tobruk* A.I.G.72, SOUTHWOLD, F.O.15th C.S., R.A. Alexandria, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C.'s Derma, Benghazi, Tobruk, Mersah Matruh, S.N.O. Red Sea, Capt (S) I, No.201 G.P.)*0019B/26.
- U/B.** Following has been read: Med. A/C from Med.A/C. Submarine has dived bearing on position 120 PTG 33.
(Nore W/T 0536/26.)
- Fighter assistance** No "Fortu" timed 2138B/25, dust storm.
(?Alexandria W/T, 0743/26 to WOLBOROUGH. GLOXINIA, A/C GYZY, 0751/26.)
- U/B.** Ismailia bearing German U-Boat: Time frequency bearing class: 05 (?09): 5660 320°: 3rd.
(C.O.IS. Alexandria 0902/26 to V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A.)
- "Sinker" bombed.** Enemy aircraft bombing "Sinker", KPBR 2000 (indecypherable) 120°, 14.
(UNBEATEN 0905/26 to Malta W/T)
Enemy A/C bombing "Sinker" 34° 1'N.17°38'E.120°14.
(S.O. Force K, 1135/26 to Malta.)
- Enemy Force.** (?Light forces) shadowing 033° 44' N. 018° 37' E. 280°, 15.
(R.A.15 C.S. 0957B/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) 201 Group.)
- URGE.** URGE leaving 035° 36' 014° 10' about 2359B/26 for 035° 00' 014° 10' on the surface at 8 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 1040B/26 to Force K.)
Cancel my 1040B/26. URGE will depart by North East route.
(V.A. Malta, 1230B/26 to Force K.)
Safety route established for URGE between 35° 00' 14° 10' and 33° 30' 17° 30' from 0400B/27 to 0700B/29 then operation sanctuary in area C south of 31° 30' and East of 17° 30'.
(Capt. S. 10, 1053B/26 to Group 201 (R) C. in C. Med., Capt.S.1.)

See also p.752

/Derma ...

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War Diary.26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Derna. At 8th Army H.Q. no evacuation of Derna is contemplated at present. Port is to continue to function.
(S.O. Force I, 1045B/26 to N.O.I.C. Derna (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Tobruk, N.L.O. 8th Army, R.A. Alexandria.)

Pantellaria. Your 1246A/25. Photographs show 5 small Schooners and 20 other small craft probably fishing vessels and one E-Boat approaching harbour at high speed.
2. Little change in position of small craft (?and) no increase in number since photographs of 14/11.
(V.A. Malta 1059B/26 to Admty.)

Enemy Units. 2 unknown vessels bearing 200° distance 30 miles course unknown. My position 33.49 N. 18.03 E.
(C.S.15, 1212/26 to Alexandria W/T.)

My 1212 is one hospital ship.
(C.S.15 1240/26 to C. in C. Med.)
My 1240, VIRGILIO.
(C.S.15 1250/26.)
6 Enemy bombers 50 miles East of Malta. Course and speed S.E. (?125) at 1210B.
(F.O.I.C. Malta, 1217/26 to Force K.)
By intercept enemy forces 120 miles to North of Me.
(F.O. 15 C.S. 1220B/26 to C. in C. Med.)
No.201 Naval Co-operation Group are maintaining R/C 90 miles to north of you. Bomber aircraft are standing by.
(C. in C. Med., 1341B/26 to 15 C.S.)
C.S.15 1220/26. Request you will send out maximum air R/C (? in order to) ensure safety of light forces.
(C. in C. Med., 1319B/26 to Malta C.& C.O.(R) C.S.15.)
Your 1319B/26. One Maryland only available leaving 1600 for initial position 034° 20' N. 017° 10' E. then searching area to Eastward within 60 miles to North of track of force B and K.
(2) A S V Albacore will endeavour to cover force K after dark.
(3) T B Striking force standing by.
(V.A. Malta, 1547B/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) R.A. 15 C.S., S.O. Force K.)
My 1547B/26. Aircraft returned unserviceable. Am endeavouring to raise another.
(V.A. Malta 1646B/26.)
My 1646B/26 (corrupt group) aircraft available. My 1547B/26.
2. If wind permits Albacore A S V will cover convoy to northward leaving Malta at midnight.
3. T/B striking force can only be used close to Malta.
(V.A. Malta, 1835B/26 to S.O. Force K. (R) C.S.15., C. in C. Med.)
Albacore leaves midnight to search North of you. (2) Switch on "Rooster".
(V.A. Malta, 2357B/26 to S.O. Force K.)

/Air ...

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War Diary26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd. ^{? A.S.V.}Air Report,
attacks on
U/Bs.

Night Jan. 24/25, ASC Swordfish and Sunderland made most successful anti-submarine sweep in Arab's Gulf where enemy U-Boats suspected to be concentrated. Depth charge attacks apparently sank 2 enemy submarines, possible damaged further 2.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1256/26.)

Enemy
aircraft.

Force K was reported by enemy aircraft at 1405B/26 and 1500B/26.
(V.A. Malta 1555B/26 to S.O. Force K. (R) C. in C. Med., R.A. 15 C.S.)

U-boat
tactics.

Additional to my 1724/27/11 and V.A. Malta to C. in C. Med. 2134/24/1. From repeated further evidence of prisoners it appears conclusive that U-boats rely on diving to at least 100 fathoms in order to avoid the effect of depth charging.
(S.O.(I) Med., 1604B/26 to Admty.)

HEYTHROP
bombed.

Am being (?attacked by) 5 aircraft (corrupt group) 033° 10' N. 021° 45' E. 8 torpedoes fired, no (?hits).
(HEYTHROP 1615B/26 to Alexandria W/T.)
My 1615B/26, one aircraft damaged.
(HEYTHROP, 1630B/26 to Alexandria W/T.)

"Pewit"
bombed.

Convoy "Pewit" being attacked by torpedo bombers position, course and speed (?118) 33° N, 22° E. 21, 099° 9 knots.
(SOUTHWOLD 1620B/26 to Call Sign M.S.B.)
Following received. "Pewit" being attacked by enemy aircraft position 33° 20' N. 22° 4' E.
(? DULVERTON 1630/26.)

Movement
Summary 231.

Part A. A/S Craft escorting ^{"Hermit"} HERMIT, DELPHINIUM Haifa to Alexandria, SNAPDRAGON Port Said to Beirut, FALK Alexandria to Port Said, COCKER Beirut to Haifa.

2. Part B. Force B and M with 9 Trawlers 033° 15' N. 022° 40' E about 0600/27, 032° 15' N. 025° 00' E. about 1500/27 and 032° 10' N. 028° 30' E. about 0300/28 to Alexandria. Convoy "Pewit", SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON, HEYTHROP passing through 033° 13' N. 023° 00' E. at 0045/27th (?032°) 20' N. 024° 00' E. at 1100/28 for Tobruk and Alexandria. 2 "A" Lighters due Tobruk about 0600/27. 2 V and 10 D Lighters due Derna night 26/27 and Tobruk p.m./27. 2 R Boats due Derna 1900/26 and Tobruk about 0600/27 all for Benghazi. A T 19, AVON VALE, MALINES, HYACINTH, VIKINGS, due Tobruk 0800/27. HYACINTH and slow convoy leave Tobruk 0900/27 for Alexandria through 032° 14' N. (?024°) 58' E. at 1700/27, 031° 51' N. 026° 08' E. at 0400/28. AVON VALE, MALINES, S.V. with EUSTACE CHITTY leaves Tobruk 1300/27 for Alexandria through 032° 21' N. 025° 10' E. at 2000/27, 032° 00' N. 026° 11' E. at 0230/28. 3. Part C. Force K. returning to Malta. (C. in C. Med., 1632B/26 to Med. Fleet) W.R. Note.- Groups received incomplete.

/SULLBERG ...

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War Diary.26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

SULLBERG LISBOA. SULLBERG left Valencia 22nd for Burriana. Arrival 23rd Gandia LISBOA in ballast. (Valencia, 1642/26 to M. of W.T.)

Malta Report. CSR Malta. Raids. Night 25/26th, Nil. 26th, 4 alerts 0637 0827 1010 1316 hours, 21 Raiders, 3 crossed coast, Aerodrome R/C. (H.Q. Malta 1705/26.)

OLYMPUS. In view of heavy submarine training commitments in U.K. two large submarines of reasonably modern construction are required for work with 7th Flotilla.
2. OBERON and OTWAY due for refit on 1/3 are now carrying out this duty.
3. It would be appreciated if OLYMPUS could be released from her present duties in February to join 7th Flotilla. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1745A/26 to C. in C. Med.)
Concur (C. in C. Med., 1059B/28.) *See 24/1 - p 660 -*

Enemy Report of S/M. Enemy aircraft reported that a submarine at 1036 G.M.T. was in 034° 01' N. 017° 08' E. No British submarine in this vicinity. (V.A. Malta, 1825B/26 to S.O. Force K.)

ISAAC SWEERS. Admty. 2334/23. Intend ISAAC SWEERS to leave Alexandria p.m./29, transit Suez Canal on 30th and arrive Aden p.m./2/2. Abdacom pass to C.C.C.F. (C. in C. Med., 1832B/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

ELPIS, Derna. Position 26/1. ELPIS (B) Embarked Army Officers 2, other ranks 126, Italian prisoners of war 125 (d) awaiting escort. Agree. (D.S.T.O. Derna, 1902B/26 to D. of S.T.)
(Repeating 1902B/26) Addition. M.L.No 10,12, R.64 and R.68 arrived 1800 intend to sail by coastal route a.m. Tuesday. 'A' (?lighter) (?passed) 1700D lighter (2 corrupt groups) (N.O.I.C. Derna 1950B/26 to N.O.I.C. Tobruk, (R) S.O. Force I., 8th Army.)

Force K. A/S Take full A/S measures. Indication that 3 U-boats are endeavouring to intercept you. (V.A. Malta, 1920B/26 to S.O. Force K.)

M.E.9. A/S Patrol. Following received (begins) - C.S.15 repeated C. in C. Med., from 201 Group. Following A/S patrol will be carried out ahead of M.E.9 1200 to 1900/27 1 Sunderland 1900 to 0600/28. T.O.O. 1916/26. (R.A. Alexandria 1930B/26 to C.S. 15.)

/Air ...

War Diary26.1.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Air R/C

Following received begins :- 235 Wing repeated C. in C. Med., C.S.15 from 201 Group. Orders for tomorrow 27/1. Weather permitting carry out ?Z range 3.3 A to depth of 200 miles only. A/C off at dawn. T.O.O.1940/26. (R.A. Alexandria 1950B/26 to C.S. 15.)

Situation
Report 188.

Western Desert. At 1415/25 Army Commander ordered evacuation of Benghazi. All ships, minesweepers and lighters with stevedores and dock personnel sailed midnight 25/26 for Tobruk escorted by three HUNTS. Main convoy attacked by 8 or more Torpedo ~~Boats~~ ^{bombs} between 1600 and 1630/26 but no damage reported except to one torpedo boat. Naval Party remained to complete demolition but now presumed to have left.

2. Central Mediterranean. Forces B and K both sighted by aircraft and Force K bombed today 26th but no damage reported. Force K was at sea night 23/24 to westward of Malta but no interception.

3. Two U-boats attacked on surface by Swordfish with depth charges in 31° 42' N. 07° 31' E* and 31° 13' N. 28° 11' E. at 1850/25 and 1935/25 respectively. Both reported damaged but no result from subsequent search by surface craft.

4. Submarines. THRASHER sank 6,000 ton heavily laden southbound Merchant Ship escorted by A.M.C. in 38° 59' N. 19° 59' E. at 0400/10. P.35 torpedoed and sank Salvage Vessel RAMFINC mistaken for U-boat in 35° 59' N. 10° 46' E. at 0320/17. One survivor rescued.

(C. in C. Med 2017B/26 to Admty.) * W.D. Note.- Position evidently incorrect (? 27° 31' E.)

URGE
P.34.

URGE leaves 037° 05' 015° 40' at 1900B/27 to patrol off Augusta and in S.W. half of area J. Remain in N.E. half of that area from 1900B/27. (Capt. S. 10, 2031B/26 to P.34.)

Attack on
Tripoli
convoy 23/24
Jan.

A O C Med reports:-
On night 23/24 Jan. an important convoy was sailing to Tripoli. L.Cdr. F.H.E. Hopkins commanding 830 Squadron took on a special search with 6 Swordfish and 2 Albacores following later. Weather to convoy position was very bad with low cloud and rain. Hopkins found the convoy 20 miles away from estimated position and outside safe endurance of aircraft under the prevailing wind conditions. Hopkins passed the position of convoy to strike when only 2 Swordfish remained the remainder having returned owing to bad weather and unable to maintain formation. Hopkins returned to base and organised another strike of 4 Swordfish and in deteriorating weather took off again. Convoy was found and a liner was hit with 2 torpedoes. Subsequent R/C has failed to find this Liner and it is presumed sunk. During these 2 flights Hopkins flew for 11 hours and 50 minutes under very difficult weather conditions. ends. Strongly recommend Hopkins for Bar to D.S.C. (C. in C. Med., 2250B/26, 2252B/26 to Admty.)

/U/Bs ...

War Diary

26.1.1942
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

U/Bs.

From D/F bearings German U-Boats in 035° 30' N.
017° 30' E. at 1830B/26 and 033° 00' N. 014°
50' E. at 1731B/26.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2350B/26 to V.A. Malta.)

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War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- C.M.25B. Arrival 26/1 DORSETSHIRE with convoy C.M.25 B. (S.O.I. Bombay 0158Z/26. to Admty. etc.)
- FLAMINGO. Your 1312/20 to F.O.C.R.I.N. FLAMINGO can be accepted H.M.I. Dockyard on completion COVENTRY end of February. (C.S.D. Bombay, 0506Z/26. to Admty.)
- Endurance of M.L.'s. A.M.1145/4/10 gives endurance of 72 feet M.L.'s as 2500 miles at ten knots and C.B.04055 gives 1000 miles at twelve knots. F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1013/7/1 (To C. in C. E.I. only) gives 1000 at ten knots or 1800 on one engine at about 8½ knots as endurance for M.L.'s 1098 and 1099.
2. Request Admiralty figures may be confirmed as I have ordered F.O.I.C. Simonstown to ship M.L.'s 1098 and 1099 to Bombay for onward passage in view of their low performance.
3. D. of S.T.'s 0632/21 to S.T.O. Durban states special lifting gear is required for 72 feet M.L.'s. If this is essential request you signal particulars to F.O.I.C. Simonstown. (C. in C. E.I. 0633Z/26 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Simonstown, S.T.O. Durban.) *Reply Admty 1846 R/9/2.*
- Operation "Opponent". Force L refuel off Cocos p.m./25. Hurricanes fly off in 3 batches tomorrow Tuesday from position Y and all aircraft proceed Batavia. First 2 batches go on to Singapore on that day, 3rd batch remaining Java over night. Destroyer will be fuelling again 29th en route for Trincomalee where force should arrive 1/2. (C. in C. E.F. 1001Z/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- CLAN FORBES. 1. D. of S.T. 0059/22. Request information date of release of CLAN FORBES, now in use by M.N.B.D.O. at Diego Garcia. 3. Experience has shown that a ship of this type is essential to efficient performance of M.N.B.D.O. operations. 4. I have moreover had her specially fitted out so as to accommodate M.N.B.D.O. personnel. 5. If L and M unit of M.N.B.D.O. is to be held at Colombo in readiness for similar operation(s) in the future (vide Admty. 1921/1 para. (1) (B)) it is essential ship with CLAN FORBES or an equally suitable ship, be available at short notice. 6. I therefore intend to retain her at Colombo after Diego Garcia operation has been completed. (C. in C. E.I. 1110Z/26 to Admty.)
- M.R.1. (Sailing telegram) Escort INDUS. Convoy includes. NEURALIA, KUTSANG, PRESIDENT DOUMER all Troops and Stores. (N.C.S.O. Madras. 1135Z/26 to Admty.)
- D.M.2. Your 1615/19. Escort D.M.2. and B.M.12 as in
B.M.12. C. in C. E.I. 2009/25. 2 Cruisers from China Escort Force join combined convoy about 006°

/20' ...

SECRET.

MESSAGE

III

0948Z/26th January.

45-4A

From: S.C.(I) Bombay.

Date: 1.2.42.

Recd: 2041.

NAVAL CYTHER (A.2.) BY W/T.

Addressed: S.C.(I) Colombo. F.C.C.R.I.N. lum

For information. At 0755Z 25th fire started in ETKR(CITY OF BARCELONA) alongside number 5 Alexandria dock. Commercial cargo from (?BANDAR) Shahpur Gulf consigned account of Western India March Company 900 tons potassium chlorate completely burnt out bunker still burning. Ship has 030 degrees list to port and stabilising action being taken before (corrupt group) out. Ship unserviceable for considerable period.

0948Z/26.

? already circulated.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(T)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Ops.(3)

C.D.(5)

D. of S.T.(2)

I.P.(3)

D.T.D.(4)

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C)

D.N.I.(4)

C.I.C.

Cdr. Holbrook

Press Division

D. of Salvage

C.C.R.T.

Hydrog.

W.D.

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

D.M.2. 20' S. 099° E. and EXETER relieves EMERALD about
 B.M.12. 006° (?) 40' S. 102° 20' E.
 contd. (C. in C. E.F. 1432Z/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
 E.I.)

BOISE. Your 2330/21. Subject to C. in C. E.I.
 concurrence BOISE can be accepted for docking at
 Colombo. (D.O.D.(F) 1549A/26 to Abdafloat.)

COLOMBO,
 CALEDON. In view of the extensive retubing of boilers
 necessary to COLOMBO and CALEDON it is intended
 that this work should be carried out in the home
 dockyards during May and October respectively.
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1708A/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

Nancowry
 and
 Andaman
 Is. Your 65789 (M.O.10) of 21/1. 1. There is
 insufficient water for a battalion at Nancowry
 and no further action has been taken to develop
 this in view of your 57858 (A.A.4) of 14/12
 stating defences at Nancowry not to be proceeded
 with. 3. Battalion at Nancowry will be
 isolated and will have no means of air support
 nor of information from sea patrols. It can only hold limited
 area in Nancowry itself and Japanese could still use islands
 for submarine base without battalion being aware of it or
 being able to interfere. These considerations also apply to
 Andamans in spite of the coast defence aircraft proposed for
 Port Blair. 4. For above reasons am opposed to sending
 battalion to Nicobars where it would be hostage to fortune,
 and much preliminary work including probable stationing of
 vessel with distillation plant in Nicobars would be necessary.
 Retention of isolated detachment in Andamans is not in our
 opinion justifiable on military grounds as it is ineffective
 except in immediate vicinity of Port Blair.
 (C. in C. India, 2338/26 to W.O. (R) C. in C. S.W. Pacific,
 C. in C. E.I. G.O.C. Burma.)

China.

Escort for Reinforcements. It would greatly assist future plan and provision
 of escort if an approximate forecast could be
 given of Military and Air reinforcement which
 may be expected to arrive in Abda area by sea via
 Australia. (2) While it is still hoped to use reinforcements
 of aeroplanes Torres Strait fact must be faced that alternative
 route via Fremantle may have to be used.
 (Abdafloat, 0131Z/26 to U.S.C.N.O. (R) C. in C. Pacific Fleet,
 (U.S.) Admiralty. A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

- Convoy. Convoy B.M. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0157Z/26 to Admty.)
- CHAK SANG. CHAK SANG sunk by submarine gunfire 22/1 (? 015°
42' N. 095° 02' E.
(S.O.I. Singapore, 0205Z/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
E.F. C. in C. E.I. R.A. MALAYA.)
- Burma. Situation Report. Mergui. Evacuation proceed-
ing according to plan approx. 950 Army personnel
and 120 civilians arrived Rangoon today.
- Moulmein Area. No troops or air activity seen Moulmein Area.
Northern Front. Patrol activity by our own troops areas
Tatangav and Meakpaleng. Small casualties inflicted on enemy.
No casualties own troops. Rangoon. R.A.F. report no shipping
seen between Rangoon and Moulmein. Bangkok. Our bombers
made a night attack on Bangkok docks and commercial centre last
night. (G.O.C. Burma, 0300/26.)
- Singapore Raids. Two alerts 25/1. First raid 27 navy 96 heavy
bombers intercepted by Buffalos over South
Johore and jettisoned bombs harmlessly. Second
raid dropped bombs in sea South of Keppel harbour
and hit one former Thai ship causing 7 casualties.
Catalina on seaward R/C sighted two 500 ton ships possibly
enemy radio beam ships north of Anambas Island.
(G.O.C. Malaya, 0515/26 to W.O.).
- Air Report. Intelligence summary No. 65 period 0800 hours
25/1 to 0800 hours 26/1. 2. Mixed formation
of 11 Vildebeests and 3 Albatrosses made 2 highly
successful attacks on Muar Harbour and Town and on Batu Pahat.
One 600 ton vessel left listing on Muar. 10 Vickers
Vildebeests attempted attack Kuala Lumpur only 3 reached
target remainder bombed Batu Pahat on return journey. 3. 2
waves of enemy bombers approached Singapore Island. 27 Navy
96 bombers were intercepted by Buffalos over Johore. 9 Jettis-
oned bombs, all turned back. 3 enemy aircraft claimed damaged
by Buffalos. A second wave of 20 plus dropped bombs South
of Keppel Harbour, damage only to small ships (3 corrupt Groups)
and a lighter, 7 casualties.
(A.H.Q. F.E. 0525/26 to Air Min.)
- M/S Hulls, Rangoon. The shortage of magnetic minesweepers in Far
East makes it imperative that any completed M.M.S.
hulls and machinery should be removed from
Rangoon should the fall of this (?town) become
imminent. Request you will use your discretion
in this matter. Attention is drawn to A.M.
1437A/17.
(C. in C. E.F. 0835Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Rangoon.)

/Abdacom ...

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Abdacom Report. Information No. 2, T.O.O. 1200Z/25. 1. Further attacks made convoy Macassar Straits. (a) By U.S. submarine STURGEON night 22/23. One large cruiser or aircraft carrier hit and believed sunk. (b) Yesterday by Dutch bombers from Samarinda II. One large transport capsized. Direct hits on one destroyer, one transport. (c) Today by 8.B.17's from Malang. One large transport sunk in river at Balikpapan. One direct hit cruiser outside harbour. One B.17 missing, crash landed in East Java. (d) Today by Dutch bombers from Samarinda II total 4 direct hits on 2 cruisers and one transport. One Dutch bomber shot down. 2. Fuller report reference night attack on convoy by American destroyers (see Information No.1.). Action lasted over one hour. 48 torpedoes fired, 5 known hits, many gun hits close range enemy destroyers and transports. Total damage impossible to estimate. Our only damage one shell deckhouse destroyer JOHN D. FORD, 4 wounded. 3. U.S. and Australian A/S Units have sunk one large enemy submarine probably one small, off Darwin. 4. Enemy landed Balikpapan night 23/24. Enemy landed 24/1 near Kendari, garrison in action. Believe aerodrome still our hands. 5. (?Several) attacks last few days by enemy aircraft shipping west coast Sumatra. One steamer containing internees sunk. 6. Samarinda II again attacked yesterday afternoon 8 enemy fighters, 3 bombers burnt out on ground. 2 enemy aircraft shot down by light A/A, 1 by Dutch fighters. 2 of our fighters missing. 7. 36 mixed enemy bombers/fighters attacked Ambon yesterday. Considerable damage barracks. Presence of carrier indicated. 8. Single enemy aircraft attacked Namlea, Lawoei, Sorong and Manorkwari in Eastern Archipelago. Little damage done. (Information No. 2 ends.). Propose to issue communiques as necessary based on these information reports about 24 hours later. This should ensure recipients of reports receiving news first. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0946/26 to W.O. for C.O.S. etc.)

Singapore
Oil stocks.

If not urgently required for repairs or docking in N.E.I. request destination of ELSA may be Singapore, not Pladjoe. Ship to call Oosthaven for onward route. Ship required to lift aviation spirit ex Singapore. My 0801Z/25 refers. (R.A. Malaya 1031Z/26 to A.C.N.B.)

Washops 46.

(1) Philippine Is. Desultory fighting along shores of Subic Bay marked only activity in Luzon 25/1. (2) N.E.I. A complete report of attack on Japanese convoy off Balik Papan in Macassar Strait has now been received. On evening of 23/1 Dutch bombers scored 12 direct hits on 8 enemy warships and transports; all Dutch aircraft returned safely. On evening of 24/1 U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD and 5 Destroyers made 2 attacks on same convoy with torpedoes and gunfire and sank 5 or 6 transports. At dawn on 25/1 U.S. Army bombers made 3 attacks on convoy sinking 1 motor boat and setting fire to another. 5 enemy fighters were shot down by U.S. B.17's without loss. Japanese have landed at Balik Papan. Enemy aircraft attacked Samarinda aerodrome 50 miles north of Balik Papan. 3 enemy fighters were shot down and Dutch lost 2. (3) Eastern Pacific. Enemy S/M's. have been attacked without positive results near Midway Is. and Canton Island and also at points about 325 miles S.E. of Oahu. (J.S.M. Washington, 1205R/26 to Admty. etc.)

/Nicobar ...

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War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

(page 646A)

Nicobar and Andaman Islands. Abdacom 1835/23 which has been passed to C. in C. E.I. and Adty. I consider the retention of Nicobar and Andaman Islands vital for protection of shipping in Bay of Bengal and for future security of India. With these islands in their hands the enemy would possess submarine and possibly raider bases and well placed advance bases should they plan attack against Ceylon or India. Furthermore these islands can provide us with advance bases from which when time comes offensive action can be launched against enemy forces operating coast of Malaya. I would therefore recommend, whether or not it is used in immediate future Nancowry should be defended. I am already taking some action to prevent easy ingress to many harbours by policy of mine fields. These can, however, only be of relatively small value and for any real security troops guns and aircraft are essential. If you concur my appreciation you might wish to consider approaching (?government of) India giving them your views of comparative importance of these islands in general strategic conception and ask their assistance in preventing their falling an easy prey to enemy. (C. in C. E.F. 1552Z/26 to Abdacom, (R) C. in C. E.I. S.O.I. Wellington.)

L L Minesweepers. A.M. 1753A (?19th). There are no L L Minesweepers in operation on original China and East Indies stations except those now in Persian Gulf and at Singapore. Owing to non arrival of essential machinery and to labour difficulties no additional L L Minesweepers from conversion or building programme on these stations can be expected in immediate future. Estimated completion dates are being signalled. It is considered inadvisable to reduce Persian Gulf L L force by transfer to Singapore. Completion dates of L L fitted BATHURST's building in Australia are not known. A.C.N.B. is requested to supply these dates and if possible expedite completion of these vessels. BATHURST and LISMORE are being sailed Singapore to augment Oropesa minesweeper force. (C. in C. E.F. 1610Z/26 to Admty. Repeated R.A. Malaya, A.C.N.B. C. in C. E.I.)

GLENARTNEY. My 1200Z/25 to General, Singapore, and Admty. 1349A/24. GLENARTNEY is now at Batavia and carries Military and Naval ammunition and R.A.F. stores. Obviously undesirable to send this valuable ship on un-necessary voyage to Singapore and back. Military ammunition and R.A.F. stores can if necessary be unloaded here and forwarded to Singapore in other ships. 2. If there are no important items of Naval ammunition requiring transport from Singapore to Sydney I shall send her by next convenient and safe opportunity direct from Batavia to Sydney. 3. Request your immediate remarks. (Abdafloat, Bandoeng, 1650/26 to R.A. Malaya) Concur (Malaya 1000Z/27.)

Stores for Java. Abdacom 0730/23 R.A. Malaya should consider immediately transfer to Java of a skeleton staff and stock of essential naval and victualling stores and C.C.C.F. should examine with Dutch /authorities ...

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Stores for authorities problem of providing storage space.
Java - contd. Ammunition and torpedoes have been dealt with
separately.
(C. in C. E.F. 1714Z/26 to R.A. Malaya, C.C.C.F.)

Burma, Troopers for C.O.S. Britman Washington for
Appreciation. Combined C.O.S. from Gen. Wavell. Returned
this morning from Rangoon. Do not consider
situation immediately serious provided certain
steps outlined below are taken as early as possible. Japanese
advance in Tenasserim probably made by comparatively small
force. Our main force south has been withdrawn across Salween,
and Japanese occupation of Moulmein is probable but have
instructed Hutton to take offensive action as soon as he has
organised sufficient force. 2. Following steps for defence
of Burma essential. Naval. Anti-submarine flotilla base on
Rangoon to keep approaches clear. Should eventually consist
of two small destroyers, four sloops or corvettes and six
trawlers or similar craft. At least half of above are required
at once. None available from present Abdacom resources.
Land. Reinforcements in sight from India and Africa with
thinnest assistance should suffice if convoys continue to arrive
safely. Air. Reinforcements promised should suffice for
present provided they arrive speedily especially Hurricanes
from Middle East. Essential that A.C.G. Squadron which
Chennault is endeavouring to withdraw should remain at Rangoon
at least until further Fighter squadrons are available. Some
Hudson aircraft for coastal R/C required immediately.
3. Internal situation reasonably satisfactory. Rangoon docks
have been cleared and sufficient labour available for immediate
purposes but liable to disappear under bombing attacks.
Railways working well. 4. Squadron long range bombers
operating from Burma would have excellent targets and propose
to send one as soon as possible.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1718/26 to W.O. J.S.M. Washington.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2000/26th Jan. IN

From: Machin Chungking. Date 27.1.42.

Recd: 0300

Cipher

Addressed: The War Office.

028824. M.I. 53 cipher 24/1.

My 146 of 24th Jan. Add new sub para (L) to para 4 officers speaking in strongest terms deplorable result of putting almost untrained troops into action against highly trained enemy. Canadians were scarcely one quarter trained. Material was excellent but surprising ignorance of most elementary matters made them almost as big a menace to ^{? friend} (word omitted) as to the enemy. Not (repeat not) to recipients of my above mentioned telegram.

2000/26

Recd: from W.O. 0436/29.

War Office Distribution

D.M.O. & P D.D.M.O. (O) D.P.
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 Admiralty War Reg. A.C.A.S. (I)
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 India Office (War Staff)

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1st S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

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N.A. 1st S.L.

D.N.A.D.

Hd of M.

D.O.D. (H)

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D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

Duty Capt (2)

D.N.I. (7) and for A.E.
 and D.N.L.O.

D of P (2)

D. P.D.I.C. (2)

D. T.S.D.

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

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D.P.D.

D.S.D.

Admiral Bailey

Admiral Bellairs.

E.P.S.

Admiral Somerville.

D.G.D.

C.C.O.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2115/26 January.

IN

From. Secretary of State for the Colonies. Date. 28.1.42.

CYPHER.

Addressed. Governor (Sir S. Thomas) Strait Settlements.

IMMEDIATE.

No. 151. Most Secret.

1. In connection with preparation for removal for our own use and for denial to the enemy of items essential to war economy, you should know that, as seen from London, civil priorities are as follows.

2. Removals for own use.

- (a) Rubber (including tyres)
- Tin (including any surplus tin plate)
- Tin ores
- Wolfram
- Kapok
- Quinine and cinchona bark

- (b) Stocks of machinery, machine tools and spare parts which are recoverable.

3. Denial to the enemy.

- (a) Oil stocks installations and pumping equipment (including those at Samboe).
- (b) Stocks, both in warehouses and factories, of coal, refined and scrap metals, jute and other raw materials. Also stocks of gunny bags, rubber tyres, drums, tin plate and clothing material.
- (c) St. James electric power station.
Motor assembly and repair plants
Rubber factories.
Drum making plant.
Smelting works.
Works belonging to United Engineers.
Ho Hong oil mills.
- (d) All stocks of machinery which cannot be removed, including especially machine tools and spare parts.

4. Harbour facilities, transport facilities, cable and wireless stations are considered as service priorities and have therefore been omitted from list above.

5. In framing detailed plans both for removals and denial you should be guided where possible by the above orders of priority, subject to overriding local requirements.

6./....

759^c

2.

6. With reference to machinery, tools and spare parts mentioned in paragraph 2 Eastern Group Supply Council may send you particular priority list.

*Cancelled
1000/3*

7. Please give copy of this telegram to General Officer Commanding. War Office repeating to Abdacom and India Office to Eastern Group Supply Council.

2115/26

(Rec'd from Colonial Office 1824/28 January)

1st Lord.
1st 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.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.C. (2)
D. of P. (3)
Head of M.
E.P.S.
Admiral Somerville.
Admiral Bellairs.
D.S.D.
D. of L.D. (2)
D.T.D. (2)
D.N.I. (7) and for A.E. & D.N.L.O.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.

RN

760

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B's. At 2220Z/25 D/F bearings indicate enemy S/M within vicinity of 047° 30' N. 045° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0341Z/26 to Brit. Warships Area 7A., Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. (R) C.C.N.F.)
D/F bearing at 2353Z/25 indicate enemy submarines 047° N. 050° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0605Z/26 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)
(1) D/F bearings indicate S/M's in vicinity of (a) 45.30 N. 49° W. at 0013Z/26 (b) 42.30 N. 69° W. at 0031Z/26 (c) 36.30 N. 71° W. at 0054Z/26. (ii) Bearings at 0527Z/26 and 0541Z/26 suggest S/M's in the vicinity of 47° 30' N. 49° W. All positions unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0936Z/26 amended 0033Z/27 to Area 7 etc.)

Sable Island. Admty. 0104A/24 para. 2. Approach courses to Sable Island are to be varied as much as possible. B.A.D. pass to Opnav.. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1012P/26 to S.O.I. Jamaica).

SURCOUF. Your 1657Z/24. Request you will sail SURCOUF for Bermuda and arrange for bombing restrictions. Request route and arrangements made may be communicated as early as possible in order that bombing restrictions in Approaches to Bermuda may also be arranged. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1043P/26 to B.A.D.)

DALWARNIC, U/B report 24/1. DALWARNIC, Canadian National S.S., 24/1 0240 G.M.T. 018° 03' N. 063° 37' W. Believed submarine heading Northward, blurred outline only seen distance of 600 yards, own course 176° 9 knots, turning under port helm, luminous track of one torpedo seen passing close ahead. No enemy report sent by W/T, Master considered details insufficient to break W/T silence. Report considered reliable.
(Harbourmaster, Barbados., 1145/26 to Admty.)
(Repeating 1145/26). N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to DIOMEDE.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1717R/26 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, DIOMEDE).

Washops 46. J.S.M. Washington, 1205R/26. See China.

ALBERNI, COLLINGWOOD. My 2030Z/6. Due to pressure of other work, contractors state ALBERNI and COLLINGWOOD cannot be completed before 31/1.
(C.O.A.C. 1301Z/26 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty., B.A.D., F.O.N.F., etc.)

H.X.172. Sailed ANNAPOLIS, THE PAS, LUNENBURG, DUNVEGAN, RED DEER local escort H.X.172.
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1352Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

/Curacao ...

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Curacoa A/S protection. / Caracas Bay and Bullen Bay on southern side Curacoa are in constant use. Both bays completely exposed and unprotected from submarine attacks. Until anti-torpedo netting requested by Netherlands authorities arrives from U.K. and is in place, request view of Admty. on discontinuance of these loading berths with consequent probable review by using only Schottegat, Willemstad Harbour. (S.B.N.O. Curacoa, 1513QR/26 to Admty.)

Halifax Approaches, protection. Request you will say if you would prefer all shipping to approach Halifax through one sector with a view to facilitating air and surface A/S protection. If so request radial limitations and depth of proposed sector. (D.T.D. 1537A/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U/B, CLEARPOOL. Received 1540 G.M.T. SSSS 44. 25 N. 51° W. CLEARPOOL sighted Submarine 1512 G.M.T./26. (Halifax N.S., 1545Z/26, 1615Z/26 to Admty.)

French sailings from Casablanca for Dakar. Meter. Casablanca 20/1 A.2. Following sailed 13/1 for Dakar escorted by SERGEANT GOUARNE, PORT DE BOUC with 1800 tons petrol. GABRIEL GUISTHAU with 3000 tons ammunition, THESEE with 2500 tons coal and ~~Y~~ELINOIS with one Battalion Tirailleurs Senegalais. (B.A.D. Washington, 1615R/26).
x not identified

BURWELL. My 1651R/22. (? 1641R/22 intended). Cancel last sentence. On completion proceed St. John's N.F. with despatch. Wireless watch in accordance with A.F.O. S 1 section A C table 2 is to be maintained. Com 3 pass to B.N.L.O. New York Com 1 pass to B.N.L.O. Boston. (B.A.D., 1649R/25 to BURWELL).

INNEROY (torpedoed 22/1.) Norwegian S.S. INNEROY torpedoed 2045 G.M.T/22 in approx. 42. 30 N. 61.00W., 5 survivors picked up by EMPIRE AMETHYST a.m./23rd in same position and landed Halifax. Ship caught fire immediately and burned throughout night. Only five escaped. Submarine surfaced and circled ship after attack but did not use gunfire. U.S. Destroyer sighted a.m./23rd after survivors had been picked up. Vessel referred to in C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2228Z/22 was not S.S. INNEROY. (C.O.A.C., 1655Z/26 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Opnav, F.O.N.F., C. in C. A.W.I.)

ARCHER Martlet A/C. Your 1931R/23 para. 1, concur. (D.N.A.D. 1718A/26 to B.A.D.)

/Escort ...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Escort for N.S.H.Q's 1715Z/25 (N.T. in W.R.) I much regret
 QUEEN if the proposal to use BURWELL and RAMSEY to
 MARY. escort QUEEN MARY from New York to Boston should
 cause these ships to be late at St. John's for
 convoy duty. Delay in the movement of QUEEN MARY
 to Boston has been represented as seriously affecting projected
 troop movements and U.S. have been unable to find escorts. It is
 still possible weather permitting, for BURWELL to arrive
 St. John's P.M./13/1. (sic). Latest information is that RAMSEY
 will be delayed 5 to 7 days due to her defects.
 (B.A.D., 1735R/26 to F.O.N.F.)
 U.S.S. MACLEISH and BURWELL sailed New York 1830Z/26 due Boston
 1000Z/27 escorting QUEEN MARY.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2224Z/26 to B.A.D.)

PARTHIAN. PARTHIAN expected to leave Portsmouth N.H. for
 New London on 10/2 and to be ready to sail from
 New London on 27/2. Request instructions as to her
 destination and that C. in C. A.W.I. will then give route orders.
 Suggested she should call at Halifax or Bermuda for latest
 operational information. (B.A.R.M., 1736R/26 to Admty.)

GALT E.T.A. ^{St John's N.F.} 0200Z/27. Escorting FORT TOWNSEND. Fuel
 defects. remaining 75% boiler hours 912. Urgent defects, A/S
 dome lost, oscillators shaft bent, and various
 engine room defects.
 (GALT, 1746Z/26 to C.O.A.C.)

ALCANTARA. Will be ready to sail about p.m./30. Requested that
 C. in C. A.W.I. will issue route instructions.
 Date will be confirmed when known.
 (B.A.R.M., 1802R/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Disposal of Agreement has been reached between Navy Dept.,
 Enemy Reports. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, and C. in C. A.W.I., for
 organisation for disposal of enemy reports on
 A.W.I. Station which is as follows:-

2. Reports from British ships in areas 7A, 7B, and 8 will
 preferably be passed in to Halifax, Bermuda and Esquimalt W/T
 Stations respectively. On receipt of report by these W/T Stations
 C.O.A.C., C. in C. A.W.I., and C.O.P.C. will then be responsible
 respectively for rebroadcasting and informing necessary British,
 Canadian, and U.S. Authorities, which have been detailed in a table
 in each instance. U.S. Authorities have drawn up similar arrange-
 ment covering east and west coasts of America on the same lines.
 Admiralty is included as an addressee to be informed in every case.
 Copy of table covering this agreement is being forwarded.
 3. As this is contrary to A.M. 1150/13/9. (523 A.Z. Para. 7) request
 necessary correction may be issued.
 (B.A.D., 1811R/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U/B. D/F bearing at 1330Z/26 indicates S/M within
 150 miles 52° 30' N., 37° 30' W.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1816Z/26 to Area 7A., Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

- "S" Report. SSSS de KONW 150° true about 12 miles from Sandkey at 1900 G.M.T. via Wax (via Hialeah Florida Rdo.) de WSL (from Amagansett Rdo.) (KONW (No Signification) No. T.O.O./26).
- CATALINA. Portuguese fishing vessel CATALINA, 632 gross tonnage, sailed Fortune Newfoundland 15/1 due Carbonear 16th. Non arrival. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1941Z/26 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opnav, C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax).
- EMPIRE GEM. EMPIRE GEM torpedoed in 035° 06' N. 074° 58' W. about 0145 G.M.T/24. Explosion ignited oil fuel cargo and destroyed communication between bridge and engine room. Engine remained running for 3 hours during which ship headed west. On arrival in 035° 02' N. 075° 33' W. engine stopped and ship was anchored when part abaft bridge sank. Latest report bow portion at angle of 045° and it is understood U.S. Authorities are considering destruction. (Survivors). (C.S.A. Norfolk, 2011Z/26 to Admty.)
- W.S.C.66. (1) W.S.C.66 (II) 1930Z/26, 47.38 N. 52.03 W. at 1030Z/27. All ships have S.P.02272(16), S.P.02406 (73) and search certificates. (N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 2038Z/26 to Admty.)
- 5.5.
QUEEN
ELIZABETH
fuelling. D. of S.T.'s 1301A/30. Arrangements had been made to fuel S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH near Auckland N.Z. whence it was anticipated she could reach San Francisco in one leg.
2. A.C.N.B. now reports dirty state of ship's bottom necessitates a further intermediate fuelling.
3. Possibilities for this are - (a) Suva, Fiji. This is undesirable as enemy submarine recently attempted to attack MONOWAI there and there are no A/S defences. (b) Controller Bay Nukuhiva on 15/2 using oiler BISHOPDALE after fuelling WARSPITE or oiler now at Bora Bora. (c) Henderson Island. - A.C.N.B. considers this too risky.
4. Plan (B) which appears the most feasible depends for success on Nukuhiva being safe from enemy U-boats and once used is likely to be subsequently unsafe.
5. Request you will ask C.N.O. for his recommendation and if U.S. Navy are prepared to assist the execution of Plan (b) or whichever other is selected.
6. It appears essential that QUEEN ELIZABETH should be docked before being used for San Francisco - Australia run in order to avoid intermediate call other than in New Zealand. Esquimalt dock is big enough. (V.C.N.S., 2047A/26 to B.A.D.)
- LADY HAWKINS, My 1601Z/25. Question of announcement of LADY possibly HAWKINS presumed casualty will shortly arise. torpedoed. Request your view on such announcement, observing ship is of Canadian registry. (C.N.S.Ottawa, 2116Z/26 to Admty.)

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

ILE DE RE,
ALDEBARAN.

Expected to sail Newport News 26/1. French ship ILE DE RE for Casablanca, due 9th or 10/2. Expected to sail New York 30/1. French Ship ALDEBARAN for Casablanca due 9th or 10/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2207Z/26 to S.O.I. Kingston, S.O.I. Gibraltar, C. in C. A.W.I.)

KIWI.

My 1425Z/22. KIWI will be ready to sail P.M./27. Request refitting port. (F.O.N.F., 2209/26 to Admty.)

H X 171.

H X 171 serial 6. Change route from (Z) 53.15 N. 31.00 W. to (A) 57.00 25.00 (B) 57.00 20.00 thence to (Y). M.O.M.P. 57.00 N. 24.00 W. at 1200Z/29 (Admiralty diversion). My 1130/25 was serial 4. (Opnav, 2252/26 to Comtaskunit 4.1.1. (R) Admty. Comtaskfor 4, Comtaskgroups 7.5 and 4.6, C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

Liberia.

U.S. War Dept. has agreed to take over responsibility for defence of aviation facilities in Liberia as soon as diplomatic action is complete. (Details). (J.S.M. Washington, 2317/26 to G.O.C. in C. W.Africa).

Australia & New Zealand.

MOA.

Departure Papeete, Trawler MOA, for Suva, E.T.A. P.M./2/2. (N.Z.N.B., 0230Z/26 to Admty., etc.)

Situation.

Serial number 6. Indication that Japanese carrier approx. 60 miles N. of Choiseul (Solomon Is.) 2100Z/23, and one also at Kapingamarang 23/1, also a flying boat Squadron. 5 enemy float planes attacked Manus (Admiralty island) 24/1 and inflicted considerable damage. Japanese marines landed Kavieng 23/1. Aerodrome at Kavieng has been demolished. 5 R.A.A.F. Catalinas from (?Port Moresby) carried out night attack on Rabaul 24-25/1 and dropped 62 bombs. 2 probable hits on a warship and fires observed. Heavy A/A fire but all aircraft returned. Japanese believed to be in occupation of Buka Passage (Solomon Is.). (A.C.N.B., 0751Z/26 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. Singapore, Navy Office, Wellington C.Z.M., Opnav., C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet).

1st A.M.S.
Group.

Your 0354/25, not to Admty. SWAN and WARREGO will be withdrawn from your area in due course. They should therefore not be included in organisation. To avoid

/confusion ...

War Diary.26.1.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

1st A.M.S. Group. (contd.) confusion title Commodore M/S Flotilla is not to be used. For administrative purposes LITHGOW, DELORANE, KATOOMBA, WAARNAMBOOL, TOOWOOMBA 2, are to be organized as 1st Australian M/S Group (S.O. Australian M/S 1) for which seagoing authorities number 280 and 281 respectively are allocated in relevant signal publication in anticipation of Admty. approval. Report date on which this organization will be assumed in order that all authorities in Abda area can be informed by A.C.N.B. (A.C.N.B., 1406Z/26 to D.N.O. Northern Territory, Port Darwin, (R) WAAREGO, Admty.)

Abda Area. A.T. 1511/20 para. 19 (iii) is to be amended to read as follows. (Begins). On the South by the Northern coast of Australia from 143° E. to S.E. corner of Gulf of Carpentaria, thence across Northern Australia to Onslow (22° S. 115° E.) thence Northwestward to position 15° S. 92° E. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1720A/26, "A" Message).

Timor. For J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 15. Unless U.S. Chiefs of Staff have any objection, please pass following (agreed by Foreign Office) to Gen. Wavell from combined Chiefs of Staff. (Begins). Your 00059 15/1. Understanding was reached in Lisbon on 22/1 whereby we undertake that Australian and Netherlands troops will be withdrawn when Portuguese reinforcements numbering 700 arrive in Timor in return for a secret undertaking that in the event of a Japanese attack allied forces will be called in again to assist in defence of the territory and that staff conversations will take place at once at your headquarters to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of such assistance and for the actual change over when Portuguese troops arrive.

2. Portuguese force has still to be brought up to full strength of 700 and is not expected to leave for a few days. Voyage is expected to take about 25 days.
3. Although basis of agreement with Portuguese Government is that allied assistance will be invited "as soon as any attack shall begin," we have strongly impressed on Portuguese Govt. that for practical purposes this is not enough. For fear of compromising their neutrality Portuguese Government have not felt able to go further than to agree to contact being maintained between Portuguese Commandant and the Allied Commanders in the neighbouring territory. It is nevertheless our hope that by tactful negotiation with Portuguese representative you may be able to make some provision for the summoning of assistance when an attack is imminent.
4. Portuguese Government have agreed that Australian and Netherlands representatives should be "associated" in the discussions.
5. Portuguese Government have sent instructions to the Governor of Portuguese Timor to improve the road between Dilli and the frontier. They have also undertaken to renew instructions to him not to obstruct the allied commanders although they cannot undertake to allow him to co-operate with them. Portuguese Government state that they are studying means of preventing Japanese infiltration after the allied forces have withdrawn. (1st S.L., 2025A/26 to B.A.D.)

/Maori ...

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - contd.

Maori 7.

Japanese Flying Boat arrived Tarawa, Gilbert Is., A.M./23 with Japanese Commandant from Butaritari, Makin Island, and stayed four hours. Commandant stated trading and sailing outside Lagoon was prohibited, also that Gilbert Is. were being merged with Marshall Is. Tarawa hidden radio still functioning. Makin and Abiang only 2 Islands known to be occupied by enemy.

(N.Z.N.B., 2317Z/26 to Admty., C. in C. China, C. in C. U.S., Asiatic and Pacific Fleet, Naval Board Melbourne, C.Z.M. Opnav.)

War Diary.

26.1.1942.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C., 1434A/26, 1539A/26).

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War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Blyth, Tees, Hartlepool and Peterhead Bay were re-opened this morning; Peterhead inner harbour was re-opened at 1940.

British Air Operations.

21 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Brest last night and 29 Emden.

Mining.

5 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands.

North Atlantic.

HERMIONE left Ponta Delgada this evening after fuelling, to patrol an area in the Western Approaches until 2/2 to destroy a possible home-ward bound enemy merchant vessel probably accompanied by a U-boat.

South Atlantic.

PRETORIA CASTLE sighted a submarine on the surface this evening in 36° 47' N., 22° 56' W., and attacked, with unknown result.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Force K.

PENELOPE and destroyers arrived at Malta this morning with BRECONSHIRE.

Bombs were dropped on Hal Far last night, but no damage was caused. Some damage was caused in the dockyard by air attack this morning.

6 Wellingtons attacked shipping in Tripoli harbour this evening.

It is suspected that Italian hospital ships have been transporting troops.

East Indies and China.

The proposed allocation of A/S ocean escorts, other than destroyers to the Sunda Strait area, Bay of Bengal area, Ceylon focal area and Port T, on arrival of the 5 Flower class corvettes from South Atlantic Station is given in a message from C. in C. Eastern Fleet today.

China.

Burma.

Mingaladon Aerodrome was bombed last night and/or this afternoon and some damage was caused.

The Admiralty have examined the problem of countering probable attempts by the Japanese to repeat in Burma the tactics they employed on the west coast of Malaya, of successive seaborne moves. A message on the subject was sent to General Wavell today.

Operation
"Opponent".

The flying off of Hurricanes from Force L (INDOMITABLE and Escort) to Batavia today for Singapore was delayed by the weather and will continue tomorrow.

/Destroyer...

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - Contd.

Destroyer
engagement.

VAMPIRE and THANET encountered an enemy cruiser and 3 destroyers off Endau last night. In a running fight 1 enemy destroyer was sunk and one damaged. THANET was sunk, VAMPIRE had no casualties or damage.

Malaya.

Single enemy aircraft bombed Seletar Aerodrome last night and caused slight damage. Kallang and Seletar were attacked 3 times today by 65 or more aircraft and 7 aircraft were destroyed on the ground and 13 damaged, besides extensive damage to the aerodromes.

Commencing last night, the Royal Navy during 5 nights successfully evacuated nearly 2,000 all ranks of 53rd Infantry Bde. and 15th Indian Infantry Bde. who were cut off on the west coast of Johore.

N.E.I. and
Borneo.

Our aircraft attacked enemy shipping at Balik Papan today; a large transport was left sinking and another on fire, and a cruiser was straddled. There were also seen in harbour 6 destroyers and 15 other vessels Tanker HARPA taking aviation spirit from Singapore to Batavia was mined and set on fire today in main Singapore Strait. Washington reports that Dutch bombers have attacked the Japanese convoy in Macassar Strait and sunk one transport and obtained direct hits on a destroyer and another transport (possibly this was the attack made on 24/1 q.v.) U.S. Army bombers sank a large transport and obtained a direct hit on a cruiser (possibly this refers to the attack made on 25/1 q.v.)

6 enemy fighters attacked Bandjermasin (South Borneo) today and destroyed 7 and damaged 2 aircraft. 7 bombers attacked Emmahaven (Padang) today and sank 2 vessels and several barges and caused considerable damage to the port facilities. Japanese reinforcements for the troops attacking Singkawang (West Borneo) landed at Pemangat today and captured Singkawang II aerodrome.

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Tanker FRANCIS E. POWELL was torpedoed and sunk off the U.S. Atlantic coast last night.

S.S. MARIPOSA (British 3807 tons) reported that she was engaging a submarine at 0030 in 42° 52' N., 51° 24' W.

At 1432 G.M.T. U.S. Tanker HALO made a submarine distress signal about 18 miles north of Diamond Shoals.

ST. CLAIR arrived at Halifax today with 21 survivors of Norwegian M.V. NYHOLT which was torpedoed on 17/1 in 45° 46' N., 54° 18' W.

Australia.

Aircraft reported 2 moored mines in Dundas Strait (off Melville Is.) today.

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

5th M.G.B.
Flotilla.

Following was made from C. in C. Nore to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth. Begins. Your 1044A/21. The 5th M.G.B. Flotilla is to be withdrawn from service, except in cases of extreme emergency until the repairs outlined have been effected. 1710A/21/1/42. Ends. (C. in C. Nore, 0724A/27 to Admty).

14th M/S
Flotilla.

Amend para 3 of A.M.2020A/20 as follows. Endurances estimated for reciprocating and turbine vessels respectively are 2670 miles and 3070 miles at 10 knots and 1600 and 1970 miles at 14 knots. CROMER, ROMNEY, SEAHAM, reciprocating remainder turbine. (D.M.S., 1237A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

CDT. DETROYAT,
CDT. DROGOU.

My 1224A/1. The allocation of COMMANDANT DETROYAT and COMMANDANT DROGOU to French Equatorial Africa has been deferred and will be reviewed in three months' time. In the meantime these corvettes are allocated temporarily to Western Approaches Escort Force. (D.O.D. (H), 1326A/27).

27th M.L.
Flotilla.

The 27th M.L. Flotilla is allocated to C. in C. Med., for special service. C. in C. W.A. in conjunction with R.A.C.F. is requested to arrange for this flotilla to assemble at Londonderry by 15/3 ready in all respects to sail for Gibraltar as soon as weather permits. (D.D.O.D. C., 1905A/27).

DUKE OF
YORK.

Your 1352A/26. Para.4. Concur. (ii) Para. 5. DUKE OF YORK will probably not be ready for operating by 17/2, in which case release of RODNEY would amount to a reduction in forces available. I suggest decision must be deferred until last moment. (C. in C. H.F., 2207A/27 to Admty).

Movements.

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

As 2nd destroyer will not join till 29/1 you should proceed after HESPERUS has joined in compliance route ordered in C. in C. S.A. 1245Z/26. (C. in C. W.A., 0034A/27 to PRETORIA CASTLE).

War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- WOODRUFF. Your 0215/27. Cancel my 1746/26. Proceed Falmouth at best speed and report E.T.A. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0452A/27 to WOODRUFF).
- BLLENHEIM. Following is a repetition of N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne 1920/26 addressed WOLSEY. BLLENHEIM and WORCESTER between Pierhead and T. 2. at 0945 tomorrow Tuesday. Sweeping to T.2 buoy will not be completed before 0930. Provide S.A. escort in accordance with C. in C. Rosyth 1309/25 acting under orders of BLLENHEIM. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0631/27 to WOLSEY). My 0945/26.* WOLSEY has S.A. defect. Intend if necessary to sail BLLENHEIM escorted by WORCESTER only. * See also p. 779 (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1417/27 to C. in C. Rosyth). Your 1417/27. WOLSEY is to accompany BLLENHEIM even if S.A. defect is not completed. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1603/27 to F.O.I.C. Tyne). BLLENHEIM's departure delayed 24 hours due to defective steering gear. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1735/27).
- SEAWOLF. My 1954A/26 add para. (F) SEAWOLF escorted by BANDIT leaves Sullom Voe at daylight 27th for Lerwick. (F.O.S.0724A/27).
- AUSONIA,
RANPURA. In view of SHERWOOD being compelled to return to Londonderry through stress of severe weather conditions request application may be made to C.O.A.C. Halifax for escort to be provided from Canadian Coast. (AUSONIA, 1050A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
See p. 779
- DIANTHUS. Intend sailing DIANTHUS with Task Unit 4 point 1 point 12. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1126A/27). *See next page*
- TALISMAN. Intend sailing MAN O' WAR 1400A tomorrow to R/V with TALISMAN at 0845A/30 in 250° Trevose Head 10 miles and escort to Holy Loch. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1243A/27).
- CUMBERLAND. Your 1026A/26. Suitable time table for CUMBERLAND is as follows to Sheerness. E.T.A.1700/3. Route. ~~PRESTIGE~~. 2 destroyers from Nore Command will be sailed to R/V with CUMBERLAND during daylight 2/2 between May Island and Aberdeen. 3. Request fighter protection as follows. (C. in C. Nore, 1432A/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

- P.42. My 0925A/27. Anticipate defect (See Casualties) will be remedied by midnight. Intend to sail 0930A/28. E.T.A. Clyde 0730A/29. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1445A/27) (F.O.S. 2122A/27)
- Capt. (S) 3 is requested to sail P.42 for Gibraltar on completion of working up about end of February. P.42 will (?carry out) 2 short working up patrols from Gibraltar before joining 10th S/M Flotilla. (F.O.S., 1537A/27).
- LONDON. C. in C. Rosyth's 1729/26. Propose to sail at 2300/31. S.A. Gear is new and untried at sea. Personnel have had no experience in his operation or maintenance and breakdowns may occur during first long run. Consider destroyer escort most desirable for the part of the passage where acoustic mines may be met. (LONDON, 1714/27 to C. in C. Rosyth).
- B.P.T. 35. My 1409A/27. YORK CITY, tug, and tow arrived. Sheltering in Milford Haven until weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1809/27).
- Task Unit 4.1.12. Request sailing orders for Task Unit 4.1.12 consisting of SHERBROOK Senior Officer, BARRIE, BATOUCHE, MOOSEJAW, HEPATICA, with DIANTHUS and ALYSSE in addition. MOOSEJAW will not be fit for sea until p.m./30, remainder will be ready 0800A/29. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1812A/29).
- KENYA. My position 062° 15' N., 016° 17' W. (E. T.A.) 0740N/28. (KENYA, 1900A/27 to A.C.I.C.)
- DUKE OF YORK. Admiralty's 1352A/26. Request you will provide destroyer escort ready to sail DUKE OF YORK for Scapa about noon 29th. (A.C.N.S. (H.), 1921A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
- MANXMAN. At what time on 28.1.42 do you expect MANXMAN will be ready to sail. (A.C.N.S. (H.), 1944A/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
- BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO. Intend to sail BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO tomorrow from Kirkwall for Stornoway in accordance with your 1935/11. (A.C.O.S., 2301/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Cable Laying. Your 1824A/25. Propose that cable ship works from Milford Haven when operating in positions given in Para.3 Proceeding via Q.Z.S. 184 and 297. She will be swept to and from the extremity of the latter to her operating position, minesweepers remaining as escorts. Search will also be made of operating area in advance. Owing to risk of enemy air attack she should not leave harbour before daylight and should return before dark. 10 Group will be requested to supply escort. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1131A/27).

O.14. (Patrol off Fro Havet). (a) O.14 is to leave patrol for Scapa and Dundee after dark 2nd and proceed submerged by day to position (A) 64° 40' N., 02° E., thence on surface at discretion through (B) 62° 40' N., 01° 30' E., to R/V with escort off Bressay 5/2 as ordered by S.9. Make brief situation report when west of 3° east. (b) If fuel remaining or other circumstances do not permit above length of patrol, O.14 is to leave earlier reporting the fact when west of 3° E. Fuel remaining must make ample allowance for passage to Scapa in bad weather. Bombing restrictions follow S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to STURGEON for information. (F.O.S., 1233A/27 to S/Ms Area A).

UTMOST patrol. Cancel my 1926A/25. Do not proceed inside area bound by line joining 047° 30' 5° 55', 47° 30', 005° 30', 047° 08', 004° 45', 046° 48', 005° 04', 047° 14', 005° 55' owing to mines. (F.O.S., 1534A/27 to UTMOST). *Cancel (L) 3/2 - S - p. 67.*

Operation E.M. Your 1336A/27. CALPE now at Scapa repairing damage to dynamo received in heavy weather, A/S cannot be repaired without docking. Will be sailing to arrive Sullom Voe daylight 29th. (R.A.D., H.F., 1647/27).

STURGEON. STURGEON sailed from Polyarno routed through positions; 71° N., 20° E., (e) 70° N., 10° E. (f) 68° N., 07° 10' E., (g) 66° N., 07° 10' E. to (h) 65° N., 9° 30' E. to arrive p.m./1st thence to patrol as ordered by F.O.S. Proceeding submerged by day from position (f). (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2017A/27).

British Air Activity.

A/C in Iceland. Four Whitleys 612 Squadron may be retained. (H.Q.C.C., 0205/27 to R.A.F., Iceland).

Patrols. My Ice/Wl. Tasks for 27/1 add Price by Whiteleys Form White. (R.A.F., Iceland, 0802/27). Patrol (?Price) to be flown until further orders. (H.Q.C.C., 0935A/27 to Iceland).

/My...

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols
Contd.

My Ice/W1 and two 27/1. White Ice recco by Hudson and "Frice" Patrol being attempted from noon. Other tasks postponed weather. (R.A.F., Iceland, 1155/27)

Bombing
operations.

On day 26/1 no operations. On Night 26/27, 21 A/C bombed the dock area at Brest, which was covered by a smoke-screen. (H.Q.B.C., 1200/27).

Enemy Air Operations.

STALIN
(Bombed
15/1).

My 1846C/22. Icebreaker STALIN has arrived Molotovsk and has sustained the following damage. Ju. 88 attacked from 50 feet scoring 1 direct hit between funnels causing damage to steam pipes and connections. Boiler and engines intact. 1 near miss exploded under ice port side aft causing greatest damage to hull above and below waterline. I estimate she will be out of action for at least a month. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2215A/27).

Mining.

Tyne.

Detonated one magnetic mine 0913/27 position 077° North Tyne Pier 6 cables. (N.O.I.C. North Shields 1043/27 and 1546/27).

Collieston
Bay.

2 Mines stranded on beach Collieston Bay 20 yards of ship. (EMPIRE PILGRIM, 1225/27 to D.S.N.O. Aberdeen).

Enemy Intelligence.

Tankers at
St. Nazaire.

Two ALTMARK class tankers seen by photographic R/C in St. Nazaire yesterday. (D.D.I.C., 2236A/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

Navigational

Blyth.

My 1013A/26. Blyth Port open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 0901A/27).

Tees,
Hartlepool.

My 1141/25. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0930/27).

Peterhead.

Inner Harbour Peterhead closed. Bay open. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0951/27). Inner harbour Peterhead open. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1940/27).

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational - Contd.

- Iceland. Danger to navigation list part II. Lights number 4550 to 4552 temporarily extinguished. (A.C.I.C., 1258A/27).
- Tay. Following buoys in Tay entrance are reported out of position. No.3 Black Can 5 cables 256° and No. 2 Red conical 2 cables 235° from charted positions. They will be replaced when weather permits. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1640/27).
- Firth of Forth. Commodore W.N.35 reports No's 35 and 32 buoys, lights extinguished p.m.26/1/42. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1654/27).
- Submerged Object. Dutch Tanker ANTONIA reports whilst in Convoy P.W. 102 striking submerged object in 50° 26' N., 2° 52' W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2034/27).
- Smalls Light. You have full discretion to expose Smalls Light on any occasion when you consider it essential for the safety of shipping. (C. in C. W.A., 2320A/27 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Technical.

- Light Guns in Small Craft. ^{W.D.} Your 1433A/13. No suitable small craft available for this purpose. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1030/27 to Admty). ^{W.D.} Trials in accordance with Admiralty O227A/14 have been carried out with results. No limitation of speed is now considered necessary. (DUKE OF YORK, 1629/27 to C. in C. H.F.)
- Security of Communications with M.Vs. The relative degree of security of the various means of communication between naval authorities and merchant ships is as follows. Paras (a) to (f) technical.
2. It is important that the most secure means of communication available should always be employed. In view of the wide distribution of tables of S.P. O2272 and S.P. O2404 series and the possibility of loss or capture of such tables in circumstances which do not become known for some time, communication to merchant ships in Merchant Navy Code recoded by these tables is never to be regarded as secure, and all such messages are to be worded so as to avoid divulging valuable information. In particular, positions should be indicated by reference to a secret or lettered position, and not by latitude and longitude.
3. Admiralty Message 269A of 27/6/41 is cancelled. (D.T.D., 1936A/27).

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War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

YUKON. Detail one corvette from 1st or 2nd escort groups to escort ZWARTE ZEE to assist steamer in approx. 56° 50' N., 19° 10' W. F.O.I.C. Greenock will issue orders to ZWARTE ZEE and escort which should be ready to sail a.m./27.
(C. in C. W.A., 0004A/27 to Capt. D. Londonderry).
C. in C. W.A. 0004A/27. THYME detailed.
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 0116A/27).
ZWARTE ZEE and THYME are to R/V off Merville at about 1000 today and proceed in company with all despatch to assist S.S. YUKON broken down at 1900Z/26. YUKON in tow of S.S. ALEXANDER HAMILTON, course 100°. Speed 2.5 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0209A/27).
Your 0116A/27. Request you sail THYME to comply with my 0209A/27.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0215A/27 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
My 1710/26. Service tug not required. YUKON now en route Iceland position 60 30' N., 23° 40' W., Requires tow to maintain course, speed 8.7 knots. Arrangement of tug relief for ALEXANDER HAMILTON made from Iceland.
(Opanav, 0810/27 to Admiralty)
ZWARTE ZEE is not to sail to assist YUKON.
(D.T.D., 1226A/27).
Rescue Tug FRISKY sailed 1330A/27 to assist YUKON.
(A.C.I.C., 1338A/27).
F.O.I.C. Greenock 1347A/27. Should THYME be retained as escort for ZWARTE ZEE if required or sailed for O.N.61.
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1804A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy O.N. Request you sail TENACITY to assist ASTRELL
S.C.60. aground 3/4' N., of Toward Point. TENACITY
ASTRELL, should on no account anchor in this area.
ARISTIDES. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0808A/27 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown)
TENACITY is to sail with all despatch to assist
ASTRELL.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0821A/27).
Sailed TENACITY.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0911A/27).
ASTRELL and ARISTIDES refloated and able to proceed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2357A/27).

DUNCAN. Your 0746A/27. ^{N.S.N.W.S.} Report whether you require assistance.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0845A/27 to DUNCAN).

P.42. My 1756A/22. P.42 delayed owing to defective fore hatch.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 0925A/27). *S. P. 774*

HAWKWOOD. HAWKWOOD, Blyth to London, grounded at 0645/26 in approx. 54° 39' 16" N., 01° 9' 45" W. Ship subsequently broke in two. Whole crew have been landed without loss.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0945/27).

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- EMPIRE PILGRIM. Received at 0845 G.M.T. De EMPIRE PILGRIM begins: Vessel grounded Collaston. Considerable hull damage. Require assistance refloat. (A.C.O.S. Recd. 0954/27) (C. in C. Rosyth, 1620/27).
Intercept at 1426 G.M.T. De EMPIRE PILGRIM addressed to Coastguard Peterhead begins:- Safe for crew return ship. Master. (A.C.O.S., 1526/27).
- VERVAIN. WANDERER 1446A/25. VERVAIN defect list and weather damage have been inspected and it is estimated about 10 days work is involved. No firm in Clyde area is able to undertake this work at present. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1018A/27).
- ROSELYS. ROSELYS returning to harbour with bad leak developing from smashing dome. In no immediate danger. (WANDERER, 1101A/27). *See also next page.*
- BUCHAN'S II, EMPIRE FIRTH, ESTROMA, X, RUDDERMAN, MOORLANDS, M.L.258, EMPIRE PARSONS. BUCHAN'S II, EMPIRE FIRTH and X ESTROMA refloated on last night's high water. RUDDERMAN cleared from EMPIRE FIRTH and anchored. MOORLANDS refloated under her own power on A.M. high water today. Attempt to refloat M.L.258 failed owing to want of water. METINDA will remain in attendance at M.L.258 until refloated. No work possible on EMPIRE PARSONS until weather moderates and ship cannot be boarded to ascertain condition. (C.S.V.O. Lyness, 1210/27).
x not identified.
- WOLSEY. WOLSEY has S.A. defect. *See p. 773.* (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1417/27).
- Unknown Ship. Following received at 1355 G.M.T. Bearing 154 approx. DE BLDS begins:- Please can patrol boat come out to direct us to Aberdeen. We are in distress. (A.C.O.S. 1457/27).
- BLUEBELL. *N.T. & W.D.* My 1430/27. BLUEBELL returned with A/S defects. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1600A/27).
- SHERWOOD. Have left AUSONIA and RANPURA in 053° 14' N., 017° 23' W., at 0900N and am proceeding Londonderry. Have forward compartment and fuel Tanks flooded and clouds in both condensers. (SHERWOOD, 1700A/27). *See p. 773*

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- EVELINE
(Dutch *M/S*)
Minesweeper)
sunk. SHERA in collision with R.N.N.S. EVELINE at anchor. Latter vessel sunk. One rating Ldg. Seaman missing. No damage to SHERA. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1845/27).
- SEVILLA. SEVILLA returned from O.N.S.55, steering defects. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1950/27).
- HEATHER. My 1334/27. ^{W.D.} HEATHER further delayed. Estimated 3 to 4 days required to complete. (Capt. D. Greenock, 2016/27).
- SABRE. My 1835A/27. SABRE returned with A/S defects. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2143A/27).
- COCLE. S.S. COCLE developed boiler trouble and unable to make Loch Ewe. Am escorting her to Kirkwall. My 2100A position 059° 34' N., 005° 20' W., speed 4 knots. Master requests tug meet him off entrance to Westray Firth. (CAPE ARGONA, 2230A/27).

Shipping & Convoys.

- F.S.710 F.S.710 Methil section anchored in Q.Z.S.179 to seaward of T.2 Buoy. (WESTMINSTER, 0045A/27). My 0045A/27. Request instructions for convoy and escort. (WESTMINSTER, 0945A/27 to N.O.I.C. Newcastle).
- O.N.59. Admiralty 2231. O.N.59 altered course to 310° midnight. Until weather moderates maintaining this course until 0600. 34 ships were in company at dusk but some may have lost touch during turn in low visibility. My 1950 position should read 054° 35' N., 012° 17' W. No further trace of U-boat. WANDERER, ROSELYS rejoining. 54° 35', 13° 29'. (WANDERER, 0115A/27). O.N.59. Course 270° speed 4 knots, wind west force 10 veering rapidly. Cannot count ships in company owing to low visibility Vice Cmdre. of Convoy appears to be missing. ROSELYS returning to harbour with bad leak developing from smashing dome, in no immediate danger. Will pass R/V for 1200Z/28 later. (WANDERER, 1101A/27). O.N.59. Your 1101A/27. Communicate new M.O.M.P. for 1200Z/29 to Task Unit 4.1.2. Report if you are unable to do so. (C. in C. W.A., 1623A/27 to WANDERER).

- RINGEN. Stand by S.S. RINGEN and escort her to Harwich if she cannot keep up with convoy. Report situation at daylight. (WALLACE, 0115/27 to KITTIWAKE).

/H.X...

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- H.X.169 H.X.169. Average speed 7.7 knots, Westerly gales 11th to 18th January. Thirteen stragglers on account of bad weather and low visibility. All ships now accounted for. (D.T.D., 1055Z/27 to Opnav).
- C.W.66. C.W.66 postponed 24 hours owing to gale warnings. Add 24 hours to all times given in my 2128A/25. (C. in C. Nore, 0946A/27).
- P.W.102 P.W.102 has been ordered into Falmouth owing to weather, and will be sailed tomorrow, weather permitting. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1108A/27).
- Convoy. Cannot arrive. My position 13 straggler (corrupt group) One mile my position Ailsa Craig bearing 323° distance 3 miles making 3½ knots. Shall I proceed with number present to R/V. (RATHLIN, 1120/27).
- B.B.29
B.B.30. Owing to weather Holyhead B.B.29, cancelled and will sail to make usual junction with B.B.30. ULSTER QUEEN informed. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1141A/27).
- Q.P.6. Q.P.6 is to disperse in 015° E. (2) When convoy disperses TRINIDAD and minesweepers are to proceed independently to Scapa and SOMALI is to proceed Hvalfjord. (C. in C. H.F., 1159A/27).
- U.R.10. My 1050A/26. Sailing delayed. Intend sailing 1000A/28 if weather permits. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1410A/27).
- W.P.104 My 010/108 of 30/12 and C. in C. Plymouth's 1108A/27. W.P.104 delayed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1449A/27).
- COLD HARBOUR (ex P.Q.7) arrived Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1529A/27).
- O.N.58. Request you will enquire into the circumstances attending the stranding of ships of Liverpool and Bristol Channel portions of O.N.58 on Irish Coast. (C. in C. W.A., 1824A/27 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.64.

Average speed 6.42 knots. A succession of northwesterly and southwesterly gales experienced. FRIAR ROCK torpedoed presumably when endeavouring to return to Canadian port. Four stragglers, plus ELIZABETH VAN BELGIE which never joined convoy, and all other ships now accounted for.
(D.T.D., 1904A/27 to Opnav).

E.N.36.

Loch Eriboll
Anchored 1830/27 ~~LOCH ERIBOLL~~ with SALTARELO and SOMME from E.N.36. SALTERELO reports cargo has shifted (corrupt group) danger. Suggest she remains at anchor until the weather moderates. Request permission to collect 10 ships of E.N.36 at present at Kirkwall.
(SWORD DANCE, 1945/27).

War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. My 1959A/20, weekly Raider Situation, (not to Abdafloat). EVAGORAS overdue Durban since 19/1 from Fremantle. No evidence of presence of German raider in Indian Ocean. (D.D.I.C., 1259A/27 to C's in C. etc. including Abdafloat.)

North Atlantic.

NAVEMAR
(torpedoed
24/1.)

Your 1809/26. No British or Allied submarine was anywhere in the vicinity. Admiralty communicate under consideration. (Head of M., Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 0014A/27 to N.A. Lisbon.)

HERMIONE.

HERMIONE arrived Ponta Delgada 1030 G.M.T./27. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0945/27.)

Intend HERMIONE to return to Gibraltar on completion of fuelling at Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A., 1244A/27 to Adnty., HERMIONE.)
On completion of fuelling at Ponta Delgada, HERMIONE is to proceed to patrol area bounded by 42° 15' N., 40° 45' N., 24° W., 29° W. leaving so as to proceed to Gibraltar at 20 knots with 20% fuel remaining on arrival. Object destruction of possible homeward bound enemy merchant vessel probably accompanied by U-Boat. (V.C.N.S. 1412A/27 to F.O.Force H. (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., HERMIONE.)
My 1244A/27. Comply with A.M. 1412A/27. (F.O.C.N.A., 1751A/27 to HERMIONE.)
HERMIONE left Ponta Delgada 2015 G.M.T./27th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1820/27.)

THAMES,
LLANGIBBY
CASTLE.

Your 2228A/26.

No objection to THAMES proceeding to Horta now. (D.O.D.(F), 1032A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1800A/26 para. I. As Tug THAMES is now available at Azores have cancelled sailing of Fleet Tug ST. DAY and STELLA CARINA and intend THAMES shall accompany LLANGIBBY CASTLE. My 2228A/26 Admiralty only refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1118A/27 to Adnty., (R) R.O. Horta, N.A. Lisbon.)

Fulmar
lost.

Fulmar aircraft forced landing on beach at Fuzeta, 037° 03' N. 007° 44' W. at 1730 G.M.T./26 after being fired on at 1710 by 5,000 ton Merchant ship, believed British, bound west off

Cape Santa Maria. Lieut. Com. J.S. Douglas and Lieut. Allan Gregory both safe and will be interned. Machine destroyed by fire. (N.A. Lisbon, 1108/27 to Adnty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

SENNEN. Your 2200/20 (2208A/20 intended? Requesting permission be obtained for visit of SENNEN to Las Palmas). Informed M.F.A. favourable. No reply from latter to our note which was couched not in terms of request but as information of a visit decided. No objection anticipated.
(N.A. Madrid, 1114/27 to Admty.)

WELSHMAN. E.T.A. 2100A/27th.
(WELSHMAN, 1136A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SPIREA, Detach SPIREA to proceed to U.K. when relieved
VETCH. by VETCH who is sailing from Gibraltar at 1830A/
27. SPIREA is to fuel if possible from
DINGLEDALE, if not possible within 24 hours,
then from Ponta Delgada, thence to U.K. through position (a)
039° 00' N. 024° 00' W. (b) 045° 00' N. 020° 00' W., S. of A.
12 knots. Onward route being issued by C. in C. W.A. SPIREA
to report E.T.A. position A to F.O.C.N.A. repeat to Admiralty
and C. in C. W.A. when 100 miles clear of DINGLEDALE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1216A/27 to CLYDE, (R) SPIREA, GERANIUM, VETCH,
C. in C. W.A., Admty.) *see also next page.*

REGENT. REGENT arrived Ponta Delgada 1400 G.M.T./27.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1218/27 to S.O.I. Gib.
(R) Admty.)

Portuguese commission assessed 6 days required to prepare ship for sea. Hydroplane defect. Request 2300 gallons I.C.E. lubricating oil urgently required for onward passage be sent to Ponta Delgada as soon as possible; if necessary this will be embarked outside arbitrary 3 mile limit. No lubricating oil available here and HERMIONE unable to provide sufficient.
(REGENT, 1801Z/27 to Admty., F.O.S., S.8.)

LADY HOGARTH, My 2257Z/26 addressed THAMES.
COREOPSIS, LADY HOGARTH is to place himself under the orders
MIRROR. of COREOPSIS and act as additional escort to Cable
Ship MIRROR. (2) COREOPSIS is to issue to
LADY HOGARTH necessary extract from my 1222A/3/1.
(3) COREOPSIS is to part company at prudent limit of endurance and return to Gibraltar ?(reporting) P.C. and S. when 100 miles clear of MIRROR.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1256A/27 to LADY HOGARTH, COREOPSIS, MIRROR,
(R) Admiralty.)

O.G. 78. Your 0855A/27, following is a repetition of my
780 (begins). O.G.78 BARON STRANRAER, EDENCRAIG,
ALGERIAN, CORABELLA, EMPIRE HEATH, EMPIRE MORI,
CITY OF LANCASTER, SPERO, BORGFRED (Nor.) COXWOLD, arrived
Gibraltar, all others accounted for except LEADGATE which
parted company p.m./14. T.O.O. 1137A/24 (ends). *Not identified.*
(V.A.C.N.A., 1517A/27 to Admty.)

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27.1.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

CANADA. Hospital Ship CANADA from Casablanca to Marseilles will pass St. Vincent's Gulf on 6/2. (B.N.A. Madrid, 1703/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Strain on My 1134A/20 and my 1302A/25 to C. in C. W.A. Corvettes. Boiler hours for Corvettes on this station are invariably over 1000 before opportunity occurs for Boiler cleaning.

Only way to avoid this whilst meeting increasing commitments is for another group of Corvettes to be allocated to Gibraltar.

2. Every effort is being made to organise Corvettes so that one is refitting in U.K., one boiler cleaning, and remaining four are available for escorts.

3. For some considerable time commitments ordered by Admty. such as DINGLEDALE, MIRROR, etc., coming on top of local requirements, have necessitated boiler hours running up to in one case 1700 hours before cleaning.

4. Hence request for help in my 1134A/20.

5. Following movements are now held up for lack of escorts (A) PACHECO, (B) FARADAY and SAN ZEFERINO, (C) M.L. 244, each a separate commitment.

6. Future commitments which will be an increased strain on local escorts are - (A) LLANGIBBY CASTLE and subsequent double movement to and from Freetown. (B) Escorts for BATORY and SOBIESKI to U.K. (C) Shortening of convoy periods.

7. Owing to sinkings in Mediterranean it is now desirable to escort ships proceeding to Melilla and Almeria to load. (V.A.C.N.A., 1728A/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

PELICAN, Intend sailing S.O. Escort Group 36 in PELICAN with MARIGOLD and AZALEA for U.K. routed through - AZALEA, (A) 036° N. 011° W. (B) 37.15. (C) 39.18. VETCH, (D) 45.18, S. of A. 12 knots. 2. C. in C. W.A. SPIREA. is requested to issue onward routing instructions from position (D). 3. VETCH in company to be despatched by S.O. Escort Group 36 as necessary

proceed R/V in 036° 20' N. 025° 00' W. about 31/1 to relieve SPIREA.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1730A/27 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.) *see previous page*
My 1730A/27, vessels sailed.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1838A/27.)

TURBULENT. My 1206/25. Sailed TURBULENT, Q B 65, Q B B 229, Q B C 381.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1746A/27 to C. in C. Med.)

French Shipping. Gibraltar 0830 French Patrol Vessel LA SETOISE
French ships FORT DE VAUX light, KILISSI, OUEGHA, both full, latter deck cargo lorries, westbound.
1148 French Armed Trawler L'AJACCIEUNE, French ships SAVOIE, GRAND QUEVILLY, both laden eastbound.
1425 French Survey Vessel ESTAFETTE, AISNE laden, PARAMÉ full, (?French) Trawler BRITTIA, JOSEPH ELISE, PORT MELIN, eastbound.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1747Z/27 to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., S.O.I. Kingston.)

/M.L. ...

War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

M.L. Flotillas. 29th M.L. Flotilla completing about March 1942 is allocated to Gibraltar to replace 3rd M.L. Flotilla. As soon as this Flotilla is worked up R.A.C.F. is requested to arrange for them to be sailed to Londonderry ready in all respects to make the passage to Gibraltar when weather permits. Flotilla maintenance staff and spare parts will be sent in escort which will be detailed later.
(D.D.O.D.(C), 1844A/27 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) R.A.C.F., etc. Amended 1707A/28.)

ROSEMONDE. Your 0041/25th and 1032A/26 (Re ROSEMONDE's non-arrival). It is considered vessel has now reached limit of endurance.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1859A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force H Destroyers. Your 2211A/26 and my 1800A/26 (N.T. in W.D.) paras. 2, 3 and 4. Intend sailing destroyers at 2000/28.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2252A/27 to Admty., (R) S.O. Force H.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Tanker. Observer aboard Brazilian COMMANDANTE PESSOA has reported sighting on 14/1 10,000 ton tanker painted grey, funnels aluminium, black cap and carrying A/A guns larger than British or U.S. ships. Tanker approached from beam but immediately altered course following astern till lost. Did not hoist flag in reply to Brazilian ship. COMMANDANTE PESSOA left Brunswick 6/1 and arrived Pernambuco 22nd.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 0017Z/27 to Admty.)

FRANCONIA, CANTON, CILICIA. FRANCONIA sailed from Freetown at 1730/26 with 16 of Elder Dempster's workmen on board. Estimated position at 1200Z/29 003° 00' N. 023° 20' W., S. of A. 14½ knots. CANTON and CILICIA are to intercept FRANCONIA and CILICIA (? is) to embark these 16 workmen. FRANCONIA is routed through 003° 00' N. 019° 00' W. 003° 00' N. 040° 00' W.
(C. in C. S.A., 1145Z/27 to CANTON, CILICIA, PRETORIA CASTLE.)

/FRANCONIA ...

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War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

FRANCONIA. Sailed p.m./26 in accordance with your 0800A/23 (details, fuel and passengers). N.S.H.Q. pass to B.A.D. (S.S.T.O. Freetown, 1307Z/27 to D. of S.T.)

→ ASTURIAS. ASTURIAS arrived Rio de Janeiro 1300Z/25. Intended time of departure 1030Z/28, after completion of engine repairs. Storage details. No mail received. BULOLO was met on passage and requested to bring mail from Montevideo. (ASTURIAS, 1307Z/27 to R.A.S.A.D., (R) Admty., etc.)

Movements. Summary 2000/27.
 VANSITTART with S.L.99 008° 40' N. 013° 52' W. 291° 7½ knots.
 STARWORT, CROCUS with DEWDALE, 010° N. 016° W. 303° 7 knots.
 NORMAN 001° 20' N. 005° 42' W. 110° 20 knots.
 HEEMSKERCK 008° (? 30') W. 146° 20 knots.
 MAURITIUS 006° 12' S. 012° 40' W. 320° 17 knots.
 CLOVER with NEW BROOKLYN (? 005°) N. 013° W. to Freetown 9 knots.
 CANTON patrol H 34 D.
 CILICIA patrolling H 34 D.
 BARCLOSE, BARNFORD, BARFOAM about 013° N. 017° 40' W. to Freetown, 8 knots.
 RAPIDOL 008° N. 013° 40' W. 158° 9½ knots.
 ? ONA off Freetown to South.
 ASCANIA off Freetown to South.
 Area Q. DERBYSHIRE patrol about 040° S. 021° E.
 DUNNOTTAR CASTLE patrol about 041° S. 021° E.
 Area (? 2). BIRMINGHAM about 045° S. 058° W. to Plate Area.
 BULOLO about 030° 40' S. 041° 40' W. to K 33.
 → ASTURIAS off Rio de Janeiro to ? K 33. (C. in C. S.A., 1629Z/27.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. My 1110/24. Owing to unavoidable delay in berthing NIEUW AMSTERDAM expected date departure from Durban postponed to Friday 30/1. In absence of instructions to contrary ship will then sail for Suez direct. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1939Z/27 to D. of S.T.)

SOUTHERN GEM, SOUTHERN PRIDE. In view of A.M. 1118A/25 intend to station SOUTHERN GEM and SOUTHERN PRIDE in Cape area where latter is now refitting. SOUTHERN GEM has defects to be made good after grounding and will be sailed for Simonstown shortly. 2. Have been working these two whalers as Corvettes and have increased their W/T and S/D complements. (C. in C. S.A., 2025Z/27 to Admty.)

/PRETORIA ...

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War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

PRETORIA
CASTLE.
U/B. Sighted S/M on surface. Attempted to ram,
opened fire, S/M dived. Depth charge pattern
dropped, result not observed. Position 036°
 $47'$ N. 022° $56'$ W.
(PRETORIA CASTLE, 2140Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.,
(R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

Mediterranean.

MOUNT VERNON, My 1545/16 para. 4. Propose that MOUNT VERNON
WEST POINT, be included in second flight fast portion and
WAKEFIELD. WEST POINT and WAKEFIELD in third flight
referred to in your 0040/12.
(D.S.T., 0518A/27 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

U/Bs. Your 0350B/27 received. Following is a
repetition of message 2350B/26th. Begins -
From D/F bearings German U-Boat in 035° $30'$ N.
 017° $30'$ E. at 1830B/26 and 033° $00'$ N. 014° $50'$
E. at 1731B/26.
(V.A. Malta, 0545B/27 to S.O. Force K.)

Enemy
Units. 1 E-Boat 1 M/V (? position C.C.258 36) course
 160° speed 3 knots.
(Malta A/C duty E., 0913/27 to Hal Far.)
One merchant ship, one escort, 034° $23'$ 011° $47'$
 160° 5 knots at 0913B/27.
(S.10, 0951B/27, to P.36.)
Corrected later, see 1141B/27.
My 0913. (? 1 E-Boat and [? M/V]) (? position CC 1207 75)
course 160° speed 3 knots.
(Malta A/C duty E., 1025/27 to Hal Far.)
My 0951. Correct position 033° $21'$, 011° $40'$ at 1025B. A/C
leaving to attack now.
(Capt. S.10, 1141B/27 to P.36.)

UPRIGHT,
TURBULENT. Arrange patrol to pass through 037° $54'$ 011° $54'$
at 0630B/30 and Q.B.B. 65 submerging during
daylight that day thence by reverse of outward
route to arrive Marsamxett 0730/1/2. TURBULENT
will be about 24 hours astern of you.
(Capt. S.10, 1050B/27 to UPRIGHT.)

/Force K ...

War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Force K,
BRECONSHIRE.Arrival 27/1 PENELOPE, BRECONSHIRE, ZULU, MAORI,
LEGION, KINGSTON, LIVELY.
(V.A. Malta, 1052B/27 to C. in C. Med.)Malta
Convoys.
ROWALLAN
CASTLE.Your 1527/25. In the present circumstances I
do not consider that ships of less than 15 knots
should be included in Malta convoys. ROWALLAN
CASTLE was allocated to Malta convoys in your
1844/16/12. If she is not now included convoy
M.W.9 will consist of 2 ships only.
(C. in C. Med., 1221B/27 to Admty.)URGE
Report.URGE reports hearing one torpedo hit presumably
from Swordfish aircraft at 0530B/24. At 0800
three westbound merchant ships with destroyer
escort passed 7 miles S. of URGE. At about
0855, one torpedo hit from P.36 was heard
following 32 depth charges.
(Capt. S.10, 1237B/27 to Capt. S.1, C. in C. Med.,
V.A. Malta.)ST. BRIEC.
(French)Departure Sete.
(Barcelona, 1241/27.)Convoy
M.E. 9
bombed
26/1.S.O. Force K Reports: (i) Convoy M.E.9 lightly
bombed 3 times a.m./26, near miss on LEGION
asdic out of action. (ii) Force K and
BRECONSHIRE 2 medium bombing attacks p.m./26
and 1 torpedo boat attack at dusk. No damage.
(iii) No further attacks.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1315B/27 to C. in C. Med., (R)
Admty., F.O. 15 C.S.)NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.For your information Dutch Authorities have no
objection to forthcoming voyage of NIEUW
AMSTERDAM from Suez to Bombay. Inform Master.
(D.S.T., 1658A/27 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.) *See p 787*Malta Air
Report.C.S.R. 27/1. 1436/26. 10 raiders approached,
did not cross coast. Night 26/27. 6 alerts.
1845 to 0121 hours. 21 raiders. 5 crossed
coast. Bombs Hal Far, no damage.
27th. 2 alerts, 0817 hours, 4 raiders, did not cross coast,
Hurricanes up, no interception. 0947 hours, 20 M.E.109's
and Ju.88's, bombs Grand Harbour. Some damage buildings and
machinery Dockyard, no casualties. Slight damage houses.
Night 26/27. 8 Wellingtons, 1C (5 Catania, 3 Comiso) earth-
stopping operation to cover convoy arriving following morning
at Malta. Convoy arrived Grand Harbour 0900 hours unmolested.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1715/27.)

/Italian ...

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Italian
hospital
ships
suspect.
RAMB IV.

My 1601/30/12. It is not intended to take any action regarding the release of RAMB IV at present as it is suspected that Italian hospital ships have been transporting troops.
(C. in C. Med., 1911B/27 to Admty.)

U/B
attacked.

Attacked S/M in 32.44, 23.23 at 212 (?).
Result unknown. Continue screening Convoy.
(Call sign 8RK, 2210/27 to S.O. Force I., (R)
Alexandria C.C.O., C. in C. Med.)

U/B.

Proceed with all despatch to hunt submarine reported by SOUTHERN SEA in 032° 44' N. 023° 23' E. at 2120.
(S.O. Force I., 2301B/27 to DULVERTON.)

War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Troopships, Colombo. Ref. S.S.T.O. Colombo's 1249/23, cannot accept proposal to divert one homeward bound troopship per month via Colombo. Personnel from Colombo for U.K. should normally proceed to Bombay for embarkation using for example returning B.M. Troopships. (D. of S.T. 0457A/27 to P.S.T.O. India).

Storage & Repair Facilities. Abdacom's 0730/23 and my 1714/26. I have already sent my Fleet Engineer Officer and Fleet Accountant Officer to Batavia to assist in examining this problem and that of repair facilities in Java. (C. in C. E.F., 0501Z/27 to Admty. (R) Abdacom).

KWAI SANG. My 0710/20 KWAI SANG will be taken in hand at Colombo for fitting out as A.S.I.S. (C. in C. E.I., 0630Z/27 to P.S.T.O. India).

B A 13. Following transport with Troops and Stores sailed 27/1. Names, routes etc. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 1002Z/27).

ATHENE, Hurricanes. Presume you have discussed with Gen. Wavell diversion to India of Hurricanes in ATHENE and it is now agreed that aircraft must be erected at Karachi. Request you confirm. (Air H.Q. India, 1100/27 to Norgroup (R) Abdacom etc)

Mine-Watching Rangoon. Your 0849/24. Concur in sailing two "LL" S.A. Whalers to Rangoon now. Anticipated dates of Persian Gulf reinforcements. 177th Group of six "LL" Whalers converting in India completing February. 176th Group of two "LL" Whalers converting at Dar-es-Salaam completing April. 174th and 175th Groups each of two "LL" Vestfold Whalers converting in India completing May. 176th Group of two "LL" Whalers converting in Ceylon completing June. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1325A/27 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I., R.A. Malaya.)

Allocation of A/S Ocean escorts. Ref. A.M. 1118/25 not to all addressees. (i) On arrival 5 Flower class corvettes on East Indies Station it is proposed to allocate A/S ocean escort, other than destroyers, to following areas. (ii) Addressees are requested to inform me if they concur. (iii) (a) Sunda Strait Area. For escort of convoys to Westward of Sunda Strait and inside Malay barrier between Batavia and Singapore. 9 Australian minesweepers, JUMNA, U.S. Destroyer NIBLACK. (b) Bay of Bengal Area. For escort of convoys proceeding into or out of Rangoon from or to Calcutta Madras and on occasions Ceylon H.M.I. Ships INDUS, HINDUSTAN, SUTLEJ. (c) Ceylon focal area. For escort through this area FALMOUTH, SONAVARTI, 3 corvettes. (d) Port T. For escort of convoys and other units approaching and leaving Port T 2 corvettes. (C. in C.E.F. 1415Z/27 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B., F.O.C. R.I.N., Abdacom, (R) C.C.C.F. R.A. Malaya, N.O.I.C. Rangoon, Admty.) /Operation ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.- Contd.

Operation "Opponent". My 1401/26 (1001? intended). Bad weather delayed programme. First batch arrived Batavia 0950Z/27. Operation continuing tomorrow. (C. in C. E.F., 1721Z/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

THORDIS. My 2215A/24. Report arrival THORDIS immediately. (D.T.D. 2057A/27 to N.C.S.O. Colombo). If THORDIS arrives report immediately and load kerosene destination Suez. (D.T.D. 2058A/27 to N.C.S.O. Bahrein (R) C. in C. E.I.)

Portuguese Ships for Timor. Portuguese ship JOAO BELO carrying reinforcements for Timor left Lorenzo Marques on 26/1 escorted by sloop GONCALOS VELHO. Ships may touch at further Mozambique port. 2. Route follows Mozambique coast to Northward, through 3° S. 55° 30' E., along meridian of 3° S. to 90° E. thence passing Southward of the Sunda Isles to Dilli. 3. S. of A. is 8 knots. (D.O.D. (F) 2358A/27 to C. in C. E.I. C. in C. E.F., Abdafloat).

China.

Malaya Air Report. Op. Summ. up to 1039/26. 12 Vildebeests 3 Albatrosses, and one Shark? attacked Muar and Batu Pahat. At Muar direct hits on 600 ton M.V. and centre of town severely damaged. 7 Vildebeests attacked Batu Pahat town with success. 2 Hudsons east coast R/C at 0745 local time sighted 2 cruisers Kako class and 12 small destroyers or gunboats and 2 M/V about 10,000 tons at 2° 50' N. 103° 47' E. Ships from 2 to 20 miles from shore apparently making for Endau. 2 or 3 barges coming from shore. Further successful attacks on Muar and Batu Pahat by 3 Albatrosses and 11 Vildebeests. Further Hudson sighting report 3 cruisers and 2 destroyers, 04° 48' N. 105° 32' E. steering 160° to 170° at 0921 hours local time. Second sighting on return track at 1015 hours local time same force at 04° 08' N. 105° 33' E. Catalina despatched to shadow till dusk. Air raid 27 bombers on Tengah aerodrome unserviceable. A few casualties 1 enemy fighter damaged by 1 of 8 Hurricanes, bombers not intercepted. 9 Hudsons 12 Vildebeests escorted by 15 Buffaloes and 8 Hurricanes to Endau attack enemy convoy. Bombers met great interference from large number enemy fighters. Results show 1 direct hit. 8,000 ton M.V. 2 direct hits 9,000 ton M.V. 1 direct hit cruiser. 2 M.V., 2 cruisers afterwards reported moving away. (A.H.Q. F.E., 0104/27, 0307/27).

/Burma....

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Burma Coast, Personal for Gen. Wavell from 1st Sea Lord.
 Appreciation. A. It seems likely Japanese will try and repeat the tactics they have used down west Malayan coast in Burma and try to outflank our positions by successive seaborne moves northwards from Tavoy.

B. Problem has been examined by Admiralty and following are conclusions:- (i) Coast from Tavoy to Moulmein is suitable for such operations. (ii) No reason to suppose that Japanese have not got sufficient craft. (iii) Surface escort improbable while Singapore holds out. Moves likely to be made in short hops under air cover by day. (iv) Two or three destroyers working from Moulmein could deal effectively with coast south of Moulmein. North of Moulmein and between latter and Rangoon entrance to Sittang River presents obstacle to use of destroyers. Approach to Rangoon denied by coast defence guns but latter could be passed by use of Bassein creek. (v) In view of shortage of destroyers best way of dealing with problem considered to be formation of local organisations of armed patrol craft at Moulmein, Rangoon and on Irrawaddy above Henzada. Organisation at Moulmein would also have to cover coast from Moulmein to Tavoy possibly by putting craft up the rivers to provide concealment from air.

C. Burma R.N.V.R. might provide useful nucleus of personnel. C. in C. E.F., and F.O.C.R.I.N. may also be able to help. (1st Sea Lord, 0212/27 to Abdacom (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. R.A.Malaya, B.A.D. Washington, N.O.I.C. Rangoon).

Malaya Situation report No. 48. 1630 hours G.M.T./26.
 Landing at East. Enemy estimated 2 Bns. landed Endau this
 Endau. morning. Landing supported by 2 cruisers, several destroyers or gun boats, possible also aircraft carrier. During afternoon R.A.F. engaged this force against strong air opposition and hit warships and transports. Considerable air losses both sides. Singapore. Tengah aerodrome severely bombed by 27 aircraft this morning and temporarily unserviceable.

(Last Part). Two Hudsons on East Coast R/C sighted two Kako class cruisers, 11 or 12 destroyers or gunboats, 2 10,000 ton motor vessels, and small craft off Endau 0745 hours 26/1. Force had land based fighter cover. Following attacks subsequently carried out on this force, (as A.H.Q. F.E., 0104, 0307). One Hudson reports sighting aircraft carrier south side of Pulau Sribuat but treat with reserve. 4 Hudsons on N.E. seaward reconnaissance sighted 1 Natosi class 2 Nachi class cruisers 2 destroyers 1015 hours 26th January N.W. of (?A)nambas Islands. This force shadowed from 1500 hours by Catalina. No report yet received. (Adv. H.Q., Malaya, 0229/27).

Abdacom Information No.3 to 1200Z/26.
 Situation 1. Dutch submarine K.18 reported having made
 Report. successful attacks on cruiser and destroyer Macassar Strait. Damaged by depth charges unable submerge proceeding base own steam.

2. Yesterday air attacks made on Samarinda II by total 81 aircraft, on Halong (Ambon) by 9, on Namlea by 24. At Samarinda direct hit on operations room severed all communications runway hit but three-quarters serviceable. No damage to our aircraft. Bombers away attacking convoy as reported para. 1 (D) in Information.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Abdacom
Situation
Report.
(contd.)

2. At Halong damage to buildings and large fire started.
3. Today attacks were made by enemy fighters on aerodromes at Parepare, Macassar, Bima, Koepang, Dilli, Ambon, Namlea. Damage so far reported. Bima petrol depot destroyed, Namlea 1 Hudson and

Ambon 3 Hudsons destroyed.

4. B.17 reported missing para. 1 (C). Information 2 now safe. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0231/27 to W.O. for C.O.S. etc.)

Burma Report.

Situation Report. 1200 G.M.T/26. Mergui. Evacuation now complete for approx. 63 troops due Rangoon Jan. 27 by motor launch. Moulmein. No land activity or contact reported.
(G.O.C., Burma, 0350/27 to W.O.)

HARPA
mined.

HARPA loaded aviation Singapore to Batavia mined and on fire main Singapore Strait 27/1.
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 0411Z/27, 0641Z/28).

Requisitioning
of Merchant
Ships.

U.S. representatives have approached C.Z.M. and me with request to charter or buy small merchant ships for transporting war material to Luzon. C.Z.M. states he has few requisitioned ships of any flag in his ports.

- (ii) Following ships may be involved.
- (iii) Ships are mostly loaded with sugar for India and Middle East. U.S. representatives stressed urgency.
- (iv) Request very early decision as to whether these ships should be made available if U.S. representatives can make proposition sufficiently attractive to local representatives of ('ships') owners and to crews. (C.C.C.F., 0513Z/27 to Admty.)

VAMPIRE,
THANET
action.

VAMPIRE and THANET operating off Endau last night encountered enemy cruiser and 3 destroyers. In running fight 1 enemy destroyer sunk, 1 damaged, THANET sunk, VAMPIRE no casualties no damage. Survivors of THANET would reach coast close South

of Endau river which is in enemy (?) coastal area.

(R.A. Malaya, 0725Z/27 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., Abdafloat, A.C.N.B.) *[See also 1421Z/27] next page 7/1796*

R.A. Malaya's 0725Z/27. Proposed to issue following communique at 0800 B.S.T./29 and propose simultaneous release in Australia. Do you concur? (D.P.D., Approved 1st Lord, 2009A/27 to A.C.N.B. (R) Abdafloat).

DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD,
EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

Your 0309/10. Request immediate information whether DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and EMPRESS OF JAPAN will be proceeding to U.K. via Australia.
(R.A. Malaya, 0801Z/27 to D. of S.T.) Reply 0321A/29

/GLENARTNEY ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

GLENARTNEY. Your 1650/26 concurred. Undesirable GLENARTNEY to come into Singapore. Request gas masks and steel helmets may be unloaded and sent to Singapore. (N.O.I.C.Malaya, 1000Z/27 to Abdafloat).

BRITISH JUDGE. My 0905Z/23. I have used about 2000 tons of diesel fuel ex BRITISH JUDGE and have now arranged for remainder of cargo to be discharged into diesel tank at (? Cochin) for use of C Z M. Tanker will be sent to Pladjoe as early as possible to refill and ordered forward by first opportunity to Fremantle. (F.O. Java, 1046Z/27 to Admty.)

Air Report. Intelligence summary No.66 period 0800 hrs. Jan. 26 to 0800 Jan. 27. (1) at 0921/26/1, 2 Hudsons sighted 2 cruisers, 12 destroyers, 2 10,000 ton transports barges and small craft off Endau seen to be carrying out landing operations under fighter cover. Hudsons damaged 1 Navy. Fighters.
(2) Above shipping attacked in 2 raids by total of 15 Hudsons, (21?) Vildebeests, 19 Buffaloes, 16 Hurricanes, and 3 Albacores. 12 direct hits registered on the 2 transports, 1 on cruiser, and 1 on enemy stores already landed. Barges and landing craft machine gunned. Heavy fighter and A.A. opposition and we destroyed 12 enemy fighters certain 2 probables 2 damaged. Our losses 11 Vildebeests 2 Albacores 1 Hurricane and 2 Hudsons crashed near Naval Base on return.
(3) Singapore raided by 27 heavy bombers with fighter cover. Hurricanes intercepted and damaged 1 fighter. Bombs dropped on Tengah aerodrome causing some damage and a few casualties. Further attack made at 2145 hours by single aircraft thought to be a JU.88 which flew in with navigation lights on and dropped bombs at Seletar. Damage slight but 4 B.O.R's killed and 6 wounded.
(5) On 25/1 Catalina unsuccessfully attacked by 4 Navy 96 T.B. North of Anamba Islands. Enemy aircraft presumably operated from aircraft carrier.
(6) Hudsons sighted 3 cruisers and 2 destroyers N.W. of Anamba Islands at 1015 hours 26/1. Shadowed by Catalina.
(A.H.Q., F.E., 1111/27)

Philippines Situation. Combined Chiefs of Staff regret that it is impracticable, from a naval viewpoint, to carry out the reinforcing operations for Mindanao in the manner suggested in para. 8 your number 00100 17/1 (1225A/18). They are hopeful that blockade running operations already initiated from Australia and the N.E.I. will succeed in delivering small arms ammunition to defending forces on that Island. (Combined Chiefs of Staff D.B.A., 1155R/27 to Abdacom, Batavia).

Malaya Situation. Estimate 2 battalions landed Endau 26th. Own aircraft claim 12 hits on transport, one on cruiser, one on stores already landed. We destroyed 12 fighters plus probables but lost 16 aircraft.
VAMPIRE, THANET carried out night attack and (?met) one cruiser 3 destroyers. One enemy ship damaged, one sunk. THANET sunk, no /chance ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Malaya
Situation.
(contd.)

chance of picking up survivors. VAMPIRE no damage. Cruiser (?reported) as Japanese Kako class. Scale of air attack Singapore Island today probably 60 (?reported) direct on aerodrome and Singapore town. These bombers still come from Saigon area.

One Japanese Cruiser NATORI, 2 Japanese Cruisers Nachi class, 2 destroyers, sighted N.W. of Anamba Island 26th. D/F shows moving South of (corrupt group) (?arrived) from Camranhid. Bay area night 26/27. (R.A. Malaya, 1421Z/27 to C. in C. E.F.)

See p. 794

U.S. action
with Convoy.

Request position in which U.S. surface craft attack on convoy took place and your appreciation of convoy's objective.
(D.N.I., 1616/27 to Abdafloat).

U.S.
Dispositions.

My 2022A/20. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Pacific Fleet. Battleship MISSISSIPPI conveying towards Honolulu, NEW MEXICO at San Francisco, IDAHO en route San Francisco from Balboa.

Following changes in U.S. Asiatic Fleet, 6" cruiser*BOISE at Tjilatjap for repairs. Submarine S.36 grounded lost.
(D.O.D.(F) 1837A/27 to C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

** See also p 801*

Moulmein,
Mergui.

In preparation for future operations the military authorities have taken over control of the city of Moulmein, posts and telegraphs and the A.R.P. organisation are still functioning under the civil defence services. Mergui, at which place we maintain a small garrison has been evacuated. All stores and equipment were brought away by the troops and all civil officials and personnel have been withdrawn. This operation which has been proceeding over the last week has not been interfered with in any way by the enemy.
(G.O.C., Burma, 2200/27 to C. in C. S.W. Pacific, (R) W.O.)

Malaya
Oil Stocks.

Your 0801/25. Reply.
(D.T.D., 2257A/27 to R.A. Malaya).

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B. D/F Bearing at 1810Z/26 indicates enemy S/M in vicinity of 052° N. 045° W. unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0032Z/27 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A. & W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C. F.O. N.F.)

U/B. My 0935Z/26. 0936Z/26. Position (A) should read 45.30 N. 49° W. at 0013A/26. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0033Z/27.) to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty. C. in C. A. & W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

NYHOLT (torpedoed 17/1.) ST. CLAIR arriving Halifax 1200Z/27 with 21 survivors of Norwegian NYHOLT torpedoed 17/1 in 045° 46' N. 054° 18' W. Picked up 26/1. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0050Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

MARIPOSA. Following received addressed Admiral, Plymouth, Intercept 0037 G.M.T. De VCE. SSSS MARIPOSA Position 42° 52' N. 51° 24' W., engaging submarine 0030/27. Not re-broadcast. (Halifax W/T 0058Z/27 C.C.O. Plymouth 0138/27 to Admty.)

Force for Anzac Area. Your 1923R/25. Concur, but suggest all 4 R.A.N. destroyers should operate in Anzac area and the two U.S.A. destroyers should proceed to the Abda area. We do not, however, hold out for this unless A.C.N.B. informs you to the contrary. 1st S.L. 0133A/27 to B.A.D.

VASSILIOS A. POLEMIS. (torpedoed 22/1). 12 survivors arrived Halifax in LEONIDAS N. CONDYLOS from Greek VASSILIOS A. POLEMIS torpedoed at 1930Z/22 in 042° 32' N. 052° 38' W, 21 crew members not accounted for. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0350Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

CIRCASSIA. Your 1232P/25 E.T.A. position C 0600Z/3. (CIRCASSIA 0600P/27. to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B's. D/F bearing at 0241Z/27 indicate enemy S/M in the vicinity of 043° N. 052° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0738Z/27 to Brit. Warships Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav. C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.)
D/F bearings at 0314Z/27 indicates enemy submarines within 100 miles of 042° N. 065° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0934Z/27 to Brit. Warships Area 7 A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F.)

MARON. Your 1658A/25 MARON delayed at Bermuda with defects. Intend to sail her for Western
/patrol ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.MARON
contd.patrol area N.46 on 1/2.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0922P/27 to S.O.W.P.)Commodore,
West Indies.

In view of future temporary employment of DESPATCH on Atlantic Station and fact that remainder of West Indies Squadron is being operated by U.S. Navy it is considered that appointment of Commodore, West Indies, should lapse. If approved I propose to direct Cdre. Douglas-Pennant to strike his broad pendant and resume rank of Captain on date of leaving A.W.I. Station limits.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0944P/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
Approved (Naval Sec. 2249A/28.)

OCEANICA.

German Ship 166 commissioning at Punta Arenas Costa Rica awaiting tow to American Port for reconditioning. Owners Compania Oceanica Ltd. Panama. Flag Costa Rican. Name OCEANICA.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1113R/27 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Capt. O/S Colombo.)

Washops.47.

(1) Philippine Is. - Luzon. U.S. Forces, under cover of dark, have withdrawn to their final defensive position. It is probable that the new line of resistance runs generally along the line Pilar (Balangar) - Mona Passage Samat - Bagac.
(ii) N.E.I. Further reports of allied attack against Japanese convoy in Macassar Strait have been received. In addition to Japanese losses already reported, U.S. Submarine STURGEON torpedoed and probably sank a heavy cruiser or aircraft carrier; Dutch submarine K.18 sank a Japanese destroyer and scored a torpedo hit on a cruiser, result unknown; Dutch bomber sank one transport and scored direct hit on a destroyer and another transport; U.S. Army bomber sank a large transport and scored a direct hit on a cruiser. Dutch submarine K.18 was damaged by enemy depth charge. Japanese landed Balik Papan during the night 23/24/1. Force is estimated to be one division. Aerodrome is believed still to be in our hands. Japanese Force at Kendari is estimated to be one brigade. At present Japanese occupy following points; Tambolan Islands, Kuching Miri, Sandakan, Tarakan, Balik Papan, Pater Noster Island, Minahassa, Tahoena Island and Kendari. On 24/1 Japanese carried out minor air attack on Namlea, Lawoci, Sorong and Manokwari, in addition to heavy attack on Samarinda and Ambon, previously reported. On 25/1 Koepang was bombed. Air R/C revealed presence of numerous warships and transports in Celebes - Halma Hera Area. (iii) Marshall Is. R/C shows that A/A and A/S patrols are being maintained at all important points. (J.S.M. Washington 1147R/27 to Admty. etc.)

U/B's.

D/F Bearing at 0453Z/27 indicates enemy submarine within 50 miles of 037° N. 052° W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1152Z/27 to Brit. Warships Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanv. C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F.)

D/F Bearings indicates enemy Submarines in the vicinity of 037° N. 075° 30' W. at 0851A/27. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1215Z/27 to Brit. Warships in Area 7, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanv, C.O.A.C. F.C.N.F.)

/D/F ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- U/B's. D/F bearings indicate German unit probably
contd. surface ships approx. position 48°N.40' - 30' W.
at 0906GCT/27.
(Opnav 1445Z/27 to Cinclant, CTF 4.. CTF 7.4 Admty.
N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)
- D/F bearing at 0906Z/27 indicates enemy unit in vicinity 045°
N. 055° W. Unreliable.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1450Z/27 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty.
C. in C. A.W.I. Opnav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)
- Your 1445Z/27. German unit transmitting at 0906/27 G.M.T.
was almost certainly a U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 2255Z/27 to Opnav.)
- ST. LAURENT. My P. C. and S. 052° 31' N. 027° 48' W. 085°
6½ knots. Will be 14 hours early at R/V.
Weather report.
(ST. LAURENT 1300Z/27 to C.N.O. (U.S.).)
- SURCOUF. Completion F.F.S. SURCOUF delayed your 1043P/26.
Probable sailing date now Saturday 31/1.
(C.O.A.C. 1415Z/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- Call Signs. Your 1221R/21. Confirmatory S. order is being
amended accordingly.
D.S.D. 1504A/27 to B.A.D.)
- AQUITANIA. My 2047/26. AQUITANIA, designated for service
between San Francisco and Honolulu, will be
ready to leave Sydney about 6/2 for San Francisco.
Request you report whether arrangements can be
made for her to fuel at Honolulu en route.
D.O.D.(F) 1539A/27 to B.A.D.
- Dispositions. At 2000 G.M.T./27 S.C. 66 BURNHAM, PICTOU,
EYEBRIGHT, ALGOMA, SUMMERSIDE, SHAWINIGAN,
DRUMHELLER, 048° 25' N. 051° 20' W. (? 029°)
6.2, alter in 050° 00' W. to 070°. H.X. 172 (c), PAS, LUNENBURG,
RED DEER, CHEDABUCTO, 045° 40' N. 058° 45' W. 068° 8.7, alter
in 057° 12' W. to 082° R/V with Task Unit 4.1.8 at 1430Z/28.
Coastal convoy, NASTURTIUM, sailed St. John's N.F., A.M./27 to
Sydney (C.B.) 7. Coastal convoy, LOUISBURG sailed St. Pierre
1030Z/27 to St. John's N.F.7. GANANOQUE, QUINTE E.T.A. Halifax
0100Z/28 from Eastward. ANNAPOLIS, DUNVEGAN (?2) tugs due
Halifax p.m./27 from Eastward. FREDERICTON patrol vicinity of
043° 15' N. 062° 10' W. MIDLAND 041° 30' N. 061° 30' W.
en route for Halifax. U.S.S. SANTEE 045° 40' N. 056° 15' W.
251° 16. HIBISCUS 046° 40' N. 056° 00' W. 253° 11,
coastwise to Cape Sable.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1615Z/27 to N.A.E.F.)
- ARROWHEAD, Will be ready to sail for Halifax P.M./30.
SNOWBERRY. Request route instructions.
(B.A.R.M. 1732R/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/U/B ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- U/B,
Bermuda. There is a possibility that U-Boat is approaching Bermuda from West. A/S yacht SUMAR will leave Narrows at daylight to meet you.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1833P/27 to PANDORA.)
- HALO. Received 1432 G.M.T. S S S S about 18 miles North Diamond Shoals, HALO, U.S. attacked by Submarine. D.E.W.S.C. (Tuckerton New Jersey Radio.) (Halifax 1455Z/27 to Admty.)
- PRUDENT,
defect. My 2220Z/24. PRUDENT arrived St. John's N.F. 2123Z/26.
(F.O.N.F. 1502Z/27 to Admiralty for C.C.R.T.)
- PARTHIAN. B.A.R.M.'s 1736R/26. PARTHIAN should rejoin First Flotilla carrying out working up Patrol from Gibraltar. A call at Halifax is preferred owing to distance saved.
(F.O.S. 1536A/27 to Admty.)
- U/B. D/F bearings at 0934Z place enemy submarine within 100 miles of 036° N. 052° W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1601Z/27 to British Warships in Area A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)
- Convoy
N.A.3. My 1710/25. Urgently request names of ships for N.A. 3 and when they may be expected Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1608Z/27 to D. of S.T.)
- BURWELL. BURWELL sustained sea damage to Bridge including electrics and foreward 4" gun shield. Repairs in hand at Boston. Preliminary estimate is at least a week from today.
(B.A.R.M. 1614R/27 to N.S.H.Q. Admty.)
- U/B. D/F bearings at 11(?)Z place enemy submarines 046° N. 051° W. unreliable.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1715Z/27. to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)
- U/B attacked
by A/C. Aircraft attacked Subs. in 46°N 51° - 02' W. at 1230 G.C.T./?26.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1733Z/27 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.)
- SAN ELETRO,
?SAN PIETRO. Meter. Casablanca 20/1 A.2. SAN ELETRO, Italian, was specially berthed 13/1 by order of German Commissioner to permit prompt sailing.
N.I.D. Comment. This probably refers to Italian SAN PEITRO, 5199 tons, which was first reported at Casablanca on 29/10/1941. (B.A.D. Washington 1807R/27.)

O.N.61.

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War Diary.27.1.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

O.N.61. O.N.61 Task Unit 4.1.3 designated, NIBLACK, (Senior) TARBELL, OVERTON, and ALEXANDER HAMILTON. (Opnav. 2201/27 to Admty.)

Curacao, A/S Protection. S.B.N.O. Curacao 1513QR/26. In view of resultant delay in loading suggest these berths should not be discontinued unless U-Boat menace reaches Caribbean Sea. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2212P/27 to Admty.)

Australia.

Anzac Force, Composition. Chiefs of Staff concur in proposals contained in your 1923R/25 with exception of allocation of 8 A/S local defence vessels to Anzac forces, observing that the 3 sloops have been allotted to Abda and the 2 Australian destroyers will not be available before end of April. Our A/S force therefore will amount to only 6 A.M.S. and 6 auxiliaries. These are essential for protection of coastal shipping and keeping focal areas round important ports clear of submarines. One of our 8-inch cruisers has stripped an L P turbine and will be out of action for one to two months, during which time one of the 6-inch cruisers allotted to Abda area will be retained in Anzac area. While concurring in scheme, we strongly suggest consideration be given to stationing of submarines in this area. (A.C.N.B. 0253Z/27 to B.A.D. Admty. N.Z.N.B.) Your 1923R/25 N.Z. Govt. welcome arrangements under revised agreement for the Anzac Area. (ii) Ref. para. 2. Request confirmation that strategic direction will be exercised by C. in C. U.S. Fleet and not C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet as previously proposed. N.Z. Govt. wish to nominate a F.O. to assist American F.O. (iii) Ref. para. 3. All facilities available in N.Z. will be at the disposal of Anzac squadron. (iv) Ref. para. 7. N.Z.N.B. concur that arrangements should be put into force as soon as possible. (N.Z.N.B. 1227M/27 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. A.C.N.B.)

BOISE U.S.Cruiser. Abdafloat 2330/21. Arrangements could be made at Sydney. Request early decision. (A.C.N.B. 0619Z/27 to Abdafloat, C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. N.O.C.S.) *See p 796*

Enemy Intelligence. Serial number 7. Converted Carrier reported off Djaul Island (near Kavieng) 26/1. 2 Submarines sighted from Anir Island 26/1 proceeding north. Enemy air R/C Wekar (New Guinea mainland) and Tulagi 26/1. (A.C.N.B. 0748Z/27 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.I. etc.)

/WARREGO ...

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATION.Australia - contd.WARREGO,
SWAN.

WARREGO and SWAN are to prepare to sail to destination ordered by Abdafloat. Report date they will be ready to proceed.
(A.C.N.B. 0819Z/27 to D.N.O. Northern Territory (Port Darwin) (R) Abdafloat, F.O.J. N.O.I.C. Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria, Admty. N.O.I.C. Sydney, (N.S.W.) F.O.C. Australian Sqdn.)

Your 0819/27 WARREGO is cleaning boilers which are 200 hours overdue. She is due to complete 31/1 and is now at 4 hours notice. SWAN is ready to proceed.
(D.N.O. N. Territory 1246Z/?27 to A.C.N.B.)

Anzac Area,
Control.

Following for J.S.M. from C.O.S. No.(W) 18.
Ref. B.A.D. Washington 1923R/25 and First Sea Lord's telegram to Adml. Little 0133/27.

Chiefs of Staff have examined question of high direction and control in Anzac area in the light of Cabinet discussion last night and of following extract from a telegram from the Prime Minister of New Zealand commenting on the Anzac arrangements. "We note that the proposals are purely naval and we feel it desirable to point out that in our opinion the problem is not solely naval and that, as in the case of Abda area, some form of unified control - land, sea and air - in the Anzac area might well be established with American, British, Australian and New Zealand association." 2. Naval aspects of B.A.D. Washington 1923R/25 remain unaltered and you should act on First Sea Lord's telegram but we are about to submit our views to Prime Minister on Mr. Fraser's comments referred to above, with which we are disposed to agree. Above is for your personal information and should not be mentioned to U.S. Chiefs of Staff. (1st S.L. 1444A/27 to B.A.D.)

(i) Combined Chiefs of Staff have today considered the several replies to proposals for Anzac area contained in B.A.D.'s 1923R/25. (ii) U.S. Admiral in Command Anzac forces will be responsible for protection of coastwise shipping in area which he will deal with through an appropriate subordinate, preferably Australian. He will co-operate with Naval Board, Melbourne, and Naval Board, Wellington, in controlling shipping. In consequence Combined Chiefs of Staff consider this allocation of vessels to Anzac area proposed in B.A.D.'s 1923R/25 should stand. (iii) To clarify the situation, Combined Chiefs of Staff suggest following 2 amendments to proposed agreement in B.A.D.'s 1923R/25. Para. 4, add following sentence: "The disposal of additions to Dominions Naval Forces will be decided by agreement at appropriate time". Para. 5 amend "Second task" to read - "Second, protect shipping including coastwise shipping and safe-guard convoys in Anzac area by escort patrols and/or covering operations". (iv) Any delay in availability of vessels allocated to Abda area will have an unfavourable effect on protection of North Western Australia. Consequently it is the considered opinion of C. in C. of U.S. Fleet that PERTH would be of greater value to common cause in Abda area rather than the Anzac area. Combined Chiefs of Staff concur in this opinion and consider that PERTH should not be retained in Anzac area until CANBERRA can be repaired. (v) Situation in Anzac area impels the Combined Chiefs of Staff to urge that this agreement be adopted in order that implementation may be expedited. (Combined Chiefs of Staff 2157R/27 to Admty. for British Chiefs of Staff, Naval Board Wellington, Naval Board Melbourne.)

/Squadron ...

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia - contd.

Squadron
Movements.

AUSTRALIA with LEANDER, ADELAIDE and PERTH in company left Sydney 0113Z/27 for R/V with U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX.
(A.C.N.B. 1516Z/27 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. C. in C. China, R.A. Malaya, C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.O. Wellington, ACHILLES U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX Repeated F.O. Aus. Sqdn.)

MESSAGE

1700/27 JANUARY

MOST SECRET

From High Commissioner (Sir H. Lunn) (Western Pacific) Date 27.1.42. Recd. 1420.
CIPHER.

Addressed. Secretary of State for the Colonies.

*Solomon Islands
evacuation.*

No. 41. Secret.

Addressed to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia No. 17.

Repeated to the S. of S.

My telegrams Nos. 33 and 14.

The following telegram has been received from the Resident Commissioner, British Solomon Islands Protectorate. Begins.

No. 41.

In view of enemy occupation of Kieta and proximity of Shortland thereto, have instructed District Officer to close the station and proceed to Gizo together with all Europeans in the area. He will destroy such stores as might be of use to the enemy before leaving. Am concentrating Europeans of Gizo and Shortland districts at Batuna. District Officer remains at Gizo for the time being to maintain communications.

2. Following telegram has been sent to the Resident Commissioner. Begins.

No. 50.

Your telegram No. 41, action approved. Telegraph as soon as possible when concentration at Batuna will be completed and number of Europeans. Confirm that there is suitable alighting area for flying boats at Batuna familiar to R.A.A.F.

See my telegram No. 37, denial of resources to the enemy. Necessary action will no doubt be taken before evacuation. Suggest that all small vessels capable of making voyage should attempt to reach Papua if risk not considered too great and crew willing. Otherwise such vessels should be suitably dealt with as in my telegram No. 37. Ends.

- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.

- 1700/27
- Received in War Reg. at 1838/31.
- Advance Copy Sent . . . D.C., D.O.D. (F) & D.D.I.C.
- D.N.A.D.
- D.N.I. (7) (& for A.E. & D.N.L.O.)
- Hd. of M. (2)
- D.B.I.C. (2)
- D.P.D. Admiral,
- D.O.D. (H)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.S.D. Somerville.
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.A/S.W. Admiral Bellairs.
- DO.D. (F)
- I.P. (2)
- Admiral Bailey.
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- W.D.
- E.P.S.
- D.C. (2)

War Diary.

27.1.1942.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1404A/27, 1411A/27.)

War Diary.

28.1.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 9 rounds between 1955 and 2005 during the passage of C.W.66. All shells fell in the sea and no damage or casualties are reported.

The weather caused the postponement today of sailing several convoys.

British Air Operations.

22 aircraft attacked Brest last night and 7 Boulogne.

Enemy Air Operations.

Long range bombers and R/C type aircraft operating from Norway patrolled sea areas off the northern Norwegian coast and west of the Shetlands.

Mediterranean.

4 enemy aircraft attacked Malta for 8½ hours last night. There were several air attacks today; damage was caused at Hal Far.

War Diary.28.1.1942.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

An enemy submarine has appeared in the Bay of Bengal; Paddle steamer IDAR was reported gunned at 0547 in 10° N. 80° E. (in Palk Strait, between Ceylon and India)

ABDIEL completed her minelaying operation today west of the Andaman Islands.

China.

A hostile submarine was reported entering Unimak Pass, Aleutian Islands and proceeding E.S.E. 1330 P.S.T. today. It is believed to be on R/C duty.

Burma.

Blenheims successfully attacked Bangkok docks last night. About 30 enemy fighters came over Rangoon at 1230 local time, but several were brought down by A.V.G. aircraft.

Malaya.

Convoy S.S.1 has arrived at Singapore safely, with the exception of S.S. TAI SANG sunk in a minefield off Singapore on 24/1. (q.v.) 27 heavy bombers attacked Singapore this morning and there were some evening raids; no naval or R.A.F. damage was caused. An air striking force attacked Kuantan Aerodrome last night. A mild type of tear gas was used by the Japanese troops in Malaya today, *though apparently not in a set gas attack.*

N.E.I. & Borneo.

U.S. Army bombers today attacked the enemy ship concentration at Balik Papan, straddling one cruiser, sinking one Transport and setting another Transport on fire.

The enemy occupied Mampawa (45 miles south of Sinkawang) and effected landing at Buton (S.S.E. of Celebes) today. Enemy forces have also landed in West Borneo, nearer the Sarawak frontier, and our troops have been compelled to withdraw.

Enemy aircraft attacked Samarinda today, destroying 2 Dutch fighters on the ground.

War Diary.

28.1.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

S.S. OLNEY reported at 1153 G.M.T. being chased by a submarine near Winter Quarter Gas Buoy, 50 miles S.S.E. of Delaware Bay.

S.S. BRITISH CORPORAL reported being chased by a submarine at 1417 G.M.T. in 35° 52' N. 58° 3' W. At 1455 the U/B surfaced and S.S. fired 2 rounds of 4" which fell near. The U/B dived and was not sighted again.

Diversified approach of shipping to Halifax is to be continued for the present as C.O.A.C. Halifax has insufficient ships to provide any effective ~~the~~ surface protection for shipping approaching Halifax.

Australia & New Zealand.

A Japanese destroyer has landed troops on Rossel Island (Louisiade Archipelago).

U.S. Transport ^XROYAL T. FRANK was sunk by an enemy submarine 30 miles north of Hawaii today.

X Not identified

There were three air raids on Manus Island this morning and on Salamoa (S.E. New Guinea) today.

Japanese warships shelled Tabar Island today.

War Diary.

28.1.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Unescorted
S/M's.

Have you any objection to submarines sailing between the Clyde and Norwegian Coast proceeding unescorted on the surface from the vicinity of Cape Wrath passing West of Shetlands. Some 60 miles would be saved in passage and escort commitments would also be reduced.
(F.O.S., 1158A/28 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Irish Sea
Situation
Report.

Commencing 4/2 F.O.I.C. Milford Haven will originate a daily situation report covering the Irish Sea and St. Georges Channel between 50° 30' N. and 52° 30' N. This report will be transmitted and addressed as follows.
(C. in C. W.A., 1239A/28).

Wording of
Signals.

My 1239A/28. Attention is invited to A.G.M. 52A/7th May 1941, para. 3 (D). (C. in C. W.A., 1243A/28 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Norwegian
M.F.V's.

My 2320A/23/12 and your 1016N/25/12. Request completion date of 5 Norwegian M.F.V's and names of Icelandic vessels substituted.
(D.S.V.P., 2134A/28 to A.C.I.C.)

Movements.

P.42.

My 1445A/27. Sailed P.42 escorted by CUTTY SARK. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 0953A/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). You may meet P.42 escorted by CUTTY SARK northbound in North Channel during dark hours tonight.
(C. in C. W.A., 1552A/28 to COMMANDANT DUBOC).

CLEOPATRA.

Proceed as necessary to arrive Clyde a.m. 31st in accordance with Admty. 1601A/24.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1010A/28 to CLEOPATRA).

DUKE OF YORK. DUKE OF YORK is to sail from Clyde for Scapa about noon 29th. (ii) A/S escort BLYSKAWICA from Clyde, HARVESTER from Liverpool. VERITY from Londonderry.

(iv) R/V for escort to be arranged by N.O.I.C. Greenock.
(v) On completion VERITY to Liverpool, BLYSKAWICA to Clyde, HARVESTER to Dundee to refit. (C. in C. W.A., 1031A/28).
My 1031A/28th. (1) Cancel para. (2) and substitute: A/S escort. HARVESTER from Clyde, VERITY, LAUDERDALE from Londonderry (2) para. 5. For BLYSKAWICA to Clyde substitute LAUDERDALE to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 1801A/28).
Intend sailing DUKE OF YORK escorted by HARVESTER passing Clyde boom 1200/29 to R/V VERITY and LAUDERDALE from Londonderry at Clyde number 7 channel buoy. Thence to Scapa.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2244A/28).

War Diary.

28.1.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - contd.

- H.34. At 1800/29 intend to sail H.34 escorted by LADY SHAHRAZAD from Rothesay via Sounds of Islay and Mull to arrive Tobermory 1600/30. S. of A. $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots. F.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. (Capt. S.7, 1049A/28). *Cancelled 29/1 - 30 p. 835*
- B P T 31. N.O.I.C.Dundee's 1012/13. ^{HT. N.W.D.} ATTENTIF sailed.
B P T 22. (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 1122/28 to R.N.O. Montrose).
- TIGRIS. (1) Intend sailing TIGRIS escorted by HUGH WALPOLE at 1000/30 via Pentland Firth for 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles. E.T.A. 1530A/1. (2) Thence HUGH WALPOLE to Stornoway. (3) Thence TIGRIS to patrol as in my 1155A/29. (4) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. (Capt. S.3., 1135A/28).
- LONDON. My 1729/26 and your 1714/27. S.A.Escort will not be provided as adequate tests of gear can be made before leaving Harbour. LONDON cannot be treated differently from any other newly fitted ship. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1251/28 to LONDON).
- KENYA. Hvalfjord arrival KENYA 1130A. (A.C.I.C., 1431A/28).
- AUSONIA,
RANPURA. A.M. 2313A/24. SHERWOOD is returning to Londonderry with condenser trouble, leaving GARLAND only in company with AUSONIA and RANPURA. (D.O.D.H. 1106A/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.) Your 1050A/27. Admiralty has asked C.O.A.C. to provide escort if available. (C. in C. W.A., 1455A/28 to AUSONIA).
- TALISMAN. F.O.S. 2306A/24. (1) From position (C) proceed through 280° Bishop Rock 4 miles to R/V with MAN-O-WAR in 250° Trevoise Head 10 miles at 0845A/30 for onward passage to Holyloch. (Capt. S.3, 1531A/28 to TALISMAN).
- CUMBERLAND. CUMBERLAND is to sail from Hvalfjord at 1600N/29 and proceed to Scapa. (2) R.A.D. is requested to sail CUMBERLAND for Sheerness on 2/2. (C. in C. H.F., 1809A/28).
A.M. 1614A/28. It would be convenient for ARETHUSA to sail in company with CUMBERLAND on 2/2.
If this is not practicable request early information proposing date of arrival (C. in C. Nore, 2230A/28 to A.C.O.S.)
- PUNJABI. ^{HT. N.W.D.} Cancel my 1255/28. Intend to sail PUNJABI for Scapa at 0800/30th. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1822/28).

/MELVILLE ...

War Diary.28.1.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

MELVILLE. U.S. Naval Authorities state U.S.S. MELVILLE, destroyer repair ship, now with H X 171, is to be diverted to Londonderry in order to permit the early establishment of repair facilities and personnel.
2. Request you will route this ship to Londonderry and provide a berth in order that personnel and facilities may be disembarked.
3. Speed of MELVILLE is about 12 knots.
(D.O.D. H. 1945A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

2 Transports. 2 transports escorted by CHIDDINGFOLD leaving Lerwick 0500A/29 Southbound.
(Capt. S.9. 2033A/28 to P.37).

Operations.

Operation E M. Proceed passing Switha 2000 today to Sullom Voe.
(2) On arrival act under orders of CITY OF DURBAN.
(R.A.D. H.F., 0944A/28 to CALPE.)
Request you will pass details of Operation E M to F.O. 10 C.S. (C. in C. H.F., 1246A/28 to R.A.D.)
Sailed CALPE for Sullom Voe. E.T.A. 0900/29.
(R.A.D., 2015A/28).

O.14 Patrol. My 1233A/27 para. A. O.14 is now to leave patrol after dark 1/2 and R/V off Bressay on 4/2.
Instructions in para. B are still applicable.
(F.O.S., 1044A/28).

TIGRIS, TRIDENT. Request you will sail TIGRIS to arrive in Zone W from Havet P.M./3/2 to relieve TRIDENT.
(F.O.S., 1159A/28 to S.3.)

Channel. 2 Chasseurs patrolling between St. Helens and Beachy Head. 2 M.L's patrolling 10 miles S. of Portland. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1337A/28).

Denmark Strait. Estimated at 2158 tonight.
Cruiser on patrol "White." (A.C.I.C., 1700A/28).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. "Frice" in operation 1040A. (A.C.I.C., 1237A/28).

Bombing operations. On night 27/28, 22 A/C attacked the Naval Units at Brest which were obscured by haze or a smoke screen and 7 A/C bombed the docks at Boulogne with unobserved results. (H.Q.B.C., 1415/28).

Mining.

Operation S C. Code Word "Queen" sailed for Operation S C.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0955/28). /Operation ...

War Diary.

28.1.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - contd.

- Operation S N 17. Intend to carry out as follows. Details. (R.A.M. 1248A/28) See Lion Copy.
- Firth of Forth. Latest searched Channel as follows. Details. A.M. QZS 175, drifting mine reported near Humber 25 buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1530/28).
- Tyne. At 1304/28 one Ground Mine exploded by Sweepers. Details. (N.O.I.C. North Shields, 1626/28).
- Off Cromer. LL Sweepers detonated Blue Magnetic mine at 1305A in 53° 00' 36" N. 1° 44' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1630A/25 and 1943A/28).

U-Boats.

- U-Boat, possibly damaged, off N.W.Ireland. By D/F at 2155/27 G.M.T. German U-Boat was in approx. 56° N. 13° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0120A/28). Detail one destroyer to search forthwith for U-Boat possibly damaged estimated in 54° N. 13° W. at 2215/28, passing through approx. 53° 05' N. 12° 50' W. at 0400/29, thence steering 150° at 10 knots. A/C will co-operate from 0900/29. (C. in C. W.A., 2326A/28 to WALKER). D/F Bearings at 2117Z indicate U-Boat in 54° N. 13° W. This U-Boat may have been damaged. (D.D.I.C., 2336A/28).

A/S Operation. Own aircraft will be carrying out A/S Operation South of TALISMAN tonight Wednesday. They will not affect UTMOST. Aircraft specially warned of TALISMAN. Nevertheless no precautions should be relaxed in guarding against air attack. Several U-Boats S.W. of Ireland probably proceeding to French Ports. (F.O.S., 1043A/28 to S/M's Area A.)

Navigational.

- D Light Buoy. My 1236/26. Light Buoy will require replacement. (V.A. Dover, 1928A/28).
- No.36 Buoy. Number 36 Buoy light extinguished. (A.C.O.S., 1955A/28) (Hydrographer 2255A/28).

Technical.

Machine Guns in S/MS.. Your 2302A/26. It is presumed sole object of this gun would be for protection in case submarine is unable to dive because of defect. I am strongly averse to tactics favoured by French submarine

/of ...

811A

MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET~~ MESSAGE 1243A/28th January IN

From R.A. (M).

Date 28.1.42
Recd. 2202.

NAVAL CYPHER A (1) BY T/P & W/T

Addressed Admiralty C. in C. Rosyth F.O. (S) Repeated C. in C.
Home Fleet A.C.O.S. C. in C. Western Approaches
R.A. (D) Home Fleet H.Q.F.C. H.Q.C.C. H.Q. 18th Group
C.C. Air Ministry. V.A.2.

IMPORTANT

Intend to carry out operation S N 17 as follows.

- (A) Surface minefield laid North to South
- (D)(1) H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRINCE, ADVENTURE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, LANCASTER, NEWARK, WELLS.
- (E)(1) Fighter escort is requested during daylight February 2nd. Initial rendezvous ~~058 degs. 04' North 002 degs. 12' West~~ at 0830. In view of number of minelayers it is requested that this escort are as strong as possible. *030° Railway Head 6 miles at 0800*
- (2) A/S escort requested from first light February 3rd until arrival off South Rona. Initial rendezvous ~~285 degs. Dunnet Head 10 miles at 0850.~~ *060° Cape Wrath 10 miles at 0830.*
- (F) From 1 056 degs. 36' North 001 degs. 14' 24" West through
2 056 degs. 14' North 011 38' 18" West to
3 056 degs. 08' 12" North 001 degs. 43' 36" West.
- (G) ~~1600~~ ¹³³⁰ February 1st
- (J) Direct and by searched channels to number 26 buoy. Thence direct to start of laying.
- (K) 13½ knots.
- (L) 1615 February 2nd.
- (N) Direct to number 24 buoy and thence by searched channels and direct to Port "ZA".
- (O) & (P) Port "ZA" ~~1645~~ February 3rd *1640/3*
- (W) 32.6 miles. 14 knots.
- (X) Mark (XX) S/17 3 star immunised and mark (XVII)/17 one star set to 10 feet below chart data.
- (Y) Full outfit. Between position F(1) and F (2) above, 80 units per mile, and between F (2) and F (3), 40 units per mile.
- (Z) A.F.O. 'S' 2. Table 2. Line one and 2 as applicable.

1248A/28 and 1513A/31.

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

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

War Diary.

28.1.1942.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical. - contd.

Machine Guns of remaining on surface if aircraft is sighted within 3000 yards and engaged with gun and of any change in armament which might encourage inexperienced C.O. to these suicidal tactics. S/M's in Mediterranean invariably proceed submerged by day and it is not considered either necessary or practicable to have any A.A. weapon on the bridge at night. All submarines of first Flotilla now carry one Thompson sub machine gun, one Lewis, and one Bren gun, and approval has been given for supply of a second Bren gun from local resources to replace Lewis Gun. This replacement has been adopted principally for reasons of reliability and ease of maintenance, Bren gun being much superior to the Lewis gun in this respect. 0.5 inch machine gun is complex heavy requires considerable maintenance and is not therefore considered desirable in submarines. Armament of one Thompson and two Bren guns is considered adequate. (Capt. S.l., 1223B/28 to F.O.S.)

Casualties & Defects.

HONEYSUCKLE. Cable locker and lower mess deck flooded. Suction choked. Proceeding Londonderry. E.T.A. 1430A/28. (HONEYSUCKLE, 0920A/28).

My 0920A/28. Water now under control. Complying with previous instructions. (HONEYSUCKLE, 1227A/28).

VERVAIN. Cancel my 1018A/27. VERVAIN can be taken in hand for repairs by Messrs. Lamont, Greenock. Work is being put in hand anticipating approval. (F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 1224A/28).

ABEILLE IV. Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV out of action at Peterhead with propeller fouled by boom defence. Tug ALLIGATOR being sent from Aberdeen 28/1 to tow ABEILLE IV to Aberdeen 29/1 for docking and clearing propeller. (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 1347/28).

NORFOLK. Repairs to NORFOLK will probably take 6 to 7 weeks. (C.S.l., 1524/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

ADVENTURE. Opportunity occurs to send ADVENTURE to Scapa for calibration of H/F D/F, arriving daylight 30th. She also has unlocated faults on type 285. Would it be possible to meet both these requirements. (R.A.M., 1634A/28 to V.A.2.)

Shipping & Convoys.

E N 38. QUADRILLE entering Aberdeen with defects. Request you will sail relief trawler to meet E N 38 with minimum delay. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0451/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

- F.S.710. Remain in vicinity of 62D until 0930 or until Humber contingents are met which ever is earlier then bring them on at maximum and muster the whole. Commodore now at 62D, speed 6 knots. (WESTMINSTER 0800A/28 to VERDUN).
F.S.710 is to keep to extreme western edge Channel 57 E and 54 D Buoys, turn 1 mile south of 57 D buoy, thence 1 mile south of centre lone Channel 57 D and 56 B buoys. (C. in C. Nore, 1000A/28 to WESTMINSTER).
- EMPIRE CAPE. VIVACIOUS is to take over escort of EMPIRE CAPE from LIDDESDALE at daylight tomorrow when LIDDESDALE is to proceed to Sheerness adjusting speed to pass East Spile at 0930. (C. in C. Nore, 0946A/28).
- P W 102. My 2036/27. Postponed owing to weather. (F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 0952/28).
- M H 66. Cancel my 1212/27. M H 66 not sailing on account of weather. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1012/28).
- S L 97 G. Warmest congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. all the ships of your convoy S L 97 G. (C. in C. W.A., 1019/28 to Master of BARON ELGIN).
- CHELSEA, (14 X. 170) CHELSEA's performance in remaining with her convoy throughout was most creditable. (C. in C. W.A., 1030A/28).
- WALKER. Much delayed by westerly gale. Unless weather moderates soon shall be unable to meet during daylight 29th. (WALKER, 1059A/28 to ST. LAURENT).
- F.S.711. Leave Humber at 0600 tomorrow and proceed to meet EMPIRE CLIFF. On meeting take over escort of EMPIRE CLIFF from WHADDON and form escort for her within the convoy until arrival Thames Gate. Speed 23 knots or best weather will allow. (C. in C. Nore 1100A/28 and 1243A/28 to CATTISTOCK).
Detached WHADDON to arrive Tyne Pierheads by 2000 tonight. F.O.I.C.Tyne is requested to sail EMPIRE CLIFF accordingly to join F.S.711, ship being escorted from Tyne Pierheads to main convoy by WHADDON who is to continue to give her special protection within the convoy until relieved by Nore destroyer vicinity Flamborough Head daylight 29th approx. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1139/28 to LOWESTOFT.)
- F N618. My 1201/19. F.N618 postponed 24 hours due to lack of escorts, escorts WESTMINSTER, WOOLSTON. My F N619. 1201/26/1 escorts of F N619 WINDSOR, WOLSEY. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1117/28).

/KAIDA ...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- KAIDA. Your 1605/23. S.S. KAIDA non arrival Leith. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1210/28 to N.C.S.O. Aberdeen)
- E N 38. E N 38 may be met in North Minches to-night. (C. in C. W.A. 1347A/28 to WELLARD, NORTHERN DAWN).
- NEWPORT. Delayed by weather. P.C.S. 055° 49' (? 12") 011° 50' (? 04") 250° 6 knots. ACANTHUS, ROSE, HIBISCUS in company. ST. ALBANS delayed by damaged scuttle but rejoining. If present weather continues shall be 39 hours late at M.O.M.P. (NEWPORT, 1410A/28).
- O N 61. COVENTRY CITY reports being three hours late at Altacarry R/V. (C. in C. W.A., 1426A/28 to Escorts of O N 61.)
- P W 103. My 1437/27. P W 103 postponed 24 hours due to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1433A/28).
- O N 60. Cmdr. Task Unit 4.1.11, CELANDINE, POLYANTHUS, AMHERST, FENNEL sail 1345A with 2 M/V's for O N 60. (A.C.I.C., 1455A/28).
- Convoy "Carnival". Intend to sail convoy "Carnival" 29th. CALIFORNIA and LIGHTNING pass Clyde Boom 2145A/29 to R/V with WIVERN from Londonderry in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0845A/30. Thence as in Admiralty 1933A/27. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1536A/28).
- see para 1108*
conv. Cmd. Task Unit 4.1.11
N.C.S. I 260. Propose following be added to para. 1:- These ships are not to be detailed as Commodores' ships except for Clyde portion of outward bound convoys, (C. in C. W.A. 1601A/28 to Admty.)
- S L 99. After fuelling from GOLD RANGER, HARTLAND is to HARTLAND. be detached as necessary to return to U.K. with S L 99. (C. in C. W.A. 1608A/28 to WESTON).
- Convoy "Slave." My 1228/28. Postponed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1653/28).
- F N 617. F N 617 will pass (C) 5 buoy at 1945 tonight and will keep to western side of Q Z S 286 after dark. (WALLACE, 1656A/28).
- O S 18. EMPIRE MALLORY will not be ready in time for O S 18. (D.S.T.O. Glasgow, 1730/28).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

P W 103. 1. P W 103 from Portsmouth has not sailed.
P W 103 S. 2. Falmouth portion of P W 103 will sail A.M. 29th
Weather permitting.
3. P W 103 S. will sail from Portsmouth P.M. 29th
to Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1742A/28).

Damaged M/V's. Your 1547A/25. Six ships should be able to sail
for U.K. shortly, four in two to three weeks.
Four it is hoped to sail with P.Q.9, one ready for
U.S. now, one in two weeks time. Four will have to wait for a
summer tow to U.K., one ready for towing now. No special escort
will be required. (A.C.I.C., 1843A/28 to Admty.)

Fair Isle Channel. As a precaution against enemy minelaying operations
envisaged in A/L M/M.S.067741 of 8/10/41, and to
facilitate the coastal plot, I consider that ships
routed via the Fair Isle Channel should be
restricted to a defined route. Periodic searches would be carried
out and traffic swept through in the event of minefield being
discovered. Propose that a fixed convoy route as distinct from a
Q Z S channel be established joining the charted position of No.35
buoy in Q Z S 244 with fixed convoy routes H R G and Q S centre
line passes through the following positions. (A) 58° 28' 12" N.,
02° 42' 00" W., (B) 59° 21' 15" N., 02° 11' 25" W., (C) 59° 28'
00" N., 02° 17' 30" W., (D) 59° 28' 00" N., 03° 04' 00" W.,
width 2 miles. Ships are to keep to their starboard side of the
channel. (A.C.O.S., 1956A/28).

O N 59. Your 1600Z. Suggest is is unwise to make homing
signal while with convoy. If necessary later I can
signal your bearing if you make homing signal to
me. My observation P.C.3. 054° 44' N. 018° 08' W.,
270° 7 knots. Making good 260° 4 knots.
(WANDERER, 1845Z/28).

EMPIRE CELT. One trawler of 50th Group is to act as escort to
S.S. EMPIRE CELT during rough weather A.N.D.
trials from Moville. Trawler is to arrive
Greenock a.m./31. Duration of trials 7 to 10 days.
(C. in C. W.A., 2226A/28).

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

PRETORIA
CASTLE
U/B. (27/1)
See p. 766.

PRETORIA CASTLE reports sighting and attacking U-boat on surface in 036° 47' N., 022° 56' W. (2) Admty. reports Italian U-boat in approximately this position. (F.O.C.N.A. 0050A/28 to N.A. Stn.)

REGENT.

REGENT's 1801/27. Lubricating oil will be supplied by R.F.A. DINGLEDALE about 1/2 in Ponta Delgada. R.O. Horta pass to REGENT. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128A/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I. S/M F.5 and 8, REGENT, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.) REGENT's 1801Z/27. Presume you will make necessary arrangements for supply of lubricating oil. (D.O.D. (F) 1210A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ERIN.
HONJU.
IMPERIALIST.

Ref. V.A.C.N.A's 1957/18. ERIN is a total loss and as there are no local facilities for lifting her, consideration is being given to breaking her up underwater. HONJU is damaged beyond repair. Boiler and machinery undamaged and being put in a state of preservation. (Dynamos) can be made serviceable. IMPERIALIST has been taken in hand for reconditioning to complete mid March. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1142A/28 to Admty. (R) V.A.C.N.A.)

FORTUNE.
Force H,
Destroyers.

Your 0026/28 and F.O.C.N.A's (?2252)/27. Before FORTUNE proceeds to Mediterranean, ship should be boiler cleaned and certain defects made good. Propose to do these forthwith. In consequence escort available from Force H will only consist of LAFOREY, ACTIVE, ANTHONY, and WHITEHALL. Endurance of last named is very low. (S.O. Force H., 1221A/28 to Admty.)

PHILOCTETES.
SENNEN.

PHILOCTETES may call at Las Palmas in company with SENNEN. She will require 500 tons coal bunkers. If necessary to borrow, replacement can be arranged ex collier ZOUAVE due same time. A.M. 2358A/15/1 to Vice-Consul, Las Palmas, only refers. (D.O.D. (F) 1228A/28 to N.A. Madrid (R) V.C., Las Palmas).

Bombing
Restrictions.

Institute submerged bombing restrictions 35 miles either side of line joining positions 49° 30' - 9° and Bishops Rock from 1200/29 to 1600/30. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/28 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

Submerged
bombing
restrictions.

Ops. 567 28/1 serial No. G29. Amend G.28 to read from 0001/29 until 1200/30. (H.Q.C.C. 1520A/28 to R.A.F. Gib. (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

/HERMIONE.....

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

- HERMIONE. A.M. 1412A/27. Shift patrol to area enclosed by:-
A. 42° 35' N. 24° 20' W. B. 41° 25' N. 28° 30' W.
C. 42° 30' N. 29° 00' W. D. 43° 45' N. 24° 55' W.
2. Do not leave patrol until dark 2/2 unless essential or object achieved.
3. On return Gibraltar report conditions affecting fuelling your class of ship at Ponta Delgada in relation to weather, berthing and supply of fuel and also attitude of local authorities. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1540A/28 to HERMIONE).
Ref. 1540A/28, fuel taken at Ponta Delgada was based on C.A.F.O. No. 2441/41 para. 3 prior to receipt of Admty. 1412A/27 and is insufficient to continue patrol beyond 0600A/29. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0900A/31. (HERMIONE, 2133/28 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A. (R) S.O. Force H, C. in C. W.A.)
- LADY HOGARTH. LADY HOGARTH and tug THAMES arrived 1000 G.M.T.
THAMES. Arrangements have been made with port authorities for former to repair minor defects and to ship lubricating oil. Leaving at dusk for Gibraltar. Tug remains at Horta. (R.O. Horta, 1608/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) See also 2203A/28.
- Fulmar B.N.A. Lisbon's 1108/27. Report duties upon
Lost in which this aircraft was engaged, also whether
Portugal. crew were aware of positions of British Merchant Vessels likely to be encountered. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1617A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- Force H. A.T. 2211A/26. Revert to normal notice.
(V.C.N.S. 1637A/28 to F.O. Force H.)
- SAN ZEFERINO. Intend sailing SAN ZEFERINO escorted by ROSALIND and LORD GREY at 1900/29 to Freetown, calling Bathurst if necessary. (F.O.C.N.A. 1638A/28 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.)
- M.L. Flotillas, My 1844A/27, in last sentence for spare boats
Gibraltar. read spare parts. (D.D.O.D. (C) 1707A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- OLYMPUS. Admty. 1745A/26. OLYMPUS will complete engine defect and be ready for sea 10/2. 2 upper deck torpedo containers being fitted. Stores requiring passage to Malta. (? F.O.C.N.A., 1740A/28 to C. in C. Med.)

/WELSHMAN.....

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

- WELSHMAN. Intend sail WELSHMAN 1900A/28th routed through A. 036° 20' N. 010° 00' W. B. 38 00 14 00. C. 42 00 16 00. D. 45 00 16 00. S. of A. 17 knots. (2) C. in C., W.A. is requested to issue onward routing instructions from position (D). (F.O.C.N.A. 1820A/28 to Adty.) My 1820 departure WELSHMAN. (F.O.C.N.A., 1900A/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth.)
- WESTCOTT. EXMOOR. CROOME. ^{N.T.N.W.D.} My 1800/26 and 2252/27, sailed WESTCOTT, EXMOOR, CROOME. (F.O.C.N.A. 2030A/28 to Admty., (R) S.O. Force H.)
- LADY HOGARTH. MIRROR. Order LADY HOGARTH to join MIRROR as escort. If you are in company with MIRROR instruct her to pass this on 500 kc/s single operator period. LADY HOGARTH sailed from Horta dusk 28th for Gibraltar. Repeat your signal to me so that it may be broadcast from Gibraltar also. (F.O.C.N.A. 2203A/28 to COREOPSIS). Join me forthwith in 037° 41' N. 025° 51' W. (COREOPSIS 2340A/28 to LADY HOGARTH (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
- Brest R/C. My 2234A/27. (Refers to A.M. 2159A/26, R/C of Brest) Is any later information available? (F.O.C.N.A. 2208A/28 to Admty. (R) S.O. Force H.)
- LOCH OSKAIG. ^{N.T.N.W.D.} Your 1457A/28. Have been in position indicated since 1800A and have not seen ship. Request instructions. (LOCH OSKAIG, 2215A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) My 2215A/28. Operation successful. (LOCH OSKAIG 2305A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

- CHESHIRE. Following is a repetition of my 1301Z/27. My 1431 Z/19 CHESHIRE will sail with Convoy W.S.15 and will be available as relief for DERBYSHIRE on arrival in Cape area 1301Z/27. (C. in C. S.A. 0811Z/28 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

/ROBERTS.....

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

- ROBERTS. Admty. 1742/19/1. ROBERTS being docked Durban for repairs to Wedarvall Glands. Estimated date of readiness for sea 6/2. Request instructions for onward passage to Mediterranean. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1025Z/28 to C. in C. S.A.)
- S.L. 99. Departure 27/1 VANSITTART, LAVENDER, ROCKROSE, ARMERIA, BERGAMOT, escort S.L. 99. (S.O.I. Freetown 1237/28 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)
- ASCANIA. ASCANIA left Freetown 2000Z/27 by direct route to Capetown. S. of A. 13½ knots E.T.A. 1400 G.M.T./6. ASCANIA is proceeding to New Zealand station but requires 400 tons rock ballast in number 2 hold and it is considered advisable this should be placed on board in Cape Area. (C. in C. S.A., 1403Z/28, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, Admty. etc.)
- RUNSWICK BAY. PINTO. Departure 28/1 RUNSWICK BAY escorting PINTO. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 1417Z/28 to Admty.)
- SEMLA. Your 1426Z/22. Additional oil fuel to be stowed in drums in SEMLA should be limited to 15 tons. Confirmation is required that this amount will enable vessel to reach Ceylon if routed via Mauritius and Seychelles. Gear not required for voyage should be landed. (D.M.S. 1550A/28 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).
- W.S.15. Following from D.S.T. My 1505/16, para. 11. W.S. 15, PORT CHALMERS should proceed to Durban and PASTEUR to Capetown. (D. of S.T. 1851A/28 to C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Simonstown, RESOLUTION).
- VANSITTART. Your 1333Z/26. No fuel available at Las Palmas. 2. If VANSITTART can reach Gibraltar independently without refuelling she should be detached from S.L. 99 forthwith to proceed by shortest route. 3. Otherwise she should fuel from GOLD RANGER now with O.S. 17. (D.D.O.D. (F) 1947A/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- FORTUNE. Decided that FORTUNE is to join Med. Fleet temporarily, proceeding through Mediterranean in company with CLEOPATRA as ordered by C. in C. Med. 2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CLEOPATRA for Gibraltar on 4/2 after embarkation of stores.
3. R.A. (D) H.F. pass to CLEOPATRA. (1st Sea Lord 0026A/28 to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- Your 1359B/25. CLEOPATRA carried 1490 rounds 5.25 ammunition additional to outfit in approved proportions. Request you will instruct ship in due course how much is to be left at Malta. (A.C.N.S. (W) 1930A/28 to C. in C. Med.)
- DULVERTON. In position 032° 44' N. 023° 23' E. Wind west force 7 to 8, sea rough, asdic conditions very bad. (DULVERTON 0400B/28 to S.O. Force I.) If no contact by 1000 return Tobruk. (S.O. Force I. 0936B/28 to DULVERTON).
- P.38. Estimate your position at 0420 was 11 miles 247° from Delimara. (V.A. Malta, 0425B/28 to P.38).
- "Pewit". Convoy "Pewit", E.T.A. 1500/28. In company HEYTHROP, ABERDARE, CNRISTA and HARBOE JENSEN. Request tug to meet CNRISTA who has defective steering. (SOUTHWOLD 0710B/28 to R.A. Alexandria).
- DARIEN II. DARIEN II engine room flooded, reports cannot steam into sea, position 35 miles East Derna, present course 120°, speed 5 knots, request instructions. (Med. A/C "E", 0718/28 to S.O. Force I (R) Alexandria, C. in C. Med.)
- Enemy A/C. Am being shadowed by one enemy A/C 32.35 N., 23.20 E. (? 0907/28 to Alexandria Port Wave). W.R. Note:- This signal was incompletely received.
- OLYMPUS. Your 1745A/26. Concur. (C. in C. Med. 1059B/28 to Admty.)
- Manning of BOLEBROOKE and BORDER. Your 2131A/24. 5 Officers and 160 ratings have left U.K. Balance of crews consisting of 5 Officers and 77 men from Greek ships in India and 3 officers and 100 men from Alexandria are being sent to U.K. by first suitable opportunity. Greek C. in C. informs me that there is no difficulty in providing crews for third destroyer as all Officers and men are available now. (C. in C. Med., 1128B/28 to Admty.)

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

- P.36. Patrol vicinity of 034° 46' 011° 50' from 0700B/29 where southbound ships may be expected during daylight and northbound after dark. (Capt. S.10, 1340B/28 to P.36).
- Enemy Units? YVI Stationary two 2 masted black schooner Tug in escort PKTG 2618. (indecypherable). (Med. A/C Y. 1400/28, to N. A/C., (R) Med. A/C).
- SAKHALIN. Master of SAKHALIN reports vessel last docked over 2½ years ago and that hull is damaged forward below waterline with fore peak flooded. Temporary repairs are in hand but ship cannot be docked. Intend sailing her to Durban as soon as seaworthy. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles. (C. in C. Med. 1621B/28 (?27) to Admty.)
- "Tact" My 0037/28. (N.T. in W.D.) CRISTA arrived in convoy from Benghazi and sailed in company with CLYDEFIELD and DELPHINIUM at 1530/28. CRISTA E.T.A. Port Said 1100B/29 has only unreliable hand steering gear, requires tugs to meet. Has on board 4 naval officers 11 naval ratings and 13 Jewish refugees ex Benghazi. (R.A. Alexandria, 1701B/28 to FLAMINGO, DELPHINIUM, R.A. (D) Med., etc.)
- Troop Movements to Far East. Your 1542/9. My 0040/12. Propose second flight personnel ships should consist of MOUNT VERNON, ANDES, STRATHALLAN, DURBAN CASTLE, NIEUW AMSTERDAM ARONDA, RAJULA, WESTERNLAND, unless WESTPOINT or WAKEFIELD could arrive Suez in sufficient time to bunker, water and embark again 15/2. If one of these ships could be expedited she could replace ARONDA, RAJULA, WESTERNLAND and speed of slowest ship would then be 17 knots. (P.S.T.O. Port Said, Egypt, 1701B/28 to D. of S.T.)
- COETLOGON (French). Arrival 28th. (Barcelona 1704/28).
- Malta Air Report. CSR Malta 28/1. 27th 1535 hours, 3 ME. 109's sea level crossed coast not plotted, 1 Hurricane on test shot down, pilot killed. Night 27/28 4 raiders crossed coast 1818 to 0247 hours searchlight machine gunned, no damage, bombs land sea, some damage houses. 28/1. 3 alerts 0833, 1207, 1517 hours, 49 raiders, fighter sweeps and bombing attacks, Hal Far 5 craters aerodrome, slight damage aircraft. Hurricanes up no interception. Night 27/28. 6 Wellingtons 1C attacked shipping Tripoli Harbour 1740 to 1835 hrs. Many hits main quay, Spanish Mole and harbour, 1 fire. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1735/28).

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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movement of Convoys. Abdafloat's 2225/25, para.2. Request you will act as co-ordinating authority for movements of all convoys from your Area into Abda Area to meet Abdacom's priority requirements and Abdafloat's escort limitations.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0027A/28 to C. in C. E.F.)

Convoys Sandheads departure 0131Z/28. R/V with M.R.1 S.R.4 (Escort ~~MANOORA~~) D16° 50' 089° 08' at 0200Z/29. Route to M.R.1. (INDUS) Rangoon. Escorts MANOORA, INDUS, RATNAGIRI. (RATNAGIRI joined ~~combined~~ ~~convoys~~ 30p. E. India War Diary.) (N.C.S.O. Calcutta 0136Z/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.)

W.S.14 B. Arrival CORFU with W.S.14 B. (S.O.I. Bombay 0425Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

P.33 (not s/m.) P.33 KHEDEVE ISMAIL with troops and stores for KHEDEVE ISMAIL (?Basra) sailed 0230Z/28 due Rooka Float 1700Z/1/2 routed through (K) 020° 16' 067° 20' (L) 025° 15' 057° 10' thence P G W knots 14 16 independent 1 H/F transmission.
(?N.C.S.O. Bombay 0356Z/28)

TRUSTY My 0545Z/28 (N.T. in W.D.) As it becomes TRUANT necessary to operate TRUSTY and TRUANT from Java, request to where reserve of torpedoes should be sent and whether they can be maintained by Netherlands Authorities without additional British personnel. Intend sending 16 21 inch mark VIII torpedoes from Colombo to ports selected as first (? consideration).
(C. in C. E.F. 0546Z/28 to C.C.C.F. (R) Abdacom, F.O.C. Malaya, Admty., C. in C. E.I.)

Dutch Ships for Trooping. Your 2226/24 (Ships put at our disposal by Netherlands Govt. for trooping service). Request 2 ships may be despatched to Karachi and 2 Bombay.
(P.S.T.O. India 0716/28 to D. of S.T.)

Troop movements. Following transports sailed from Bombay 27/1. TALMA, for Suez EIA0330Z/3. WESTERLAND for Suez. E.T.A. 1300Z/1. RAJULA for Suez. E.T.A. 0330Z/2. (P.S.T.O. India 1041Z/28 to S.S.T.O. Aden (R) S.S.T.O. Suez D.S.T. G.H.Q. M.E.)

JOAO BELO JOAO BELO escorted by Portuguese sloop GONCALO VELHO left Lourenco Marques 26/1 for Timor with reinforcements. S. of A. 8 knots. Routed alongside Mozambique coast northward through 003° (?23') 055° (?30') E. thence alongside 003° S. to 090° E. thence South of Java to Dilli.
(C. in C. Far East Fleet 1201Z/28 to Eastern Theatre.)

War Diary.28.1.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

- B.P.33 B.P.33 (SANTHIA) with troops and stores sailed 1200 G.M.T., due Rooka 1500 G.M.T./1, route P.G.W., knots 11½, 16 Indship (1). (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 1207Z/28 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N., etc.)
- B.M.13 My 1006/22 and (705)52/28. B.M.13 and B.M.14
B.M.14 will now sail as one convoy on 12/2 and be known as B.M.13. (P.S.T.O. India 1326Z/28.)
- C.M.26. (2) 1425Z/28. (4) 11 knots. (5) (6) (7)(8) A. (XIII) N.C.S.O. Durban 1632Z/20 refers. Confidential. Items 9 and 12 PULASKI Aden, ELISABETHVILLE Aden, LLANDAFF CASTLE Aden, ARONDA Berbera. (N.C.S.O. E. Africa, 1430Z/28 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Colombo.)
- INDORA. Your 1902A/24 arrived Bushire 12/1 left Bushire 17/1 arrived Bandar Shahpur 18/1. (S.O.(I) Persian Gulf 1443Z/28 to Admty.)

China.

Singapore Raids. Single enemy aircraft dropped bombs Seletar night of 26/27. Slight damage. 3 raids by 65 plus enemy bombers 27/1 directed against Kallang and Seletar. 7 aircraft destroyed on ground and 13 aircraft damaged. Damage to runway, hangers, domestic buildings Kallang, extensive damage (?simultaneously) buildings and stores Seletar. Slight casualties personnel. Air. One large vessel suspected aircraft carrier reported area Anamsas island. Not confirmed. (G.O.C. Malaya, 0115/28 to W.O.)

TAI SANG Admty. 1628/10, serial 2. TAI SANG sunk in minefield position 0° 56' N., 103° 35' E. on 24th. Other ships of S S 1 arrived Singapore safely. (C. in C. E.F., 0449Z/28 to Admty.)

Abdacom Report. Information summary number 4, T.O.O. 1200Z/27. 5 B - 17s attacked enemy shipping Balik Papan today. 1 large transport was left sinking another on fire while a cruiser was straddled. 2 enemy fighters destroyed 1 damaged. Our aircraft returned

/safely ...

War Diary.28.1.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. *contd.*

Abdacom Report - contd. safely. Also sighted in harbour were 6 destroyers and 15 other vessels. (2) 2 U.S. bombers from Java successfully delivered quarter million pounds S.A.A. to Del Monte (Mindanao) and returned to Darwin with 43 key personnel. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0450/28 to W.O.)

Tanker HARPA (mined 27/1) My 0411/27. For bombed read mined. (S.O.I. Singapore 0641Z/28 to Admty.)

Singapore Dockyard closed. Singapore dockyard will be closed from 30/1 on which date whole of Naval Base area will be handed over to Military for defence purposes. A small nucleus of European dockyard staff will be retained temporarily, remainder will be sent to Colombo together with all Naval personnel not required for local defence. (R.A. Malaya, 1215Z/28 to Admty., C. in C. E.F. Abdacom.)

Burma Operation messages. On instructions of Supreme Commander all important operational messages as opposed to routine or comparatively unimportant messages will commence with prefix "Combat" in clear. (G.O.C. Burma 1400/28 to C. in C. India. etc.)

Bangkok bombed. Summary No.30 (1900/27/1 to 1800/28/1) Blenheims attacked Bangkok Dock area from low altitude in clear moonlight. Bombs in target area. All A/C returned. (Norgroup 1500/28 to Abdacom (R) Air Ministry etc)

Air Command. Air Marshal Sir Richard Peirse assumed command combined air forces with effect from 1200 hours 28/1. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1842/28.)

Burma A.V.G. Ref. C O S (W) 12. Following signal sent by Marshal to Magruder. War Dept. informed that Chenault plans to withdraw A.V.G units from Burma region by 31/1 because of losses and lack of replacements. If the group is withdrawn, British will be left with only 2 Hurricanes and 4 Buffaloes. Please inform Generalissimo that combined Chiefs of Staff request him to direct A V G to continue its present operations until British Hurricanes now en route arrive in Burma area, expected about 1/2. Every possible effort is being made to rush replacement planes to A.V.G. (B.S.M. Washington 2015R/28 to Abdacom (R) Chiefs of Staff.)

/Singapore ...

824^A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 0338Z/28th Jan.
IN.

From : C.C.C.F. Date : 28.1.42.

Recd : 0902.

NAVAL CYPHER C BY C. & W.

Addressed : S.O. Force L. Repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet,
N.O. 1/6 Malaya, and AFLOAT.

IMMEDIATE.

Operation OPPONENT. 1st batch for day 2 comprising
16 arrived 0335/28th. One batch still to arrive.

0338Z/28

Advance Copy D.C., D.D.I.C., D.O.D.(F).

- 1st Lord.
- 1st 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. of P.(2).
- D.N.A.D.
- E.P.S.
- D.D.I.C.(2).
- D.N.I.(4).
- D.S.D.
- I.P.(2).
- Ad. Somerville .
- Ad. Bellairs.

N.P.

War Diary.

28.1.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Singapore Raids.

Raid by 27 bombers morning 28th, and subsequent two raids at night before 1430 hours G.M.T. No damage R.A.F. establishment or Naval Base but slight civilian damage. (Adv. H.Q. Malaya, 2359/28 to W.O.)

INDOMITABLE.

3rd and last flight of Hurricanes from INDOMITABLE arrived Batavia 0941/28. (D.O.R., 29/1)

America and West Indies.

BELLINGHAM U/B Report.

Intercept Amagansett Radio. S.S.BELLINGHAM (U.S.A) submarine apparently on surface 10 miles south Frying Pan Buoy 0136. (Valentia Radio 0148/28 Halifax W/T, 0215Z/28) De Intercept Amagansett Radio. BELLINGHAM all clear, resume normal traffic. (Valentia Radio, 0228/28, Halifax W/T 0249Z/29.)

U/B.

D/F Bearings at 2237Z/27 indicate submarine within 100 miles of 036° N. 050° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0429Z/28 to Brit. Warships Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

U/B

D/F bearings 0107Z/28, 0121Z/28 and 0145Z/28 indicate Sub. within 150 miles 040° N. 060° W. Transmission was a sighting report. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0706Z/28 to Brit. Warships in area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

H.X.171

H.X.171, serial 9, your 2301/26 (N.T. in W.R.) proceed Londonderry when relieved at M.O.M.P. ?Opnav 0731/28 to Com Task Unit 4.1.1., (R) Com Task Force 4, Com Task Groups 7.5 and 4.6, C. in C. Lant., Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.)

U/B.

D/F bearings at 0201Z/28, 0400Z/28 and 0536Z/28 indicate enemy S/M within 100 miles of 037° 30' N. 071° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1114Z/28 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

/My ...

War Diary.28.1.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

My 1114Z/28 placing submarine within ?100 miles
037° 30' N. 071° W. The transmission at 0536Z/
28 was from same unit that transmitted at
0508Z/28 giving unreliable fix in same vicinity
(not promulgated). Hence my 1114Z/28 position
believed more reliable.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2212Z/28 to Brit. Warships in
Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C.
Halifax, F.O.N.F.)

SHERWOOD
MONTGOMERY
READING.

A.M. 1819A/24 and A.M. 1106A/28. As SHERWOOD
will not now be available to return with convoy
N.A.3 request you will arrange for MONTGOMERY
to do this duty in her place. Hoped that
READING will return to Halifax as additional
escort for Convoy O.N.S.64.
(D.O.D.(H) 1147A/28 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

PARTHIAN

Your 1736R/26. See a.m.1734A/31/10.
2. Owing to shorter passage a call at Halifax
en route to Gibraltar is preferred. 3. PARTHIAN
will carry out final working up patrol from
Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F) 1232A/28 to B.A.R.M.)

Washops 48.

(i) Philippine Is. Luzon - enemy activity limited
to weak landing thrusts in Subic Bay area and
light bombing. No change situation in Visayas
and Mindanao. (ii) N.E.I. Enemy air activity has spread over
all outer islands caused little damage but many native
casualties. In particular the aerodromes at Bima Namlea and
Laha have been bombed. Dutch have destroyed their aerodrome
at Boela. (iii) New Guinea area. Enemy air activity continues
in vicinity of Allied aerodromes in area. Wewaki has been
bombed and Gaemata and Tulagi reconnoitred. Dutch have
destroyed their aerodrome(s) at Rabo. R.A.A.F. bombers
attacking Rabaul scored possible hits on 2 warships and started
fires. They encountered heavy A/C fire but returned safely.
Japanese have landed a force from a destroyer on Rossel Island.
(J.S.M. Washington, 1337R/28 to Admty. etc.)

BRITISH
CORPORAL
U/B.

Following has been read: Received 1425 G.M.T.
SSSS 35.52 N. 58.03 W., BRITISH CORPORAL chased
by submarine. Require assistance 1417 G.M.T.
(Camperdown Radio 1450Z/28.)
Following has been received. Ref. my 1540Z/28
(?1450Z/28) new position 35.33 N. 58.35 W. at
1600 G.M.T.
(Camperdown Radio 1655Z/28.)

War Diary.28.1.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies -contd.

DOMINION MONARCH. N.Z.N.B. 1157/9. DOMINION MONARCH due Halifax 4/2 from Panama has additional accommodation for 990. Are full numbers to be embarked to sail in N.A.3 or should numbers embarked be limited in accordance with your 1936/25/9/41? Sparks suggests ship may be allocated for his requirements from U.S.A. Request instructions.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1510Z/28 to Admty.)

Halifax Approaches, protection. Your 1537/26. C.O.A.C. Halifax has insufficient ships to provide any effective surface protection for shipping approaching Halifax. It is therefore considered that diversified approach should be continued for the present. Further consideration by R.C.N. and R.C.A.F. will be given to this problem.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1516Z/28 to Admty.)

NORTHTON. Your 1901/24. 1607 S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica. NORTHTON is reported to have left Santa Lucia, Cuba, 21/1 for Cartaret N.J.
(Havana 1540/28 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Tahiti. For Chiefs of Staff from J.S.M, number (?13). Ref. your Chief of Staff (W) 14. Defence of Tahiti discussed by Combined Chiefs of Staff yesterday. Agreed to recommend to President and Prime Minister that a public announcement should be made that U.S. had relieved New Zealand of responsibility previously undertaken against her to afford assistance to Free French colonies in the Society.Is. in the event of attack. (ii) We undertook to arrange a draft announcement on these lines to be telegraphed to President for his approval before publication in Washington. Please take necessary action. We are not sure whether New Zealand ever made any public announcement their having assumed this responsibility in 1940.
(B.A.D., 1615A/28 to Admty.)

G.B.M.S. System, extension to U.S.A. It is suggested that G.B.M.S. system should be extended to be a British-U.S. system available for world wide use by both British and U.S. Naval Authorities. 2. If Admiralty approve, Navy Dept. will be approached. Alterations to existing arrangements appear to be simple. 3. When may S3/42 be expected.
(B.A.D. 1619R/28 to Admty.)

U/B. Radius 30 miles Winter Quarter Shoals, Danger Area, Hostile Submarine. Keep clear next twelve hours.
(Opnav 1635/28 to W.G.B.C. - 1, (R) C.N.A.N.C.F., C.S.N.C.F., C.P.N.C.F., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Admty.)

War Diary.28.1.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- EMPIRE WILDEBEESTE. U.S.S. LANG has landed at Bermuda 34 survivors from British EMPIRE WILDEBEESTE, torpedoed twice about 0500Z/24 in 39.30 N. 59.54 W. Submarine not sighted. Three hospital cases. Remaining nine members of crew seen to leave ship in boat which was not rescued by LANG. W/T Operator in LANG received report from unknown station that 9 men from a torpedoed ship with crew of 43 had been picked up and taken to U.S. Port. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1649P/28 to Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
- ATHELCROWN. S.S. ATHELCROWN torpedoed 2010 G.M.T./22 in approx. 045° 00' N. 041° 00' W. 33 survivors including Master picked up by ARGOS HILL at 0530/24, in 045° 00' N. 040° 30' W. and landed at Halifax. 4 of crew killed and one boat with 13 men missing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1744Z/28 to Admty. etc.)
- U/B. D/F bearing at 0610Z indicates submarine within 100 miles of 41.30 N. 66 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1810Z/28 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)
- Suspicious Raft. British JOHN CABOT reports following. At 1400 G.M.T./21 in 040° 00' N. 069° 30' W. sighted what appeared to be naval raft fitted with rudder, no engine visible but engine house, floating 1/2 mile distant. At 1600 G.M.T./22 in 042° 10' N. 168° 00' W. sighted cone possibly part of submarine structure. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1931Z/28 to Admty. etc.)
- Explosions. Nor. SKARAAS reported at 0653 G.M.T./26 in 039° 07' N. 062° 50' W. hearing 4 explosions in quick succession. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1933Z/28 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Opnav C.C.N.F., C. in C. A.W.I.)
- U/B attacked. U.S. Navy Aircraft bombed submarine, 045° 10' N. 052° 20' W. at 1620. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1945Z/28 to Admty.)
- LADY HAWKINS. Understand Canadian broadcast report that a boat load of survivors from LADY HAWKINS has been landed at Puerto Rico. Please confirm. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2024P/28 to Breastrail, San Juan, Puerto Rico, (R) Admty.) My 1601Z/25. Canadian National Agent at Puerto Rico reports about 70 survivors from LADY HAWKINS have been landed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2213Z/28 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

War Diary.28.1.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

LADY HAWKINS contd. 75 survivors of boat Number 2 from LADY HAWKINS torpedoed at 0150/19 at (?approx) 150 miles from Cape Hatteras on parallel 35 latitude, arrived here 28th on COAMO. (2) No information here of 2 other boats which got away. (3) Among survivors there are 23 Naval ratings, Lieut. H. Barret also 5 N.C.Os. N.O. has communicated with C. in C. A.W.I. (?through) U.S. Naval Authorities. (4) Ship's Chief Officer positive C.Bs went down with ship.
(R.O., San Juan, Porto Rico 2325/28 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica.)

Navigation. Direct ships entering and leaving Hampton Roads to proceed with caution at maximum speed of 5 in vicinity of net and boom defences.
(Opnav 2206/28 to C.N.A.N.C.F., C.S.N.C.F., C.P.N.C.F. (R) C.C.S.N.C.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica. Admty.)

Navigation. NR WJA 64. After midnight 29/1 the following lights may be extinguished:- Number 161 Bulkhead Light, 162 Cape Spear, 164 Fort Amherst, 167 and 168 St. John's harbour leading lights, 165 Chain Rock, 169 Caps St. Francis.
(Ottawa 2237Z/28 to A.I.G.133. except Bermuda Kingston N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Commodore, Your 0944/27. Approved. Date to be reported.
W. Indies. (Naval Secretary 2249A/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SURCOUF. Your 2121A/25/12. Present U-Boat situation makes it undesirable for SURCOUF to call at Bermuda. As there is no apparent reason for such visit propose she proceed from Halifax direct to Panama Canal. B.A.D. pass to Opnav.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2302I/28 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

CHEVREUIL. Left Noumea 0730Z/27 for Hienghen East coast New Caledonia.
(A.C.N.B. 0115Z/28.)

/Situation ...

829A.

0245/28th January

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From Viscount Halifax, Washington.

Date 28.1.42.

Recd. 0830

CYPHER

RECIRCULATION

Addressed Ministry of Economic Warfare
GENERAL ARFAR DISTRIBUTION.

No. 578 ARFAR.

Following for Drogheda from Hall.

Your No. 402.

We have recently tended to hold aloof from discussions on North Africa partly because in the background of St. Pierre and Miquelon it seemed unlikely that the Americans would be able to or willing to think imaginatively about their French policy also we have been concentrating both our efforts and their attention on the (?Iberian) Peninsula.

2. Nevertheless we think that the Americans are not likely at this time to react to the proposed barter agreement any more favourably than they did a month ago (see our No. 7776). The trouble is that they would not be prepared to carry such a proposition to its logical conclusion i.e., if the offer were refused by the French they would not be prepared to impose an embargo on North Africa.

3. As regards the attempt to detach North Africa from France we feel that with Weygand's departure there is no real prospect at any rate in the immediate future of success first of all there is no one in North Africa who has the same authority either personal or administrative, secondly North African policy is now almost exclusively in the hands of Vichy.

4. However we feel that the time is now ripe to force on the Americans a general review of policy towards French North Africa in particular and possibly the French Colonial Empire. General: we have been given a good excuse for this by the later history of the "Francois L.D.". Rubber: we have weighed in very heavily with the State Department about the continued onward shipment of this rubber to France during a period in which one of the Department's Senior officers was telling us that discussion preventing such shipments were taking place between Vichy and Washington. What is probably the strongest message sent from Washington to Leahy was despatched January 17th, complaining about these rubber shipments and hinting that the United States attitude on supplies would have to be reconsidered if this continued.

5.....

(2)

5. In preparation for these talks with the Americans I have discussed French North Africa with Sir John Dill and I did not get from him any indication that the matter had been ventilated in detail between the President and the Prime Minister. One of the objects of the discussions with United States officials would be, at Dill's suggestion, to have the matter referred to the combined Chiefs of Staff in order that the economic policy may be handled both by us and the Americans against the background of an agreed, instead of a conjectural, estimate of strategy. The view of the combined Chiefs would of course be subject to the concurrence of London and Washington.

6. Meanwhile the ILE DE RE and the ALDEBARAN are loading in New York and should leave shortly simultaneously with the departure from Casablanca of two ships already loaded there. We hope to reach a clearer conception of policy before we are faced with decisions on the next two loadings.

7. We shall be sending you shortly a further telegram giving our appreciation of the position.

0245/28

Received in War Registry:-

0825/29

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

GWJ

829^c

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

1819A/22th January

To:- B.A.D. Washington. 830

Date. 28.1.42.

Naval Cypher O.T.T.

From:- Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

For Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff
No. (W) 19.

Following are extracts from a telegram dated 24th January received by the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Australia. Comments of the Chiefs of Staff are contained in our immediately following telegram.

Begins.

JOHCU NO. 21 MOST SECRET

I am communicating the following message as the result of an emergency meeting of the War Cabinet summoned today to consider reports on the situation in Malaya and New Guinea.

Part 1. Malaya

1. The General Officer Commanding the Australian Imperial Forces Malaya reports that part of his force has been cut off without the possibility of relief. It would appear from information received regarding the disposition of the A.I.F. and its operations that support for it has not been forthcoming.

2. Whilst we have no intention of suggesting any criticism of the Indians who are fighting the common foe, we are greatly disturbed by references made by the General Officer Commanding the A.I.F. to their unsuitability for this type of warfare. If this is correct, we hope that you are not placing too much reliance on the mere numerical strength of the land forces you are sending without regard to their qualities.

(paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 not relevant).

Part 2. The Pacific

6. The heavy scale of the Japanese attack on Rabaul, where including other parts of the Bismarck Archipelago there is a force of 1,700, and the probability of its occupation, if such has not already occurred, presages an early attack on Port Moresby.

- 7/....

7. The strength of the Australian troops at Port Moresby is 5,500. Great importance is attached to this centre by our Chiefs of Staff as it is the only base in this region from which control can be exercised of the Torres Straits, which is the most direct line of supply to Darwin, the Netherlands East Indies and Malaya, for which it is being extensively used. In the absence of Rabaul, Port Moresby is also a base for offensive operations against the Caroline and Marshall Islands when British and American strength permits of counter offensive action.
8. We have information at the present moment, that a United States naval force consisting of 2 carriers, 5 8-inch cruisers, 1 6-inch cruiser and 3 destroyers is carrying out a sweep from Samoa towards the Gilbert Islands. Such an operation if carried on towards the Japanese bases in the Marshalls will, by threatening their flank, form a valuable diversion from the Japanese southwards advance from Rabaul, and would be a great help to us. Chief of the Naval Staff of Australia is communicating direct with the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet following the arrangements relating to the ANZAC area, offering our forces and seeking his co-operation in this offensive action against the Japanese. The assistance of yourself and your naval advisers in influencing such a move on the part of the Americans would be most helpful.
9. Our advisers state that submarines would form a most valuable addition to the defence of Port Moresby, where there is every facility for their operation, and it is requested that if possible some may be allotted to that base.
10. We are in full agreement with the concluding sentence of the New Zealand reply on the ANZAC area to the effect that unified command over all naval forces engaged in the war against Japan and the eventual formation of a fleet superior to the Japanese capable of wresting from our enemies the command of the Western Pacific, remains essential to the defeat of Japan. We expect that the best immediate measures will be taken to remedy the situation.

Part 3. Aircraft

11. Our experience at Ambon and Rabaul have emphasised the urgent necessity for fighter aircraft immediately. Japanese methods make it clear that without fighter protection for our aerodromes, there is every prospect of carrier borne enemy air attack destroying our extremely limited striking force on the ground by low attack, designed to search our individual aircraft. These tactics may be practised with impunity by the enemy

against/...

MOST SECRET

- 3 -

against our mainland aerodromes as well as at the advanced bases, owing to the lack of fighter protection and the almost complete absence of gun defences. A request is made for immediate allotment to the R.A.A.F. of 250 fighter aircraft of the Tomahawk, Hurricane 2 or similar type.

12. It is impossible to expect us to give effective resistance with the inadequate aircraft at our disposal moreover desire the allotment to the R.A.A.F. of United States aircraft of suitable types which are already in Australia or are likely to arrive shortly. This course would be in substitution of the aircraft long since ordered for the R.A.A.F. expansion programme but not yet delivered from the United States.

13. Your support of the above proposal with the United States authorities is requested, together with an immediate arrangement for the allocation to the R.A.A.F. for use at Port Moresby of a squadron of United States P.40 fighter aircraft approaching completion at Townsville. Brereton has communicated this request to the Commanders-in-Chief, of the A.B.D.A. Area, for whose area the aircraft are intended, but we ask that the authority controlling General Wavell should direct that it be approved.

14. The trend of the situation in Malaya and the attack on Rabaul are giving rise to a public feeling of grave uneasiness at Allied impotence to do anything to stem the Japanese advance. The Government in realising its responsibility to prepare the public for the possibility of resisting an aggressor, also has a duty and obligation to explain why it may not have been possible to prevent the enemy reaching our shores. It is therefore in duty bound to exhaust all the possibilities of the situation, the more so since the Australian people, having volunteered for service overseas in large numbers, find it difficult to understand why they must wait so long for an improvement in the situation when irreparable damage may have been done to their power to resist, the prestige of Empire and the solidarity of the Allied cause. Ends.

1819A/28

Secy. to 1st S.L.

1st Lord	
1st S.L.	D.D.I.C. (2)
V.C.N.S.	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)	P.A.S. (3)
N.A. 1st S.L.	Hd. of M. (10)
D.O.D. (F)	I.P. (2)
D.D.O.D. (F)	W.D.
D.N.I. (4)	N.I.D. 10
D. of P. (2)	
D.C. (2)	

F
829

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

1933R/23 January IN.

From: Joint Staff Mission, Washington

Date: 29.1.42

Recd: 0417

Nav 1 Cypher O.T.T. by T/P

Addressed: For Chief of Staffs.

IMMEDIATE

Number 15. Most Secret.

Request concurrence in despatch of following telegram from Combined Chief of Staffs to Abdacom which was drafted after meeting yesterday.

Begins. The Australian Government is greatly concerned over advance of Japanese via Rabaul. Japanese occupation of Port Moresby would close Torres Strait and subject north east Australia to constant attack. Their defences are very weak particularly in the air. They urge U.S. to allot to R.A.A. Force a number of U.S. present planes already in Australia or which are due to arrive there shortly. They have further requested an immediate allotment for stationing at Port Moresby of one Squadron of U.S. fighters now being assembled at Townsville.

(2) Since all U.S. aeroplanes now in or under order for Australia are allotted to ABDA Area for employment under your supreme command, the Combined Chief of Staff (word omitted - ask) for your view and advise before making an answer to Australia.

(3) The point at issue is whether wh should divert to Australia aircraft allotted to you or whether you should assume responsibility for covering North East Approaches to Australia, operating your aircraft from an Australian base outside ABDA Area in accordance with para. 2 of your directive. Ends.

1933R/28

1st Lord

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

D.C.

D.D.I.C. (2)

E.P.S.

P.A.S. (S)

Hd. of M. (31) and for C.I.G.S. and W.O.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

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

C.A.S. and A.M.
War Cabinet Offices.

/MC

War Diary.28.1.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Situation. Serial No.8. A Japanese destroyer has landed troops on Rossel Island (Louisiade Archipelago). Further raids on (?) Rabaul carried out by R.A.A.F. Catalinas 1500Z/26. 2 Vessels observed on fire and all aircraft returned safely. The 2 aircraft carriers operating in New Guinea waters now accepted as being KAGA and AKAGI. Note: (included in telegram) Digest messages represent an analysis of information concerning enemy activities on the Australian Station compiled by the Central War Room from Intelligence received by the Naval, Military, and Air Intelligence Services, and while they will continue to be transmitted through Naval channels individual addressees are requested to make them available to the appropriate services. (A.C.N.B. 0611Z/28 to Digest, Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M., Opnav, Washington, C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet.)

Navigation W M 22. Christmas Island. Both leading beacons for anchorages have been removed. (S.O.I. Wellington, 1126M/28.)

Tahiti. B.A.D. 1615A/28. See America and West Indies.

Tankers (A.C.N.B. 1328Z/28.)
Australia
Station,
28/1.

W/T Your 1302Z/24. Concur in proposed arrangement.
organisation. Further signals will be made when COONAWARA ready to operate group U. Presume general message for ships in Abda Area will be promulgated by you from Colombo. (A.C.N.B. 1839Z/28 to C. in C. E.F.)

Situation. Extracts from telegram of 24/1 received by P.M. from P.M. of Australia. For J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 19. (1st S.L. 1819A/28 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy. Suggested telegram to Abdacom. (J.S.M. Washington, No.15, 1933R/28 for Chiefs of Staff) See Lion Copy. Concur in despatch (of 1933/28) (Admty.1507A/29.)

831

War Diary.

28.1.1942.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B Positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1431A/28, 1437A/28).

War Diary.

29.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A patrol of two submarines is to be maintained in the Bay of Biscay.

The sailing of several convoys was postponed today on account of weather.

U.S. Coastguard Cutter ALEXANDER HAMILTON was torpedoed and abandoned at 1500A off Skagi, Iceland, *and sunk in tow on the 30th.*

The Commander of a U.S.A. Task Unit reports ^(24/1/42) that the radio discipline of British-Canadian escort units is very lax: apparently radio silence is unknown to them; and they involve their convoys in danger by the use of a very bright signal light.

British Air Operations.

At 1140 CALDWELL, searching for U-boat, ^{claimed} rammed by ROSELYS at 2248/26 near 54° 35' N., 12° 36' W. reported at 1140A that a Hudson aircraft had dropped bombs on a U-boat to N.E. of 52° 10' N., 12° 15' W. U-boats were reported by aircraft at 1110 in 52° 23' N., 12° 43' W., and at 1130 in 57° 31' N., 13° 13' W.

34 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Boulogne Docks last night and 26 Rotterdam.

Coastal Command aircraft operated against enemy shipping off the coast of Holland today.

Enemy Air Operations.

One enemy aircraft bombed Thorshavn main quay at 1403. No damage or casualties were caused.

War Diary.

29.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations. - Contd.

S.S. BJORNVIK was bombed and sunk off the Lizard at 1830. She had been in Convoy W.P.103 The Convoy was attacked by 2 enemy aircraft at 1942 in 49° 55' N., 4° 38' W.

A staffel (9 I.E.) of He. 111's has been moved from Brittany to Trondheim. These aircraft are part of a unit which has specialised in anti-shipping offensives and is known to have carried torpedoes.

Mining.

Operation
Q.O.

The special mine clearance operation in the Thames Estuary which was begun early last month was completed today. Several mines were detonated in the Estuary yesterday and today.

North Atlantic.

4 Sunderlands are to be moved to Gibraltar temporarily from Freetown, to meet a situation which may arise very shortly if the German battle cruisers leave Brest and make for the Straits of Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

There were air attacks on Malta this afternoon but no damage was caused. Hal Far and Ta Kali Aerodromes are unserviceable after heavy rain.

War Diary.

29.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

A.S.V. Swordfish claim the destruction of a U-boat in 32.20 N., 26.13 E., at 2135/29.

An A.S.V. Sunderland is reported to have hit and presumed sunk today an enemy submarine between Sidi Barrani and Tobruk.

H.M.T. SOTRA was sunk by a ^{*}torpedo bomber at 2151 in 32° 7' N., 25° 30' E. (off Bardia).

* by U-431. (FDS. 5.5.50)

In view of shortage of transport at his disposal and limitations of the port the Area Commander urges temporary withdrawal from Derna to Tobruk. The Army Commander orders the Naval personnel and W/T station to remain and the port to be kept open.

The demolition of Benghazi has been completed and the town evacuated. Army dock party tugs and lighters have arrived at Alexandria in convoy and all other Naval craft have arrived at Tobruk. Tobruk was bombed last night by 8 enemy aircraft but no damage was caused.

East Indies.

S.S. FLORENCE LUCKENBACH was torpedoed at 0430 30 miles from Madras.

S.W. Pacific.

Apart from North Australia and Burma the enemy is making three main advances.

A considerable naval force, presumably escorting transports was sighted at the northern entrance of the Molucca Straits today and may be directed on Ambon or possibly even Koepang. At Balik Papan there are still some 20 ships in spite of losses, and these are reported moving south, probably on Macassar or Bandjermasin. The third advance is directed on Singapore and perhaps on Sumatra before long.

/To...

29.1.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

S.W. Pacific. - Contd.

To meet the above there is at the moment no naval striking force and the air striking force comprises little more than 6 to 8 U.S.A. heavy bombers.

With his limited resources General Wavell can do no more than try to defend the most essential objectives, which he conceives to be Singapore Island, air bases in Southern and Central Sumatra. The Naval Base at Surabaya and the Aerodrome at Koepang.

Australia is exerting considerable pressure for the diversion of re-inforcements from the Abda area to defend Australia.

China.

Burma.

40 enemy fighters were over Mingaladon area at 0805 G.M.T. today. A.V.G destroyed 12 or more of them and damaged 9, without loss to themselves.

C. in C. Far Eastern Fleet urges that the U.S. authorities should be asked not to suspend sailings to Rangoon; certain losses must be accepted in order that China may continue to receive the supplies she requires.

Malaya.

Johore Bharu was bombed today, but damage was not serious. There were numerous air raids on Singapore last night and this morning and evening Seletar Aerodrome was rendered unserviceable and small damage was caused at Sembawang Aerodrome.

The military have decided to withdraw to Singapore Island by night on 30/1, 31/1. Bomber aircraft have already been removed from the island, and all personnel and material not essential for defence is being removed as far as possible.

/N.E.I...

War Diary.

29.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

N.E.I.

C.Z.M. has issued routing instructions to assist in the safety of vessels proceeding from the Pacific to the vicinity of the Netherlands East Indies Islands.

Cumulative losses have reduced Dutch bomber strength to 32.

22 enemy ships were sighted in the Molucca Straits steering S.S.E., today.

The return convoy from Singapore, escorted by VAMPIRE and YARRA was attacked twice today in Banka Strait, by four aircraft, but suffered no damage. Convoy B.M.11 was attacked yesterday in Banka Strait by one aircraft, but no damage was caused.

America & West Indies.

The C.N.S. today sent to the C.N.O. a message concerning the delay to settle the question of North Atlantic escort operations and put the combined British and U.S. available escort forces to the most economical use: the present system of divided control is wasteful of our resources.

The increasingly serious scale of attack by U-boats on shipping on the North American eastern seaboard points in his view to the desirability of extending the convoy system to cover this area: if this is accepted, it is all the more important to lose no time in finding a scheme which will release the necessary forces for the purpose.

The sailing of Convoy S.C.67 from Halifax was postponed 24 hours on account of the weather.

U.S. Tanker GULFSTAR reported sighting a submarine in 37° 50' N., 75° W., at 2009R today, U.S. Tanker PACO reported sighting a submarine in 34° 58' N., 75° 32' W. at 2050R today.

War Diary.

29.1.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Enemy fighters are operating from Kavieng (New Ireland).

2 enemy submarines have been attacked off Oahu with unknown results.

5 Catalinas made a further attack on Rabaul last night. At least 12 vessels were seen in harbour, two of which were probably hit.

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Unescorted S/Ms. Your 1158/28. I consider submarines should be escorted to vicinity of 060° 30' N. 003° W. for following reasons :- (1) There is considerable traffic between Skopenfiord and south of Fair Island Channel and at this time of the year position of convoys on this route is frequently very doubtful. (2) It is undesirable to institute bombing restrictions to west of Orkneys and in the vicinity of Fleet Practice Areas except in an emergency.
(A.C.O.S. 1005A/29 to F.O.S.)

2 M.G.Bs for Portsmouth. Request you will arrange for two "C" type M.G.Bs to be loaned to C. in C. Portsmouth from 18/2 for about ten days. Boats should be sailed so as to arrive Portsmouth by 18/2.
(D.D.O.D. C. 1735A/29 to C. in C. Nore.)

Polish Air Personnel for U.K. Suggest all remaining trained airmen should be evacuated from Russia through Northern Ports, and untrained volunteers for R.A.F. via Persia. Reasons. (Air Ministry 1845/29 to 30 Military Mission, Moscow) See Lion Copy.

MONTBRETIA Inquiry. Your 1824A/27. ^{N.T. W.D.} Admiralty have approved request of Norwegian Authorities to be represented by a Norwegian officer during evidence of C.O. MONTBRETIA at Board of Enquiry.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1942A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

ARKANSAS WASP LONG ISLAND RANGER. Should we obtain definite information that either SCHARNHORST or GNEISENAU or both have left Brest please ascertain from C.N.O. what his intentions are in regard to: (a) U.S.S. ARKANSAS, (b) WASP, (c) LONG ISLAND, (d) RANGER.
(1st Sea Lord 2350A/29 to B.A.D. Washington.)

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK My 2244A/28. (b) and (d) for 1200A read 1330A (d) add E.T.A. Hoxa Boom 1230A/30. S. of A. 18 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0944A/29.)
Sailed LAUDERDALE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1031A/28.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1050A/29.)
My 2244A/28. Sailed. E.T.A. 1200A and Hoxa boom 1230A/30.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1345A/29.)

CONQUEROR. Intend to sail CONQUEROR for Belfast at 0900 tomorrow in accordance C. in C. W.A. 1035A/25.
E.T.A. 1600A/30.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1034A/29.)

/MANXMAN ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1345/29th January.

FROM: AIR Ministry Whitehall.

Date: 29.1.42.

CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: 30 Military Mission Repeated to Party A
and Kuibyshev.

X.372. 29/1. For Collier from Crowe.
Your Air 2367 18/1.

1. Although evacuation of Polish trained airmen by Northern route is cumbersome and slow under winter conditions the long sea voyage round Capetown of about three months from port of embarkation may more than counter-balance the delayed embarkation and short sea voyage from Murmansk or Archangel. The overriding consideration must be the probable date of disembarkation in U.K.

2. War Office agree to use of Southern Route but having regard to the possible difficulties of evacuation by this route as mentioned in your MIL 2453/22/1 there still appear to be advantages for evacuation of trained airmen via Northern ports.

3. Subject your views which we await suggest all remaining trained airmen should be evacuated through Northern ports and untrained volunteers for P.A.F. via Persia.

4. Suggest you first obtain permission from Russians to embark personnel at Murmansk. When this permission is obtained Air Ministry in agreement with Ministry of War Transport will explore every possibility.

5. State warning required before embarkation to get personnel to Murmansk.

6. Could all be embarked in one party of about a thousand if ship provided.

7. Order of priority for Air personnel on either route must be adhered to.

30 Mission to pass to Kuibyshev.

1345/29.

Recd in War Reg. at 0800/30.

P.T.C.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

V.C.N.S. (H)

V.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.C.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.C.D. (H)

D. of P. (2)

E.P.S.

D. of S.T.

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (C)

D.D.I.C. (2)

Hd. of M. (2)

I.P. (2)

N.I.D. 10.

W.D.

D.N.I. (4)

D.C. (2)

P.A.S(S)

Air Ministry circulation:-

A.C.A.A. (1)

D.A.F.I. (2) (Orig)

A.T.S.A. (1)

A.F.L.1.

D.W.O.

D.D.Mov. (2)

D. of P. 6. (3)

D. of M.

W.O. 9.

A.F.L. 2. (R)

Mr. Coote Foreign Office.

Brig. Firebrace.

Admiralty.

A.I.1.

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- MANXMAN. My 1229A/28. Sailed MANXMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1229A/29 to R.A.M.)
- ARETHUSA As ARETHUSA has S.A. gear intend sailing her to Chatham leaving Scapa 1400 tomorrow to arrive off vicinity Humber at daylight.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1230A/29.)
Your 1230A/29. Request ARETHUSA may be sailed as in my 2230A/28 to enable escort to be provided and sweeping to be arranged.
(C. in C. Nore, 1736A/29 to R.A.D. H.F.) ~~see~~ p. 809.
Your 1736A/29. This will be arranged.
(R.A.D. 1900A/29 to C. in C. Nore.)
- STRAIDE Intend to sail STRAIDE 2100A/29 routed via Sounds of Islay to arrive Oban 0930A/30.
No W/T or R/T.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1234A/29.)
- GARTH. Your 1426A/28. Intend to sail GARTH 2330 today by convoy route for Sheerness to pass Sand Head Buoy 0715/30. E.T.A. 1030/30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1413A/29.)
- H.34. At 1700/29th intend to sail H.34 and H.50
H.50. escorted by BREDA to arrive 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles at 2359/31. Thence S/Ms as directed by F.O.S. and BREDA as directed by S.3. F.O.I.C.
Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection.
S. of A. 8 knots.
(Capt. S.7. 1436A/29 and 1731A/29.)
My 1049A/28. Delete reference to H.34.
(Capt. S.7. 1458A/29.)
My 1436A/29. Sailed one hour late.
(Capt. S.7 1801A/29.) ~~see~~ also p. 837
- LAMERTON Not met. My position is 048° 05' N. 19° 8' W.
(ALMANZORA) (LAMERTON 1452/29.)
Your 1452/29. P.C.S. HESPERUS at 2000A/28 was 044° 18' N. 019° 38' W, 008°, 13 knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 1725A/29 to LAMERTON.)
- TARTAR. Return to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1516/29 to TARTAR.)
- BROKE. Intend sailing BROKE a.m. tomorrow in accordance with Admiralty's 1308A/15.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1525A/29.)

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War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

PELICAN F.O.C.N.A. 1730A/27. Route from (D) to (E)
 MARIGOLD 049° 30' N. 017° W.
 AZALEA. (C. in C. W.A. 1554A/29 to PELICAN.)
See also p. 846

LONDON Intend to sail LONDON for Scapa at 2300/31.
 Request fighter protection.
 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1600/29.)

MADELEINE N.O.I.C. Poole 1110/12. ^{H.T. in W.D.} Request present
 HUBERTINE whereabouts of MADELEINE HUBERTINE.
 (A/P Vessel) (D.S.V.P. 1622A/29 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

BLENHEIM. Rosyth departure BLENHEIM for Scapa escorted
 by WORCESTER and LUDLOW with LAIRDS ISLE as
 S.A. Escort to 23 Buoy. E.T.A. 1430/30.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1755/29.)

SEALION. Cancel my 1436A/28. ^{H.T. in W.D.}
 (F.O.S. 1818A/29.) *see also next page*

SOMALI. My P.C.S. 067° 30' N. 012° 50' W, 235°, 19 knots.
 V.A. in SOMALI 1800N tomorrow passes (?North)
 Cape at approx. 0700N. Request gate 1845N.
 (Capt. D.6 2000A/29 to A.C.I.C.)

CUMBERLAND. Sailed CUMBERLAND 1945A. E.T.A. Scapa Flow
 1100A/31.
 (A.C.I.C. 2052A/29.)

HIGHLANDER Part company from Convoy when MENDIP does and
 MENDIP proceed Sheerness under her orders notwithstanding
 seniority.
 (C. in C. Nore 2100A/29 to HIGHLANDER.)

FORMIDABLE. FORMIDABLE will not be required to leave U.K.
 until 15/2.
 (D.O.D. H. 2358A/29 to FORMIDABLE.)

Operations.

Convoy (201) Enemy Coastal Batteries fired nine rounds
 C.W.66 shelled. between 1955 and 2005 during the passage of
 C.W.66. All shells fell in the sea, mostly
 to the West of Dover.
 No damage or casualties reported.
 (V.A. Dover 0032A/29)

/Operation E.M.

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

Operation E.M. CALPE arrived Sullom Voe.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1048A/29.
Air escort arranged. (See Air).

Patrol off Fro Havet. My 1135A/29 para 3. Intend TIGRIS proceed on the surface at C.O.'s discretion from 090° TIGRIS. Muckle Flugga 10 miles through (a) 062° 20' N. 0.14 000° 30' W. (b) 065° N. 001° 30' E. thence STURGEON. submerging by day through (c) 065° N. 008° E. to patrol in Zone W. Fro Havet. (Capt. S.3. 1155A/29.)
A. When leaving patrol 0.14 is to pass through 064° 50' N. 009° 40' E., thence through position (A) 064° 40' N. 2° E. as previously ordered.
B. STURGEON is to remain in area between 065° and 065° 50' N. and longitude 009° 30' and 010° 30' E. until ordered by F.O.S. to enter zone E. (F.O.S. 1306A/29.)

Patrol "C". QUORN will carry out patrol "C" tonight. (C. in C. Nore. 1158A/29.)

Brest S/M Two S/Ms are to be prepared forthwith for Patrol in Bay of Biscay. Report names and when ready to leave. (F.O.S. 1211A/29 to Capt. S.7.)
H.34. Present situation necessitates a S/M patrol off Brest at expense of training.
H.50. 2. Request you will maintain a S/M patrol of two in approaches to Brest as early as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1251A/29 to F.O.S.)
SEALION. My 1211A/29. Submarines are to sail when ready. (F.O.S. 1311A/29 to Capt. S.7.)
(a) H.34 and H.50 are to leave Clyde p.m. 29th as ordered by Capt.(S) 7 to carry out patrol in vicinity of position number 51, 047° 08' N. 006° 20' W, and number 52, 047° 03' N. 007° 20' W. respectively. (b) Enemy main unit may leave Brest at any time. (c) Object (to) attack and then report cruisers and above. (F.O.S. 1453A/29.) *See p. 835*
(a) It is required to maintain a patrol of 2 S/Ms in Bay of Biscay. SEALION is to be prepared to leave Portsmouth for patrol about 6/2 and 1 S/M of 7th Flotilla is to leave Clyde about 3/2 to relieve H.34 and H.50. Subsequent reliefs will be provided by 7th S/M Flotilla. (b) H.class S/Ms are to call at Falmouth on both outward and return passage completing with fuel on outward passage. H.34 and H.50 however, will not call on outward passage. (F.O.S. 1642A/29.)

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

UREDD. In addition to patrol now being maintained off Norwegian coast, Admiralty have ordered patrol of 2 S/Ms in Bay of Biscay, if necessary at expense of anti-s/m training. In consequence I regret it may be necessary for Norwegian submarine UREDD to sail patrol off Norwegian coast about 17/2.
(F.O.S. 1641A/29 to R.A.D. H.F.)

British Air Activity.

Escort for Operation E.M. Air escort arranged as follows. 30th, Sorties of 2 Blenheim fighters, also one Catalina during daylight. 31st, one Catalina during daylight.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1149/29 to CITY OF DURBAN.)

Patrols. "Polar" flying from 1115A.
(A.C.I.C. 1220A/29.)
My 1220A/29. Returned 1410A owing to fog.
(A.C.I.C. 1723A/29.)

In view of photo R/C today suggest patrols "Polar" and "Frice" be discontinued subject to concurrence of C. in C. H.F.
(H.Q.C.C. 1903/29 to R.A.F. Iceland.)
Do you wish "Frice" to be continued, aircraft and weather permitting.
(R.A.F. Iceland 1916Z/29 to H.Q.C.C.)
"Frice" withdrawn 1730A.
(A.C.I.C. 2013A/29.)

Bombing operations. On day 28/1 no operations took place. On night 28/29 34 A/C attacked the docks at Boulogne and 26 A/C bombed the docks at Rotterdam.
(H.Q.B.C. 1256/29.)

Operation Q.O. Operation Q.O. now successfully completed. Your co-operation throughout this long drawn out operation has been greatly appreciated. It is much regretted in this Command that casualties should have occurred.
(C. in C. Nore 1847A/29 to 11 Group.)

Own A/C engaged by Convoy. Following patrol report for night 28/29 from VIVACIOUS begins :-
"It appears that a large number of friendly aircraft were routed out directly over the convoy. Many of these were not using I.F.F. Firing was opened several times by ships in the rear of the convoy and a number of aircraft fired recognition flares. These only brought intensified fire from the Merchant Ships and seemed to be used as a point of aim. Some aircraft flew almost the full length of the convoy without making recognition signals, some appeared to dive when near the convoy and were heavily fired on. WOOLSTON endeavoured to stop the fire by broadcasting on convoy R/T that aircraft were friendly but this had little if any effect. At 1858 in position 1 mile 180° from 56B Buoy some flashes were

/observed ...

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Own A/C
engaged by
Convoy -
contd.

observed about 3 to 4 miles 080° and it was thought that bombs had been jettisoned from an aircraft. Subsequent signals indicate that one of our aircraft probably came down in that vicinity. It is considered that by routing aircraft directly over a convoy an unjustifiable risk is taken as it is virtually certain that sooner or later, and generally sooner, some Merchant Vessel will open fire and once started, this is almost impossible to stop and recognition signals are of little value! Ends 1355/29. Although it is realised that homecoming bombers cannot always avoid our convoys there appears to be no reason why outgoing aircraft should not be routed clear of convoys whose positions are accurately known. (C. in C. Nore 1850A/29 to H.Q.B.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.Thorshavn
bombed.

One enemy A/C over Faeroes today. Bombs were dropped close to Thorshavn main quay at 1403. No damage or casualties. Attack was made outside range of Bofors guns and during excellent visibility. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1605A/29.)

Convoy
attacked.

Convoy "Stencil" whose position is 49° 51' N. 4° 51' W. is being shadowed by one enemy A/C steering 230°, height unknown. (KUJAWIAK 1841/29.)

Am being shadowed by 2 enemy A/C in 49° 55' N. 4° 38' W. (KUJAWIAK 1941/29.)

Help "Stencil". (KUJAWIAK 1942/29.)

Am being attacked by two enemy A/C. (KUJAWIAK 1948/29.)

Mining.Dover New
Channel.

Sweeping carried out 28/29 as follows. Details. Negative results. (V.A. Dover 1249A/29.)

Operation
Q.O.

Operation Q.O. completed. Nothing swept today. (S.O. 9th M/S F. 1345A/29.) I congratulate all concerned on the successful completion of Operation Q.O. (C. in C. Nore 1849A/29 to M.S.9, M.S.13.)

Tyne.

At 0935/29 one Red Mine exploded by Sweepers. Details. (N.O.I.C. Tyne 1647/29.)

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Aasfiord. Following detailed result of R/C of Aasfiord
TIRPITZ. 1330/29. TIRPITZ in same position as on 23/1.
A/T Boom unchanged, but additional rafts at
bow and stern tend to give rectangular appear-
ance. An ALTMARK Class Tanker has arrived in Lo Fjord since
23/1, lying close inshore on south side of Fjord in 63° 35'
10" N. 10° 54' 45" E. Usual two A/T booms in place, and a
new boom protects tanker to westward.
(D.D.I.C. 2211A/29.)

U-Boat.

U-Boat off Your 2326A/28. CALDWELL detailed.
West Coast (WALKER 0018A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
of Ireland. Admiralty 2336A/28. Request A/C assistance
to collect our runner on way home. E.T.A.
054° 34' N. 13° W, daylight 30th.
(WANDERER 0602A/29.)

Your 0602A/29. This Bird is already being hunted by air and
surface craft and will be a long way from your track.
(C. in C. W.A. 1502A/29 to WANDERER.)
Latest approx. position of U.Boat at 0852A/29 53° N. 13° W.,
estimated speed about 6 knots. Further air sweep is being sent
(C. in C. W.A. 0956A/29 to CALDWELL.)
Am over enemy S/M in 52° 23' N. 12° 43' W. Sighted on surface
and observed to submerge, course 020°.
(A/C Duty J. 1110/29 to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 57° 31' N. 13° 13' W. sighted on surface
and observed to submerge, course 040°, 7 knots.
(Liverpool W/T 1130/29.)
My position 1115A/29 052° 10' N. 12° 15' W. Hudson A/C dropped
bombs 02' to N.E. of me, claimed on U. Boat. Am searching area
thoroughly.
(CALDWELL 1140A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit.
Leaving 1300. DR.I 20 here.
(A/C D8VJ 1215/29 to 15 Group.)

ALEXANDER (U.S. Coastguard Cutter) Reported abandoning
HAMILTON ship after being torpedoed ten miles off Skagi at
torpedoed. 1500A.
(? A.C.I.C. 1616A/29.)

U-Boat Admiralty message No.7A of 4th January 1942.
procedure on Evidence is now accumulating that after firing
detection. torpedoes, or being sighted, or detected by A/S
vessels, U-Boats move away from the position at
high speed diving if necessary. As soon as
possible after the initial dive mentioned in the message quoted
and if undamaged, they dive deep, through probably not more than
400 feet unless involuntarily. The initial high speed used
should render U-Boat susceptible to detection by H.E.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1915A/29.)

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Ice in Baltic. Ice report. My 1721/28 add following information, graded A.2. Jan. 27th (a) Swinemunde heavy pack ice port closed. (b) Stettin navigation most difficult. Vessels were ordered to leave port before greater difficulties occur. (c) Dantzig Bay all frozen patches can still be negotiated by powerful vessels. (d) Denmark eastern ports mostly closed to shipping. (N.A. Stockholm 1633/29.)
Your 1956A/28 (N.T) Propose issue of suggested Channel as a Q Z S covered by rider "This channel is only searched at irregular intervals". Do you agree? (D.M.S. 1706A/29 to A.C.O.S.)

No.53 Buoy. Following received from M/S 9: Taut Wire run to West Galloper Buoy indicates 53 Buoy lies 137° 5 cables from charted position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1910A/29.)

Casualties and Defects.

BRITISH VALOUR. Tug ZWARTE ZEE is being sailed to 029° Oversay 9 miles to assist BRITISH VALOUR. (C. in C. W.A. 0026A/29 to ARBUTUS.) Request you sail ZWARTE ZEE to assist BRITISH VALOUR with steering gear broken down reported in position Oversay Lt. 029° 9 miles at 2215/28. Ship to be towed to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0029A/29.)
BRITISH VALOUR anticipates being repaired at 0130. Will not require tug. (COVENTRY CITY 0050/29.)
BRITISH VALOUR now proceed to Clyde. E.T.A. 1130. (COVENTRY CITY 0142A/29.)
Cancel my 0029A/29. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0345A/29.)

ADVENTURE. Your 1634/28. Yes. (A.C.O.S. 1026/29 to R.A.M.)

ABEILLE IV. My 1010/29. Returned to Peterhead. Tow broken and being changed. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1050/29.)
My 1010/29. ABEILLE IV. and ALLIGATOR returned Peterhead. Tow parted. Am exchanging tow ropes. Intend sailing them on morning tide tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1155/29.)

ROSELYS. WANDERER's 1101A/27. Arrangements have been made for ROSELYS to be taken in hand by C.H. Bailey's Newport for damage repairs now. (D.O.D. H. 1248A/29.) *Can call 30/1 - 2006-876*
Your 1248A/29. ROSELYS cannot be taken for dry docking before 7 to 9/2. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1700A/29.)

MELODY ...

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

- MELODY. My 1142A/22/1. Vessel will be towed to Oban for survey on completion of temporary repairs early next week.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1547A/29.)
- B.P.T.39 B.P.T.39 is now ashore in Sinclair Bay 58° 30' N. 3° 5' W. Upperworks washed away. Salvage will be commenced when tugs are available and weather permits.
(R.A. Scapa 1711/29.)
- BOSTON. Cancel my 1701A/27. ^{N.T. N.W.D.} Defect in port intermediate shaft coupling has been found. Probable time for repair seven to eight days.
(BOSTON 1759A/29.)
- WANDERER. C. in C. W.A. 1459A/29. ^{N.T. N.W.D.} E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0600/31. AUBRETIA, RENONCULE, proceeding independently. Request arrangements made to make good following important defects on arrival Londonderry: Steering Gear Main Shaft Bearing requires Re-metalling. Both boats smashed and Davits distorted. 2 Upper Deck Hatches broken. I. Carley lost overboard. Type 271 and 286 P require overhauling and adjustments.
(WANDERER 2312A/29.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- M.H.66. My 1228/28. M.H. 66 postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 0944/29.)
- O.N.60. My 2124A/28 ^{N.T. N.W.D.} does not apply to Task Unit 4.1.11. (C. in C. W.A. 1002A/29 to FENNEL.)
Cmdr. Task Unit 4.1.12 has been directed to overtake and join O.N.60. Since O.N.58 did not sail both Task Unit No. 4.1.11 and 4.1.12 will escort O.N.60.
(U.S. Chief of Naval Ops. 1619Z/29.)
- S.C.65. Expect to meet S.C.65 at dusk today. Only WALKER has asdic sets in action.
(WALKER 1005A/29.)
- P.W.103. My 1604A/28. P.W.103 postponed owing to weather
P.W.104. LADY ROSEMARY, JULIET, MANOR, are to be sent into Falmouth escorting ships as in my 1058/29.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1102A/29 to KUJAWIAK.)
Falmouth portion unable to sail a.m./29th owing to weather.
My 1246/28 postponed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1112/29.)

/My 1742A/28 ...

War Diary.29.1.1942
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys.

→ P.W.103 My 1742A/28. P.W. 103 has not sailed from
P.W.104 Falmouth owing to weather.
contd. (C. in C. Plymouth 1133A/29.)
My 1433A/28 and 1437/27. P.W.103 still unable
to sail due to weather. Intend to sail M.Vs
with P.W.104 and escort HERTFORDSHIRE and HORATIO for Plymouth
at 1600 today. E.T.A. 0930/30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1243A/29.)

P.Q.10 EMPIRE SELWYN lost contact in blizzard 0415/28,
unaware of changed destination. Possibly
forced to return owing to shifted tank cargo .
P.Q.10 at position O.
(NOTTS COUNTY 1135A/29.)

W.P.103 My 1249/28. Cancelled owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1444/29.)

H.X.171. Hope to meet H.X.171 at dusk today. ST.ALBANS
in company. ACANTHUS, HIBISCUS, ROSE, follow
at best speed. My P.C.S. are 054° 38' N.
016° 15' W, 250° 20 knots.
(NEWPORT 1500A/29.)

S.L.97. S.L.97. Your 1922 2/4 showed BACTRIA sailed
BACTRIA. for Oban. Route instructions to Master show
Mersey as destination where ship arrived,
consequently dislocating dispersal of cargo.
(D.T.D. 1606A/29 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

→ P.W.103 S. Cancel my 1742A/28. P.W.103 S is now cancelled.
P.W.101 P.W. 101 sails to schedule from Portsmouth 30/1
P.W.103 escorted by Group E. P.W.103 sails from Falmouth
W.P.104 30/1 escorted by Group A. W.P.104 sails from
W.P.105 Bristol Channel ports 30/1 escorted by Group 'D'.
W.P.105 will sail from Bristol Channel 1/2
escorted by Group A.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1640A/29.)

C.E.Convoy To avoid delay due to cyphering so long a signal
Signals. it is proposed to send the signal giving the
composition of the C.E. convoy in two parts the
time table only in cypher. Request you will say
if this signal should continue to be sent to all addressees of
A.I.G.45 as is done now.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1657A/29.)

/Notice ...

War Diary.

29.1.1942
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Notice to
Mariners.

Attention is called to Fleet Notice to Mariners
number 42 of 1942. Commodores of convoy and
holders of chart folios 362 are affected.
(D.T.D. 1717A/29.)

ALMANZORA.

Destination of ALMANZORA is Clyde.
(D.O.D. H. 1904A/29.)

Fair Isle
Channel
Route.

Your 1850/29. Confirm my 1956A/28 reads
"QZS 244 with fixed Convoy Routes, H.R.G. and
Q. Centre Line etc."
(A.C.O.S. 2128/29.)

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War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- DINGLEDALE, fuelling orders. DINGLEDALE and escort are to be position X 036° 20' N. 025° 00' W. by 0900A/31 to R/V and fuel WESTCOTT, EXMOOR (?and) CROOME. 2. VETCH is also due at R/V daylight/31 (my 1216A/27 refers.) 3. DINGLEDALE is subsequently to be escorted to Ponta Delgada arriving daylight 1/2 to supply S/M REGENT with 2300 gallons I C E lubricating oil, escort remaining outside territorial waters. DINGLEDALE to obtain fresh provisions for escort. 4. On completion DINGLEDALE and escort are to return to 033° N. 022° W. N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada) informed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1126A/29 to CLYDE, GERANIUM, SPIREA, (R) Admty. WESTCOTT, EXMOOR, CROOME, VETCH.)
- HERMIONE. HERMIONE's 2133/28. As it is most important that this ship should be intercepted, request you will arrange for HERMIONE to fuel from DINGLEDALE and return to the eastern limit of patrol area by dawn 1/2. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1215A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- REGENT, fuelling at Ponta Delgada. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1128/28 REGENT entered Ponta Delgada p.m./27 with defective hydroplane which will have to be removed. Portuguese Commission allotted 6 days for repairs. REGENT requires 2,300 gallons of lubricating oil to make good loss resulting from the defect. None available in Ponta Delgada. R.F.A. DINGLEDALE in the vicinity can provide oil but owing to presence of enemy submarines and inability of REGENT to dive oil must be supplied in port. To avoid any possible complaint by Portuguese oil ex DINGLEDALE should be transferred first to Tagus Oil Co. and re-issued to REGENT by the Company. DINGLEDALE should also, if possible, pass herself off as a commercial oiler. Tagus Oil Co. are being instructed to accept oil from DINGLEDALE. (Head of M. 1344A/29 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1344A N.O.I.C. Azores naval defence is agreeable that DINGLEDALE enter harbour and supply REGENT direct. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1710/29 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1350A/29. Presume you will inform DINGELDALE of arrangements made, the amount and type of oil to be transferred to Tagus Oil Company and name of ship she is to impersonate. (F.O.C.N.A. 1950A/29 to Admty.) Repetition of 1344/29. Your 1950A/29. Request you will do this. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2212A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- FORTUNE, LIGHTNING. Your 1221A/28. FORTUNE should remain at same notice as Force H till arrival of LIGHTNING, expected 4/2. Subject to this, defects may be taken in hand now and completed after arrival of LIGHTNING. Report in due course if sailing of CLEOPATRA to Malta will be delayed. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1517A/29 to S.O. Force H, (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

/SAN ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

SAN ZEFERINO. My 1924/28. Sailed ROSALIND and LORD GREY escorting tanker SAN ZEFERINO local escort STELLA CARINA. Maintaining constant watch on 500 kc/s per sec. whilst in company. (F.O.C.N.A. 1928A/29 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

THAMES towing CHESAPEAKE. Your 2305/27 para. 2. Ministry of Marines states no objection tug standing by during passage out of Territorial waters in case of emergency but request she casts off tow when clear of harbour. (2) In my opinion providing this formality is complied with no objection will be raised if emergency requires tow to be passed inside territorial waters. (N.A. Lisbon 2002/29 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. R.O. Horta.)

PELICAN. My P. C. and S. 038° 25' N. 017° 49' W. 315° 13 knots. VETCH detached at 1100 this morning. Weather report. (PELICAN 2130A/29 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.) 3 p. 536

Sunderlands for Gibraltar. Re move of 4 Sunderlands from Freetown. (1st S.L. 2348A/29.) (See South Atlantic.)

South Atlantic.

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA. Para. 3 of your 1901/24. (a) DUCHESSA D'AOSTA White Ensign should be worn over Italian flag in accordance with para. 3 of Art. 109 of Prize Manual. (b)*LIKOMBA and BIBUNDI. Should be treated in all respects as British Naval vessels. 2. For eventual use in Prize proceedings VIOLET should prepare formal affidavit of capture on the high seas. Position of interception should be stated if a respectable distance from Fernando Po. In other respects affidavit should be as formal as possible. (Head of M. 0018A/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

*Revised - See p. 546.

Coast Defence. A.M. 1236A/23/14 para. (1) Six months experience will be required before it can be confirmed that baffle can be maintained. Para. (2) Confirmed but one shallow draft lighter will be required. 2. Extension to baffle is being laid with spare gear from ETHIOPIAN. Request shipment referred to in A.M. 1808/5/12/41 may be hastened. (C. in C. S.A. 0916Z/29 to Admty.)

/VANSITTART ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

VANSITTART. Your 1947A/28. Para. 2 VANSITTART has insufficient endurance to do this. Para. 3. Intend to detach VANSITTART from SL (299) after ocean escort has joined about 1200Z/30 to fuel at Bathurst, then sail to overtake DEWDALE in about 026° N. on 3/2 and fuel from her. My 1245Z/25 refers. Consider this offers better prospects than fuelling from GOLD RANGER whose present position is obscure. (C. in C. S.A. 1101Z/29 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. VANSITTART, N.A. Madrid.)

PRETORIA CASTLE. Your 1245Z/26. My P. C. and S. of A. 026° 59' N. 026° 22' W. 195° 16.5 knots. E.T.A. R/V 2300Z/1. (PRETORIA CASTLE 1130Z/29 to C. in C. S.A. (R) CANTON, CILICIA.) Your 1130Z/29. Adjust speed to arrive R/V at 0900Z/2. (C. in C. S.A. 2005Z/29 to PRETORIA CASTLE (R) CANTON, CILICIA.)

DEBRETT, attacked by U.S. aircraft. DEBRETT reports via radio Olinda that she was attacked at 1105 G.M.T./29 by 2 aircraft without markings but of Catalina type. 2 bombs were dropped. Position 004° 59' S. 034° 50' W. I am asking U.S. Rear Admiral to ascertain whether aircraft could have been U.S. aeroplanes based on Natal. (Pernambuco, 1231Z/29 to S.O.(I) Montevideo, (R) S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown (Sierra Leone), Admty.) (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1604Z/29 to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 1231Z/29. Rear Adm. Ingram informs me aircraft were American from Natal. U.S. Air Force Officers concerned state DEBRETT did not reply to signals asking for her identity but instead opened fire. Aircraft thereupon dropped 2 bombs. Rear Adm. is communicating with Admty. in order to avoid similar incidents. I suggest markings on American aircraft are not prominent enough and are therefore difficult to identify. There is evidence that pilots approach British ships too near and too quick for identification. Master, KING FREDERICK, recently reported American aircraft flew right over his ship without warning and that he was on point of opening fire when he identified markings. (Recife 1401Z/29 to S.O.I. Montevideo) (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1911Z/29 to R.A.S.A.D.) Pernambuco 1231Z and 1401Z/29 are being passed to B.A.D. Washington. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1743Z/29 to B.A.D. Admty. Freetown.)

Uruguay and H.M. Ships at Montevideo. President informed H.M. Minister at Montevideo today that Uruguay Govt. were awaiting the return of M.F.A. Rio de Janeiro before publishing decree extending Non-Belligerent Status to Non-American Allies of U.S.A. He assured H.M. Minister that in event of any of our warships visiting Montevideo before publication of the decree they would not be subject to the usual 24 or 48 hours regulation visit. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1731Z/29 to Admty.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

Convoy W.S.15. Sailing Telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1848Z/29 to Admty.)
Departures 1730/29 RESOLUTION, CHESHIRE, MILFORD,
EMIR HISAR, VIMY, WILD SWAN, BOREAS, H.M.N.S.
COLOMBIA with W.S.15.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1945Z/29).

ASTURIAS,
BULOLO. Your 1851/22. ASTURIAS and BULOLO should not
patrol in U.S.A. area, see my 1447Z/23.
(C. in C. S.A. 2011Z/29 to R.A.S.A.D.)

LIKOMBA
renamed. Your 0111A/23/1. LIKOMBA has been named MALAKAL.
(C. in C. S.A. 2151Z/29 to Admty.) *See p 846*

OSCAR
GORTON. Left Buenos Aires 24th for Rio de Janeiro and
has not arrived. Probably proceeding direct for
U.S. Port. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2205Z/29 to
S.O.I. Kingston Jamaica, (R) Admty., R.A.S.A.D.,
S.O.I. Freetown, Sierra Leone).

Sunderlands,
Freetown. Request you will move 4 Sunderlands from Freetown
to Gibraltar temporarily to meet a situation
which may arise very shortly if German battle
cruisers leave Brest and make for Straits of
Gibraltar. (1st S.L. 2348A/29 to Air Ministry,
(R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M/V.

P.C. and S. of one M/V A A A 2000 tons, 020
38° N. 14° E. 8, 100° 8 knots.
(A/C Duty R., 0220/29 to A.H.Q., Malta).

TURBULENT.

Adjust speed to cross 011° 50' after 0800B/31 and proceed as in my 1741B/9 to S/M P.36, making passage Q B B 65 either on the surface at night or submerged by day to arrive Marsamxett 0730B/2. P.36 is due at the same time from 035° 34' 014° 12'. Do not loiter within 5 miles of entrance on account of possible M/L or machine gun attack by enemy A/C. If forced to dive off entrance a black ball will be hoisted when no air raid by Port War Signal Stn. S/M's encountered within 15 miles off coast during dark hours are not to be attacked. (S.10, 1205B/29 to TURBULENT).

P.34, P.36.

Leave patrols and return to arrive Marsamxett 0730B as follows. P.34 through 037° 15' 016° 07' and N.E. route arriving 1/2. P.36 through 035° 00' 012° 00' and 035° 34' 014° 12' and by S.E. searched channels to arrive 2/2. P.36 is not to attack any submarine encountered after dark within 15 miles of Filfola Is. UPRIGHT due 0730B/1 by S.E. channel. (Capt. S.10, 1211B/29 to P.34, P.36).

Movements.

Arrivals 28/1. ^{? guttu} JAGUAR, KELVIN, CARLISLE, ISAAC SWEERS, *AGINCOURT, LANCE, ARROW, HEYTHROP, SOUTHWOLD, ABERDARE, GLENGYLE. Departures 28th, DELPHINIUM, HERO, ERIDGE, FARNDAL. Arrivals 28th. HYACINTH, AVON VALE, MALINES. (S.O.I.), Alexandria, 1305B/29).
** Not seen*

Enemy Units.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 3 Medium vessels, 1 large vessel is 090° 16 miles from Raskapudia, 270° 8 knots. (A/C using call sign 7YFQ, 1350B/29).

M.W.9.

Following from Governor (begins). C. in C. Med., 1221B/27. The reduction of convoy to 2 ships will be most serious to supply situation here. Urge that ROWALLAN CASTLE may be made available for this trip. (N.O.I.C.Malta, 1445B/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

PROTEUS,
THUNDERBOLT.

PROTEUS leaves Alexandria searched channel about 1830B/29 and proceeds through 033° 08' 028° 24' 035° 00' 021° 54' 037° 30' 019° 50' 038° 22' 019° 50' to area P within 48 miles of 038° 11' 020° 21' 50" 020° 40' but including the Zante Channel south of 037° 52'. PROTEUS has been ordered to patrol north of 038° 22' until THUNDERBOLT leaves area. THUNDERBOLT is to keep south of 038° 22' and east of 020° 00' from 1800B/2. (Capt. S.1, 1535B/29 to C. in C. Med., THUNDERBOLT, (R) V.A.Malta, R.A.Alexandria, Capt. S.10, No. 201 Co-operation Group.)

/NEREUS ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

NEREUS. This is number 3. Leave your area P.M./31 and return to Alexandria through $35^{\circ} 30' 26'' 32'$ $32^{\circ} 35' 29'' 24'$ thence end of searched channel.

Adjust your speed to pass through first position about 1800B/1 and arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0530B/4.

(Capt. S.l., 1607B/29 to NEREUS (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, R.A. Alexandria, Capt. (S) 10, Group 201).

W.D. Note. - This was cancelled by No.4, see 0009B/30.

Gun
protection
for
Submarines.

Your 2302A/26. Concur generally with Capt. (S) 1 1223B/28, with additional observation that consider enemy aircraft far more likely to be hit by Bren guns than single barrel 0.5. Bren guns not available at Malta though some prospect of obtaining through defence security officer in exchange for Lewis.

(Capt. S.10, 1711B/29 to F.O.S. (R) Capt. S.l., Capt. S 8.)

Malta Air
Report.

CSR 29/1. My I.51. Alert 1317/28 A/A destroyed 1 JU 88. 1 Hurricane Hal Far direct hit and destroyed. Night 28/29, bad weather. 0443 hours 1 raider bombs Gozo, 1 house damaged. 5 civilians killed 1 injured. 29th, 3 alerts 0708, 0822, 1058 hours. 19 ME.109 and JU.88's, bombs sea and near Hal Far, 1 civilian killed. Hurricanes up, no interception. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1715/29).

LE TRIOMPHANT. A.M. 1412A/15 and 2358A/13/12. F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT will not now proceed to Mediterranean and is to remain in the Pacific until further orders. (D.O.D.(F), 1913A/29 to C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.I. C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., Abdacom, C.C.C.F.)

U/B's

Your 1604B/26. It is probable that U-Boats dive as soon as possible to a deep depth but do not voluntarily exceed 400 feet. (A.C.N.S.(T), 1914A/29 to S.O.I. Med.)

Derna.

In view of transport shortage at his disposal and limitation of Port area Commander urge temporary withdrawal to Tobruk.

(N.O.I.C.Derna, 1945B/29 to 3.O. Force I.)

Situation
Report 109.

Operation M F 4 completed. Convoy M E 9 bombed A.M./26 and both Force B and Force K attacked unsuccessfully by T/B aircraft P.M./26. No other incidents. All Forces have arrived in harbour.

2. Western Desert. Demolition of Benghazi has been completed and town evacuated. Army dock party tugs and Lighters have arrived Alexandria in convoy and all other Naval craft arrived Tobruk safely. One D Lighter beached near Tobruk, remaining 10 D Lighters made passage Benghazi-Tobruk under own power in difficult

/weather ...

War Diary.

29.1.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

Situation
Report 109.
(contd.)

weather conditions. Benghazi Naval Base party has returned Alexandria to reorganise. Supply to Tobruk continues normally.

3. Red Sea. AJAX is at Suez to protect shipping during present large troop movement.
(C. in C. Med., 1957B/29 to Admt.)

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 1 M/V, 1 destroyer, 350° CC30 150° 11 knots.
(A/C Cl Station Q.H. Kalafrana, 2045B/29 to A.H.Q. Malta Command).

Aircraft leaving now to attack 1 Merchant ship, 1 destroyer, 322° C C 12 miles, course 150° 11 knots at 2100.
(Capt. S.10, 2223B/29, to S/M P.36).

U/B attacked
by KOS 19.

Attacked S/M in position 031° ? 32' N. 031° 16' E.
(?KOS 19, 2315B/29 to Alexandria (R) Port Said).

Enemy Unit.

P.C. and S. of 1 unidentifiable ship fully fledged stopped 270 BB 80.
(A/C. T Malta Squad. 2400/29 to Malta H.Q.)

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- B.P.33. INDRAPOERA, Netherlands with troops and stores for Basra sailed 0400Z/29 due Rooka Float (708)00Z/2 (route) (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0636Z/29 to Admty.)
- W/T Boundaries. In view of Malayan situation request very early action may be taken on my 1302/24. (C. in C. E.F. 0917Z/29 to Abdacom, Navy Board, Melbourne, Admty.)
- Indicator nets at Bombay. Your 1238/5 PROTECTOR considers laying of indicator nets at Bombay practicable. In view of fact that convoy anchorage frequently contains 30 to 40 large ships including loaded troopships consider that nets should be laid experimentally.
2. Could GUARDIAN proceed to Bombay for this purpose.
 3. As additional safeguard anchorage for as many ships as possible is being arranged in vicinity of Pir Pao and Elepoanty.
 4. See my 0404Z/29 to Admty.)
- (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1101Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)
- ABDIEL. O.U. 5302/38 para.78A. Details of minelaying (ABDIEL 1245Z/29 to Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.
- B.M.13. Request permission to use CITY OF PARIS in B.M.13 sailing 12th/2. (P.S.T.O. India 1302Z/29 to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. E.I.)
- U/B incidents. (1) Enemy S/M reported in 010° N. 080° at 0547/28 gunning. (2) Enemy S/M in position 30 miles off Madras at 0430/29 torpedoed FLORENCE LUCKENBACH. (3) C.C.C.F. pass to A.B.D. N.I.D. (C. in C. E.I. 1730Z/29 amended 2041Z/29 to E.I. Station (R) Admty. etc.)
- Port T. Your 537 18/1. 1. Propose sending R/C party 6 officers one B.O.R. Port T. Party can assemble Colombo five days after your signal received here that sailing facilities available. Grateful if you could arrange their passage to and from Port T and state date you require all members in Colombo. Second. Defence Commander M.N.B.D.O. expects to arrive Colombo from Delhi 5/2. In view of his first hand knowledge of Port T, grateful if his services could be placed at our disposal. (C. in C. India 1835/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

852A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET ~~TOP SECRET~~ 0546Z/29 January IN

From C. in C. ~~East Indies~~ Date 2/2/42
Recd. 0020

NAVAL CYPHER C.T.T. BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. East Indies.

160. Admiralty message 2125 27th/and 1850 29th/ ^(HUSH)
of December 1941.

Among those problems, arising from requirements for new bases, which I have discussed with C. in C. East Indies is provision of personnel particularly officers.

I am fully aware of manning difficulties with which their Lordships are faced but if these bases are to be efficient, adequate staff must be provided. It is to be claimed that these exist at Durban or Ø any proposed base on East Indies Station.

I have no doubt careful consideration has been given but problem is now so acute that I would suggest that even more drastic dilution must be applied to base staff elsewhere in order to provide at least a nucleus in this new theatre of war.

Any Officer arriving from Singapore will be made use of as far as possible but it is not anticipated that there will be many after providing for Java.

As an example of meagre staff available, Trincomalee, which must inevitably be an important operational base has as staff one Captain in Charge, one Commander, King's Harbourmaster, and Boom Defence Officer, one Commander R.N.R. Assistant King's Harbourmaster one Lieut. Commander Barrack Master, 5 newly entered Sub. Lieuts. R.N.V.R., totally inexperienced, one paymaster Lieut. Sec. 2 Engineer Officers, one temporary Paymaster Lieut. for cypher duty Boom Defence staff one Surgeon Lieut. Commander, one Temporary Surgeon Lieut.

0546Z/29

- Note A.M. 2125/27/12 - Hush distribution
- Ø As received. ?FCR intended
- ✓ Administration of fleet bases in Far East.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.C.(2) |
| 1st S.L. | D.C.D.(F) |
| 2nd S.L. | D.D.C.D.(F) |
| 5th S.L. | D. of L.D.(2) |
| V.C.H.C. | Admiral Somerville. |
| A.C.H.C.(1) | Hd. of M. for action |
| N.A. 2 S.L. | N.I.D.10 |
| D. of P.(3) | I.P. |
| D.N.I.(2) | W.D. |

MOST SECRET

8-5-2 B.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1245Z/29th January

IN

From H.M.S. ABDIEL.

Date 1.2.42.

Recd. 1017.

NAVAL CYPHER 'C' BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty C. in C. East Indies C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

O U 5302/38 paragraph 78 A.

1.	From -	Degrees	Minutes	North,	Degrees	Minutes	East.
		11	40.98		92	45.97	
	to	11	41.84		92	46.04	
2.	From	12	18.8		92	56.75	
	to	12	19.4		92	55.9	
3.	From	12	00.65		92	47.18	
	through	12	00.54		92	47.08	
	to	12	00.35		92	47.1.	
4.	From	11	58.1		92	46.42	
	through	11	58.33		92	46.36	
	through	11	58.52		92	46.4	
	to	11	58.58		92	46.62	
5.	From	11	41.69		92	46.25	
	to	11	40.95		92	46.67	

B. H.M.S. ABDIEL.

C. 28th January 1942. First lay commencing at 0650F last lay at 1354F.

D. 1 - 6 feet
2 - 6 feet
3 - 6½ feet
4 - 7 feet
5 - 8 feet.

E. 97 XIV A/15 B 60 XIV A/17 star 200.

F. Blank.

1245Z/29.

Advance copy sent D.D.O.D. (M).

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P. (3)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

Duty Capt. (2)

D.D.O.D. (M)

D.D.I.C.

D.M.S.

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

RML.

29.1.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD,
EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

Your 0801/27. Ships should return via South Africa calling at Durban. (D.S.T. 0321A/29 to R.A.Malaya).

Situation
Report.

Information No.5 to 1200Z/28. 1. All Hurricanes from INDOMITABLE reported landed safely. 2 Aircraft carrier reported off Kendari. Hudsons from Koepang ordered to attack. 3. Following are main enemy air attacks 27/1. (a) Bandjermasin by 6 fighters. 7 Glenn Martins destroyed 2 damaged. (b) Emmahaven (Padang) by 7 bombers. 2 vessels and several barges sunk, considerable damage to go-downs and Offices. 4. N.W.Borneo. Enemy landed 27/1 Pemangat. Combined N.E.I. and British-Indian force out-flanked from Kuching and forced to withdraw. Singkawang II aerodrome in enemy hands. 5. S/M K.18 reached Sourabaya safely (see Information 3, Para.1) T.O.R. 2100. (C. in C. S.W.Pacific, 0400/29 to W.O.)

B.M.11.

Convoy B.M.(?11) arrived without incident. (R.A.Malaya, 0400Z/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C.C.C.F.)

Rangoon
Shipping.

I am very concerned with possibility of U.S. authorities suspending sailings to (?Rangoon). I feel sure you will agree that certain losses must be accepted in order that China may continue to receive supplies she requires. Would you approach U.S. naval authorities as necessary? (C. in C.E.F. 0701Z/29 to Abdacom, (R) Admty.)

Singapore
air report.

27 Army type 97 heavy bombers raided Seletar 1000 hours 27/1, damage workshops buildings one Catalina unserviceable. Kellang raided two waves 24 and 25 heavy bombers believed Army 97? Buildings and installations damaged extensively. Personnel few casualties. Aircraft damaged on ground, 9 Hurricanes, 4 Buffalos, 4 light aircraft; destroyed 3 Hurricanes 2 Buffalos, 2 Blenheims, 3 light aircraft. (A.H.Q. F.E., 0703/29). Daily Op. Sum. up to 1030Z/28. 27 enemy heavy bombers raided Singapore a.m./28 causing only slight civilian damage in Katong area. Our fighters including 8 Hurricanes failed to intercept. (A.H.Q. F.E., 0715/29.)

Movements.

Singapore arrivals 29/1 DURBAN, DRAGON, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, departures EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, *(?sailed) ISIS and ROVER. (S.O.I. Singapore 0957Z/29). * confirmed by Singapore chronology

ATHENE.

Your Q.286 27/1. Addressed Norgroup. Have requested C. in C. E.F. direct ATHENE proceed Tamjong Priok and (?corrupt Group) may be informed of E.T.A. (Abdacom 1733/29 to A.H.Q. India) ATHENE arrived Mauritius 0701/28 from Capetown. (D.O.R. 29/1.)

/Withdrawal ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Withdrawal to Singapore I. Appreciation of situation in S.W. Pacific. 00488 cypher 029371 29/1 From General Wavell. W.4 Percival telegraphed last night that after consulting commanders in Johore he had decided to withdraw to Singapore Island by night Jan.30 Jan 31. I have approved decision. In view Japanese superiority on ground and in air and landing fresh troops Endau early withdrawal inevitable and desirable to do so with as little loss and disorganisation as possible. 2. Percival should after withdrawal have equivalent of approx. 3 divisions in Island of which about half will be fresh troops. Do not know what losses of men and material troops on mainland have suffered in recent fighting or in what state they will reach Island. Losses have been heavy but they have inflicted heavy loss on enemy. 3. For prolonged defence of Island much will depend on our ability to operate fighters from Singapore and to reduce scale of enemy air attack. Propose visiting Singapore with Peirse tomorrow if possible. 4. Bomber aircraft have already been removed from Island and all personnel and material not essential for defence being removed as far as possible. 5. We have rather anxious period ahead. Apart from North Australia and Burma we are faced with three main enemy advances. Considerable enemy naval force presumably escorting transports located at Northern entrance Molucca Straits, may be directed on Ambon possibly even Koepang, Force at Balikpapan still some 20 ships in spite of losses and also reported moving south probably on Macassar or Bandjermasin. Third advance directed on Singapore and perhaps on Sumatra before long. 6. To meet above we have for moment no naval striking force. Large proportion cruisers and destroyers undergoing repair or refit, remainder on escort duty to east or west. No further formations land forces in sight for several weeks. Air striking force comprises little more than average of 6 to 8 heavy U.S.A. bombers. 7. With these very limited resources can do no more than try to defend most essential objectives which I conceive to be Singapore Island Air Bases in Southern and Central Sumatra, Naval Base at Surabaya, Aerodrome at Koepang. We will do our best to keep these intact and hit enemy as hard as possible. 8. Considerable pressure being exerted by Australia for diversion reinforcements Abda area to defence Australia. You will realise that with above picture essential at present to assemble maximum strength this area to resist Japanese advance. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1743/29 to W.O. for C.O.S. Brit. J.S.M. Washington for Combined C.O.S.)

WARREGO
SWAN.

WARREGO is to complete boiler cleaning.
WARREGO and SWAN are then to assist in escort of American Base Force Units proceeding to Surabaya from Darwin. (Abda float, 1745/29 to D.N.O. Northern Territory, (R) F.O.J. N.O.I.C. Flinders, Admty. N.O.I.C. Sydney, F.O.C. Australian Squadron, Com. Task Force 5. Com. Base Force (U.S.A.F.))

Abdair
Command
organisation.

Combined Air Force command Abdair organised as follows. Norgroup Burma H.Q. Rangoon.
Wesgroup Malaya Sumatra north of 3° S. and including Palembang I and II and West Borneo,

/H.Q. ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Abdair Command, organisation. contd. H.Q. Singapore. Cengroup, Java, west of 110° S. and excluding Palembang I and II, H.Q. Bandoeng. Easgroup, Java east of 110° E. to Flores inclusive Celebes inclusive Molucca Sea to eastern boundary Abda area and including that portion of Australia north of line joining S.E. corner of Gulf of Carpentaria H.Q. Darwin. Recgroup H.Q. Bandoeng, divided provisionally into 4 areas. (1) Western area, Malaya west Borneo to 3° S. (2) Central area, south of 3° S. Sunda, Java Sea, Souiabayato, S.E. corner of Borneo. (3) Eastern area, east Borneo, Macassar Straits Molucca Sea inclusive to Timor. (4) Darwin area, Halmaheira Ambon, Timor, Onslow to Abda boundary. Air forces allotted each area to take action in their own areas in accordance with directive issued from time to time requesting assistance from Abdair, repeating neighbouring groups if situation demands. In future groups will be referred to by designation set out above. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 2040/29 to W.O. etc.)

Batavia, base Staff. My 0115Z/23 and R.A. Malaya's 0931Z/27 (N.T. in W.D.) Batavia at present appears to be best position for a base for H.M. Ships in Abda area. It is considered that in addition to stores being evacuated, Naval and Administrative Staffs should be sent there to assist C.C.C.F. (Details). 3. Since C.C.C.F. has no administrative Staff to cope with these new and heavy responsibilities it is considered essential that an adequate Secretariat and Administrative Staff be provided for him. (Abdacom, No T.O.O./29.)

America & West Indies.

U/B's. 2 Godd Radar D/F bearings fixed enemy S/M's 28/1 at 2313 G.M.T. in 040° 30' N. 064° 00' W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0015/29 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S) C.N.A.N.C.F. (R) Cdr. Task Group 7.4 Cdr. Task Force 4, F.O.N.F. Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. A.W.I.)

CAVINA. SURREY. (See 22/1 - p. 609) Tow parted. My position 0100P/29 032° 04' N. 062° 40' W. drifting 340° 2 knots. (CAVINA 0114P/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

North Atlantic Escorts. Personal for C.N.O. from C.N.S. I have today personally carried out a full examination of the proposals put forward in B.A.D.'s 2007R/23 and C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 2340Z/24 as a result of the conference held in Washington on North Atlantic Escort operations. 2. I am seriously disturbed at the length of time this matter has been under discussion and the resulting delay in putting /our ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.North
Atlantic
escorts
contd.

our combined available escort forces to the most economical use. I am afraid such delays will be inevitable under the existing system of control. 3. The increasingly serious scale of attack on shipping on the North American Eastern seaboard points in my view to the desirability of extending the convoy system to cover this area. If this is accepted it is all the more important to lose no time in finding a scheme which will release the necessary forces for this purpose. 4. I have been led to the conclusion that the present system of divided control is wasteful of our resources. 5. I would therefore urge most strongly that the system of strategic direction by the British C. in C. Western Approaches as outlined in plan Rainbow No.5 Part III Chapter IV, Section 1, Para. 3413 (a), should be adopted at the earliest possible moment. I would wish to make it clear that such strategic direction by C. in C. W.A. in no way implies unified control of the Atlantic by the British. 6. Whilst agreeing with the broad principles of the system of escort outlined in B.A.D.'s 2007R/23 I consider that in order to preserve the continuity of both British and Canadian group training and operations it is essential to retain the services of a proportion of Western Approaches Group Commanders. With this in view, the following modifications are suggested:-

(a) HX, SC, ON & ON (S) convoys should be considered as single problem for the provision of escorts.

(b) The North West escort force consisting of 28 U.S. Long-Leg Destroyers should operate between Argentia and Londonderry under their own Senior Officer at Londonderry and be strategically controlled by C. in C. W.A. who should have a U.S. and a Canadian liaison officer attached to his staff.

(c) The 14 groups required for the mid ocean escort of trans-Atlantic convoys should be composed as follows:-
5 Groups U.S. Destroyers, 5 Groups R.N. Destroyers, 4 Groups R.C.N. Destroyers reinforced by British and Canadian corvettes preserving their existing groups as far as possible. The Western and Eastern local escorts to remain as proposed in B.A.D.'s 2007R/23. (d) The balance of British and U.S. long legged destroyers would be employed as escorts to trans-Atlantic troop convoys. (e) Iceland shuttle service would be maintained by 5 U.S. short leg destroyers operated by S.O.P.A. Iceland. (f) Thus the allocation of the U.S. destroyers recently employed with North Atlantic convoys would be - 28 long-leg to N.W. Escort Force, 5 short-leg to Iceland Shuttle Service. Remainder (21) short-leg destroyers would be available for U.S. East Coast convoys as desired by you.

7. In implementing the above the U.S. destroyers will not, except in emergency, be mixed with British or Canadian destroyers. 8. If this were agreed to it should be possible for roughly 12 U.S. destroyers to become immediately available for work on the American seaboard.

(1st S.L. 0226Z/29 to Opnav. (R) B.A.D. (personal) C.N.S. Canada (personal)).

U/B.

D/F bearing at 2312Z/28 places enemy S/M in vicinity of 041° N. 064° W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0319Z/29 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opnav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

/N.A.2 ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - contd.

- N.A.2. Sailing delayed owing to boiler defect in GEORGE WASHINGTON probably for 48 hours. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0324Z/29 to Admty.)
- My 0324Z/29. Board of 9 engineers have surveyed boilers of GEORGE WASHINGTON and their unanimous conclusion is that said boilers are in bad state of repair and ship not fit to proceed. Board recommends temporary repairs to boilers requiring 5 weeks to complete. Intend sailing LARGS BAY and VOLENDAM 2000Z/30. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2037Z/20 to Admty.)
- My 1908Z/27 and C.O.A.C. 0324Z/29. C.O.A.C. is reporting on defects which make it impossible for GEORGE WASHINGTON to proceed. Propose 3500 troops remain on board until ships for N.A.3 are available as troops accommodation at Halifax very limited. Total numbers ready for N.A.3 will now be 8,000. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2109Z/29 to D.S.T.)
- U/B. D/F bearings at 2225Z/28 placed enemy S/M Faroes 045° N. 047° W. unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0412Z/29 to Brit. Warships in Area 7 Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.)
- U/B attacked. Enemy submarine bombed by U.S. aircraft 28/1 at 1515 G.M.T. in 043° 50' N. 053° 50' W. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0805Z/29 to Admty.)
- U/B. D/F bearing indicate enemy S/M within 150 miles of 039° N. 067° W. at 0245Z, unreliable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0915Z/29 to Brit. Warships Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)
- WEST POINT, WAKEFIELD. My 2003/5. U.S. Authorities desire to know (a) present positions of WEST POINT and WAKEFIELD (b) approx. future programme and date of release. (B.A.D. 1155R/29 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F.)
- N.A.3. Following arrangements are now proposed for Troop Convoys from North America to U.K. during February. (a) N.A.3. EMPRESS OF CANADA, DOMINION MONARCH. Ready to sail from Halifax about 12/2, dependent upon date of completion of EMPRESS OF CANADA's overhaul. (b) A.T.11 FRANCONIA, ORONSAY, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, CAMERONIA, WINDSOR CASTLE, SAMARIA. Proposed date of sailing from New York about 22/2. (c) N.A.4 ORION Proposed date of sailing from Halifax about 25/2. 2. C. in C. A.W.I. and C. in C. S.A. are requested to arrange for ships for A.T.11 to proceed New York. (D.S.T. 1228A/29 to B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

/PRUDENT ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - contd.

- PRUDENT. Following for C.C.R.T. My 1502Z/27.
Anticipated date of completion of PRUDENT defective Rudder 4/2.
(F.O.N.F. 1232Z/29 to Admty.)
- A.T.12. Convoy A.T.12 consisting of 7 troopships and 3 freight carriers with 9000 troops and their equipment is due to leave New York for Belfast on about 10/2. (2) S. of A. of convoy 15 knots. (3) Heavy and A/S escort is being provided by U.S. Navy as far as M.O.M.P. to be selected on about 18/2. (4) Cominch requests British escort from M.O.M.P. to Belfast. (B.A.D.1241R/29 to Admty.)
- Russia to contain Japanese Troops. Chiefs of Staff from J.S.M. No.16 Ref. Abdacom 00278 of 23/1. (T.O.O. 2151/23) U.S. Chiefs of Staff were not inclined to do anything at this end towards putting pressure on Russia. It was agreed therefore that no action should be taken on this telegram by Combined Chiefs of Staff as such. (B.A.D. 1251R/29 to Admty.)
- Washops 49. N.E.I. Cumulative losses have reduced Dutch bomber strength to 32 aircraft. Another heavy attack seriously damaged ships and port facilities at Emmahaven, the port of Padang, West coast of Sumatra. Japanese ground forces attacking Singkawang West Borneo have been reinforced by successful landing at Pamangkat. (iii) Eastern Pacific: one or 2 Japanese submarines bombarded Midway Is. on 25/1 without causing damage. On 26/1 U.S. Submarine GUDGEON attacked a Japanese Submarine of I 68 class (1400 tons) on surface approximately 220 miles west of Midway Is. and claims to have sunk her. U.S. Transport ROYAL T. FRANK was sunk by an enemy submarine 30 miles north of Hawaii Is. yesterday. 2 Enemy submarines have been attacked off Oahu, result unknown. (J.S.M. Washington 1259R/29 to Admty. etc.)
**I.173 - sunk 27/1. See p.751.*
- S.C.67. Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1404Z/29 to F.O.N.F. etc.)
- O.15. My 0954/20. Request Netherlands S/M O.15 may arrive at Overfalls L/V at entrance to Delaware River at 0800 Zone 5 time on 4/2 where pilot will meet ship. Request route be communicated in order that U.S. Authorities may take action with regard to bombing restrictions, etc. (B.A.R.M. 1414R/29 to C.O.A.C.)
- ORION. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2205Z/27. Has ORION now completed? If so, in view of advance of completion date by one month, do any items remain for completion in home dockyards? (B.A.R.M.'s 1710R/2 refers. (D.D.O.D.(F) 1508A/29 to B.A.D. B.A.R.M.)

/KIWI ...

859

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - contd.

KIWI. Your 1740R/28. KIWI will be sailed to arrive Boston Finn's Ledge Buoy to meet Pilot at 1600 Zone 5/2/2. (F.O.N.F. 1517Z/29 to B.A.R.M.)

LADY HAWKINS. My 2213Z/28. Canadian National advise (A) 3 Imperial Army for Trinidad and (B) 2 for British Guiana (C) 2 R.M. 21 Naval Personnel for Bermuda among survivors, names will be passed when received. Propose if you approve these men be embarked LADY DRAKE southbound and Bermuda personnel be landed on return North. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1550Z/29 to C. in C. A.W.I. Admty.)
 My 1550Z/29. Names of survivors. (N.S.H.Q. 2029Z/29.)
 My 2213Z/26. (? 2213/28 intended) Chief Officer reports 2 other life boats with large numbers on board also left LADY HAWKINS. No information if these have been picked up. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2103Z/29 to Opnav.)

North Atlantic Escort Groups. My 2007/23. Consequent on proposals for mixed North Atlantic escort groups, necessary changes to communication arrangements have been discussed with Navy Dept. and representative from N.S.H.Q. Following alternative schemes have been forwarded by C. in C. U.S. Fleet to C. in C. Lant for his remarks. 2. In all three schemes "L" messages affecting convoy escorts will have to be in U.S.-British Cypher. 3. Scheme (A) which has been recommended to C. in C. Lant by C. in C. U.S. Fleet, is considered the best (reasons) (B.A.D. 1625R/29 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

Discipline & signalling by British-Canadian escorts. Following is extract of report by the Commander of U.S.A. Task Unit dated 24/11/41 shown to B.A.D. unofficially. "A 2410 kc/s - escort convoy frequency. The radio discipline of British-Canadian escort units is very lax - almost invariably some British-Canadian unit can be heard using voice on 2410 kc/s- apparently radio silence is unknown to them. In this regard they not only endanger themselves and convoys but endanger U.S. Task Units that relieve or are relieved by them. It is felt that a strong protest of this dangerous practice should be lodged. (B) Visual - 1. Convoys and British-Canadian Men of War use a very bright unshielded Addis type signal light. No attempt is made to use Blinker guns at night especially by convoy Commodores and frequently escort Commanders find it necessary to talk with the convoy Commodore with the resulting danger involved by their use of a very bright signal light. 2. Recommendation that convoy Commodores and British-Canadian escort units be equipped with Blinker guns". (II) B.A.D. is frequently required to point out U.S. shortcomings and is seldom informed of action taken by U.S. Authorities. It would therefore be helpful if B.A.D. could be notified of action taken in respect of above. (B.A.D. 1631R/29 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/MARON ...

War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - contd.

- MARON. Leave Bermuda p.m./1 and proceed by direct route to W.P. area N.46.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1632P/29 to MARON.)
- Hampton Roads. Pass to N.C.S.O.'s. All ships bound for Hampton Roads are to be warned to proceed with caution at maximum speed of five knots when in vicinity of net and boom defence of that port.
(D.T.D. 1648A/29.)
- SILVERAY,
ICARION,
MARO. Have you any news of SILVERAY, Greek ICARION and Greek MARO due Halifax 24/1, 25/1 and 23/1 respectively from O.N.53?
(D.T.D. 1732A/29 to D.N.I. Ottawa.)
- SURCOUF. C. in C. A.W.I. 2302I/28. Concur, unless C.O. of SURCOUF has specific reason to call at Bermuda. 2. Request C. in C. A.W.I. be informed if any essential reason exists.
(D.O.D.(F) 1736A/29 to C. in C. A.W.I. C.O.A.C.)
- S.S.
QUEEN
ELIZABETH. Your 2047/26. (1) Cominch prefers plan (b) BISHOPDALE to be used since QUEEN ELIZABETH would deplete stock at Bora Bora required for another operation. Bora Bora would remain as an alternative. (2) C. in C. Pacific Fleet has been ordered to make a destroyer available to assist in operation. (3) We have suggested destroyer should meet BISHOPDALE off Nunukiva (?Nukuhiva) and assist her to select suitable fuelling anchorage in prevailing weather before arrival of QUEEN ELIZABETH. She would then cover fuelling operation. (4) Further signal will be made when details of arrangements are known. (5) Assume Cook's passage bay is Comptroller Bay 008° 55' S. 140° 01' W. as U.S. Chart does not mention former at Nunukiva.
(B,A.D. 1745R/29 to Admty. (R) N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B.)
- ALCANTARA. My 1802/26. ALCANTARA is delayed due to fog interfering with work-up practice and decision to fit R.D.F. before sailing. Revised date will be communicated and it is intended she shall reach Halifax by 7/2. Admty. 1552/23 refers. (B.A.R.M. 1800R/29 to C. in C. A.W.I. C.O.A.C.)
- North Atlantic Escort Groups. A.M. 0226/29 to Opnav. For purpose of discussion with Navy Dept. request intended initial number of destroyers in each of groups proposed in para. 6 (C) and number of U.S. and R.N. destroyers to be initially assigned to troop convoys under para. 6 D. 2. Request clarification of strength of local escorts proposed in para. 6 C. In B.A.D. 2007/23 western and eastern local escorts absorbed all R.N. destroyers believed to be available, 24 in number, excluding 10 for troop convoys. Some of these 24 appear to be required for mid ocean escort by A.M.0226/29.
/Moreover ...

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War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. contd.

North Atlantic Escort Groups. (Contd.)
 Moreover western local escort appears to be weakened under proposals in A.M. 0226/29 by U.S. long leg destroyers running to Argentina instead of to and from Halifax.
 3. Request basis of figure (21) of short leg U.S. destroyers in para. 6 F. Total number U.S. Authorities declare now available is 15, of which 5 are required for Iceland shuttle service leaving 10 for American seaboard. (B.A.D., 1941R/29 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

QUEEN MARY. C.S.A. Boston report QUEEN MARY expects to sail 2/2 to New York. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston will arrange escort. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2000Z/29 to B.A.D.)

MARO. Your 1644/4.
 Greek MARO has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2241Z/29 to Admty.)

NORVANA. NORVANA sailed Nuevitas 14/1 for Philadelphia has not arrived. B.A.D. pass to Opnav. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2249Z/29 to Admty., Opnav, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston, Shipping A. New York, Philadelphia.)

OLYMPIC. Panamanian OLYMPIC sailed Curacao 13/1 due Baltimore 22/1 has not arrived. B.A.D. pass to Opnav. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2331Z/29 to Admty., Opnav, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston, C.S.A. New York, C.S.A. Boston.)

"R" Report, FRANK J. PETERSON. Following has been read. Received 2237 G.M.T. RRRR 41.30 N. 66.45 W. FRANK J. PETERSON de WSL (Chatham, Mass. U.S.A.) (Halifax W/T, No T.O.O./29.)
 Intercept, Amagansett Radio, RRRR FRANK J. PETERSON, suspect, doused lights after we sent message, we unable to manoeuvre due to heavy sea, position 41.30 N. 66.45 W. steering 170°, 9 knots, 2236 G.M.T. (ends). (Valentia Radio, 2319/29 to Admty., Adm. Devonport.)

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War Diary.29.1.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Serial number 9 from Central War Room. Enemy fighters operating from Kavieng (New Ireland). 6 small ships and 1 large approaching Salamoia at 0140Z/29. 3 air raids Manus Island a.m./28. Aircraft reported 2 moored mines in Dundas Strait (off Melville Is.) 2200Z/27.
(A.C.N.B., 0926Z/29 to Opnav, Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M., C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet.)

PERTH. Your 2157R/27. Commonwealth Govt. concur
Coastal PERTH proceeding Abda area without waiting for
Shipping. repairs to CANBERRA. PERTH will escort U.S. troop convoy M.S.5 leaving Melbourne 7/2. It is agreed that protection of coastal shipping will be included in task 2 and A/S vessels will be allocated as suggested in B.A.D. Washington 1923R/25.
(A.C.N.B., 0927Z/29 to C.C.O.S. Washington, (R) Admty., N.Z.N.B.)

Shipping To assist in safety of vessels proceeding from
Routes. Pacific to vicinity of N.E.I. Islands the following routeing instructions have been issued by C.Z.M. (begins) -
(1) Indian Ocean East of 115° pass at least 499 miles from Australia. Route to wide spaces.
(2) Well defined alteration of course north of 030° S.
(3) North of 020° S., wide dispersion to approach to harbour.
(4) Ships in escorted convoy to obey instructions for the convoy.
(5) When west of Australia masters to ensure sharp listening watch is kept for emergency signals which are to be acted on immediately on receipt. (Ends).
(Navy Office, Wellington, 0950M/29 to Admty., etc.)

W/T. My 1839Z/28 (N.T. in W.R.) Coonawarra ready to operate in China W/T organization.
(A.C.N.B., 1120Z/29 to C. in C. E.F.)

Situation, Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No.
Reply to (W) 21. Your No.15 dated 1933/28. We concur
Australia. in despatch of telegram.
(1st S.L. 1507A/29 to B.A.D.)
Chiefs of Staff from J.S.M. Number 17. Ref.
your number W.21. Message in our number 15 of 28/1 despatched to Abdacom as D.B.A. number 5.
(B.A.D., 1235R/29 to Admty.)

War Diary.

29.1.1942
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1451A/29, 1452A/29.)

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M/S Trawler ROSEMONDE which left Milford Haven for Gibraltar on 13/1 in company with two other trawlers is overdue since 22/1 and must be considered lost.

Enemy Air Operations.

H.M.T. LOCH ALSH was sunk by enemy air attack at 1050 today near 59 Buoy (N.E. of Skegness).

North Atlantic.

All endeavours to get Catalinas to Gibraltar have failed, due to weather, defects and accidents. F.O.C.N.A. asks that they may be sent as quickly as possible to provide R/C against possible sorties from Brest and escort for LLANGIBBY CASTLE.

Mediterranean.

Some damage was caused to dockyard property by air attack on Malta this afternoon.

A northbound 3000 to 4000 ton merchant ship was attacked with torpedoes by Albacores from Malta at 2215 today 10 miles N.N.W. of Cape Bon and was left hard hit.

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

S.S. JALAPALAKA was sunk by gunfire by a Japanese submarine about 1300Z today 50 miles East of Madras.

China.

Burma.

The situation at Moulmein has deteriorated. The enemy has been reinforced and has obtained possession of river craft, and the situation on the water ~~point~~ appears precarious.

Malaya.

Singapore Dockyard was closed today and the whole of the Naval Base area was handed over to the Military for defence purposes. N.O.I.C. Singapore considers submarines can no longer operate from Singapore; TRUANT and TRUSTY are to sail for Java, and will operate with the Dutch submarines under control of C.Z.M.

There were several air raids on Singapore last night and 3 today. Bombs were dropped on the docks and Pulo Brani, starting fires.

Considerable damage was done to Singapore Harbour Board vessels and property. Among the casualties were a few in U.S. ~~S.S.~~ WEST POINT before women and children embarked, and ~~S.S.~~ WAKEFIELD, EMPRESS OF JAPAN and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD were damaged (the two former not seriously and continue in service.) R.A. Malaya reported today the loss by air attack of KELANA (N.A.B.) in Endau River while bombarding an enemy position on 16/1.

* Naval Transport.

N.E.I.

3 cruisers and 6 destroyers with 4 transports appeared off Amboina this morning and after preliminary air attack landings commenced.

MARYBOROUGH and EXPRESS (the latter towing ROVER) were attacked by aircraft in Banka Strait today, but were not damaged. Attacks were also made on Convoy M.S.1 in Banka Strait, but no damage was caused.

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

S.S. BOREN made a submarine distress signal at 2340 G.M.T. in 40° 45' N. 69° 46' W.

S.S. YANKEE ARROW was attacked at 1606Z in 39° 19' N. 74° 0' W.

S.S. MALANTIC sighted a submarine at 1730Z in 38° 26' N. 74° 34' W.

S.S. GULF STAR reported a submarine at 0105 G.M.T. in 37° 50' N. 75° 0' W.

S.S. ROCHESTER was torpedoed at 1605Z in 37° 10' N. 73° 58' W.

S.S. BELLINGHAM reported being chased by a submarine at 0300Z 30 miles east of Barneget.

S.S. PACO reported a submarine at 0148 G.M.T. 12 miles S.W. of Diamond Shoal (near Cape Hatteras).

S.S. FRANK J. PETERSON reported a warship raider at 2237 G.M.T. in 41° 30' N. 66° 45' W.

It is reported that British tanker DIALA was torpedoed at 2100Z/15 in 44° 50' N. 46° 50' W. and was abandoned in a sinking condition five days later.

Australia.

A concentration of one large and 6 small enemy ships has been sighted near Salamoa (S.E. New Guinea).

The arrangements for the establishment of the Anzac area which have been agreed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff are given in a message today to Abdacom. The Anzac Force will be under the strategic direction of the C. in C. U.S. Fleet.

/Air ...

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.- Contd.

Air R/C today showed 4 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 4 small craft, 5 flying boats and at least 13 transports including one possible aircraft or seaplane carrier, *H Rabaul*.
There was no sign of enemy movements.

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- RUBIS. A. RUBIS is being docked 2/2 for about ten days for repairs to damaged main ballast tank and for routine examination of mine trunks.
- B. A British S/M in similar condition could be sent to sea in emergency after a week in harbour and without completing repairs to main ballast tank.
- C. If however RUBIS were sent to sea without being fit in all respects, and if she were lost, I consider it would have a most unfortunate effect on our relations with the Free French.
- D. I strongly urge therefore that RUBIS should not be called upon for an operation till defects have been completed. (F.O.S., 1111A/30 to Admty).

Flag of C.S.1. to LONDON. Your 1624A/28. ^{N.T. N.W.D.} Para (2) Approved. (C. in C. H.F., 1214A/30 to C.S.1)

Stores for Far East. Enquiring whether they can take certain stores to Far East. (A.C.N.S. (W), 1523A/30 to FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS)

Availability of U.S. Warships. ^(In want of Gen. Bje's leaving Dist.) Your 2350A/29. A. ARKANSAS is having repairs made to her turret machinery at Boston. TEXAS is in Iceland with QUINCY, and NEW YORK is under repair in Norfolk. WICHITA, and TUSCALOOSA, two 8 inch cruisers, are leaving Iceland shortly with a troop convoy.

B. WASP, with PHILADELPHIA, and three or four Destroyers, is due Casco Bay today, Friday, having been at sea to the Eastward from Argentia for 48 hours owing to a false raider report. This unit is available to proceed as soon as definite information of German movements is received.

C. U.S.S. LONG ISLAND is at Norfolk carrying out instructional work and it is not contemplated to use her for active operations.

D. RANGER, with AUGUSTA, NASHVILLE, and three Destroyers, is at Bermuda shortly proceeding for exercises to the Southward. This unit is available for operations.

E. HORNET is on her way from Gulf of Mexico with WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA to proceed to Dockyard Ports. These are not available. (B.A.D., 1701R/30 to 1st S.L.)

Cruiser for Murmansk. Soviet Chief of Naval Staff informs me that Admiral Bevan has told C. in C. Northern Fleet that a "Kenya" Class Cruiser is to be based permanently at Murmansk from 10/2.

Whilst approving this proposal he is, I consider justifiably, annoyed that he should get this information by this route and not through me. This also does not make my relations with Higher Naval Authorities here any easier.

2. Request early information whether Russians will be required to provide any provisions or stores.

3. Provided MIRLO returns in P.Q.9 fuel situation should be all right.

(Ad. Miles, 1758C/30 to Admty).

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SHROPSHIRE. If present completion date of SHROPSHIRE is adhered to earliest date of sailing from Sheerness will be 19/2.

2. This coincides with unsuitable tidal conditions.
3. It would also be more convenient to Chatham dockyard if completion date was delayed 3 or 4 days.
4. Intend therefore to sail SHROPSHIRE on 25/2.
(C. in C. Nore, 1026A/30).

→ ICARUS, CUMBERLAND. When complete with fuel p.m. today proceed to Hvalfjord to join Captain D.3. You should proceed through 58° 45' N., 07° W., thence through Reykjanes Passage. (iii) CUMBERLAND on passage from Hvalfjord arrives Scapa 1130A/31. (R.A.D., 1047A/30 to ICARUS). Add to my 1657/30. ICARUS leaving Scapa 2230 Westbound. (A.C.O.S., 1912A/30). Sailed ICARUS to Hvalfjord. E.T.A.1030/1. (R.A.D., 2230A/30).

BURZA. Intend to sail BURZA 1030A tomorrow in accordance with A.M.1901A/27. E.T.A. 0900A/2nd. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1156A/30).

→ CUMBERLAND, ARETHUSA, COTTESMORE, COTSWOLD. COTTESMORE is to leave Sheerness at 0800Z/1 and R/V with COTSWOLD at 51 Buoy at 1015. Both destroyers to proceed thence by Q.Z.S.287 and 277 to meet CUMBERLAND and ARETHUSA on 2/2 in the vicinity of 26 buoy. Adjust speed to arrive off 22 buoy at 0800/2, whence C. in C. Rosyth is requested to issue orders for R/V with cruiser. (ii) On meeting cruiser following disposition is to be assumed. COTSWOLD lead. CUMBERLAND 5 cables astern of her. ARETHUSA 3 cables astern of CUMBERLAND. COTTESMORE 3 cables astern of ARETHUSA. All ships operating S.A. If gear fails in any ship, formation is to be changed as necessary so that she is astern of all ships operating S.A. (iii) Fighter protection for destroyers on passage North arranged. (C. in C. Nore, 1210A/30).

SEAWOLF. 1. Intend sailing SEAWOLF to R/V with WHITE BEAR off Switha Island at 1700 today for passage to Holy Loch. (A.C.O.S.1215/30). My 1634A/29. Add to C. SEAWOLF leaves Scapa p.m. for R/V off Switha Island with WHITE BEAR at 1700A/30 for onward passage to Holy Loch. (F.O.S., 1451A/30).

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- TRINIDAD. Admiralty 2356A/29. TRINIDAD is to proceed to Scapa to embark mail, and then to Clyde to disembark passengers. 2. After one night's leave to each watch N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail TRINIDAD for Scapa. 3. TRINIDAD is to complete on arrival at Clyde. (C. in C. H.F., 1224A/30).
- A.F.D.16. A.F.D. 16 will be ready to sail 6/2. Request towing arrangements may be communicated. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1250/30 to C. in C. Rosyth).
- BELLWORT, ANEMONE, ABELIA, SWEETBRIAR. My 1809A/16 and 1903A/25. BELLWORT, ANEMONE, ABELIA, and SWEETBRIAR are urgently required for escort duty. Request you will sail them direct to U.K. forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 1303A/30 to N.O.I.C. Iceland). Your 1303A/30. BELLWORT, ABELIA, SWEETBRIAR, have been engaged in submarine hunt. Now ordered to proceed U.K. For ANEMONE see my 1801A/30. (A.C.I.C., 2028A/30 to C. in C. W.A.) *last page*
- ST. LAURENT. My 0955A. Delayed by heavy weather. Hove to in 055° 16' N., 009° 32' W. (ST. LAURENT, 1430A/30).
- MIDDLETON. Complete with fuel and keep steam at one hours notice. (R.A.D. H.F., 1444A/30 to MIDDLETON) My 1444/30. Revert to four hours notice for steam. (R.A.D. H.F., 1749/30 to MIDDLETON).
- KUJAWIAK. Leave Convoy P.W.104 to arrive Plymouth 0930/31. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1522A/30 to KUJAWIAK).
- HAV. SHIKA. Norwegian minesweeping whalers HAV and SHIKA are awaiting passage Murmansk at Seidisfjord. It is intended they should accompany P.Q.10 but owing to low endurance, they will have to be towed part of the way.
2. Capt. (D) 8 is to sail with whalers in company to join convoy and destroyers are to tow them for required distance. Tow is not to be carried out South of Latitude 67° North or East of Greenwich meridian.
3. If weather or other circumstances make towing impracticable whalers are to be sent back to Seidisfjord.
4. This commitment is not to interfere with main object of destroyers, which is the safe arrival of convoy at Murmansk. (C. in C. H.F., 1601A/30).

/DOUGLAS...

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

- DOUGLAS. DOUGLAS sailed 1600A escorted by ANEMONE. DOUGLAS may call at Scapa. (A.C.I.C., 1801A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
- PAKENHAM. Intend to sail PAKENHAM for Scapa at 0945/1st, calling at Methil, remaining there that night, and proceeding a.m. following day carrying out full power and acceptance trials during passage north of 20 R buoy. E.T.A. Methil 1600/1. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1845/30).
- BREDA. Capt. (S)7 1436A/29. (1) On completion of present escort duty proceed Falmouth to await escort duty with UTMOST. (2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange fighter protection for BREDA for passage Wolf Rock to Falmouth. (Capt. S.3., 1847A/30 to BREDA).
- WELSHMAN. F.O.C.N.A., 1820A/28. Onward route from (d) to (e) 050° N., 015° W., then (f) 055° N., 010° W. (g) 055° 35' N., 007° W. Then to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1904A/30 to WELSHMAN). See p. 879
- WORCESTER. Proceed when ready to Harwich to rejoin Nore Command. (R.A.D., 1908A/30 to WORCESTER).

Operations.

- S/M Patrol off Fro Havet. Sailed TIGRIS escorted by HUGH WALPOLE in accordance with S.3's 1135A/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1216A/30 to F.O.C.O.S.) TIGRIS passes through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles about 1530A/1, thence on the surface at C.O.'s discretion through (A) 062° 20' N., 000° 30' W., (B) 065° N., 001° 30' E., thence submerged by day through (C) 065° N., 008° E., to patrol in zone W. Fro Havet. E.T.A. at (C) is 1000A/3 approximately. (Capt. S.3., 2151A/30).
- M.L. Patrol for A.S.R. Routine M.L. patrol for A.S.R. purposes outside mine Barrier in accordance with Nore No. 118A of 19/1/42 can now be started, but only on alternate nights for the present. Patrol will therefore start on night of 1/2 and then be carried out on nights of odd numbered days of the month. If H.Q.B.C. informs me by 1200 on these days that patrol will probably not be required or if weather is too bad it will be stopped and sent out on the following night instead. (C. in C. Nore, 1234A/30).

/S/M...

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.S/M Patrol
off Brest.

(a) Onward route. H.34 from Wolf Rock submerged by day through position (F) 048° 50', 007° and (G) 047° 24', 007° to patrol position number 51.
 (b) H.50 submerged by day through position (H) 048° 50', 007° 30' to patrol position number 52.
 (c) At 0100/2 UTMOST is to leave patrol in vicinity of 047° 25', 006° 30' proceeding submerged by day to R/V in vicinity of Wolf Rock as ordered by Capt (S)3. Thence UTMOST is to proceed to Holy Loch if fuel permits, otherwise to Falmouth. (d) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange bombing restrictions as follows.
 (F.O.S., 1304A/30).
 At 1900A/30 BREDA, H.34, H.50 in 053° 17' N., 004° 55' W., course 186°, six knots.
 (BREDA, 1920A/30)

Cable-laying.
IRIS.

Intend sailing IRIS at 1700A tomorrow to lay Anglesey-Isle of Man telephone cable. Speed of advance 11 knots.
 As operation will be entirely dependent on weather, IRIS has been directed to report intentions by W/T.
 It is understood that you are arranging fighter protection.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1536A/30 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

KENT is to proceed to pass through position X. 066° 30' N., 023° W., at 1000N/1. Thence patrol "White".
 SUFFOLK is to meet KENT in position X and then return to Hvalfiord.
 (C. in C. H.F., 1647A/30).
 At 2159, tonight estimate Cruiser and 2 corvettes on patrol "White".
 (A.C.I.C., 1702A/30).

Exercise
~~VICTOR II~~
"Victor II."

^{Victor II}
 Exercise ~~VICTOR II~~ begins at 0001A/15th and lasts until 19/2.
 (A.C.N.S. H., 2251A/30).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

H.Q.C.Cs. 1903A/29. Concur. Request these patrols be established only when intelligence is doubtful.
 (C. in C. H.F., 0012A/30).

Operation
E.M.

My 1149/29. No Blenheim escort possible.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1053/30 to CAPE SABIE).

Bombing
restrictions.

(1) F.O.S. 1233A/27 and 1044A/28. Bombing restrictions arranged as follows. Details.
 (Capt. S.9., 1047A/30 to O.14).

/Bombing...

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - Contd.Bombing
operations.

On day 29/1, no operations took place. Night 29/30 January. For security reasons, operations which have taken place during this period will not be reported until a later date and no B.C.S.O. will be issued until then. (H. Q.B.C., 1130/30).

Operation
Q.O.

Your 1847/29. Request details of casualties to which you refer. (D.M.S., 1438A/30 to C. in C. Nore). Your 1438A/30. Casualties referred to were two fighters from eleven group which were lost with their pilots on 22/1. Cause unknown. (C. in C. Nore, 2323A/30)

A/C in
ILLUSTRIOUS.

Admiralty's 2338A/28. As squadrons allocated to ILLUSTRIOUS are not yet completely formed a longer period for work up will be required than that envisaged in my 1347A/11. (2) Tentative programme is as follows. Details. Above absolutely dependent on good weather and facilities being available. (ILLUSTRIOUS, 2202A/30).

Enemy Air Activity.LOCH ALSH
(M/S Trawler)
sunk.

Oropesa Trawler LOCH ALSH was sunk by enemy bombing at 1050 today. Ship was lying in company with SOLOMON in vicinity 59 Buoy, when Ju. 88 attacked at 0940 from port quarter with bombs and M.Gs. at altitude 150 feet. Visibility 3 cables and snowing. One bomb fell about 15 feet from port quarter and exploded after appreciable delay. A second bomb may have fallen to starboard some distance away. Two rounds were fired from 12 pdr. one causing plane to wobble considerably. Full armament of machine guns consisting of 2 Lewis and twin Hotchkiss guns were emptied at plane at close range. Both P.A.C. Rockets misfired. SOLOMON also fired at plane at more distant range. Explosions blew in main injection and sea cocks castings and shattered all pumps. Collision mat was of no avail and rising water could not be checked. Ship was taken in tow by SOLOMON but had to be abandoned at 1030 and finally sank at 1050 in approx. 080° 2.0 miles from 59A buoy. One mast showing 8 feet above water at H.W. no serious casualties. Full ships company landed from SOLOMON at 1630. All C.B's and Documents were locked in steel chests and sank with ship. (F.O. Humber, 1309A/30, 2040A/30).

/Operation...

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War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.Operation
E.M.You were sighted by enemy aircraft at 1215/30.
(D.D.I.C., 1435A/30 to CITY OF DURBAN).BJORNVIK,
(Norwegian
812 tons)
sunk.M/V RIKA arrived with 3 survivors S.S. BJORNVIK
bombed and sunk 1830/29 090° Lizard 2.8 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1718/30).Enemy A/C
crashed.At 0901 today H.M. Trawler FYLDEA on patrol
in vicinity of 57 G Buoy saw a plane, believed
Ju. 88, crash into the sea. Plane sank. One
body was recovered.
(N.O.I.C. Humber, 2230/30).Mining.Minefield
off Bergen.Details of mined area given in local Bergen
newspaper 26/1.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1817/30).Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ.

TIRPITZ located in Foetten Fjord, Aas Fjord,
Trondheim at 1330/29.
(D.D.I.C., 1100A/30 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)
(D.D.I.C., 1708A/30).

Kiel Canal.

(a) Kiel Canal now kept open by ice breakers.
Only 10 knots ships accepted.
(b) Convoys passing westward of Jutland have now
started. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1741/30).U-Boats.ALEXANDER
HAMILTON
(torpedoed
29/1).U.S. Destroyer informed of state of affairs and
ordered to give you all possible assistance.
(A.C.I.C., 0405A/30 to RESTIVE).
RESTIVE standing by U.S. Destroyer ~~ALEXANDER~~ HAMILTON
and has 5 men on board in approx. 340° Skagi 25
miles. U.S. Destroyer also standing by.
(A.C.I.C., 0410A/30 to FRISKY.)Off S.W.
Ireland.Your 0110A/30. Continue search until completion
of morning air sweep, then proceed Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 0415A/30 to CALDWELL).

Off Macduff.

Skipper of M.F.V. SNOWDROP reports having seen
periscope of submarine at 1300/30 in position 13
miles N.N.E. Macduff steering west. Report
graded B.3.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1650/30).

/Proposed...

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - Contd.

Proposed A/S hunt. C. in C. H.F. 2209A/27 and A.C.I.C. 2359A/29 and A.M.0551A/28 to C. in C. H.F. only. Request you will consider possibility of FAULKNER and INTREPID carrying out A/S hunt off Seidisfiord to cover arrival of ANNA KNUDSEN. (A.C.N.S. H., 2101A/30 to C.in C. H.F.)

Atlantic. By D/F at 2046/30 G.M.T. U-boat, possibly homeward bound, was probably within 60 miles of 48° N., 16° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 2316A/30).

Navigational.

Scarweather Light Vessel sunk. Following received from N.O.I.C. Swansea. Request inform Admiralty Scarweather Vessel sunk by minesweeper ROSETTE. Crew being brought into Swansea. No information as to any damage to ROSETTE. T.O.O. 0732A/30. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0800A/30). Scarweather Light Vessel has been sunk. A red spherical unlighted bell buoy will be placed temporarily in its position. Request issue of Q.X.H. message. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1052A/30) (C. in C. Plymouth, 1436A/30)

Wick. Wick Harbour opened 0830/30. (R.N.O. Wick, 0833/30).

Wreck Buoy. Wreck buoy in 052° 47' 30" N., 1° 50' E. extinguished, apparently by collision with ship in F.S.711. (SHELDRAKE, 0930A/30) (C. in C. Nore, 1441A/30)

Spar. Floating spar about 40 feet in length and 2½ feet in diameter in 051° 51' 40" N., 001° 36' 45" E. Consider dangerous to navigation. (SHELDRAKE, 1001A/30)

Swansea. Dangerous wreck lies in contact with Swansea Fairway Buoy position 51° 35' 32" N., 3° 56' 02" W. Wreck is heading N.E. and about 12 feet of stern is foul of Channel. Request Q.Z.H. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1054A/30) (Hydrographer 1706A/30).

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Destroyers
Signal
Lamps.

Whilst in DUKE OF YORK I noticed that destroyers used unnecessarily bright lights for signalling between sunset and it becoming dark. The attention of the destroyers escorting us was called to this but it may be a general fault. (1st S.L. 2114A/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

THIRLMERE.

THIRLMERE will arrive Loch Ewe on escort duty in early February and requires repairs and refitting. Request these may be arranged. (A.C.I.C., 0015A/30).

CALDWELL.

During last gale fractured upper deck plating each side of engine room skylight. Forward fuel tank leaking badly. (CALDWELL, 0110A/30).

Apparently leak developed in gland space. Suctions choked. Request permission to return to harbour by south of Ireland. My position at 1000A, 51° N., 11° 30' W. (CALDWELL, 1002A/30).

Your 1002A/30. Approved to return to base South of Ireland. (C. in C. W.A., 1137A/30 to CALDWELL). *See p. 874*

ROSELYS.

Cancel A.M. 1248A/29. ROSELYS can be taken in hand at Troon on or before 1/2. (D.O.D. (H.), 1043A/30).

AZALEA,
SPIREA.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 0112/27. Arrangements have been made for docking, boiler cleaning, and fitting of type 271 upon arrival at South Shields. Request you will re-route them accordingly upon arrival at U.K. (D.O.D. H., 1048A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

ROSEMONDE
(M/S Trawler)
presumed
lost.

ROSEMONDE which left Milford Haven for Gibraltar on 13/1 in company with ROSALIND and LORD GREY, and should have arrived on 22/1 must now be considered lost as the limit of her endurance was reached on 27/1. My 1237A/13, 1519A/24, and F.O.C.N.A.'s 0041/25 and 1032A/26 refer. It is not known if inquiries have been made as to whether she has put into a Spanish or Portuguese port. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1115A/30).

BARTHORPE.

Your 1545/29. ^{N.T. n.w.d.} BARTHORPE can be taken at Aberdeen forthwith if Admiralty will concur in proposal to defer refit of HVAALV for 14 days. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1216/30 to S.B.D.O. Scapa).

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.L. 304
damaged.

M.L. 304 damaged by explosion in engine room whilst in dry dock A.M. today. Cause at present unknown. Extensive damage to hull, engine room mess deck, and wheelhouse. Estimated time for repairs not less than 6 months. 3 midge ratings injured. 3 dockyard hands injured Sabotage not suspected. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1514A/30).

EMPIRE
PARSONS.

EMPIRE PARSONS badly damaged in recent gales and no longer salvage proposition. Will endeavour to salvage armaments. (S.V.O. Metinda, 1600/30).

BOBIE sunk.

N.O.I.C. Swansea 0732A/30 and my 0800A/30. ^{N.T. in W.D.} Vessel sunk in collision with ANDELLE is steamer BOBIE. There are no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1624A/30). ^{N.T. in W.D.}

Shipping & Convoys.

CALIFORNIA.
WIVERN,
LIGHTNING.

My 1536A/28. Sailed. Codeword "Familiar". All times 2 hours late. Secret positions as follows. Routed in accordance with A.M. 1646A/29. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0024A/30).

VIBRAN.

0430 G.M.T. passed through position H. (VIBRAN, 0920/30).

W.P.M. 104

W.P.M. 104 sailing as in my 1056/29 less KYLE FISHER and VREDE category now three. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1304/30).

P.Q. 9

No information relating to P.Q. 9 its composition or sailing date has been received since your 2149A/17. Request any signals which may have been sent subsequently may be repeated. Russians also showing concern. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1430A/30).

MOORFIRE.

Your 1930/29. Intend sailing MOORFIRE in convoy when weather moderates. Routed to Oban for onward passage to Rosyth via Caledonian Canal. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1517A/30).

O.N.S. 60

Estimate O.N.S. 60 will be passing 20 miles south of you about 2100A tonight. (C. in C. W.A., 1520A/30 to HESPERUS, LAMERTON).

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- P.Q.10 E.T.A. P.Q.10 Reykjavik 2230/30 G.M.T.
(?parapetial) (3 corrupt groups) EMPIRE SELWYN
escorted by NOTTS COUNTY, ANGLE.
(NOTTS COUNTY, 1530/30).
- ? Your 1241R/29.* Owing to shortage of available
destroyers and sailing of W.S.16 from U.K. on
15/2, British escorts cannot be provided to meet
at M.O.M.P. on 18/2.
The earliest date when destroyers can be made
available to meet a convoy of the size proposed
would be on 27/2. * (N.T. in W.D.)
(A.C.N.S. H., 1722A/30 to B.A.D.Washington)
- Convoy "Wheel". "Wheel" returning Mounts Bay for shelter.
Request fighter protection from now till last
light 30th, from 1st light 31st until sailing.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1730/30).
- Q.P.6. Q.P.6 A.M.1713A/28. Request you will arrange
onward escort from Akureyri to Reykjavik for
inclusion in R.U. Convoy.
(D.T.D., 1809A/30 to A.C.I.C.)
- P.W.103. P.W.103 anchored Mounts Bay owing to stress of
P.W.F. weather. P.W.F. postponed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1831/30).
- W.P.105 Your 1640A/29 and ATHERSTONE 1710/30. Intend
W.P.106. to cancel W.P.105 and to sail W.P.106 at 0945/2
from Barry Roads, 1145 Swansea, R/V Helwick 1545.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1908A/30).
- Barrow and Holyhead Approach Routes. Reference N.C.S.I.323, Requested that approach
routes for Barrow and Holyhead be supplied to
ships sailing in convoy in addition to those
already given.
(D.T.D., 1920A/30).
- O.S.C.18 Sailed GENISTA and TAMARISK with O.S.C.18 for
Freetown in accordance with C. in C. W.A., 1812A/
26. Ships have been instructed to oil from
BRITISH HUSSAR.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2346A/30).

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

TEMPEST.

Intend sailing TEMPEST P.M./1 for Malta.
TEMPEST will pass through 038° 03' 009° 00' E.
at about 2200A/5 thence as ordered by N.O.I.C.
Malta. TEMPEST has N.O.I.C. Malta's 1741/9/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0936A/30 to C. in C. Med.)

WELSHMAN.

My 1820A/28. (1900/28 intended?) Request onward
route for WELSHMAN.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1029A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
Regret delay in passing my 1820/28.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1911A/30.) / Route for WELSHMAN.

REGENT,
fuelling.

Your 2212A/29. Intend to arrange in accordance
with N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada) 1710/29
Presume you will countermand instructions to
Tagus Oil Company.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1026A/30 to Admty.)

Route on leaving Ponta Delgada through position A. 36.00 N.
26.00 W. and B. 33.00 N. 40.00 W. report time of leaving Ponta
Delgada and time passing position (B) C. in C. A.W.I. will be
requested to signal onward route. Time of shifting wireless
watch will be signalled. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada pass to
REGENT. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130A/30 to REGENT.)

SENNEN.

Your 1845/29. (Re name of other vessel which may
call at Las Palmas with PHILOCTETES.) SENNEN,
former U.S. Coastguard Cutter, about 2/2.
(D.O.D.(F) 1042A/30 to N.A. Madrid.)
My 1607A/13 not to C. in C. S.A. Detach SENNEN
to Las Palmas at dark tonight with orders to
rejoin group.
(C. in C. W.A. 1020A/30 to WESTON.)

Situation.

Report No.1, 1959A/1. ROSALIND, LORD GREY,
STELLA CARINA escorting tanker SAN ZERFERINO
34.12 08.26 through 32.53 10.10 thence 211° 8.
2. ALOUETTE (? on patrol) off Cape Roca. 3. LOCH OSKAIG
leave patrol off Cape Roca p.m./30 coastwise Gibraltar 10.
4. *RODINO estimated 36.00 10.00 Gibraltar 8. 5. COREOPSIS
LADY HOGARTH escorting MIRROR 37 (? 57) 23.19 085° 9.
X 6. PENTSTEMON, RHODODENDRON, escorting tanker SAN ADOLFO sailed
2000/30 through 35.45 07.20 thence 240° 10½. 7. ACTIVE
(? ANTHONY) leave vicinity (corrupt group) 0900/31 240° 13.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1312A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

*?RODINA

X See also next page

CIRCASSIA.

Situation report No.3. CIRCASSIA 38.12 36.11
016° 13½. Situation 1959A/30.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1342A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

ELSA
ESSBERGER
(German).

Your 1900/23 ELSA ESSBERGER. Impossible to
ascertain extent of damage if any as no shore
assistance rendered. No trace of British
prisoners of war on board or intended movements.

/Aspect ...

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ELSA
ESSBERGER
(German)
contd. Aspect of crew too smart for Ordinary Seaman.
(R.O. Corunna 1410/30 to Admty. (R) N.A. Madrid.)

R/C
Aircraft. My 1012A/22. Still without any long range
R/C aircraft here. (2). Can Catalinas be sent
as quickly as possible to provide R/C against
possible Sorties from Brest and escort for
LLANGIBBY CASTLE? (3) Admty. 1345A/23 and Admty. 1926A/24
None of these aircraft have yet arrived although transit
aircraft have been passing through in both directions. A.O.C.
Gibraltar was not given prior warning of intention to denude
(corrupt group) (? of) long range aircraft. Present situation
most unsatisfactory. (F.O.C.N.A. 1634A/30 to Admty.) *See also
20284/30, p. 881.*

Ammunition
for Malta. War Office are anxious to ship 303 ammunition
from Gibraltar to Malta. Request you will
give consideration this when allocating stores
for shipment in FORTUNE.
(D.O.D.(F) 1755A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MENHIR-BRAZ.
French. My 1113/16 MENHIR-BRAZ has cleared for Oran and
may possibly sail tonight 30/31st.
(N.A. Lisbon 1801/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
Shipping. Gibraltar 0920 French armed trawler^LALGEROISE,
French ships SURVILLE, light, ROUENNAIS, laden,
OUEDFES, TOURQUENOIS, both in ballast Westbound.
(S.O.I. Gib. 1825A/30 to Admty. etc.)

VEST. Our 1846/26 VEST returned from S.L.99 unable to
maintain speed. Now undergoing degaussing
repairs. Despatching 1/2 Hampton Roads as per
your 0424/24th. H.Q. Ottawa pass to N.C.S.O.
St. Thomas.
(M. of W.F. Freetown 1836Z/30 to Admty.)

ANTHONY.
ACTIVE.
Force H
destroyers. Intend sailing ANTHONY and ACTIVE A.M./31 to R/V
BATORY and SOBIESKI in 042° N. on 2/2 as local
escort. 2. This will leave 3 destroyers
available for S.O. Force H.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1924A/30 to Admty.)

SAN ADOLFO. Departures RHODODENDRON, PENTSTEMON escorting
British SAN ADOLFO till dark/31/1 and 3/2
respectively.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1948A/30 to Admty.) *See previous page*

Warships
at Sal
Island. Ref. Ambassador Lisbon's 182A/27 C. in C. S.A.
reports: Ref. B.C. St. Vincent, report of
American Warships visit to Sal Island, these
ships appear to be RESOLUTION, VANSITTART,
JASMINE, and RAPIDOL. V.A.3 used Murdeira
/Bay ...

881

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Warships at Sal Island. contd. Bay as lee for fuelling on 23/1 but no personnel were landed. 1109Z/26. (Ends). (Head of M. 2034A/30 to N.A. Lisbon.)

PELICAN. My P. C. and S. are 042° 52' N. 017° 56' E. (? as received). 000° 12 knots. Intend transmitting dummy messages on 500 kc/s at about midnight using call sign ~~RUCKINGE~~ ^{Ruckinge.} (PELICAN 2100A/30 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

Convoy W.S.15. Sailed 29th. Details of ships etc. (S.S.T.O. Freetown 2115Z/30.)

U/B. Italian submarine made probable sighting report at 2050 G.M.T. approx. bearing 297° Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2225A/30 to HERMIONE, LADY HOGARTH, COREOPSTS. (R) Admty. & 2231Z/30 to ARUNDEL CASTLE)

Catalinas for Gibraltar. Your 1634A/30. All endeavours to get Catalinas to Gibraltar have failed due partly to weather, defects and partly accidents. You will by now have received A.M. 2348/29 which is an endeavour to fulfil your requirements in which we fully concur. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2327A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.) Request when Catalinas detailed for 202 Squadron may be expected at Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2328A/30 to C. in C. C.C.)

South Atlantic.

Sunderlands. Despatch forthwith four Sunderlands to Gibraltar. See Admty. 2348A/29 to C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C. N.A. (Air Ministry 0940/30 to A.H.Q. W. Africa)
See also 2013Z/30.

S.L. escorts. Departure 1500/29 IBIS, ENCHANTRESS, ABERDEEN^{EN}, WALNEY, 1100/30 CLARE, for S.L. Convoy. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1109N/30 to C. in C. S.A. Admty. C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.N.A. S.O.W.P.)

ASTURIAS, BULOLO. My 1826Z/22nd to ASTURIAS and BULOLO only. Patrol J 34 (D) until 5/2 (?then) proceed patrol K 32 K 33. (R.A.S.A.D. 1151Z/30 to ASTURIAS, BULOLO.)

/WESTON ...

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- WESTON. Report E.T.A. 019° 00' N. as soon as you can conveniently do so.
(C. in C. S.A. 1201Z/30 to WESTON.)
- LAVENDER, Your 1110/29 not to LAVENDER. HARTINGTON is to
?LAFONIA. be sailed escorted by LAVENDER on 2/2 probably to join convoy O.S.17 then to proceed with that convoy until it (?alters course) thence Takoradi. It is important that this opportunity of getting ship (?properly) escorted should not be missed. Instructions as to R/V and route will be signalled later. (C. in C. S.A. 1239Z/30 to Admty. LAVENDER.) W.R. Note: Former message quoted cannot be identified neither can the signal letters GTXY. Correction is being obtained. This Message may however be reply to D. of S.T.'s 1854A/29 re LAFONIA.
- Patrols. Ships of S.A. Sqdn. are normally ordered to patrol one or more lettered and numbered squares. C.O.'s have discretion to move to an adjacent square when their shipping plot appears to warrant such action. They have however been informed that they may not move into an area of U.S.A. responsibility except on receipt of definite enemy information. (R.A.S.A.D. 1557Z/30 to Cmdr. Task Force No.3., Repeated B.A.D. Washington, C. in C. S.A. (?N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.))
- Movements. Summary 2000Z/30 to(C. in C. S.A. 1717Z/30)
See Lion Copy.
- VANSITTART. Ref. 1330Z/30 from STARWORT (N.T. in W.D.)
If DEWDALE is overtaken 1200Z/30 insufficient fuel will remain to reach Gibraltar should weather (?deteriorate). Submit R/V in your 1151Z/29 be kept.
(VANSITTART 1803Z/30 to C. in C. S.A. (R) STARWORT.)
- VANSITTART, Ref. 1330Z/30, STARWORT. Proceed to R/V with
STARWORT. STARWORT in daylight on 3/2.
(C. in C. S.A. 1942Z/30 to VANSITTART, (R) STARWORT, Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)
- Sunderlands. Admty. 2348A/29. Have arranged with A.O.C.W.A. that 2 Sunderlands on passage to West Africa from U.K. shall remain at Gibraltar. 2. One Sunderland from Freetown and one from Bathurst will proceed shortly. These two aircraft will be able to make four Sorties from Gibraltar before being due for major overhaul but understand that three more are due to leave U.K. shortly which will be available to relieve if necessary.
(C. in C. S.A. 2013Z/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- OSCAR Cancel my 2205Z/29. OSCAR GORTHON arrived
GORTHON. Rio de Janeiro 29th.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2123Z/30.)

882A.

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

1130/30th Jan.
IN.

From : B.C.(? St. Vincent, Cape Verde Is.).

Date : 2.2.42.

RECIRCULATION NAVAL SHORE CODE N.(2) BY CABLE & WIRELESS.
BY N.I.D.

Addressed : S.O.(I) Freetown repeated Admiralty.

Your 2335Z/29th. Italians making all preparations to evacuate Sal before commission mentioned in my 1115/26th take over very shortly probably in about 2 weeks. Remaining 3 Germans ex HPJF(PROMETHEUS) and probably all staff except maintenance of Italian Cable Company, St. Vincent, Cape Verde Is., departing shortly via Sal before station completely closes. When Commission mentioned take over almost certain that all runs nevertheless will be rendered unusable. All other possible landing grounds already rendered useless at the same time for crash landing. Please repeat Admiralty.

1130/30

Advance Copy O.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(F).
Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Naval Sec.
D.N.I.(4).
P.A.S.(8).
Ops.(3).
O.D.(5).
D. of P.(3).
O.I.C.(2).
D.S.D.9.
M.(2).
D.N.A.D.
Ad. Chalmers.
E.P.S.
W.D.
I.P.(3).

N.P.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1717Z/30th Jan. IN.

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 30.1.42.

Recd 2023.

Naval Cypher (C) by W/T

Addressed South Atlantic Station Squadron,
repeated Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

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Movements Summary 2000Z 30th January.

Area P. H.M.S. VANSITTART 013 degs 15' North 018 degs
~~44'~~ West 083 degs 12 knots.

H.M.S. IBIS with S.L. 99 013 degs 40' North 020 degs
22' West 337 degs 7½ knots.

H.M.S. CLARE 014 degs 00' North 018 degs 40' West
291 degs 13 knots.

H.M.S. STARWORT, H.M.S. CROCUS with DEWDALE 017 degs
North 018 degs 38' West 006 degs 7 knots.

H.M.S. NORMAN 007 degs 45' South 010 degs 20' East
to South (? 20) knots.

H.M.S. CANTON, H.M.S. CILICIA patrol H 34 D.

H.M.S. RAPIDOL, 003 degs South 010 degs West 158 degs
9½ knots.

H.M.S. RESOLUTION with W.S. (?15) (?003 degs) 28'
North 012 degs 38' West 163 degs 12½ knots.

H.M.S. ASCANIA 004 degs 40' South 005 degs 10' West
145 degs 13½ knots.

H.M.S. QUEEN EMMA from Takoradi to Lagos (Nigeria).

BARCLOSE, BARFORD, BARFOAM, 007 degs 22' North 013 degs
34' West 164 degs 8 knots.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, H.M.S. ARMERIA, H.M.S. BERGAMOT,
013 degs 32' North 020 degs 15' West 091 degs 12 knots.

H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE 018 degs 40' North 028 degs 40'
West to South 16½ knots.

H.M.S. SURPRISE with LDRW (SVEVE) 002 degs 22' North
008 degs 30' West 095 degs 11 knots.

Area Q. Netherlands Cruiser HEEMSKERCK 020 degs
South 005 degs 22' East 146 degs 20 knots.

H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE....

882^c

H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE patrol about 041 degs South
021 degs East.

Area S. H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM Plate position.

H.M.S. BULOLO patrol K 33.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS patrol K 33.

.1717Z/30.

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.G.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- Duty Captain (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10. Pay. Cdr. Wilson.
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)

jr

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

NEREUS, PROTEUS. This is No. 4. Your 0205B/29 acknowledged. Estimate your position at 0600B/30 34° 10' 027° 30'. Proceed through 033° 28' 029° 22' thence direct to end of searched channel. PROTEUS left the searched channel about 1800 continue 29th routed through 033° 10' 028° 24' 035° 00' 021° 54'. Cancel my 1607B/29 Report E.T.A. and if proceeding on the surface by day. (Capt. S.1 0009B/30 to NEREUS.) Greek S/M NEREUS returning with defects has been ordered to proceed (as 0009B). Estimate she will pass 1st position 0600B/30. (Capt. S.1. 0045B/30 to PROTEUS.) *See also p. 885*

A/C attack on Enemy M/V and Destroyer. My 2223B/29. One hit obtained in 034° 00' 012° 36'. Search vicinity 034° 10' 012° 40' for dinghy containing survivors of one Swordfish aircraft crashed at 0100B/30. Exercise great caution when near latter position. (Capt. S.10 0150B/30, 0711B/30 to P.36.) See also 1833/30.

U.S. Transports. U.S. Maritime Commission have now agreed that the four ships referred to in para. 3 of Admty. 1527/25 to C. in C. Med. may be used for one voyage from Middle East to Far East or in the case of absolute need to Malta. 2. Request you will report as early as possible for which service it is proposed to use them. (D.S.T. 0616A/30 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

SOTRA. (M/S trader) Sunk SOTRA hit by torpedo aircraft* 032° 07' N. 025° 30' E. at 2151/29. GLOXINIA searching for survivors and has not rejoined. My P. C. and S. 031° 30' N. 027° 19' E. 106° 8 knots. E.T.A. 0001/31. Request light. (DIANELLA, 0902B/30 to Alexandria.) *30 miles NE of Zankun*

Left U.S. Navy 28/1
** German documents show torpedo fired by U.431. S.M. S.S.50*

1 M.V. Following received on 11200 kc/s. Med. A/C from Med. A/C. 1 Small 1 Medium Merchant vessel position 317 C C 10 miles stationary. (Nore W/T, 1015B/31.)

TORBAY. Proceed direct to end of searched channel from 032° 30' 027° 47'. Greek S/M NEREUS may be arriving from North a.m. 31st. My 0045B/30 M S 767 refers. (Capt. S.1 1021B/30 to TORBAY.) *See also p. 885*

My 1021B/30. Following ships may also be encountered; one small convoy due from west one due to leave westbound and several unescorted ships from eastward. OTUS will be exercising with GRIFFIN and HASTY. (Capt. S.1 1813B/30 to TORBAY.)

P. C. and S. of ANTWERP escorted by HEYTHROP at 2115B/30, 032° 00' 029° 00' 278° 17 knots. (Capt. S.1 1901B/30 to TORBAY.)

/ANTWERP ...

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

- ANTWERP. Intend sailing ANTWERP carrying 370 personnel escorted by HEYTHROP at 1700/30 searched channel thence 032° 00' N. 029° 00' E. at 2115/30 Q 0915/31st Z (omitted) 1100 S 1230 Tobruk boom 1300 31st. S. of A. 17 knots. Codeword "Bingo". (Malta W/T 1115B/30.) *See previous page (Sails) - Turk (1st-)*
- Air Report. Cyrenaica, night 28/29, Tobruk bombed by 8 enemy aircraft, no damage. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1133/30.)
- Enemy Units. 1 destroyer, 1 large M/V 260 BB 51 course 260° speed 14 knots. ("B" Flight No.3 A.A.C.U. Duty E. 1300B/30 to Hal Far.)
- TUAPSE. A.N.A. Istanbul reports TUAPSE may sail shortly. Russian N.A. has been instructed that she is to proceed South. (D.N.I. 1423A/30 to R.A. Miles.)
- Operation M.B.D.4. The following operation M.B.D.4 is intended. Object to locate and destroy enemy submarines (?trapping) several between Alexandria and Derna.
2. D 1 (one) is to be 2/2. Probable duration of operation 48 hours.
 3. Forces taking part; all available destroyers, CARLISLE, all available A/C aircraft from No.201 Naval Co-operation Group.
 4. Intention. To carry out combined aircraft and destroyer A/S sweep off the coast between Alexandria and Derna, using CARLISLE to provide A.A. cover during daylight.
 5. A.O.C. 201 N. Co-op. Group is requested to provide maximum possible A/C R/C of area during daylight D 1 and D 2.
 6. A.O.C. 201 Naval Co-op Group is requested to arrange fighter protection for the sweeping forces during operation, sweep for Western Desert convoys remaining first requirement. R.A.(D) Med. is requested to issue necessary operation orders (2 groups corrupt) A.O.C. No.201 Naval Co-operation Grp. (B.7)
 8. A/S striking forces need not be provided for Western Desert convoys during operation.
 9. Intelligence. C.O.I.S. Alex. is requested to supply R.A.(D) Med. with necessary intelligence regarding enemy S/M's disposition in the area of operations. R.A. Alex. is requested to supply R.A.(D) Med. with necessary information of our own convoy movement. (C. in C. Med. 1459B/30.)
- SULLBERG Arrivals 29th, Marseilles, in ballast. (German). (Valencia 1705/30.)
- Malta C.S.R. 29 2 P.M. alerts 1454 and 1544 hours 16 ME 109 and JU.88 Bombs Hal Far Kalafrana no damage A.A. damaged 1 JU.88 night 29/30 4 alerts 1752 to 0111 hours 14 raiders 9 crossed coast bombs Luqa 1 Mosquito and other slight damage. 30 5 alerts 0712 0913 0943 1105 1227 hours 32 ME 109 and JU.88 cloud cover reccos and bombing attack Hal Far slight damage Officers Mess. Hurricanes /up

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta up no interceptions A.A. fired Hal Far and Ta Kali
C.S.R. unserviceable after heavy rain.
contd. Part 2. Night 29/30 3 Hurricanes intruder
patrols Sicilian aerodromes 1805 to 2140 hours
2 special Wellingtons shipping searches Tripoli
Cape Bon 1 probable tanker 5000 to 6000 tons 1 DR 075° Melita
62 miles course S.E. 11 knots 2210 hours in wind gale force
attacked by 4 Swordfish 330° Tripoli 74 Miles 1 Swordfish hit
by A.A. crashed sea MV hit once possibly twice and stopped
violent explosion and Black smoke and MV left on fire 1 crew
seeing hits on MV and on fire dropped torpedo at D no results
observed. (H.Q. Malta 1715/30.)

Derna. From Army Commander. On no account should
Naval personnel or W/T Station be withdrawn,
the port should remain (?completely) open.
(N.L.O. 8th Army, 1725B/30 to N.O.I.C. Derna,
(R) C. in C. Med.)

CLEOPATRA. A.M.1930/28th. All additional 5.25 ammunition
should be landed at Malta.
(C. in C. Med. 1755B/30 to CLEOPATRA.)

Convoy Your 1221B/27 and V.A. Malta's 1445B/29.
M.W.9. 2. Our information is that TARIFA and TRICOLOR
TARIFA, can do about 15 knots but please reconsider
TRICOLOR, their use even if they are slightly below that
ROWALLAN speed. 3. Shortage of refrigerated tonnage
CASTLE. is serious and ROWALLAN CASTLE should only be
used in last resort.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1815A/30 to C. in C. Med.)

NEREUS. This is number 6. Your 1600B/30 acknowledged.
Following ships (?may be) met A.M./31. TORBAY
arriving from a position 032° 30' 027° 47'.
Small escorted convoy arriving from West and another leaving
Westbound and unescorted merchant ships from East. OTUS will
be exercising with GRIFFIN and HASTY.
(Capt. S.1 1821B/30 to Greek S/M NEREUS (R) N.O.I.C. Alexandria)
See p. 883

P.36. Before complying with my 1211B/29 endeavour to
reach position in my 1340B/28 by 0300B/31 when
a 14 knot Northbound ship may be encountered
which Swordfish will attack North of number
4 buoy. (Capt. S.10 1833B/30 to P.36. (R)
C. in C. Med.)

ELISABETH Arrival. 30th.
HENDRIK (Valencia 2018/30.)
FISSER.

Enemy M/V. Following has been read by Malta W/T.
P. C. and S. of 1 M/V 350° Cape Bon 5, 295° 6
knots, Lighted 750.
(A/C using call sign VV7T 2145/30.)

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

2045/30th January.

FROM: C. in C. Mideast.

Date: 31.1.42.
Reed: 0830.CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

254024. 0/5575. ciphor 30/1. Most Secret.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders
in Chief. (Most Secret). Your No. 65565 (M.O.1)
C.M.O.S. No. M.E. 226 of 20 January.

1. Consider our minimum requirements is sufficient
landing craft for one Brigade Group. This
including essential spares comprises 40 MLC, 30 ALC
6 SLC and 10 R boats. We have at present 35 MLC,
of which not more than 30 likely to be in action
at any one time and of which 17 are now in Cyrenaica
for army maintenance. Also 42 ALC, 11 SLC and 13
R boats.

2. We cannot therefore spare any MLC but could
despatch immediately 12 ALC, 5 SLC and 3 R boats,
which are surplus to requirements for one Brigade
Group.

2045/30.

1st Lord.

Reed in War Reg. at 2030.

1st S.L.

War Office circulation:

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

S. of S.

N.A. 1st S.L.

C.I.G.S.

P.A.S. (S)

V.C.I.G.S.

D.O.D. (F)

D.M.O. & P.

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.P.

D. of P. (2)

D.D.M.O. (O)

E.P.S.

M.C. 1.5.10.

Hd. of M. (12)

D.M.I.

I.P. (2)

G.S. (P)

N.I.D. 10 (P.C.W)

D.Mov.

W.D.

Q. (M) 3.

D.N.I. (4)

D.D.M.I. (I)

D.C. (2)

M.I. 2.

C.C.C.

C.N.S. Admiralty

D. of P. Admiralty

Hd. of War. Reg.

C.N.S. Air Ministry

D. of P. Air Ministry

Secy. J.P.S.

Col. Jacob. Cab. Office.

War Diary.30.1.1942
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

LULWORTH HILL Sailed 30/1 due Colombo 3/2. Contents &c.
(Transport) (P.S.T.O.I. 0627Z/30.)

IDAR My 1730/29 para 1, ship gunned was I.W.T. Paddle
gunned by Steamer IDAR on passage from Madras to Pamban.
S/M 28/1. (C. in C. E.I. 0716Z/30 to E.I. Station.)

ESPERANCE My 1302/29. Owing to the late return of three
BAY. B.M.10 ships which were required for B.M.13
request permission to use ESPERANCE BAY in this
convoy as no other ships are available.
Without the use of this ship and CITY OF PARIS the on carriage
of 2500 Australian troops will be delayed.
(P.S.T.O. India 0741Z/30 to D.S.T.)

Jibuti Ref. my 0/5/22 of 22 January Greek refugees from
intelligence. Jibuti report Sloop and Tanker carried approx.
150 military and civilian personnel whilst tanker
also took large quantity Diesel Oil leaving little
in Jibuti.
(G.O.C. in C. E. Africa 0913/30.)

Fighters Abdacom 00504 29/1 diverting ATHENE with
for Burma. Hurricanes to Java, only fighters in sight for
Burma are 36 coming by air from Mid East of which
expect about 26 arrive. Anticipate next con-
signment 43 in CEFN-Y-BRYN cannot reach Burma for about 6 weeks.
If pilots sent by air from Karachi could they collect Hurricanes
from Mid East. Fear if we wait for Hurricanes in CEFN-Y-BRYN
position Rangoon may become desperate.
(Air H.Q. India ? 1350/30 to Air. Min.)

WESTPOINT B.A.D. Washington 1155/29. (A) Arrived Singapore
WAKEFIELD 28/1 in B.M.11. (B) Request you will reply.
D. of S.T. 1545/16 not to B.A.D. Washington refers.
(C. in C..E.I. 1533Z/30 to Admty.)

HECTOR My 1248A/6/9 not to S.O.W.P. and my 2133A/25/12.
CARTHAGE Request your proposals for return of HECTOR to
trade and arrival of CARTHAGE in U.K.
(D.O.D.(F) 1622A/30 to C. in C. E.I. (R) S.O.W.P)

FLORENCE On voyage to New York via Colombo, Capetown,
LUCKENBACH. Trinidad, Captain states was torpedoed by a
submarine at 1005/29 10 miles south of entrance
buoy to Swept Channel off Madras Harbour.
Details of torpedoing. Entire crew of 38 then took to life
boats no casualties having occurred. Captain saved all ship's
papers sank secret code book then drew to safe distance from
ship expecting explosion. Ship was not listing noticeably at
this time and had settled very little. At 1025 a.m. a second
torpedo struck ship amidships it sank within 2 minutes. While
in life boats Captain and crew saw periscope some distance from
scene sink. Life boats arrived off Madras breakwater and entire

/crew ...

886A

MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL.

0727Z/30th January IN

Dato. 9.2.42.

From C in C. East Indies.

Recd. 0747

Naval Code B by W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated East Indies Station. 461C.

135. (1) S(V?) XW MARY LIVANOS made Q distress message in 016° 30' North 083° 42' at 1218Z 24th.

VFFF (CAPE ST. FRANCIS) made similar message in 017° 20' North 084° 08' at 1235Z 24th

(ii). Both report suspicious ship proceeding in opposite direction.

(iii). Neither ship made cancellation but both have arrived in harbour.

0727Z/30.

Advance copies to Ops., O.D., O.I.C., Trade

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Naval Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- Ops (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)

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

MGG.

War Diary.30.1.1942
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

FLORENCE crew were brought into port by Naval Authorities
LUCKENBACH here.
contd. (Bombay 1705Z/30)

A/C at A composite F.R.U. (?P.R.U) and Pool Squadron
Trincomalee (788) to be formed at Trincomalee mid April
1942. When 788 Squadron has formed, the R.A.F.
Torpedo Squadron should be disbanded. Your
message 1616/13/12 refers.
(Admty. 2314A/30 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Reserve of Your 1620Z/25. These torpedoes can be accepted
Torpedoes. at Sourabaya. Your 0428Z/29. Request N.O.I.C.
Malaya despatch necessary staff to Sourabaya.
(2) Your 0544Z/28 (0546Z/28 intended). Reserves
should be sent to Sourabaya. Netherlands Authority been
detailed to render some assistance but recommend that staff from
Singapore should include personnel for upkeep of submarine
torpedoes. (3) These arrangements together with those in view
for storing ammunition at Sourabaya will entail setting in use
a sub-base organization at that port. Intend to take action
(?most desirable) according as necessity arises.
(C.C.C.F., 0524Z/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Malaya,
Abdacom, Admty.)

Situation 029591. 00514 29/1.
Report. The enemy has landed at Butong S.S.E. of Celebes.
2. Today attacks were carried out as follows:-
A. On shipping at Kendari by 1 LB 30 without
observed results. B. On shipping at Balikpapan by 4 B 17. No
hits obtained. 8 enemy fighters shot down 1 B 17 destroyed.
C. By 4 B 17 on Kuantan aerodrome no report yet available.
3. Apart from 2 Dutch fighters destroyed on the ground at
Tamarinda 2 little damage was caused in enemy air attacks
yesterday. 4. N.W. Borneo. Mempawan (50 kilometres south
Singkawang) was occupied yesterday by enemy. Pontianak was
bombed little damage. 5. Ref. para.2 of information number 5,
orders reached Hudsons too late to attack carrier yesterday.
It has not since been sighted. 6. 22 enemy ships sighted today
in Molucca Strait steering 160°. Destination possibly Ambon.
Another convoy expected in same position 30 Jan., destination
possibly Kendari.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0600/30.)

/Requisitoning ...

War Diary.30.1.1942
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Requisitioning Your 0513/27. Ships named can be made available of merchant but it is not necessary for them to be chartered ships. ✓ or purchased. Of the ships named British have been or can be requisitioned. Norwegian can be handed over on proper notice to Norwegian Govt. which we are giving in anticipation. Report which ships are in fact made available and proposed programme of movements. Ref. para (iv) of 0513/27 in view of foregoing no inducement should be offered to owners. Any question of additional hire should be referred to M.W.T. London. Any inducement to crews found necessary should be way of bonus not increase of wages. (D.S.T. 0617A/30 to C.C.C.F.)

S/Ms. (1) N.O.I.C. Singapore considers S/Ms can no longer operate from Singapore.
2. TRUANT will leave Colombo for Batavia on 1/2. She is unable to carry out an emergency length patrol until spares are disembarked. Further signal will be made regarding bombing restrictions.
3. N.O.I.C. Singapore has been ordered to sail TRUSTY to Java as convenient.
4. Eastern Fleet S/Ms are to be administered by you for the present but are to operate with Netherlands S/Ms under the operational control of CZM unless other arrangements are required by Abdacon.
(C. in C. E.F.0643Z/30 to C.C.C.F.)

LARUT H.M.S. VSNK (LARUT)(?) Temp. Lieut. C.E. Cleaver
RAUB R.N.R. (T 124) and H.M.S. VSRZ (RAUB) Temp.
KELANA Lieut. S. Lefevre R.N.R. (T 124) (?bombed) and sunk off East Coast Sumatra 22/1. No information yet about survivors. H.M.S. KELANA Temp. Lieut. C.J. Windsor R.N.V.R., sunk by dive bomber in Endau River while bombarding enemy position 16/1. No casualties.
(R.A. Malaya 0731Z/30 to Admty. (R) Eastern Fleet.)

Air Report. Daily op. summ. to 1030Z/29. Air raid on Singapore evening 28/1, a few aircraft and little damage. Two raids this morning Sembawang Aerodrome, small damage. Seletar Aerodrome rendered unserviceable. (H.Q. F.E., 1137/30.)

Situation. Information No.7 to 1200/30.
Landing Para.1. Ambon. 3 cruisers, 6 destroyers and 4 at Ambon. transports appeared off islands this morning and after a preliminary air attack by 13 bombers and fighters, landings started. No further news.
Para.4. N.W. Borneo. Air R/C sighted enemy during the day up Kapoese River in small boats. Dutch Naval aircraft raid with machine guns. No reports from land forces.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1220/30.)

/Destruction ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1000/30th January IN

From S. of S. for Colonies.

Date 31.1.42.

Addressed Governor Straits Settlements.

IMMEDIATE.

No. 179 Most Secret.

My telegram No. 151 Most Secret.

Please cancel paragraph 6.

1000/30.

* T.O.O. 2115/26 January re preparation for
removal for own use and denial to enemy
of items essential to War economy.

1st Lord

1st 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.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.C. (2)

D. of P. (3)

Hd. of M.

E.P.S.

Ad. Somerville

Ad. Bellairs

D.S.D.

D. of L.D. (2)

D.T.D. (2)

D.N.I. (7) & for A.E. and D.N.L.O.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Recd. from Colonial Office
at 1731/31.

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.

Destruction of shipping at Penang. Your 0915/24th.
 (A) Steps taken to destroy useful shipping at Penang on evacuation was dependent on very short notice of intention to evacuate and general desertion by Asiatics. With small numbers of naval personnel available all shipping possible was sailed to Singapore. Ships for which impossible to find crews sunk by gunfire or by opening sea cocks. Military authorities undertook to destroy small harbour craft. A small number of 75 ton Motor Vessels taken from Penang by their crews after air raid could not be located. One small tug overlooked subsequently destroyed off Lumut.
 (B) List of shipping submitted as Addendum report made by Military (G.H.Q. F.E.) no copy of which is available Singapore.
 (C) First genuine report of Japanese landings on West Coast was on 2/1 of one ship and 7 small boats at Telok Anson.
 (D) To be confirmed evidently ships larger than 75 ton having been used.
 Report that H.M. Ships at Penang were enclosed in my number 17/351 19th January forwarded you by air on 25/1 via Batavia. (N.O.i/c Malaya, 1511Z/30 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Japanese Intelligence for Russia. Russians would be grateful information on following. (A) Organisation and conduct Japanese landing operations in Malaya Peninsula and Philippine Islands.
 (B) Cruising dispositions of Jap forces at sea.
 (C) Jap. convoy organisation and disposition.
 (D) A/A and coast defences of Kure, Yokosuka, Saseto, Mako, Maidszura, Tsinkai, Oinato.
 (Adm. Miles, 1826C/30 to Admty.)

Batavia base staff. Abdacom's 00491/29. Presume you are making the necessary arrangements to comply. Report in due course if any further assistance is required from U.K.
 (A.C.N.S.(F), 2016A/30 to C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

LADY HAWKINS survivors. Your 1550Z/29th. Concur. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0003P/30 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

GULF STAR U/B, Intercept from Amagansett Radio SSSS 37.50 75.00 unread, 221° true, 10 knots, 0105 (Ends). (Valentia Radio, 0140/30, Freetown W/T, 0150Z/30, Port Patrick Radio, 0105/30, 0219/30).

J.C. DONNELL. Raider Report. U.S.S. ALGONQUIN reports following intercepted from U.S.S. J.C. DONNELL 29/1 (begins) RRRR position 1430 G.M.T. 15° 46' N. 076° 11' W. (ends). (C. in C. A.W.I. 0213P/30 to Opanav, Admty.)

PACO U/B attack. Intercept De WSL Amagansett Radio (begins) SSSS ALLO De KDAV (PACO) 12 miles S.W. Diamond Shoals (Ends). (Valentia Radio 0248/30 to Admty., Adm. Devonport). Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 0148 G.M.T. (as 0248/30). Not re-broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0249/30 to Admty.)

BELLINGHAM, U/B. Intercept, Amagansett Radio, SSSS BELLINGHAM 100 true 30 miles Barnegat, been followed by low light, heading 60° true, speed 12 knots. (Ends). (Valentia Radio, 0250/30, Ascension Radio, T.O.R. 0300Z/30). Intercept Tuckerton New Jersey Radio (begins) SSSS BELLINGHAM changed course 332, heading for Ambrose, still being followed (ends). (Valentia Radio, 0307/30 to Admty. Freetown Radio, T.O.R 0453/30)

U/B. D/F Bearings at 1812Z/29 place sub. within 150 miles of 39° N. 66° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0408Z/30 to Brit. Warships in area 7A, Admty., C.O.A.C., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.N.F., Opanav).

N.A.3. N.A.4. Your 1437/10 and my 1228/29. Request confirmation that total of 6,500 required in N.A.3. and N.A.4. covers all services. (D.S.T. 0618A/30 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U/B. D/F bearing at 0026Z/30 indicates submarine within 100 miles of 40.30 N. 60° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1020Z/30 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

ARROWHEAD. SNOWBERRY. My 1752/27. C.O.A.C. directs that you are to sail P.M./30 for Halifax by direct route reporting your hour of sailing, speed and E.T.A. at Halifax. See refit order 06 regarding consultation with Commandant. A/S sweep to be carried out on passage. (B.A.R.M. 1038R/30 to ARROWHEAD, SNOWBERRY).

/ORION.....

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

ORION.

Your 1508/29. Ship will not complete ex trials until about 15/2 and will then carry out working up practices in accordance with A.M. 2214/1. Items which may remain for completion at home will be signalled later. N.S.H.Q. reported a departure for trials which were completed within the day. (B.A.R.M. 1052R/30 to Admty.)

Movement summary.

At 1800 G.M.T./30.

Ship.	Position	Course	Speed.
PRETORIA CASTLE	19° N. 28½° W.	196°	16
CANTON	} 03° N. 25° W.	Patrol	Blank
CILICIA			
ASTURIAS	} 25° S. 35° W.	Patrol	Blank
BULOLO			
WARSPITE	16° N. 129° W.	180°	12.7
Oiler BISHOPDALE	15° S. 105½° W.	242°	10
MOA	17½° S. 171½° W.	260°	11

(D.O.D. (F) 1103Z/30 to Opnav (R) Spenavo).

See p. 882 137c.

PANDORA.

Anticipate PANDORA will leave Bermuda for Gibraltar on 3/2. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1112P/30 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A. F.O. (S) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Med.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

C.O.A.C. 1640Z/23. Request arrangements are made for QUEEN OF BERMUDA to be taken in hand in U.S.A. for permanent grounding damage repairs. 2. C.O.A.C. is requested to inform B.A.R.M. anticipated date when ship will be available in U.S.A. (D.O.D. (F) 1141A/30 to B.A.R.M.)

MONARCH. ALERT.

Following from B.A.S.R. Defence Communications Board desire to be kept informed as to the availability of Cable Ships throughout the world and in this connection state that they understand the MONARCH and ALERT have been lost. Can this be confirmed please? (B.A.D., 1205R/30 to Admty.)

Washops 50.

(i) Philippine Is. Luzon. Enemy activity has been limited to the deployment of infantry elements and occupation of battery positions.

Mindanao. Patrol activity only reported.

(ii) N.E.I. Emmahaven Sumatra was bombed for second time, inflicting some damage to shipping in harbour. On 28/1 U.S. Army bombers attacked an enemy ship concentration at Balik Papan straddling one cruiser, sinking one large transport and setting another transport on fire. 2 enemy fighters were shot down and one damaged; no U.S. losses. Enemy forces at Balik Papan and Kendari are estimated at 5,300 and 3,000 respectively. Resistance by Dutch forces continues at both places.

/(iii).....

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Washops 50
- Contd.

(iii) New Guinea Area. In third attack on enemy shipping at Rabaul R.A.A.F. bombers scored hits on one or two ships. Salamoia (S.E. New Guinea) sustained 3 enemy air attacks 28/1. A concentration of one large and 6 small enemy ships has been sighted in vicinity. (J.S.M. Washington 1249R/30).

REGENT.

Request immediate information as to whereabouts of REGENT in view of C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 1707/30. (B.A.D. 1255R/30 to F.O.S.) Reply: 0029A/31.

North Atlantic Following are replies to your 1941R/29. escorts.

A. Your Para. 1. (a) 3 destroyers in each group. Requirement being therefore 15 U.S. 15 R.N. 12 R.C.N. Allowing 30% spare for refit there

should thus normally be 2 destroyers serviceable in each group. In early stages some of R.N. groups will probably have only 1 destroyer serviceable.

R.C.N. groups includes 4 R.N. destroyers at present on loan to R.C.N.

(b) Initial assignment to trans-atlantic troop convoys 13 U.S. and 3 R.N. destroyers of which about two thirds should normally be serviceable. These do not include W.S. convoys.

B. Your Para. 2. Western Local Escort. 6 Groups formed from 12 R.N. and 5 R.C.N. short-leg destroyers 27 R.C.N. and 3 Free French Corvettes should give working strength of 2 destroyers and 3 to 4 corvettes per group. Eastern Local Escort 6 groups each of 3 R.N. short-legged destroyers.

C. Your Para. 3. Under plan 4 it was understood that 54 U.S. destroyers would be allotted to North Atlantic convoy duties, of these it was believed there were 28 long-leg and 26 short-leg destroyers. Only 5 short-leg are required for Iceland shuttle service which leaves 21 for escort on U.S. Coast.

D. For your information it seems undesirable that allocation should be too rigid. We have found flexibility essential to meet unexpected concentrations of U/Boats and also to provide help for convoys in trouble. (V.C.N.S. 1421A/30 to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

CULEBRA.

Your 1823A/9 CULEBRA due Bermuda 25/1 has not arrived. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1429P/30 to Adty.)

S/M in
Aleutians.

U.S.C.N.O. reports positively identified hostile submarine entering Unimak Pass Aleutian Islands and proceeding E.S.E. at 1330 P.S.T. January 28th. Believed to be on R/C duties only. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1516Z/30 to C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. C.O.P.C.)

/AQUITANIA.....

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

AQUITANIA In view of the fact that QUEEN ELIZABETH will not now be available at San Francisco until about 5/3 while AQUITANIA will be available about 21/2 U.S. War Dept. wish to make one voyage to Australia with AQUITANIA before putting her into Hawaiian service. This appears here to be very desirable as 4,500 Air Corps and A/A personnel would be transported to Australia about two weeks earlier than would otherwise be possible. Therefore request Chiefs of Staff permission for this voyage. (J.S.M. Washington 1516/30 to W.O.)

U/B's
→ ROCHESTER.
YANKEE ARROW.
MALANTIC.

Following U-boat reports received. S.S. ROCHESTER torpedoed at 1605Z/30 in 37.10 N. 73.58 W. S.S. YANKEE ARROW attacked at 1606Z/30 in 39.19 N. 74.00 W. S.S. MALANTIC sighted submarine at 1730Z/30 in 38.26 N., 74.34 W. (B.A.D. 1521Q/30 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

KIWI.

Ref. your 1659R/7/11/41 not to B.A.R.M. re requirements of New Zealand ships in U.S. ports. KIWI is proceeding to East Boston, Mass. for repairs and cannot make accurate estimate of fuel and naval stores required after refit. Quantities if any are expected to be small. (F.O.N.F. 1630Z/30 to B.A.D. Washington).

BURWELL.

BURWELL expected to complete 0001/3/2. Request route instructions for passage to Halifax. (B.A.R.M. 1634R/30 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

KRASSIN.

Russian icebreaker KRASSIN now in Baltimore. Can she be included in S.C. convoy destination U.K. thence by British convoy to North Russia? Speed 10. (Opnav, 1655/30 to N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

→ ROCHESTER,
U/B.

Following received at 1627 G.M.T. SSSS 37° 10' N. 73° 58' W. ROCHESTER (U.S.) torpedoed at 1605 G.M.T. (Nova Scotia Radio 1656Z/30).

U.S. S/M
Patrols.

Submarine notice. U.S. submarines will conduct patrols from 2300/1 to 2400/18 G.M.T. in area bounded by 039° 40' N. and 051° N. longitudes 066° W. and 069° W. Total bombing restrictions are effective for above areas for above times. Request submarines of United Nations be kept clear. (Washington, 1707Z/30 to Admty.)

Routeing of
British
Shipping.

W.P.S.C. - 46 hereby placed in effect. British N.C.S. Officers will continue to route and report British and British-controlled shipping in the areas of U.S. strategic control until the U.S. Naval shipping control organization has been established and is operating. (Opnav. 1714/30).

/Ships.....

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.Ships for
N.A.3.

Your 1228A/29. N.A.3. EMPRESS OF CANADA does not complete repairs until about 7/5. Colon reports DOMINION MONARCH has accommodation 990. ALCANTARA about 500 which may be increased a little subject to facilities in ship. As available accommodation now only 1500 for 8000 personnel would it be possible to divert FRANCONIA and WINDSOR CASTLE or any other ships to Halifax for N.A.3. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1715Z/30 to D. of S.T.) Reply 0126A/1.

YANKEE
ARROW.

Following has been read by Halifax W/T. Received at 1635 G.M.T. SSSS 39° 19' N. 74° W. YANKEE ARROW U.S., attacked submarine. (Nova Scotia Radio, 1720Z/30).

U.S. plans
and
operations.

- (i) With reference to Chiefs of Staff number (W) 20 para. 4. I have seen Admiral King today. Rear-Admiral Halsey is in charge of present operations in Gilbert Is. and Marshall Is. He has received recent orders to "press home" the operations against the Marshall Is. Up to the present Halsey has maintained W/T silence.
- (ii) From my 1711/30 para. 5 to Adty., you will observe further operations are contemplated but Admiral King had no information to give me about them beyond his desire that Australian, Anzac forces should co-operate.
- (iii) Referring to your message quoted above, I interpreted "Combined offensive by Marshall Is." as referring to advance of battle fleet in due course and "An offensive against one of enemy landing areas" as referring to New Britain or New Ireland in immediate future.
- (iv) King has told Nimaz that he contemplates stationing a carrier unit in Samoa area and has asked Nimaz for suggested composition.
- (v) U.S. cruiser PHOENIX due Melbourne shortly is to proceed to relieve U.S. Cruiser BOISE recently damaged grounding in Abda area.
- (vi) R.A. Ingram of Task Force 3 has 6 cruisers and 6 destroyers including our 2 D class assigned his force although all are not on service. King intends that this force should take over South Atlantic Western area on 040° South thereby relieving our 2 cruisers with R.A. S.A.D. He is enquiring whether Brazil will now allow our D class cruisers to fuel in their ports and this proposal should then be implemented very shortly.
- (vii) King connected the release of these two ships (I note DEVONSHIRE is refitting) and your thought that EXETER might go to Abda area.
- (viii) He has suggested to Ingersoll that one 8-inch and one 6-inch should be taken from the Atlantic but has not come to any definite view regarding their future employment.
- (ix) King is considering employing U.S. Aircraft carrier HORNET in Pacific, as U.S. aircraft carrier SARATOGA will be out of action till middle of May removing 8-inch guns and fitting a bulge and modern A/A armament.
- (x) Reference Chief of Staff number W.
- (xi) Will you be sending any further comment regarding Abda naval reinforcements which we now hope to settle as Anzac is disposed of. (B.A.D. 1721R/30 to Admt.)

/Washops.....

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

- Washops. Operation summaries from Abdacom New Zealand and Australia duplicated much of information issued in Washops. In future Washops will not contain information obtained from Abda (excluding Philippines) and Western Pacific and will have same distribution as this message. W.D. series will cease forthwith. Abdacom please pass all necessary information to C. in C. India. (J.S.M. Washington 1811R/30).
- MALANTIC. Received 1755 G.M.T. SSSS 38° 26' N. 74° 34' W. submarine sighted at 1730 G.M.T. (Nova Scotia Radio, 1820Z/30 to Admty.)
- U/B's. Reports received from 5 merchant ships between 1600Z/30 and 2130Z/30 of submarine on surface in 31° 10' N. 80° 55' W. (B.A.D., 1911R/30 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
- MOUNT KITHERON (torpedoed 25/1) Greek MOUNT KITHERON torpedoed and sunk 0715Z/25 seven miles east of Cape Spear all C.B's definitely went down with ship my 1935Z/30 with list of survivors follows. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns 1933Z/30).
- LEIESTEN (torpedoed 23/1) My 1400Z/23. S.S. AGIOS GEORGIOS landed Halifax 29 survivors of Norwegian S.S. LEIESTEN torpedoed in approx. 45-27 N. 43-19 W. at 1200Z/23. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 2034Z/30 to Admty. etc.)
- SURCOUF. Adty. 1736A/29. SURCOUF requires charts of Pacific which are not available at Halifax chart depot and also desires to pick up two ratings left in hospital at Bermuda. Intend sailing SURCOUF for Bermuda at 1400 G.M.T./1/2 routed through (o) 044° 00' N. 063° 00' W. (p) 034° 00' N. 063° 00' W. (2) 032° 30' N. 064° 00' W. Speed 10 knots. Surface escort will be provided during daylight 1st February. Request total U.S. bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of track and 60 miles ahead and astern may be arranged by B.A.D. Washington and locally by C. in C. A. and W.I. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2059Z/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- N.A.2. FIREDRAKE, BELMONT sailed escort N.A.2. (S.O. (I) Halifax 2140Z/30).
- S/M report. D/F bearings on 12260 kc/s at 1731 G.M.T. placing submarine in vicinity of 044° 30' N. 059° 30' W. considered accurate. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2157Z/30).
- MARO. SILVERAY ICARION. Your 1732A/29. Non-arrival MARO reported in my 2241Z/29. SILVERAY arrived Halifax 28/1. Greek ICARION has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2203Z/30 to Admty.)
/Fighter....

War Diary.30.1.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.Fighter
A/C's for
Australia
and N.Z.Admiralty 2226A/30. ~~See also 2089.~~M.V. DIALA
(Torpedoed
15/1)I.D. Form S.A. (2) Anglo Saxon Petroleum Coy.
(3) 2100Z/15 044° 50' N. 046° 50' W. (4) Not
sighted. (5) Not seen. (7) 4 torpedoes hit. Bow
blown off. 5 days later abandoned sinking slowly.
(8) None killed see my 2200Z/30th. (9) Unknown.
(10) Torpedo. (11) See my 2200Z/30th.
(Consular Shipping Adviser N. York 2240Z/30).BOREN
(U/B).Following has been read SSSS 40.45 N. 69.46 W.
BOREN. (Halifax W/T, T.O.R. 2346G.M.T./30).
Intercept Tuckerton New Jersey Radio SSSS BOREN
submarine sighted at 2340 G.M.T. 40.45 N. 69.46
W. steering 294° true, 8 knots 2343/30. (Valentia
Radio, 2359/30 to Admty.)Australia and New Zealand.

Situation.

Serial No. 10 from Central War Room. Further
raid on Rabaul by 5 Catalinas night 28/29. At
least 12 vessels observed in harbour, 2 probably
hit. 2 A/A units detected N.W. of harbour. R/C
(group missing) 29/1, failed to locate any signs
of vessels reported off Salamoia at 0140Z/29.
R/C Rossel Island also negative.
(A.C.N.B. 0606Z/30 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.,
C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.Z.N.B.,
C.Z.M., Opanv, C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet,
C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet).

ACHILLES.

Departure Suva (Fiji) ACHILLES to R/V with
HAMMONDSPORT and escort to R/V with F.O.C.
Australian Squadron thence Auckland. E.T.A. 1400
M/4. (N.Z.N.B. 0745Z/30 to Admty. A.C.N.B. C. in
C. E.F., Capt. on Staff, Colombo, B.A.D.)

/BISHOPDALE.....

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATION.

Australia and New Zealand-Contd.

BISHOPDALE. B.A.D. Washington's 1745R/29. A.C.N.B. is requested to make necessary arrangements direct with authorities concerned keeping Admiralty informed, and to instruct BISHOPDALE to proceed subsequently to Tahiti and Suva to replenish shore tanks, thence to Australia for docking.
2. BISHOPDALE is a particularly valuable type of oiler and it would be appreciated if the destroyer mentioned in para. 3 of B.A.D. Washington's signal could be made available to accompany BISHOPDALE on her onward voyage.
3. Comptroller Bay was intended. Original was incorrectly written as Controller and so encyphered. The same group preceded by group indicating geographical significance would have meant "Cook's passage" had such group been included.
(D.O.D. (F) 1552/A/30 to B.A.D. Washington 879, A.C.N.B.,
(R) N.Z.N.B.)

Possible raider. Disappearance 97 sheep from Mangere Island (44.16 S. 176.18 W.) between August last and late November indicates possible raider responsibility. D/F fixes on 28/9 and 4/10 may connect.
(D.N.I. Wellington 1802M/30 to Admty.)

Anzac Area, Control. Your 2157R/27. New Zealand Government concur. (N.Z.N.B., 1804M/30 to Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, (R) Admty. for British Chiefs of Staff, A.C.N.B.)

Arrangements for Anzac area. The following arrangements for the establishment of the Anzac area have been agree by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
(1) Boundaries beginning at 140° E. at the Equator eastward along the Equator to 170° E. thence southeasterly to point in 20° S. 175° W. thence due South from point of beginning south along Meridian 141° E. to south coast of New Guinea thence eastward along said coast to meridian 145° E. thence due south in sea areas only.
(2) Anzac force to be under strategic direction of the United States exercised by C. in C. U.S. Fleet through one or more U.S. Flag officers assisted by one or more Flag officers named by Australia and/or New Zealand.
(3) All practicable use will be made of Naval supply communication and repair facilities in Australia and New Zealand.
(4) Initial assignment of ships to Anzac forces, British one carrier United States one heavy or one new light cruiser, and two destroyers New Zealand two light cruisers one auxiliary cruiser Australia two heavy cruisers one light cruiser three auxiliary cruisers, two destroyers, two A/S patrol vessels 6 600-ton A/S vessels. Remainder of Australian seagoing forces namely two light cruisers, two destroyers three sloops to be assigned to Abda command. All other Australian and New Zealand naval units to remain at disposal of their respective Governments for Local Defence. The disposal of additions to Dominion Naval Forces will be decided by agreement at the appropriate time.

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Arrangements
for Anzac
areas- Contd.

(5) Tasks to be assigned Anzac force, in co-operation with air forces available in the area are first cover Eastern and North Eastern Approaches to Australia and New Zealand by destroying enemy forces, second, protect shipping including coastwise shipping and safeguard convoys in Anzac area by escort patrol and/or covering operations, third support Defence of Islands in Anzac area with emphasis on key points and attack adjacent enemy island key point, fourth, correlate operations with forces in Abda area and with United States Pacific Fleet as well as with local Defence forces of Australia and New Zealand.

(6) Naval forces assigned to Anzac and adjacent areas authorised to extend operations into other areas as circumstances may require.

(7) Effective date of foregoing organisation allocation and appropriate control of operations will be communicated shortly.

(Combined Chief of Staff D.B.A. No. 7 1825R/50 to Abdacom).

MOST SECRET

WIRE

MESSAGE

1150/30 January IN.

From: Australia (H.C.)

Date: 30.1.42

Recd: 0510

CYPHER

Addressed: Dominions Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 86 MOST SECRET.

Addressed to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs
No. 86, repeated to High Commissioner Wellington No. 3.

Your telegram of 16th January No. 39.

1. Commonwealth Government state that the Australian Navy Board is planning to evacuate Europeans and Chinese from Ocean Island and Nauru and to leave food for the native population that will remain.
2. Naval Board have asked that the information should be treated as most secret in order to protect the forces to be used and persons to be evacuated and they are averse from giving any detailed information of the above operation.
3. Commonwealth Government greatly appreciate the offer to arrange for the reception of non-Europeans in Fiji and will advise me at early date whether they wish to take advantage of the proposal.
4. (Corrupt group ? personal). If you have any observations for communication to the Commonwealth Government on the proposal to evacuate Europeans and Chinese only I should receive them today.

1150/30

Recd. in War Reg. at 1534/30.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
Sec.
Naval Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
Hd. of M. (6)

D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.A/S.W.
D.N.I. (7)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Somerville

E.P.S.
Admiral Bellair.

MC

War Diary.

30.1.1942.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U/Boats estimated approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1407A/30, 1420A/30).

War Diary.

31.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 1500 a ship giving signal letters of S.S. BRITTANY reported being torpedoed at 1500 in 45° 17' N. 24° 50' W.

German S.S. SPREEWALD or ANUBIS made a submarine distress message at 1516 G.M.T. stating that she was sinking and on fire in 45° 17' N. 24° 50' W. and that she had British prisoners on board. PELICAN, MARIGOLD and AZALEA were ordered to destroy her.

CULVER (ex-U.S. Coastguard Cutter) escorting Convoy S.L. 98 was torpedoed and sunk about 2212Z today in approx. 48 $\frac{3}{4}$ ° N. 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ ° W. *by U.105.*
(G.D.443.)

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. ESKBURN was slightly damaged at 1820, 2 miles N.W. of Tod Head.

S.S. EMPIRE REDSHANK (dispersed from Convoy Q.P.6) reported being bombed at 1206 G.M.T. in 63° 26' N. 2° 24' W. No details are known.

A fishing yawl was damaged by air attack at Eyemouth at 1920 today. Little damage was caused in the harbour but there was extensive damage ashore.

South Atlantic.

Dutch S.S. SALLAND reported being chased by a submarine at 1800 in 1° 12' N. 5° 40' W. The Admiralty considered the report to be doubtful; it is unlikely that any Axis U-boat is now south of 30° N. C. in C. S.A. considered the presence of a U-boat doubtful, and if there was one it was almost certainly Vichy.

War Diary.

31.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Swordfish early this morning attacked with torpedoes and estimated one hit on the escorted merchant ship which was attacked last night by Albacores, 18 miles E.S.E. of 34° N. 12° E; the ship was brought to a stop with a heavy list.

An Aircraft at 2005 attacked a submarine in 226° $32'$ N. 27° E. 25 miles and estimated 4 hits with depth charges.

There were 15 alerts at Malta between 1728/30 and 1547/31. Slight damage was caused at Hal Far and Luqa.

Minor enemy raids on Derna today damaged the power station and caused 2 military casualties.

East Indies.

Tanker LONGWOOD was torpedoed by a submarine at 0215Z today, 30 miles west of Colombo, but made harbour.

C. in C. E.I. is to coordinate the activities of all local defence craft available from India and Burma for the defence of the Bay of Bengal and Burma.

China.

Malaya.

There were several alerts at Singapore this morning. 27 heavy bombers attacked Seletar and caused some damage. One bomber was shot down by a naval vessel. During the day there were 4 raids but damage and casualties were light. Bombs were dropped on the Naval Base in the afternoon and late p.m. slight damage was caused at Kallang.

/The.....

War Diary.

31.1.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China-Contd.

Malaya
- Contd.

The operation of withdrawing the troops into Singapore fortress was concluded last night and the causeway was breached. An Indian infantry brigade out of touch for 2 days had to be left, but efforts are being made to contact this force and bring it over by boats.

During the past 5 nights the Navy has successfully evacuated nearly 2,000 all ranks of 53 Infantry Brigade and 15 Indian Infantry Brigade who were cut off on the West Coast of Johore.

Yesterday's air raids and several alerts today have badly shaken labour in Singapore, and the Governor reports few at work this afternoon

N.E.I. and
Borneo.

It is reported that S.S. JALAR^AJAN was torpedoed and sunk at 1700Z/14 in 0° 12' S. 97° E.

A conservative estimate of enemy losses in the Macassar Straits made by C. in C. S.W. Pacific shows 9 ships definitely sunk, 6 ships (including 2 warships) possibly sunk, 19 ships (including 7 warships) damaged. (page 20, Feb. 1)

In an appreciation on the Japanese attack on Amboina (Molucca Islands, the second most important Dutch naval base) Gen. Wavell says that this involves a threat both to Koepang and Darwin, both of which are essential to the Abda area. He makes proposals to C.G.S., Australia for the disposition of the "very limited" air and ground resources available.

O.C., Amboina reported attacks on all sides, heavy bombardment by naval guns, and bombing by aircraft. The aerodrome and W/T stations are demolished and service communication is now cut.

Enemy aircraft attacked shipping in Mantok Roads Banka today and hit a K.P.M. ship which had to be beached. 10 bombers and fighters attacked shipping near Koepang without result. 18 fighters and bombers attacked Waingapoe (Soemba Island) but caused no military damage.

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.

S.S. MAURIENNE made a submarine distress signal at 2154 G.M.T. in 44° 17' N. 62° 23' W. Panamanian tanker NIOBE made a submarine distress message at 1152Z 16 miles 130° from Sea Girt (New Jersey.)

BELMONT, ex-American destroyer escorting Convoy N.A.2 was sunk, presumed torpedoed, at 2212Z/31 in 42°02' N., 57.18 W. by U.S. (G.D.443)

U.S. Tanker GULFWING was attacked by a submarine at 1532 G.M.T. in 37° 13' N. 75° 16' W.

U.S. Tanker VACUUM reported at 0800 G.M.T. being followed by a suspicious vessel which may be a submarine, in 37° 39' N. 75° 6' W. at 0818Z VACUUM made a submarine distress signal.

U.S. Tanker ALPHA made a submarine distress signal at 0025 G.M.T. in 36° 58' N. 74° 5' W.

U.S. Tanker SINCLAIR SUPERFLAME made a submarine distress signal at 0750 in 36° 31' N. 74° 30' W.

U.S. Tanker LOUISIANA sighted a submarine at 0700 in (?) 34° 47' N. 75° 36' W.

U.S. Tanker RHODE ISLAND sighted 2 submarines at 0052 off South Wimble Shoals (Cape Hatteras).

U.S. Tanker HALSEY made a submarine distress signal at 0100 G.M.T. 10 miles S.S.E. of Currituck Light (Cape Hatteras).

U.S. Tanker WILLIAM C. MCTARNAHAN reported a submarine making for her at 1220 G.M.T. 18 miles S.W. of Diamond Shoals.

U.S. Tanker H.M. FREDRICHSEN reported a submarine at 0351 in 33° 1' N. 78° 10' W.

U.S. Tanker CHESTER C. SWAIN sighted a submarine at 1322 G.M.T. in 32° 25' N. 79° 25' W.

Australia and New Zealand.

5 Catalinas bombed Vunaksentan last night.

There was an air attack on Salamoia in the early hours of today and a further raid by 9 aircraft at 2232Z.

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Shipping
information
for S.B.N.O.
Archangel.

S.B.N.O. Archangel 1430A/30.
Request you will repeat such signals to S.B.N.O. Archangel in addition to S.B.N.O. North Russia as it appears that Archangel will still remain the headquarters of Russian Supply arrangements.
2. S.B.N.O. Archangel has been furnished with information available to date.
(D.T.D. 1523A/31 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C.)

Stores for
Far East. (In
ILLUSTRIOUS?
FORWARDABLE.)

Your 1523A/30. Yes.
(ILLUSTRIOUS 1656A/31 to Admty.)

RUBIS.

Your 1111A/30. RUBIS will not be called on unless a critical situation develops.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1753A/31 to F.O.S.)

S/M Escort
Duty.

F.O. (S) 1301A/24. Request you will detail an ocean escort A/S trawler from your command to carry out this duty until WHITE BEAR or CAPRICIEUS are again available. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 2248/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.CUMBERLAND.
ARETHUSA.

My 1210A/30. CUMBERLAND S.A. gear is not working. Amend para. 2 as follows. COTSWOLD lead, then ARETHUSA, then COTTESMORE, then CUMBERLAND.
(C. in C. Nore 1010A/31).

PELICAN.

My 1554A/29. On reaching 047° N. steer position (F) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles omitting (E), thence by Q.Z.F. 18 to (K) and route laid down in W.A.C.I. part 20, para. 12, proceeding direct from (K) to (H) omitting (I) and (J). Thence Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 1046A/31 to PELICAN).

TRIDENT.

(i) TRIDENT is to leave patrol after dark 3rd and proceed submerged by day through following positions to Lerwick.
(iii) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange submerged bombing restrictions as follows.
(Capt. S.J. 1219A/31).

PEGASUS.

My 1035A/28. ^{N.T.H. W.D.} Delayed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1710A/31)

BREDA.

You may expect to meet 1 Convoy northbound at 2330 and another northbound at 0200.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2102A/31 to BREDA).

WELSHMAN.

F.O.C.N.A. 1020A/30. My position is 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles proceeding by Q.Z.F. 18 and Q.Z.S. 301. E.T.A. Milford Haven 0830A/1st.
(WELSHMAN 2139A/31)

/LEDBURY.....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

LEDBURY. On completion of satisfactory trials and after landing trials party on 6/2 request you sail LEDBURY to Scapa to work up. Vessel may possibly join Orkney and Shetlands Command but this is not yet decided. (D.O.D(H) 2308A/31 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

H.43. At 1000/1 intend sailing H.43 escorted by Z.5.
Z.5. from Rothesay to arrive 270° Wolf Rock 10 miles at 2200/3, thence H.43 to patrol, and D.S.Z.5 to arrive Falmouth 0900/4. Speed of advance 8 knots. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange Fighter Protection. (Capt. S.7. 2359A/31).

H.34. Capt. (S) 3 1847A/30. H.34 will proceed Falmouth in company with BREDA. Speed of Advance 8 knots. Spare parts required for H.34 will be sent by Capt. (S) 7. (Capt. S.7 2204A/31).

*See also next page
p. 910*

Operations.

Operation "Terrain" postponed further 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0904A/31 to C. in C. Nore).

Biscay S/M Patrol. In the event of breakdown S/M's employed on Bay of Biscay patrol should normally return by their outward route as far as latitude 049° N. thence direct to Falmouth. S/M's should make an E.T.A. when north of 049° when practicable, must bear in mind the possibility of mutual encounter. (F.O.S. 1213A/31 to S/M's Area A.)

Operation "Q.Q." Maunsell Fort. 1. Weather permitting No. 1 Maunsell Fort will be towed from Tilbury to a buoyed position approx. 51° 53.5' N., 01° 29.5' E.
2. - 7. Arrangements.
8. Should circumstances necessitate, alternative sinking positions have been selected clear of Swept Channel. The decision to make use of one or other of these alternative positions will be made by the Officer in Charge of the operation.
9. Short title for operation is "Q.Q."
(C. in C. Nore 1308A/31).

MIDDLETON. My 1109/31. ^{N.T.N.W.D.} Destroyers are now required to be in patrol positions from 2200 today to 0300 tomorrow. Proceed accordingly. (R.A.D. H.F. 1456A/31 to MIDDLETON, etc.)
LUDLOW. Cancel my 1109A/31. MIDDLETON return to Sullom Voe as convenient and revert to 4 hours notice. CHIDDINGFOLD, AIREDALE return to Scapa. (R.A.D. 1835A/31).
AIREDALE. E.T.A. 2300. (MIDDLETON 2044A/31).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

SPREEWALD
or ANUBIS

Proceed to destroy German ship SPREEWALD or ANUBIS presumed torpedoed by U-boat now burning and sinking in 45° 17' N. 24° 50' W. at 1500/31 G.M.T. Ship reports British prisoners on board. U-boats may concentrate in vicinity. (C. in C. W.A. 1731A/31 to PELICAN, MARIGOLD, AZALEA).

Brest S/M
Patrol.

My 1453A/29. H.34 has broken down and is proceeding in company with BREDA to Falmouth for repairs. S.7 is sailing a relief from Clyde A.M. tomorrow. (F.O.S. 2146A/31).

*See previous page.
p. 910*

British Air Activity.

Escort for
Operation
"E.M."

My 1149/29. Escort improbable today owing to icing conditions. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/31 to CITY OF DURBAN).

Torpedo
A/C for
Iceland.

Ops. 576. 31/1. All A/C of 42 Squadron with flying crews are to move to Iceland tomorrow. A/C are to take off dawn and are to carry torpedoes. Duration of detachment not known. (H.Q.C.C. 1755/31 to 18 Group and 1815/31 to Iceland).

Confirming telephone conversation, all available A/C of 217 Squadron with torpedo trained crews are to stand by at six hours notice for possible move to Leuchars. All A/C are to have torpedo racks fitted. Executive signal will be made if move is to take place. (H.Q.C.C. 1845/31 to 16 Group). Cancel move 42 Squadron pending further orders. (H.Q.C.C. 2232A/31 to Iceland).

Enemy Air Activity.

BJORNVIK
sunk on
29/1.

BJORNVIK, Norwegian, bound Newport to Fowey bombed and sunk 1830/29 Lizard Head 90°, 2.8 miles. 3 survivors brought into Falmouth by M.V. RIKA. Names. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 0948/31).

EMPIRE
REDSHANK
attacked.

In 63° 26' N. 2° 24' W. EMPIRE REDSHANK 2 TW4 planes approaching enemy attack. At 1206 G.M.T. bombed and machine gunned. (EMPIRE REDSHANK 1306/31).

Faroes.

One enemy A/C was over Faeroes today between 1220 and 1250 during variable visibility. Estimated height over Thorshavn 12,000 feet. No incidents reported. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1645A/31).

Eyemouth
bombed.
LADY CHARLETT
damaged.

Coast Guards report single enemy aircraft dropped 3 or 4 bombs at Eyemouth at 1920/31. One bomb in harbour wrecked fishing yawl LADY CHARLETT, nobody on board. Little damage to harbour, but extensive damage to property due to blast. Casualties appear to be few. (C. in C. Rosyth 2315/31)

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War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation "S.C." Cancel my 1709/23/1.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1018/31 to M.S.4.)
Admiralty's 1321A/30. Request you will issue sailing orders to TENBY accordingly.
(M.S.4 2002/31 to F.O. Aberdeen).
Intend sailing Flotilla A.M. 3rd, to continue operation "S.C". It is anticipated that 2 days sweeping will be required to complete the operation. (M.S. 4 2249/31 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Harwich. One red mine detonated by "L.L." Trawlers at 1234/31 in 51° 49.3' N. 01° 29.5'.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1541A/31).

Bristol Channel. At 1005/31 one Mine exploded by Sweepers off Sully Island. Details. (Capt. M.S. Bristol Channel 1645A/31).

Mine ashore. Mine reported ashore on Island of Earraid, Sound of Iona. Nearest house half a mile away.
Mine is well up on beach and has no cable attached.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1822A/31).

Enemy Intelligence.

ANUBIS or SPREEWALD. Following received from Lands End Radio.
Intercept 1520 G.M.T. stop S.O.S. De ANUBIS position 45° 17' N. 24° 50' W. Ship sinking and burning, have British prisoners aboard stop.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1621/31).

TIRPITZ. Photographs at 1200/31 show TIRPITZ and ALTMARK
SCHARNHORST. Class Tanker in same positions as on 29/1 and
GNEISENAU. position of rafts surrounding TIRPITZ substantially
PRINZ EUGEN. unchanged. (P.R.U. Wick 1715/31).
GUEYDON. Trondheim TIRPITZ still in same position at 1200/31
ALTMARK class tanker in Lo Fiord.
Para. 2. Brest at 1315/31. SCHARNHORST and
GNEISENAU alongside T.B. Station. PRINZ EUGEN alongside coaling
wharf. 2 Destroyers and 5 T.Bs. in same position as on 29/1.
8 Minesweepers sweeping in Rade de Brest. GUEYDON off Point
Doubidy. (D.D.I.C. 1818A/31).
Battleship TIRPITZ in Faetten Fjord at Head of Aasfjord with
position of ship and anti-torpedo boom unchanged since 29/1.
Camouflage netting stretched over fore and after decks to craft
alongside. Slight smoke issuing from Funnel. Y - turret
turned inshore. No shipping at Langstein. (?Leuchars 1910/31).
Aircraft reports following in Brest today. SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU,
PRINZ EUGEN, 2 destroyers and 5 torpedo boats. So far as is known
all are ready to sail. (F.O.S. 2314A/31 to S/M's Area A).

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

Off Reykjavik. By D/F at 1847/30 G.M.T. U/Boat was possibly within 90 miles of 61° 30' N. 24° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 0353A/31). Your 0353A/31. Can it be said if this is U-Boat which torpedoed U.S. Destroyer HAMILTON and whether or not she is leaving area. (C. in C. H.F. 1359A/31 to D.N.I.)

Off Macduff. My 1650/30. Further evidence from Skipper of another fishing vessel indicates object was wreckage. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1115/31).

A/S hunt off Seidisfiord. Your 2101A/30. This is being carried out if time permits. (C. in C. H.F. 1411A/31 to Admty.)

BRITTANY. From BRITTANY. Position 45° 17' N. 24° 50' W. Torpedoed, Ends. (Valentia Radio 1500/31).
Following received via Lands End Radio. S.O.S. from BRITTANY. Position 45° 17' N. 24° 50' W. Have British prisoners aboard 1635/31. No re broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth 1742/31 to Admty.)

U-boats in Bay of Biscay. There are 3 U-boats in Bay of Biscay probably east of 007° W. inward bound. There are 4 more eastbound in positions 047° 30', 013° 00', 047° 40' 016° 00' 048°, 017°, 047° 019°. (F.O.S. 1606A/31 to S/M's Area A.)

U/B attacked by A/C. U-boat 46.54 N., 12.29 W. 140°, 6 knots, attacked with 8 depth charges, damage not ascertained. (A/C duty D., 1650/31 to 15 Group.)

Seidis Fiord. Following is Paraphrase of my 2035/31. Begins. Icelandic source reported S/M on surface in Seidis Fiord at 2240/30. A/S trawler BUTTERMERE searched the area and depth ? charged doubtful contact. Report grade C.3. (A.C.I.C. 2038A/31).

Convoy O.N. 61. There are indications that a U/B may be in vicinity of convoy O.N.61. (D.D.I.C. 2335A/31).

Convoy S.L.98. Convoy attacked in 048° 43' N. 021° 46' W. CULVER sunk. (LONDONDERRY 2136Z/31).
by U.105.
(G-3-443) My 2202. CULVER sunk. (LONDONDERRY 2212Z/31).

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Aberdeen.

Middle Buoy Aberdeen Approach Channel not in position. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1315/31).

Scarweather Bell Buoy.

My 1052A/30 and 224 Q.Z.H. Red spherical unlighted bell buoy has been placed in 51° 26' 53" N. 3° 56' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1807A/31).

Technical.

Use of R/T by Convoy Escorts.

Complaints have again been received of excessive use of R/T by convoy escorts. It is desired to establish whether British escorts are involved. An analysis of R/T communication for month of January 1942 is to be made and report forwarded by signal stating -
(A) Number of occasions on which R/T silence was broken West of 8° W. by each convoy escorted.
(B) Duration of R/T communication in each instance.
(C) Reason for breaking R/T silence.
(D) Instances of improper use of P/L.
(C. in C. W.A. 1513A/31 to Cpts. D.)

Failures of O.5. ammunition.

Your U.R. 33/113/1 of 24th January reporting result of your investigations into O.5 ammunition failures in Dover Coastal craft had been received with appreciation. Such of the proposed remedies as can be adopted locally are being implemented. (V.A. Dover 1907A/31).

DUKE OF YORK.

Admiralty 1352A/26. State of efficiency now is as follows. Details. Conclusion. A satisfactory standard efficiency cannot be reached before end of February. (DUKE OF YORK 2215/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

ST. ALBANS.

On reaching 008° W. detach ST. ALBANS to proceed to Liverpool to boiler clean. (C. in C. W.A. 0043A/31 to NEWPORT).

UNICITY. (L.L. Drifter) sunk.

UNICITY, while engaged on sweeping duties outside Blyth Harbour, has capsized and sunk. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1220A/31) (N.O.I.C. North Shields 1730/31).

MARSDALE.

Dome of Type 128 C in MARSDALE is cracked. Request arrangements for MARSDALE to be docked at Glasgow for fitting new dome. (S.O.W.P. 1240A/31).

/TAMARISK.....

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

- TAMARISK. Am sending TAMARISK to Londonderry for R.D.F. repairs. (LEITH 1241A/31).
- EMPIRE CHAMOIS. Continue to stand by EMPIRE CHAMOIS. Tug ZWARTE ZEE escorted by ANCHUSA is being sent. (C. in C. W.A. 1521A/31 to HEATHER). ANCHUSA and ZWARTE ZEE are to R/V off Moville and proceed in company with all despatch to assist EMPIRE CHAMOIS in 53° 20' N. 15° 32' W. at 1200A today. HEATHER standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1531A/31). Sail ANCHUSA to escort ZWARTE ZEE. (C. in C. W.A. 1531A/31 to Capt. D. Londonderry) Sailed ANCHUSA, ZWARTE ZEE to comply with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1531A/31. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1900A/31).
- PAKENHAM. My 1845/30. Owing to damage received in River, PAKENHAM will return to Tyne on completion of full power trials instead of proceeding to Methil. Probable delay two days. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1549/31).
- SHROPSHIRE. SHROPSHIRE has sustained damage to starboard outer low pressure turbine.
2. Certain proposals are being forwarded by A.S. Chatham which will involve 2 to 3 weeks delay if accepted.
3. A.S. Chatham cannot undertake CUMBERLAND and SHROPSHIRE concurrently in addition to ARETHUSA request sailing of H.M.S. CUMBERLAND may be delayed pending decision on suggestion para. 2. (C. in C. Nore 1714A/31).
- H.34. Starboard after engine air compressor head burst. Spare cannot be adapted on board. Intend to remain in company of BREDA to Wolf Rock and then proceed Falmouth. My position 051° 12', 004° 31'. (H.34 1801A/31). *See p-p 905 7906.*

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.60. ^{H.T.M.W.D.} Your 2016A/30. Broadcast for R/V for Stragglers has been made as requested. (C. in C. W.A. 0203A/31 to BOADICEA).
- O.N.62.
O.N.63. Following signal has been received from Commander Task Force Four "Until a U.S. Escort Control Officer has been established at Londonderry Commander Task Group 4.6 will make necessary arrangements and issue instructions in order to ensure that the Escort Task Units who proceed to Londonderry meet commitments in regard to the

/west....

911

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.62. west bound convoys. Task Unit 4.1.13 which is
O.N.63. destined for Londonderry from S.C.65 must
-Contd. escort O.N.62 from M.O.M.P. and Task Unit 4.1.1.
proceeding to Londonderry from H.X. 171 must
escort O.N. 63 from M.O.M.P."
(Spenavo No T.O.O. Recd. 1100/31) (D.T.D. 1932A/
31).
- U.R.10. U.R.10. E.T.A. Reykjavik examination steamer
EMPIRE 0800A/1. C. in C. W.A. 1802A/29. EMPIRE SELWYN
SELWYN. not met. (WELLARD 1130A/31).
- S.C.65. S.C.65 Loch Ewe ships are to be diverted to Oban.
(C. in C. W.A. 1147A/31).
- O.N.61. My 2121A/28. You will be relieved by Commander
U.S. Task Force 4.1.3, NIBLACK, OVERTON, TARBELL.
(C. in C.W.A. 1242A/31 to Escorts of O.N. 61).
- E.N. 41. A.M. 1843/13 and 1655/18 and C. in C. Rosyth's
1843/13 and 1601/20. Propose E.N. 41 now sails
1000/3 to include special ships.
(D.T.D. 1243A/31 to C. in C. Rosyth).
Your 1243/31/1. Concur. (C. in C. Rosyth 1634/31
to Admty.)
- H.X. 170. H.X. 170. Fourteen hours late owing to diversions
and weather. Gales 20th to 24th January. No
stragglers all ships now arrived.
(D.T.D. 1355A/31 to Opnav).
- Tankers at Kola. Your 2215A/27. Can we take it that when
programme detailed therein has been carried out
LENIN and LITKE will proceed Murmansk and take
two tankers to Molotovsk. If so please cable
probable date of this operation as we do not
wish leave the tankers at Kola indefinitely.
(D.S.T. 1428A/31 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).
- P.W.106. F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 1908/30/1. P.W.106 is cancelled
(C. in C. Plymouth 1444/31).
- S.D.21. S.D.21 route (a) 063° N. 22° W. (b) 060°, 018°
30'. (c) 180° Barra Head 12 miles.
(C. in C. W.A. 1721A/31 to A.C.I.C.)
- H.X. 172. H.X. 172. Sail SCIMITAR and SHIKARI to comply
with my 1608A/31. (C. in C. W.A. 1727A/31).
N.T. W.S.
- H.X. 170. Many congratulations on the success on your convoy
all ships of which have now arrived safely.
(C. in C. W.A. 1746A/31 to Commodore J.K. Brook).

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.-Contd.

P.Q.10.

P.Q.10 arrived Reykjavik 1150A/31.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1903A/31).

U-boat
warnings.

The attention of all Masters is to be drawn to C.A.M.S.I. 172/41 and it is to be explained that the words "Admiralty Message AF" are only to be regarded as the Code word for a U-boat warning and have no other significance.
(D.T.D. 1928A/31).

U.R. and R.U.
Convoys.

Ships of Belfast trawler force are now averaging about 4 months between boiler cleans which does not allow sufficient time for maintenance or adequate leave. To enable me to allocate more trawlers to Belfast for duty with E.N. and W.N. convoys request that the cycle of U.R. and R.U. convoys may be extended to 7 days in order that the Belfast force may be reinforced by our extra group during the winter.
(C. in C. W.A. 1947A/31).

W.S.16.

My 0803/29. X.14 will not now be included in W.S.16.
2. ALMANZORA will be included. She is in Glasgow 31.1. (D. of S.T. 2016A/31).

M/V's from
Iceland.

As M.O.M.P.s for westbound convoys are now so far south there is difficulty sailing Merchant ships from Iceland to meet on convoys. Propose to sail these ships in R.U. convoys to Loch Ewe for onward routing in order to avoid congestion which is now occurring in Reykjavik anchorage.
(A.C.I.C. 2311A/31)

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- SPIREA.** Your 1216A/27 (SPIREA to be detached to proceed to U.K. when relieved by VETCH). E.T.A. position A 0730A/1. Weather. (SPIREA, 0500A/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- ANTHONY, ACTIVE.** My 1924/30. Sailed ANTHONY, ACTIVE. (F.O.C.N.A., 0916A/31 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., LAUREL, WIVERN).
- P. 39.** Intend to sail P.39 P.M./2 for Malta. P.39 has V.A.Malta's 1741/9 and will pass through 38° 18' 9° 00' E. at about 1600A/8 thence as ordered by V.A.Malta, C. in C. Med. pass to S.1. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/31 to C. in C. Med.)
- H.G. 78.** Your 1843A/21. EMPIRE PANTHER and CRESSADO will be ready to leave Lisbon for U.K. 5/2. Intend sailing escorts and OUSEL from Gibraltar on 3/2 to R/V with Lisbon ships 3½ miles South of Cape Razo at 1200A/5. Request route and destinations. Speed of slowest ship 8½ knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1156A/31 to Admty.)
- U/B.** My 2225/30. Only slight evidence suggests this was a sighting report. (F.O.C.N.A., 1229A/31 to HERMOINE COREOPSIS. (R) Admty.)
- CLEOPATRA, FORTUNE.** Your 0026A/28 and 1517A/29. Following is intended programme for CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE subject to no delay being entailed due to transfer of stores at Gibraltar. CLEOPATRA arrives Gibraltar after dark 8/2 and sails before dawn 9/2 arriving Malta A.M./11/2. 2. Request following information: (a) Whether CLEOPATRA is carrying personnel and stores to be disembarked at Gibraltar and if so approx. quantities. (b) Whether space will be available for loading Army stores and personnel at Gibraltar for onward passage. (c) Whether CLEOPATRA is similar in appearance to HERMIONE and whether camouflaged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1246A/31 to Admty. C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H., C. in C. W.A., V.A. Malta., F.O.I.C.Greenock).
- U/B.** Following has been read - Ref. Admty. message AF 39. 08 N. 22.46 W. (Adm. Gibraltar, 1250Z/31).
- WESTCOTT.** WESTCOTT arriving Ponta Delgada 1500 G.M.T./31 requires 220 tons oil fuel. Please arrange. (F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/31 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) Admty., B.N.A. Lisbon). WESTCOTT arrived Ponta Delgada 1430 G.M.T./31st. (N.C.S.O. P.Delgada, 1315/31 to S.O.I. Gib.)
- JEUNE DENISE (French).** Left for Bilbao in ballast 29/1. (San Sebastian, 1315/31 to M. of W.T.)

/U/B. ...

War Diary.

31.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - contd.

U/B. U-Boat in 039° 08' 022° 46'.
(HERMIONE, 1350A/31 to C.C.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

Catalinas, ASD/140 31/1, your 2328A/30. Catalina of 202 Sqn.,
Gibraltar. expected time of departure U.K. P.M/2/2.
Catalina AH 562 of 202 Sqn. leaving for Gibraltar
P.M./31. (H.Q.C.C., 1529/31 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy S/54 31/1 from P R U Gibraltar (Begins).
Intelligence. Following received. Benson pass to Medmenham from
P R U Gibraltar AA932 30/1. Naval authorities
require latest information distribution French and
Italian Fleets. Request it be despatched this unit, and that this
unit receives any future form whites which include such
information. (Benson, 1600/31 to Air Ministry).

PHILOCTETES. Ref. A.M. 1228A/28. Notice of possible visit of
PHILOCTETES given. Any replacements of borrowed
coal should be arranged by you with Captain of
ship direct. (N.A. Madrid, 1635/31 to Las Palmas
(R) Admty.)
Visit cancelled. See Admty., 1620A/1).

→ EXMOOR. Weather unsuitable for oiling at sea. Am proceeding
CROOME. to Ponta Delgada arriving dawn 1/2. CROOME in
company. Weather report. (EXMOOR, 1644A/31 to
WESTCOTT (R) F.O.C.N.A.) *See also next page.*

→ DINGLEDALE. DINGLEDALE is rendezvousing with EXMOOR and CROOME
(R.F.A. Officer) in 036° 20' N. 023° 30' W. at 1500A/31.
F.O.C.N.A., 1800A/31 to VETCH, (R) CLYDE, SPIREA,
GERANIUM).

ELSA Your 1919A/23. Minster of Marine states ELSA
ESSBERGER. ESSBERGER has damaged main engine but repairs could
(German) be effected in a week. Nothing much had been done
so far. He agreed she could not properly discharge
cargo for transfer to belligerent territory by sea or by land.
She should either leave with cargo or sell cargo to Spain. She
could of course remain with cargo on board if she chose; but he
was not satisfied M.F.A., who was a twister, would take this view,
though he himself would take it up strongly with M.F.A. and in the
cabinet if necessary. He recommended H.M. Ambassador to press
matter at every possible opportunity diplomatically.
(N.A. Madrid, 1900/31 to Admty.)

→ DINGLEDALE. If DINGLEDALE has not been met, R/V with CLYDE in
accordance with para. 3 of my 1126A/29.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2004A/31 to VETCH (R) CLYDE).

/HERMIONE ...

War Diary.

31.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - contd.

HERMIONE. Cancel A.M's 1412A/27/1 and 1215A/29/1. HERMIONE is to return to Gibraltar.
(V.C.N.S., 1817A/31 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H.)
Comply with Admty. 1817A/31 and return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2130A/31 to HERMIONE).

EXMOOR, Arriving Ponta Delgada dawn 1/2. Will require about
CROOME. 300 tons of fuel each.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1900A/31 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada
(R) Admty., CLYDE). *See previous page.*

U/B. At 1733Z/31 Italian U-Boat transmitted on 5025 KC/S
bearing approx. 250° from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1904A/31 to Escort O.S.17 (R) Admty.)

South Atlantic.

ISLAY. Sailed ISLAY for Mombasa, S. of A. 8.3 knots.
E.T.A. 1600/7. Routed as in my 1400/19/5/1941.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0632Z/31 to Admty. N.O.I.C.
Simonstown, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.S.
C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. East Africa & Zanzibar,
N.O.I.C. Aden).

JOHAN VAN Sailed for U.K. direct 30/1. E.T.A. U.K. 24/2.
OLDENBARNEVELT Embarked for U.K., naval 1 Officer 3 others,
civilians 11, names by air mail.
(S.S.T.O. Capetown, 0727Z/31 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrival 31/1 QUEEN EMMA, departure VIOLET towing
Lagos. MALAKAL. (R.N.O. Lagos, Nigeria, 1643Z/31 to
Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

SALLAND, Following has been read - SSSS 1° 12' N., 5° 40' W.
U/B. SALLAND, Submarine, chased.
(Ascension Island, 1800/31 to Freetown).
Ref. Admty. Message AF. Position 1° 12' N.,
5° 40' W. at 1800/31. (C. in C. S.A., 1826Z/31 to Area 6A).
Doubtful, see 0858Z/1.)
SALLAND 1800/31. Closed with WILD SWAN and BOREAS.
(VIMY, 1850Z/31 to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

- W.S.15. A.M.1503/16. LLANGIBBY CASTLE is no longer included in Convoy W.S.15. (D.S.T., 1947A/31 to C's in C. S.A., E.I., Med., etc.)
- AVILA STAR. Your 0919Q/29 (N.T. in W.R.) Please embark draft and report time at which AVILA STAR will be at R/V. (R.A.S.A.D., 2231Z/31 to N.O.I.C. Port of Spain (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

- Enemy Unit. Following has been read: Have obtained A.S.V. contact 010° Zuara 23. Probably a surface vessel. (Aircraft using call sign VV70. 0030/31).
- Enemy M/V. Following has been read by Malta W/T. P.C. and S. of 1 M/V of 8000 tons 009° Zura 34, (?Zuara), 350° 12 knots. (A/C Call Sign VV72, 0100B/31). P.C. and S. of 1 M/V and 1 escort vessel 033° 30' 012° 14' 350° 12 knots at 0100B/31. Swordfish leave to attack. (V.A.Malta, 0150B/31 to P.36).
Following has been read: Position of enemy is 120° 34' N. 12° E. 18 miles. Have attacked enemy with torpedoes and estimate one hit. Stopped heavy list. (A/C using call sign WR8N. 0545/31). 8,000 ton merchant ship stopped with heavy list in vicinity of 033° 50' 012° 15' at 0545B. (Capt. S.10, 0629B/31 to P.36).
- SOTRA sunk. ^{U.431} Regret to report SOTRA torpedoed by ~~aircraft~~ and sunk at 2148/29 in 032° 07' N. 025° 30' E. Fear no survivors. (C. in C. Med., 0905B/31 to Admty. (R) R.A.Alexandria). _{See 29/1 - p.831^c 130/1 p.883.}
- ALBARO. Italian tanker ALBARO fully laden arrived from Bourgas. Due sail for Trieste 1000 G.M.T. See my telegram 1044/8/8. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1005/31 to S.O.I. Med and S.I.) *See also p. 918,*
- Gear for Greek S/M, Malta. My 1730B/20. Owing to damage to machine shops by enemy action, estimated date of completion of manufacture of gear for first Greek submarine is now mid-May. (A.S., Malta, 1006B/31 to C. in C. Med.)

/Malta ...

917

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Malta Convoy Ships. Your 1815/30. TARIFA speed 14 knots TRICOLOUR speed $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots. ROWALLAN CASTLE is now loading for Malta. (C. in C. Med., 1121B/31 to Admty.)

KIMBERLEY. My 2351X/15 and A.F.O. 2551/40. Board of inquiry into damage sustained by KIMBERLEY will not be held as I am satisfied that no useful purpose would be served. Written reports will be forwarded. (C. in C. Med., 1125B/31 to Admty.)

Air Report. Day 30/1. Beaufighters shot up 5 barges at Ras Aali destroying 2. Hurricanes on patrol over shipping off Tobruk probably destroyed 1 HE 111 which bombed ships without damage. Enemy last seen with 1 engine stopped and other failing. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1131/31).

Convoy "Booty." "Booty" sailed as in my 1512/29 but all times 25 hours late. (Malta W/T, 1132B/31 to Mersa Matruh, etc.)

UPHOLDER, P. 35. UPHOLDER leaves $036^{\circ} 00' 014^{\circ} 10'$ on mean course 340° and P.35 leaves $035^{\circ} 40' 014^{\circ} 08'$ on mean course 270° both at about 0001B/2. (Capt. S.10, 1225B/31 to TURBULENT, P.36).

JOAO PESSOA. Arrived 30, departed 30. (Bilbao, 1259/31). Arrival 31/1 probably sailing 8th. (Santander, 1300/31 to M. of W.T.)

Fuel, Tobruk, Matruh. In order to conserve fuel stocks at Tobruk and Mersa Matruh destroyers on Western Desert convoy escort duties are not to fuel at these ports unless absolutely essential. (C. in C. Med., 1303B/31 to R.A.(D) Med., etc.)

UPHOLDER, P. 35, UNIQUE, UNA, UNBEATEN. P. 31. Intend to sail submarines P.M. to following areas Feb. 1, UPHOLDER to M., $038^{\circ} 00' 012^{\circ} 00'$ - $000^{\circ} - 45 - 60$. P. 35 to H., $035^{\circ} 15' 010^{\circ} 30'$ - $000^{\circ} - 45 - 70$. Feb. 2, UNIQUE to J., $036^{\circ} 56' 015^{\circ} 24'$ - $330^{\circ} - 40 - 70$. UNA to L., S. of $034^{\circ} 15'$ W. of $011^{\circ} 40'$. P.31 to N., S. of $033^{\circ} 45'$ between $011^{\circ} 50'$ and $012^{\circ} 55'$. Feb. 3, UNBEATEN to K., $034^{\circ} 20' 011^{\circ} 30'$ - $000^{\circ} - 40 - 60$. (Capt. S.10, 1325B/31 to Capt. S.1).

Enemy M/V. One small M/V not exceeding 2,000 tons 180° CC6 - OM - 020° - 5 knots. (Med. A/C., 1400/31 to Hal Far D/F Malta C M D).

/URGE ...

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

URGE,
UNIQUE. Leave patrol through 037° 00' 015° 35' and return by N.E. route arriving Marsamxett 0730B/3. UNIQUE leaves 035° 51' 015° 15' about 2330B/2 for 037° 15' 016° 10' S/M's encountered on opposite course after 0001B/3 are not to be attacked. (Capt. S.10, 1403B/31 to URGE).

Enemy M/V. One small M/S bearing 185° distant 15 miles approx. course 175° from C.O. 34M. (A/C of Station Flight Hal Far, 1502B/31 to Hal Far D/F.) Ref - MY - NR - 1 - is stopped. Heavy list to starboard. (Med. A/C, 1545B/31 to Hal Far).

Enemy M/V's attacked. Particulars of operations night 30/31.
1. (a) 1 ship Northbound 3 to 4,000 tons believed hit and listing in position 342° Cape Bon 10 miles at 2215/30.
(b) 1 ship Northbound 8,000 tons 2 certain 1 probably hit, left sinking in position 324° Tripoli (Libya) 70 at 0435/31.
2. F.A.A. operation night 29/30. Now seems possible that burning Swordfish was mistaken for ship on fire. Claim therefore doubtful. (V.A. Malta, 1517B/31 to C. in C. Med.)

NEREUS,
GLAUCOS. Your 1730B/20. Following received from Capt. (S) Corinthia (begins). A.S. Malta 1730B/20 to N.C.S.O. Malta (A) Greek Submarine NEREUS does not need refitting at Malta for the present. Consider gear should be fitted in GLAUCOS and trial carried out at Malta. (B) Greek Submarines Katsonis Class have 2 external and 2 internal bow tubes and 2 external stern tubes. Firing gear system as in GLAUCOS but layout different. C.O. GLAUCOS refitting at Malta can give information regarding gear. No standard drawings are available (Ends.) (Capt. S.1, 1529B/31 to A.S. Malta).

TUAPSE. My 1253/27 TUAPSE entered Aegean 2200/30. Admty. please pass to Adm. Miles. (A.N.A. Istanbul, 1538B/31 to Admty. etc.)

ALBARO. My 1005B/31. ALBARO still here, not expected to sail before midnight tonight. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1640B/31 to S.O.(I) Med. S.1, D.N.I.) *see also p. 916*

U.S.
Transports. Your 0616A/30. Propose use 2 of these ships with 3 ships of M.W.8 for M.W.10. (2) 2 remaining Empire ships for M.T. to Far East. (3) Names will be signalled later*. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1647B/31 to D. of S.T.)
* See his 1635B/4/2.

/Malta ...

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. 31/1. 30th 1342 hours. 8 Fighters and Bombers. Cloud cover. Bombs land, some damage dockyard property. No casualties. Hurricanes up, no interceptions. Night 30/31. 6 Alerts. 1728 to 0328 hours, 6 raiders. Bombs Hal Far, slight damage Officers Mess. Hurricane intruders grounded by bad weather and heavy rain, Takali water logged. 31st 7 Alerts. 0613, 0655, 0730, 1018, 1159, 1312, 1347 hours. 30 Fighters and Bombers. Cloud cover R/C and bombing. Target Luqa. Very slight damage aircraft. 1 Soldier wounded. Hurricanes up, no interception. Night 30/31. Sighted by special Wellington on shipping sweep 2015 hours without escort and now estimated as M/V 4,000 tons at 342° Cape Bon 10 miles course 320° 8 knots. 4 Albacores attacked with 3 torpedoes. Sea very rough with high wind so strikes not seen but M/V left stationary with list to port definitely hit hard. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1800/31).
0235 hrs. 4 Swordfish attacked M/V 325° Tripoli 70 miles course north, 12 knots. 2 probably 3 hits. M/V left stationary down by stern with starboard list and pouring smoke. 1 bombed large enemy submarine S.E. Misurata. Bombs within 10 yards. Submarine not seen again. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1821/31).

THORN. Leave your area and return to Alexandria through 040° 00' 019° 08', 037° 20' 019° 08', 035° 00' 021° 40', 032° 58' 028° 40', thence to end of searched channel adjusting speed to cross latitude 040° a.m. on 2nd, 035° course 2359/4 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/8. (Capt. S.1., 1805B/31 to THORN).

Enemy Use of A/S. Recent experience of TORBAY in Gulf of Taranto confirm P.31 account of use of supersonic anti-submarine transmission by enemy A/S vessel was of trawler type but with less pronounced sheer about 500 tons. Details. (Capt. S.1., 1901B/31 to F.O.S., C. in C. Med., etc.)

U/B. Attacked S/M TKBS 5030 (31.50 N., longitude indecipherable) bombs (?failed). E.T.A. 2100. A/C Duty X 230 Squadron Middle East Command, 1954/31 to 201 Group). Submarine has dived bearing 226° 32° N., 27° E. 25. Have attacked with depth charges and estimate 4 hits. Observed oil bubbles. (Med. A/C 2005/31 to ?Sqd. M.E. Command, via Nore W/T).

M.W.9. C. in C. Med's. 1221/27 to Admty. Intend using ROWALLAN CASTLE for M.W.9. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 2028B/31 to D. of S.T.)

Enemy M/V. P.C. and S. of enemy are 185 CC 57. (C.Flight No.3 A.A.C.U. Malta Duty P., 2225/31 to A.H.Q. Malta). Your NR 1 T.O.O. 2225. What composition? (A.H.Q., Malta, 2105/31 to C.Flight No.3 A.A.C.U. Malta Duty P.) Reply: 1 M/V. (C.Flight No.3, 0005/1).

War Diary.

31.1.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Persian Gunboats. In view of enemy submarine activity and lamentable shortage of A/S craft for local defence of Indian Ports strongly urge that the 4 Persian gunboats be handed over forthwith. I can man and arm them now and provide A/S equipment from new construction stock. Fully concur with S.N.O.P.G's 0741/28, not to Admiralty.

2. Essential to refit and dispose these vessels before the monsoon breaks.

3. Recommend highest priority be given to salvage of **BABR** which I could also man. Presume **PALANG** not salvaged. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0415Z/31 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. S.N.O.P.G.) My 0415/31. Suggest immediate action be taken to approach Iraq Govt. for sale or loan of **KING FEISAL I** (Ex. **SANS PEUR**) and the 4 Iraqi Patrol vessels. Am prepared to fit former as A/S vessel and to man and equip latter as harbour defence launches of which I am in urgent need.

(2) Suggest **JAMNAGAR** could relieve **KING FEISAL** as examination and pilot vessel. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0613Z/31 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. S.N.O.P.G.) F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 0613/31 Will do all I can to arrange this but it will be very difficult in view of all our commitments. (N.C.O. Persian Gulf, 1314/31 to C. in C. E.I.)

1. I am opposed in principle to the return of any of these gunboats to the Persians until the end of the war for the following reasons. (a) Maintenance facilities exist only at Khorramshar and these are already in full use by S.N.O.P.G. (b) I have little doubt that their return would be the thin end of the wedge and that further and more extensive demands would soon follow. (c) The machinery upkeep requirements and the (Corrupt group) of spare parts are such that it is most unlikely the Persians would be able to operate them as effective units and they would then doubtless pretend that we had returned them in an unworthable condition.

(2) If the Persian claim is correct i.e. that piracy is rife and that they have no other means of combating it - then we must do what we can with the ships at our disposal to put a stop to it.

(3) I have been informed that Minister of State for M.E. also is opposed to return of these vessels.

(4) I therefore recommend that all four gunboats be turned over to (?F.O.C.R.I.N.) as previously suggested and that he be authorised to remove them from Persian waters where their continued presence is only likely to revive this controversy. (C. in C. E.I., 1842Z/31 to Admty.)

EREBUS.

Sailed EREBUS for Mombasa S. of A. $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots
E.T.A. 10/2 routed through -
(A) $027^{\circ} 15' S. 036^{\circ} 00' E.$ (B) $017^{\circ} 00' S. 042^{\circ} 15' E.$ (C) $011^{\circ} 35' S. 042^{\circ} 50' E.$
MARGUERITE not yet arrived.
(N.O.1/c. Durban, 0448Z/31.)

/ U/B Attacks ...

War Diary.31.1.1942.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

- U/B Attacks. Enemy submarine incidents. (1) JALAPALAKA gunned in position 50 miles east of Madras at about 1300Z/30.
JALAPALAKA, LONGWOOD. (2) Tanker LONGWOOD torpedoed 30 miles west of Colombo at 0215Z/31. Made harbour. Submarine hunt in progress.
(C. in C. E.I., 0759Z/31 to E.I. Station).
JALAPALAKA sunk at 1300Z/30 085° Madras 50 miles by gunfire of Japanese submarine, 13 of crew missing.
LONGWOOD torpedoed at 0200Z/31 290° Colombo 30 miles. Ship arrived in harbour under own steam, no casualties.
(C. in C. E.I., 1209Z/31 to E.I. Station, (R) Admty. etc).
- Operation "Provender". A.M.1533/13/12 intend to carry out this operation in near future. Code name "Provender".
(C. in C. E.I., 0926Z/31 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., 1815Z/4 to Admty).
- OLTENIA II. Your 1447/29. Vessel arrived 24/1 as reported in my 1431/24 prefixed "immediate". Vessel sailed for Abadan 28/1. Formalities completed.
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1645Z/31 to Admty).
- Bay of Bengal, Abdacom's, 1410/25 and your 0531Z/24. Request you will co-ordinate the activities of all local defence craft available from India and Burma for defence of Bay of Bengal including Burma.
Govt. of India and Burma are being informed accordingly by Secretaries of State and requested to place craft available at your disposal.
(V.C.N.S., 1933A/31 to C. in C. E.I.)
- Minesweepers. Your 1610Z/26. It is now ascertained that the 177th Group complete two each in March, May and early July.
(D.S.M., 2247A/31 to C. in C. E.F.)
- Derelict. Colombo Ceylon. A derelict small steamer was sighted on 28/1 in 10.12 N., 80.13, may be still afloat drifting down Ceylon coast.
(? No T.O.O./31 to All concerned W.C.109).

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31.1.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

- Shipping Transfer. Intend transferring immediately A P (?C) shipping department from Singapore to Batavia. Request shipyards concerned provide all facilities London, Batavia. Please pass to Oesten and Asiatic Petroleum Co. London. (R.A. Malaya, 0121Z/31 to C.Z.M., Admty. Abdacom).
- Moulmein. Situation Moulmein has deteriorated and enemy have been reinforced both on East and North. Also obtained possession river craft and situation on water front appears precarious. Commander endeavouring to maintain possession of a bridge-head and ensure communication with Martaban. (G.O.C. Burma, 0140/31 to W.O.)
- Singapore. Four air raids night 29/30. No damage or casualties to R.A.F. 3 air raids day 30/1. Bombs dropped docks and Pulau Brani. Some fires started on wharves, 2 ships hit, 1 near miss. (G.O.C., Malaya, 0310/31 to W.O.)
- B.M.11. Convoy B.M.11 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0353Z/31 to Admty.)
- JALAPJAN sunk. *?SALARAJAN. Sep 902.* JALAPJAN torpedoed 1700Z/14/1 000° 12' S., 097° E. Master states all C.Bs were thrown overboard in weighted bags by Chief Officer in presence of Master, in depth of water over 2000 fathoms. Crew all safe except following 4 killed in explosion. (N.C.S.O. Batavia, 0413Z/31 to Admty.)
- M/V attacked 26/1. Attack by 6 Hudsons despatched from Palembang to same target mentioned in my Orep 43 (W.D. Note - 0104/27, 0307/27) resulting 2 direct hits on 1 merchant vessel. Our losses 2 Hudsons destroyed crash landed crews killed. Enemy losses 2 fighters destroyed 2 probably destroyed. (A.H.Q., F.E., 0437/31).
- Air Report. Op. Summ. to 1030Z/30. 4 enemy air raids night 29/30, no R.A.F. damage or casualties. No civilian casualties reported. 3 enemy air raids during day 30/1. Bombs fell in dock area and Pulo Brani. Early reports indicate damage to dock buildings, 1 hit not vital on U.S. ship, several near misses other ships. Some bombs in Straits West of Causeway and in Johore. No bombs on R.A.F. Stations. Calls for help from shipping in Banka Strait and between Banka and Berhala Strait. (A.H.Q., F.E., 0437/31).

/Batavia ...

MOST SECRET

922 B.

MESSAGE 0430Z/31 January IN

From C.C.N.F.

Date 6/2/42
Recd. 2002

NAVAL CYPHER D BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, C. in C. East Indies, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, C. in C. A.F., ABDAFLOAT, C.Z.M.

ABDAFLOAT's 0201Z 17th

(a) British dispositions Abda area. Batavia H.M.S. EXETER, H.M.S. JUPITER, H.M.A.S. VAMPIRE, H.M.I.S. JUMNA, H.M.A.S. BURNIE, H.M.A.S. GOULBURN, ANKING, *SPRINGDALE, Singapore H.M.S. DRAGON. Near Singapore H.M.A.S. HOBART, H.M.S. TENEDOS, H.M.S. STRONGHOLD. Singapore to Batavia H.M.S. DURBAN, ELECTRA, EXPRESS towing H.M.S. ROVER, H.M.S. ENCOUNTER towing H.M.S. ISIS. Indian Ocean H.M.S. EMERALD, H.M.S. DANAE, H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ, H.M.A.S. YARRA.

(b) H.M.S. ENCOUNTER one main engine out of action. Period for repairs not yet known. H.M.A.S. GOULBURN and H.M.A.S. BURNIE docking and boiler cleaning, ready 3rd February. H.M.I.S. JUMNA boiler cleaning ready A.M. 2nd February.

0430Z/31.

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
3rd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(W)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Hd. of M.(2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.C.(2)
D.N.I.(7) & for A.E. & D.N.L.O.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.M.S.
D. of T.(2)
D.A./S.W.
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Admiral Bailey
Admiral Bellairs.
Admiral Somerville.
E.P.S.
N.LC. Australia House.

*Amendment 0443Z/1/2

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

FROM:- C.C. CHINA FORCE

1236Z/31st January
DATE:- 6.2.42.

RECD:- 2002

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY CABLE

ADDRESSED:- Admiralty C. in C. Eastern Fleet repeated
S.B. Force L

My 1450 28th to S.O. Force "L". On 29th Catalina
searched area quoted and along south coast of Java.

(2) Blenheims on 30th searched along south coast for 200
miles from Java Head. All searches negative. Coast-
guards keep look out.

1236Z/31

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

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
NAVAL SEC.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim Admiralty House
D.N.A.D.
M. (35)
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (7) (and for A.E. and D.N.L.O.)
O.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (5)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
Admiral Bailey
Admiral Bellairs
E.P.S.
Admiral Somerville

923

War Diary.31.1.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

- Batavia Base Staff. Your 1815/29 (? 00491/29/1 to War Office (No. T.O.O.) intended). Reply. (N.O.I.C. Malaya, 0538/31, 0733Z/31 to Abdacom).
- Demolitions. Complete destruction of Pulum Bukum plant takes 5 days and should be commenced now if ever required. Denial for one year achieved at 12 hours notice. Intend to continue shipment and carry out drenching denial oil product only when shipment impossible. (R.A. Malaya, 0545Z/31 to A.I.G. 92).
- SANDPIPER. Tel. 077 of 31st. I suggest that SANDPIPER might also be offered to the Chinese. (C. in C. E.F., 0605Z/31 to Admty. (R) Ambassador Chungking).
- Batavia, Military Stores. My 1333Z/30. (Re discharge at Batavia of ships with Military stores for Singapore). I am keeping in close touch with British Consul-General over this matter. (C.C.C.F., 0631Z/31 to Admty. etc.)
- Moulmein. Situation Report 1330 G.M.T. Moulmein. Enemy pressure continued on Moulmein night 30/31 and tonight 2 Brigade withdraw across the river Salween to Martaban area where new positions on line of Salween now being held. 1 ferry boat sunk 1 aground during withdrawal. Martaban heavily bombed by high level attack little damage. Rangoon quiet. (G.O.C. Burma, 0845/31)
- ABDIEL Minelaying. My 0700Z/22 not to Admiralty. I have under consideration laying of offensive moored mine-field off following positions between Moulmein and Penang. (a) Penang northernmost entrance. (b) Southern end Salang Island, 007° (?47') N. (c) Tavoy Point. (d) Double Island, 015° 53' N. (ii) Subject to your concurrence I intend if I decide to undertake these operations to employ ABDIEL. (C. in C. E.F., 1333Z/31 to Abdacom (R) C. in C. E.I., etc.) Concur. (Abdacom, 0515Z/5).
- Singapore Air Raid 30/1. Considerable damage to Singapore Harbour Board 30/1. 3 godowns with rubber and general cargo destroyed. One tug sunk, one small dry dock out of commission for 14 days. Main office unfit for use. 30 to 40 small fires. Casualties 25 killed 50 wounded, also a few casualties, some fatal, among the crew of U.S. S. WEST POINT before women and children evacuees embarked. This raid, with several alerts today, has shaken harbour labour badly and few are at work this afternoon. (Govr., Straits Sett., 1748/31 to S. of S. for Colonies).
- Rangoon, Lease-Lend Stores. Your 0701Z/29. Understood from Governor of Burma that there are in Rangoon 40,000 tons Lease-Lend military stores and another 40,000 tons material /including ...

31.1.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Rangoon, including Lease-Lend and other Chinese purchases
Lease-Lend in U.S.A.
Stores. 2. He states difficulty arises from inability to
Contd. move stocks owing heavy military railway traffic.
Owing to frequent alerts working of ships delayed,
but position not unsatisfactory. Measures being taken to improve
labour position.
3. Governor considers that certain temporary restrictions or
diversions are desirable.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1844R/31 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Abdacom, C. in C.E.I.)

Attack on Personal for Sturdee from Wavell. Your
Amboina. MC.4617 28/1.
Dispositions, 1. Japanese attack on Amboina involves threat
Army and Air both to Koepang and to Darwin. Both these places
forces. are essential to defence of Abda area. Unless
Koepang is held movement of short range aircraft
reinforcements between Australia and Java and
vice-versa becomes impossible and movement of shipping between
Australia and N.E.I. must take wide detour. Allocation of very
limited resources for defence of these two points is urgent
and difficult problem. After full discussion here with Brett,
Peirse and Brereton consider following best distribution.
(Ground and air forces)...
4. In view of threat to Koepang priority of movement will be
that fighter and dive bomber squadrons for N.E.I. will have
first priority and those for Koepang second priority and Darwin
third priority. As all these squadrons will pass through Darwin
however I can always stop them at Darwin if threat to that
place appears imminent. Heavy bombers will be operated according
to direction from which Japanese threat appears to be
developing.
5. Fully realise the difficulties and dangers of above proposal
which however seems best distribution of our very limited
resources and hope you will be able to agree.
6. Decision most urgent since U.S. light Naval forces who can
act as escort to troops for Koepang are due to leave Darwin on
February 2. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1930/31 to C.G.S.Australia)

Air Report. Op. Summ. to 1030Z/31. Several alerts Singapore
A.M. 31/1. 27 heavy bombers attacked Seletar,
some buildings destroyed others damaged,
aerodrome unserviceable, (casualties).
(A.H.Q. F.E., 2000/31).

Situation. For C.O.S. from Gen. Wavell. A.W.5.
1. Visited Singapore and Johore yesterday with
Air Marshal Peirse and saw Percival, Heath,
Gordon-Bennett and Governor. Have not yet heard result with-
drawal last night.
2. Considerable number troops previously cut off have rejoined.
Garrison of island should be 18 Div. almost intact, 8 Australian
Div. of two Bdes., well up to strength, equivalent four strong
Indian Inf. Bdes, from 9 and 11 Ind. Divs. and reinforcing Bdes,
and approximate equivalent two Bdes. Indian State troops and
Malay Btms.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

- Situation. (contd.)
3. See my 00576 31/1 as regards Amboina Koepang Darwin. No news yet of result of Japanese attack Amboina.
4. Enemy again advancing against Moulmein which appears threatened.
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 2158/31 to W.O. etc.)
- Convoy M.S.1. Convoy M.S.1. arrived less TJIKARANG, PEISANDER, JAVA, ENGGANO, PAN EUROPE, WAR SIRDAR, TJIKANDI. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 2357Z/31).

America & West Indies.

- ALPHA. Intercept De WSL (Amagansett Radio) SSSS 36.58 N. 74. 05 W. ALPHA sighted submarine does not attack. (Valentia Radio, 0026/31 to Admty., Adm. Devonport, Halifax W/T No T.O.O./31).
Intercept De Tuckerton, New Jersey, Radio SSSS ALPHA 26°N.74° 10' W., at 0612.
(Valentia Radio, 0627/31 to Admty, Adm. Devonport)
- REGENT. Your 1255R/30. REGENT at Ponta Delgada with defective after planes. Expected to sail within two or three days for Philadelphia. Possible she may have had to remove after planes and in consequence be unable to dive.
'F.O.S., 0029A/31 to B.A.D. (R) Admty etc).
- RHODE ISLAND. Intercept De WSC (Tuckerton N.J. Radio) SSSS RHODE ISLAND unread miles S. Wimble Shoals, sighted 2 submarines at 0052 G.M.T.
(Valentia Radio, 0059/31 to Admty, Adm. Devonport)
- HALSEY. Intercept. De Amagansett Radio SSSS HALSEY, Submarine ten miles S.S.E. Currituck Light 0100 G.M.T.
(Valentia Radio, 0223/31 to Admty, Adm. Devonport)
- KRASSIN. Your 1655/30. (Inclusion of icebreaker KRASSIN in S.C. convoy) Yes.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0231Z/31 to Opnav, Admty. etc)
Reference 1655/30 from Opnav. KRASSIN should be included in appropriate H.X. or S.C. convoy from Halifax to U.K.
(D.T.D., 1539A/31 to Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. O Contd.

- U/B D/F bearing at 2255Z/30 place submarine within 50 miles of 038° N., 068° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0243Z/31 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc).
- QUEEN MARY. My 2000Z/29. (N.T. ^{Page 861} in W.R.) C.S.A. Boston reports approx. date of sailing of QUEEN MARY now 15/2 destination changed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0332Z/31 to B.A.D.) QUEEN MARY Remains Boston. Movement your 2000Z/29 will not be made. (Opnav. 1452Z/31 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R)Admty. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.S.A. New York, C.S.A. Boston)
- H.M. FREDRICHSEN. Intercept from Amagansett Radio SSSS H.M. FREDRICHSEN 33.01 N., 78.10 W., not attacking yet but please stand by. Bearing from VAX Cansoradio 238, from VCS Camperdown Radio 228. (Valentia Radio, 0351/31 to Admty. Adm. Devonport) Received 0325 G.M.T. SSS have shook sub. for time being. (Halifax, N.S. 0731/31 to Admty).
- GULFSTAR, PACO. Following is a repetition of my 0035/30 (received indecypherable) (begins) U.S. tanker GULFSTAR reports sighting submarine in 37.50 N., 75° W. at 2009R/29. U.S. tanker PACO reports sighting submarine in 34° 58 N., 75.32 W., at 2050R/29. T.O.O.0035R/30 (Ends) (B.A.D., 0445R/31 to C. in C. A.W.I. Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- SINCLAIR SUPERFLAME. Intercept De KEEQ SINCLAIR SUPERFLAME SSSS 36.31 N., 74. 30 W., submarine at 0730. (Valentia Radio, 0745/31 to Admty. Adm. Devonport)
- U/B D/F bearings at 2315Z/30 place submarines distributed 50 mles 037° 30' N., 067° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0902Z/31 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opnav. C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.)
- VACUUM. Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 0819 G.M.T. VACUUM SSSS 37.39 75.06 N.W. (Begins) 30 true 9 knots. S.S. VACUUM G.M.T. 0800 followed by a suspicious vessel may be submarine stand by. No re-broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0921/31 Halifax N.S. 1026/31)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- SURCOUF. Your 2059/30. U.S. Authorities are arranging bombing restrictions.
(B.A.D., 1103A/31 to CO.A.C.)
- AUSONIA. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1630Z/30. Propose AUSONIA should proceed to Bermuda as soon after her arrival at Halifax as possible to report to Commdr. Task Force 2.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1122P /31 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Comdr. Task Force 2, C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. Admty. AUSONIA).
- DELHI. A.M.1630/26/12. DELHI will be ready to sail from Norfolk for Clyde in about 4 days. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to issue route. Ship has no charge documents and is without any forms R/D.F. or S/D Device.
(B.A.R.M., 1134R/31 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.)
- NIOBE. Following received from Redhead (Begins) Intercepted from W.S.C. at 1144 G.M.T. following (Quote) SSSS HPFQ Sea Girt 130° true 16 miles signed O.I.C. T.O.O.1152Z/31 (Ends)
(Halifax W/T, 1200Z/31) W.D. Note. H P F Q = Pa Tanker NIOBE.
- OREGON. My 2051R/23. Ship anchored off St. Thomas 30/1. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1236R/31 to Admiralty. C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D.)
- CHESTER O. SWAIN. Following received from Redhead W/T (begins) Intercept 1303 G.M.T. from WRBK (CHESTER O. SWAIN) SSSS Submarine sighted 32.25 N., 79.25 W. at 1300 G.M.T., not attacked yet, no bearing due interception, signed O.I.C. T.O.O.1309Z/31.
(Halifax W/T, 1322Z/31).
- Cable Ships. Your 1205/30. In addition to available cable ships quoted in my 2033/8 G.P.O. own four ships MONARCH, ALERT, ARIEL and IRIS for maintenance of coastal cables in British Isles. None of these is equipped for deep-sea repair work. MONARCH and ALERT have not been lost. Cable ships lost to date are FARADAY and RETRIEVER. PACIFIC damaged in collision at Kilindini and will not be available for at least ten weeks.
(D.S.D., 1325A/31 to B.A.D.)
- LAPLACE. LAPLACE should be routed direct to Rio de Janeiro omitting Bahia.
(D.T.D., 1345A/31 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad).
Your 1345A/31. LAPLACE sailed 29th due Bahia 12/2.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1204Q/31 to Admty).
/Curacao...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Curacao. Your 2212P/27. Concur in continued use of berths in Caracas Bay and Bullen Bay in present circumstances.
(D.T.D., 1415A/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- AQUITANIA. Your 1539/27. Vessel can be handled at Honolulu provided draft does not exceed 34 feet. U.S. authorities wish to know if vessel may carry passengers not necessarily troops from Honolulu to mainland and if so how many.
(B.A.D., 1455R/31 to Admty (R) A.C.N.B.)
- LOUISIANA. Following has been read. 1351 G.M.T. intercept SSSS ALLO WOYO sighted submarine 7 a.m. 34.47 N. 75.36 W., our course 230°. Latitude doubtful due to interference GTST.
(Halifax W/T, 1456Z/31).
- WILLIAM C. MCTARNAHAN. Following has been read. 1233 G.M.T. intercepted from WSC SSSS ALLO S.S. WILLIAM C MCTARNAHAN, 18 miles S.W. of Diamond Shoals. Submarine coming towards us. 1220 G.M.T. signed Yarmouth Radio.
(Halifax W/T, 1501Z/31).
- ICARION. Greek ICARION torpedoed and sunk 2220/26 in 46° 2' N., 52° 22' W., all C.Bs. definitely went down with ship. My 1515Z/31 with list of survivors follows.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1513Z/31 to Admty).
- GULFWING. Following has been received. 1552 G.M.T. SSSS ALLO 37° 13' N., 75° 16' W., GULFWING attacked by Submarine at 1532 G.M.T.
(Halifax N.S., 1615Z/31).
- SURREY. My 1013P/21. SURREY arrived Bermuda in tow A.M./30. First 750 miles in tow of CAVINA, remaining 100 miles in tow of Tug ROODE ZEE.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1622P/30 to Admty).
My 1622P/30. S.S. SURREY now at Bermuda has lost both rudders and stern frame. Request drawings of these be forwarded to Ministry of Shipping, New York by quickest possible route. Separate signal is being made regarding port for repairs.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2202P/31 to Admty).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.MARON,
CAVINA.

Your 1632A/29 addressed MARON. Request you sail
(A) MARON p.m./1 for Eastern Half (B) CAVINA
5/12 for Western Half of W.P. Areas N.46 - N.55
(2) Ship to patrol North and South steaming south
during daylight and recovering ground northward
during dark hours.
(S.O.W.P., 1810A/31, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B

D/F bearing at 1353Z/31 indicates submarine
within 75 miles of 38° N., 67° W. Transmission
was sighting report.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1819Z/31 to Brit. War Ships
Area 7A. Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav,
C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

WARSPITE,
S.S.QUEEN
ELIZABETH,
BISHOPDALE.

(i) Your 1552A/30 and C. in C. A.W.I. 1252/12.
Cominch regrets destroyers in para. 2 of your
signal cannot be spared to continue escort
BISHOPDALE on account of heavy U.S. Convoy escort
commitments at that time.
(ii) Cover by cruiser(s) etc. to northward of
westbound U.S. Convoys is however being arranged and this would
appear afford some protection to BISHOPDALE, which ship is not
fast enough to be included in one of the convoys.
(iii) Since receiving your 1552A/30 I have seen Spenavo's
1643/29 addressed Opanav only and question of fuel oil in Tahiti-
Bora Bora area has been discussed with U.S. Authorities who are
anxious for any help to oil situation at Bora that we can give
them. This on account of extensive convoy movements and shortage
of oilers. (iv) After fuelling WARSPITE, QUEEN ELIZABETH at
Tahiti it is estimated there will only be about 2,000 tons of
fuel oil plus aviation fuel and lubricating oil remaining on
BISHOPDALE. (v) There would then appear to be three alternatives
for BISHOPDALE: (a) to proceed independently to Suva from
Tahiti and discharge thence to Australia for docking as in your
1552/30. (b) to discharge all remaining fuel to U.S. tanker
at Bora Bora and thence forward empty to Australia.
(c) to discharge, as in (b) to U.S. tanker and then return
to a west coast port off South America (?such) as Talara to
replenish and take full cargo to Suva and thence to Australia.
(vi) An early decision would be appreciated in order to settle
this question with Navy Dept.
(B.A.D., 1835R/31 to Admty).

U/B

D/F bearings at 1431Z/31 place submarine within
50 miles of 042° 30' N., 060° 30' W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1901Z/31 to Brit. Warships
Area 7A. Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C.,
F.O.N.F.)

/QUEEN...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.SS. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Pass to D.E.M.S. New York.
QUEEN ELIZABETH is to be armed as for QUEEN MARY
vide my 2204/12 and para. 1 of 0122/18.
(D.T.D., 1922A/31 to B.A.D.)

O.15
FREDERICTON.

B.A.R.M., 1414R/29. Netherlands submarine
O.15 escorted by FREDERICTON (Corvette) will
depart Halifax at 1300 G.M.T./1 for Philadelphia
routed through (R) 43° 10' N., 65° 30' W. (S)
40° 30' N., 67° 30' W., speed 9½ knots. Request
total bombing restrictions be arranged.
(C.O.A.C. 1941/31 to B.A.R.M.)

Washops 51.

Following is a repetition of my 1127R/31st.
(1) Philippine Is. No change in situation.
(2) Eastern Pacific. U.S. War Dept. reports that
a message received from Fort Mears, Dutch Harbour states that a
(positively identified) enemy submarine was sighted entering
Unimak Pass, St. Jean Delay Island on 28/1.
T.O.O., 1127R/31 (ends).
(J.S.M. Washington, 2025R/31 to Admty etc).

ATHELREGENT.

Your 1703/8 not to C.S.A. Baltimore and C.S.A.
New York. ATHELREGENT has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2026Z/31 to Admty).

U/B

D/F Bearings at 1530Z/31 indicate submarine
within 100 miles of 42° N., 60° 30' W. This
unit may be working with submarine referred to in
My 1901Z/31.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2038Z/31 to Br. Warships in area
7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opnav. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.E.)

N.A. 3.

My 1622Z/30. My 1715Z/30 also refers.
N.A.3 figures should read 4800 Army, 2000 Air,
total 6800.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2047 Z/31 to D. of S.T.as
corrected 0056Z/2).

ALDEBARAN.

My 2207Z/26 (expected sailings) ALDERBARAN due
Casablanca 9/2.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2321Z/31 to S.O.(I)s. Gib.
Kingston, C. in C. A.W.I.)

MAURIENNE.

Received 2154 G.M.T. SSSS 44.17 N., 63. 23 W.
MAURIENNE de VCS.
(Camperdown W/T to Any British Man of War. Recd.
2358).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Japanese
Aircraft
Carrier.

Aircraft carrier (Grading B.1) ZUIKAKU Class
(Grading C.3) sighted Jacquinot Bay in approx.
005° 40' S., 151° 37' E. at 0730Z/24.
(A.C.N.B., 0837Z/31 to Admty etc).

Situation.

Digest. Serial No. 11 from Central War Room.
Rabaul. Air R/C 30/1 revealed 4 cruisers, 6
destroyers, 4 small craft, 5 flying boats.

At least 13 transport include 1 large (possibly aircraft or
seaplane carriers.) No sign of enemy movements.

Vunaksentan. Bombing attack night 30/31 by 5 Catalinas. One
direct hit. Heavy A/A fire encountered.

Tabar Island reports shelled by Japanese warships 28/1. Air
attack in progress Salamoia 0104Z/31. Enemy aircraft over Bulolo
0125/31 and Gasmata 2135Z/30. Enemy aircraft carrier ZUIKAU
Class reported off Jacquinot Bay (South coast New Britain)
at 0730Z/24.

(A.C.N.B., 1102Z/31 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1348A/31, 1349A/31.)