

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.2.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The sloop PELICAN which, with the Corvettes MARIGOLD and AZALEA, is searching for the German SPREEMWALD believed to have been torpedoed yesterday in the Atlantic by a U-boat, reported at 2000A today having passed through 3 miles of oil in 45° 28' N., 24° 39' W., which she presumes to have risen from the SPREEMWALD. It is believed that four or five U-boats are near ~~██████████~~ LaTter.

*See p. 10.*

Operation  
E.M.  
Abandoned.

The A.M.C. CITY OF DURBAN, engaged upon Operation E.M., reported at 1801A today that, having been sighted by A/C at 1145A, she considers the operation to be now impracticable.

British Air Activity.

~~49~~ A/C attacked the Battle Cruisers at Brest last night, but the smoke screen and cloud prevented observation of results. The submarine base at St. Nazaire and docks at Le Havre were also bombed

Enemy Air Activity.

At 1516A today one Junkers 88 dropped two bombs on Sumburgh Airport, rendering one runway un-serviceable and damaging six A/C by cannon fire.

BRITOMART reports being attacked by a Junkers 88 in 68° 6' N., 40° 32' E., at 1027A/24; she received superficial damage and had one man killed and shot down her attacker.

M.V. SEDULITY was attacked and damaged this afternoon, and returned to Yarmouth.

Convoy P.W.104 was attacked at 0021 in 50° 15' N. 5° 37' W.

/Corvette...

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Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Corvette GENISTA shot down a F.W. aircraft today off the west coast of Ireland.

Mining.

Operation  
S.N.17.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, with PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, LANCASTER, NEWARK, and WELLS left Port ZA at 1331A today for a minelaying operation east of the Firth of Forth.

Capt. M/S Sheerness reports today that during operations in the East and West Swin channels on 27th, 28th, and 29th January, 14 mines were detonated.

On Ground Mine was exploded by Sweepers off Harwich yesterday, and one Magnetic Mine off the Humber today.

Mediterranean.

H.M.D. SUNSET was damaged by a near miss during air attack on Malta last night.

Gales and heavy rain continue, and the aerodromes at Ta Kali and Hal Far are waterlogged.

URGE considers she torpedoed and sank one of 3 westbound escorted merchant vessels at 1053B in 37° 56' N., 15° 42' E.

*(Not confirmed by Torpedo Attack Register.)*

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.34 reports having torpedoed a well laden M/V with destroyer escort at 1339/25 in 37.45 N., 15.30 E. Ship was still stopped with a list 2 hours later. An S O S was received from S.S. \*DALMATIA, 3,252 tons, but C.O. considers target over 7,000 tons.  
*\*Torpedo Attack Register confirms sunk.*

Derna.

The Commander 8th Army has ordered the withdrawal of main bodies from Derna on the night of 2-3/2, after which only light columns will operate offensively west of this port. He has therefore ordered administrative units and installations to be evacuated. S.O. Force I is sending a party to destroy wrecks and harbour facilities as far as possible.

U/B  
Reports.

To ensure rapid reception, all sight reports of enemy submarines are to be made in P/L, with position in letter co-ordination. Co-ordinates or extracts are being supplied to all A/S trawlers M.T.Bs. and M.A/S.Bs.

East Indies.

VAMPIRE is to be sailed for Ceylon, arriving not later than 11/2, to escort HERMES while in Ceylon area, and to accompany her to Australia.

Andaman and  
Nicobar Is.

G.O.C. Burma in an appreciation of the position in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, points out that their defence is primarily a naval commitment and he cannot accept responsibility for denying them to the enemy in the absence of naval resources of any kind. He suggests a naval officer and staff be appointed to concert naval air measures for the defence of the islands.

ABDIEL was damaged by grounding at Port Anson Andamans, during minelaying operations today. She is to be docked at Colombo on 13/2.

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Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Burma. Our troops from Moulmein have been evacuated to Martaban.

Japanese building rafts at Kado Island were bombed by 6 Blenheims. Air R/C saw no river craft on Salween up to 30 miles north and south of Cagein.

Rangoon had 4 alerts last night. Mingaladon aerodrome was bombed and slight damage caused to the D/F station.

Malaya. The first Melbourne to Singapore convoy (M.S.1) has arrived without incident.

N.E.I. There were further air attacks today on shipping in Banka Strait and various places in Banka Island but it is believed the attacks were ineffective.

America & West Indies.

S.S. REFAST, British tanker, was torpedoed at 1410Z/26 in 42° 40' N., 53° 00' W. 33 survivors picked up by MARIPOSA in 42.35 N., 53.40 W., have been landed at Halifax. They reported sighting an unknown motor vessel on 24/1 and 25/1 and shortly after heard very strong W/T signals.

U.S. tanker HAHIRA made a submarine distress signal at 0112 G.M.T. off Cape Henry.

S.S. TACOMA STAR was torpedoed about 0136 G.M.T. in 37° 33' N., 69° 21' W.

U.S. Tanker PAN-AMOCO sighted a submarine at 0452 G.M.T. in 34° 0' N., 75° 0' W., but escaped.

Norwegian <sup>m/v</sup> S.S. GRENANGER reported a suspicious ship following her at 0518 in 10° 6' N., 92° 0' W. At 0706 G.M.T. she reported that the ship, a "Tanker raider", had disappeared in a S.W. direction

War Diary.

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Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia, & New Zealand.

4 Catalinas attacked shipping at Rabaul today: no hits were seen, 9 enemy aircraft bombed Wau today.

The U.S. cruiser CHICAGO and destroyer PERKINS leave Pearl Harbour tomorrow to join the Anzac Force. The U.S. destroyer LAMSON leaves Samoa for Wellington for the same purpose.

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Stores for  
Far East.Admiralty 1523A/30. 2. These stores can be  
accepted for passage.  
(FORMIDABLE 1131A/1.)CAPE  
WARWICK.On completion of present escort duty and minor  
repairs CAPE WARWICK is to be lent to Capt. S.3  
for escort duty with S/M's.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1144A/1 to Capt. D. Greenock.)Movements.

SPIREA.

F.O.C.N.A. 1216A/27. Onward route from position  
B to (C) 054° N. 14° W. (D) 055° 40' N. 008° W.  
thence to fuel at Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1024A/1 to SPIREA.)

UTMOST.

(i) F.O.(S) 1304A/30. On leaving patrol  
proceed submerged by day through 048° 10' N.  
006° 20' W. to R/V with BREDA in 270° St. Kilda  
3 miles at 0830A/3 for either (a) Onward  
passage to Holy Loch or (b) To Falmouth if fuel  
is required. (Capt. S.3. 1031A/31 and 1214A/1  
to UTMOST.)

ARETHUSA.

ARETHUSA proceed as necessary a.m. tomorrow to  
Sheerness in accordance with C. in C. Nore  
1210A/30 and 1432A/27. ( corrupt group).  
(2). C. in C. Rosyth is requested to instruct COTSWOLD and  
COTTESMORE to R/V ARETHUSA off 26 buoy at 1800/2nd thence  
provide S A escort to Sheerness. (3). Fighter protection  
arranged from 1100 2nd to daylight 3rd and fighter escort from  
daylight 3rd to arrival at destination.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1141A/1 to ARETHUSA.)

WELSHMAN.

Arrived 0930/1. WELSHMAN.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1209/1.)

CLEOPATRA.

Route for CLEOPATRA. (A) 270° Oversight 10 miles.  
(B) 054° 30' N. 015° W. (C) 040° 015°  
(D) 036° 010° thence Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1423A/1.)

ICARUS.

Your 2230A/30. Arrived 1100A/1.  
(A.C.I.C. 1448A/1 to R.A.D. H.F.)BLENHEIM,  
PUNJABI,  
TARTAR.Intend to sail BLENHEIM 7/2 S. of A. 9 knots  
escorted by PUNJABI who requires A/S practice  
in addition to D/F calibration owing to new  
C.O. and change of complement. Second  
destroyer for BLENHEIM from W.A. in accordance  
with Admiralty 1914A/8/1. (2) Intend to sail  
TARTAR for Hvalfiord 5/2.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1458A/1.)

/TRIDENT ...

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- TRIDENT. My 1219A/31. (1) Para. one (D). Escort not available. Proceed from (D) to (E) 060° 06' N. 000° 53' W. where you will be met at 1430A/5 and escorted into Lerwick. (Capt. S.3. 1523A/1 to TRIDENT.)
- CIRCASSIA. C. in C. A.W.I. 1232P/25. Onward route. From (C) to (D) 055° 45' N. 015° W. (E) 055° 35' N. 7° W. Thence Belfast. (C. in C. W.A. 1554A/1 and 1718A/3 to CIRCASSIA.)
- H.43. You may overtake Submarine H.43 escorted by Dutch torpedo boat destroyer Z 5 southbound during dark hours. (C. in C. W.A. 1638A/1 to MAN OF WAR, GENTIAN.)
- AMBUSCADE. A.M. 1948A/21. Intend to sail AMBUSCADE from Needles 1000/2 for Greenock, to carry out repair trial down channel and land trial party at Plymouth. E.T.A. Plymouth 1500/2. (11) Route. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1853A/31.)
- LAMERTON. Sailed LAMERTON in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1131/31. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1900A/1.)  
N.T. & W.D.
- T.L.C.150. Keep look-out for unescorted T.L.C. 150 seen at 20 R Buoy about 0630/1st bound for Methil. Report immediately if sighted. Trawlers are searching. (C. in C. Rosyth 2050/1 to WINDSOR, WOLSEY, COTTESMORE, COTSWOLD.)
- CUMBERLAND. My 1210A/30 and 1010A/31. Delete all reference to CUMBERLAND. (C. in C. Nore 2142A/1.)

Operations.

- S/M Patrol off Brest. My 1621A/31. Amend para. (F) to read:- H.34 H.50 escorted by BREDA 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles. Thence (1) BREDA and H.34 to Falmouth (2) H.50 submerged by day through 48° 50' N. 07° 30' W. for 47° 03' N. 7° 20' W. (F.O.S. 0003A/1.)
- My 1621A/31. Add para. H. H.43 escorted by Z.5 leaves Rothesay 1000A/1 for 270° Wolf Rock 10 miles E.T.A. 2200A/3. Thence H.43 to patrol and Z.5 to Falmouth. (F.O.S. 0744A/1.)
- My 2359A/31. Sailed H.43 escorted by Z.5. (Capt. S. 7. 1003A/1.)
- Arrival H.M.S. BREDA and S/M H.34. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1455/1.)
- Request you will sail H.34 on completion repairs to patrol position Number 51 routed from vicinity Lizard Head to position (F) thence in accordance with my 1304A/30/1. Passage is to be made submerged by day. (F.O.S. 1714A/1 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth)

/My ...



War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M Patrol  
off Brest.  
Contd.-My 1614A/1. Add new para. (H) H.34 49° 18' N.  
06° 15' W. dived by day through 48° 50' N. 7° W.  
for Patrol in Biscay North zone.  
(F.O.S. 2214A/1 to Admty.)Cable-  
laying.Admiralty's 2138A/27 and my 1029A/28. Inform-  
ation received that cable cannot reach Milford  
Haven before 7/2. Propose therefore to sail  
M.L.MACKAY 3/2 for Barry Roads for Operation  
One and progressing Operation Two. It would appear economical  
if you concur with above proposal for Coaster NOTTINGHAM due  
to load twin core cable at Plymouth to transfer cable to  
M.L.MACKAY at Barry Roads instead of Milford Haven.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1247A/1 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)Iceland  
Faroes  
Passage.On completion of practices at about 1500N/2  
KENYA is to proceed to patrol "Black," pass through  
062° N. 021° W. (ii) C.S.18 in SHEFFIELD is to  
leave patrol at 2200N/2 and return to (?H)valfiord  
passing through 063° N. 020° W.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1258A/1.)Portland  
Patrol.2 M.L.'s on patrol 10 miles S. of Portland  
on Night 1/2. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1517A/1.)  
My 1307A Patrol cancelled.  
(F.O.C. Dover 1716A/1 to BLENCATHRA.)Operation  
E M.Sighted by enemy aircraft 1145A 062° position B  
242 miles. Regret consider operation now  
impracticable. Request routeing. My P.C.S.  
50° position B 240 miles, 270°, 8 knots.  
(CITY OF DURBAN 1801A/1 to C. in C. H.F.)British Air Activity.Bombing  
operations.On days 30/1 and 31/1 no operations took place.  
On Night 31 Jan./1 Feb. 49 A/C attacked the  
Battle Cruisers at Brest, 13 attacked the docks  
at St. Nazaire, and 5 A/C bombed the docks at  
Havre. (H.Q.B.C. 1449/1.)

Escort.

C.A.M.S.I. 595. Expect air escort about 0900 G.M.T.  
tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1613G.M.T/1 to  
ARUNDEL CASTLE.)Search for  
SPREEWALD.Expect one Liberator to assist in search for  
SPREEWALD between 1000 and 1400 tomorrow.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2154A/1 to PELICAN, MARIGOLD,  
AZALEA, SPIREA.)

A/S Sweep.

Weather permitting 4 Hudsonswill be carrying out  
an A/S sweep tomorrow fore noon between 056° 30'  
and 055° N. and 012° and 015° 30' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2349A/1 to KEPPEL, LEAMINGTON, etc)

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy P.W.104. Convoy "Warrant" in 50° 15' N. 5° 37' W. course 044° speed 7 knots, is being attacked by enemy A/C. (M.L. 296 0021/1.)

A/C shot down by BRITOMART on 24/1. At 1027A/24/1 in 68° 6' N. 40° 32' E. shot down one Junkers 88. Destruction witnessed by SHARPSHOOTER and SALAMANDER. No survivors from A/C. (3) Superficial damage. 1 rating killed, 1 wounded. (5) Low level attack. Hit by Oerlikon shell, A/C caught fire and crashed in the sea. No fighter aircraft present. (BRITOMART 1021A/1.)

A/C at Trondheim on 31/1. Three F.W. aircraft seen at Trondheim/Vaernes aerodrome on 31/1. (D.D.I.C. 1048A/1.)

Convoy. Enemy are bombing convoy "Prize". My position (indecipherable) (VIVIEN 1509/1.)

Unknown Ship. De Auto Station sending A A A A strength 2/3 message nor re broadcast by Cullercoats. (Cullercoats W/T 1524/1.)

Sumburgh Air-port bombed. At 1516A/1 Junkers 88 attacked Sumburgh Airport dropping two bombs which rendered one runway unserviceable. Six aircraft were damaged by cannon fire and there were two slight casualties among R.A.F. personnel. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1619A/1.)

Bay of Biscay. Between 0400 and 0630 three F.W. aircraft operated in a North Westerly direction from Bordeaux to approx. 120' West of Ushant. All aircraft returned to base about 0600. (D.D.I.C. 1733A/1.)

A/C shot down. <sup>N.T. & W.D.</sup> My 0035/1. Investigation on arrival harbour with A/S Trawler CORNELIAN discloses that, after being heavily engaged at close range by ATHERSTONE and CORNELIAN, and passing out of sight of ATHERSTONE, JU.88 which attacked at 0023 crashed on its back towards centre of convoy closely witnessed by C.O. and ships company of CORNELIAN. There were no survivors. (ATHERSTONE 1930/1.)

ESKBURN damaged. At 1820/31 ESKBURN, British 472 tons, was attacked by A/C 2 miles N.W. of Tod Head. 4 bombs dropped. Fire opened with 3 M.G.'s before attack. Slight damage to ship. No casualties. Enemy aircraft thought damaged. (C. in C. Rosyth 2211/1.)

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- Harwich. My 1541/31. At 1234/31 one Red Mine detonated by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1008A/1.)
- S.N.17. Sailed R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, LANCASTER, NEWARK, WELLS. (N.O.I.C. Port ZA 1331A/1.)
- Thames Estuary. Details of 4 ground mines detonated 28/1. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1442/1, 1445/1, 1456/1, 1506/1.)  
Details of 7 ground mines detonated 29/1. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1513/1, 1521/1, 1609/1, 1616/1, 1621/1, 1626/1.)  
During operations on 27 and 28 and 29th January in the west and east Swin while attending T H V ALERT 14 mines were detonated. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1758/1.)
- Sweep off Aberdeen. My 2249/31. Area swept to date is as follows. Mines cut 30. Of these all except 2 and possibly 3 were marked XIV or XV. Exceptions were apparently marked XX, one of which is believed dummy. (M/S F.4 1514/1.)
- Humber. At 0958/1 one Magnetic Mine detonated by Sweepers. Details. (F.O. Humber 2034A/1 and 2113A/1 and 2201A/1.)

U-Boats.

- Near SPREEWALD. My 1731A/31. It appears that four or five U-Boats are in the vicinity of SPREEWALD. (C. in C. W.A. 1050A/1 to PELICAN, MARIGOLD, AZALEA.)  
My P.C.S. are 045° 30' N. 025° W., 015° 12. Between 1630 and 1645 passed through 3 miles oil in position 045° 28' N. 024° 39' W. presumably from sunk SPREEWALD since no other trace of her found. At 1630 sighted probable conningtower between rain squalls 12 miles to westward. Am searching the area. (PELICAN 2000A/1.)  
My 1924A/1. D/F bearings at 1914Z/1 indicate U-Boat still in vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 2243A/1 to PELICAN, MARIGOLD, AZALEA.)
- Convoy N.A.2. D/F Bearings at 1451Z/1 indicate a U-Boat in vicinity of Convoy N.A.2. (D.D.I.C. 2005A/1 to FIREDRAKE, BELMONT.)

Navigational.

- 8 C. Buoy. Commodore F N618 reports 8 'C' buoy 6 cables to Eastward of assigned position P.M./30. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1102/1.)
- Wick. Wick Harbour closed, weather, at 1630/1/2. (R.N.O. Wick 1632/1.)  
/LORD ...

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.LORD  
PLENDER.

<sup>N.T. W.D.</sup>  
My 1944A/29/1 sailing cancelled. Ship developed Capstan defect. Probable date of sailing 5/2. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1100A/1.)

MANX  
PRINCE.

*not identified.*  
Refloated MANX PRINCE 1142. Am escorting her to Mew Island. Does not require tug until Wednesday a.m. Request proceed Campbeltown. (St. OLAVES 1455A/1 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)  
MANX PRINCE escorted safely Mewflu (?Mew Island) proceeding Campbeltown. (ST. OLAVES 1720A/1)

*This ship sunk off  
Specn Light 22.11.1940!*

EMPIRE  
CHAMOIS.

Have met position 053° 58' N. 012° 32' W. Course 58°, Speed 7½ knots. EMPIRE CHAMOIS under own power. ZWARTE ZEE in company. (ANCHUSA 1500A/1.)

EMPIRE CHAMOIS has effected repairs and (corrupt group) says she does not require ZWARTE ZEE to stand by. Request instructions. (ANCHUSA 1700A/1.)

M.L.444.

<sup>N.T. W.D.</sup>  
C. in C. W.A. 1442A/31. M.L.444 has developed defects. Intend to substitute M.L.302 now at Larne. (N.O.I.C. Larne 1605A/1.)

M.L.166.

M.L. 168 has been in collision and sustained damage permanent repair of which cannot be undertaken at Milford Haven. Vessel can be made sufficiently seaworthy for short trip. Propose these permanent repairs should be undertaken at Appledore. T.O.O. 1823A/31 Ends. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1823A/31.)  
(R.A.C.F. 1615A/1 to Admty.) *Should be M.L. 166 - See p. 39 -*

BARTHORPE.

Your 1216/30. Concur in deferring refit of HVAL V for 14 days in order that BARTHORPE can be taken in hand forthwith. (D.B.D. 1840A/1 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

SELKIRK.

<sup>N.T. W.D.</sup>  
Your 1127/31/1. Leak developed in condenser. Sailing postponed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1908/1 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD's 1401A/30th and my 1224A/30th. Request assistance be given to remake safety valve joint while TRINIDAD is at Greenock. One boiler may be cleaned concurrently. Ship should sail Scapa on 4/2. (C. in C. H.F. 2119A/31 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping & Convoys.

U.R.10.

Arrived Reykjavik U.R.10 at 0530A/1. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1141A/1.)

/UR ...

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.UR and RU  
Convoy  
Cycle.

Your 1947A/31. Concur.  
(D.T.D. 1729A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)  
F.O.I.C. Belfast's 1736/30. In order to  
provide additional Trawlers for duty with W N  
and E N convoys, 45th Trawler group is to be  
placed under the orders of F.O.I.C. Belfast.  
Convoy cycle for U R, and R U convoys has been  
extended to 7 days.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1928A/1 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)  
Cancel my 2309A/23. Sailing dates of U.R.  
Convoys and escorts are revised as follows.

Group	Convoy	Leave Loch Ewe.
46	U R 11	1/2
47	U R 12	8/2
48	U R 13	15/2
46	U R 14	22/2
47	U R 15	1/3

(C. in C. W.A. 1930/1.)

M/V's  
from  
Iceland.

Your 2311A/31. Concur generally but  
opportunities should be used when Iceland (C)  
escorts are sailed for Northerly M.O.M.P.  
2. Sailing of U.S. Flagships should be referred  
to (?) for decision. 3. Request you will  
signal a weekly state of M/V's at Iceland.(C)  
including future dates of sailing and  
destinations. (D.T.D. 1730A/1 to A.C.I.C.)

EMPIRE CELT.  
BODO.

Sailed EMPIRE CELT escorted by BODO for rough  
weather trials off Merville.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2337A/1.)

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

→ WESTCOTT. Left Ponta Delgada 0300G.M.T./1st.  
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 0845/1).

→ CROOME. Arrived Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./1st.  
EXMOOR. (N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 0910/1).  
DINGLEDALE. EXMOOR, CROOME left Ponta Delgada 1500 G.M.T./1.  
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 1305/1).

French Shipping. Passings 31/1. French Eastbound, FORT ARCHAMBAULT laden, LOUP DE MER. French Westbound, BONIFACIO, LILLOIS, CAPITAINE ARMAND, KITA, all laden.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 0941A/1 to Admty.)

FORTUNE. Cancel my 1847/31 (N.T. in W.D.) Leave patrol after daylight and return to Harbour.  
(Capt. D.19, 1203A/1 to FORTUNE).

→ SPIREA. Join PELICAN, MARIGOLD and AZALEA in the vicinity of 045° 17' 024° 700'. Report if not met by 2000/3 and proceed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1025A/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1316A/1 to SPIREA.)  
My 1316A. Several U-boats may be operating in the vicinity of R/V. (F.O.C.N.A. 1542A/1 to SPIREA). *See also next page.*  
Your 1316A/1. Fuel will not permit remaining after 0800/3 if PELICAN not met.  
(SPIREA 2359A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Dispositions. Situation report No. 2 1957A/1. (1) CLYDE, GERANIUM, VETCH in the vicinity Ponta Delgada.  
→ (2) WESTCOTT, EXMOOR, CROOME, in the vicinity Horta. (3) SPIREA 41.23, 23.23, 345°, 12.  
→ (F.O.C.N.A., 1322A/1 to N.A. Stn.)

PHILOCTETES. Your 1635/31 to Las Palmas. Visit of PHILOCTETES is cancelled. (D.O.D. (F) 1620A/1 to N.A. Madrid)

TEMPEST. My 0936/30. Sailed TEMPEST. (F.O.C.N.A. 1822A/1 to C. in C. Med.)

MENHIR-BRAZ My 1801/30. MENHIR-BRAZ now mooring anchored (French). in stream may sail tonight 1/2.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1830/1 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Landing Craft, Your 11196 of 30/12 and 4th of W.O. 62345 of 5/1. Gibraltar. Present situation. Hospital Ship only carries normal lifeboats but types of special beach craft which might be carried by Hospital Ship now under examination. (W.O. 1830/1 to Govr., Gib.)

/U.B.....

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

U/B.

German U-boat made sighting report at 1741 G.M.T. on approx. bearing 306° Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1915A/1 to CIRCASSIA, PELICAN, MARIGOLD, AZALEA, SPIREA (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.MARGUERITE.  
EREBUS.

Sailed MARGUERITE S. of A. 15 knots to overtake and subsequently proceed in company with EREBUS. MARGUERITE has been instructed that if EREBUS is not met she is to proceed independently to Mombasa at 15 knots by same route as EREBUS and to report her E.T.A. 24 hours before arrival. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0426Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

SALLAND.

Ref.my 1826/31. SALLAND reported at (?0140/1) that periscope had disappeared. Three destroyers sweep through area P.M. today 1/2, but consider presence of U-boat doubtful. (C. in C. S.A. 0858Z/1 to Admty.)

A.T.11.

Your 1228/29. Para. 1. (B) (see A.W.I. 29/1) Regretted that ships proposed for A.T. 11 will fall far below estimated lifting requirements for reasons given below and alternative arrangements will need to be made for this movement. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1003Z/1 to D. of S.T.)

ARNDALE.  
BROOMDALE.

BROOMDALE and ARNDALE are to R/V at F.O. 1200Z/4 to complete discharge of stores from ARNDALE to BROOMDALE. BIRMINGHAM may arrive F.O. A.M./5. (R.A.S.A.D., 1235Z/1 to ARNDALE, BROOMDALE).

MAURITIUS.

Intend to sail MAURITIUS 0900/2, routed through. A. 14° 45' N. 25° 45' W. B. 38° 18' N. 30° 20' W. C. 49° N. 15° 28' W. thence to Plymouth or as ordered by C. in C. W.A. S. of A. 16 knots to position.V. Thence 26 knots to arrive Plymouth 0800/11. (C. in C. S.A. 1708/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A. MAURITIUS).

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Unit. Your No. 2. (T.O.O. 2105/51. Request composition of enemy forces reported). One M/V. (C. Flight No. 3 A.A.C.U. 0005/1 to A.H.Q. Malta).

GENEROSO. Intercept 0122 G.M.T. (Begins). Swiss vessel GENEROSO left Genoa 29/1 1840 G.M.T. last wireless contact 29/1 2124 G.M.T. All ship and shore stations send observations immediately via H.B.D.A Maritime Suisse 1/2 0112 0225/1 N.G.T. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0230/1 to Admty.) (Cullercoats Radio, 1753 B.S.T./1 to Admty.) Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2107 G.M.T. de H.B.D.A. To C.Q.H.B.D.U., Q.T.P., Toulon. My 0225/1 refers. (C. in C. Plymouth 2247/1 to Admty.)

A/C Search. Following has been read. Search area about position (255). 35 N. 12.09 E. for 7 damaged M.V. Report by W/T then resume patrol. (A/C using call sign 3EV 9NG, 0815B/1).

RANEE. Admty. 1703A/24. (Requesting information re salvaged engine ex S.S. RANEE). Work of removing engines from RANEE progressing but not yet completed. Delay due to urgent priority of requisitioning of 150 ton crane. Engines are badly corroded and will require reconditioning. (S.B.N.O. S.C.A. 1014/1 to Admty.)

Derna. Area Commander now leaving and is not prepared to give me orders. Military situation not known here. (Group missing) detachment staying until further orders. (N.O.I.C. Derna, 1112B/1 to S.O. Force I (R) N.L.O. 8th Army.) Army Commander has ordered withdrawal of main bodies from Derna tomorrow night 2/3 after which only light columns will remain operating offensively west of Derna. In these circumstances he has ordered administrative units and installations to be evacuated. Demolitions are to be completed before this evacuation under orders of officer delegated by 4th Indian Div. S.O. Force "I" is sending party with gear to destroy wrecks and harbour facilities as far as possible. (N.L.O. 8th Army, 1535B/1 to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force I etc.)

ALBARO. My 1640/51 ALBARO not yet sailed. May sail tonight. (S.O. (I) Istanbul 1155B/1 to S.O. (I) Med., S.1). My 1155B/1. ALBARO sailed 15 hours local time today. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1545B/1 to S.O. (I) Med. S.1.)

/SULLBERG.....



**MOST SECRET**

15A...

M E S S A G E

0917C/1 February.  
IN.

FROM. N.I.O. Black Sea.

DATE. 18.2.42.

RECD. 1510.

I.D.C. C.T.T. BY W/T & T/P.

ADDRESSED. Admiralty, Admiral Miles.

Situation report.

1. Considerable forces now facing each other on Eastern Crimean Front. Approximately 9 enemy divisions and 12 Russian divisions. Russian advance expected in a few days.
2. Ice melting in Kerch Straits but it is being preserved artificially in parts for transfer of war material.
3. Break out from Sevastopol not now expected due to mass land mining by enemy.
4. Cruiser VOROSHILOV repaired and rejoined fleet. Cruiser KRASNYY KAVKAZ under repairs at Poti.
5. Russian morale very high and views optimistic.

0917C/1.

Advance Copy Sent D.C., D.O.D.(F)  
& D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
Secretary.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
N.A.1st S.L.  
D.O.D.(F)  
D.D.O.D.(F)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D. of P.(2)  
Duty Captain.(2)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
E.P.S.  
P.A.S.(S)  
Hd. of M(22)  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.  
N.I.D.I.C.  
D.O.D.(H)  
D.D.O.D.(H)

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.-Contd.SULLBERG.  
ELIZABETH  
HENDRIK  
FISSER.Departure 30th SULLBERG Marseilles - oranges.  
ELIZABETH HENDRIK FISSER arrived from Sagunto  
with iron ore. Is loading more iron ore here.  
(Valencia, 1210/1 to M. of W.T.)Sight  
Reports  
of U/B's.To ensure rapid reception by all units concerned,  
all sight reports of enemy submarines whether  
by ships F.A.A. aircraft or shore authorities are  
to be made in P/L with position in letter  
co-ordination unless it is considered that the  
secrecy of the reporting ship's position is of  
paramount importance. This latter consideration  
should not apply when operating off Libya,  
Morocco Coast. Letter co-ordination or extracts  
being supplied to all A/S trawlers, M.T.B.s and  
M. A/S B.s (C. in C. Med. 1232B/1 to Med. Stn.  
(R) R.A.F. M.E.)

Positions.

Letter positions by night to be used for enemy  
reports from aircraft. (Capt. S.1, 1409B/1 to  
1st S/M F.) See Summaries Folder. (This was  
cancelled by Capt. S.(1) 2236/3).

Libya Report.

Cositrep No. 245.  
3. TAC/R. afternoon reports two ships 3000 and  
2000 tons Benghazi harbour.  
4. H.Q. L.R.D.G. established Siwa. One patrol  
remaining Jalo to refuel patrol now returning  
from behind enemy lines. All British and Italian  
ammunition in Jalo destroyed, also Italian  
vehicles. (C. in C. M.E., 1530/1 to W.O.)

Enemy Units.

Following has been read. 1 Large M.V. stationary,  
1 Destroyer bearing 180° Ra Mahedia.  
(A/C Using Call sign YU3Q 1550/1).Malta  
Report.Very bad weather last 24 hours, gales and heavy  
rain, Ta Keli and Hal Far waterlogged.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1721/1). SUNSET, H.M. drifter  
was damaged by a near miss during an air attack  
on Malta during night of 31/1 - 1/2. (D.O.R. 3/2).Navigation  
Red Sea.389 WB. Red Sea Safaga (1) 1 barrel Buoy with  
ball top mark has been laid in position 280°  
one mile from Morewood beacon.  
(2) A beacon painted red with diamond top mark  
has been established on northern end of Panorama  
Reef in position 096½° 4.44 miles from Safga  
Island beacon. (V.A. Malta, 1856B/1 to Med. Stn.)

/Situation....

War Diary.

1.2.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Situation Report 190. Western Desert. Army Commander has ordered withdrawal of main bodies from Derna to be completed by night 2nd/3rd. Demolition will be carried out tomorrow 2nd. Ships leaving Derna P.M. today 1st.

2. A.S.V. Swordfish of 815 Sqn. have carried out several attacks on U-Boats in addition to those reported in my (?2017/26). Hits with depth charges reported at 2005/31 in 31° 42' N. 26° 40' E. and destruction of U-boat claimed in 32° 20' N. 26° 13' E. at 2135/29. Both U-boats considered damaged one at least seriously. Destroyer sweep in co-operation with A.S.V. aircraft intended 2nd/3rd.

3. 5th A.S. Group is moved to Aden, 2nd trawler group relieving 5th A/S Group at Haifa. (C. in C. Med., 2015B/1 to Admty.)

Tobruk. Situation Report. Air. Night raid on El Blurm aerodrome damaged some fighters. Naval. ATHENE shifted berth whilst pumping petrol into old storage. BURGONET working on outer Boom. DARIEN 2nd cargo being discharged badly damaged by sea water. Cdr. Nicholl proceeded to disengage (As received, ?Derna (one out) intended) by road. ~~Harve~~ MANNOULA date of arrival 2nd, ATHENE complete 2nd, AIS GEORGIS, HERON, HANNAH MOLLER, as directed, MAUSANG 6th. Derna 31st. Minor raids throughout day damaged power station causing 2 military casualties. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2148/B/1 to C. in C. Med.)

P.34 Report. UPRIGHT Report.

P.34 reported noon/22 south of Armi sighting 2 large eastbound merchant ships with destroyer and battleship, passed out of range. At 1339/25 fired salvo at well laden merchant ship escorted by one destroyer in 037° 45' 015° 30' one hit. Ship stopped immediately and still stopped with list 2 hours later. Results unknown. S.O.S. received from S.S.\*DALMATIA but C.O. considers target over 7000 tons. Slight aircraft, no surface patrols, south of Messina. UPRIGHT reports 3 coasters under 500 tons only sights. Viaduct over Torrente Furioso repairing constantly and heavy goods rail traffic observed. No surface patrols observed north of Messina. (Capt. S.10, 2301B/1 to Capt. S.1.)

*-A DALMATIA confirmed sunk.  
(Torpedo Attack Register.)*

Malta Air Raid damage.

In air raid on 27/1 one bomb hit centre gantry rail of factory between fitting and gunmounting shops. Resulting damage. Further signal will be sent giving details of replace machines, etc., required. (A/S Malta, 2322B/1 to Admty;)

SALZBURG (German).

Arrived Salonica 26/1 with prisoners of war, captured guns and damaged aeroplanes. (D.S.879).

War Diary.

1.2.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P.33. DILWARA with troops and stores for Basra sailed 0420Z/1 due Rooka Float 0700Z/6 routed through (D) 020° 05' 067° 06' (E) 024° 40' 057° 30' thence P.G.W, knots 13½, 16, Independent 1, H/F transmission. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0445Z/1 to Admty.)

Colombo proposed mining. In view of the fact that Japanese S/M attacks have now started in approaches to Colombo, it is for consideration whether a strategic minefield should be declared in this vicinity.  
(2) C. in C. E.F. agrees.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0514Z/1 to Admty.)

THORDIS. Your 2057/27. THORDIS (Norge.) arrived Colombo. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0552Z/1 to Admty.)

BOISE. Your 0749/29. U.S. BOISE will be docked as soon as possible after arrival for inspection of defects. Decision as to whether work can be taken in hand at Colombo will await inspection report.  
(C. in C.E.I. 0750Z/1 to Abdafloat).

Minefields at Trincomalee. Ref. A.M. 1432/25.  
(i) The proposals in my 0815/22 were made chiefly as the result of a request from the Military Authorities who have pointed out that the resources available to them are insufficient to provide an adequate measure of defence at the numerous points on the coast of Ceylon where enemy landings are possible. It was considered of particular importance to provide a high degree of protection to the landing places in the vicinity of Trincomalee Harbour and the oil fuel tanks.  
(ii) In view of the considerations given in A.M. 1432/25 I do not now intend to proceed with this project.  
(iii) G.O.C. informed.  
(iv) C. in C. E.F. concurs. (C. in C. E.I. 0759Z/1 to Admty.)

VAMPIRE. VAMPIRE is to be sailed for Ceylon to arrive not later than 11/2 to escort HERMES while HERMES. in Ceylon area. 2. VAMPIRE will then accompany HERMES to Australia. Admty. 0013/16/1 refers. C.C.C.F. pass to Abdafloat.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0803Z/1 to C.C.C.F.)

"Scorched Earth" Policy. Application to Empire territories. (S. of S. no T.O.O./1 to Govt. of India, Govt. of Burma). See Lion Copy.

/KABR.....

**MOST SECRET**

18 A

From: Secretary of State.

Date 1.2.42.

Cipher.

Addressed: Government of India, Defence Dept. (No. 1863)  
 Government of Burma, Defence Dept. (No. 274)

W. S. 17926/17926

IMMEDIATE.

030130.

Addressed Government of India No. 1863 and  
 Government of Burma No. 274 in continuation of my No. 216  
 dated 24th January to Governor of Burma only. Scorched  
 earth.

1. One of the lessons of this war has been the great  
 military importance of "scorched earth" policy in territory  
 invaded by the enemy. His Majesty's Government have had  
 under consideration application of this Policy to Empire  
 territories. To be most effective it must be:-

(a) Selective. It must be applied thoroughly at  
 all key points, from which the enemy can derive benefits  
 that he most needs and has greatest difficulty in replacing.  
 Examples are:-

(i) Naval, Army and Air Force installations and  
 aerodromes.

(ii) Wireless, cable and telegraph stations.

(iii) Oil stocks, installations and pumping  
 equipment, as well as wells and refineries.

(iv) Stocks of coal, raw materials, gunny bags, drums,  
 clothing materials.

(v) Harbour facilities, especially bunkering,  
 loading and ship repairing facilities and sources of power  
 to work them.

(vi) Transport facilities, especially road and rail  
 bridges, locomotive repair shops, and all sea and river  
 vessels which cannot be removed.

(vii) Mine workings and machinery for getting,  
 transporting and refining ores required by the enemy,  
 especially wolfram, lead, zinc, nickel, cobalt, copper,  
 manganese, bauxite, chrome, silver, gold, iron ore and  
 engineering stores in connection therewith.

Water supplies and minimum stocks of essential  
 foodstuffs should be left for local inhabitants but latter  
 should as far as possible be distributed to population  
 before withdrawal takes place to avoid bulk supplies  
 falling into enemy hands.

(b) Ruthless. It should aim at total destruction  
 for indefinite period and should not be compromised by any  
 desire to recover resources essentially intact when the  
 enemy withdraws.

He/.....

He will almost certainly himself destroy anything of value in his retreat. Destruction is much better than concealment. Where destruction by fire or explosives is not practicable, dumping in sea or rivers may suffice. Important that corresponding parts of similar machinery should be destroyed, to avoid enemy piecing together any one installation.

(c) Carefully planned in advance. Military authorities will presumably have prepared their own denial plans in respect of military installations. In case of civil installations civil Government should undertake responsibility in consultation with military authorities for preparing plans and for seeing that they fall into a comprehensive scheme which will include military plans as well. Military authorities are responsible in all cases for saying when denials are to be carried out. Plans must include clear understanding between military and civil authorities as to their respective responsibilities for actually carrying out necessary work when military authorities have decided that time has come for that to be done, and plans should provide specifically for advance organisation and training of reliable personnel to carry out each item of the denial programme.

(d) Rigorously applied in practice. While premature demolitions are to be avoided, e.g., if enemy attack is in nature of raid rather than attempt to occupy, experience shows that principal danger lies in leaving matters too late. The essence therefore of an effective scheme is that it should be quick. Responsibility for deciding when denial schemes in respect of commercial installations should be implemented should not (repeat not) be left to companies or other private interests, but their co-operation will be needed in preparation of schemes.

2. Policy should be evacuate all moveable material in short supply and to destroy what cannot be removed. To this end priority lists should be maintained for removal of all stocks of rare metals, machine-tools etc., and should include skilled operatives. Evacuation should be instituted early insofar as shipping resources (where this is applicable) permits.

3. Where denial plans have already been prepared these should be reviewed with object of considering whether they are sufficiently comprehensive and far-reaching. Where no plans exist at present you are requested to review the position with a view to drawing up list of resources which should be denied and preparing general scheme. I consider that this should be done even in those areas which may at present appear relatively remote from active theatres of war. It will not, however, in most cases be necessary to proceed to stage of final preparation, e.g., laying explosive charges.

4. Compensation. Where damage is done in the course of military operations or on the orders of our own Forces, the answer to any inquiries must be that the question of compensation cannot be decided until after the conclusion of the war. Where we cannot ourselves effect destruction in the course of warlike operations but have to induce other people to destroy, we shall no doubt where necessary have

# MOST SECRET

to promise replacement after the war of destroyed property, if the owners regain possession after the war and it is a reasonable commercial proposition for them to resume operations and if compensation is not obtainable from any other source. Account would have to be taken of any benefit to the owners due to preservation of a wasting asset, which, but for destruction, would be likely to have been exhausted or diminished by the enemy.

5. While discussion of plans should be kept as secret as possible it will be necessary to take into your confidence representatives of companies or other interests concerned. It can be explained to them that "scorched earth" preparations form an essential part of defence scheme: that all vital interests will be defended to the last but that, in unlikely event of defence failing, it is necessary to be prepared to destroy material likely to be of value to enemy.

6. The above instructions have also been sent to Colonial dependencies and repeated to Dominions.

No T.O.O.

Received from W.O. 2256/1. Advance copy D.C. D.O.D. (F)

- |                           |                              |          |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| 1st Lord.                 | <u>W.O. Circulation</u>      | D.D.I.C. |
| 1st S.L.                  |                              |          |
| 2nd S.L.                  | S. of S.                     |          |
| 3rd S.L.                  | C.I.G.S.                     |          |
| 4th S.L.                  | V.C.I.G.S.                   |          |
| 5th S.L.                  | D.M.O. & P.                  |          |
| V.C.N.S.                  | D.P. (2)                     |          |
| A.C.N.S. (H)              | D.D.M.O. (0)                 |          |
| A.C.N.S. (F)              | M.O. 1, 10, 12. (8)          |          |
| A.C.N.S. (T)              | D.M.I.                       |          |
| A.C.N.S. (W)              | D.D.M.I. (I)                 |          |
| Naval Sec.                | M.I. 2, 2a, 2c.              |          |
| N.A. 1st S.L.             | D.S.D.                       |          |
| D.N.A.D.                  | D. Sigs.                     |          |
| Head of A. (2)            | E. in C.                     |          |
| D.O.D. (H)                | Q.M.G.                       |          |
| D.F.G.D. (H)              | C.N.S. Admiralty             |          |
| D.O.D. (F)                | D. of Plans Admiralty        |          |
| D.D.O.D. (F)              | Hd. War Reg. Admiralty       |          |
| D.C. (2)                  | C.A.S. Air Ministry          |          |
| D.N.I. (7) and for A.E. & | J. of Plans Air Ministry     |          |
| D.D.I.C. (2) D.N.L.O.     | Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices) |          |
| D. OF P. (2)              |                              |          |
| D.A/S W.                  |                              |          |
| I.P. (2)                  |                              |          |
| W.D.                      |                              |          |
| D.P.D.                    |                              |          |
| D.S.D.                    |                              |          |
| Admiral Bailey            |                              |          |
| Admiral Bellairs.         |                              |          |
| Admiral Somerville.       |                              |          |
| E.P.S.                    |                              |          |

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.B  
KABR. ( B  
PALANG.

F.O.C.R.I.N. 0415/31. Much work has been done on KABR. She will be lifted by camels very shortly and beached. At present it seems unlikely she can be made available with local resources. She has a large hole in her bottom. PALANG hopeless. (S.N.O.P.G. 1413Z/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Situation.

Information No. 8 to 1200Z/31/1.

1. Ambon. O.C. reported attack on all sides, heavy bombardment by naval guns and bombing by aircraft. Aerodrome and W/T stations demolished, service communication now cut.
2. Balikpapan. Enemy advancing towards Samarinda and have reached Soekgei Tiren (31 km. south of Samarinda).
4. 30/1 light scale air attack on Sabang landing ground in Borneo and a W/T station in S.E. Celebes caused little damage. 7 enemy fighters attacked Penfoei aerodrome (Koepang) and one Hudson was destroyed on ground. Quantas flying boat lost in area approximate time of attack, but not known if due to enemy action. (C. in C., S.W. Pacific, 0001/1).

Command  
Air  
Forces.

My proposals for the Command and direction of the Allied Air Forces under my Command are as follows.

1. Chief of the Air Staff and C. in C. Allied Air Forces, Air Marshal Peirse.
2. Deputy Chief of Air Staff and Deputy C. in C. General Brereton. Nature of latter appointment will eventually preclude Gen. Brereton from command of American Air Forces. I request therefore that another officer be appointed in his place as soon as possible. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0117/1 to W.O., J.S.M.)

Singapore.

Situation report, 53, 1630 hours G.M.T. 31/1. As a result of threat down West coast road following cut of communication of 15 brigade in Batu Pahat area and lack of adequate reserves to meet this threat, decision was taken some days ago to withdraw all columns into Singapore fortress. This operation was concluded last night in spite of continued enemy pressure central and West Road. Unfortunately 22 Indian infantry brigade which had been cut off and out of touch for 2 days had to be left out in spite of maximum possible postponement of operation. Effort still being made contact this brigade and bring it over by boats.

/Causeway.....



War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Singapore - Contd. Causeway connecting Singapore island with mainland has been breached by demolition. Singapore. 4 air raids 31/1 but damage and casualties light. Some damage buildings and a few R.A.F. casualties Seletar. Naval. During 5 nights beginning 26/27 Jan. Royal Navy has successfully evacuated nearly 2,000 all ranks of 53 Infantry Brigade and 15 Indian Infantry Brigade cut off on west coast of Johore. Naval vessel shot down 1 enemy bomber over naval base today. Air. Photographic R/C 31/1 shows Kluang aerodrome (?serviceable) and 8 enemy aircraft present. Fighter cover provided during the last stage of army withdrawal into Singapore. (G.O.C. Malaya, 0120/1).

Air Report. Intelligence Summary No. 68, 0800 hrs. 28/1 to 0800 hrs. 29. Naval base raided 1 enemy aircraft 1930 hours. No damage or casualties. Residential area bombed 2208 hours causing casualties. At 2115 and 2315 enemy aircraft reported over Singapore, no casualties or damage reported. (A.H.Q., F.E., 0210/1).

M.S.1. Convoy (?M) (?S) 1 arrived without incident. (R.A. Malaya, 0215Z/1 to Admty., C. in C. E.F. C.C.C.F.)

Macassar Strait, Enemy losses. Your 291845 for C.O.S. (N.T. in W.R.) Personal to Adm. King from Gen. Wavell. Your 291845, not to War Office. Enemy losses in Macassar Strait to date conservatively assessed as follows.

1. Total definitely sunk 9 ships, possibly sunk 6 ships, including 2 warships; damaged, 19 ships including 7 warships. Details in following paragraphs.
2. Definitely sunk. By U.S. destroyers 4 large transports including one either gasoline tanker or ammunition ship. By U.S. aircraft 4 transports. By Dutch aircraft 1 transport.
3. Possibly sunk. By U.S. destroyers 2 medium transports left burning from gunfire. By U.S. submarine 1 heavy cruiser or aircraft carrier. By Dutch submarine 1 heavy cruiser. By Dutch submarine 1 heavy cruiser. By Dutch aircraft 2 transports.
4. Damaged. By U.S. destroyers 2 transports. By U.S. aircraft 1 cruiser 1 transport. By Dutch aircraft 4 cruisers 2 destroyers 9 transports. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0315/1 to Cominch, (R) W.O.)

Evacuations Singapore. Following approx. numbers left Singapore in WEST POINT, WAKEFIELD, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. (N.O.I.C. Malaya, 0345Z/1 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Army.....

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China-Contd.Army  
Code  
Words.

67853 cipher (M.O.10) 31/1.  
 1. G.O.C., Burma's 0478 of 26/1 (begins) -  
 On instructions of Supreme Commander all  
 important operational messages as opposed to  
 routine or comparatively unimportant messages  
 will commence with prefix "Combat" in clear. (Ends)  
 2. On grounds that "in clear" code words may  
 indicate importance of traffic and area of  
 impending operations these are being discontinued  
 including "Susan."  
 3. No objection to encipherment of code word  
 in text to sort messages after decipherment.  
 Will this meet your requirements?  
 (W.O. 0550/1 to Abdacom).

Andamans  
and  
Nicobars.

Following from Joint Commanders. Defence of  
 Andamans and Nicobars which is obviously of  
 immense importance for security sea routes to  
 Burma is primarily a Naval commitment. We can  
 effect spasmodic air R/C, and possibly later air  
 action against seaborne attack on Andamans, but Nicobars are  
 beyond our reach. In any case we are averse to diverting  
 our slender bomber resources from Burma front. Maintenance of  
 garrison in Port Blair does not prevent use by raiders and  
 submarines of many other excellent anchorages which are not  
 garrisoned and cannot be reached by land. In circumstances we  
 feel we cannot accept responsibility for denial of Andamans and  
 Nicobars to enemy in absence of Naval resources of any nature.  
 We suggest appointment of suitable Naval Officer and Staff  
 to convert (? concert) Naval and air measures for defence of  
 islands and to decide on protection measures necessary to  
 prevent use of islands by enemy sea forces and on locations  
 and strengths of military garrisons. We would supply latter but  
 suggest more easily supplied and maintained from India. Naval  
 Comdr. appointed must have certain Naval resources under his  
 control or be able to call for same at short notice.  
 (G.O.C. Burma 1130/1 to C. in C. S.W. Pacific.)

Shipping  
Information  
Communications.

Ref. C.C.C.F. 1333/30 and 0513/27. Most  
 desirable there should be only one channel of  
 communication with London in respect of (a)  
 Dispersal of Merchant Ships (b) Request for  
 Merchant Ships to be placed at disposal of Allied  
 Forces (c) Any other matters concerned Merchant  
 Ships which it is necessary to refer to London.  
 Suggest the channel be Abdacom and D.S.T. Any  
 signals should show where necessary to what  
 extent proposals and requests are agreed, e.g.  
 by Abdamil, N.E.I. or U.S. Naval Authorities.  
 In requesting instructions as to disposal of  
 Merchant Ships at least 7 days notice of  
 expected date of readiness should be given also  
 particulars of any cargo remaining on board.  
 (D. of S.T. 1512A/1 to Abdacom.)

/Burma....

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China-Contd.Burma.  
Coast.

Personal for 1st S.L. from Gen. Wavell. Your 0212A/27/1. When the claims of convoy escort and provision of a striking force have been met there are no destroyers available to help Burma now. Apart from this, agree that they would be unsuitable for operations near Rangoon, where next threat may be expected.

2. The few available armed patrol craft and A/S vessels are fully employed in Abda area. Both from point of view of distance and resources I fear we must rely on C. in C. E.F. and F.O.C.R.I.M to supplement anything that N.O.I.C. Rangoon can improvise with the help of Burma R.N.V.R. My 1230Z/25 to Arminia refers. (Abdacom, 1915/1 to Admty.)

Employment  
of A.V.G.  
in Burma.

Following for Generalissimo from Wavell. I realise A.V.G. was provided (?to support) your defence China and that it is now rapidly exhausting its resources in defence Rangoon. You will appreciate that loss Rangoon would not only prevent continuation supplies for your forces through Burma Road but would make eventual defeat Japan a far more difficult task than appears at present. I am informed that 50 P-40 fighters for A.V.G. are en route Burma from Middle East area and have urged that everything possible should be done to expedite their arrival. At the same time supplies Hurricane aircraft are beginning to reach Burma but I would urge while Japanese (?air) effort is being absorbed in Burma and until my squadrons can be built up no better task for A.V.G. could exist than its continued employment in your life line and our (?card) of re-entry to East from which Japan may be attacked directly. If air defence of Rangoon holds I hope in near future to be able operate some four-engine bombers from aerodrome within China against Japanese bases in Formosa and even Japan itself.

(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 2250/1 to M.A. Chungking).

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- S/M. O.15 Your 1941Z/31. Bombing restrictions being arranged (B.A.D., 0035R/1 to C.O.A.C.)
- Ships for N.A.3. Your 1715/30. Question of provision of alternative shipping to provide for personnel ex GEORGE WASHINGTON and EMPRESS OF CANADA is being considered and further signal will be made. (D.S.T., 0126A/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- HAHIRA, U/B. Intercept de WBF (Hingham, Massachusetts Radio) de HAHIRA. SSSS, corrected position 40° N.E. Cape Henry. (Valentia Radio, 0126/1, to Admty. etc.) Following has been read. Received 0112 G.M.T. SSSS. 40° N.E. Cape Henry, HAHIRA. (Tuckerton Radio, No. T.O.O./1).
- TACOMA STAR. Following has been read. TACOMA STAR 37.33 N., 69.21 W. torpedoed 0135 G.M.T/1. (Valentia Radio, 0137/1 to Admty.) Intercepted 0136 G.M.T. de W S L (Amagansett Radio). SSSS TACOMA STAR 37.33 N. 68.21 W., torpedoed. (Burnham Radio, No. T.O.O./1 to Admty., etc.) Note different longitude.
- PAN-AMOCO. U/B.. Intercepted 0457 G.M.T. WSC. (Tuckerton Radio) SSSS. S.S.PAN-AMOCO sighted submarine 0452 G.M.T. 34.00 N. 75.00 W. (Burnham Radio, No. T.O.O./1 recd. 0607/1). Following has been read. SSSS. Sighted submarine 0452 G.M.T. 33° 00' N. 75° 00' W. S.S.PAN-AMOCO. (Simonstown, No. T.O.O./1, to Freetown). (Note different latitude). Following has been intercepted 0644 G.M.T. de Tuckerton, New Jersey. From S.S. PAN-AMOCO. Distress traffic ended. (Burnham on Sea Radio, No. T.O.O./1, recd. 0657/1). S.S.PAN-AMOCO reports being attacked by S/M on 34.00 N. 75.00 W. at 0503Z/1. (B.A.D., 2141R/1 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I.)
- GRENANGER, Q Report. Following has been read. GRENANGER, suspicious ship following us, position 10° 05' N. 91° 55' W. at 0518. (Freetown W/T, Valentia Radio, 0519/1 A.C.O.S., 0605/1, Port Patrick Radio, 0625/1). Following has been read. GRENANGER corrected position 10.06 N. 92.00 W. steering 273° true. (Valentia Radio, 0539/1 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth). Intercepted 0706 G.M.T. GRENANGER, tanker. Raider disappeared in S.W. direction. Tuckerton New Jersey Radio is the controlling station. (Burnham Radio, No. T.O.O./1 to Admty., C. in C.W.A.)
- U/B. Summary. Following U-Boat reports received. S.S.TACOMA STAR torpedoed at 0136Z/1 in 37° 33' N. 69° 21' W. S.S.HAHIRA sighted submarine 40 miles N.E. Cape Henry at 0112Z/1. S.S. PAN-AMOCO attacked\* by submarine at 0503Z/1 in 34° 4' N. 75° W. S.S. CHESTER O SWAIN sighted submarine at 1322Z/31 in 32° 25' N. 79° 25' W. (B.A.D., 0741R/1 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.) \*W.D. Note. No signal in W.D. indicates any attack.

/French ...

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- French Tanker My 1151R/12/12. Charter renewed until March 10th  
MEROPE. will trade exclusively Eastern Mexico.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0929R/1).
- IRISH Re. 2041Z/29 from N.C.S.O. St. John, N.B. (N.T. in  
POPLAR. W.D.) IRISH POPLAR is not to be sailed in convoy.  
Any further instructions or advice should not be  
offered. (D.T.D., 1017A/1 to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S.,  
N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- Shipping My 2152P/24 and Admty. 2238A/27. No route signals  
Route have yet been received by C. in C. A.W.I. for ships  
Signals. sailing from South Africa or South American ports.  
How are these messages being passed please?  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1032P/1 to C. in C. S.A.)
- Washops 52. Philippine Is. Luzon - Enemy R/C in force against  
U.S. new Bataan position continues. Air activity  
is light. A heavy artillery concentration success-  
fully immobilised a Japanese force of small boats and launches  
which had been assembling in vicinity of Ternate (Cabite  
Province) 10 miles S.E. of the island of Corregidor. Japanese  
appear to be using Nichols Field (near Manila) as intermediate  
base for bomber flights from Formosa to points further south.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1125R/1 to Admty. etc.)
- BRITISH S.S. BRITISH CORPORAL reports sighting torpedo  
CORPORAL track at 1425Z/28 in 35.33 N. 58.35 W. Weather  
U/B Action. fine and clear, evasive action taken and torpedo  
passed under quarter. At 1455 U-Boat surfaced.  
2 rounds fired by 4 in. gun which fell near U-Boat,  
no hit claimed. U-Boat submerged and not sighted again. U.S.A.  
aircraft appeared later and patrolled vicinity.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1129P/1, to Admty.)
- DIMITRIOS S.C.62. Commodore reports DIMITRIOS INGLESIS  
INGLESIS, called Commodore's ship on 600 metres on 1/1  
improper use using Convoy and pendant numbers and also made a  
of W/T. distress call and position in P/L. This procedure  
gave away her position, that of any ship proceeding  
to her assistance, and a bearing of convoy route.  
Request you will investigate and caution Master.  
(D.T.D., 1140A/1 to N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F.)
- PANDORA. Leave Bermuda A.M./3, and proceed to Gibraltar  
passing through following positions  
(A) 35.20 N. 45.30 W.  
(B) 35.30 N. 30.00 W.  
F.O.C.N.A. is requested to communicate onward  
route from position (B).

/(2) ...

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- PANDORA,  
(contd.) (2) Estimated that your S. of A. will be about 10 knots allowing for short dives to check trim.  
(3) Keep normal watch on broadcast L shifting to read Rugby W S on A.W.I. Station. Normal watch on broadcast G. shifting to read Rugby G S on N.A. Station. Change over to N.A. W/T organisation at 0001 G.M.T./9.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1222P/1, to PANDORA).
- ALCANTARA. My 1800/29 and C.O.A.C. Halifax 2056/30 not to Admiralty. Report now when it is proposed to sail repeating your message to addressees of this signal. (B.A.R.M. 1242R/1 to ALCANTARA (R) C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty.)
- H.X.173. Sailed ST. CLAIR, QUINTE, GANANOQUE, MIDLAND, NASTURTIUM, local escort H.X.173.  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1409Z/1).
- O.15. My 1941Z/31. Departure O.15 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1434Z/1 to B.A.R.M.)
- OTTAWA,  
O.N.60. Request information if OTTAWA has sailed with O.N.60. Request that Commander Task Force No.4 be included in address of all signals regarding movements of ships of N.E.F.  
(C.C.N.F., 1439Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- SURCOUF. SURCOUF sailed Halifax 1500Z/1 routed through (O) 044° 00' N. 063° 00' W. (P) 034° 00' N. 063° 00' W. (Q) 032° 30' N. 064° 00' W. Speed 10½ knots. E.T.A. Bermuda 1600Z/4. Keeping constant watch on 105 KC/S transmitting on area H F shifting to station H/F at 2200Z/3.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2116Z/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- REFAST  
(torpedoed  
26/1).  
Suspicious  
M/V. S.S. REFAST torpedoed 1410Z/26 in 042° 40' N. 053° 00' W. 33 survivors picked up by MARIPOSA in 042° 35' N. 053° 40' W. at 1200Z/27 and landed at Halifax. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1505Z/1 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Opnav, F.O. N.F., C. in C. A.W.I.)  
My 1505Z/1. REFAST reports sighting on 24/1 unknown Motor Vessel fully loaded three Masts no funnel. REFAST took avoiding action. At 1050Z/25 in 44° 14' N. 48° 08' W., (D.R.) Vessel again sighted steering 220° 9 knots and zig zagging. REFAST again took avoiding action. Shortly after heard very strong W/T Signal several times U-1st.  
(C.O.A.C., 1641Z/1 to Admty.)

/DELHI ...

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- DELHI. Your 1134R/31. Request you will sail DELHI through position A 33.00 N. 65.10 W. to Bermuda to top up with fuel. Request E.T.A. position A and that U.S. Authorities be warned that DELHI will cross U.S. S/M patrol area. DELHI should make passage at high speed. B.A.D. pass to DELHI. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1613P/1 to B.A.R.M., (R) Admty., etc.)
- San Francisco. Instructions for entering. Lightship has been removed. (Opnav, 1707/1, to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., Bermuda).
- BELMONT sunk. by U.S. (6.3.443.) BELMONT presumed torpedoed and sunk in 042° 02' N. 057° 18' W. at 2212Z/31. On parting company with F.3. SURCOUF proceed at best speed to this position to search for survivors. If fuel permits SACKVILLE proceed forthwith to search. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1800Z/1 to WEYBURN, SACKVILLE, (R) D. Halifax.) BELMONT was escorting Convoy N.A.2. (D.O.R. 2/2). FIREDRAKE 2322Z/31 (N.T. in W.D.) SACKVILLE and WEYBURN will reach this position forenoon 2/2. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2202Z/1 to Admty. etc.)
- Anzac Force. B.A.D. 2007R/1. See Australia.
- WEST POINT, WAKEFIELD, MOUNT VERNON. Ref. C. in C. East Indies' 1533/30/1. WEST POINT and WAKEFIELD are returning from Singapore to Suez. They will sail thence about 4/3 for Abda Area arriving about 21/3 with Australian Troops. After disembarkation they will be ready to return to U.S.A. 2. Request report whether they and also MOUNT VERNON should return to west or east coast of America. (D.S.T. 2026A/1 to B.A.D.)
- U/B. D/F bearing at 1609Z/1 indicates submarine within 50 miles 044° 30' N. 053° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2112Z/1 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.)
- Troop Convoys. My 1228/29, 0126/1 and 1925A/1. Following are revised proposals for February Transatlantic troop Convoys. (D.O.D. (H) for D. of S.T., 2155A/1 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.) See Lion Copy.

/AQUITANIA ...

26A Awl

~~MOST SECRET~~ **MOST SECRET** OUT  
1925A/1 February.

Addressed ~~to the~~ ~~Director of Sea Transport~~ Date 1.2.42.

Repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 309  
C. in C. America & West Indies 131  
C. in C. South Atlantic 58  
C. in C. Western Approaches 727  
C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Naval Cypher (D).

From Director of Sea Transport.

IMPORTANT.

My 1228/29/1 not to all addressees, 0126/1 and 1925A/1.  
Following are revised proposals for February Transatlantic  
Troop Convoys.

(a) <u>N.A.3.</u>	<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Estimated Capacity</u>	<u>Date Due Halifax.</u>
	DOMINION MONARCH	1200	4.2.
	FRANCONIA	2550	12. 2.
	ALCANTARA	500	
		<u>4250</u>	

Proposed sailing date from Halifax about 14.2

(b) A.T.11  
U.S. Combat ships with troop capacity of 8900.  
In addition -

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Estimated capacity</u>	<u>Date due New York.</u>
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL	2950	13.2
ORONSAY	2600	19.2
Total for Convoy	<u>14450</u>	

Three U.S. Store ships will also be included. The use of the additional 5550 capacity is dependent upon confirmation that the stores capacity of this convoy is adequate for this increased personnel capacity. War Office agreed signal to Joint Staff Mission 67919 of 3.1. refers.

Proposed date of sailing from New York 22.2.

(c) <u>N.A.4.</u>	<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Estimated Capacity</u>	<u>Date due Halifax.</u>
	SAMARIA	2750	about 21.2.
	CAMERONIA	3100	about 21.2.

Proposed date of sailing from Halifax 23.2.

ORION/....



26<sup>B</sup>

ORION will not now be required for N.A.4.

2. B.A.D. Washington is requested to inform Salter, Sparks and Payne. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa should advise Huband Montreal.

3. Agreed with War Office.

2155A/1.

for D.O.D. (H)  
for D. of S.T.

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

JR

War Diary.1.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

AQUITANIA. J.S.M's signal Q/O/4/30 of 30/1. Agree proposal to sail AQUITANIA from San Francisco about 21/2 to Australia filled to capacity with U.S. Service personnel. 2. Request Admty. may be kept informed of destination and future movements. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2322A/1 to B.A.D.) Your 1455/31/1. No objection to carrying passengers to full capacity of available accommodation provided U.S. Authorities accept responsibility. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2324A/1 to B.A.D.(R) A.C.N.B.)

HAMILTON. HAMILTON R/V AUSONIA, RANPURA and O.R.P.GARLAND at 1600 G.M.T/2 in 046° 10' N. 055° 15' W. and provide A/S escort to Halifax. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2323/1 to HAMILTON (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, NIPIGON, AUSONIA, F.O.N.F. C. in C.A.W.I., RANPURA, GARLAND).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Serial Number 12 from Central War Room. Enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs on Gizo, Solomon Islands, 28th. Air R/C by 4 type 97 flying boats over Wau 31/1. Enemy aircraft also visited Samarai 0344Z/31. No W/T contact now with Salamoia. (A.C.N.B., 0421Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

AQUITANIA, Arrivals Sydney 0545Z/31 H.T. AQUITANIA. Hospital  
WANGANELLA. Ship WANGANELLA arrived Fremantle 2305Z/31.  
(A.C.N.B., 1321Z/1 to Admty., etc.)

AUSTRALIA, Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 2209Z/30 and departure  
PERTH, 0650Z/31 for R/V AUSTRALIA wearing flag of F.O.C.  
LEANDER. Australian Squadron with PERTH and LEANDER in  
company. (A.C.N.B., 1322Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

Anzac Force My 1303R/31. U.S. Cruiser CHICAGO and U.S. destroyer  
CHICAGO, PERKINS leaves Pearl Harbour 2/2 to join Anzac  
PERKINS, force. U.S. destroyer LAMSON leaves Samoa for  
LAMSON. Wellington for same purpose. A.C.N.B., Melbourne  
and N.Z.N.B. Wellington informed.  
(B.A.D., 2007R/1 to Admty.)

U.S. PHOENIX, U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX and ADELAIDE escorting  
ADELAIDE. MARIPOSA and PRESIDENT COOLIDGE arrived Port  
Phillip Bay 1/2. (A.C.N.B., 2037Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

1.2.1942.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U-Boats South of 30° N.

It is now thought unlikely that any Axis U-Boat is in this area.

(D.D.I.C., 1448A/1, 1450A/1).

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Operations.

A Beaufort aircraft of Coastal Command on shipping reconnaissance bombed and damaged an escorted enemy tanker this afternoon off Ushant. Three Beauforts were sent to attack again later but there is no report of any success.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks on  
Minesweepers  
in Cromer  
area.

Dorniers operated almost continuously in Q Z S 287 from 0940 to 1400 today. Eight attacks were made on various ships. H.M.T. CLOUGHTON WYKE was bombed and sunk in 52° 59' N. 1° 28' 30" E. this morning, and M.S. Trawlers BRACON MOOR and CURTANA were damaged. H.M.T. CAPE SPARTEL was bombed and sunk while sweeping near 62 Buoy (Cromer area) this afternoon. The aircraft also attacked with machine gun fire the other 3 ships which were sweeping with CAPE SPARTEL and was probably damaged by their fire. H.M.T. ARNOLD BENNETT was also attacked and damaged by near misses and returned to the Humber under her own steam. M.V. SEDULITY was attacked and damaged at 1500 and returned to Yarmouth.

North Atlantic.

REGENT sailed from Ponta Delgada at 0100Z today for U.S.A; she is unable to dive.

WESTCOTT rammed and sunk a German U-Boat (~~believed to be~~ U.581) this morning S.E. of Fayal Channel and took several prisoners.

*Confirmed by Cmdr: 6843 7 Cmdr: Rowbotham's list.*

Mediterranean.

War Diary.

2.2.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

There were several alerts at Malta today. Kalafrana was bombed this morning, but damage was negligible. Hal Far and Ta Kali aerodromes are still unserviceable.

5 Wellingtons attacked merchant shipping and quays at Naples from 1900 to 2042.

Operation  
M.B.D.4.

An operation by all available destroyers with air co-operation commenced today, having as its object the location and destruction of enemy submarines between Alexandria and Derna.

East Indies.

S.S. TONJER reported being challenged by an unknown merchant ship at 2043 in 21° 0' S. 38° 49' (?40') E.

Eastern Fleet.

The following destroyers have been allocated to Eastern Fleet: ELECTRA, ENCOUNTER, EXPRESS, JUPITER (now in Abda Area, and not to be withdrawn until last possible moment); NAPIER, NIZAM, NESTOR, NORMAN (of which the last named is due at the Cape on 4/2); and the first 4 "P" class - PANTHER, PALADIN, PAKENHAM, PENN. PANTHER and PALADIN are to leave U.K. with FORMIDABLE on 15/2. PAKENHAM and PENN should be ready to leave U.K. about 18/3 with ILLUSTRIOUS.

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.China.

Burma.

The Japanese are effecting a considerable infiltration to the northward of Rangoon along the west coast of Burma by means of small parties of troops moving through the numerous creeks in Sampans. A force of 100 R.M. of M.N.B.D.O. is to be sent to Rangoon to counter these operations, and Commodore C.M.Graham (S.N.O.P.G.) is to proceed to Rangoon and assume the temporary duties of Commodore Commanding Burma Coast.

Malaya.

There were several alerts yesterday and today; bombs were dropped in Keppel Harbour area causing fires and damaging small shipping. Seletar was damaged in the afternoon, and the naval base and Kranji Oil Depot were bombed in the evening but no damage was caused.

N.E.I. &  
Borneo.

Aircraft last night attacked Balik Papan and sank a medium size transport outside the harbour and dropped bombs on the town, causing large fires. One and probably two transports were sunk by air attack by U.S. Fortresses today in the same area.

The W/T station at Kota Baru (Lant Island, S.E. Borneo) was damaged by air attack today or yesterday.

Operations  
by U.S.  
Pacific  
Fleet.

It is reported that aircraft of the U.S. Pacific Fleet have made a surprise attack on the Japanese in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, sinking and damaging many enemy fleet auxiliaries. Surface vessels heavily bombarded Japanese shore positions.

America & West Indies.

Dutch tanker CORILLA in Convoy H.X.173, but not closed up, was torpedoed at 0545 in 44° 48' (or 49') N. 61.37 W. but eventually returned to Halifax.

U.S. Tanker W.L.STEED was torpedoed this evening (G.M.T.) in 38° 25' N. 73° 0' W. ALCANTARA picked up 3 survivors and 2 dead at 1230 G.M.T./4 in 37° 29' N. 72° 27' W.

/U.S. ...

War Diary.

2.2.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies - contd.

U.S. tanker ESSO TRENTON made on SSSS report at 0344 G.M.T. in 37.30 N. 75.20 W.

U.S.S. SAN JACINTO reported sighting 2 suspicious craft 4 miles from Morro Castle lighthouse, Puerto Rico, at 0013 today.

Proposed instructions to give Commodores of Convoys more latitude to select the best course in prevailing wind and sea conditions were signalled by Admty. to B.A.D. today for their concurrence.

Australia.

An enemy 4 engined flying boat bombed Tulagi (Solomon Is.) at 0230Z today and 6 enemy aircraft bombed Port Moresby at 1610Z: no damage is reported.

War Diary.

2.2.1942.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Gold from Russia. It is desired to ship 12 tons gold for Bank of England by H.M. Ship from Murmansk at an early date. Propose FAULKNOR and INTREPID ship 6 tons each. Admty. pass to C. in C. H.F., Capt. (D) 8. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1441A/2).

Coastal Channel Escorts. (1) A.M. 1105B/24/7/41, para.1. Request that '22 Buoy' may be substituted for 'Fifeness.'  
 (2) This change would allow S/A destroyer escorts to meet or leave ships at 22 buoy and thus greatly reduce the demands for S/A destroyers, demands now difficult to meet.  
 (3) Up to the present date no casualty from mines has occurred nor has a mine been swept in the coastal Channel between 22 buoy and Fifeness.  
 (4) S/A sweeps of the approved Channels to Rosyth are normally carried out as far as 22 Buoy or 22A Buoy prior to the arrival or departure of cruisers and above and these sweeps are extended along the War Channel itself whenever sweepers are available. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1703/2.)

Signals from Dover. Intend to discontinue present daily enemy shipping report signal not to all addressees, since the purpose for which it was originally designed no longer exists. A daily signal will be made in lieu to Admiralty H.Q.C.C. and H.Q.11 Group only mainly for record purposes. Movements of enemy warships or important vessels would be passed as at present by telephone to same addressees and to Portsmouth and Nore Commands as relevant with confirmation by signal following. Attacks made on enemy vessels will similarly be reported separately. (V.A. Dover 1931A/2 to Admty)

Movements.

M.M.S. 63.

<sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
 My 1703/1. Postponed 24 hours on account of weather. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 0705/2).

ARETHUSA,  
COTSWOLD,  
COTTESMORE.

COTSWOLD take COTTESMORE under your orders and leave Rosyth so as to rendezvous with ARETHUSA off 26 Buoy at 1800/2 and provide S.A. escort to Sheerness. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1017/2).  
 Departure COTSWOLD and COTTESMORE at 1434.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1527/2).

ATALANTA.

<sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
 My 1248/1. Postponed owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0841/2).

BEEHIVE.

<sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
 My 1203A/1. Postponed for 24 hours. (BEEHIVE, 0906A/2).

AMBUSCADE.

My 1853A/31 and 2217A/1. Revised times as follows. E.T. departure Needles 1130/2. E.T.A. Plymouth 1630/2. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0923A/2).

/My ...



War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.AMBUSCADE.  
(contd.)My 1853A/31. "Match" sailed 1150.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1210A/2).

TENBY.

Intend sailing TENBY 1130/2 in accordance with  
Admiralty 1321A/30/1. E.T.A. Harwich 1400/3.  
Request fighter protection.  
(F.O.I.C.Aberdeen 1015/2).My 1334/2. Following received from TENBY. In view of weather  
forecast do not anticipate arriving before A.M.4th.  
(F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 1502/2 to C. in C. Rosyth).PELICAN,  
MARIGOLD,  
AZALEA,  
SPIREA.Corvettes will not have enough fuel to reach  
U.K. after about 1600 today. Intend to send one  
to fuel at Azores tomorrow and the (missing  
groups) Wednesday. (PELICAN 1050A/2 to  
C. in C. W.A.)  
Position 45° 58' N. 24° 53' W.  
(PELICAN 1200A/2)PELICAN's 1050A/2. Proceed now with your force to U.K. If  
SPIREA join you she is to remain in company to Liverpool  
ships, calling at Milford Haven for fuel if necessary. If  
SPIREA unable to join she is to proceed in accordance with  
my 1024A/1. Report situation in due course.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1253A/2 to PELICAN, SPIREA).  
My P.C.S. are 049° 01' N. 017° 06' W., 066°, 12. SPIREA in  
company. Propose to detach AZALEA and SPIREA from position K  
to Milford Haven for fuel and onward routeing to South Shields.  
(PELICAN, 1940A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My P.C.S. 046° 44' N. 023° 31' W., 062°, 12. SPIREA not in  
company. (PELICAN, 2000A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.14.

1614A/1. para. (c) amend to read. O.14  
approximately 64° 40' N. 2° E., probably on  
surface through 62° 40' N. 1° 30' E. Due R/V off  
Bressay 3/2. (F.O.S., 1129A/2).

ESCAPADE.

ESCAPADE is to proceed, passing boom at 1300N/3  
to Scapa and thence refit as ordered by R.A.(D)  
H.F. (C. in C. H.F., 1209A/2).

PAKENHAM.

My 1549/31. Intend to sail PAKENHAM for Scapa at  
0945/4, 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 1600/4. Request fighter protection.  
(F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1225/2).

T.L.C.145.

Intend sailing T.L.C.145 at 0600A/3 for Troon.  
E.T.A. 1830A/3. No. W/T or R/T.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1230A/2).

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

FORMIDABLE, SHERWOOD, M.L. 302, M.L. 338. FORMIDABLE will be sailed for trials as follows (a) 1430A/3. Bangor Bay departure (b) 1530A/3 to 1800A/3. A T O G and type 281 trials in the vicinity Q X 5328 (c) 1830A/3 to 1830A/4 cruise between Q X 5445 and Q Y 1843 (d) 0900A/4 to 1200A/4 resume trials as in (b) (e) 1200A/4 complete trials and proceed Q S 5938 (f) 1430A/4 embark squadron in the vicinity of Q S 5938 (g) 1800A/4 anchor Lamdash (h) SHERWOOD will provide escort from 1400A/3 to 1430A/4 proceeding Londonderry on completion (i) M.L's 302 and 338 R/V with FORMIDABLE at 1430A/4 to act as rescue craft until completion of trials (j) Codeword Anger. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1445A/2).

LIVERPOOL. A.M. 1251A/10/1. LIVERPOOL expects to leave Clyde 6/2. (C. in C. W.A., 1530A/2).

Maunsell Fort. My 1308A/31/1. Amend para. 2 to read. Tow will leave Tilbury at 0830/7 and add three days to all other dates. (C. in C. Nore, 1750A/2).

MADELEINE, HUBERTINE. (A/P Vessel). A.M. 1622A/29/1. MADELEINE HUBERTINE. Request reply. (D.S.V.P., 1755/2 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

ILLUSTRIUS. Your 2202A/30. Concur in ILLUSTRIOUS' programme. Ship is to be ready to leave U.K. on 18/3. (A.C.N.S. H., 2058A/2 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

UTMOST. Intend sailing BREDA at 0400/3 to R/V with UTMOST, thence to Holyloch. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2139/2.)

Operations.

S/M Patrol off Fro Havet. Your 1444A/28. Left after dark 31st. (O.14, 0030A/2).

S/M Patrol. Proceed to patrol in zone E forthwith. (F.O.S., 0733A/2 to S/M's Area A.)

S/M Patrol off Brest. E.T.A. Wolf Rock 1000A/3rd and at Falmouth 1400A/3rd. (Z.5., 0930A/2). Cancel my 1714A/1 H.34 will be required to sail for patrol about 9/2 to relieve H.43. (F.O.S., 1453A/2 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

H.43 parts company with Z.5 off Wolf Rock at 1000A/3, thence proceeding patrol position number 51 routed as for H.34 in my 1304A/30/1. (F.O.S., 1454A/2 to S/M's Area A.)

/Cablelaying ...

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - contd.

Cablelaying. Your 1247/1. Concur. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1005A/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Operation E M. Your 1801A/1. Unless contrary orders are received from C. in C. H.F., return to Scapa routed through position B and A, thence West of Orkneys & Shetlands. CALPE is being sailed to R/V you in position B at 1000 tomorrow. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection. (R.A.D., 1107A/2 to CITY OF DURBAN). Scapa departure 1422 CALPE. (A.C.O.S., 1801/2).

Iceland Faeroes. Patrol. KENYA sailed 1200A for exercise and patrol "Black." (A.C.I.C., 1410A/2). At 2000 tonight. SHEFFIELD on patrol South of Iceland. (A.C.O.S., 1734A/2).

Channel Patrols. On Night 2/3. 1. 3 A/3 Trawlers patrolling Q Z S 271 and returning St. Helens at dawn. 2. 2 M.L's on patrol 10 miles South of Portland Bill. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1517A/2).

British Air Activity.

Escort for CAMSI 595. My 1613 G.M.T./1. Air escort cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. W.A., 0050 G.M.T/2 to ARUNDEL CASTLE).

*Liberator*  
Search for SPREEWALD. Cancel my 2154A/1, weather unsuitable. (C. in C. W.A., 0155A/2 to PELICAN).

S.N.17. Aircraft delayed weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0825/2 to R.A.M.)

A/C for Manston. Three Swordfish of 825 Squadron are to be flown to Manston forthwith. Request you will arrange details direct. (D.N.A.D., 2146A/2 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

CLOUGHTON WYKE. (M/S Trawler) sunk. CLOUGHTON WYKE bombed and sunk in 52° 59' N. 1° 28' 30" E. 19 survivors. (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1123A/2).

Sumburgh Air-Port bombed on 1/2. My 1619A/1. Amend report of casualties, one killed, one died from injuries, and five others injured. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1431A/2).

/CAPE ...

War Diary.

2.2.1942.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - contd.

CAPE SPARTEL. CAPE SPARTEL sunk by enemy bombing in approx. S. 30° E 62 Buoy one mile. Survivors returning in ARCTIC HUNTER. ARNOLD BENNETT damaged by four near misses, returning to Harbour under own steam escorted by TERVANI. (F.O.I.C.Humber, 1628A/2).  
(M/S Trawler sunk. ARNOLD BENNETT(M/S Trawler) damaged. BRITISH (M/S Trawler) Casualty. My 1628A/2. CAPE SPARTEL all crew picked up by ARCTIC HUNTER, one man injured. BRITISH, one man injured. (F.O. Humber, 1730A/2).  
Departure Tug MASTADONTE at 1835, to assist ARNOLD BENNETT. (F.O.Humber, 1843A/2).  
My 1730A/2. While sweeping in company with ARCTIC HUNTER, NAB WYKE, and REMEXO in vicinity 62 buoy, CAPE SPARTEL was attacked by enemy plane at 1415 today. Two sticks of four bombs were dropped, all near misses or under ship and with delayed action. CAPE SPARTEL sank in about 20 minutes in approx. 53° 28' 42" N. 49' 12" E. All crew saved, one minor casualty. Plane also attacked other three ships with machine gun and was met with considerable volume of fire from 12 pdr, 0.5 and machine guns and P.A.C.Rockets. Probably damaged. (F.O.Humber, 2116A/2).

Search for crew of enemy A/C by MONIMIA. At 1617/2 H.M.T. MONIMIA, who had been told to search for crew of an enemy aircraft down near 53° 15' N. 1° 5' E., recovered one body and parachute. (F.O.Humber, 2200/2).

SEDULITY damaged 1/2. Motor vessel SEDULITY attacked and damaged by aircraft at 1500/1. Ship returned to Yarmouth. One injured seaman landed at Cromer by lifeboat. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 1630/2).

F.W. shot down by GENISTA. Hearty congratulations on bringing down a Fokke Wolfe. (C. in C. W.A., 1717A/2 to GENISTA).

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Details of 4 ground mines detonated on 29/1. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 0931/2, 0934/2, 0938/2, 0941/2.)  
Details of 4 ground mines detonated on 28/1. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1145/1, 1442/1, 1456/1, 1506/1.)

Mines sunk off Peterhead. The following British drifting mines were sunk by rifle fire on 31.1.42.

Time	Position.
1150	57° 45' N., 01° 44' W.
1310	57° 35' N., 01° 35' W.
2330	56° 47' N., 02° 00' W.

At 0335/1 in 56° 11' N., 02° 25' W., a mine was reported by a lookout but was not located. (INCHMARNOCK, 1015/2).

/Off ...

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - contd.

- Off Lough Foyle. Sighted two floating mines position 055° 27' N., 006° 58' W., at 1645 G.M.T. (ANCHUSA, 1648/2).
- Iceland. My 1047N/29/12. 31 unspecified mines rendered safe November 16th to December 10th now reported as marked X X. 12 mines marked X X and three marked X X one. One rendered safe December 11th to December 18th between 064° 50' N., 013° 52' W., and 064° 40' N., 014° 40' W. (A.C.I.C., 1801A/2).
- M/S search. M/S search in accordance with your 1617/7/1 was carried out by CAPE BARRACOUTA and SHIANT on 31/1 and 1/2 with negative results. (N.O.I.C.Faroes, 1820A/2 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- Vessels in Straits of Dover. During the night of Sunday 1st February R.D.F. indicated activity on enemy shipping routes in Dover Straits probably mine sweepers. Two vessels larger than trawlers passed Gris Nez at 0130/2 to the westward of 20 knots and were last reported 8 miles southwestward of Boulogne at 0300/2. (V.A. Dover, 0802A/2). Two ships probably destroyers passed through Straits of Dover Westbound at 0130/2. (D.D.I.C., 1127A/2).
- North Norway. Russians report 31/1 one destroyer in Lakse Fjord. 1/2, one destroyer in 70° 27' N., 19° E., and one destroyer and one minesweeper in Fugloy Sound. (Ad. Miles, 1648C/2).
- TIRPITZ. A.M. 1818A/31. R/C at 1145A/2 shows TIRPITZ in same position. (D.D.I.C., 1850A/2).

U-Boats.

- Convoy NA.2. A.M. 2005A/1. D/F at 1039/2 G.M.T. suggests that U-Boat is still in vicinity of convoy N.A.2. (D.D.I.C., 1239A/2 to FIREDRAKE).
- A.M.1239A/2. Several German transmissions during today, the latest at 2127/2 G.M.T. suggest that two or more U-Boats may be in vicinity of Convoy N.A.2. (D.D.I.C., 2336A/2 to FIREDRAKE).

Navigational.

- H.3 Buoy. H.3 buoy light extinguished. (VIVIEN, 0614A/2).

/Tower ...

War Diary.

2.2.1942.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational. - contd.Tower off  
Harwich.

On or about 5/2 a concrete tower will be established in 51° 53' 45" N., 01° 28' 54" E. The tower will exhibit a flashing white light every five seconds, visible 2½ miles. (Hydrographer, 1656A/2).

Casualties & Defects.EMPIRE  
CHAMOIS.

ANCHUSA's 1700A/1. ANCHUSA and ZWARTE ZEE are to escort EMPIRE CHAMOIS as far as entrance to North Channel and then return to Lough Foyle. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0327A/2).

My 0327A/2. ANCHUSA is to return to Lough Foyle with despatch. ZWARTE ZEE is to proceed in accordance with my 0327A/2. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0845A/2).

Peterhead.

Recent very heavy weather has caused further damage to breakwaters at Peterhead as follows. Details. (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 0950/2).

M.L.166.

My 1615A/1 read M.L.166. (R.A.C.F., 0950A/2).

BRONXVILLE,  
ORMINSTER.

It is understood that the services of two rescue tugs will be required to assist in refloating. BRONXVILLE and ORMINSTER p.m.4th. Intend to send ST. OLAVES and CAROLINE MOLLER from Campbeltown to Belfast to arrive A.M. on that day. N.O.I.C. Campbeltown is requested to sail ships accordingly. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1123A/2).

GEM (H.M.  
Yacht), sunk.

GEM sunk alongside Kilmun Pier, Holy Loch. Salvage operations progressing. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1221A/2).

OTTAWA.

Your 1439Z/1. OTTAWA is undergoing repairs to oil tanks at Belfast. (Capt. D. ? Londonderry, 1511A/2 to C.C.N.E.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.D.21.

Sailed S.D.21 at 0325A. ORBITA, BLYSKAWICA, SKATE. S. of A. 14 knots. E.T.A. Greenock 1800A/4. Route as in C. in C. W.A., 1721A/31. (A.C.I.C., 0345A/2). *Sailed - see next page.*

P.W.D.106.

Ounce 1 cancelled owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 0623/3).

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

O N 62. Escort assigned as follows. O N 62. Task Unit  
 O N 63. 4.1.13, ST. LAURENT Senior, TRILLIUM, RIMOUSKI,  
 O N U 62. TRAIL, KAMSACK, MINAS. O N 63. Task Unit 4.1.1,  
 GLEAVES Senior, DALLAS, UPSHUR, \*INGHAM.  
 (Opnav. 0704/2).

O.N.62. ST. LOMAN 0401/3. Convoy is to be turned round so that  
 junction can be made with O.N.U.62 before dark.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 0837A/3 to WATCHMAN). \* SAMUEL D. INGHAM

O.N.C.63. O.N.C.63 did not sail.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 0854A/3).

? Convoy hove to. D/R P.C.S. 059° 54' N. 002° 44' W.  
 146°, 1½ knots at 1100. Request D/F bearing from  
 Wick at 1800. (NORTHERN ISLES, 1235A/2 to  
 A.C.O.S.)

P.Q.7. WAZIRISTAN ex P.Q.7 A. Interview with Master of  
 WAZIRISTAN. COLD HARBOR revealed that he experienced strong  
 easterly gales and reached longitude 049° E.  
 before turning south, where he was in thick ice.  
 He feared WAZIRISTAN may have been caught in ice in similar  
 position. C. in C. Northern Fleet has consented to search an  
 area with aeroplane, but would be glad to know if Admty.  
 has received any information concerning ship since she became  
 overdue. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1329A/2 to Admty.)

Q.P.6. Loch Ewe arrival. EMPIRE HOWARD, CHERNYSKEVSKI,  
 EMPIRE ACTIVITY, REIGH COUNT.  
 (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1430A/2).

S.D.21. S.D.21 sailed 0300A/2.  
 (D.S.T.O. Iceland, 1635A/2). See previous page

BOADICEA. Your 1726A/31. Am proceeding direct to M.O.M.P.  
 with escort and rescue ship.  
 (BOADICEA, 1730A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

M/V Navigation Lights. The draft C.A.M.S.I. affecting navigation lights  
 to be exhibited by M/V's is agreed to generally.  
 2. The following detailed amendments are proposed.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1858A/2 to Admty.)

W.S.16. A.M.1614A/29. Cancel para. 2. DUNCAN will be  
 required to provide additional escort for convoy  
 W.S.16 leaving U.K. on 15/2.  
 (D.O.D. (H.) 2019A/2).

/P Q ...

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

- P Q and Q P      The danger to North Russian Convoys from U-Boat  
Convoys.            attack is greatest in following areas.  
A/A and A/S      A. Between 015° and 024° E.  
protection.        B. During approach to position "M Z" and to Kola  
                         Inlet.    2. When convoys approach limit of area  
                         (A), cruiser escorts are to proceed ahead until  
clear of area, zigzagging at speed of advance of average of  
16½ knots, or at best speed weather permits, and rejoining when  
convoy is clear of area.  
3. Cruiser escorts are not to be in close company in area (B)  
unless there are definite indications of enemy surface  
activity. 4. So far as endurance permits, destroyers are to  
increase speed and take full A/S precautions between 017° E.  
and 022° E., and when approaching Kola Inlet.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2109A/2).  
It is quite impossible to provide sufficient A/S or aircraft  
protection from H.F. ships in approaches to Kola Inlet and  
cruisers cannot act as A/A escort owing to U-Boat risk.  
2. Reasonable security can only be provided if area is  
constantly patrolled by numbers of small craft, and convoys  
effectively covered by long and short range fighters. Unless  
Russians can be prevailed upon to do this casualties to both  
escorts and convoys must be expected.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2112A/2 to Admty.)
- ?                    Your 1809A/2. (N.T. in W.D.). Yes. Whole convoy  
late. My 1349A/1 (N.T. in W.D.) gives convoy  
details.            (A.C.I.C., 2131A/2 to Capt. D.8).
- O S 20.            My 1812A/16/1. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> BELLWORT delayed by weather damage  
BELLWORT.        is to sail with O S 20.  
                         (C. in C. W.A., 2134A/2).
- S C 65.            EUTHALIA S C 65 arrived Barrow in error and was  
EUTHALIA.        brought into the channel without any opportunity  
                         being afforded for Admiralty to give orders for  
                         her disposal. After investigation report should  
be sent describing arrangements made to prevent such a wasteful  
movement being again possible.  
(D.T.D., 2142A/2 to N.C.S.O. Barrow).
- Q P 6.            Q P 6. Your 1430/2. EMPIRE REDSHANK hove to in  
EMPIRE            the vicinity of Fair Isle presumably making for  
REDSHANK.        Kirkwall. (A.C.O.S., 2353/2 to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe).



War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

REGENT.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1150A/30. Sailed. Time passing through position (B) 0700Z/4. S. of A. 10 knots. (REGENT 0100Z/2 to F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

~~WESTCOTT,~~  
~~U/B sunk.~~

At 0807/2. See 3/2/42.

→ MENHIR-BRAZ  
(French).

My 1830/1 Ship sailed early this morning. (N.A. Lisbon, 1007/2 to F.O.C.N.A.) See also 1340A/2.

Funchal.

One twin-engined aircraft, nationality unknown, passed at considerable height over Funchal Harbour at 0218 G.M.T./2, came in from east and went off in S.W. direction. (Consul, Funchal, 1035/2 to S.O.I. Gib.)

U/B Sunk by  
WESTCOTT.

At 0807 G.M.T. rammed and sank S/M believed to be U.581 in a position to S.E. of Fayal Channel 3.1 miles from Pico Island. 39 prisoners. (WESTCOTT 1044A/2 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Capt. D.19).

*about*  
38°27'N 28°35'W

Your 1422 (N.T. in W.D.) WESTCOTT will require docking. Consider ship is sufficiently seaworthy to continue on present duties.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE now north of Pico Island. Weather report. (WESTCOTT, 1650A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

*U.581 - confirmed by cmd: 6843 & by Cmdr: Frubotham's list.*LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE.  
THAMES.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE and THAMES sailing 1345 G.M.T. (R.O., Horta, 1215/2 to Admty.)

JOAO PESSOA  
(German).

Following is a repetition of my 1249/31. Arrival 30th JOAO PESSOA, departure 30th JOAO PESSOA in ballast for Santander. (Bilbao 1255/2 to Admty.)

French  
Shipping.

French armed Trawler W.56 escorting French fishing trawler BANCH II laden arrived Eascaes Bay at 1300. Armed Trawler parted company with BANCH II, made R/V MENHIR-BRAZ, and proceeded southward at 1330. (ALOUETTE, 1340A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.) Passings on 31/1 and 1/2. (D.O.R. 2/2).

Situation.

At 1959A/2.

Convoy LIGHTNING, WIVERN 040° 28' 013° 41' through 37° 00' 11° 00' to Gibraltar 14 knots.

CALIFORNIA, 039° 40' 017° 183° 14.

STELLA CARINA, 34° 17' 08° 15' to Gibraltar, 8 knots.

PENTSTEMON escorting tanker SAN ADOLFO 30° 23' 18° 25' through 29° 30' 20° 05' thence 230°, 10½.

PENTSTEMON parts company (?) p.m./3rd to return to Gibraltar.

/LADY.....

War Diary.

2.2.1942.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation - Contd. LADY HOGARTH, COREOPSIS escorting cable ship MIRROR vicinity 45 miles west Cape Roca. RHODODENDRON sailed 2135A/2 through 235° Cape St. Vincent 10 miles thence 246° 12. *See also 10.4.42.* STARWORT and CROCUS escorting tanker DEWDALE 027° 00' 014° 28' through 28.00 13.30 thence 30° 8. VANSITTART 25.31 15.48 through 28.00 13.30 thence 30 (?15) to R/V with STARWORT in daylight 3rd. CLYDE, GERANIUM, VETCH escorting tanker DINGLEDALE 35° 20' 23° 56' 145° 10' proceeding to cruise vicinity 33° 00' 22° 00'. → WESTCOTT, EXMOOR, CROOM escorting LLANGIBBY CASTLE, tug THAMES towing, estimate 38° 10', 28° 02' through 38° 30', 25° 00' thence 099° 9. *See previous page.* REGENT 035° 40' 027° 30' 256° 10. (F.O.C.N.A. 1348A/2, 1352A/2, to N.A. Stn. as amended 1944A/2 and 2130A/2).

CLEOPATRA. Your 1246A/31, para. 2. CLEOPATRA will have no personnel or stores for Gibraltar. No space is available for onward passage from Gibraltar. 2. CLEOPATRA and HERMIONE are similar. CLEOPATRA is camouflaged six greys M.S.1 to 4 inclusive, M.S.4A, B.5., disruptive design. (D.O.D. (F) 1606A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Ponta Delgada fuelling conditions. Your 1540A/28, para. 3. Reply (details). Local port and Naval Authorities friendly but military reported less so. Requirements met ungrudgingly but once started must not be altered. Reasonable facilities for small repairs but extreme shortage of material. (HERMIONE, 1819A/2 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS. C. in C. Med. 1114A/30. Unless passage for stores mentioned in my 1740A/28 can be arranged as in my 1246A/31, consider OLYMPUS should carry (?out) one more transport trip before returning to U.K. Request you concur. (F.O.C.N.A., 1858A/2 to Admty.) F.O.S. objects, see 1512A/3.

→ U/B. 1 S/M bearing 300° 3 knots (sic) 130° 38° 25' N., 27° 51' W. (CROOME, 2008A/2 to Whitehall W/T, (R) WESTCOTT).

Bombing Restrictions. OPG 585 2/2. Serial No. G45. Institute submerged bombing restrictions in the following areas:- (A) area 52, north of 48° 30' from 1200/3 until 0800/5. (B) area 51, south of 50° from 1200/3 until 0200/4. (C) area 54, north of 46° 30' from 1200/3 until further notice. (D) area 52, south of 48° 30' from 1200/3 until further notice. (H.Q.C.C. 2105/2 to R.A.F. Gib.)

/H.G. 78.....

War Diary.

2.2.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

H.G.78.

Departure RHODODENDRON R/V with CRESSADO and EMPIRE PANTHER off Cape Razo thence joining convoy H.G.78. (F.O.C.N.A. 2134A/2 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.) Amended by 1028A/3, q.v.

South Atlantic.

IBIS,  
O.S.17.

IBIS has run main bearing of Port engine. Propose returning to Bathurst on Starboard engine to effect repairs, speed 12 knots. P.C. and S. at 0200Z/2: 019° 44' N. 023° 12' W. "A". (IBIS, 0340Z/2 to C. in C.S.A.) Your 0340Z/2, approved. (C. in C. S.A. 0744Z/2 to IBIS).

LAVENDER.

Intend sending LAVENDER St. Vincent with mail arriving a.m./1. Ship will not require fuel. Request you will obtain concurrence of Portuguese authorities. If HARTINGTON can be ready to sail by then arrangements will be made for LAVENDER to escort her. (C. in C. S.A., 1141Z/2 to Consul, St. Vincent.)

INDOMITABLE,  
shipping net.

INDOMITABLE reports that on passage Trinidad to Capetown she encountered 5 British and Allied M/Vs of whose movements she had no knowledge. Such information as was available had been obtained from N.C.S.O. Trinidad, supplemented after leaving that port, by South Atlantic shipping information signals. Ships referred to had been included in these signals prior to the arrival of INDOMITABLE at Trinidad. Would it be possible to arrange for these signals to be read at Trinidad for information of warships entering S.A. Station? (C. in C. S.A. 1147Z/2 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Reply: 1009P/3.

CHESHIRE.

<sup>N.T.L.W.D.</sup>  
D. of S.T.'s 1854A/29. It looks as though CHESHIRE will have to be used for this commitment. With some adjustment of LAFONIA's sailing date this would still leave CHESHIRE available to back up ocean escort of either section of W.S.15 if raider intelligence from Indian Ocean makes this desirable.  
2. It might be convenient to combine LAFONIA's movement to West Africa with some returning transport over numbers for independent sailing.  
3. I might be able to relieve CHESHIRE part way. (C. in C. S.A., 1243Z/2 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/ORONSAY.....

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.

ORONSAY. My 1003/1. ORONSAY now expected sail from Capetown 4/2 E.T.A. New York 25/2. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1403Z/2 to D. of S.T.)

EGYPTIAN grounding. K.R. and A.I. 900 para. 2. British ship EGYPTIAN grounded 8½ miles north of Freetown on 28/1. Was refloated with assistance of tug and entered Freetown under own power same day. No damage anticipated. Ship still at Freetown, no security given. Form D.46 not signed. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 1516Z/2 to Admty.)

Recognition of U.S. Aircraft. Ref. Consul's 1401Z/29. After consulting O.C. U.S.A. Aircraft, Natal, I would suggest Allied Shipping should be instructed that U.S.A. Catalinas may be met with off N.E. coast Brazil and that every effort should be made to establish recognition before opening fire. Supply of S.P. 02182 (2) to these aircraft would materially assist their patrol activity, and prevent a recurrence of the action described. O.C. Aircraft informs me fire was opened on him by DEBRETT at 2500 yards and no effort made to reply to his signals. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1710/2 to Admty.)

PERSEE (French). Your 2234Z/22. Last news of French PERSEE was that she was in Saigon and no report of her having sailed has been received here. On what information was your report based and have you any further evidence of presence of PERSEE in South Atlantic? (D.N.I. 2012A/2 to S.O.I. Montevideo) Reply: 2137/3.

CANTON. A.M.C. Squadron position at 2030Z/2, 004° 54' N. CILICIA. 022° 00' W. CILICIA now being detached E.T.A. 1500Z/4. Acknowledge to CILICIA. Remaining A.M.C.'s course and speed 110° 15 knots. PRETORIA CASTLE. At 0700Z/3 intend to steer for S.W. corner of area and then 090°. Percentage of oil fuel remaining CANTON 50, PRETORIA CASTLE 64, CILICIA 43. Weather report. (CANTON 2030Z/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

LA MOQUEUSE. Your 0934A/23. LA MOQUEUSE, Ferry Steamer CARDAK, and SILIVRI arrived. LA MOQUEUSE states REINE DES FLOTS delayed at Fayal owing to engine trouble. Request confirmation. (C. in C. S.A., 2125Z/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.2.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation M.B.D.4. My 1459B/30. Operation M.B.D. 4 para. 3, delete CARLISLE. (C. in C. Med., 0952B/2 to F.O.C.D.F. Med. No. 201 N. co-operation Group, Admty, N.O.I.C. Alexandria, F.O. 1st B.S. R.N. G.H.Q. Mecoi, M.E. R.A.F. H.Q. (R) CARLISLE, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (D) 14, Capt (D) 2, S.O. Force (I), Capt. O.S. Alexandria.)  
Operation M.B.D. 4 postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Med. 1432B/2 to All concerned in M.B.D.4)

UNA. UNBEATEN. My 1325B/31. Sailing of UNA postponed owing to fuel tank leak. UNBEATEN sails 2/2.  
(Capt. S.10, 1123B/2 to Capt. S.1).

U/B hit 29/1. Day 29/1. A.S.V. Sunderland on patrol between Sidi Barrani and Tobruk hit enemy submarine on surface with anti submarine bomb. Submarine disappeared and large patch of oil seen on surface, presumed sunk. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1128/2)

A. MIKOTAN. Russian <sup>A.</sup>MIKOTAN sailed Aden 1/2 due Mombasa A.M./8 speed 10 knots. (C. in C. Med. 1148B/2 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

ALBARO. My 1545B/1. ALBARO entered Aegean 0730 G.M.T./2. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1150B/2).

GOUVERNEUR GENERAL CHANZY (French). Arrival 1st. (Barcelona, 1235/2 to M. of W.T.)

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. 2/2.  
1638 hours 3 Raiders approached did not cross Coast Hurricanes up no interception. Night 1/2, 1747 to 0518 hours, 6 raiders approached, 4 crossed coast. Bombs land sea, no damage. Hurricane intruders grounded by bad weather.  
2/2. 4 Alerts 0815, 0926, 1123, 1152 hours, 3 Raiders R/C and bombing. Target Kalafrana. Negligible damage. Hurricanes intercepted and seriously damaged 1 Ju. 88. Very bad weather last 24 hours. Gales and heavy rain. Halfar, Takali unserviceable. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 1615/2).

THUNDERBOLT. Leave patrol as necessary p.m./4 to reconnoitre ship beached on Cape Methoni a.m./5. Object destruction of any salvage steamer but passage is not to be delayed. You are to pass through 037° 24' 020° 25' 036° 57' 021° 28' before R/C and afterwards 036° 32' 021° 28' 034° 40' 023° 24' 033° 00' 029° 02', crossing latitude 035° about 0500B/6 and arriving Alexandria about 0530B/9. (Capt. S.1. 1931B/2 to THUNDERBOLT).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

2.2.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy  
M/V.

P.M. R/C today 1 medium M/V anchored off Susa with steam up. (Capt. S.10, 1945B/2 to P.35). 5,000 tons north bound M/V anchored in  $035^{\circ} 29' 01''$   $06'$  p.m./2 awaiting escort from north. Aircraft will probably attack tonight. Endeavour to intercept before ship passes Kuriat. (Capt. S.10, 2157B/2, to S/M P.35).

CUMBRAE.

Sail at 2330/2 by Q.B.C. 353 thence close South of 20 fathom line until off Port Said thence through  $031^{\circ} 50'$  N.  $034^{\circ} 00'$  E. to Haifa, E.T.A. 1630C/4. Speed 8 knots. C. in C. Med. 2101/1 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all refers. Keep single operator periods on 460 kc. (R.A. Alexandria, 2240B/2 to CUMBRAE).

*Tunis  
Intelligence.*

*BAE. 2031R/2. Suppage 58.*

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.P.33.

NOVA SCOTIA with troops and stores for Basra sailed 0200Z/2 due Rookafloat 0730Z/7 routed through:- (N) 020° 10' 066° 45' (O) 024° 50' 057° 40' thence (P) G.W. knots 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 16.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0359Z/2 to Admty.)

Japanese D/F indications 1/2 as follows. Anamba Is. area,  
Intelligence. at least 5 unknown units. East Coast Malaya,  
Cruiser KASII and at least 5 unknown units.  
Celebes and Menado area, flagship of third fleet  
and at least 7 unknown units. Saigon area and Indo China coast,  
Jap Destroyer YUKAZE, flagship of southerly expeditionary fleet,  
Japanese seaplane tender KAMIKAWA and at least (?4) unknown  
units also possibly Jap, Aircraft Carrier RYUJO. Macassar  
Strait area, second base force. There is W/T traffic of  
mutual interest to C. in C. Combined Fleet, C. in C. 4th Fleet  
and local defence force in Mandatory Islands.  
(C.O.I.S. Colombo 0905Z/2 to Commandant U.S. 14 Naval District  
Honolulu, C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, Abdafloat, C.C.C.F. and  
for C.Z.M. A.C.N.B. Melbourne, N.Z.N.B., Wellington, Abdacom.)

CEFN-Y-BRYN  
Hurricanes  
for Burma.

30 Hurricanes in CEFN-Y-BRYN should arrive Karachi about 19/2. Erection is only 100 man hours job per aircraft. You should be able to count upon large proportion of these aircraft reaching Burma before end of month.  
(Air Ministry 1030/2 G.M.T. to A.H.Q. India.)

INDOMITABLE

Arrival INDOMITABLE, NIZAM, NESTOR, NAPIER and ALSEY at 1130Z/2.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1200Z/2 to Admty.)

Destroyers  
for Eastern  
Fleet.

Establishment of Eastern Fleet necessitates re-allocation of certain destroyers.  
2. The following have already been allocated:  
(a) ELECTRA, ENCOUNTER, EXPRESS and JUPITER now in Abda area but these will not be withdrawn until

the last possible moment and due warning will be given.

(b) NAPIER, NIZAM, NESTOR.

3. The following previously allocated to Mediterranean are to join Eastern Fleet:

(a) NORMAN, due Cape 4/2.

(b) The first 4 "P" Class, namely, PANTHER, PALADIN, PAKENHAM, PENN.

4. PANTHER and PALADIN are to be ready to leave U.K. with FORMIDABLE on 15/2.

5. PAKENHAM and PENN should be ready to leave U.K. about 18/3 with ILLUSTRIOUS.

(1st S.L. 1305A/2 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F. R.A.D. H.F. Abdafloat.)

/Convoy M.R.2 ...

War Diary.

2.2.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Convoy 1300 G.M.T./2nd. 12 knots (Route)  
M.R.2. MANOORA escorting ELLENGA only, troops and  
stores Rangoon.  
N.C.S.O. Madras 1305Z/2 S.T.O. Madras 1341Z/2  
to Admty.)

Burma Coast A.M. 1935/31/1 and A.M. 1921/1/1.  
Employment of 1. I am informed by Cdr. Holland Martin who has  
M.N.B.D.O. just visited Rangoon that Japanese are effecting  
a considerable infiltration to Northward along  
West coast of Burma by means of small parties of  
troops moving through the numerous creeks in Sampans.  
2. Such local naval defence vessels as exist in Burma are  
unsuitable for combating this form of attack on account of their  
draught, and the only effective counter measure is to play the  
enemy at his own game by operating armed parties also in  
Sampans or similar shallow draught craft.  
3. M.N.B.D.O. contingent recently employed on Addu Atoll  
operation have now completed their recuperative leave and are  
available in Colombo.  
4. This unit is well (?provided with) weapons and equipment and  
consists, in large part, of experienced personnel who are trained  
in boatwork. They are by far the most suitable force which we  
have immediately at hand for a task of this nature.  
5. Also evident that immediate steps must be taken to co-  
ordinate local naval defences and operations on Burma coast,  
and appointment of an energetic and experienced officer in  
command is essential. S.N.O.P.G. has all the qualities  
required.  
6. My immediate intentions are therefore:-  
(a) To send a force of 100 Royal Marines of M.N.B.D.O. to  
Rangoon at first opportunity where they will be placed under the  
orders of G.O.C. Burma.  
(b) To direct Commodore C.M. Graham to proceed to Rangoon by  
air to assume the temporary duties of Commodore Commanding Burma  
Coast.  
(c) To appointment Capt. P.N. Walter of CENTURION to relieve  
S.N.O.P.G. pending the arrival of Capt. C.F. Hammill. C. in C.  
E.F. concurs. N.O.I.C. Rangoon pass to Govnr. Burma.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1516Z/2 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty. 1819A/4.) (page 115)

TONJER "Q" Following has been read. Addressed. Whitehall  
Report. W/T, Colombo, Freetown, from Simonstown W/T.  
Q.Q.Q.Q TONJER 21.00 S., 38.49 E., de ZSD  
(Jacobs Natal Radio.)  
(Freetown W/T 2019/2.)

Q Q Q Q TONJER challenged by unknown ship, he speeding north-  
wards de ZSD (Jacobs Natal Radio).  
(Freetown W/T, 2043/2.)  
Q Q Q Q received from TONJER in 021° 00' S. 038° 40' E. at  
2043. TONJER was challenged by unknown ship. EREBUS and  
MARGUERITE are to (?report) if this (?is) not them.  
(C. in C. E.I. 2136Z/2 to E.I. Station (R) Admty., N.O.I.C.  
Simonstown.)

/Your ...



War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

TONJER "Q"  
Report  
contd.      Your 2136Z. Not challenged by EREBUS,  
MARGUERITE not in company. My position 1800Z,  
025° 34' S. 035° 56' E.  
(EREBUS 2330Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Air Report      Air raid Singapore late p.m. 31/1, slight  
damage Kallang. Raid today bombs dropped on  
Naval Base.  
(A.H.Q. F.E. 0105/2.)

N.E. Australia and Abda Area      For Combined Chiefs of Staff from Gen. Wavell.  
Your DBA 5.  
1. I can well understand that threat via Rabaul  
must greatly concern Australia. I have not  
sufficient information here to estimate fully imminence of  
threat its dangers or means to meet it. In area already  
included in Abda I have at the moment to meet four separate  
attacks with most inadequate resources. I was compelled  
therefore to refuse Australian request for Squadron for Port  
Moresby as it was most urgently required elsewhere and I did not  
consider it would suffice to defend our communications through  
Torres Strait or that threat was so imminent as others further  
west.  
2. I agree that threat to Australia would cause demand for  
diversion of U.S. material intended for Abda. I do not however  
consider that it would therefore be sound to make me responsible  
for covering north east approaches to Australia which would  
involve virtual assumption of responsibility for defence of  
N.E. Australia since impossible to divorce defence of approaches  
by air from defence by other means. Understand Anzac Naval  
area already set up. Should like to be informed of its scope.  
3. Abda area already stretches for over 5000 miles from north  
of Burma to Gulf of Carpentaria and for nearly 2500 miles from  
north to south. I do not think it advisable to extend this  
area any further. I have difficulty enough already in dis-  
tributing my resources to cover it. See my telegram A.W.4 of  
29/1 also 00576 31/1 to Sturdee.  
4. I consider that distribution of resources between  
Australia and Abda area must be responsibility of higher  
authority in the same way as they now decide between Mideast  
and Abda.  
5. Your signal received corrupt but trust above covers main  
points.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0340/2 to J.S.M. Washington.)

/Moulmein ...

War Diary.

2.2.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Moulmein Evacuated. Rangoon Raids. Situation Report. 1300 hrs G.M.T./1/2. Our troops Moulmein were evacuated to Martaban under shelling and M.G. fire. All mountain guns and ammunition and most equipment got away. Japanese building rafts at Kado Island (? successfully) bombed by 6 Blenheims with fighter escort. Air R/C saw no river craft on Salween up to 30 miles north and south of Cag (?e) in. Rangoon. 4 air raid warnings during the night. Mingaladon aerodrome bombed slight damage caused to D.F. station. Zayatkwinn L.G. also bombed without damage no casualties (?reported). (G.O.C. Burma 0415/2 to W.O.)

M.M/S. One motor M/S with machinery aboard but not fitted ready to tow away 4/2, 2 more ready shortly. When do you wish them sent. (R.A. Malaya 0940Z/2 to Abdafloat.)

Singapore Raids. 31/1. Singapore raided twice in morning. 27 twin engined bombers dropped bombs west of causeway mostly in Straits but a few landed in Johore causing fires. Second raid 25 plus aircraft dropped bombs on Keppel Harbour including Empire docks and locality fires started in godowns. Some civilian casualties. No damage to shipping. Our fighters intercepted and destroyed one enemy fighter, damaged one fighter and probably destroyed one bomber. Third raid 2140 hours, 3 aircraft dropped bombs near Causeway. Kluang aerodrome now reported in use by enemy. (A.H.Q. F.E. 0907/2.)

SWAN WARREGO. *See also p. 59* 00617 1/2. American unit Darwin departing westward soon as ready. U.S. A/C tender, SWAN and H.M.A.S. WARREGO remain Darwin to escort troops etc., to Koepang. (Abdafloat 0939/2 to C.C.C.F., N.O.I.C. Flinders, Admty., N.O.I.C. (Group omitted), N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.S.W., F.O.C. Australian Sqdn.)

TAKLIWA Left Singapore 30/1 for Palembang with following R.A.F. personnel. Vessel then continued to Bombay. C.C.C.F. pass to C.Z.M. (N.O.I.C. Malaya 0947Z/2 to C.C.C.F.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Situation. 030349 00653 cipher 1/2. Information number 9 to 1200Z/1. Para.1. Balik Papan. Enemy has reached point 20 km. S.E. of Samarinda. All Dutch aircraft removed from Samarinda but believed aerodrome not yet demolished.

Para.2. Pending decision tin mines at Banka and Billiton were partially put out of action.

Para.3. Yesterday enemy aircraft attacked shipping in Mantok roads (Banka) and hit one K.P.M. ship which had to be beached. Today attacks were made on - (a) Shipping near Koepang by 10 bombers and fighters without result and Penfoei aerodrome was ineffectively bombed. (b) Waingapoe (Soemba Island) by 18 fighters and bombers. No military damage. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1320/2 to W.O. for Cs of S. etc.)

Request for Aircraft Carrier. Following addressed J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No.(W) 26 (as Admty. 1543A/2 to B.A.D., see A. & W.I.) (W.O. 2000/2 to C. in C. S.W. Pacific)

Messages C.C.O.S. In order to ensure that your messages for Combined Chiefs of Staff are all received. Request you employ some form of numbered series similar to A.W. series for them. (J.S.M. Washington 2115R/2 to Abdacom.)

America and West Indies.

SAN JACINTO U/B. Intercept de W.S.C. (Tuckerton New Jersey Radio) de KJXS (S.JACINTO) SSSS, sighted two suspicious craft four miles from Morro Castle Lighthouse Puerto Rico. (Valentia Radio 0013/2 to Admty., Adm. Devonport.)

ESSO TRENTON CORILLA (U/Bs) Following U-Boat reports received. S.S. ESSO WILLIAMSBURG, S.S.S.37.30 N. 75.20 W. at 0344Z/2. S.S. CORILLA followed by Sub. 44.48 N. 61.40 W. at 0409Z/2. (B.A.D. 0051R/2 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

Following received. Intercept 0456 G.M.T. CORILLA. S/M seen half hour ago partly submerged please repeat Q T E of V A X and V A V (ends). Intercept 0457 G.M.T. CORILLA. Q T E V A V 73 V A X 230 all approx. (ends). Intercept 0457 G.M.T. CORILLA. Now resuming on course (ends) 0602/2. Not re-broadcast. Lands End Radio. (C. in C. Plymouth T.O.R. 0610/2.) CORILLA SSSS now torpedoed. (Valentia Radio 0551/2.)

/Intercept ...

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

ESSO TRENTON Intercept 0553 G.M.T. SSSS CORILLA now  
CORILLA torpedoed 0545. Above re-broadcast 0554 G.M.T.  
(U/Bs) on 500 Kcs by V C O. 0657/2. Lands End Radio.  
contd. (C. in C. Plymouth, T.O.R. 0702/2.)  
Intercepted 0612 G.M.T. SSSS CORILLA last position  
44.48 N. 61.37 W. at 0400 G.M.T. Send help  
immediately, we are sinking. (Burnham on Sea Radio, No T.O.O/2)  
Message incompletely received. Torpedoed last position 0400.  
44° 49' N., 61° 37' W., can't send flares, Benzine all over sea.  
(? T.O.R. 0627/2.)

ESSO TRENTON Following has been read. Received 0344 G.M.T.  
SSSS 37.30 N. 75.20 W. ESSO TRENTON de VCS.  
(? 0417Z/2.)

N.A.3. Your 1046A/1. Correct my 2047Z/31 to read  
N.A.3. Figures should read 4800 army, 2000 air,  
total 6800.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0056Z/2 to Admty.)

U/B D/F bearing at 1836Z shows S/M within 100 miles  
of 042° 30' N., 051° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0219Z/2 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav,  
C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

U/Bs. S/M sighted by U.S.C.G plane off Nantucket  
Light. Army plane sighted enemy S/Ms at 038°  
47' N. 075° 00' W.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0403/2 to C.N.A. N.C.F.  
(R) C. in C. A.F., Admty., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.  
Halifax, U.S.S. POLARIS, ALMAAK, C. in C. A.W.I.  
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

s.s. CASTLE My 1024P/24. (Re crew of CASTLE HARBOUR and  
HARBOUR. voyage to Suez). Request reply. In the event  
of CASTLE HARBOUR being permanently manned by  
Mercantile crew, presume all armament should be  
removed.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0844P/2 to Admty) Reply  
1340/5).

MARON, Your 1810A/31 MARON sailed a.m./2. CAVINA will  
CAVINA. not be ready to sail until 7/2.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0942P/2 to S.O.W.P.)

U/B D/F bearing at 0015Z placed enemy S/M within 100  
miles of 042° N., 052° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0952Z/2 to British Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C.  
F.O.N.F.)

/U/B...

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- U/B D/F Bearings at 0508Z indicate enemy submarine within 100 miles of 042° N. 050° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1201Z/2 to Brit. Warships Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)
- M/V Losses. Re policy of the Navy Department to announce shipping losses. (D.P.D., 1228A/2 to B.A.D.)
- 55 QUEEN ELIZABETH fuelling. Your 1835R/31 para. (V). Now intended that BISHOPDALE proceed direct to Australian port to discharge balance of cargo after fuelling QUEEN ELIZABETH. A.C.N.B. is requested to route her accordingly. 2. Admty. 1400A/1, you are requested to give oiler MINISTER WEDEL necessary instructions to proceed to fill Tahiti Tanks both grades to maximum capacity, balance of cargo to be at disposal of U.S. Navy. Vessel to return Curacao when empty. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1250A/2 to B.A.D.)
- U/B. D/F bearings at 0609Z and 0743Z indicate enemy submarine within 100 miles of 044° 30' N. 053° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1319Z/2 to Brit. warships in area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)
- O.15. D.S. O.15 sailed for Philadelphia escorted by FREDERICTON. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1330Z/2 to Admty. etc.)
- ARICA (French) Arrival 1st. Departure 2nd, Newport News. (Granada 1445/2 to M. of W.T.)
- W.L. STEED torpedoed. Following has been read. Intercepted 1750 G.M.T. S S S S 38.25 N. 73° W. W.L. STEED, going down. From V C S 7 (Camperdown N.S.) (Halifax W/T No T.O.O./2.)
- U.S. Tanker W.L. STEED reported to have been torpedoed at 1748Z/2 in 38.25 N. 73.00 W. (B.A.D. 1521R/2 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

/Request ...

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Request for Aircraft Carrier by Abdacom. Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 26. Ref. Abdacom No.00522 of 30/1 addressed W.O. for C.O.S. and repeated to you for combined Chiefs of Staff (N.T. in W.D.)

1. We cannot make carrier available for this service. Only contribution we can make is to allow aircraft transport ship ATHENE to do one trip after delivering 39 Hurricanes in Java on about 6/2.

2. Hope it may be possible for U.S. to supply carrier. Telegraph what you have arranged.

3. This signal has been repeated to Abdacom. (1st S.L. 1543A/2 to B.A.D.)

U/B D/F bearing at 0934Z/2 indicated S/M within 100 miles of 45° N. 42° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1546Z/2 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/B. D/F bearing at 1153Z/2 placed submarine within 100 miles of 043° N. 044° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1616Z/2 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

BURWELL. Ref. 1710/31 and ref. B.A.R.M's 1634/30. Intend sailing Halifax 1200R/3. B.A.R.M. pass to authorities concerned. (BURWELL 1625R/2 to B.A.R.M. etc.)

U/Bs D/F bearings indicate S/Ms within 100 miles (a) 042° N. 046° W. at 1110Z/2. (b) 042° N. 047° W. at 1230Z/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1643Z/2 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

ALCANTARA. My 0109Z/30. Your 1242R/1. As accommodation available in other ships for N.A.3 does not meet requirements for number who will be ready to embark it is desired to fill ALCANTARA to capacity. As she will sail in N.A.3 about 12/2 assume no restrictions as to numbers. Admty. 1552A/23/1 refers. Request: (a) Early report on number which can be embarked at Halifax. (b) E.T.A. Halifax. (c) If any cargo space will be available at Halifax assuming personnel will embark to capacity. (d) That N.O.I.C. Halifax N.S., be informed of additional cooks and staffs required. Norfolk pass to ALCANTARA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1724Z/2 to B.A.R.M.) Replies: Admty. 1927/4, B.A.R.M. 1620/3.)

/Your ...

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.contd:ALCANTARA  
contd.

Your 1242/1 (not to all addressees) proposed time of departure 2200 G.M.T./3. E.T.A. 1130 G.M.T/16 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa please pass to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.& W.I., R.A.S.A.D. (ALCANTARA 1900Z/2 to B.A.R.M.)

Your 1401/221 estimated minimum number of upper deck ratings required for safety is P.Os 3, L.S. 3, A.Bs 36. This will permit manning of S.R. Armament of 3 twin colts only requiring total of 16 hands if 4 inch A/A required add a further 14 hands. No allowance made for signalmen, artisans, telegraphists, E.R. or victualling departments. Admty. please pass to necessary Home authorities. (ALCANTARA 1915Z/2 to Admty.)

BARON ERSKINE

A.M. 1614A/22. Have you any news of BARON ERSKINE from S.C. 62? (D.T.D. 1802A/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) Reply: None (2028Z/3)

Intelligence re German Ships and raider prizes.

2/1 C two following ships which Germans have converted to supply ships for raiders and S/Ms have been seen in following ports - Bordeaux - SPEY BANK (? NORDVARD) TANNENFELS, CAP-SIM, Nantes MONSUM ex SANDEFJORD, PASSAT (ex STORSTAD), PYTHON, St. Nazaire SPICHERN, FRIEDRICH-BREME.

Some of tanks converted to carry water stores ammunition etc., they are armed with one or two 105 mm guns and several A guns and machine guns and have oiling at sea equipment both sides. Raider supply ships carry twenty torpedoes, S/Ms supply ships hundred torpedoes, two thirds electric driven (B.A.D. Washington 1839R/2 to Admty.)

O.I.C. Comment. FRIEDRICH BREME was sunk in 1941. There is no information about PYTHON but other reports have been received that vessels of the Laiesz Line have been converted to supply ships. TANNENFELS returned from Kismayu in 1941 and is a sister ship of Raider 16(C) and 33(F), which have both been sunk. CAP-SIM 1906 tons 14 knots was last reported at Bordeaux. SPEY BANK, NORDVARD, STORSTAD (re-named PASSAT), SANDEFJORD (re-named MONSUM) are raider prizes and are known to have reached French ports. The above report is considered substantially correct.

U/B

D/F bearing at 1426Z/2 places S/M within 100 miles of 042° 30' N. 050° 30' W. (Ottawa 1852Z/2 to Admty.)

AEGEUS  
ILISSOS  
collision.

AEGEUS and ILISSOS in collision at about 2300Z/1. Damage to ILISSOS believed to be slight. AEGEUS holed in number 2 hold. She abandoned ship about 1000Z/2. Crew picked up by CRAGPOOL. Crew returned to ship after armed party sent by

BURNHAM. Ship appears in no danger. She and CRAGPOOL now proceeding escorted by SUMMERSIDE, course 088° speed 7½ knots. Approx, position 054° 33' N. 031° 00' W. Weather report. (BURNHAM 1916Z/2 to U.S. C. of N.O. (R) Admty., C. in C. A.F. (U.S.) C. in C. W.A., Cdr. Task Force 4, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

/Escort ...

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Escort  
Groups.

My 1625/29. C. in C. Lant concurs in scheme (A) but without escort groups containing U.S. ships keeping guard on Washington broadcast. 2. Request information whether Admty. agrees with this scheme. (B.A.D. 1927R/2 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q. Concur with scheme A. (D.S.D. 0247A/5.)

U.S.S/M  
Smoke  
Signal.

A.M. 1318/10 (37A) para 13 and C. in C. A.W.I. 1936/29 not for Admty. There appears to be some misunderstanding as to use of yellow smoke candle as standby for U.S. Submarines. U.S. Submarines are not supplied with smoke candles which float on surface. When submerged they employ day smoke grenade which is projected in air using colours from S.P.02293 (substituting black for blue). The use of yellow smoke candle as a standby is therefore not applicable to U.S. Submarines. Request para.15 of A.M. may be cancelled. Steps are being taken by Navy Dept., to clarify position to U.S. Authorities. (B.A.D. 1955R/2 to Admty.)

Convoy  
Instructions.

(A) In order to allow Commodores of Convoy more latitude in selecting the best course to steer having regard to the prevailing wind and sea conditions it is desired to issue the following instructions - begins (1) When the wind and sea conditions are such that the Commodore finds the convoy cannot make good the route ordered he is to request the S.O. of the escort to pass to the Admty., or Opnav the course and speed which he recommends the convoy should make good. (2) Admty. or Opnav will signal concurrence or otherwise of the proposed new route having regard to the U-boat situation and positions of other convoys. Admty. and Opnav will each keep the other informed of the action taken. (3) Report in para. 1 is to be made by the S.O. of the escort on the appropriate H.F. wave. Transmitting ship need not leave the convoy to make this report. (B) Request you will obtain Opnav's early concurrence to these proposals. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1959A/2 to B.A.D.)

Anzac  
Agreement.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No.(W) 27. Your 1821R/30 and 1823R/30. We do not wish to promulgate revised Anzac Agreement until question raised by Mr. Frazer and referred to in our C.O.S. (W) 18 is settled. We have already taken this up with Prime Minister. (1st S.L. 2001A/2 to B.A.D.)

/Air R/C ...



War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Air R/C in  
Abda,  
Australia  
and Anzac  
Areas.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No.(W) 17. Our ability to deal with Japanese expeditions depends on adequate R/C. We think that the numbers available for Abda Australia and Anzac areas must be considered in relation to the general distribution of U.S. flying boats. 2. We have received request for 9

Catalinas for Australia and are proposing to meet this by sending 6 in February and 3 in March from those we receive from the U.S.A. releases to Canada. 3. Please take up question with U.S. Chiefs of Staff of diverting other flying boats from Western seaboard area to the S.W. Pacific areas. (1st S.L. 2005A/2 to B.A.D.)

MAYENNE  
(French)

Meter. Algiers 31/1 (B.2) MAYENNE sailed from Philippeville 24/1 for Marseilles with 12 tons of crude rubber. (B.A.D. 2021R/2 to Admty.)

Tunis  
Intelligence.

Meter. Tunis. 30/1 B.3. U.S. Consul reports that it is planned to send an average of two ships a week from France to Tunis with supplies for onward forwarding to Libya. The first ship is the ST. ETIENNE due to arrive during first days of February with trucks and about 1,000 tons supplies, to be forwarded from Tunis to Libya by truck and rail. Control of railroads in Tunis has been handed over to French Delegation Du Service D'Armistice which is more amenable to German requests than the authorities previously in control. This has been done under pressure from Darlan. Consul suggests that the B.B.C. should bring these shipments to the attention of the local inhabitants, local officials are reported depressed at the trend of events. (B.A.D. 2031R/2 to Admty.)

N.I.D. Comment: (i) There has recently been more evidence of increasing supplies for Libya, clandestine shipments of which from France have been reported since last November. (ii) ST. ETIENNE has previously been reported (B.2) as leaving Marseilles on 23/1 for Sfax with Italian provisions and lorries. (iii) A further report (B.2 of 26/1) stated that French ships ST. GERMAIN, NANTAISE and BOUGARONI were to leave Marseilles 26th, 27th, and 29/1 with Italian lorries for Tunisia. (iv) P.W.E. is being pressed to take action in accordance with U.S. Consul's suggestion.

U/B.

D/F Bearings at 1217Z/2 indicated submarine within 50 miles of 042° N. 045° 30' W. Further bearings at 1640Z placing submarine at 041° 30' N. 045° 30' W. may have originated from same unit.  
\* (Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O. A.C., F.O.N.F.)  
\* N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2058Z/2.

War Diary.2.2.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

WARREGO Your 1745/29. Intend to sail WARREGO and SWAN  
SWAN. 2/2 to assist in escorting American Base Force  
Unit proceeding Tjilatjap. WARREGO and SWAN  
will be detached by S.O. of Escort on reaching  
010° 30' S. 116° 30' E. Request you will direct their sub-  
sequent movements. No escort is at present available at Darwin  
for troop movements detailed in C. in C. A.F. 0725/31.  
(D.N.O. Port Darwin 0026Z/2 to Abdafloat.)  
In view of Abdafloat's 0740/1 (not to Admty.) cancel my  
0026/2. *See p. 51.*  
(D.N.O. Port Darwin 0849Z/2 to Abdafloat.)

Situation Digest serial No.13 from C.W.R. 9 single engine  
aircraft attacked Salamoia 2232Z/31. 9 type 97  
flying boats bombed Wau 1/2. W/T contact re-  
established with Salamoia via Port Moresby  
Aeradio.  
(A.C.N.B. 0954Z/2 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.,  
C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.Z.N.B.,  
C.Z.M., Opnav, C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet.,  
C. in C. Asiatic Fleet.)

Convoy A.C.N.B. 1100Z/2.  
Situation. Note.- This signal was cancelled by A.C.N.B.  
1842Z/4.

U.S. Ships (Pass to F.O. as telegram No.7 from Consul,  
at Bora Bora. Papeete) (begins) Having heard indistinct  
report of presence of U.S. Navy Ships at Bora  
Bora, Governor sent local Free French Navy  
Schooner OISEAU DES ILES there on 23/1. (Before receipt of  
your 1000M/24). U.S. Fleet Auxiliary SUMNER was found there,  
and oiler RAMAPOX arrived there a.m./29. OISEAU DES ILES has  
returned to Papeete but is going back to Bora Bora on her  
way to Raratonga. (See my immediately following telegram  
to Wellington only). C.O. of OISEAU DES ILES reports SUMNER  
is taking soundings and is blasting (head) of entrance  
anchorage to enlarge it. Relations with local French  
Administration reported quite satisfactory. Ships may remain  
fortnight but no information was vouchsafed as to possibility  
of early arrival of other units.  
(N.Z.N.B. 1904M/2 to Admty.)

AQUITANIA. B.A.D. Washington's 1455/31. Request you will  
inform B.A.D. Washington and Admty. of estimated  
draught of AQUITANIA on arrival at Honolulu.  
(D.O.D.(F) 2013A/2 to A.C.N.B.) Reply 0838/5.

War Diary.

2.2.1942  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1415A/2, 1434A/2.)

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Peterhead inner harbour was closed at 1014 on account of the weather.

KINGSTON AGATE reported an armed merchant raider at 1325 in 236° 62' N., 6° W., 35 miles, steering south. Also ~~seeing~~ A/C in same pos. - See p. 69 770

The Admiralty today gave orders for certain measures to be taken to intercept the enemy main units at Brest if, as is thought to be most probable, they break eastward up the Channel to their home ports.

Mediterranean.

There were several alerts at Malta last night and this morning; slight damage was caused at Hal Far and serious damage to a slipway at Kalafrana; a Naval unit is reported to have been damaged at Kalafrana but was able to proceed (A.S.O.S. 440). The aerodromes at Hal Far and Ta Kali are flooded.

At 0210B aircraft despatched to attack a 5,000 ton merchant vessel seen p.m./2 anchored in 35° 29' N. 11° 6' E., awaiting escort from the north, secured 2 hits.

East Indies.

Tanker SPONDILUS was torpedoed 40 miles 193° from Colombo at 1405Z today but made harbour safely. She claims 2 hits with gunfire on the U-boat.

China.

The Admiralty are still without knowledge of what U.S. Naval, Army and Air forces are in the Abda area or what reinforcements are on the way or projected. Lacking this information the Admiralty cannot make their own arrangements for reinforcements.

/Burma...

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

- Burma.                   Toungoo Aerodrome (Rangoon) was bombed at 2215 G.M.T. two bombs fell on the runway.
- Malaya.                   There were many air raids on Singapore this morning; an oil tank was set on fire at Kranji Oil Fuel Depot. The main objectives were the Empire dock and harbour area; considerable damage was caused in the dock area.
- Air attacks on shipping south of Singapore.           Japanese aircraft made several attacks on shipping south of Singapore yesterday and today. S.S. KATONG was sunk and M.V. NORAH MOLLER was set on fire and abandoned in Banka Strait; LOCH RANZA was set on fire and beached in Berhala Strait. TALHYBIUS was set on fire in Singapore harbour and tanker PINNA on fire in 0° 52' S., 104° 19' E.
- N.E.I. and Borneo.           26 bombers escorted by fighters attacked Surabaya today. 3 Catalinas were destroyed on the water and considerable damage was caused to the town. Malang and Madioen were heavily attacked and 4 aircraft were destroyed at Malang. At the time of the attack all Dutch fighters were out of action due to previous damage by the enemy. Low flying aircraft met with no opposition and attacked at will. The bombers are thought to have come from both Balik Papan and Kendari and the fighters from a carrier in Java Sea. A.A. guns were being landed today at Batavia for defence of the above places and fighter aircraft for their defence are on the way from Australia. It is thought the enemy are trying to destroy our aircraft before attacking the naval base. The aerodromes at Madioen and Koepang were also attacked, though little damage was caused.
- A Naval striking force is being collected at the southern end of the Macassar Strait.
- A further air attack was made today on Kota Baroe Lant Island, which is in flames.
- Philippines.           The enemy are reported to have made 2 further unsuccessful attempts to force a landing in rear of the U.S. Bataan position: Japanese naval gunnery in the area was ineffective.

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Swedish S.S. AMERIKALAND was torpedoed at 0130Z in 36° 36' N., 74° 10' W.

U.S. Tanker PAN-MASSACHUSETTS reported sighting a submarine at 0900 G.M.T. in 37° 30' N., 75° 16' W.

Corvette DAUPHIN reported that she was attacked by torpedo at 1800Z in 47° 5' N., 51° 0' W. The ship was not hit.

An unknown ship (?S.S. ATLANTIC TRADER or FRANK J. PETERSEN) reported a suspicious craft, apparently a U-Boat in 32° 17' N., 80° 10' W., at 2347 G.M.T.

A Navy plane sighted a submarine at 2348 G.M.T. 20 miles south west of the Farallones.

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

H.F. Stores in BLENHEIM. My 0226A/3. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Request BLENHEIM may bring stores for H.F. Ships in following order of priority: (A) Officers mess stores (B) Naval Stores for SHEFFIELD and KENT. (C) Clothing for SUFFOLK. (2) Naval Stores for RODNEY should be kept ready for despatch at short notice in BLENHEIM. (C. in C. H.F.0228A/3 to A.C.O.S.) Your 2204A/30. Only certain ships can visit Scapa to replenish and this cannot be guaranteed. (2) Present state of ships is as follows. Details. (4) Naval Stores. Carrier from Scapa will be required unless BLENHEIM can bring all naval stores for SHEFFIELD, KENT and probably RODNEY. This should meet immediate requirements but, should present dispositions continue, other arrangements for the future will have to be made. (C. in C. H.F. 0230A/3 to Admty.)

CONQUEROR. It is proposed that CONQUEROR should be temporarily employed for the instruction of D.E.M.S. Officers and Ratings in the use of some of the most recent miscellaneous weapons. Estimated instructional programme could be completed in four days. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1459A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Lights for aircraft. Navigational lights for guidance of returning aircraft are only to be exhibited on orders from the Admiralty in accordance with Scheme B. 2. There have been some instances lately of exhibition being arranged locally. (Admty. 1742A/3 to all C's in C. F.O.s in.C. & N.O.s in.C. at home.)

FROBISHER. On completion of Trials request you will sail FROBISHER to Scapa to work up. (D.O.D.(H.) 1902A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

M.L.'s from ST. CHRISTOPHER. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Your 1101/2. No M.L.'s can be spared from training at ST. CHRISTOPHER. (D.D.O.D.(C.) 1932A/3 to WESTERN ISLES.)  
(Base Ship, Fort William)

Polish Air Personnel for U.K. Your X.372 29/1. For Crowe from Collier. 1. Admiral Miles is now visiting Archangel and Murmansk and will consider on spot problems connected with evacuation of Poles. 4. Will send final recommendations when Miles and Polish N.A. return to Moscow. Most unlikely we shall recommend further evacuation via north until Archangel ice free. (Britlistaff, Moscow 2243/3 to Air Ministry.)

Movements.

SCIMITAR. My position 057° 16' N. 012° 50' W.  
(SCIMITAR 0700A/3.)

/UTMOST....

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Measures to intercept enemy main units at Brest.

Admty. appreciate most probable course of action of enemy ships now at Brest will be to break eastward up the Channel and so to their home ports. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to operate MANXMAN as he thinks best and to sail WELSHMAN for Portsmouth complete with mines as soon as possible. WELSHMAN to be placed under operational orders of V.A. Dover.

C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange for 6 destroyers with torpedo armament to be at 4 hours notice in the Thames Estuary ready to operate as ordered by V.A. Dover.

The additional risk to trade convoys on the East Coast must be accepted. The C. in C. is further requested to hold up to 6 M.T.Bs. available for operations as ordered by V.A. Dover.

(V.C.N.S., 1252A/3.)



War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- UTMOST. BREDA and UTMOST proceeding to Clyde speed 9 knots. (BREDA 0820A/3.)  
BREDA escorting UTMOST in 275° Trevose Head 5 miles at 1430/3. Proceeding Holy Loch at 7 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 1442A/3 to MANXMAN)
- WALPOLE. My position 62 B buoy. Southbound 12 knots.  
QUORN. QUORN in company. (WALPOLE 0906A/3)
- CUMBERLAND. Proceed to pass Hoxa 1930 today to Rosyth. One  
WOLSEY. destroyer from Rosyth Command will R/V at 23 buoy at 0630/4 and provide S.A. escort. (R.A.D. 1037A/3 to CUMBERLAND.)  
Your 1401/2. Owing to shortage of destroyers WOLSEY only will be sent to R/V with CUMBERLAND at 23 buoy at 0630/4 to S.A. escort her thence to Rathground Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 1157/3.)  
Sailing CUMBERLAND for Rosyth. E.T.A. 0730/4. (R.A.D. H.F. 1930A/3.)
- RODNEY. A.M. 1352/26 and C. in C. H.F. 2207/27. Request confirmation that date of arrival of RODNEY will be signalled by 7/2 so that delivery of replace guns may be arranged, (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1201A/3 to Admty.)
- AURANIA. Anticipate AURANIA will be ready for sea A.M./12. 2. Intend that only outfit of 6 inch H.E.T.F. and H.A. ammunition be embarked. (S.O.W.P. 1214A/3 to Admty.)
- FORMIDABLE. My 1445A/2. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1350A/3.)
- ESCAPADE. My 1209A/2. Amend as follows. Capt. (D) 3 is  
PANTHER. to sail ESCAPADE and PANTHER in company to Scapa when PANTHER has refuelled p.m. today. (C. in C. H.F. 1416A/3.)
- M.L.'s for Portsmouth. F.O.I.C. Portland's 1615/2. The eight M.L.'s are to be sailed to Portsmouth where they are to be retained under the operational orders of C. in C. Portsmouth until further orders. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1502A/3.)
- BLLENHEIM. R.A.D.H.F. 1458A/1. BLYSKAWICA detailed. (C. in C. W.A. 1502A/3 to R.A.D.H.F.)
- CLEOPATRA. Stores and clothing to complete first issue and stocks to usual basis have not yet arrived though expected any moment. In view of importance of sailing as complete as possible propose to defer sailing if necessary up to 0800/5th which should still enable me to arrive Gibraltar night of 8th. (CLEOPATRA 1522/3.)  
/Intend ...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. contd:

- CLEOPATRA  
contd. Intend sailing CLEOPATRA passing Clyde boom  
1400A/4. Thence as in C. in C. W.A. 1423A/1  
to Gibraltar. E.T.A. 2030Z/8.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1544A/3.)  
Your 1522/3 approved.  
(D.O.D. (F.) 2328A/3 to CLEOPATRA.)
- O.14. Proceed to Lerwick unescorted. LOCH MONTEITH  
has left R/V owing to weather conditions.  
(Capt. S.9 1525A/3 to O.14.)
- WELSHMAN. Request you sail WELSHMAN to Portsmouth as soon  
as ready and without waiting for completion of  
boiler repairs. Ship should arrive at  
daylight 4th. (C. in C. Plymouth 1530/3 to  
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
Sailed 1655A/3. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1740A/3.)
- CONQUEROR. My 1459A/3. Intend sailing CONQUEROR 1130A/4  
to arrive Campbeltown 1730A/4. Request firing  
area and A/C may be allocated. CONQUEROR  
returns to Belfast on completion of practices.  
It is also requested that arrangements may be  
made for similar practices from 1000A/7 to  
1300A/7. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1732A/3 to F.O.I.C.  
Greenock.)
- JAVELIN. My 1945/13/1. JAVELIN delayed. Anticipate  
sailing her 6/2. (C. in C. Plymouth 1743/3.)
- TRINIDAD. Intend sailing TRINIDAD for Scapa passing Clyde  
Boom 1800A/4. E.T.A. 1700A/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1828A/3.)

Operations.

- Brest  
S/M Patrol. H.50 is to proceed to patrol vicinity of position  
number 53, 47° 44' N. 06° 20' W.  
(F.O.S. 0214A/3.)  
After passing through position (F) H.43 is to  
proceed direct to patrol position number 52,  
47° 03' N. 07° 20' W. (F.O.S. 0216A/3.)
- Intend to sail SEALION at 1430/3 via Q.Z.S. 111, 169 diving  
by day through (a) 50° 12' N. 1° 18' W. (b) 49° 15' N. 05° W.,  
thence as routed by F.O. (S) to patrol in Bay of Biscay.  
(Capt. S.5. 1044A/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
(A) Request you sail SEALION as soon as ready for patrol in  
position number 54, 47° 46' N. 5° 42' W., routed as follows.  
Object as in my 1453A/29/1. (B) SEALION is to be prepared  
when ordered to intercept enemy between positions (x) 048° 03' N.  
005° 12' W. and (y) 047° 50' N. 004° 36' W. Attention is  
called to Messages QZX 280 and 303. (C) Should enemy activity  
or proximity of fishing craft make the compromising of patrol

/positions ...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Brest  
S/M Patrol  
contd.

positions probable, SEALION is to withdraw South Eastwards without if possible increasing distance from track mentioned in Para. (B). (F.O.S. 1126A/3.)  
SEALION sailed at 1450. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537A/3)(Capt. S.S. 1617A/3 to S/M's Area A.)  
Cancel my 1534A/27/1. Substitute UTMOST. (F.O.S. 1821A/3 to S/M's Area A.)

Operation  
"Canter".

Operation "Canter" Portsmouth 0221/90 of 28/1/42 is cancelled. Request all copies be destroyed by fire. The standing instructions should not be destroyed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1227A/3 to 5th Corps, TORMENTOR, etc.)

Operation  
N R.

Prepare to carry out operation N R between 7/2 and 14/2. (V.A. Dover 1528A/3 to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.)

Patrols.

Harwich and Brightlingsea auxiliary patrols remaining in harbour until weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1632A/3.)  
Estimate at 2158 tonight. Cruiser and 2 corvettes on patrol "White" (A.C.I.C. 1700A/3.)

Attack on  
Dutch  
Schools.

Sailed 1750 KUJAWIAK, ATHERSTONE. Books landed in accordance with A.F.O. S.149/41. (C. in C. Plymouth 1812/3.)

CAMPBELL,  
VIVACIOUS,  
etc.

CAMPBELL, VIVACIOUS, VESPER, MACKAY, WHITSHED, WALPOLE are to remain at normal notice for steam as laid down in N.O.M. one. They may be required to operate under orders of V.A. Dover. (C. in C. Nore 1838A/3.)

A/S Search.  
THIRLMERE.  
NAMSOS.  
WISTARIA.

THIRLMERE and NAMSOS are to carry out A/S search 24 hours of area between entrance to Seidis Fjord Glettinganes and Q.Z.X. 385. A Northropp A/C will carry out A/S search of area tomorrow. WISTARIA being sent to Seidis Fjord to act under these orders. (A.C.I.C. 1902A/3.)

British Air Activity.Escort for  
LONDONDERRY.

Your 0230A/3. <sup>see next page</sup> Air escort will be sent as soon as weather permits. Anticipate it will arrive about 1100A/3. (C. in C. W.A. 0409A/3 to LONDONDERRY.)  
My 0409A/3. Weather will not permit of air escort being sent today. (C. in C. W.A. 1113A/3 to LONDONDERRY.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. - contd.

Operation E M. R.A.(D) H.F. 1107/2. Escort by Catalina Aircraft will be provided today if flying conditions improve. Pair of Blenheims will escort you throughout daylight hours tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 0703/3 to CITY OF DURBAN.) My 0703/3. Expect Catalinas about 1000/4 to be relieved by Blenheims later if weather permits. (C. in C. Rosyth 2301/3 to CITY OF DURBAN)

A/C for Manston. Admiralty's 2146A/2. Weather permitting intend 3 Swordfish and 1 spare Swordfish to leave Lee-on-Solent for Manston at 1100 today with torpedoes. (R.A.N.A.S. 1003A/3.)

R.A.N.A.S. 1003A/3. Owing to weather A/C unlikely to leave today. (N.A.S. Lee 1144A/3 to Manston.) My 2146A/2. All six aircraft of 825 Squadron now at Lee are now required to move to Manston as soon as weather permits. The Squadron Commander is to operate only those crews which he considers would contribute to the achievement of the object. (D.N.A.D. 2043A/3 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Patrols. Executive "Fuller". (H.Q.C.C. 1645/3.) "Stopper" to be flown as soon as possible. (H.Q.C.C. 1705/3.) Patrol "Habo" to be flown as soon as possible. (H.Q.C.C. 1800/3.)

Bombing restriction. Request surface bombing restrictions from 2005/3 to 0600/4 10 miles either side of line joining Start Point and Cape La Hague. (C. in C. Plymouth 1736/3 to H.Q.C.C.)

818, 820, and 888 Squadrons. Situation of Squadrons at Machrihanish, Donibristle and Abbotsinch. Details. (N.A.S. Machrihanish 2001A/3 to FORMIDABLE.)

Enemy Air Activity.

LONDONDERRY. D/F bearings indicate am being shadowed. My P.C.S. (?53°) 54' N. (corrupt group) 34' W. 072° 7½, altering course to 052° at 0100Z. (LONDONDERRY 0230A/3.)

CULVER (sunk 31/1.) At 2135Z/31 in 48° 43' N. 20° 14' W. CULVER was attacked. Sub. Lieut. and 12 ratings picked up. Sub. Lieut. and four ratings on loan in group. (LONDONDERRY 2059A/3.)  
(by U.105 <sup>air</sup> ~~not~~)  
See 31/1 - p. 908 -

Convoy "Miracle". One A/C shadowing convoy "Miracle". My position 61° 47' N. 12° W. (ST. ELSTAN 1105/3.)

/Position ...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Miracle". Position 1220Z/3 061° 50' N. 012° 16' W., course 338°, speed 8 knots. Have been sighted by F.W. aircraft. Propose altering to 293° at 1800Z and 27° at 0200Z/4. (ST. ELSTAN 1405A/3.)

Faroes. From KINGSTON AGATE, one unidentified A/C bound 180°, 236° 62' N. 6° W. 35 miles. (A.C.O.S. 1325/3 to Admty.)

Aircraft presumed hostile distinguished as Dornier. Fired one round. Disappeared heading North. (KINGSTON AGATE 1350A/3.)

One unidentified A/C over Faroes today between 1315 and 1355. No incident reported. KINGSTON AGATE's 1325/3rd and 1350/3rd probably refer. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1555A/3.) *See next page.*

A/C crashed (FYLDEA). My 2230A/30. Plane was Junkers 88 which suddenly appeared through snow at approximately 100 feet and 200 M.P.H. Saw ship and, in attempting to avoid her, side slipped and crashed into sea. Fire not opened by ships. Body recovered aged 21. (F.O. Humber 1621/3.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Following received from Master of T.H.V. ALERT begins. Greatly appreciate work of minesweepers attached to ALERT during operations in Swin Channels week ending 31/1/42. It was observed that the minesweeping operations were carried out with extreme thoroughness and regard to the safety of T.H.V. ALERT. Ends. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1049A/3.)  
Your 1648C/2. Vessels reported as destroyers are believed to be minelayers. It is thought that Germans are carrying out minelaying operations between Lofoten Islands and Nordkap in order to safeguard the inner leads. (D.D.I.C. 1253A/3 to Ad. Miles.)

S.N.17. Operation S.N.17 completed. (R.A.M.1914A/3.) Arrived R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, NEWARK, LANCASTER, and WELLS. (R.A.M. 2015/3.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping movements plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/2 to 0900/3. Track E 2 D, 3 plus vessels eastbound at 12 to 14 knots from Boulogne at 1754, faded at 2020, six and a half miles North of Gravelines. Probably 'M' class minesweepers. Track E 7 D, six vessels westbound at 16 knots from 8 miles N.E. of Calais at 0430, entered Boulogne at 0630. Probably E 2 D returning to Boulogne. (V.A. Dover 1002A/3.)

/North ...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - contd.

North Norwegian Coast. Your 16480/2. Vessels reported as Destroyers are believed to be Minelayers. (D.D.I.C. 1253A/3.) See Mining.

Raider. One armed merchant raider, unknown, bearing 090° one mile, course 180° position 236° 62' N. 6° W. 35 miles. (KINGSTON AGATE 1325/3.)  
*See previous page.*

Norwegian coastal traffic. (a) South coast. Convoys are now proceeding only by day between Larvik Kristiansands and Stavenger. (b) Northern Norway. In open waters ships are believed to be proceeding also by night. (c) Confirmed that Narvik traffic very much restricted. Graded B 2. (N.A. Stockholm 1841/3.)  
Comment. (a) This may be due to ice conditions. (b) Probably correct but Convoys in Northern Norway frequently anchor for some of the dark hours. (c) Believed correct.

U-Boats.

Convoy N.A.2. There is reason to believe that you have been shadowed by one or two U-Boats for over 24 hours. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1348A/3 to FIREDRAKE.)  
See Shipping. p. 72

Off Brest on 31/1. Sighted Westbound U-Boat on patrol position at 2310A/31. (UTMOST 1447A/3.)  
UTMOST reports U-Boat in 47° 25' N. 6° 30' W. at 2310A/31/1 Westbound. (F.O.S. 1844A/3 to Admty.)

Contact. Doubtful contact obtained in 059° 06' N. 025° 25' W. at 2000. (ASPHODEL 2001A/3.)

Navigational.

Peterhead. Duty ship withdrawn from station. Inner Harbour closed. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1014/3.)

H.3 Buoy. Commodore F N620 reports light on H.3 buoy extinguished at approx. 0600/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1121/3.)

West Dunnet and Wreck Buoys. West Dunnet Light Buoy, and wreck-marking Light Buoy 277° 1.4 miles from Inchkeith Light, both reported extinguished. (C. in C. Rosyth 1806/2.)

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

EUTHALIA (Greek) 3553 tons) grounded. EUTHALIA with grain cargo grounded half cable north of Foulney Scar Buoy. Water will possibly get into cargo at H.W. Ship not able to keep steam for working derricks due to water in stokehold. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1034A/3.) My 1034A/3. EUTHALIA arrived L K Buoy 1030/2. Was passed through by examining Officer and arrival advised to Base by signal from P W S S 1150/2. On Base discovering ship was coming up - Channel the Harbour authorities were asked to hold her outside Loch which she reached at 1240. Ship left Belfast berth at 1310 to return down Channel on orders from Admiralty via this Base and grounded at 1340. Ship cracked at 0400/3. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1207A/3. S.S. BROOM (misnamed BAMBOO by Shipping Agents) has been held. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1248A/3.)

BRONXVILLE. ORMINSTER. (Grounded 21/1.) Your 1123A/12. Request tugs may be instructed to proceed to arrive Portaferry at 1000A/4 where further orders will be given by B.N.O. Ardglass. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1036A/3.) Intend to sail ST. OLAVES and CAROLINE MOLLER in accordance with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1123A/2 at 0200/4. E.T.A. Belfast 0900/4. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1246A/3.)

SELKIRK. My 1908/1. Further leaks developed in condenser. Sailing delayed at least another 48 hours. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1220/3.)

EDOUARD VAN VLAENDEREN. Your 1729N/8/11/41. Can further report yet be made on salvage of EDOUARD VAN VLAENDEREN. (D.S.V.P. 1545A/3 to A.C.I.C.)

EDINBURGH. Your 1224/31. <sup>N.T. n. W.D.</sup> Dates of completion and sailing are approved. 2. Every effort should be made to advance work on items detailed in \*A.M. 0105A/21/1 before ship sailed on 4/3. (D.O.D. (H.) 1846A/3 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.) \*N.T. n. W.D.

SOUTHERN PRINCE. SOUTHERN PRINCE will be unready for sea, replacing lower Cylinder Head, for a period of about 12 days from 4/2. (R.A.M. 2115/3.)

Shipping & Convoys.

D.S.22. ORBITA. ORBITA will be used for D.S.22. Embarkation will take place 10/2 and 11/2. Vessel will sail 11/2. (D.S.T. 0620A/3.)

O.N. 62  
O.N.C. 63  
H.X. 171.

See 2/2 - p. 40.  
Warmest congratulations on the safe arrival of your convoy H.X.171. (C. in C. W.A. 1107A/3 to Commodore G.M. Ford, R.N.R.)

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - contd.

- F.S. 716. LORNA DOONE. LORNA DOONE returned to Harwich. Weather unsuitable in her defective condition. Intend to sail her in F.S. 716. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1153A/3.)
- BRISBANE STAR. CLAN MACAULAY. Your 1458A/8. BRISBANE STAR reported 40° W. at 0134/27/12 and 0240/27/12, and reported at 18° W. at 1730/31/12. Last message acknowledged by Port Patrick. CLAN MACAULAY reported at 18° W. at 0754/30/12. Received acknowledgement from Port Patrick. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1211/3 to Admty.)
- F.N. 21. My 1755/2. Humber ships returned to Harbour on account of weather. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1230/3.)
- Convoy "Miracle" P.C.S. at 1220Z/3. See Enemy Air Activity.
- Convoy N.A. 2. There is reason to believe that you have been shadowed by one or two U-Boats for over 24 hours. 2. At dark tonight alter course and steer to northward during dark hours. At daylight set course for new position "P" 48° N. 30° W. Thence to "N", omitting "M". (A.C.N.S. H. 1348A/3 to FIREDRAKE.) *See p. 70.*
- Soviet Ships in British Convoys. Soviet Naval Authorities wish to be informed of any difficulties which may have arisen from presence of Soviet ships in British convoys and of any points it is desired should be impressed on all captains. (Ad. Miles 1435C/3. to Admty.)
- F.S. 716. F.S. 716. No ships from Humber on account of weather. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1515/3.)
- MONKSHOOD. Report situation. (C. in C. W.A. 1633A/3 to MONKSHOOD.)
- ANNA KNUDSEN. Your 1335A/2. ANNA KNUDSEN is to be sailed North about to approach Seydisfiord in daylight. (D.O.D. (H) 1644R/3 to A.C.I.C.)
- O.S. and S.L. Convoys. Admty. 2245A/2. Proposals as to cycles and escorts. (C. in C. W.A. 1838A/3) See Lion Copy.
- PQ and QP Convoys. In view of my 2100A/2, my 1155A/4/1 is cancelled. (C. in C. H.F. 2350A/3.)



SECRET M E S S A G E IN  
1838A/3rd February  
FROM: - C. in C. Western Approaches DATE: - 3.2.42.  
RECD: - 1929

P/L BY ~~TOP~~

ADDRESSED: - Admiralty repeated C. in C. South Atlantic  
\*  
17 Admiralty 2245A/2.

Para (1)

Experience of past year suggests that the most economical cycles for the through-escorts would be:-

- (a) 11 days, working in 5 groups.
- (b) 9 days, working in 6 groups.

Para (2)

- (a) a 12 day cycle with 5 groups as now in operation gives escorts rather longer at home than is necessary.
- (b) A 10 day cycle as proposed would necessitate 6 groups, and again would give longer time than necessary at home.

Para (3)

Strength of escorts would be:-

- (a) 5 groups, paper strength 5 point 6. Working strength 4 point 2.
- (b) 6 groups, paper strength 4 point 7. Working strength 3 point 5.

Para (4)

A 9, 10 or 11 day cycle could be started after O S 19 sails on February 11th.

Para (5)

It is assumed that interval between arrival of O S and departure of S L convoys will remain as now to make most economical use of South Atlantic local escorts

Para (6)

From escort view point an 11 day cycle is strongly recommended, in order to avoid creation of a new group and consequent weakening of escorts.

1838A/3

\* Reduction of 12 day cycle to 10 day cycle in O S and S L convoys

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. and Trade

1st Lord	Naval Sec.	D. of S. 2A.
1st S.L.	Ops. (3)	D. of S.T. (2)
V.C.N.S.	O.D. (5)	I.P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (4) for action	
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.D. (M)	D.A./S.W.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (G)	W.D.
N. 1st S.L.	O.I.C. (2)	D. of P. (3)
		M. (2)

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

- Intelligence. My 1259A/27. German SPREEWALD from Japan reported en clair being torpedoed in 45° 17' N. 24° 50' W. at 1520A/31/1 and having British prisoners on board. No British S/M responsible.
2. TONJER challenged but not otherwise molested by unidentified ship in 21° 00' S. 58° 49' E. at 2019/2. Possibly H.M.Ship.
3. D/F bearings, not received in England, may indicate possible German unit about 22° S. 23° W., at 0300Z/1\*.
4. Disappearance 97 sheep from Mangere Island (44° 16' S., 176° 18' W) suggests presence of raider September-October 1941, possibly that responsible for loss of SILVAPLANA.
5. Confirmed by P.O.W. that Raider 16 (C) was sunk by DEVONSHIRE on 22/11/41. Survivors including Rogge may have reached France in U-boats which were being refuelled at the time.
6. EVAGORAS arrived safely.
- (D.D.I.C.1702A/3 to Cs. in C. etc).
- \* Para. 3 cancelled. See North Atlantic 1610/4.

North Atlantic.

U/B German U-boat made sighting report at 0115 G.M.T. approx. bearing 293° Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0245A/3 to COREOPSIS, ACTIVE, ANTHONY, WIVERN, LIGHTNING, LADY HOGARTH, (R) Admty)

D/F bearing placed German U-boat within 60 miles of 038° 00' N. 027° 00' E. at 0115 G.M.T. U-boat made sighting report.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0519A/3 to WESTCOTT, EXMOOR, CROOME (R) Admty).

REGENT. REGENT sailed from Ponta Delgada 0100Z/2, expected to enter A.W.I. Station 033° N., 040° W., at 1000Z/5 and will shift wireless Watch at that time. Unable dive. Request you will signal her onward.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0838A/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

GYSBERT, PROVENCE (French). Your No. 11873 of 1/2 (Re French Tug GYSBERT leaving Marseilles for Tangier. T.O.O.+2205/1/2) Pending further instructions take no steps causing clash with Naval escort. Is any other course practical to prevent PROVENCE arriving Marseilles? Would withholding of permission to sail be effective, see para. three your No. 11068.  
(W.O.0900/3 to Govr. Gibraltar.)

REINE DES FLOTS. Your 2235/22 not to C. in C. S.A. Report if REINE DES FLOTS returned to Fayal and if so her proposed programme.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1002A/3, to R.O. Horta).

F.O.C.N.A. pass to C. in C. S.A. Your 1002A/3. Afternoon 23/1 MIRROR sighted REINE DES FLOTS distressed by boiler trouble and drifting dangerously inshore. REINE DES FLOTS requested tow and MIRROR towed trawler through Fayal Channel to clear water Northwards. Trawler did not return Horta.  
(R.O. Horta, 1230/3 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty)

/H.G.78...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- H.G. 78. My 2134/2. Amend to read RHODODENDRON to join CRESSADO off Oporto, thence to join Convoy H.G.78 off Cape Razo.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1028A/3 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
Sailed Convoy H.G.78 escorted by GARDENIA, SAMPHIRE, LORD HOTHAM, Convoy R/V RHODODENDRON with CRESSADO and EMPIRE PANTHER in position 3½ miles south of Cape Razo 1200/5.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1850A/3 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)
- Bombing Restrictions. Ops. 587, 3/2, Serial No.G 33. Institute submerged bombing restrictions in area 53 from 0001/4 to 2359/5 and in area 41 from 1600/3 to 2000/4.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1150/3 to R.A.F. Gib).
- DIANA,  
(German). Cadiz reports dry docked 31/1 for bottom scraping. No activities other vessel.  
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1150A/3 to Admty).
- Shipping Instructions. Presume instructions contained in A.M. 0001/1/5, 1941, sect. 2 para. 16, remain in force and that A.M.1510Z/11/1/1942 addressed G.B.M.S. 1 was only intended for ships referred to in A.M.2232A/14/1. It is essential wireless silence should be broken by Merchant Ships bound Gibraltar from Westward to ensure R/V escort.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1158A/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I. S.O.(I) Kingston) Reply: 1629A/4.
- U/B At 1032Z/3 a German U-boat made sighting report bearing 278/1 from Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1200A/3 to ACTIVE, LIGHTNING, WESTCOTT, CALIFORNIA, RHODODENDRON (R) Admty).
- U/B Destroyed by WESTCOTT 2/2. (U.561.) On arrival of WESTCOTT report immediately whether "Hedgehog" was in any way responsible for destruction of U-boat and if so signal full details.  
(1st S.L., 1222A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Their Lordships congratulate WESTCOTT on the destruction of a German U-boat on 2/2/1942.  
(1st S.L., 1548A/3 to WESTCOTT).  
Well done.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1602A/3 to WESTCOTT).  
Alter forthwith to pass through position 036° 00' N., 019° 00' W. Thence to Gibraltar. Expect Catalina daylight.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2144A/3 to WESTCOTT).

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

OLYMPUS.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1858/2.

If OLYMPUS carries out one more transport trip it is unlikely that she would be available for training duties in U.K. before the end of March. Since two large submarines are required for training duties I consider it most undesirable that OLYMPUS should carry out this trip. My 1234A/24/1 refers.

(F.O.S., 1512A/3 to Admty).

Your 1858A/2. OLYMPUS may be held till loading of CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE is complete and may be used for one transport trip should this then prove necessary.

(A.C.N.S. (F), 2356A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1512A/3. It is regretted that the altered situation in the Middle East necessitates making OLYMPUS available for one more trip if CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE cannot take all important stores waiting.

(A.C.N.S. (F), 2357A/3 to F.O.S.)

Bombing  
Restrictions.

Ops./591 3/2 serial G.34. Cancel submerged bombing restrictions within radius of 35 miles of 047° 25' N., 006° 30' W., forthwith. Institute total submarine bombing restrictions within radius of 25 miles of Wolf Rock from 0800/4 until 1200/4.

(H.Q.C.C., 1526A/3 to R.A.F. Gib. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Fuelling of  
REGENT at  
Ponta Delgada.

Your 1349A/29 Portuguese Naval Authorities fully realize difficulties involved in this case and are most appreciative of Admiralty's solution of the problem.

(N.A. Lisbon, 1617/3 to Admty).

LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE.

Your 1944A/2. It is probable that F.W. aircraft will make a determined effort to locate LLANGIBBY CASTLE. It is suggested she should be routed further south.

(A.C.N.S. (F), 1618A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ Malta Mails.

We have been asked to ensure that mails of every category for Malta now waiting at Gibraltar should be sent on in CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE.

(A.C.N.S. (F), 1755A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See also p. 81*

U/B

1 submarine bearing 225° distance 5 miles course unknown my position 38.02 N., 24.10 W.  
(WESTCOTT, 1830Z/3).

A/C

Following has been read.

One unknown aircraft distant 5 miles course 180° my position 320 degs. from PCL distant 30 miles.  
(ALOUETTE, 1845A/3 to Gib. W/T).

/Towage...

War Diary.3. 2. 1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Towage of Dredger from Tangier. V.A.C.N.A.'s 463/5300 of 19/11 /1940. Messrs. Ackermans and Van Haaree ask if tug may be allowed to come from Marseilles to tow dredger and barge from Tangier to Marseilles. What reply should be given? (2) Dredger not suitable for use in connection with extension of landing ground and no other use at Gibraltar is foreseen. (3) Governor's tel. No. 11068 of 23/12 to W.O. refers. (V.A.C.N.A., 1942A/3 to Admty).

O.G. 79 Sailed WISHART, VIDETTE as additional escorts to convoy O.G. 79. (F.O.C.N.A., 2000A/3 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. Escorts).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Unit, 1/2. Falkland Is. D/F 0128/1 and Simonstown D/F 0333Z/1 neither to S.A.D., appear to indicate possibility of German Unit about 022° S., 023° W. at 0300Z/1 Can C. in C. S.A. confirm? (R.A.S.A.D., 0224Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)  
Your 0224Z/3 not confirmed. These bearings appear to indicate position about 043° N., 064° W. (C. in C. S.A., 0521Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)  
Your 0224Z/3 not confirmed. Unit was probably off the N. American coast. (C. in C. S.A., 0913Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)  
Ref. R.A.S.A.D.'s 0224Z/3. Request frequency and bearings. (D.D.I.C., 0924A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

WORCESTERSHIRE. My 1601/26/1 WORCESTERSHIRE will be ready to sail from False Bay p.m./4. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0823Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

LAPLACE. In order to avoid serious delay and legal complications controlling agency here urgently require LAPLACE which at present is on voyage from Halifax to Bahia to omit latter port and proceed to Rio de Janeiro. Can you instruct? (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 0924/3 to S.O.(I) Freetown) (W.R. Note. This signal passed to Admty. for information) Admty. will take action. (D.T.D., 1044A/5).

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Contd.

U.S. Movements. U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS and U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW from Pernambuco E.T.A. Trinidad 4/2. U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI in vicinity 005° N., 050° W. on 1/2 thence to Pernambuco, E.T.A. 4/2.

U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH from Santos E.T.A. Pernambuco 5/2 thence to Bermuda. U.S. Cruiser OMAHA, U.S. Destroyer McDUGALL, left Pernambuco 1/2 ? destination unknown. (C. in C. S.A., 0901Z/3 to S.A. Sqdn). *See also p. 89.*

BOUGAINVILLE (French). My 1210/28 A.M.C. BOUGAINVILLE arrived Tamatave 1/2 from Dakar with 60 tons mail. (A.1) (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0922/3 to Admty. (for D.N.I.) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Simonstown, N.O.I.C. Mauritius, B.A.D.)

NORMAN. NORMAN arrived Simonstown 3/2. Request destination and onward route instructions. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1015Z/3 to Admty).

Lourenco Marques. In view of your 1151/2, intend making use of Lourenco Marques for bunkering of British controlled oil burning ships. Request your comments. (D. of S.T., 1136A/3 to C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

TERKOELEI Have you any news of Dutch TERKOELEI sailed Oban in O.S.16 due Freetown 27/1? (D.T.D., 1300A/3 to S.O.(I) Freetown) Reply from C. in C. S.A. see 0956Z/4.

PERSEE (French). My 2141Z/13/12 and 1109/27/12. (Re Vichy ship PERSEE with 61,000 tons of rubber destined Germany). There is no further information of PERSEE nor is any to be expected. To improve chances of interception A.M.Cs. when working in pairs need not remain within close support of each other (?for) the present. (C. in C. S.A., 1813Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D., CANTON, ASTURIAS, BULOLO, PRETORIA CASTLE).  
Your 2012A/2. My information was based on report from secret sources here who had been informed by special source in New York that PERSEE sailed from Tongkin on 5/12. This report combined with certain local activities gave rise to suggestion that PERSEE might be shortly expected S. American waters for dockyard repairs. I have had no other report indicating presence of PERSEE in South Atlantic.  
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2137Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

/BULOLO...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.BULOLO,  
CILICIA.

Expect to relieve BULOLO with CILICIA in S.A. Div. about 15/2. BULOLO then to proceed to Freetown and UK. for docking and refit. (C. in C. S.A., 1835Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MILFORD.

Arrival St. Helena 1530/3 MILFORD. Departure same day 1900 on operations. (Gen. St. Helena, 1930Z/3 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

West Africa  
M.T. Ships.

Chiefs of Staff have recommended "Irrigate" shipping return U.K. If approved Admty will issue move instructions. In this event equipment re-allocated as follows. (W.O., 2225/3 to G.O.C. in C. W. Africa).

Mediterranean.Air Sqdns.  
for Singapore.

My 0446/14/1 para. 3. Can report now be made? (D.S.T., 0423A/3 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) Reply 1650/5.

CORONA.

Reporting 2/2 first attempt to refloat. (N.O.I.C. Massawa, 0714Z/3).

SOKOL,  
TURBULENT.

Intend sailing SOKOL p.m./4 for area L as in my 1325B/31. Your 2005B/1. TURBULENT leaving 035° 51' 015° 15' about 2330B/4 through 035° 48' 020° 00' and Antikithera Channel to operate within 30 miles Drepano from a.m./7 unless otherwise ordered. (Capt. S.10., 1040B/3 to Capt. S.1)

M/V hit  
by P.34  
(DALMATIA.)

P.34 reports that on 25/1 she obtained a hit on a merchant ship off Catania, but no details are yet available. (D.S., 882, 3/2.) (D.O.R., 3/2).

Enemy  
M/V.

1 Medium vessel 6 E.A. Course 270° C.C. 30 miles. (Med., A/C E., 1100B/3 to Med., A/C) My number 1. Enemy P.C.S. are 180° 12 knots. (Med., A/C, E. 1100B/3 to Med., A/C)

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SAKHALIN. Request you will sail SAKHALIN as soon as ready to Aden for onward passage to Abadan as ordered by C. in C. E.I. Cargo turpentine is to be embarked at Abadan for S. Africa. After docking for permanent repairs in S. Africa ship will proceed as ordered by Admty to operate on N. Russia route. Ship is not degaussed. Speed 8½ kts (C. in C. Med., 1105B/3 to N.O.I.C. Port Said) Details of damage to SAKHALIN. (C. in C. Med., 1107B/3).

M/V attacked by A/C. My 2157B/2. Aircraft scored 2 hits at 0210B. Investigate position. (Capt. S.10., 1112B/3 to P.35)  
My 1112B/3. (1) Photograph suggests ship which may have strong A/A armament is aground. (2) Enemy may send destroyer to attend on her. (3) Patrol in vicinity of merchant ship and sink destroyer when stopped. If nothing arrives by daylight tomorrow, fire one torpedo into engine room of merchant ship. (4) Do not use guns. British prisoners may be on board. (Capt. S.10., 1829B/3 to P.35).

THERMOPYLAE. THERMOPYLAE was sunk by enemy action on 19/1. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1127B/3 to Admty).

Lettered Positions. My 1910B/20 is cancelled. These positions will not be used. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1227B/3, to S/Ms on Patrol) Cancel my 1409B/1. (Capt. S.1., 2236/3 to 1st S/M Flot). See Summaries Folder.

Enemy Reports from A/C. Re coding. Your 1145/25. Reply. (D.S.D., 1229A/3 to C. in C. Med).

Sighting Reports from R/C A/C. Following received. To 201 Group Air H.Q. M.E. V.A. Malta (R) Med., Fleet. F.O.C.N.A. Group 200, H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. From 0001B/4 the use of datum point in sighting report from R/C aircraft based Malta is cancelled. T.O.O. 0830/3 (Ends.) (V.A. Malta, 1238B/3 to Med., Fleet, F.O.C.N.A.)

Black Sea. Crimea. Soodak recaptured by enemy. Russian landing party may be holding out in high ground. No change in (?Eastern) Crimea. Russian cruiser damaged at Feodocberne (?Feodosia) in December was ~~KRASIN~~ (KRASNY) KAVKAZ. Cruiser ~~VOROSHILOPP~~ (VOROSHILOV) still under repair at Poti. (N.L.O. Black Sea, No T.O.O./3 recd. 1358/3).



3

4. 2. 1942.

~~Wednesday.~~

Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

ERICA.

On completion of exercises about 1630/3 proceed to Port Said on 20 fathom line E.T.A. 0730B/4. N.O.I.C. Port Said 0909/3 refers. SILVERMAPLE speed 11 knots may sail 1600/3. If encountered escort her to Port Said.  
(R.A. Alexandria, 1422B/3 to ERICA).

M/V

Search M/V 34° 40' N., 11° 50' E., at 1700B. W/T report.  
(Hal Far D/F Command 1540B/3 to A/C "F" of "C" Flight, No. 3 A.A.C.U., Malta Command).

Malta Air Report.

Night 2/3. 5 alerts 1630 to 0226 hours, 24 raiders, 20 crossed coast, bombs land sea. Targets Hal Far Kalafrana. Slight damage houses. Hal Far slight damage aircraft and buildings Kalafrana, serious damage slipway also to Sunderland. 2 airmen wounded. 1 Ju.88 probably destroyed by A/A. 3/2. 2 alerts 0638, 0741 hours, 10 109s and Ju.88's Cloud cover. Bombs land, sea, target Kalafrana. "Clare" damaged but able to proceed. Hurricanes up. Enemy sighted but lost in cloud.  
Night 2/3. 0010 hours M/V attacked by 4 Albacores. 1 possibly 2 hits and large explosion. M/V found aground by subsequent day recco. 6 Wellingtons IC shipping Naples. Tripoli, sandstorm and rain. 1 found target covered cloud, dropped 1-4,000 lb. bomb Palermo scoring hit on quay. 5 attacked Merchant shipping quays Naples 1900 to 2042. Hits Harbour Docks and marshalling yards. Fire started quays. 1000 bomb dropped on repair base. Exact results unobserved owing 9/10th cloud and effective smoke screen. Hal Far, Tal Kali, flooded.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1614/3).

P.36. URGE, Reports.

(I) P.36 reported at 0859B/24th in position 32.53 14.15 fired 4 torpedoes at 2 leading ships of 3 laden westbound 5 thousand ton Merchant ships in convoy escorted by 5 destroyers 2 A/C, torpedoes individually aimed. Range 4,500 one hit after 3 minutes 25 seconds, consider(ed) definite torpedo hit, counter attack by 4 destroyers over 30 charges ineffective. Target appears to have reached Tripoli (Libya) according to air reconnaissance.  
(II) During remainder of patrol flares of 2 distant Swordfish attacks sighted but no targets. (III) URGE reports at 0421B/29 in position 10 miles S.E. of Augusta sighted homeward bound U-boat whilst closing warship (corrupt group) wrong bearing for URGE who was sighted, enemy turned away. (IV) At 1053B/1 in 37.56, 15.42 fired 3 torpedoes at largest vessel of 3,500 tons of 3 westbound Merchant Ships escorted by 3 destroyers, 1 aircraft. Range 7,000, 1 definite hit after 5 minutes 45 seconds, 1 hit (?on the beam) after 6 minutes 58 seconds. Counter attack by depth charges. (V) 1 destroyer circling position of attack, considered ship probably sunk.  
(S.10., 1659B/3 to S.1. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

*See also next page*

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- CLEOPATRA, FORTUNE. In view of altered situation in Cyrenaica, do you wish CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE to proceed  
(a) Through the Mediterranean to Alexandria,  
(b) To Malta only. (c) To Alexandria round the Cape?  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1752A/3 to C. in C. Med). *see p. 75*
- MERANO. Italian MERANO arrived 3/2 from Trieste with approx. 3,000 tons general cargo for Istanbul. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1806B/3 to S.O.(I) Med).
- RAMB IV. Your 1911B/27. You should not take action to release RAMB IV until further instructions are issued. Meantime report urgently all known particulars concerning suspected use of Italian hospital ships for transporting troops. (Head of M. Approved by V.C.N.S. 2015A/3 to C. in C. Med).
- Libya. Your 1355/3 (N.T. in W.R.) Completion of (convoy?) not known. Embargo now placed on discharge of majority of stores. Army requests that petrol ships and store ships be held until called forward through me. Request (?personnel) ship be kept in readiness in case required and escorts sent to be available to take troops now here which will shortly complete. Intend sailing loaded "W" lighter (and?) some "D" lighters first opportunity. (S.O. Force I., 2021B/3 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Alexandria N.L.O. 8th Army, Movements 8th Army).
- URGE Intelligence for UNIQUE. URGE successfully attacked convoy close Del Armi 1/2. During 5 days off Augusta only sight was large Italian U-boat at 0420B/29. Enemy position 037° 07' 015° 38' course 350° moonlight to URGE's disadvantage attack failed due to enemy sighting URGE and after opening range entered Augusta. Patrol Del Armi Spartevento Cape Area, but after attack move towards Augusta giving particular consideration to your position between 0300 and daylight with regard to moonlight and dawn. (Capt. S.10., 2031B/3 to UNIQUE). *See previous page.*
- SEBASTIAN (Spanish). SEBASTIAN arrived loaded with fruit Germany via Cette, expected sailing 5th. Repeated to Intelligence Centre. (Alicante T.H.I., 2300/3 to Admty).

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- S.R.5. S.R.5. MANON with mules cleared Sandheads 2200Z/2 routed through (m) 017° 093° 30' (n) 015° 26' 093° 40' (o) 20 miles south of Alguada, thence Rangoon, S. of A. 9½ knots, code 13 16 IND, E.T.A. position O 0700Z/5. (N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 0420Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I., etc.)
- B.M.13. Your 0741/30/1. Agree use of ESPERANCE BAY and CITY OF PARIS for B.M.13.  
2. As CITY OF PARIS will not now be available for movement referred to in my 0234/26/1 request whether you can suggest any other ships. (D.S.T., 0619A/3 to P.S.T.O. India) Reply: P.S.T.O. India, 0703Z/5.
- Iraqi Patrol Vessels. F.O.C.R.I.N's 0613/31 (Iraqi patrol vessels). Request you will pass to Ambassador Bagdad. (Head of M., 0901A/3 to C. in C. E.I.)
- ABDIEL, (from mine-laying). Arrival ABDIEL at 1015Z/3. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1030Z/3 to Admty., etc.)
- REINA DEL PACIFICO, CORFU. REINA DEL PACIFICO with personnel escorted by CORFU sailed 0940Z/3 due Colombo 0300Z/6 routed through (R) 015° 072° 13' (S) 011° 17' 074° 30' (T) 007° 076° 35', knots 16, 16 H/F transmission. Cdre. Wakeman Coleville, R.N.R., and staff in CORFU. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 1052Z/3 to Admty.)
- JALAPALAKA. Master S.S. SCINDIA (?reports) JALAPALAKA lost enemy action 30/1 off Madras. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 1142Z/3 to Admty.)
- Defence of Burma Coast. Following from Defence Dept. New Delhi to S. of S. for India (begins). Telegram 473 3/2. Admty. 1933/31. (1) We agree to proposal that C. in C. should co-ordinate activities of local naval defence of Bay of Bengal including Burma and are prepared to assist as far as possible having due regard to defence of our vital ports in West Coast.  
(2) As regards A/S patrols we have made our dispositions in consultation with C. in C. E.I.  
(3) To provide minesweepers from our limited resources it will be necessary to stop I.W.T. towing to Iraq. This will entail considerable delay in the provision of transportation facilities for Iraq and must be accepted. Confirm.  
(4) There remains the question of infiltration by Japanese in Gulf of Martaban. This is a problem of great difficulty owing to strong tide, shallow water and lack of bases. We are prepared to requisition such suitable launches as can be found and which we can arm and man for despatch to Rangoon. In meantime presume Burma are taking up all available launches locally.  
(5) C. in C. E.I. should inform us of requirements on the understanding that only limited number of suitable craft likely

/to ...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Defence of Burma Coast. (contd.) to be available.  
(6) Separate telegram follows on air aspect of same problem.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 1415Z/3 to Admty., (R) C. in C.E.I.)

J.S.1. Convoy sailing telegram. J.S.1. 1030Z/3. (List).  
Convoy. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1433Z/3 to C.C.C.F., Abdafloat, S.O.I. Bombay, Admty. etc.)

Addu Atoll. Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 23 to C. in C. India, A.O.C. India, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., G.O.C. Ceylon, Scale of defences approved for Addu Atoll.  
(1st S.L., 2113A/3 to C's in C., F.O.C.R.I.N)  
See Lion and Tiger Copies).

Communications. Your 1204/30/12. Spare Bombay W/T transmitter at present ear-marked for Bombay, Teheran and Bagdad link. Other possible requirements for this or other transmitters in India are for India Australia commercial link or India America link. Matter is under consideration by Imperial Communications Advisory Committee and Military requirements will be taken into consideration before final decision. (Hd. of M. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 2231A/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Landing Craft. My 00261 22/1 (to War Office only) (0206/23) Will C. in C. India and C. in C. M.E. forward all structural information on landing craft and latest doctrine and experience amphibious operations. Require an experienced officer to run combined Ops. training estab. Possible M.N.B.D.O. could provide. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0226/3 to W.O.)

Situation. Information No. 10 to 1200Z/2.  
1. Last night targets at Balikpapan were attacked by 3 L.B. 30's. 1 aircraft sank medium size transport outside the harbour, other two failed find shipping targets and bombed Balikpapan causing large fires. Today 7 B. 17's sank one transport and probably another in same area. 4 cruisers 17 transports and 8 flying boats were seen in area. All aircraft returned safely.  
2. Some further attack yesterday on shipping in Banka Strait and various places on Banka Island. Particulars lacking but believed ineffective. Otherwise enemy air activity negligible. An enemy aircraft was shot down by Dutch R/C machine

/patrolling ...

**MOST SECRET**

83A

E.I.  
(Lia)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2113A/3 February OUT

To C. in C. East Indies 334  
C. in C. Eastern Fleet 244 DATE 3.2.42.  
F.O.C.R.I.N. 620

Naval Cypher (X D)

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 23 to  
C. in C., India, A.O.C., India, C. in C. East Indies, C. in C.,  
Eastern Fleet, F.O.C.R.I.N., G.O.C., Ceylon.

PART I.

Following scale of defences approved for Addu Atoll.

2. Proposed lay-out of Western anchorage allows for eight capital ships, Aircraft Carriers or Cruisers berthed at four cables apart or 13 berthed at 3 cables covered by A/T baffle.
3. Scale of attack (unlikely to be sustained).  
Air-bombing and torpedo attack day and night up to 100 aircraft.  
Sea-bombardment by long range guns, attack, by submarines,  
M.T.B. midget submarine.  
Troop landings - Smash and burn, one Bde. Group.
4. Air Raid Intelligence.  
A.C.O. one, C.O.L. one on 180 ft. tower with one spare tower.
5. Air Base Facilities.  
Flying Boat Base - Hit Addu.  
Aerodrome for four Naval Squadrons with limited servicing of torpedoes.  
Fighter defence and T.S.R. striking force to be Admiralty responsibility.
6. A.A. Gun Defences.  
Heavy 48, Light 48.
7. Balloon Defence.  
Fifty I.E. Mk. VI flying from buoys to cover North and East of anchorage.
8. A.A. Searchlights.  
Twelve.
9. Combined Ops. Room G.O.R. and Fighter Control Room.  
4 W/T lines (all capable of H/F W/T and R/T and 2 in addition capable of M/F W/T). H/F D/F and A.S.V. Beacon.
10. Controlled minefield indicator net A/S A/B boom all four entrances. A/T baffle to cover Fleet Anchorage against attack from Eastward. Flotilla of patrol vessels.

11. Six.....

11. Six 12-pounders for defence of entrances against light craft and M.T.B.s. Existing 6" Coast Artillery Btys. to be replaced later with Btys. each of three 5.25 HA/LA with consequent release of equal number of 3.7 A.A. guns.

12. Anti-Invasion Garrison.

The decision as to the strength of the infantry garrison will rest with C. in C. India. C.O.S. agree that one battalion should be adequate provided:-

- (a) They are armed with a high proportion of automatic weapons, A.T. rifles and 3" mortars.
- (b) All combatants ashore have a definite anti-invasion function and are armed with automatic weapons and rifles.
- (c) Barbed wire obstacles, A/T and A/P mines, concrete strong points, and beach flares and Ryon lights are employed.
- (d) Arrangements are made for adequate inter-island transport.

13. Flag Officer to be appointed as Officer Commanding Base.

14. Details follow by Air Mail.

#### PART II

15. Defence equipment to complete to scale set out in Part I cannot be delivered for some months.

16. As far as possible all Fleet maintenance and repair facilities should, at least in first instance, be maintained afloat.

17. C. in C. India and C. in C. East Indies should arrange mutually for all works services in connection with installation of land defence measures and base facilities and provision of necessary local labour units.

18. Request action may be taken in high priority by arrangements agreed between C. in C. India and C. in C. East Indies as follows:-

- (a) Joint reconnaissance for installation of shore defence and administrative facilities.
- (b) Selection and improvement of landing places.
- (c) Clearance of defence sites, provision of accommodation, improvement of water supply and health conditions.
- (d) Provision of deterrent scale of air defence and increase in anti-raid garrison.
- (e) Construction of aerodrome.
- (f) Arrangements for rapid installation of defence equipment on arrival.
- (g) Completion of necessary internal and external communications.

19. Royal.....

# MOST SECRET

19. Royal Marine Units now under command of C. in C. India (C.O.S. 220 refers) should be of value in making initial arrangements. Do you wish temporarily to retain any personnel of R.M./C.A. Bde?

20. Please report by message to Troopers and Admiralty any equipment, material and special personnel required in connection with Paragraph 18 above which cannot be found from your Commands.

21. C. in C. East Indies please pass to G.O.C.Ceylon.

21131/3

Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

- 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)
- Duty Captain
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- E.P.S.
- P.A.S.(S)
- Head of M (12)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)
- D. of L.D.

War Diary.

3. 2. 1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Situation. patrolling Banka area.  
(contd.) 3. Weather conditions make air operations speculative for both sides.  
4. No news from Amboina.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0250/3 to W.O. etc.)

Singapore Army Report. Sitrep No. 55 2/2. No enemy ground activity 1630 hrs. G.M.T. Enemy carried out dive bombing attack on troops and A.A. gun positions without inflicting damage or casualties. Low flying attack on Seletar and bombs dropped in dock area.  
(G.O.C. Malaya, 0410/3).

Situation. 00686 cipher 030513 2/2. Starting today daily intelligence telegrams will be issued. (?Britman) arrange to pass immediately to Opnav and Agwar.  
1. General southward displacement of enemy bases illustrated by indications Kendari K (Celebes) being developed as both submarine and air base, probably at expense of Manado.  
2. Extension air operations S. and S.E. from Bismark Archipelago and shipping at Rabaul now nearly up to standard escorted convoy for one division, possible indications further move from this area direction not yet clear.  
3. Definite indications plan to occupy aerodrome in Palembang district of Sumatra. Estimated one division can be spared from Malaya for this purpose also possibly connected with airborne division tentatively located in Indo China.  
4. Reported one division now at Camranh Bay. This probably part of general reserve available for either Burma or N.E.I.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0430/3 to W.O., J.S.M., etc.)

Malaya Air Reports. Op. Summ. up to 1030/2. 7 alerts. 4 probably due to fighters covering enemy troop movements south Johore. Bombs in Keppel harbour area. Fires in go down and small shipping Telok Ayer Bpsing. Dive bombing on our troops between Seletar and Sembawang. No R.A.F. damage or casualties. Attacks on Kluang ordered for tonight. Operationally serviceable aircraft as at 1030/2, Hurricanes 3, Buffaloes 6, Swordfish 4. 4 Hurricanes, 2 Blenheims transferred to Palembang. (A.H.Q., F.E., 0517/3 to Air Min.)  
Raid Singapore A.M. 2/2. 27 heavy bombers, high level bombing, damage Telok Ayer/Keppel Harbour area. Ship fuel loading petrol set on fire. Other fires and numerous civilian casualties afternoon. Seletar diverted by three single-engine aircraft, each dropped 4 bombs in centre of aerodrome. Evening 4 bombs dropped naval base and stick of bombs dropped Kranji oil Depot, no damage. 0545/3 Kranji again bombed, oil tank on fire. No casualties. (A.H.Q., F.E., 0931/3 G.M.T.)

/Air ...



War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - contd.

Air Attacks From information received between 22/1 and on H.M. Ships. 0600Z/3/2, enemy aircraft attacked H.M. Ships and Convoys in Abda Area as follows:

Date	Area	Units	Result.
22/1	West of Achin Head.	ENDEAVOUR	2 Aircraft, 4 attacks, slight underwater damage from near misses, to be docked at Colombo.
23/1	North Sumatra.	RAUB, LARUT.	Both ships sunk.
26/1	Rhio Strait.	ENTERPRISE, DANAE.	2 Aircraft, single attacks, no damage.
28/1	Banka Strait.	B.M.11. EXETER, DRAGON, DURBAN, ELECTRA, EXPRESS.	1 Aircraft no damage.
29/1	Banka Strait.	Return Convoy VAMPIRE, YARRA.	4 Aircraft 2 attacks, from Singapore no damage.
30/1	Banka Strait.	M.S.1, HOBART, TENEDOS, STRONGHOLD.	Number of attacks unknown, no damage.
30/1	Banka Strait.	MARYBOROUGH.	No damage reported.
30/1	Banka Strait.	EXPRESS towing ROVING ER.	No damage.
30/1	Keppel Harbour.	Blank, WAKEFIELD, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.	Damage above water. D. OF BEDFORD to be repaired in Batavia. Others continue in service.

2. Ships and Convoys on passage between Singapore and Batavia are now usually sighted by enemy R/C A/C while on passage and sometimes attacked, but heavy attacks by organised striking forces have not yet developed on ships at sea.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1057Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

D.M.2. Convoy D.M.2 less CITY OF CANTERBURY arrived Batavia. (C.C.C.F., 1501Z/3 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., Admty. etc.)  
2 British Convoys, B.M.12, 4 ships of 51,222 tons, and D.M.2. 6 ships of 76,697 tons, have arrived at Batavia with troops and stores.  
(D.S., 883, 4/2).

Op. Summ. up to 1030Z/3. 5 enemy air attacks on Singapore during the period. Single enemy aircraft set oil tank on fire at Kranji. 8 aircraft carried out low level attack in Nee Soon village area with slight casualties. 26 heavy bombers attacked Harbour Board area. Several godowns set on fire. 21 heavy bombers attacked Harbour Board area again adding to damage already caused. A/A claim 1 heavy bomber destroyed. None of our fighters airborne during these raids. Several attacks on shipping south of Singapore Island.  
(A.H.Q., F.E., 1757/3).

Japanese Use of Gas. My I No. 114 29/1 and your 67646 (M.I.10) 30/1. Small Yellow Canisters. (2) Small local engagement Australian bayoneted Japanese piercing

/container ...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - contd.

Japanese container strapped to belt releasing gas. Other  
Use of Gas. containers thrown by men lying on the ground  
(contd.) apparently wounded. Not believed planned tear gas  
attack. (3) Troops were ordinary infantry.  
(G.O.C. Malaya, 2015/3, to W.O.)

Situation. From Gen. Wavell. A.W.6. Today a Japanese air  
attack on Surabaya and Madang which came few days  
too soon. A.A. guns being landed today at Batavia  
are intended for defence these two places as were some fighter  
aircraft now on way from Australia. It looks as if enemy were  
repeating tactics of attack on Manila and trying to destroy our  
aircraft before attacking naval base. Not yet clear whether  
attack came from Balik Papan Kendari or carrier.  
2. Our bomber force in Java is continuing to attack Balik Papan  
convoy and has sunk some more transports. Bombers in Sumatra  
are attacking enemy air bases in Malaya.  
3. We are collecting naval striking force at Southern end  
Macassar Strait.  
4. My impression is Japanese air force very stretched and if  
once we can get upper hand they will go downhill fairly fast.  
Meanwhile we continue to be pressed on four fronts.  
(C. in C. S.W.Pacific, 2325/3 to British J.S.M.Washington  
(for combined C.O.S.) W.O. (for C.O.S.)

America & West Indies.

U.S. Forces, For J.S.M. for Chiefs of Staff. No. C.O.S.(W) 28.  
Abda Area. We are still without knowledge of what American  
Naval, Army and Air Forces are in the Abda area  
or what reinforcements are on the way or  
projected. It is impossible for us to make our own arrangements  
for reinforcement without this information. Please do your best  
to keep us in touch in these matters.  
(1st Sea Lord, 0002A/3 to B.A.D.)

AMERIKALAND, Information received Swedish S.S. AMERIKALAND  
U/B. torpedoed at 0130Z/3 in 36.36 N. 74.10 W.  
(B.A.D., 0049R/3 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.,  
N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

U/B. D/F bearing at 1455Z/2 indicates submarine  
within 50 miles of 042° N. 048° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0055Z/3 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav,  
C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)

/ U/B ...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- U/B. D/F bearing at 1648Z/2 indicates S/M within 100 miles 43° N. 42° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0538Z/3 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)
- N.A.3, My 2155/1. To meet the new factors detailed in  
A.T.12. P.S.T.O. Simontown's 1003/1 following adjustments  
N.A.4. ✓ to convoy programme could be made if requirements of additional capacity in A.T.11 is confirmed (2) Details.  
(3) B.A.D. is requested to advise immediately whether full capacity for A.T.11 is required.  
(D.S.T., 0616A/3 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)  
Your 0616/3. Para. 3. 1. U.S. description of this convoy is A.T.12. At present there is no A.T.11.  
2. U.S. Authorities do not require any British transports for A.T.12 since U.S. combat ships plus the three freighters already earmarked cannot carry even sufficient equipment for 8,900 U.S. troops already detailed. Any additional troops would therefore be without this equipment. No additional U.S. freighters are available.  
(B.A.D., 1201R/3 to D. of S.T.)  
A.M.1228A/29, 1647A/29, 2155A/1, 0616A/3. For Convoy A.T.11 read Convoy A.T.12.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1553A/3 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., etc.)
- U/B's. D/F Bearings indicate submarines (A) within 50 miles 41.30 N. 45.30 W. at 1820Z/2. (B) Within 100 miles 41.30 N. 44. W at 1831Z/2.  
(C) Within 100 miles 42° N. 43.30 W. at 2127Z/2.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0804Z/3 to Admty.)
- PAN- Intercept, Hingham Massachusetts Radio, from  
MASSACHUSETTS. PAN-MASSACHUSETTS. Sighted submarine 0900 G.M.T. 37.30 N. 75.16 W. course 30° true, speed 11.5 knots. (Valentia Radio, 0916/3 to Admty., Adm. Devonport).
- Shipping met Your 1147Z/2. Request names and voyages of ships referred to. Regret suggestion in your last sentence impracticable owing to lack of communication facilities and staff. It may be possible to arrange promulgation through  
INDOMITABLE. your reply. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1009P/3 to C. in C. S.A.)
- S.O.(I) Jamaica. Further proposals will be made on receipt of your reply. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1009P/3 to C. in C. S.A.)
- WARSPITE, A.M.1552/30 and A.M.1230/2 (1250/2 intended re  
BISHOPDALE. BISHOPDALE to proceed Australia). WARSPITE's sailing orders issued by me instructed her to route BISHOPDALE to Wellington after fuelling on 6/2. Request you will cancel this and inform WARSPITE of new programme for BISHOPDALE. *See also p. 91-*  
(B.A.D., 1015R/3 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. N.Z.N.B.)

/MINISTER...

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

MINISTER Norwegian tanker, re programme.  
WEDEL. (B.A.D., 1025R/3 to C. in C. A.W.I., Bermuda,  
1813P/3 to Admty.)  
Your 1400A/1 to N.C.S.O. Panama. MINISTER WEDEL  
arrived and awaiting instruction. Holding her this end of Canal  
as Balboa anchorage is 8 miles out and without protection.  
(C.S.A. Colon, 1836R/3 to Admty. for M. of W.T. (Tankers)  
(R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.A.D. Washington,  
C.S.A. Panama).

Bermuda Traffic. S.S. CULEBRA with important stores for Bermuda  
has been directed to Jamaica by Admty.,  
presumably as result of my 1732P/19. This was not  
visualised as it was assumed that call of this  
store ship at Bermuda would be regarded as essential. D. of S.T.  
2315N/22 refers. (2) Request next suitable northbound vessel  
may be diverted to Jamaica to embark these stores for Bermuda.  
Capt. I/C Jamaica to arrange for disembarkation and trans-  
shipment. (3) Consider that normal traffic to Bermuda may now  
be resumed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1042P/3 to Admty. (R) Capt.  
i/c Jamaica).

Washops 53. (1) Philippine Is. Luzon. The enemy is reported  
to have made two additional unsuccessful attempts  
to force a landing in rear of U.S. Bataan position.  
Japanese naval gunnery in area was ineffective.  
Mindanao and Visayas. Situation remains unchanged.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1221R/3 to Admty., etc.)

U/B. S.S. EMILYIA reported sighting S/M on surface in  
017° 50' S. 037° (756') W. at 2230Z/23.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1232Q/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

REGENT. My 1213P/2. (?F.O.C.N.A.) states you reach  
position (b) at 1000Z/5 instead 0700Z/4 as given  
in your 0100Z/2. If necessary to amend E.T.A.  
position T, (?do so) before reaching (755°) W.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1233P/3 to REGENT).

Aircraft in ATHENE. Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff  
No. (W) 29. Ref. C.O.S. No. (W) 26.  
Only small number of erected aircraft can be  
embarked in ATHENE. U.S. Chiefs of Staff should be  
reminded that if full load of 30 to 40 are to be sent aircraft  
will have to be stripped.  
(1st S.L., 1353A/3 to B.A.D.)

U/B. D/F bearing at 0210Z/3 placed Submarine within  
100 miles of 042° 30' N., 042° 30' W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1411Z/3 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C.  
F.O.N.F.)

/SINES ...

MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET** MESSAGE 1056/3rd February.  
IN

From ~~British Joint Staff~~ Date 3.2.42.  
Recd. 1835

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE

030645 G. 078 cipher 2/2. Most Secret

For M.O. 4 from G.Ops.

O.C. Troops Aruba and Curacao have not yet had definite orders to hand over to the Americans and actual hand-over cannot take place until this order is received in view of my G.076 presume you will now send necessary executive order immediately.

1056/3.

Received from W.O. p.m./6th Feb.

1st Lord.	War Office circulation
1st S.L.	P.H.O. & P.
V.C.N.S.	D.D.H.O. (0)
A.C.N.S. (F)	M.O. 1, 2, 3, 4.
N.A. 1st S.L.	S.D. 1, 2, 5.
D.O.D. (F)	Q(Ops)
D.D.O.D. (F)	Q(M) 2, 3.
D.N.I. (4)	Q. 2.
D. of P. (2)	Q. (O.S.) 1.
Duty Captain (2)	F.1.
D.D.I.C. (2)	War Cab. Offices (Lt.Col. Stirling)
E.P.S.	Col. Office (Lt.Col. Rolleston) (4)
P.A.S. (S)	Dominions Offices (Mr. Boyd Shannon)
Hd. of M. (10)	Foreign Off. (Mr. Makins)
I.P. (2)	
W.D.	
N.I.D. 10 Pay.Cdr. Wilson.	
Admiral Bailey.	

MG

War Diary.3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- SINES. Re salvage of Portuguese SINES by ROODE ZEE.  
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1607P/3 to Admty.)
- U/B. D/F B at 2025Z/2 placed submarine within 100 miles  
of 036° N. 064° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1614Z/3 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 74, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C.,  
F.O.N.F.)
- ALCANTARA. Your 1724/2. (A) 40 Officers 418 men. (B) 1730  
G.M.T./6. (C) Nil. (D) Bakers, 3, Butchers, 2,  
Cooks, 5. (B.A.R.M., 1620R/3 to N.S.H.Q.)
- Use of Halifax. Your 1508A/1 (N.T. in W.D.). Ref. alternative  
(b). Halifax could probably accept additional  
traffic but use of this port would cause greater  
delay to these ships than occasioned by the  
alternative (a) or use of an American port in  
lieu of Halifax. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1658Z/3 to  
Admty., (R) Opanav, C.O.A.C., B.A.D.)
- U.S. Forces. My 1636A/17/12. Following changes U.S. Forces in  
*See also p. 77.* Atlantic since A.T. 1815A/27/1.  
Battleships. WASHINGTON at Philadelphia.  
NORTH CAROLINA at New York.
- Aircraft Carriers. WASP at Casco.
- 8" Cruisers. TUSCALOOSA and WICHITA left Iceland 31/1.  
VINCENNES at New York.
- 6" Cruisers. SAVANNAH to depart Santos 2/2.  
MEMPHIS en route Trinidad.  
OMAHA left Pernambuco 1/2.  
CINCINNATI en route Bahia.  
BROOKLYN ready 2/3.  
PHILADELPHIA at Casco Bay.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1815A/3 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)
- My 1837A/27. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Pacific  
Fleet:- Battleships. MISSISSIPPI en route San Francisco.  
IDAHO at San Francisco.
- Seaplane Carriers. LEXINGTON left Pearl Harbour 31/1.  
YORKTOWN, ENTERPRISE en route to Pearl Harbour.
- 8" Cruisers. MINNEAPOLIS, INDIANAPOLIS left Pearl Harbour 31/1.  
CHICAGO to leave Pearl Harbour 2/2.  
SAN FRANCISCO at Samoa.
- NORTHAMPTON, CHESTER, SALT LAKE CITY, LOUISVILLE en route  
Pearl Harbour from Marshall Island.  
PORTLAND at Mare Island.
- 6" Cruisers. ST. LOUIS en route Pearl Harbour.  
HONOLULU left San Francisco 31/1.  
DETROIT at San Francisco.
- MILWAUKEE and either RICHMOND or TRENTON arrived Balboa 1/2.
- Following changes in U.S. Asiatic Fleet:-  
6" Cruisers. HOUSTON last at Koenigspang.  
BOISE en route Colombo.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1847A/3 to C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.,  
N.S.H.Q.)

/Darwin ...

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Darwin-Timor Defences. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 30. Ref. Abdacom 00522 cipher 30/1 and C.O.S. No. (W) 26. Our first concern should be to endeavour to prevent supply line Timor-Darwin being interrupted and for this purpose a striking force, which should include at least one aircraft carrier, should be stationed at Darwin. It would take INDOMITABLE three weeks from now to reach Darwin, and this could only be done by cancelling the further transport of Hurricanes by INDOMITABLE to the Abda area.  
2. Should U.S. Chiefs of Staff decide to send a U.S. carrier for transport of aircraft, as requested in Abdacom 00522, it is possible that this ship might, in the first place, be used as part of striking force.  
3. Should be grateful if U.S. Chiefs of Staff would give this serious consideration as soon as possible.  
4. To assist U.S. Chiefs of Staff in this, will Abdacom please inform Washington of his assessment of relative importance attached to arrival of 50 additional Hurricanes in INDOMITABLE and the safeguarding of supply line to Timor.  
(1st S.L., 1836A/3 to J.S.M. Washington (R) Abdacom).

Dispositions. Personal for Adm. Little from 1st S.L. Your 1721/30. Para. (x). I had not intended sending any further comments on Abdacom's 00235 of 22nd. The question of cruisers and destroyers was dealt with in para. D. and F. of A.T. 0315/25/1. As regards A/A ships, HEEMSKERK is now on passage to Far East and no British A/A ships are available. (1st S.L., 1837A/3 to B.A.D.)

PANDORA. Bermuda departure PANDORA in accordance with my 1222P/1. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1913P/3 to Admty.)

TRAVELLER, SCHUYLKILL. Your 1730Z/26. TRAVELLER and SCHUYLKILL have not arrived Halifax. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2013Z/3 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C.)

BARON ERSKINE. Admty. 1802A/2 passed to C.O.A.C. No further information BARON ERSKINE here. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2028Z/3 to Admty.)

KENOGAMI. Your 0621/21 and U.S. C.N.O.'s 0330Z/22. Have you any information regarding movements of KENOGAMI? Observed ship not mentioned in your 1508Z/3. A.C.I.C.'s 1738A/24 states U.S.S. JACOB JONES, KENOGAMI and ACONIT sailed Iceland 24/1 escorting 3 ships for O.N.59. (C.C.N.F., (2211/3 to Cmdr. Task Force 4, (R) U.S. C.N.O., C.O.A.C. Halifax, A.C.I.C.)

Diversions of Independently routed Vessels. Your 1554/3. Concur in Admty. re-assuming responsibility for diversions of independently routed vessels bound for U.K. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and C.O.A.C. Halifax will remain responsible for such initial diversions as appear advisable.

**MOST SECRET**

90A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2045R/3 Feb.

IN

From Joint Staff Mission Washington. Date 4.2.42

Recd.1136.

NAVAL CYPHER One Time Table by cable.

Addressed Chiefs of Staff London.

IMMEDIATE

No.21.

1. Your (W) 23. Subject of provision of aircraft for Australia and New Zealand was discussed at combined planning meeting yesterday and combined Chiefs of Staff meeting today. U.S. representatives agree question is most urgent, but emphasize that these additional immediate requirements can only be met at expense of Abda area as everything that can be provided and shipped is committed for next two months.

2. U.S. air staff are increasingly aware of difficulty of filling commitments undertaken under pressure of U.S. entry into the war and as a result of high level decisions during ARCADIAN conference. Result has been hurried despatching overseas of inadequately trained air crews and incompletely equipped squadrons.

Their staff is now engaged on urgent review of all these commitments and extent to which they can be efficiently met. It is already apparent that postponement of denunciations previously suggested inevitable. There are also indications that they may wish to make some reduction in force earmarked for United Kingdom in favour of diversion to Far East and India.

3. You state proposal for diversion of Kittyhawks to Australia and New Zealand made at some risk and relying on 2 United States pursuit groups being in Egypt in April. Seriously doubt whether these 2 groups can in fact be there by that date, or if there, whether they will be operationally fit. Doubt also if United States will be prepared or ordered to find additional 199 fighters from their resources in early future. Most likely they will want any additional aircraft that can be made available allotted to Abda area.

4. Because of threat to Townsville Base area U.S. Chief of Staff at today's meeting suggested diversion of one fighter group (80 aircraft) from Abda area to R.A.A.F. as temporary measure. D B A 8 refers.

5.....



5. Preliminary enquiry indicates that the 40 Kittyhawks you propose to divert from our allocations to Australia and the 10 to New Zealand can be shipped in February and shipments of 50 and 30 respectively in March and April should not present insuperable difficulties. Likely that proportion would have to go without radio and oxygen equipment.

2045R/3

Advance copy sent to 1st S.L., Duty Captain,  
D.O.D.(F) and Head of M.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A.1st S.L.

P.A.S.(S)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

Duty Captain

D.of P.(2)

E.P.S.

Head of M.(23) and for C.I.G.S. and W.O.,  
C.A.S. and A.M., and W.C.O.

I.P.(2)

N.I.D.10

W.D.

D.N.I.(4)

D.D.I.C.(2)

Admiral Bellairs

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Diversions of 2. Information requested whether Admty. will  
Independently re-assume responsibility for similar ships  
routed proceeding to N.A. Station and Gibraltar.  
Vessels. 3. Instructions have already been issued to  
(contd.) N.C.S.O's and C.S.A's to transmit particulars re  
intention to sail and route furnished to Admty.  
in advance prefixed important.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2308Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
A.W.I., C.O.A.C., B.A.D., Opanav).

Australia & New Zealand.

AUSTRALIA. Arrival Wellington AUSTRALIA wearing flag of  
F.O. Australian Sqdn.  
(N.Z.N.B., 0030Z/3 to Admty.)

S.S. QUEEN My 0939Z/25. Your 2047A/26 and B.A.D. Washington  
ELIZABETH, 1835R/31. Propose sailing QUEEN ELIZABETH from  
BISHOPDALE. Sydney at 0030Z/6 for Auckland, Comptroller Bay  
Nukuhiva 08° 55' S. 140° W and San Francisco.  
See p. 87. Having regard for the possibility of BISHOPDALE  
not arriving or enemy forces in Nukuhiva Area, propose QUEEN  
ELIZABETH proceeds at 20 knots from Auckland to Nukuhiva.  
This speed will probably enable ship to reach Magdalena Bay  
24° 31' N., 112° 01' W. with 350 tons fuel remaining, allowing  
5 per cent. loss for zigzagging should BISHOPDALE not arrive.  
Anticipated Itinerary. Leave Sydney 0030Z/6:  
Rangitoto (Auckland) 2000Z/8 - 0400Z/9; Comptroller Bay  
Nukuhiva A.M. 15/2 - P.M. 15/2; San Francisco 21/2.  
The coast line has been allowed for. Fuel requirements.  
Request destroyer mentioned in B.A.D. Washington 1745R/29 meet  
QUEEN ELIZABETH in 8° 59' S., 140° 01' W. at 1700Z/15 and  
inform her of selected fuelling anchorage. Request C. in C.  
Pacific Fleet repeat back this position and time.  
(A.C.N.B., 0432Z/3 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. U.S. Pacific  
Fleet, N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C. Sydney).  
QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your 0432Z/30. Concur.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2210A/3 to A.C.N.B.)  
My 0432Z/3 QUEEN ELIZABETH pass to BISHOPDALE at Nukuhiva.  
Admiralty requires you to proceed to Australia to discharge.  
(Route). (A.C.N.B., 0656Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Sydney N.S.W.  
(R) Admty.)

Situation. Serial No.14 from C.W.R. 4 Catalinas attacked  
shipping Rabaul 1/2. Some bombs in target area  
but no hits observed. Enemy 4 engined flying boat  
dropped 6 bombs on Tulagi 0230Z/2. 6 enemy A/C bombed Port  
Moresby at 1610Z/2, no damage reported. (A.C.N.B., 0612Z/3 to  
Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.Z.N.B.  
C.Z.M., Opanav, C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, C. in C. U.S.  
Pacific Fleet).

/AORANGI ...

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - contd.

AORANGI. Anticipate will be ready to leave Sydney 11/2. Assume vessel required proceed Panama and thence North American Atlantic Port for trooping. Anticipate will require accommodation 150 service personnel. (A.C.N.B., 0908Z/3 to D.S.T.)

Minesweepers. Your 1406Z/26/1. In order to conform to present distinguishing signals and call signs as published in S.Ps. request R.A.N. fleet minesweepers may be organised in Flotillas. 20th, 24th, 26th and 27th M/S Flotillas are allocated to R.A.N. (D.M.S. 1034A/3 to A.C.N.B.)

AQUITANIA. Your 1539A/27 B.A.D. Washington's 1455R/31. Intend sailing AQUITANIA from Sydney 0500Z/10. E.T.A. Wellington 0100Z/13. Fuel required 1700 tons, water 1200 tons. From Wellington routed through 20° 30' S. 160° 25' W. to arrive Honolulu 1800Z/24. Speed 20 knots. AQUITANIA in fully loaded condition drawing 37 feet 4 inches. Sufficient fuel for passage from Honolulu to San Francisco can be embarked and draught remaining under 34 feet. Fuelling at Honolulu is therefore possible. (A.C.N.B., 1136Z/3 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.S.W.) W.D.Note. Was amended by 0714Z/5, q.v.

Need for M/S and Escort Vessels. Your 2345/19. Noted that more M/S vessels cannot at present be allocated to New Zealand but it is requested that our needs, especially for Ocean A/S Escorts, 7 of which are urgently necessary, may be kept under constant review in light of situation. 2. Offer of H.D.M.L's from U.S.A. is appreciated. Further signal will be made when Govt. approval has been obtained. N.Z.N.A., Washington, states that 12 will be shipped to N.Z. commencing June at rate of 2 or 3 a month. This provision should proceed in anticipation of financial approval. 3. Your para. 3, supply of suitable local craft for A/S and/or M/S is exhausted. 4. Your para. 4, hulls of 72 foot H.D.M.L's can be constructed locally, six being undertaken without interfering with Fairmile programme. Completion cannot be expected until twelve months from date of order. 5. Request scheme of complement for Fairmile M.L's and 72 foot H.D.M.L. (N.Z.N.B., 1153M/3, to Admty.)

\* Financial approval received. (N.Z.N.B., 1557M/7/5/42 to Admty)

War Diary.

3.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine's Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1426A/3, 1430A/3).

War Diary.4.2.1942  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.

EGLANTINE at 2000N chased at full speed of  $15\frac{1}{2}$  knots a vessel which she believed to be a submarine in  $67^{\circ} 38' N. 23^{\circ} 52' W$ , proceeding East at 20 knots. The enemy escaped. H.J. BULL (Patrol vessel) attacked a U-boat this afternoon in the approaches to Seydisfiord.

At 0032 ATHERSTONE and KUJAWIAK engaged at point blank range two apparently laden ships of the Dutch schoot type eastbound off Quenard Point, Alderney and left them sinking.

An unknown ship reported an object resembling a submarine near the South Foreland at 1328.

The shortage of destroyers is the subject of a further message from C. in C. Home Fleet today. Escorts for further P.Q. convoys cannot be provided until the return of FAULKNOR and INTREPID.

Operation  
"Obstacle"

M.Ls from Dartmouth sailed this evening for a sweep along the north coast of France.

Enemy Air Operations.

There is evidence of the presence of F.W.200s at Trondheim.

One JU.88 attacked the quay and military huts at Vaag, Sydero at 1146 today, causing slight damage.

Fishing trawler AQUARIUS was considerably damaged by air attack at 1830 today 5 miles E. by N. of Aberdeen which she reached under her own steam.

War Diary.

4.2.1942  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Three British merchant ships escorted by a destroyer are reported to have been attacked at 1715 G.M.T. by 2 aircraft.

Mediterranean.

Serious damage was caused by air attack on Ta Kali this morning.

It is reported that a delivery Beaufighter attacked and seriously damaged a submarine at 1330 40 miles South of Pantellaria.

East Indies.

It is reported by 11 Indian survivors that S.S. JALATARANG was gunned and then sunk by torpedo by submarine 50 miles off Skira on 30/1.

China.

Burma.

There were further air attacks on Rangoon this afternoon and evening. No military or naval damage is reported.

Toungoo Aerodrome was attacked at 0700 G.M.T. by 12 bombers and 15 fighters; some damage was caused at the Aerodrome and several aircraft were damaged on the ground.

/Malaya ...

War Diary.

4.2.1942  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - contd.

Malaya.

The large floating dock at Singapore has been sunk and the small floating dock is awaiting towage at Keppel Harbour. Every endeavour is being made to remove machinery, stores and ammunition, but the desertion of labour and lack of transport renders it unlikely that much can be saved. The enemy are now shelling the roads and vicinity of the store basin.

Bombs were dropped in the dock area at Singapore last night and there were several air raids on Singapore and Keppel Harbour today, but little naval and military damage was caused.

Two ships are reported to have been bombed near Pulau Bintang, and considerable enemy air effort is reported in the 24 hours ending 0800/4, in Rhio Archipelago and Banka Straits. S.S. SUBADAR which was due at Palembang today from Singapore is believed to have been bombed and sunk.

N.E.I.

U.S. cruisers MARBLEHEAD and HOUSTON were considerably damaged by air attack this morning east of Madura Island and proceeded to harbour. The former will have to return to U.S.A. for repairs.

Enemy aircraft attacked Surabaya again today.

America and West Indies.

S.S. SILVERAY was reported torpedoed at 0235 G.M.T. in 43° 54' N. 64° 16' W. U.S. C.G. Cutter CAMPBELL picked up 35 survivors at 1245Z/5 in 43° 45' N. 64° 16' W.

S.S. SAN GIL reported at 0459 G.M.T. that she had been torpedoed and was sinking in 38° 5' N. 74° 40' W.

S.S. COLLAMER reported being followed by a submarine at 2220 G.M.T. in 27° 28' N. 66° 46' W.

U.S. Tanker INDIA ARROW reported that she was torpedoed at 2350 (See 5/2)

/An ...

War Diary.

4.2.1942  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - contd.

An unknown ship later identified as MONTROLITE, made a submarine distress signal at 2354 G.M.T. in 35° 14' N., 60° 5' W.

Australia.

5 Catalinas attacked enemy shipping at Rabaul last night, probably obtaining some success.

9 flying boats attacked Port Moresby at 1700Z today damaging the power and telephone systems.



War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.→ Gold from  
Murmansk.

Your 1441A/2. Approved to ship gold in H.M. ship and request you will make necessary arrangements. Suggest you consider shipping it in ADVENTURE. (D.O.D. H. 1200A/4 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Daily  
positions  
of ships.

1. If C's in C. of Stations wish the positions of ships in the daily situation report to be checked they should add the instruction "check if outside 100 miles" or whatever distance is required.

2. If outside the specified distance the ship concerned should report her correct position in Cypher on the appropriate H/F Wave between 2000 and 0200 zonetime.

3. Whether directed to check or not, a ship should always report any divergence of her position from the position given in the daily situation report if, giving due consideration to the nature of the operation in which she is engaged, the divergence appears serious enough to warrant breaking W/T silence. (D.O.D. F. 1310A/4).

→ Party in  
ADVENTURE.

Thirteen Soviet Delegates including 5 ladies are due to arrive at Central Station, Glasgow at 0615/15 accompanied by Four Embassy Officials.

2. Request you will make arrangements for transport and embarkation of delegates in ADVENTURE. (D.O.D.(H) 1602A/4 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

DRANGEY.  
INDIAN STAR.  
SPHENE.  
VIVIANA.

A/S trawlers DRANGEY, INDIAN STAR, SPHENE, and VIVIANA are to be kept at 14 days notice for service abroad. (D.A/S W. 1721A/4).

H.F. Destroyer  
Situation.

N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1104A/3. Owing to necessity for boiler cleaning ESKIMO, there are now only 10 destroyers available Hvalfiord for screening Battle Fleet and 3 of these are overdue for boiler cleaning.

(2) 12 is minimum number I consider necessary in order to give our forces freedom of movement and I shall not have more than 10 for sometime to come.

(3) Escorts for further P.Q. convoys cannot be provided until return of FAULKNER and INTREPID, unless 2 more Destroyers are made available from other sources. (C. in C. H.F. 2046A/4 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.Thames  
Estuary.  
Maunsell  
Forts.

Your 2205A/31/12. Four further positions have been found in which it is anticipated forts could be placed and which comply with defence requirements. (C. in C. Nore 1618A/4 to Admty.)

# MOST SECRET

98A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2136A/4 February OUT.

Date: 4.2.42

To: C. in C. Home Fleet, 232

Naval Cypher C.T.T.

---

From Admiralty.

Your 1437A/2 HUSH

Would CITY OF DURBAN and CAPE SABLE be acceptable to you to assist in watch on Northern passages? The four corvettes must be withdrawn to assist with Far Eastern requirements.

2136A/4

D.O.D. (H)  
Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (11)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.D. (H)  
D.D.O.D. (H)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
E.P.S.  
D.C. (2)  
D.S.D.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
W.D.

/MC

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- O.14. My 1525A/3. LOCH MONTEITH left for R/V this morning. If contact is made proceed to Scapa. (Capt. S.9. 1901A/4 to O.14.)  
1400/4 sailing from Bressay for Scapa, LOCH MONTEITH in company. Speed of advance 9½. (O.14 1400A/4 to A.C.O.S.)  
My 1822A/3. Amend para. (C) to read O.14 due R/V off Bressay with LOCH MONTEITH at 1400/4 for escort to Scapa. (F.O.S. 1532A/4).  
You should adjust your speed so as to arrive Scapa in daylight to-morrow. (A.C.O.S. 1724A/4 to O.14).  
Request Switha Gate 0115/5. (O.14 1845A/4 to A.C.O.S.)
- GROVE. Intend to sail GROVE for Scapa at 0945/5 calling at Methil, remaining there that night, and proceeding A.M. following day. Carrying out full power acceptance trials during passage North of 20R Buoy. E.T.A. Methil 1530/5. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1006/4).
- JASON.  
WOLSEY. JASON is being sailed to overtake and replace WOLSEY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1010/4 to WINDSOR).
- A.F.D. 16. Tyne 1250/30. Request information of what towing arrangements have been made by Admiralty. (C. in C. Rosyth 1030/4 to Admty.)
- O.10. My 1906/9/1. O.10 completed and proceeded to Rothesay 1/2. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1035/4).
- CUMBERLAND.  
COTSWOLD.  
COTTESMORE.  
WINCHESTER. A.M. 0126A/4. It would be convenient for CUMBERLAND to arrive Sheerness at 1700/6. Following is suitable time-table.  
(ii) Route as in my 1432A/27/1.  
(iii) It is understood that no escorts are available Rosyth. Intend therefore to sail COTSWOLD and COTTESMORE to arrive 22 Buoy by 1800/5 accepting reduction to East Coast trade protection.  
(iv) Request fighter protection for whole passage and fighter escort during daylight hours 6th. (C. in C. Nore 1040A/4).
- COTTESMORE proceed to Harwich. COTSWOLD continue in execution of previous orders. (C. in C. Nore 1759A/4).  
My 1130A. COTTESMORE has been ordered to Harwich. WINCHESTER now at Rosyth will replace COTTESMORE as escort for CUMBERLAND. (C. in C. Nore 1810A/4 to COTSWOLD).  
My 1040A/4. Delete COTTESMORE. It is understood WINCHESTER is available for this duty. (C. in C. Nore 1840A/4).  
Take WINCHESTER under your orders and COTSWOLD when met and proceed Sheerness leaving Rosyth so as to R/V with COTSWOLD at Eyebroughy Buoy at 1930/5. Then conform with C. in C. Nore's 1040/4. (C. in C. Rosyth 2145/4 to CUMBERLAND.)  
Weather prohibits E-boat activity. Intend proceeding by Q.Z.S. 287 to obtain shelter and adhere to programme. Expect pass East Dudgeon Buoy at 0230/5 and Flamboro' Head at 0700/5. (COTSWOLD 1847A/4 to C. in C. Nore.)

/HEBE.....

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

- HEBE. Proceed passing Switha 2100 to-day to Immingham for refit at Humber Graving Dock. (R.A.D. 1044A/4 to HEBE).
- UTMOST. Request you sail UTMOST for Blyth when ready. My 1111A/10/1 refers. (F.O.S. 1136A/4 to Capt. S.3.)
- FURY. Intend to sail FURY at 1700/9 proceeding by swept channels to Scapa. E.T.A. 1230/10. (F.O. Humber 1209A/4).
- FORMIDABLE. A.M. 1525A/30. Air Ministry are despatching 24 shipping tons of stores to Greenock. Request these may be shipped in FORMIDABLE. (E.P.S. 1311A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- CONQUEROR. F.O.I.C. Belfast 1459A/3. Approved so far as Admiralty is concerned provided this temporary employment does not interfere with the working up practices of CONQUEROR.  
2. Request you will sail CONQUEROR to arrive Portsmouth 16/2 ready to carry out the further trials mentioned in A.M. 1335A/19/1. (A.C.N.S. W. 1323A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S/M off  
The Lizard. A S/M will be exercising in area centre 180° The Lizard 13 and radius of 10 miles from 1000 to 1600 on 5/2 and 6/2. (C. in C. Plymouth 1414A/4).
- VICEROY. Intend to sail VICEROY 1230A/5 by swept channels to Rosyth. E.T.A. Cape Wrath 0400A/6, Dunnet Head 0900A/6, May Island 1600A/6. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1605A/4).
- MADELEINE  
HUBERTINE. C. in C. Portsmouth's 1520A/3. Request estimated date MADELEINE HUBERTINE will be ready to proceed. (Adty. 1644A/4 to F.O.I.C. Portland).
- CLEOPATRA. My 1544A/3. Add 24 hours to all times. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1806A/4).  
Your 1544A/3. CLEOPATRA should be held till A.M. 5th to embark 500 yards H.T. Cable for M.Ls at Gibraltar. 2. Arrival at Gibraltar may be delayed until 2030Z/9 should the C.Q. consider this desirable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1953A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- M.T.B's. Admty. 1252/3. Request you will sail 6 M.T.Bs. to Ramsgate today or as soon as weather permits. (V.A. Dover, 1342A/4 to C. in C. Nore.)  
(W.D. was not on marking.)

/CIRCASSIA.....

War Diary.

4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

CIRCASSIA. My P.C.S. are at 1830A 055° 49' N. 009° 12' W. 100°, 13. E.T.A. Belfast 0700A/5. (CIRCASSIA 1831A/4).

ALDENHAM. Intend sail ALDENHAM to Scapa at 1500A/5 in accordance with Admiralty's 1834A/26. E.T.A. Scapa 1600A/6. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1855A/4).

BREDA. Expect me at Cumbrae 1015A/5. (BREDA 2012A/4 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

BREEZE. Request BREEZE may be sailed to Lerwick by West Coast route, preferably independently. (N.I.D. C. 2208A/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operations.

Brest S/M Patrol. Signal cancelled. F.O. (S) 1821A/3 institutes a prohibited area around Q.Z.X. 555 and 549. (Capt. S.5. 0917A/4 to SEALION). After dark tonight H.50 is to proceed to patrol in vicinity of position 51. (F.O.S. 1134A/4).

Following are present intentions regarding patrol in Bay of Biscay and are to be acted on.

H.50 leave patrol without relief p.m. 9th. H.43 leave patrol p.m. 11th being relieved by H.34 from Falmouth.

SEALION and H.34 leave patrol p.m. 14th and p.m. 18th respectively, reliefs being provided by 7th Flotilla. (F.O.S. 1204A/4).

(A) A.S. Devonport reports JUNON completes repairs 6/2.

Request you sail her for Falmouth not later than 14/2, whence she will proceed on Bay of Biscay patrol to relieve H.34. My 1204A/4 refers.

(B) Until 14/2 JUNON will be available for air or A/S exercises as required by you.

(C) On completion of patrol JUNON will return to Falmouth to embark personal gear thence proceeding to join 9th Flotilla. (F.O.S. 1916A/4 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Fro Havet S/M Patrol. STURGEON is to be ordered to leave patrol p.m. 10th for Holy Loch. Request you will sail TUNA as relief. (F.O.S. 1137A/4 to Capt. S.3.)

(A) Following are present intentions regarding

Fro Havet patrol and are to be acted upon.

Submarine	Leaving Patrol	Relief.
STURGEON	p.m. 10th February	TUNA
TIGRIS	p.m. 13th February	P.37
P.37	p.m. 20th February	MINERVE
TUNA	p.m. 21st February	TRIDENT.

(F.O.S. 1234A/4).

TRIDENT reports RD/F Station in Fro Havet, probably on Melsttenen The position of this station indicates it is most unlikely to detect submarines in patrol zone E and W. The restriction mentioned in my 1256A/18/1 against approach within 10 miles of the land is therefore cancelled.

(F.O.S. 1741A/4 to S/M's Area A.)

*see also p. 103*

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.2 M/V's  
sunk by  
ATHERSTONE.  
KUJAWIAK.

At 0032/4 ATHERSTONE and KUJAWIAK engaged 2 apparently laden ships of Dutch Schoot type in position about 3 miles North East of Quenard Point, Alderney at point blank range and left them sinking. Ships were east bound. (C. in C. Plymouth 1328A/4).

Carlingford  
Patrol.

In view of urgency of fitting out Larne M.L. Flotilla for service abroad it will be necessary to reduce Carlingford patrol to one boat and may be necessary for the complete withdrawal of patrol. (C. in C. W.A. 1446A/4 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Channel  
Patrols.

Night 4/5. WELSHMAN operating south east St. Catherine's Pt. 1700 to 2359. 2 M.G.B.s on patrol 10 miles South Portland Bill. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1457A/4).

Sweep by  
M.L's.

("Obstacle")

Intend that available M.L's from Dartmouth shall sweep alongside North coast of France tonight. There are indications that enemy is using this route at night.

(ii) Object to attack any enemy vessels sighted.

(iii) Executing sweep begins at 0001/5 in 049° 11' N. 005° 20' W. and to be made in a direction 246° for not more than 40 miles.

(iv) M.L's not to be south of Start Point before dark today and to return to vicinity of Start Point not later than 0815/5.

(v) S.O. has full discretion to abandon operation if poor visibility makes navigation dangerous or should other circumstances require.

(vi) Request you sail M.L's accordingly.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1532A/4 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Your 1532/4, "Obstacle" sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1850/4 to C. in C. Plymouth)

M.T.B's.

My 1541A/4. M.T.B's returned BEEHIVE 1718A/4 due to stress of weather. (BEEHIVE 1720A/4).

UREDD.

Cancel my 1641A/29. (F.O.S. 1914A/4).

British Air Activity.A/C for  
Manston.

My 1708/3 and R.A.N.A.S. 1003/3. Four A/C left for you at 1150. (N.A.S. Lee 1154A/4 to R.A.F. Manston.)

Bombing  
restrictions.

Request surface bombing restrictions from 2000/4 to 0815/5 between English and French coasts from 003° W. to 004° W. (C. in C. Plymouth 1732A/4 to H.Q.C.C.)

4.2.1942.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C shot  
down  
MONIMIA.

My 2200A/2. MONIMIA sighted plane one mile S.E. 62 buoy fired twelve pounder and may have hit. Plane flew on in a northerly direction and was engaged by Spitfire and subsequently crashed. One boy aged 29 taken on board. Personal effects handed to R.A.F. (F.O. Humber 1110A/4).

Faroes  
bombed.

One Junkers 88 bombed military huts and machine gunned quay at Vaag Sydero at 1146 today. Slight damage, no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1525A/4).

ULSTER  
QUEEN.

AAAA alter course 217°. (ULSTER QUEEN T.O.R. 1559/4).

Yarmouth  
on 2/2.  
CLOUGHTON WYKE  
sunk.  
BRACON MOOR  
CURTANA  
damaged.

Following is summary of air activity on 2/2. Dorniers operating almost continuously in Q.Z.S. 287 from 0940 to 1400. 14 A/C sighted during period. 8 attacks made on various ships. 28 bombs dropped, resulting in the sinking of CLOUGHTON WYKE with the loss of 4 ratings also 10 officers and 4 ratings injured, and damage to BRACON MOOR and CURTANA by near misses rendering both ships unfit for sea. Several attacks were rendered ineffective by 12 pounder and M.G. fire, but no claim can be made of A/C destroyed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1731A/4).

Mining.

Spurn  
Point.

Two Mines exploded by Sweepers at 0905/4 and 0950/4 respectively. Details. (F.O. Humber 1840A/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of  
Dover.

Enemy shipping movements plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/3 to 0900/4. Track E7D, three vessels, one larger and two small, eastbound at twelve knots from eight miles S.W. of Boulogne at 0542 to Gris Nez, thence to Boulogne entering at 0600. Possibly minesweeping. (V.A. Dover 1001A/4).

R.D.F.  
Station in  
Fro Havet.

Your 2321A/18/1. Station located in Fro Havet probably on Melsttinen Island. Character - R.F. 125000 KC/s, A.F. 1000 cycle, transmission beamed and sweeping. (TRIDENT 1213A/4 to F.O.S.) TRIDENT has detected R.D.F. station in Fro Havet probably on Melsttinen Island 063° 58' N. 9° 33' E. Characteristics. (F.O.S. 1712A/4 to Admty.)

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

TIRPITZ. A.M. 1850A/2.  
 Brest. 1. P.R.U. Trondheim approx. 1200/4. TIRPITZ  
 Trondheim. still in Aasfiord.  
 2. Visual R/C Brest 1630/4 reported 3 large ships  
 in Eastern end of Goulet making for Brest.  
 Photographs show rear ship to be PRINZ EUGEN,  
 other ships not covered. (D.D.I.C. 2133A/4).  
 P.R.U. Trondheim 1230/4. One destroyer present.  
 (D.D.I.C. 2207A/4).

U-Boats.

Off N.W. Am remaining in position 67° 7' N. 24° 43' W.  
 Iceland. (A/C JD3K 1115/4).  
 Am over enemy S/M. Have attacked with dive bombs.  
 (A/C JD3K 1215/4).  
 Enemy has altered course to 050°.  
 (A/C JD3K T.O.R. 1251).

South Intercepted at 1327 G.M.T. de unknown station  
 Foreland. SSSS. Subject resembling submarine seen near  
 South Foreland 1328/4. (Port Patrick Radio  
 1427/4).

Off Contact two miles North East of Dalatangi.  
 Dalatangi. (NAMSOS 1430/4 to A.C.I.C.)  
 Sighted and attacked twice 3 N miles north-east  
 Dalatangi. Lost contact now.  
 (NAMSOS 1447/4 to A.C.I.C.)

Off Iceland. Surface craft detected by R. D/F, bearing 090°,  
 EGLANTINE. distance 4 miles. (EGLANTINE 2017/4).  
 My 2017N/4. My P.C.S. are 067° 38' N. 23° 52'  
 W., 055°, 9 knots. (EGLANTINE 2020N/4).  
 Contact Asdic and R.D.F. at 2000N, 355°, 1200 yards. Chased  
 contact at full speed 15½ knots. Object, probably S/M, managed  
 to escape. Estimated course and speed 090° 20 knots. Visibility  
 1000 yards. My P.C.S. 067° 37' N. 024° W. 055°, 9 knots at  
 2000. (EGLANTINE 2030N/4).

Navigational.

Peterhead. My 1014/3. Harbour open. Duty ship returning  
 to Station. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0928/4).

Baltic. Ice report 4/2. (1) Gulf of Bothnia and Finland.  
 No change since last report. (2) Baltic. All  
 ports closed to Karlshamn.

Ice breakers are at work in southern Baltic trying to free many  
 Swedish vessels stuck in ice. Today all Swedish shipping  
 forbidden to leave port. Falsterbo Canal still kept open by ice  
 breakers. Communication between Stockholm and Abo is intermittent  
 and only with ice breaker escort. It is believed that occasional  
 supply ships reach Finland from German ports by ice breaker help.



War Diary.

4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Baltic  
- Contd.

(3) Sound. Through passage is only possible with ice breaker help. Great belt is believed to be closed to through traffic. (4) West coast. North of the Sound as far as Norwegian border the easterly wind has blown ice from coast towards Danish shores. Only fjords are frozen. Gothenburg harbour is difficult owing to pack ice, whilst passage to seaward as far as Vinga can be negotiated only with ice breakers. (N.A. Stockholm 1732/4).

Technical.

Defence  
of S/M's.

Request early conference to decide policy for close range defence of S/Ms and to initiate action required. (F.O.S. 1211A/4).

Casualties and Defects.

27th M/L  
Flotilla.

A.M. 1905A/27. Work, including slipping, required to prepare 27th M.L.F. is beyond capabilities of Base at Larne. Request Yard may be allocated. (R.A.C.F. 1146A/4 to Admty.)

TITUS.

Dutch Steamer TITUS, Middlesbrough to Belfast, was damaged by collision with unknown vessel on 15/1 off East coast Scotland. TITUS afterwards gave escorting vessel name and convoy number. Please enquire and advise us name of colliding vessel. (Vanemmeron 1312/4 to Admty.)

EUTHALIA.  
(Grounded  
3/2).

My 1248A/3/2. Nos 1 and 2 holds in EUTHALIA slowly flooding. In 3 and 4 soundings cannot be taken owing to position of sounding pipes. Representative of Salvage Association proposes to have coasters alongside and supply steamer to deck line. Grabs to be provided to discharge cargo into coasters. Anchors and cables to be laid off port side of vessel to prevent moving into Channel. S.S. BROOM held back H.W. 3/2 will be used. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1609A/4).

FORMIDABLE.

Your 1245/3. In order that I may investigate possibility of taking FORMIDABLE in hand in Clyde, request I may be informed particulars of A and A's desired to be done here and approximate number of men required with their trade. If Crane work is required special arrangements will have to be made as it will not be possible to bring ship up Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1704A/4 to FORMIDABLE).

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- Special Convoy. Sailed special convoy in accordance with N.C.S.O's 1641/2 escorted by BLACKFLY. CARGONA delayed by defects. Code word "Profit". (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0008A/4).  
Special Convoy. CITY OF FLINT, ASKHABAD, BATEAU. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 0800A/5. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0951/4).
- ANNA KNUDSEN. Your 1644A/3. ANNA KNUDSEN arrived Seidis Fjord. Request route Seidis Fjord to Loch Ewe. (A.C.I.C. 0205A/4 to Admty.)  
Your 0205A/4. Ship should be routed west of Q.Z.X. 385 and thence through Skopen Fiord. (D.O.D. H. 1907A/4 to A.C.I.C.) *amended 1859A/6 p.177*
- C.T.10. ANDALUCIA STAR. Sailed convoy C.T.10 and ANDALUCIA STAR. Routed as in Admiralty's 1923A/31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0228A/4).
- F.S.16. Convoy F.S.716 scattered. LEEDS, LA MELPOMENE, and SAPPHIRE with 5 ships in vicinity 59 A buoy. Am proceeding to join Commodore. (LEWES 0928/4).  
In company with TENBY and seven ships including Cdre. Remainder of convoy and escort about 45 miles astern. Propose continuing as escort with this portion until relieved. My position is 56 B Buoy speed 6 knots. (HOLDERNESS 0950A/4).  
Your 1053A/4. E.T.A. with five ships 0700. (LEEDS 1205B/4 to C. in C. Nore).  
Convoy F.S.716 will not arrive today. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1321A/4).
- WAZIRISTAN. P.Q.7. Your 1329A/2. No information. (D.T.D. 1147A/4 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).
- S.P. 4. Your 1800/3. S.P. 4 sailed. (R.N.O. Shoreham 1345/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
- P.Q. 11. P.Q. 11. My 1104A/3. Amended speed to read 7½ knots. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1620A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)
- "Distaff". A/C reports convoy "Distaff" in 062° 42' N. 003° 43' W. at 1412 today. (R.A.D. H.F. 1630A/4 to CALPE).
- F.N.623. F.N.623 is keeping to Western edge of Channel, passed 52 Buoy at 1730. Some of my stragglers may be returning with you. (LOWESTOFT 1746A/4 to LEWES).

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

- O.S.18. O.S. 18 not met by dusk. Am proceeding to search from ahead at daylight or when visibility permits. Position 50° 29', 22°. (BRADFORD 2000A/4).
- Russian Ships in British Convoys. Soviet Naval Authorities wish to be informed of any difficulties connected with presence of Russian Ships in British Convoys, or any points we consider should be impressed on masters. Information so far received in the Admiralty has been favourable, but your remarks are requested before a reply is made. (D.T.D. 2006/4 to C. in C. H.F.)
- C.W. 67. My 1000A/4. C.W. 67 postponed 48 hours. Request similar arrangements for 7/2. (C. in C. Nore 2042A/4 to F.O. Harwich).
- O.N. 62. O.N. 62 6 hours late on your 1521A/4 suffix B (S.O. 8th E. Group 2230A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
- P.Q.11. NIGER. Intend sailing NIGER for North Russia to join convoy P.Q. 11 on 6/2. (R.A.D. H.F. 2245A/4).

U.S. Warship Dispositions.

- Task Force 1. Dispositions of heavy units of Task Forces 1 and  
Task Force 2. 2 with accompanying destroyers U.S. Atlantic  
Task Force 15 Fleet available for operations as of noon G.C.T.  
February 4th ~~at~~ ICELAND, TEXAS, QUINCY 3 destroyrs.  
~~at~~ CASCO BAY, PHILADELPHIA, WASP 3 DDS. ~~at~~ BERMUDA  
AUGUSTA, NASHVILLE, RANGER 3 DDS.  
Troop convoy Task Force 15 in 47° North, 45° West,  
WICHITA, TUSCALOOSA, 6 DDS, for Hampton Roads speed  
12.5. Admiralty deliver copy to Spensavo, London.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0731Z/4 to Admty.)

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- PENTSTEMON. P.C. and S. at 0200A/4, 027° 55', 022° 21', 059° 12 knots, E.T.A. at Gate 0001A/8.  
(PENTSTEMON, 0400A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
My P.C. and S. at 2100A/4 29.45 N. 19.07 W. 047°, 13½ altering to 023° at 1300A/5 R/V with LLANGIBBY CASTLE 0800A/6.  
(PENTSTEMON, 2230A/4 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) WESTCOTT.)
- BATORY, Arrival LIGHTNING, WIVERN, ACTIVE, ANTHONY  
SOBIESKI. escorting S.S. BATORY and SOBIESKI.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0918A/4 to Admty.)
- U/B. Following has been read. One submarine bearing 190° distance 7 miles course unknown. My position 37.27 N., 21.40 W.  
(WESTCOTT, 1008A/4.)
- U/B. At 0847Z/4 a German submarine made sighting report bearing 290/2 from Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1011A/4 to N.A. Stn.)
- Bombing Your 1053A/16. Intend instituting alternative  
Restrictions bombing restrictions area as given in S.M.87 of  
Area. 16/1 forthwith. F.O.C.N.A. Concurs. Please  
cancel my 1138A/13/1.  
(Capt. S.8, 1110A/4 to F.O.S., (R) Admty.,  
F.O.C.N.A., H.Q.C.C.)  
Ops. 599 4/2. Serial G.35. Institute total submarine  
bombing restrictions from 1000 until 1600 on 5/2 and 6/2 in  
area within 15 miles radius of position 180° Lizard 13 miles.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1112A/4 to R.A.F. Gib., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
- REGENT. Your 1213P/2 and REGENT 1031Z/2 to F.O.C.N.A.  
only. REGENT will pass through position (B)  
at 1000Z/5.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1136A/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
*See also next page*
- REINE DES Your 1230/3. C. in C. S.A. reports REINE DES  
FLOTS. FLOTS arrived Freetown p.m./3rd.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1224A/4 to R.O. Huelva, (R) Admty.)
- O.G. and Request information as to whether approval has  
H.G.Convoy. been given to C. in C. W.A. 1054A/23.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1233A/4 to Admty.)
- Situation. Report No.2 at 2001A/4.  
S.L.99 027° 56' 025° 05' 351° 7½. S.O.  
ENCHANTRESS.  
(2) CLYDE, GERANIUM, VETCH escorting tanker DINGLEDALE vicinity  
33.00 22.00. (3) WESTCOTT, EXMOOR, CROOME escorting LLANGIBBY  
→ CASTLE and tug MONACO 36.38 20.12 through 36.00 19.00 thence  
090° 8½. *See also next page.*  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1342A/4 to N.A. Stn.)

/Report ...

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Situation.  
(Contd.)

Report No.3, 2001A/4.

- (1) CALIFORNIA 28.28 18.30, 183°, 14.  
 (2) REGENT 33.38 37.03, 256°, 10. *See previous page*  
 (3) MAURITIUS estimated 15.40 25.48, 350°, 16.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1344A/4 to N.A. Stn.)

WHITEHALL,  
MALAYA.

On returning from U patrol tomorrow pass 5 miles S. of Europa Point at 0830 to carry out (?RIX) with MALAYA 0830 - 0900. Course S to be carried between 250 and 290. Efficient watch on 2350 kc/s at 0830.  
 (S.O. Force H., 1431A/4 to WHITEHALL.)

U/B.

A.M. 1702A/3. Cancel para.3. Unit was U-Boat in North Atlantic.  
 (D.D.I.C., 1610A/4.)  
 (Unit in about 22° S., 23° W.)

Shipping  
Instructions.

Your 1158A/3. Instructions in A.M. 0001/1/5/1941, Sec.2. para. 16 are still in force, and ships should now be making these reports.  
 A.M. 2232A/14 applies only to Westbound traffic.  
 (D.T.D., 1629A/4 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Jamaica.)

PONTET  
CANET  
(French)

Setubal arrival 2nd.  
 (Lisbon, 1817/4.)

French  
Shipping.

Gibraltar 1428, P.V. LA SETOISE towing motor drifter BENNARD DANIELLE, MENHIR-BRAZ, NANCEEN both full, PORTHOS, BRESTOIS, both laden, latter deck cargo barrels of tongue, MEN GWEN, TATIANA, VELELLA II, JEAN BART, eastbound.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1827A/4 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE.

Your 11450A. Unless there are special circumstances of which I am unaware you should retain 2 screening vessels with LLANGIBBY CASTLE in view of additional risk of air attack.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1850A/4 to WESTCOTT.)

VANSITTART.

VANSITTART E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800A/6. STARWORT with CROCUS and DEWDALE arriving 0300A/8. Acknlidge.  
 (VANSITTART, 1909/4 to ?F.O.C.N.A.)

F/W A/C.

One F.W. aircraft plotted unreliably in 43° 40' N. 07° 00' W. at 1925/4. Two others were active.  
 (D.D.I.C., 2117A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

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War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B.

Bearings at 1914Z/4 of Italian U-Boat 11.D.  
Chelmsford, 225/3, Flowerdown, 206/3, Portrush,  
205/3.  
(D.D.I.C., 2239A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.BELNOR  
escort.

D. of S.T. has ordered BELNOR to return to  
Takoradi to load for U.K. Ship sailed from  
(? Simonstown) 1400 G.M.T./2 on route used on  
voyage from Takoradi. E.T.A. Takoradi 13/2.  
2. Request you will arrange escort if necessary in accordance  
with Admty. 1929/22/7/1941.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0753Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

TERKOELEI.

Your 1300R/3 to S.O.(I) Freetown. TERKOELEI  
was routed by Oban direct to Capetown and  
continued in Som T.14 due Capetown 5/2.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0956Z/4 to Admty.)

DERBYSHIRE.

DERBYSHIRE escorting S.S. ORDUNA sailed 1000Z  
E.T.A. Capetown 0400Z/7. S. of A. 14 knots.  
Routed R.2.  
(N.L.O. Durban, 1004Z/4.)

CAMBRIA

Cable ship CAMBRIA reports proceeding to 018°  
08' S. 038° 48' W.  
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1049/4 to Admty., etc.)

RESOLUTION.

St. Helena arrival RESOLUTION 0600/4 departure  
1200. On operation.  
(Gen. St. Helena, 1205Z/4 to Admty., etc.)

SALLAND  
U/B Report.

My 0858Z/1. Report further investigated.  
Periscope only seen and this only by one Officer.  
Consider presence of U-Boat doubtful and if there  
was one almost certainly Vichy.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1307Z/4 to Admty.)

DEMIR HISAR.

St. Helena arrival 0600/4 Destroyer H.80 (DEMIR  
HISAR) departure 1400. On Operation.  
(Gen. St. Helena, 1425Z/4 to Admty., etc.)  
W.D. Note: R.A.3 taking passage, see E. Indies,  
1740/4. *See p. 115.*

/ASTURIAS ...

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.ASTURIAS,  
BULOLO.

R/V with AVILA STAR in position 090° Cape Frio 25 miles at 1200Z/11 and embark draft for ships of S.A.D. BIRMINGHAM's draft should be accommodated in ASTURIAS. ASTURIAS report when operation completed and both A.M.Cs. then return to patrol.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 1450Z/4 to ASTURIAS, BULOLO.)

Freetown,  
Water.

Pass to N.C.S.Os.  
In view of the shortage of water at Freetown all vessels should be warned to distil wherever possible when this will reduce their water offtake at Freetown.  
(D.T.D., 2003A/4 to Cs. in C., etc.)

CONTE  
GRANDE  
(Italian)

My 1921Z/22. Turbines of CONTE GRANDE were sabotaged before transfer of ship but damage is slight and repairable. Crew is billeted in Santos and Sao Paulo.  
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2122Z/4 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.Troops for  
Far East.

My 1542/9/1 and your 0040/12/1. Would appreciate Signal detailing present shipping arrangements for whole movement. Troopships and M.T. Ships should both be given with arrangement into flights and sailing dates.  
(D.S.T., 0314A/4 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.) Reply 1624/5.

Landing  
craft.

Your 0/55737 to War Office only.  
Following is reply from Abdacom to our 65566 of 20/1. "Consider landing craft not likely to be required for some time but future operations requiring now being studied with view to fixing target numbers. Require general specifications as approved at U.C.M.E. both landing craft and assault ships. We can then investigate extent to which suitable craft can be built or extemporised locally. No despatch required from Middle East at present." Noted, however, that if required later, you could despatch 12 A.L.C., 5 S.L.C., and 3 R-Boats, which are surplus to your requirements for one brigade group.  
(W.O., 0315/4 to C. in C. M.E.)

/Enemy ...

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War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Enemy M/V. P.C. and S. of 1 M/V 3,000 tons 160° Kuriat 14, 180°, 10. Am returning to base.  
(A/C "B" Flight No. 3 A.A.C.U., 0405/4 to Air H.Q. Malta Command.)
- 1 Medium M/V 035° 37' N. 011° 07' E. course 180° 10 knots at 0405B/4.  
(V.A. Malta, 0501B/4 to S/M on Patrol.)
- A/C attack on U/B. Submarine has dived (?) in position 266° 32° N. 26° E., 6. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate no hits.  
(Med. A/C., 0557/4 to 201 Group H.Q. (M.E.))  
(201 Group, 0823/4 to A/C Y 230 Sqdn.)
- CORONA. Following report received from CORONA (begins) CORONA refloated 1500/3 hold (? dry) (ends).  
2. She is proceeding to Massawa.  
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 0614Z/4 to F.O.R.S., (R) D.S.T., etc.)
- QUEEN OLGA. Following is a repetition of my 1157B/1/2. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
(Begins) - Your 1220/21 (Proposal to remove Oerlikon gun platforms of QUEEN OLGA.) QUEEN OLGA is required in Med. as soon as possible. Request expected date of sailing. T.O.O.  
1157B/1 (ends).  
(C. in C. Med., 1015B/4 to C. in C. E.I., (R) Admty.)
- TEMPEST. Passage through Q.B.B. 65 may be made as convenient submerged by day or on surface at night. Follow route in my 1741B/9 and adjust speed to enter Marsamxett at 0730B/8 without loitering off entrance owing to possibility of machine gun attacks and minelaying by enemy aircraft. UPHOLDER is operating North of 038° and East of 012°.  
(V.A. Malta, 1055B/4 to TEMPEST as amended 1001B/5.)
- SOKOL. O.R.P. SOKOL leaves Malta p.m./4 for Area L as in para.2 of your sailing orders.  
(Capt. S.10, 1117B/4 to UNBEATEN, P.31.)
- Repair of Greek S/Ms. Malta. Capt. (S) 1's 1529B/30 (1529/31 intended re refitting of NEREUS and GLAUCOS.)  
(A) See my 1006/31.  
(B) Estimates given for Greek S/M GLAUCOS Class do not hold good for Greek S/M KATSONIS Class external tubes where much more work involved. Doubtful whether work could be undertaken Malta. No reliable estimate can be given without investigation on spot.  
(A.S. Malta, 1144B/4 to C. in C. Med.)

/Air ...



War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Air Report. 1. Cyrenaica, day 31/1, following delayed report received. A.S.V. Sunderland attacked with bombs and machine-gunfire submarine on surface 40 miles north-east Sidi Barrani. Four bombs fell 20 yards from submarine which then opened fire on Sunderland and subsequently crash dived. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1157/4.)
- A.H.Q. Libya. Cancel 891B/20/1. The title of Air Headquarters, Libya, has reverted to Air Headquarters, Western Desert, as from 3/2. (C. in C. Med., 1231B/4 to Med. Station.)
- Air Defence Mission. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. M.E.231 to C's in C. M.E. and Med. Request your views as soon as possible on reports by Air Defence Mission (Egypt) ref. A.D.M. 3/42 (Final) dated 6/1 and A.D.M. 12/42 dated 10/1/1942. (1st Sea Lord, 1242A/4 to C. in C. Med.)
- Lettered Positions. Cancelling N.O.I.C. Malta's 1832/20/1. (C. in C. Med., 1251B/4.) See Summaries Folder.
- French Shipping. MAURO CROCE (Italian) Departure 4th ST. RAYMOND, MOSTAGANEM, INDIANA, Marseilles. Arrival 3rd COETLOGON, MAURO CROCE. Arrival 4th, ST. RAYMOND. (Barcelona, 1253/4.)
- 3rd M.L. Flotilla. A.T. 2036A/14. In view of altered situation in Cyrenaica, do you wish 3rd M.L. Flotilla to proceed through the Mediterranean when ready? (V.C.N.S., 1309A/4 to C. in C. Med.)
- Enemy M/V damaged by A/C, 3/2. My 1829B/3. Destroyer and tug have arrived. Attack at your discretion. (Capt. S.10, 1315B/4 to P.35.)
- M.W. 9. My 1042B/1. Utmost being done to include \* EMPIRE ORIOLE in M.W. 9. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1350B/4 to D. of S.T.) Cancelled, see 1715/5.  
\* Spec. Ser. V.
- M.B.D. 4. Carry out Operation M.B.D. 4. (C. in C. Med., 1601B/4 to all concerned M.B.D.4.)

/TURBULENT ...

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

TURBULENT. Capt. (S) 10's 1040B/3. Latest intelligence of Suda Bay area. Occasional important convoys arrive from Piraeus with troops and stores. Whole area is strongly fortified. There are searchlights at Stavros and ?Cape Mekala. A 3rd has been reported on south shore of harbour entrance. 2 Trawlers at a time maintain continuous A/S patrol off entrance. OSIRIS suspects loops or hydrophone close outside boom. Last ship seen approached on course 90° and then made a wide sweep to avoid possible mines and entered harbour approx. course 250°. Attention is called to Q B (Corrupt group). Area south of 035° 30' between 025° 00' and 025° 20' is also dangerous due to mines. (Capt. S.1, 1625B/4 to TURBULENT.)

M.T. Ships My 1647B/31 para.2. \*EMPIRE PINTAIL and EMPIRE for Far East. EGRET allocated.  
(ii)\*EMPIRE ORIOLE, see my 1350B/4.  
(iii) Further signal will be made regarding \*EMPIRE FULMAR.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1635B/4 to D. of S.T.)  
Para.2 cancelled, see 1714B/5. *✓ previous page.*  
*\* Special Sub. V.*

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. 4/2. 3rd. 1428 hours 20 Me.109 and Ju. 88, cloud cover, bombs land sea, slight damage houses, 1 soldier 9 civilians wounded, target Kalafrana, negligible damage.  
3/4. 0408 hours 4 raiders, target Kalafrana, bombs sea. Hurricane intruders grounded by bad weather. 0721, 2 raiders approached, did not cross coast. Hurricanes up, no interceptions, 0900 to 1435, 43 fighters and 31 bombers crossed coast, Hurricanes up, 2 Ju.88 claimed damaged, target Ta Kali, serious damage to buildings in chance light, 2 airmen slight wounds, big craters on aerodrome.(H.Q. Malta, 1835/4.)

Aden. Your telegram No.21.  
Most grateful if you will do utmost to obtain for Aden the reinforcements recommended by C. in C. in telegram G.J.P. No. 0049509 of 14/1 from G.H.Q. M.E. to War Office.  
(Govr. Aden, No T.O.O./4.)

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

STAR OF EGYPT, STAR OF EGYPT sailed 1/2 with 3371 tons deadweight ammunition. timber for Middle East also 5.25 ammunition shipped to Singapore and now returned in same ship. Admty's 2320/13/12 refers. Balance space commercial cargo for Suez. (S.S.TO. Colombo, 0127Z/4 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Troop Movements. My 0552/28. B.P.34(35) (as received) revised dates of sailings. From Bombay, KHEDIVE ISMAIL 17/2, CAP ST. JACQUES 18/2 ISLAMI 19/2. From Karachi, SANTHIA 17/2, ANDRAPOERA 16/2. My 1326/28 B.M.13 now consists of CITY OF LONDON, EASTERN PRINCE, JOHAN DE WITT, EGRA, ESPERANCE BAY, CITY OF PARIS, EL MADINA, KOSCIUSZKO sailing 12/2. Following additional move has been arranged. B.A.15 ILE DE FRANCE, with 1,000 troops, and MAURETANIA empty ready to sail 13/2. (P.S.T.O. India, 1111Z/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

S/M Incidents No.5 (A) S/M incident S number 5 (1) SPONDILUS torpedoed in position 40 miles 193° from Colombo at 1405Z/3rd. Made harbour safely. Claims 2 hits on U-boat silencing her gunfire. Hunt by aircraft and surface vessels in progress. (2) EXCELLER's report of S/M 25 miles S.E. of Vizagapatam at 0400/3 cancelled. Cancellation considered genuine. (3) JALATARANG gunned then sunk by torpedo 50 miles off Skira 30/1. Only report from 11 Indian survivors landed in Colombo. (B) Raider incident number 2. (1) ILE DE BATZ report of suspicious vessel 95 miles South East of Vizagapatam at 0340/3 promptly cancelled. Cancellation considered genuine. (C. in C. E.I., 1501Z/4, 1504Z/4).

U/B and Raider Rept. (1) Reports of enemy S/M and raider incidents will be numbered serially and issued as station messages. (2) Following has been issued. My 0528/22/12 (372C) submarine number 1 (Para. B cancelled). My 1503/23 to E.I. Station re-issued as (474C) submarine number 2. My 1730/29 (458C) submarine number 3. My 0739/31 (463C) submarine Number 4. My 1504/4 (475C) submarine number 5 raider no.1. (C.in C.E.I., 1507Z/4 to E.I.Stn. (R) Admty.etc, as amended 1253Z/5,

R.A.3 B.S. RESOLUTION. C. in C. S.A.0925Z/29, intend arriving (?Capetown) in Turkish Destroyer DEMIR HISAR with my secretary p.m./9 time to be confirmed later. RESOLUTION with portion of convoy will (?proceed direct to) Durban where I shall rejoin. (R.A.3, 1740Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R) C. in C S.A., C. in C. E.F. Admty). *3.110*

Operation "Provender". My 0926/31. For A.M.0822/12 read A.M.1533/13 Dec. (C. in C. E.I., 1815Z/4 to Admty).

Burma Coast, Employment of M.N.B.D.O. Your 1516Z/2. Action approved subject to following L. and M. Unit invaluable for installation defences new bases particularly Addu Atoll. Personnel from this unit should not be diverted. As few as possible specialist officers and other ranks should be included in Burma unit. (D. of L.D., Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 1819A/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

TRUSTY.

00727, 4/2. Your 0643Z/30 not to C.Z.M. (Movements of S/Ms which can no longer operate from Singapore). Concur. F.O. Java to inform C.Z.M. (Abdacom, 0115Z/4, to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.J. C.Z.M., Admty).

N.E.I.  
Tin Supply.

N.E.W. confirm N.E.I. now principal source of allied tin supply and that you should request Dutch to continue work, particularly on "Banka". As Japanese supply already ample risk of incomplete demolition can be accepted. (W.O. 0315/4 to Supreme Cdr. S.W. Pacific).

Ships  
Attacked  
by A/C.

Japanese attack on shipping on 2/2 and 3/2 resulted in following casualties: M.V. NORAH MOLLER on fire and abandoned in Banka Strait, KATONG sunk in Banka Strait, LOCH RANZA on fire and beached in Berhala Strait, TALHYBIUS on fire in Singapore Harbour, PINNA (Tanker) on fire 000° 52' S., 104° 19' E. Further details will be forwarded. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0325Z/4 to Admty).

Situation.

00720 cipher 3/2. Some indications enemy plan for operation in Banka Area on 5/2. If so too early for troops from Malaya to take part. Force concerned would probably be division mentioned my Para. 4 yesterday or another force estimated two divisions last sighted Amoy. 27/1.  
2. Parachutists reported landed islands south of Singapore 3/2 not yet confirmed  
3. Attacks on Surabaya and Malang Aerodrome first result of move south of enemy air strength. Bombers could have come from Balikpapan, fighters either from same place or from carrier in Java sea.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0345/4 to W.O. etc).

Singapore  
Raids.

Situation report No. 56. 1630 hrs. G.M.T. 3/2. Kranji Petrol Depot bombed and fire started. Many air raids this morning, main objective Empire dock and harbour area. Considerable damage material in transit sheds and some military casualties. Civilian labour disappeared. (G.O.C. Malaya, 0400/4 to W.O.)

SWAN,  
WARREGO.

My 0617Z/1 (N.T. in W.R.) to N.O.I.C. Flinders was by local mistake not addressed to you. SWAN and WARREGO are to remain at Darwin. If they have departed order their return. (Abdafloat, 0635/4 to D.N.O. Northern Territory, (R) F.O.J., N.O.I.C. Flinders, N.O.I.C. Sydney, F.O.C.A.S., Admty).

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.

Japanese Intelligence. Following is a repetition of my 0704/3. Following from D/F. Numbers refer to unknown units. Anamba Island 6. Indo-China Flagship southern Expeditionary Fleet, KAMIKAWA MARU, plus 5. East Malaya 2. Macassar Strait 3. Menado Celebes Area 5. Amboina 1. (Ends). (Capt. O.S. Colombo, 0710Z/4 to Commandant 14th U.S. Naval District, Pearl Harbour, C. in C. Pacific Fleet).

Singapore Dockyard Situation. Singapore dockyard state. Large floating dock has been sunk. Power Station, graving dock pumping machinery and caisson (corrupt group). Small floating dock awaiting towage at Keppel Harbour. Every endeavour made day and night to comply with your instructions re machinery, stores and ammunition. Enemy now shelling roads and vicinity of store basin. Sudden withdrawal of army, desertion of labour and lack of transport has made it improbable that much can be (?saved). (R.A. Malaya, 0940Z/4 to C. in C. E.F., Abdafloat (R) Admty. A.C.N.B.)

Singapore Evacuees. Following left Singapore 26/1 due Bombay 11/2. CAP ST. JACQUES, ROHNA, EKMA, ISLAMI. Cabin accommodation of each vessel 451 loaded with women and children. Each vessel is also carrying about 550 deck passengers. (R.A. Malaya, 0943Z/4 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

Situation Report. Information number 11 to 1200Z/3.  
1. 9 B 17's attacked shipping at Balikpapan today but clouds prevented result being seen. They were attacked by 2 enemy fighters one of which was shot down. One B.17 forced land on an island South of Borneo but is in touch with its base.  
2. Enemy aircraft activity. Yesterday the wireless station at Kota Bharu (Laut Island, South East Borneo) was damaged. Today attacks are reported: (a) on Surabaya by 26 bombers escorted by fighters. 3 Catalinas were destroyed on the water and considerable damage was done to town but full reports are not yet available. Our fighters intercepted and one enemy fighter was destroyed and probably one bomber. One of our fighters is missing. (b) On Malang aerodrome by 20 bombers and later by 8 fighters. The bombing caused little damage but (?number omitted) B.17's were destroyed and one damaged on ground by fighter attack. (c) On aerodrome Madiun by 28 bombers and 12 fighters. One dummy was hit but there was little further damage. (d) The aerodrome and road at Koepang. No damage reported.  
3. Amboina. Air R/C today reported a line of warships lying at entrance to harbour with transports 4 miles inside lines. One cruiser and 6 merchant ships were seen N.W. of Ceram steering 300°. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0950/4).

War Diary.

4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

N.Os. serving on shore. Your 0940/2 not to Admty. About 200 officers of R.N., R.N.R., and R.N.V.R. and Malayan Officers are still serving on shore. As soon as their services can be spared I am ordering officers away. About 80 have already been sent Batavia and Colombo and 16 are now awaiting passage. Except Boom Defence of Changi all services are still functioning and form part of defences.  
(R.A. Malaya, 0953Z/4 to C. in C. E.F.)

Thailand. Thailand has declared war on G.B. and U.S.A. as from 1200 local time 25/1.  
(Head of M. 1525A/4 "A" Message).

Transport of Oil. My 2213/24 paras. 2 and 3. Following precautions are suggested for ship-to-ship transfer white oils.  
(D.T.D., 1536A/4 to C.C.C.F.)

Nancowry Fuel. For Air Marshal Peirse from C.A.S. Chiefs of Staff would like 1000 gallons of fuel left at Nancowry for use of civil flying boats in emergency. S.O. S.W. Pacific pass to C. in C. C.A.F.  
(Air Min. 1735/4 G.M.T., to C. in C. C.A.F., C. in C. E.F.)

Malaya Air Report. Daily Ops. Sum. up to 1030Z/4. Air raid during night bombs dropped dock area. During day 4/2, 18 plus dropped bombs town and residential area. Further 20 plus on Keppel Harbour, bombs in sea. Report 2 ships bombed and on fire near Pulau Bintang, no details. 6 Hurricanes airborne no interception. A.A. claim 1 twin engined bomber.  
(A.H.Q., F.E., 2200/4).

America & West Indies.

SSSS Report. Following passed for information:-  
?ATLANTIC (Not Broadcasted to G.B.7A of G.B.M.S.7)  
TRADER or Following received from Red Head W/T begins:-  
FRANK J. Intercept 2347 G.M.T. from WSV (Savannah Radio)  
PETERSON. "SSSS ALLO KJQL (Signal letters undecypherable in War Registry) (Berne List gives KJQL = FRANK J PETERSON) 32.17 N., 80.10 W. suspicious craft low in water apparently not moving S.S. ATLANTIC TRADER". Signed Officer in Charge M. T.O.O. 001Z/4 (Ends)  
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.B., 0010Z/4 to Admty).

/JACOB JONES...

War Diary.4. 2. 1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.JACOB JONES,  
U/B.

At 2000Z/3 U.S. destroyer JACOB JONES made soundings contact 046° 58' N., 054° 32' W. Depth charge attack and counter attack made. Contact not regained.  
(Com. Task Force 4, 0215/4 to F.O.N.F.)

→ SILVERAY  
U/B

Following received by Lands End Radio. 0235 G.M.T. SSSS 43. 54 N., 64.16 W., SILVERAY torpedoed. Controlling Station WIM (Chatham Mass.) and VCE, Cape Race Radio. Not re-broadcast.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0336/4 to Admty).

→ SAN GIL,  
U/B.

Following has been read. Intercepted. 0457 G.M.T. SSSS 38.05 N., 74.50 W., SAN GIL torpedoed, de VCS. (Camperdown, Nova Scotia).  
(Halifax W/T, 0540Z/4).

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept. 0500 G.M.T. de Tuckerton Radio. S O S SAN GIL 38.05 N., 74.40 W. sinking fast. Now taking to boats. Controlling station Tuckerton Radio. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0502/4 Burnham-on-Sea Radio, No T.O.O.) Intercepted 0506 G.M.T. de Tuckerton Radio. S O S SAN GIL 38.05 N., 74.40 W., torpedoed, putting boats now. At 0511 G.M.T. Tuckerton Radio, all ships. What is your position from SAN GIL? (Burnham-on-Sea Radio, No T.O.O./4 P.P. Radio, 0610/4).

U/B.

D/F bearings at 1829Z/3rd indicate enemy S/M within 100 miles of 042° 30' N., 040° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0632Z/4 to Br. Warships in Area 7A, Admty, C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

D/F bearings at 1700Z/3 placed enemy S/Ms within 100 miles 047° 30' N., 047° 30' W.

(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0638Z/4 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

D/F bearing at 1727Z/3rd placed enemy submarines within 100 miles of 044° N., 045° W.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0732Z/4 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

→ Following U-boat reports received. S.S. SILVERAY torpedoed at 0234Z/3 in 43° 54' N., 64° 16' W., S.S. SAN GIL torpedoed at 0500Z/3 in 38° 05' N., 74° 40' W.

(B.A.D., 0809R/4 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C)

HOLLINSIDE  
distress.

Proceed to assistance of S.S. HOLLINSIDE who has lost rudder. Position 032° 00' N., 050° 54' W. at 0915Z/4. Tow towards Bermuda. Endeavour being made to send tug to meet.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1002P/4 to MARON.)

My 1002P/4. HOLLINSIDE holds only S.P. 02272 (10) and (11) and has revealed her position in P/L. Request route in order that instructions for junction may be communicated with reference to letter positions.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1119P/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.4. 2. 1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- U.S. Transports. Your 2026/1 Para. 2. Reply. MOUNT VERNON should return to West Coast, San Francisco WEST POINT and WAKEFIELD to East Coast, New York. (B.A.D., 1127R/4 to D. of S.T.)
- SPIKENARD, DAUPHIN. Lost touch with S.C.67. Dropped pattern on doubtful contact at 1008Z in 048° 28' 048° 20'. Course now 056° speed 12 knots, fog. DAUPHIN\* reported attacked by torpedo at 1800Z/3 in 047° 05' 051° 00' (SPIKENARD, 1145Z/4 to Opanav). \* (Corvette).
- U/B D/F bearings at 1045Z/4 indicate S/M within 100 miles 44.30 N., 35° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1155Z/4 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty, C, in C. A.W.I. Opanav, C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.)
- A.T.12. My 1201/3. U.S. authorities have now requested that DUCHESS OF ATHOLL may be included in A.T.12 due to one of their own vessels dropping out unexpectedly. (B.A.D., 1209R/4 to D. of S.T.) Agree. (D.S.T., 0640A/6).
- Washops 54. Phillipine Is. Luzon. Sporadic bombing of U.S. Bataan position was principal air activity. Mindanao.. First report received of enemy employed light artillery. 2. Hawaii Is. area. Estimated that 4 enemy S/Ms are operating in this area. (J.S.M., Washington, 1219R/4 to Admty etc).
- CORILLA (torpedoed 2/2). H.X.173. Request information if CORILLA was closed up in convoy when attacked. (D.T.D., 1245A/4 to C.O.A.C. Halifax). Your 1245A/4. CORILLA was not closed up in convoy when attacked. (C.O.A.C., 1952Z/4 to Admty), H.X.173. CORILLA returned with torpedo damage, ALCEDO returned having been unable to contact convoy. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1409Z/4 to Admty).
- EMILIA, S/M Report. N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1232Q/3. Further from U.S. ship EMILIA, S/M broke surface distance one mile remained stopped, resembled British URSULA class. No attempt attack. Master believes Brazilian. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1254R/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.)



War Diary.4. 2. 1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

St. Pierre, Miquelon. At request of Mr. Cordell Hull U.S. Chiefs of Staff raised question of St. Pierre and Miquelon at Combined Chiefs of Staff meeting 3/2. Secret information was given that Adm. Darlan had said that unless matter was settled satisfactorily within next few days American Consuls in France and observers in North Africa will be asked to go. It was further stated that using this peg Darlan will come to a (?compromise) with Japanese and arrange for them to take over New Caledonia and restore it to Vichy France. Combined Chiefs of Staff, while recording their view that it was of military importance that existing relations between U.S.A. and Vichy France should be maintained, felt matter could only be resolved through diplomatic channels. (J.S.M. Washington, 1309R/4 to Chiefs of Staff, London).

GANDIA. Your 1832/15 (re convoy O.N. 56). Belgian GANDIA has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1408Z/4 to Admty).

W.L. STEED (torpedoed 2/2). At 1230 G.M.T. in 037° 29' N., 072° 27' W., picked up lifeboat ex W.L. STEED, 3 survivors and 2 dead. Survivors report torpedoed 1830 G.M.T./2. 3 other lifeboats launched, wind since been N.W. force 5, and submarine last seen steering S.W. (ALCANTARA, 1411Z/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.) D/F bearings at 0331Z/4 indicate submarine within 100 miles of 038° N., 070° W. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1445Z/4 to Admty).

Troop Transports and U/B Situation. Whilst present U-boat situation persists off N. American East coast it is undesirable for troop transports to proceed unescorted to Halifax and New York for loading. Such ships are therefore being routed to Bermuda.

2. After consultation with U.S. and Canadian authorities B.A.D. is requested to report what arrangements can be made for onward escort from Bermuda to loading port.

3. FRANCONIA for N.A. 3 is due Bermuda about 9/2. ORION and CAMERONIA for N.A. 4 are also being diverted to Bermuda. (A.C.N.S. (T), 1537A/4 to C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)

U.S. Shipping Casualties. Difficulty is being experienced in obtaining accurate information about casualties to U.S. Merchant ships resulting from enemy action.

2. Request you will arrange to signal weekly on Saturday (a) a list of ships known to have been sunk (b) a list of ships damaged but which have subsequently made port, stating date, cause and approx. position in each case. (D.T.D., 1538A/4 to B.A.D.)

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

O.N.57 O.N.57 direct Commodore detach RANJA, INGERFEM, CITY OF EVANSVILLE at 52.30 W., first 2 vessels to pass eastward of Bermuda from 1st position on Ocean route. Serial 14. Escort rest of convoy westward to limit of endurance. After dispersal all ships to employ maximum zig-zag and speed. Stragglers should be skirting the line Dormouse Coconut.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 1542/4 to Cmdr. Task Unit 4.1.6 (R) Admty, Cmdr. Task Force 4, Cmdr. Task Groups 4,6 and 7.5 C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax)

BUCTOUCHE. My position at 1700Z/4 050° 25' N., 029° 20' W. Am steering to position (J) thence (K) pending further advice regarding your P.C. and S. Weather report.  
(BUCTOUCHE, 1755Z/4 to SHERBROOKE (R) Admty).

SURREY,  
HOLLINSIDE,  
towage. Your 0209Z/4 to C. in C. A.W.I. only. It is hoped to arrange for U.S. Minesweeper OWL to tow SURREY to U.S. port for repairs, in which case destination will be Norfolk (Virginia). U.S. Naval Operations Base, Bermuda is communicating with Navy Dept. regarding this and further signals will be made. Request information that this is convenient and that tugs will be available to meet tow Hampton Roads. B.A.D. will be requested to arrange air and if possible surface A/S escort for last part of voyage in view of valuable nature of ship.  
2. If U.S. Minesweeper OWL cannot be made available, it will be sometime before towage can be arranged from Bermuda, as only available rescue tug ROODE ZEE is required for towage of HOLLINSIDE casualty to proceed direct to Bermuda and then must be armed before proceeding into U-boat area.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1820P/4 to M. of W.T. New York).

COLLAMER,  
U/B. Following received from Camperdown 2220G.M.T. Intercept from Bermuda V.R.T., SSSS KOZZ (U.S. COLLAMER) 27° 28' N., 66° 46' W., ship unheard here.  
(Halifax N.S., T.H.I.1905/4)  
(Cdre. I/C Bermuda, 2138P/4 to Admty).

ALCANTARA. Your 1724Z/2 to B.A.R.M. Owing to slenderness of destroyer escort for these Convoys only two fully loaded troopships can, under present conditions, be accepted.  
2. Personnel embarked in ALCANTARA should be restricted as directed in A.M.1552A/23.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1927A/4 to N.S.H.Q. BA.R.M., C.O.A.C. C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.4. 2. 1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH. Your 1755R/3 and Admty. 2047A/26/1 para.6.  
Request you will make necessary arrangements for docking S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH and for fitting equipment mentioned in Admty 1922A/31 concurrently (D.O.D. (F), 1945A/4 to B.A.D.)

Ships' Lights Area 7. 1. C.A.M.S.I.463/41 is being revised and following is a draft of instructions referring to Area 7. "(1) In area 7 dimmed navigation lights are to be exhibited.. (a) When northward of 40° N., and westward of 45° W. (b) In the Atlantic when within 50 miles of any land. (c) In the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. (2) When approaching Panama Canal navigation lights are to be burned at full brilliancy whilst within 3 miles of territorial waters. (3) With the above exceptions, navigation lights are not to be shown."  
2. Exceptions to (3) in (1) (a) and (b) above are proposed as the risk of collision is considered to outweigh the risk of enemy sighting, but it is desired to issue instructions in conformity with those issued by Opnav to U.S. flag ships. It is not clear from C. in C. A.W.I., 2202P/24 whether it is Opnav's intention that navigation lights should be shown in U.S. Coastal waters.  
3. Your early remarks are requested.  
(A.C.N.S. (T) 2002A/4 to B.A.D., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)

BOUGAINVILLE, Meter. My 1809/27th and S.O.(I) Capetown's  
QUERCY. 0922/3rd U.S. Consul Casablanca reports final destination A.M.C. BOUGAINVILLE and F.A.C. QUERCY and Djibouti. Crew were warned they were leaving for long voyage. After asking U.S. Consul to check source report is graded B.2.  
(B.A.D. 2029R/4 Admty. C. in C. E.I. S.O.(I) Capetown,(R) C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Mauritius N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Oran Intelligence. Casablanca 2/2 A.1. Following present Oran 30/1 Eight submarines of which PASCAL and POINCARE were due to leave. ARIANE, MEDUSE, ORPHEE, and DANAE, were all four in drydock 28/1. Pier two are ARGONAUTE and DIANE.  
2. Others present included FRONDEUR, four <sup>M/S</sup> sloops including LA CURIEUSE and TAPAGEUSE, latter left drydock 28/1. FOUQUEUX and MILAN are expected, latter for overhaul. Tankers FRIMAIRE BENZENE and DROME. (Naval Officer.)  
3. A small fire broke out in DUNKERQUE 30/1 but did little damage. Ship ready to sail. Above information originally from Oran.  
(B.A.D., 2053R/4). N.I.D. Comment. Para. 3. Temporary repairs are known to be completed. There have been several reports over the last nine months that DUNKERQUE was "ready to sail".

/Repair...

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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Repair of  
M/Vs.

Ministry of War Transport would much appreciate any assistance you are able to provide from Naval resources to expedite repairs to damaged merchant ships in harbour. This would of course be without prejudice to service requirements.  
(A.C.N.S. (T), 2105A/4 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.  
(R) F.O.N.F.)

INDIA ARROW,  
SINCLAIR,  
SUPERFLAME,  
U/B attacks.

S.S. INDIA ARROW torpedoed at 0011Z/5 in approx. 38° 00' N., 73° 30' W., S.S. SINCLAIR SUPERFLAME reports having torpedo fired across her bow at 0015Z/5 in 33° 15' N., 78° 52' W.  
(B.A.D., 2201/4 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.  
N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

SURCOUF.  
U.S. S/MS.

Bermuda arrival Free French S/M SURCOUF,  
Bermuda departures U.S.S./S/MS. R6 and R7 to area stated in my 2149P/2. ~~N.T.N.W.D.~~  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2203P/4 to Admty).

U/B

D/F bearings at 1615Z indicate S/M within 100 miles 40° N., 65° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2219Z/4 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C.  
C.C.N.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.S.S. QUEEN  
ELIZABETH,  
BISHOPDALE.

Admty. has agreed to BISHOPDALE proceeding from Henderson Island to arrive at Comptroller Bay Nukuhiva, 008° 55' S., 140° W., before 1700Z/15 to fuel QUEEN ELIZABETH on passage to San Francisco. U.S. destroyer has been detailed by C. in C. Pacific to meet BISHOPDALE at Comptroller Bay to provide A/S protection and to help QUEEN ELIZABETH and BISHOPDALE to make contact. QUEEN ELIZABETH instructed to be 5 miles south of Comptroller Bay at 1700Z/15 where a U.S. Destroyer will meet her. After fuelling QUEEN ELIZABETH, BISHOPDALE is to proceed to Sydney to discharge. Route instructions for BISHOPDALE from Nukuhiva to Sydney will be given by QUEEN ELIZABETH. These instructions substitute onward routeing instructions for BISHOPDALE ordered by B.A.D. Washington.  
(A.C.N.B., 0332Z/4 to WARSPITE (R) B.A.D. N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C. Sydney, Admty).

War Diary.4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.- Contd.

Situation. Serial No.15 from C.W.R. (1) Missionaries report sighting 1 large, 2 small warships off S. coast of Efate (New Hebrides) dusk 2/2 course W. A/C observed to take off from one. (Grade C.3)  
 (2) Natives report seeing warships patrolling between Malekula and Santo Island (new Hebrides) at 0200Z/2 (Grade C.4)  
 (3) 1 large, 2 small unidentified vessels reported 013° 10 S. 147° E. at 2100Z/2 (Grade D.2). (4) Air R/C of Rabaul 3/2 revealed 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 11 transports (including 1 very large) 2 supposed Military landing craft, 8 flying boats, several small craft.  
 (A.C.N.B., 0528Z/4 to N.O. Wellington, Admty etc).

SOUTHERN SEAS. Pass to Security co-ordination. Request urgently name particulars and background of owner and any details of yacht SOUTHERN SEAS now in Brisbane. Ship flying Panamanian flag. S.O.(I) Esquimalt pass to B.A.D. Washington.  
 (D.N.I. Melbourne, 1414Z/4 to S.O.(I) Esquimalt).  
*not identified*

Convoy Situation. Cancel my 1100Z/2. My 0611Z/31st applies.  
 (A.C.N.B., 1842Z/4 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Abdafloat F.O. Australian Squadron, F.O.S. Admty. D.N.O. Western Approaches.)

Situation. Maori (?8) (1) 31/1 Timber marked U.S.A. California, painted (?Helm) and small life belt washed ashore South coast of Upolu, Samoa.  
 (2) 31/1 wreckage washed ashore Atuona, Marquesas Is.  
 (3) 28/1 Canton Island, Phoenix Group, reports 1 large and 2 small white objects appeared for a short time off the Island. Strong smell of benzine (valuation D.3.) Japanese still reconnoitring Gilbert Island periodically.  
 (N.Z.N.B., 1847M/4 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

4.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-boat positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1451A/4, 1514A/4).

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

ARBUTUS was\* torpedoes at 2138A whilst hunting a submarine in 55° 51' N. 19° 15' W.

\*by U.136 - G.D. 443.

CLEOPATRA sailed from Greenock this afternoon to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

C. in C. Western Approaches is to select 5 corvettes to be sent to the South Atlantic Command to replace the 5 sent from that Command to the Eastern Fleet.

The situation in the Far East makes it imperative to increase our submarine strength in those waters. The Admiralty wish to withdraw the two British submarines from North Russia.

The "U.S. Naval Operating Base, Londonderry" was established today as a part of the Command of the C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy aircraft bombed and machine-gunned Sule Skerry at 1430; no damage or casualties were caused.

S.S. ROTA was attacked at 1220, 10 miles East of Nolso and was slightly damaged.

Attacks off  
Flamborough  
and Humber.

Convoy F.S.17 reported being bombed at 0915 in 54° 7' N. 0° 1' E. and again at 1455 in 53° 41' N. 0° 40' E. In the latter attack MENDIP reports that S.S. HIGHWEAR destroyed an enemy aircraft.

CORLAND was reported badly damaged (later presumed sunk) in 53° 43' N. 1° 38' E. at 1645 and JASON had her W/T aerial put out of action by a near miss.

The ships in the convoy anchorage at the Humber were attacked this afternoon but no damage is reported. About 1500 S.S. HELDER and S.S. HIGHWEAR, outward bound from the Humber to join F.S.17 were attacked and the former was slightly damaged by a near miss and returned to the Humber: these ships shot down a Dornier.

War Diary.

5.2.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

The Portuguese Government is proposing to withdraw practically the whole of the oil fuel from Ponta Delgada (which is in frequent use by our ships for fuelling), owing to the shortage in Portugal.

40 survivors of Norwegian Tanker PAN NORWAY were landed at Lisbon today. The ship was bound in ballast from Avonmouth to Aruba in Convoy O.N.56.

Mediterranean.

There were several attacks on Malta today, the primary targets being delivery aircraft. No naval damage has been reported.

East Indies.

The Admiralty today transmitted to C. in C. E.I. their proposals for the responsibilities of C. in C. Eastern Fleet and C. in C. East Indies. The latter is to remain in command of the East Indies Station and responsible for all routine duties on the station and for the local defence forces and shore establishments including fleet bases, except those in Australia. He will also be appointed Deputy C. in C. Eastern Fleet. The C. in C. Eastern Fleet will command and administer all vessels on the Station other than local defence vessels. The China Force is to be regarded as a detachment from the Eastern Fleet.



War Diary.

5.2.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Burma. Rangoon and Mingaladon were bombed last night, but no military damage or casualties were caused.

Malaya. Convoy B.M.12 with troops and supplies for Singapore was dive bombed in the approaches to Singapore this morning. EMPRESS OF ASIA was set on fire and abandoned. FELIX ROUSSEL received superficial damage and had some casualties, and CITY OF CANTERBURY had her steering gear damaged.

Japanese guns shelled various points on Singapore Island today. Sembawang, Seletar and Tengah aerodromes were shelled this morning, necessitating the removal of most aircraft to Kallang and subsequent transfer of some to Palembang. The station buildings at Kallang were damaged by air raid.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Tanker INDIA ARROW was torpedoed at 0011Z in approx. 38° N. 73° 30' W.

Panamanian NIOBE made a submarine distress signal at 1817 G.M.T. in 36° 31' N. 75° 45' W.

British Tanker MONTROLITE reported being attacked by a submarine about 0001 G.M.T. in 35° 14' N. 60° 5' W.

U.S. Tanker W.W. BRUCE made a submarine distress signal at 0238 G.M.T. 10 miles off Frying Pan Shoal (approx. 34½° N. 76½° W.) reporting that she had been followed for an hour by a suspicious small craft.

S.S. BRASIL reported sighting a submarine at 1735 G.M.T. in 33° 47' N. 68° 57' W.

/S.S. SIXAOLA ...

War Diary.

5.2.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S.S. SIXAOLA reported being chased by one or two submarines at 0759 G.M.T. in 33° 40' N. 77° 15' W.

U.S. Tanker SINCLAIR SUPERFLAME reports a torpedo fired across her bow at 0015Z in 33° 15' N. 78° 52' W.

S.S. ALCOA PIONEER reports being followed by a submarine in 22° 55' N. 85° 59' W. at 1830Z.

Boston harbour approaches are to be mined during the second week in February.

War Diary.

5.2.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Five  
Corvettes  
for S.A.  
Command.

It is necessary to replace in the S.A. Command as early as possible five corvettes transferred from there to the Eastern Fleet. You are requested to select five corvettes (preferably fitted with R.D.F.) from your Command and signal your proposals to implement this.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1614A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Proposed  
withdrawal  
of British  
S/Ms. from  
North Russia.

Situation in Far East makes it imperative to increase our submarine strength in those waters. It is not possible to reduce strength in home waters or in Mediterranean below present numbers which are not adequate. We should, therefore, like to withdraw our two submarines from North Russia.

2. Recent reports indicate that Russian submarines show marked increase in efficiency and are now obtaining considerable measure of success. They appear fully capable of meeting requirements in North Russian waters.
3. The political advantage of maintaining British submarines in North Russia, although great, seems now outweighed by urgent necessity of increasing our operational strength elsewhere.
4. Do you consider that proposal to withdraw the two submarines would cause unfavourable reactions?
5. If, in addition to accepting withdrawal of British submarines Russians could now make available any of their vessels for service under British command, we could of course make very good use of them.  
(1st Lord, 1942A/5 to Ad. Miles.)

U.S. Naval  
Base at  
Londonderry.

The "U.S. Naval Operating Base, Londonderry", is established on 5/2/42 as a part of the Command of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.  
(Head of M., 1954A/5.)

JASON.  
GLEANER.

Your 1555/23. Shortage of fleet minesweepers makes it essential that JASON and GLEANER be transferred from escort duty. No escort vessels from other Commands are available as reliefs. If, as stated in your 1119/11/1, two large A/S trawlers are unacceptable to you as reliefs, they will not be transferred since they are doing good work elsewhere.  
(A.C.N.S. H., 2110A/5 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

TRINIDAD.

In view of apparent prevalence of rumours concerning TRINIDAD, request welfare officer may be instructed to re-assure all enquiring relatives that all on board are well.  
(TRINIDAD, 2316A/5.)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of the U.K.

Fort Rough. Reference 240 Q.Z.H. Tower referred to is a  
(Off fort which consists of a platform, supported by  
Harwich) two pillars, on which are mounted 2 - 3.7" guns,  
2 Bofors guns, and R.D.F. gear manned by R.N.  
and R.M. crew. Tower is named Fort Rough.  
The fort is connected to the shore by telephone and carries  
R/T but no communication ratings are on board.  
2. For recognition procedure it will act as a Minor War Signal  
Station.  
(D. of L.D., 1226A/5.)

Immingham. As the V.Ps. are now protected by Bofors guns,  
Killingholme. the Balloon Barrage will be permanently grounded.  
(D. of L.D., 1951A/5.)  
See British Air Activity.

Movements.

M.L. 234. Sailed M.L. 234 and 235 via Sleet Sound to comply  
M.L. 235. with \*C. in C. W.A. 1916A/3. E.T.A. 1500A/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0821A/5.)  
\* N.T. W.D.

PAKENHAM. PAKENHAM sailed for Scapa in accordance with  
C. in C. Rosyth's 1637/4 as amended by their  
1805/4.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 0827/5.)

PELICAN, My position 180° Tuskar Rock 15 miles 086°, 14.  
MARIGOLD, E.T.A. Liverpool 2200A/5. MARIGOLD in company.  
AZALEA, AZALEA and SPIREA detaching to Milford Haven.  
SPIREA. E.T.A. 1230A.  
(PELICAN, 1001A/5.)

BRITANICA. My 1152A/4. Sailed A/S Whaler NARVIK, escorting  
NARVIK. BRITANICA towed by QUEEN'S CROSS.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1145A/5.)

WALKER, WALKER, WITHERINGTON, WITCH, WANDERER, and  
WITHERINGTON, SALISBURY are required for escort duty on 15/2  
WANDERER, and will subsequently proceed to Halifax.  
SALISBURY, On arrival at Halifax destroyers concerned will  
WITCH. come under the operational and administrative  
control of C.O.A.C.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1230A/5 and 0030A/6.)

BLLENHEIM, Stores from Invergordon will not arrive before  
FURY, 8/2. Intend to retain BLLENHEIM until these  
PUNJABI. arrive and sail her with FURY and one destroyer  
from W.A. on 11/2.  
(2) Intend to sail PUNJABI for Hvalfjord p.m./7.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1310A/5.)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- CLEOPATRA. Sailed CLEOPATRA in accordance with my 1544A/3 24 hours late.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1408A/5.) *See also p. 142*
- DIANELLA. Detach DIANELLA to proceed direct to Londonderry forthwith.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1557A/5 to HURRICANE.)
- ANTELOPE. Intend to sail ANTELOPE at 1700/10 by searched channels, thence through the Pentland Firth to Greenock. Speed 20 knots.  
(F.O. Humber, 1559/5.)
- LIVERPOOL. Intend sailing LIVERPOOL for D/F Calibration passing Clyde boom 0830A/6. On completion proceeding Scapa in accordance with LIVERPOOL 1455A/2.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1608A/5.)
- LEDBURY. A.M. 2308/31 and LEDBURY 1437/5. *N.T. in W.D.*  
Intend to carry out preliminary working up programme including A/A shoot at Portsmouth. This will not delay ship for more than 5 days.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1807A/5.)
- CUMBERLAND. Departure CUMBERLAND escorted by WINCHESTER and COTSWOLD for Sheerness.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1847/5.)
- TARTAR. TARTAR leaving Scapa 2200 to westward.  
(A.C.O.S., 1847A/5.)  
Sailed ~~by~~ TARTAR for Hvalfjord. E.T.A. 1000Z/7.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 2202A/5.)
- O.14. My 1732A/5. Add new para.(G). O.14 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH due Dundee 0900/6 from northward.  
(F.O.S., 1901A/5.)
- TUNA. *N.T. in W.D.*  
My 1732A/5. Amend para.(B) to read TUNA escorted by CAPE WARWICK leaves Holy Loch 0830/6 through Minches due vicinity Muckle Flugga 1300/8.  
(F.O.S., 2234A/5.) *See also next page*
- BRAMBLE. Proceed passing Switha 1200A tomorrow to Sunderland for refit.  
2. Fighter protection arranged.  
(R.A.D., 2315A/5 to BRAMBLE.)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Sweep  
by M.Ls.My 1850/4. Returned.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1142/5.)→ North  
Atlantic  
Dispositions.

Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic Area Iceland:-  
KING GEORGE V, RENOWN, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, KENT, KENYA, SHEFFIELD, SUFFOLK.  
11 Destroyers.  
Area Scapa:- DUKE OF YORK (working up), TRINIDAD.  
2 destroyers.  
Area Clyde:- EAGLE.  
Area North Russia:- NIGERIA and 2 Destroyers escorting outward convoy.  
Area Gibraltar:- MALAYA, ARGUS, HERMIONE and 8 Destroyers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1144A/5 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Reptd. Opnav.)

Off Tana  
Fiord.Soviet S/M on return from patrol reported being attacked by (? destroyer) in 070° 59' N. 029° 45' E. on 19/1.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1201A/5.)Fro Havet  
S/M Patrol.  
TUNA.

(1) Intend sailing TUNA escorted by CAPE WARWICK at 0830A/6 via Pentland Firth for 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles. E.T.A. 1300A/8.  
(2) Thence TUNA to patrol.  
(4) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange

fighter co-operation.  
(Capt. S.3, 1445A/5.)

My 1445A/5. Intend TUNA proceed on surface at C.O's discretion from (A) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles through (B) 061° 30' N. 000° 35' W. (C) 065° N. 002° 30' E., thence submerged by day to patrol in the vicinity (D) 065° 20' N. 010° E. until 2200A/10 when TUNA proceed to patrol in zone E Fro Havet north of 065° N. until 0001A/11.

(Capt. S.3, 1815A/5.) *See previous page*Dover  
Patrols.Dover dispositions for night 5/6. Nil owing to weather.  
(V.A. Dover, 1638A/5.)→ Iceland  
- Faroes  
Patrol.

C.S.18 SHEFFIELD is to sail from Hvalfiord at 0900N/7 and proceed to patrol "Black" leaving patrol as necessary to escort R.A.(M) during operation S.N.5B and finally leaving patrol to arrive Scapa p.m./11th.

(2) KENYA is to leave patrol at 1800N/7 and return to Hvalfiord through 62° N. 22° W.

(3) TRINIDAD is to leave Scapa at 0500N/10 and proceed to patrol "Black" through position (A) 58° 50' N. 07° W. (B) 61° N. 13° W.

(C. in C. H.F., 2026A/5.)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Immingham  
Balloon  
Barrage.

Please arrange to remove the balloon barrage now situated at Immingham as soon as possible. The V.Ps. at Immingham and Killingholme are now protected by Bofors guns. This barrage will be permanently grounded pending removal to allow for operation of aircraft from Goshill.  
(H.Q.F.C., 0815/5.) (D. of L.D., 1951A/5.)

A/C for  
Manston.

PBJ 150, 5/2 in reply 2043/3 and 2146A/2. I presume that the operations of these aircraft will be co-ordinated with F.O.C. Dover by this headquarters and A.O.C. 16 Group.  
(A.O.C. C.C., 1830A/5 to Admty.)

Re-inforce-  
ment of  
Convoy  
Fighter  
Escorts.

It has been suggested that escort vessels of Coastal Convoys should make "Shad" messages on all occasions of a convoy being shadowed by enemy A/C as it may be possible to reinforce the existing short range fighter escort or to send out Beaufighters if the former have returned to their base.  
Request your remarks.  
(D.T.D., 2204A/5.)

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy F.S.717.  
CORLAND  
(British,  
3431 tons)  
sunk.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Booty". My position 54° 7' N. 0° 1' E.  
(JASON, 0915/5.)  
Enemy are bombing Convoy "Booty". My position 53° 41' N. 0° 40' E.  
(JASON, 1455/5.)

CORLAND dive-bombed and badly damaged.

JASON W/T out of action due to near miss. Have rejoined convoy. CORLAND may possibly remain afloat. Is at anchor. Weather unsuitable for towing.

(WINDSOR, 1600A/5.)

Departure Tug MASTADONTE to assistance of CORLAND damaged by near miss at 1645.

(F.O. Humber, 1700A/5.)

Have instructed SHELDRAKE to stand by CORLAND.

(JASON, 1705A/5.)

WINDSOR's 1600. Have searched area but can find no trace of CORLAND. Derelict presumed sunk in 053° 43' 02" N. 000° 36' E. Am proceeding to overtake F.S.717.

(SHELDRAKE, 1902A/5.)

Departure at 1830 MASTADONTE to assist CORLAND damaged by bombs and anchored approx. 2½ miles northward of 62B Buoy.

(F.O. Humber, 1902A/5.)

Did you take off crew of CORLAND.

(C. in C. Nore, 2225A/5 to WINDSOR, SHELDRAKE.)

/AQUARIUS ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.AQUARIUS  
(Fishing  
Trawler)  
damaged  
on 4/2.AQUARIUS reports attack by 2 A/C at 1830/4,  
position E. by N. Aberdeen 5 miles. 14 bombs  
dropped, 1 hit, 13 near misses. Bomb that hit  
vessel did not explode until clear of ship.  
No casualties. Ship able reach Aberdeen under  
own steam.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1250/5.)  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1415/5.)A/C shot  
down.MENDIP reports S.S. HIGHWEAR destroyed an enemy  
A/C in 53° 35' N. 00° 29' E. at 1517 today.  
(F.O. Humber, 1625/5.)

Orkneys.

Enemy A/C bombed and machine-gunned Sule Skerry  
1430 today. No damage no casualties. W/T  
beacon out of action prior to raid.  
(A.C.O.S., 1701/5.)HELDER  
(British,  
979 tons)  
damaged.HELDER outward bound from Humber to join F.S. 17  
damaged by near miss and returning to Humber.  
(F.O. Humber, 1720A/5.)Humber  
Convoy  
anchorage.Ships in convoy anchorage were attacked by enemy  
A/C today. Two or three bombs seen to drop.  
No casualties. Aircraft was engaged by GOATFELL,  
WARLAND, and Balloon Barrage Drifter THORA.  
Aircraft believed hit.  
(F.O. Humber, 1740A/5.)ROTA  
(British,  
840 tons)  
attacked.ROTA was attacked by 1 enemy A/C 10 miles East  
of Nolso at 1220 today. Ship has arrived  
Thorshavn with damaged boat and boat deck, but  
no casualties. Repairs are in hand and it is  
hoped to sail her for Reykjavik p.m. Saturday.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1750A/5.)Mining.Operation  
"Tincture".Request you will repeat Operation "Tincture" by  
p.m./7th in the manner described in my  
1207A/10/9/41.  
(D.M.S., 1136A/5 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

S.N. 5B.

Your 0201A/4. R/V 061° 05' N. 7° 5' W. at  
0830A/9. Cruiser will be detached at darkness  
9th in approx. 060° 50' N. 007° 40' W.

(R.A.M., 1254/5 to C. in C. H.F.)

Intend to carry out S.N. 5B as follows. Details.

(R.A.M., 1441/5.)

See Lion Copy.

/Humber ...



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

~~MESSAGE~~

1441/5 Web. IN

~~136A~~

From R. A. (M).

Date 6.2.42

Recd. 0001.

NAVAL CYPHER A.1 by T/P

Addressed Admiralty, C.in C. Home Fleet, C.S.18, N.O. i/c  
Faroes, C.in C. Rosyth repeated A.C.O.S., C.in C.  
Western Approaches, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., Group 18,  
Air Ministry.

IMPORTANT

Intend to carry out operation S N 5 B as follows  
(a) surface minefield in 2 sections (D.1) H.M.S. AGAMEMMON  
H.M.S. MENESTHEUS H.M.S. LANCASTER H.M.S. WELLS H.M.S. ST. MARYS  
(D.2) one cruiser (c) air A/S escort is requested during  
daylight February 9th. Initial rendezvous 061 degrees 05'  
North 007 degrees 05' West at 0830 (f) Dimon Fiord field  
eastern line from 061 degrees 45' 00" North 006 degrees 41'  
40" West in 216½ degrees direction 3 miles

(2) Western line 1½ cables westward of (1), but no mines  
will be laid to North of latitude 061 degrees 45' North nor to  
west of longitude of northern tip of Stordimon.

(2) Sydero Fiord field eastern line from 061 degrees 39' 19"  
North 006 degrees 56' 04" West in 053 degrees direction for  
5.4 miles. (4) Western line 1½ cables north westward of

(3). A gap of ¾ miles clear will be left between the 2  
fields. (g) 1300 February 8th.

(h) 061 degrees 05' North 007 degrees 05' West at 0830A/9  
(j) through positions

(i) 059 degrees 43' North 005 degrees 26' West

(ii) 060 degrees 31' 007 degrees 05'

(k) 13 knots (l) 1300/9 (n) through position 060 degrees 16'  
North 008 degrees 05' West (o) and (p) Port "ZA" 1230/10

(x) mark 15 star/20 set to 10 feet below chart datum mines  
will be laid at slack water (y) 444 units in all (z) as for  
two lines of ships in area B throughout.

1441/5

Advance copy sent to Duty Captain,  
D.O.D. (H) and D.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)  
D. of P. (2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.D. (H)  
D.D.O.D. (H)

D.A/S.W.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.M.S.  
D.D.O.D. (M)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
Head of M.  
E.P.S.  
D.C. (2)  
D.S.D.  
N.I.D. 10

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Humber. At 1027/5 one mine exploded by Sweepers.  
Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 2105A/5.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Bordeaux. One small M/V bearing 240° distant 3 miles.  
My position 300° from 45° N. 2° W., 30 miles.  
(A/C ?D Squadron, 0932/5 to 15 Group.)

Raider. A well armed disguised merchant Raider with  
torpedoes and R.D/F may be in Northernmost  
Norway.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1531A/5 to C.S.10, Capt. D.8.)

2 T.Bs and Patrol Vessel on 21/1. 0.14 reports 2 torpedo boats one patrol vessel  
seen stopped 5 miles south-east K Y A at 2340/  
21/1.  
(F.O.S., 1903A/5.)

TIRPITZ. P.R.U. Trondheim at 1200/5 shows TIRPITZ in  
63° 36' N. 10° 33' E. moving N.E. Tanker  
still present in Lo Fiord.  
(D.D.I.C., 2001A/5.)

U-Boats.

S S S S. Intercepted at 0001 G.M.T. de Tiree Radio.  
S S S S 2347 G.M.T. BUT Q R N NO P A R S.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 0102/5.)

Two U-Boats. My 0740A/5.  
Further U-Boat transmissions at 0640Z/5, 0754Z/5,  
and 0810Z/5 indicate that two U-Boats were  
reporting either convoy O.N.62 or Convoy O.N.63  
or both these convoys. It is possible but less likely that  
Convoy C.T.10 or Convoy H.X.172 was reported.  
(D.D.I.D., 1114/5 to Convoy Escorts.)

S/M sighted. Am over enemy S/M in 56° 42' N. 14° 28' W. Was  
on surface and observed to submerge.  
(A/C of U. Sqdn., 1443/5 to 15 Group.)

Have lost touch with enemy S/M.  
(A/C U. Sqdn., 1510/5.)

No enemy in sight.

(A/C U. Sqdn., 1515/5.)

A/C sighted U-Boat in 56° 42' N. 14° 28' W. at 1510 and attacked  
with depth charges. U-Boat dived and A/C lost touch.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1537A/5 to Escorts H.X.172, S.C.66, O.N.62,  
O.N.63, C.T.10.)

/HURRICANE ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

S/M sighted. HURRICANE detached at 1500A to close A/C in 056°  
(Contd.) 42' N. 014° 28' W. Ordered to remain in  
vicinity till dark and then sweep back to  
convoy.  
(WANDERER, 1615A/5.)

U-Boat. D/F bearings at 1621Z/5 indicate U-Boat shadowing  
convoy O.N.63 or convoy O.N.62.  
(D.D.I.C., 1922A/5 to Escorts.)

Convoy Preliminary report of proceedings in convoy  
S.L. 98. S.L. 98. At 2035/31/1 in 39° 45' N. 21° 29' W.  
CULVER A/S Operator in CULVER reported H.E. bearing  
(Escort 332°. Sub. Lieut. Carlow, the Second O.O.W.  
Cutter) on the lower bridge, then sighted U-Boat 2500  
sunk yards on bearing, and the mark of an electric  
on 31/1. torpedo about to strike the ship. He immediately  
by U.105. ordered correct avoiding action. "Hard-a-port,  
full ahead". Two torpedoes struck port side  
almost immediately. After magazine blew up  
and ship sank in one minute. CULVER type 271 out of action.  
Sub. Lieut. Carlow and 12 ratings saved. Gap in screen  
caused by loss of CULVER could not be adequately covered by  
illuminants, A/S and R.D.F. As result of D/F bearings, U-Boat  
was considered to be on port side of convoy, but 40° alteration  
to starboard at 0030/1/2 produced a series of having signals to  
starboard. Course was therefore altered 80° to port and no  
further attack developed.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1717A/5.)

ARBUTUS ARBUTUS torpedoed at about 2150A. CHELSEA was  
(Corvette) in company. Nothing heard from CHELSEA since  
torpedoed. 2210.  
by U.136. (VERITY, 2247A/5.)  
(G.D.443) S/M sighted by ARBUTUS at about 1955A which  
dived. ARBUTUS attacked and contact lost. Commenced hunt  
with ARBUTUS who was torpedoed at 2138A in 055° 51' N. 019°  
15' W. S/M later passed down CHELSEA's starboard side and  
was engaged by gunfire S/M dived. Have carried out three  
attacks on good contacts.  
(CHELSEA, 2338A/5.)

Navigational.

Wick. Wick harbour opened at 0815/5.  
(R.N.O. Wick, 0818/5.)

Wash Nash My 1541A/4. Wash Nash Buoy cannot now be  
Buoy. relighted for two days. Request Q.Z.H.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1004A/5.)

No.9 Buoy. No.9 Buoy reported extinguished.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1323A/5.)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

Loch Alsh C.M. Station power hut and contents completely  
C.M. Station. destroyed by fire. Request supply of complete  
new outfit.  
(N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh, 1015/5.)

FORMIDABLE. Your 1704/4. No crane work involved. All  
work can be carried out while ship is working  
up. My 2208/4 refers.  
(FORMIDABLE, 1344A/5 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.W.D.107. "Ounce 1" postponed 48 hours to P.W.D. 108 with  
addition of SAMBRE 9 knots for par to load.  
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 0733/5.)

W.S.16. My 2016/31/1. X.18 will not now be included in  
W.S.16.  
(D. of S.T., 0827A/5.)  
Composition and Escorts.  
(D.O.D. H., 2331A/5.)  
See Lion Copy.

S.C. 66. Daylight alteration today is to be made to  
starboard.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0955A/5 to S.C.66, Rptd. Escorts  
C.T.10.)

P.Q. 11. Request name of Ocean Escorts, time, date and  
position R/V and E.T.A. convoy at position Z.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1052A/5 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Request you will pass P.Q.11 route instructions to C.S.10,  
Capt. (D) 8, and INTREPID.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2141A/5 to Admty.)

C.W. 67. To avoid further dislocation of shipping it is  
now intended to sail C.W. 67 tomorrow.  
Timetable as my 2042A/3 plus 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1112A/5.)

P.Q. 7. P.Q.7 cancel my 1147/4. Your 1329A/2. Ship  
WAZIRISTAN. is overdue and presumed lost.  
(D.T.D., 1225A/5 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

O.N. 63. Anticipate shall be 9 hours early at M.O.M.P.  
O.N. 62. Merchant ship SUVA straggled astern since 2000A/3.  
SUVA. (VERITY, 1400A/5 to Task Unit 4.1.1.)  
O.N. 63. On relief at M.O.M.P. escorts are to  
return to Liverpool.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1535A/5 and 1850A/5.)  
O.N. 63. Your 1400A/5. Inform Commodore straggler SUVA is  
now with O.N. 62.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2121/5 to VERITY.)

# MOST SECRET

139A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2331A/5th February

OUT

To: C. in C. W.A. 872 6.2.42.  
 F.O.I.C. Greenock  
 F.O.I.C. Liverpool  
 F.O.I.C. Cardiff

Repeated: F.O.I.C. Milford Haven  
 F.O.I.C. Belfast  
 N.C.S.O. Clyde  
 N.C.S.O. Liverpool  
 N.C.S.O. Milford Haven  
 N.C.S.O. Swansea  
 N.C.S.O. Newport  
 N.O.I.C. Swansea  
 N.O.I.C. Newport  
 N.O.I.C. Londonderry  
 F.O.C.N.A. 151  
 C. in C. S.A. 173  
 C. in C. E.I. 387

C. in C. Mediterranean 468  
 C. in C. Eastern Fleet 285  
 S.O. Force H. 542  
 C. in C. H.F. 851  
 R.A.(D) H.F. 790  
 C. in C. Plymouth 347  
 H.Q.C.C.  
 H.Q.F.C.  
 DUNCAN  
 PALADIN  
 PANTHER.

NAVAL CYPHER (A.C.O) & D. ONE TIME TABLE

From Admiralty.

Convoy W.S.16 carrying military personnel and stores for the East will be ready to leave U.K. for Freetown on 15th February.

2. Ships will sail from the following ports:-

Newport	Stores	POTARO BRISBANE STAR
Swansea	"	PORT JACKSON
Mersey	Personnel	MOOLTAN AWATEA DUCHESS OF RICHMOND STRATHAIRD CUBA MONARCH OF BERMUDA SIBAJAK
	Stores	DELFTDIJK CITY OF LINCOLN DENBIGHSHIRE
Clyde	Personnel	NEA HELLAS STRATHEDEN DUCHESS OF YORK VOLENDAM BERGENSFJORD EMPIRE PRIDE ORMONDE
	Stores	CITY OF EDINBURGH

3. All ships have a speed of 15 knots except DELFTDIJK 14 knots and VOLENDAM 14½ knots who should be placed as leaders of centre columns.

# MOST SECRET

1398

- 2 -

4. Ships loading at Bristol Channel ports will complete p.m. 13th February. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail them if circumstances permit to attend main convoy conference at Clyde a.m. 15th February otherwise as requisite to R/V with convoy off Oversay Light.
5. Arrangements for ocean escort will be signalled later.
6. Destroyer escort will be provided as follows: detailed arrangements will be signalled later.
  - (a) PALADIN and PANTHER will provide through escort to Freetown being detached as necessary to fuel at Ponta del Gada.
  - (b) DUNCAN will proceed to Gibraltar
  - (c) C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide 10 destroyers in addition to the above.
7. Admiralty will promulgate route.
8. Main convoy conference will be held at Greenock a.m. 15th February.
9. C. in C. W.A. is requested to:
  - (a) Provide escort for Bristol Channel ships.
  - (b) Sail Clyde, Liverpool and Bristol Channel portions as requisite.
  - (c) Detail destroyers in accordance with paragraph 6(c).

2331A/5

D.O.D. (H)

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

Head of M.  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D.A/S.W.  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- P.Q. 9. Estimate P.Q.9 and 10 will be about 4 hours  
P.Q.10. late at position (7). Present speed  $8\frac{3}{4}$  knots.  
Destroyers should have joined 1200Z/5 in  $263^{\circ}$   
136 miles from Skunk.  
(A.C.I.C., 1403A/5 to C.S.10, Rptd. Capt. D.8,  
INTREPID.)
- S.C. 65. Average speed 6.3 knots. Dense fog and strong  
winds until clear of Cape Race.  
Later wind strong but no head gales.  
One straggler. All ships now accounted for.  
(D.T.D., 1440Z/5 to Opanav.)
- O.S. and S.L. My 1838A/3. The extensive reorganisation of  
Convoy W.A. escort forces, necessitated by the adoption  
Escorts. of through escort in the North Atlantic, makes  
O.S.20. further re-allocation undesirable. To avoid  
further dislocation, propose that O.S. 20 should  
be sailed on 21/2 and thereafter O.S. convoys  
should sail at intervals of 10 days, and that escort should be  
provided, as before, by groups 40 - 44.  
Many of the ships in these groups will become due for refit  
in the near future, and numbers at present available do not  
allow for the formation of six groups of sufficient strength  
to provide adequate escort to O.S. and S.L. convoys.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1549A/5 to Admty.) *Cancelled on p.76*  
Your 1838A/3. Request you will commence ten days cycle for  
sailing of O.S.19, it being understood that this can be done  
with the 5 existing groups.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1634A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N. 65. Intend sailing KINGCUP, LOOSESTRIFE, and  
DIANELLA, leaving Londonderry about 9/2 with  
O.N. 65. These corvettes are to remain with  
convoy as long as fuel permits and are placed under your  
operational orders. Request you will allocate them to form  
nucleus of one group composed of U.S.A. Destroyers and R.N.  
Corvettes.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1626A/5 to Commander Task 4.)
- Q.P. 7. Your 1403A/5. 9 ships for Q.P.7 will be ready  
to sail on arrival of P.Q.10. Shall I approach  
C. in C. Northern Fleet for Russian Destroyer  
Escort as far as  $025^{\circ}$  E. which is limit of fuel endurance with  
ADVENTURE as S.O. Ocean Escort.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1644A/5 to Admty.)

/Corvettes ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Corvettes with Newfoundland Escort Force. Owing to the intended reorganisation of N.A. Escort Forces it has not been possible to arrange relief of corvettes at present lent to the Newfoundland Escort Force. To enable these 6 corvettes to visit U.K. at regular intervals, I shall be glad if you will arrange for them to be included in the Escort Groups allocated to trans-Atlantic escort between Newfoundland and Londonderry. It is my intention to relieve these corvettes as opportunity offers in which case reliefs will be made available to sail from Londonderry with the appropriate groups.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1647A/5 to F.O. Newfoundland.)

Routeing near Faroes. My 1750/5. Due to air activities in these waters I consider it most undesirable to route ships in vicinity of Faroes during daylight hours. This applies more particularly to routeing of ships through Skopen Fiord which passage has to be made in daylight.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1820A/5 to A.C.O.S.)

M/Vs leaving U.K. in ballast. The question as to M/Vs sailing from U.K. in ballast has frequently been raised during this war. In the last two weeks it is considered that the loss of at least two vessels through grounding off the West Coast of Scotland was due to these ships being in ballast and unmanageable during a gale, accompanied by snow. In addition to this a Commodore of convoy was forced to return to Harbour, thereby leaving his convoy, through his ship being unmanageable owing to it being in ballast.  
Request again that immediate consideration be given to this matter.  
(C. in C, W.A., 1944A/5 to Admty.)

O.S.18. O.S.18 not met. My P.C.S. 047° 52' N. 023° 1' W. 189°, 9½.  
(BRADFORD, 2000A/5.) See 4/2 - p.107.



War Diary.5.2.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B At 0508Z/5 a German U.Boat made sighting report bearings 295/3 from Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0631A/5 to S. and A., N.A.)

CLEOPATRA Admty. 1953A/4. Intend to delay arrival 2030Z/9.  
(CLEOPATRA 1102/5 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See p. 133.*

COREOPSIS My 1125A/5 to ALOUETTE (N.T.in W.D.) On relief by  
MIRROR. ALOUETTE return to Gibraltar by direct route.  
When 50 miles clear of MIRROR report P.C. and S.,  
E.T.A. Gibraltar and MIRROR's estimated time of  
completion of operations C. and D.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1127A/5 to COREOPSIS (R) ALOUETTE.)

RHODODENDRON RHODODENDRON reports she was shadowed by 2 F.W.  
GARDENIA Condor at 1700Z/4 in 040° 51' N. 008° 51' W.  
H.G.78 My position 038° 39' 009° 29'. Weather.  
(GARDENIA, 1201Z/5 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

Rescue Ships Special rescue ships will in future be sailed to  
H.G. and Gibraltar with O.G. convoy. Request you will  
O.G. Convoys sail them routed to Greenock with H.G. convoy.  
The duties of these ships are referred to in  
W.A.C.1 part 112.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1231A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Situation Report No.3 1955A/5.  
(1) MAURITIUS 21° 57' 26° 58' 350° 16.  
(2) CALIFORNIA 22° 52' 18° 51' 183° 14.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1254A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

Enemy A/C 3 British merchant ships escorted by a destroyer  
attack 4/2. reported attacked off Aviro at 1715/4 G.M.T. by  
2 high flying planes and detonations heard. A.1.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1256/5 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Gib.)

U/B. German submarine made sighting report at 1254  
G.M.T. bearing 322/3 from Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1430A/5 to S.& A.N.A. (E.of 020°W.))

U/Bs and Lisbon report graded A.1. 2 S/Ms and a merchant  
M/V. ship without flag passed Island of Corvo, Azores,  
4/2. Direction not stated.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/5 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.,  
C. in C. S.A., MAURITIUS, Escort S.L.99.)

War Diary.

5.2.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Oil Fuel P.Delgada. Tagus Oil Co. Ponta Delgada informs me that Portuguese Institute of Combustives intend to send Tanker to Ponta Delgada to load total of 7500 tons oil fuel owing to serious shortage of oil fuel in Portugal. This almost amounts to total oil fuel stock here. Tagus Oil Co. being Portuguese cannot refuse this Government order, but are attempting to delay matters. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1705/5 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS Exercises. OLYMPUS leaves Harbour 0815/6 for diving exercise and torpedo firing in bay.  
(2) Submarine will dive in position 240° Europa Point 2.  
(3) M.L. No.134 will co-operate. Ships are to keep clear. Assume OLYMPUS will exercise in area B B from 0930 to 1300 independently.  
(5) A/S exercise in area B B, LORD NUFFIELD, COLTSFOOT, OLYMPUS, WIVERN from 1300 to 1530.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2007A/5 to Ships on Patrol.)

WIVERN LEYLAND. WIVERN on patrol between Spartel and Cape Trafalgar tonight 5th/6th.  
(2) LEYLAND on patrol in Straits S.E. of Tarifa, with one M.L.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2019A/5 to VANSITTART.)

Towage of Dredger from Tangier. My 1942A/3. Am informed French tug and naval escort may be leaving Marseilles in immediate future to remove dredgers. Presume transfer to any French port most undesirable.  
2. Nationality of dredger not yet definitely established but of French an operation "Ration" would appear only remedy unless S.O.E. can provide alternative.  
3. Present does not appear a good moment for "Ration".  
4. Am endeavouring to ascertain nationality of dredger. If it proves to be Dutch or Belgian what action is desired?  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2314A/5 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

ILEX. Sailed 0834Z E.T.A. Simonstown 1000 G.M.T./7 routed along 100 fathom line to position 033.40 S. 027.30 W. thence direct.  
(N.L.O. Durban 0836Z/5 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C., Simonstown, (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Med.)  
My 1417/21. ILEX arrives Simonstown 7/2 on passage to U.S.A.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1353Z/5 to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.L.O. Durban, C. in C.A.W.I. B.A.D. Washington.)

War Diary.

5.2.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

→ VERBENA  
HOLLYHOCK  
TULIP

Your 2036/4 (N.T.in W.D.) These 3 corvettes were delayed for boiler cleaning and completing essential defects. My 1525/29/1 not to Admiralty referred. Sailing dates from Capetown for Durban and Mauritius are :- VERBENA 4th, HOLLYHOCK 5th, and TULIP 6/2. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0857Z/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.) *See also p. 150*

JACOB VAN  
HEEMSKERCK.

Structural defects in Netherlands Cruiser JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK have been taken in hand which will take until 2200 G.M.T./9 to complete, working day and night. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1043Z/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

LAPLACE

Your 0924/3. Admiralty will take action. (D.T.D. 1044A/5 to Brit. Consul, Rio de Janeiro.)

Speed up of  
O.S. & S.L.  
Convoys.

Your 2245A/2 and C. in C. W.A. 1838A/3. 10 or 11 day cycle can be worked from Freetown with average escort of 4 Corvettes and 1 Destroyer for S.L. and O.S. Convoys. Reduction in cycle may however reduce number of escorts available for through routed portion of O.S. Convoys, but this can be accepted. 2. Interval between arrival of O.S. and Departure of S.L. Convoys will remain as at present. (C. in C. S.A. 1331Z/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

→ HOLLYHOCK

Capetown departure 0632 G.M.T/5 HOLLYHOCK for Durban economical speed inshore route. S. of A. 11½ knots E.T.A. 0700 (?) G.M.T./8. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1349Z/5 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. East London.)

**CAMBRIA**

CAMBRIA

Cable ship ~~██████████~~ reported now leaving position given in my 1049/4 for Pernambuco where due evening 8/2. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1530Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

LORD GREY,  
ROSALIND,  
AIGLON.

If not calling Bathurst proceed from position (F) through (G) 015° 00' N. 019° 00' W. (H) 010° 40' N. 017° 30' W. thence to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1635Z/5 to ships named.)

Movements.

Summary 2000/5.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1815Z/5 to S.A. Stn.)  
See Lion Copy.

144A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1216Z 5th Feb. IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 5.2.42.  
Roed 2205.

## Naval Cypher (C) by W/T

Addressed S.A. Station Squadron, repeated Admiralty.

### IMPORTANT.

662

Movement Summary 2000 5th February.

Area P. H.M.S. BRILLIANT with O S 17 013 degs 08' North  
019 degs 08' West 155 degs 8½ knots.

H.M.S. RAPIDOL 011 degs 30' South 007 degs 10' West  
340 degs 9½ knots.

BARFOAM, BARCLOSE, BARFORD (? 005 degs) 50' North  
(? 014 degs) 18' East to (? Lagos) 8 knots.

H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM 000 degs 22' North 000 degs 42' West  
114 degs 7½ knots.

H.M.S. VIOLET towing MALAKAL 004 degs 11' North (? 008 degs)  
42' West 304 degs 6 knots.

H.M.S. JASMINE 003 degs 10' North 010 degs 20' West  
277 degs 15 knots.

M L 271 209 with PINTO 010 degs North 016 degs 10' West  
316 degs 8½ knots.

H.M.S. FRITILLARY, H.M.S. NICELLA with BARRDALE 008 degs  
40' North 013 degs 53' West 287 degs 9½ knots.

H.M.S. SURPRISE 002 degs 26' North 003 degs 42' West  
11 knots.

H.M.S. LAVENDER with GTWY (HARTINGTON) 010 degs 35' North  
018 degs West 114 degs 7 knots.

H.M.S. CANTON, H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE patrolling about  
001 degs North 021 degs West 15 knots.

M/D(?J) BEGALI with (GNJ(?W) PALACIO 003 degs 36' North  
006 degs 12' West 266 degs 8½ knots.

H.M.S. WESTON, H.M.S. FOLKESTONE, H.M.S. WELLINGTON,  
H.M.S. GORLESTON, H.M.S. SENNEN, H.M.S. TOTLAND, 013 degs  
50' North 018 degs 35' West 101 degs 8½ knots.

H.M.S. LA MOQUEUSE 001 degs 30' North 005 degs 10' West  
085 degs 15 knots.

POLAR 5.....

POLAR 5. 004 degs 16' North 002 degs 56' West  
266 degs 8 knots.

F/F.S. REINE DES FLOTS off Freetown to South 8 knots.

H.M.S. FREESIA from Takoradi to Freetown.  
Position (? indefinite).

Area Q. H.M.S. ASCANIA 031 degs 08' South 014 degs  
30' East to Capetown 13½ knots.

H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE patrol (? 041 degs) South  
021 degs East.

H.M.S. RESOLUTION with W S-15 021 degs 55' South  
(? 002 degs) 12' East 132 degs 12½ knots.

Area S. H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM Plate area.

H.M.S. BULOLO, H.M.S. ASTURIAS patrol J 34 D.

1815Z/5.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) & 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.O.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- Duty Captain (2)
- D.A/S.V.
- 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)
- D.T.D.(C)

jf

War Diary.

5.2.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean..

GLENGYLE. Arrival Suez 4/2.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez 0805B/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

Movements. Departure 4/2. JERVIS, LANCE, ARROW, HURWORTH, JAGUAR, GRIFFIN, HAVOCK, KELVIN, HERO, HEYTHROP, ST ISSEY, M.L. 1023.  
(S.O.I.) Alex. 1047B/5 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

THORN Eastern Med. submarine movements summary No.86.  
THUNDERBOLT Submarine Estimated noon Estimated noon  
TURBULENT position 6/2 position 7/2

THORN	033° 46' N.	033° 00' N.
	025° 54' E.	020° 32' E.?
THUNDERBOLT	034° 42' N.	033° 54' N.
	023° 22' E.	026° 02' E.
TURBULENT	035° 49' N.	035° 47' N.
	020° 22' E.	023° 26' E.

(Capt. S.1., 1115B/5 to Med., Fleet).

*See also p. 147.*

IERAX. Intend following Programme for Greek Destroyer IERAX: Leave Alexandria 9/2, Port Said 10-11/2, Port Sudan 14-15/2, Massawa 16-18/2, Aden arrive 20/2. Thence to Calcutta as ordered by C. in C. E.I. IERAX has endurance of only 800 miles at 12 knots due to engine defect. N.O.I.C. Port Said is requested to arrange (?removal) of after torpedo tube at Port Said. N.O.I.C. Massawa is requested to arrange for boiler tubes and any other ex Italian stores required during refit to be placed on board at favourable opportunity. (C. in C. Med., 1155B/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

French Cruiser. One cruiser probably French ALGERIE class sighted by delivery Wellington 1½ miles N.E. of Bizerta course west, 5 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1211B/5 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C.in C. Med).

Enemy M/Vs. P.C. and S. of 1 small vessel 36.15 N., 10.38 E. Course 240° speed 5 knots. 1 small vessel 36.22 N., 10.48 E., 240° 5 knots.  
(A/C F Sqdn., 1520B/5 to Med., A/C).  
2 small merchant ships 036° 15' 011° (?) 38' and 036° 22' 010° 48' course 240° 5 knots at 1520B.  
(Capt. S.10., 1922B/5 to 10th S/M Flot).

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

OLYMPUS. Admty. 2356A/3. In view of altered situation in Eastern Med. I think it would be wise for OLYMPUS to do one more trip to Malta. Request you will arrange. (C. in C. Med. 1543B/5 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Troops for Far East. Reply to D.S.T. 0314/4. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1624B/5 to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.) See Lion Copy (Amended see 1840B/9). My 1624B/5. Propose allocating LLANDAFF CASTLE, ELISABETHVILLE, PULASKI for prisoners of war and service personnel to Durban, TALMA for prisoners of war and service personnel to Bombay, all limited to unescorted number. In addition to prisoners of war it will be required to embark in WESTERNLAND, E.T.D. about 10th, 600 service detailed, probably more. C. in C. E.I. requested to concur and advise if escort will be available. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1700B/5 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med. G.H.Q. M.E. S.N.O.R.S. C. in C. E.I. S.S.T.O. Suez, D.S.T.O. M.E.)

Air Sqdns. for Singapore. Your 0423A/3. 260 embarked YOMA ex Suez 17/1. Further 460 will embark in second flight referred to in my 1701B/28. Remainder will probably be ready for third flight. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1650/5 to D. of S.T.)

Operation "Coquette". Operation "Coquette" is cancelled and exercises must cease on completion of day rehearsal today and of subsequent reloading. New Zealand Division required for operations and you will be informed shortly whether troops are to disembark at Suez or Kabut. Movements of high degree secrecy and reason given for cancellation should be unsuitable weather. (C. in C. Med. 1653B/5 to GLENGYLE for F.O.A.M. (R) F.O.C.R.S. )

EMPIRE ORIOLE. M.W.9. My 1435B/4 (? 1635B/4 intended re allocation of ships) cancel para. 2 EMPIRE ORIOLE will be used for motor transport to Far East. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1714B/5 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med.) Cancel my 1350B/4. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1715B/5 to D. of S.T.)

10th S/M Flotilla, possible move to Alex. Considered desirable to make provision for basing 10th S/M Flotilla should enemy action make it necessary for it to leave Malta. 2. Proposed in this event S/M's of 10th Flotilla, except those shortly due to refit, should proceed to Alexandria, and that, subject to your concurrence, LUCIA be made available at Alexandria as S/M Depot Ship, and that provision be made now for base and accommodation facilities at Alexandria for a maximum of 10 U class Submarines. 3. Request early report of additional facilities required and details of base equipment etc., supply of which it would be necessary for Admty. to arrange. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1720A/5 to C. in C. Med.)

/THUNDERBOLT ...

146A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1624E/5th February

IN

From P.S.T.O. Egypt (Port Said)

Date 6.2.42.  
Recd.0925

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY CABLE.

Addressed D.of S.T. Repeated C.in C. Mediterranean, C.in C. East Indies, C.in C. Eastern Fleet, F.O.C. Red Sea Force, P.S.T.O. India, (Bombay), C.in C. Middle East, S.S.T.O. Suez, ABDACOM.

IMMEDIATE AIDAC.

508. Your 0314 4th move will consist of 3 flight troop ships and 4 flight M/T ships

(ii) First flight. Name followed by sailing date ex Suez

- (a) Troop ship GPZC (ASCANIUS) 27th Jan.
  - FNSM (ILE DE FRANCE) 30th Jan
  - GTTM (MAURETANIA) 31st Jan.
  - GZSR (ORCADES) 1st February
  - FNBN (MENDOZA) and GFFN (SALWEEN) 4th Feb.
- 1st 4 sailed independently latter 2 proceeded in convoy from Aden. 6 ships capacity 17000.

(b) Motor transport ships.

- LDRM (TROJA) GBCB (AFRICAN PRINCE) and GKLD (BIRCHBANK) 27th January
- GSFR (SILVERTEAK) and MARISO 28th January
- GQPB (GOVERNOR) and MADRAS CITY 30th January
- EMPIRE GLADE 31st January
- GBSQ (MASULA) GLSY (HADLEIGH) and EMPIRE GLEN 1st Feb.
- LAVINGTON COURT GPFN (GLENIFFER) GCDJ (SUTLEJ)
- GTBD (PENRITH CASTLE) GRGM (SHILLONG) GCXQ (MATHURA) and GQVY (SILVERWILLOW) 2nd February
- MGMQ (BEN ADEN) PGHF (NIGERSTROOM) LKEY (SOPHOCLES) 5th February

GLZP (WESTMORLAND) Cape Wrath about 6th February  
23 ships capacity 3500 mechanical transport and 4600 personnel.

(iii) Second flight.

- (A) Troop Ship. \* MOUNT VERNON GMSN (RAJULA) GRMW (ARONDA) ANDES PGGF (NIEUW AMSTERDAM) GPGP (DURBAN CASTLE) and GFFX (STRATHALLAN) 7 ships Capacity 19500. Sails ex Suez between 9th and 16th February.

\* U.S.S. Naval Station

- (B) M.T. ships GDDS (ETTRICK BANK) GQJX (PUNDIT) LDUB (TRICOLOR) GKLM (CLYDEBANK) INDUSTRY GNDP (SILVER-MAPLE) and LDHQ (SOMERVILLE) about 9th February.
  - HAVILDAR GCKC (TREVILLEY) LDIM (TAI YIN) GCZJ (GARMULA) ITTERSUM GJTS (NURMAHAL) and CITY OF HANKOW 12th February
  - BCRZ (EMPIRE ORIOLE) MJPV (ORESTES) GZSY (DELIUS)
  - GORB (RECORDER) ANNA ODLEND BCJQ (EMPIRE EGRET) and BCIT\* (EMPIRE PINTAIL (Ex HOWELL LYKES) 15th February. (T)
- 21 ships capacity 3100 MT. and 4200 personnel.

DIC

\* Spec. Ser. V.

..... (iv)



(iv) 3rd Flight.

(A) Troopships WEST POINT WAKEFIELD GTTM (MAURETANIA) and FNSM (ILE DE FRANCE). 4 ships capacity 19000. Expected to sail ex Suez between 25th and 29th February.

(B) M.T. ship. 20 required names will be signalled as soon as possible. 7 will sail ex Suez about 26th February. 7 29th February and 6 4th March. Capacity 2900 M.T. and about 4000 personnel.

(v) 4th Flight Mechanical Transport ship only 4 ex Suez about 18th March capacity 600 M.T. and 800 personnel.

(vi) All M.T. ships will carry about 600 tons stores each.

(vii) Reference paragraph 3 (A) in order to carry out move with despatch using minimum number of troop ships WESTERNLAND TAIMA GJYP (LLANDAFF CASTLE) NRMA (PULASKI) and OPEA (ELIZABETHVILLE) are not included, fastest ships available being allocated. Your immediate concurrence is requested.

(viii) Further signal regarding proposed use of 5 slow ships mentioned above follows.

1624B/5

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.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D. of P. (3)

D. of S.T. for action

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

E.P.S.

N.I.D. 10

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Hd. of M.

D.C. (2)

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

✓ Movement of personnel from  
Middle East to Far East.

DICMG Admiral Somerville.

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

THUNDERBOLT, THUNDERBOLT is returning to Alexandria through  
TURBULENT. 036° 32' 021° 28' and 034° 40' 023° 24'.  
TURBULENT (?is) proceeding Suda Bay area through  
035° 48' 020° 00' and Antikithera Channel.  
Estimate position noon 6th THUNDERBOLT 034° 42' 023° 22',  
TURBULENT 035° 49' 020° 22'. THUNDERBOLT may have been  
delayed and TURBULENT may be ahead of position given.  
TURBULENT is to leave patrol P.M./10 and proceed to Alexandria  
through 035° 30' 026° 32' 033° 00' 029° 02' crossing 35° N.  
about noon/11 and arriving Sanctuary 0530B/13.  
(Capt. S.1 1731B/5. to TURBULENT, THUNDERBOLT, (R) THORN, C. in  
C. Med., Capt. S.10, R.A. Alexandria, 201 Naval Co-operation Group)

See p 145

UPHOLDER. Position 013° Cape Gallo 4.5 miles compromised  
at 1340B. Keep at least 20 miles clear.  
(Capt. S.10 1739B/5 to UPHOLDER.)

Malta C.S.R. Malta 5/2. 4th, 1606 hours, 5 Me.109's  
Air Report. approached, did not cross coast. Night  
4th-5th, 4 alerts 1820 to 0309 hours, 10 bombers  
and Ju.88 intruders, 5 crossed coast, bombs  
land sea, no damage. Hurricane intruders grounded, Ta Kali  
unserviceable. 5th, 6 alerts 0556, 0643, 0811, 0953, 1107,  
1224 hours, total 88 Me.109's and Ju. 88's targets arriving  
delivery aircraft, Grand Harbour (no damage) and Kalafrana.  
Slight damage houses. Casualties.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1755/5)

ELENI. German auxiliary sailing vessel ELENI 145  
G.R.T. sailing south 1730 G.M.T.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1850B/5 to Mid. East (for  
S.O.(I) Med.)

RUDNITCHAR. Bulgarian steamship RUDNITCHAR 269 G.R.?T.  
sailed for Black Sea 13 hour(s) G.M.T.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1915B/5 to S.O.(I) Med.)

SOKOL. O.R.P. SOKOL will remain in vicinity of 034°  
00' 012° 00' on 6/2 before proceeding to area L.  
(Capt. S.10 1923B/5 to UNBEATEN, P.31, SOKOL  
(R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

PANDORA,  
PARTHIAN. Admty. docket M 0292/42. In view of the many  
targets and slight A/S opposition in Tyrrhenian  
sea there seems no objection to PANDORA and  
PARTHIAN carrying out their working up patrols  
in this area. Suggest this proposal be made  
by Admty. to C. in C. Med. and F.O.C.N.A.).  
(F.O.S. 2149A/5 to Admty.)

/MERANO ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.MERANO,  
ALBARO  
(Italian)

MERANO arrived Istanbul 3/2 from Trieste with general cargo. ALBARO entered Aegean at 0730/2 G.M.T. from Istanbul. (D.S.884, 5/2.)

U/B.

Following received via Malta W/T. Submarine has dived in position 2 X 3 B A 42. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate no hits. (A/C call sign P.5.W. 2230/5.)

East Indies.

INDOMITABLE.

On completion of boiler cleaning I intend that INDOMITABLE unless required for a repeat operation "Opponent" shall proceed to Aden arriving about 18/2 there to re-embark her aircraft and hoist flag of Rear Admiral Boyd. R.A.F. personnel embarked for operation "Opponent" will take passage to Aden in INDOMITABLE. (C. in C. E.F., 0645Z/5 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. C. in C. Med., INDOMITABLE, S.O. Aircraft Carriers E.F., F.O.2nd in C. E.F.) *See also p. 151*

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Position and  
responsibility  
of C. in C.  
E.F.

Personal for 1st Sea Lord.  
I would like to place before you certain problems with which I am faced and certain opinions I have formed concerning the position and responsibility of C. in C. Eastern Fleet when that Fleet has been constituted.

2. Operational. As I see it C. in C. E.F. will be the supreme seagoing Commander in Eastern Theatre and will have Operational control over all British Naval forces except those employed in Abda area and Anzac area the Dominions Naval Forces unless specifically placed under his orders and local defence vessels.
3. His Fleet will presumably operate in Indian Ocean Abda area and Anzac area. His relations with C. in C. East Indies are clear but his position vis a vis the other Commanders is somewhat nebulous.
4. Abdacom for example is designated the (?Supreme) Commander of Land Air and Sea Forces in Abda Area. I am uncertain therefore of C. in C. E.F.'s position when in that area. I presume that if he were to enter either Abda Area or Anzac Area he would for the time being take under his orders all Allied Warships at sea in area though he would not interfere with their proposed employment unless necessity compelled him to do so.
5. Maintenance. Maintenance of Fleet and its bases is a formidable problem.
6. C. in C. E.F. the supreme seagoing authority must be responsible for planning the broad requirements, but the implementation thereof should, I consider, compromise the responsibility of C's in C. of Station and Navy Boards respectively.
7. He should further be divorced from all responsibility for the administration of bases and shore establishments mentioned in A.M. 2125A/27/12/1941. They should remain the charge of present authorities.
8. Rangoon and Burma generally should be administered by C. in C. East Indies, and C.C.C.F. should assume responsibility for shore establishments in Abda Area other than these, Singapore and (? Australian areas).
9. I should be grateful for any guidance you can give me in order that I may do everything possible in preparation for the arrival of my successor and his Fleet.

(C. in C. E.F., 1235Z/5 to Admty.) (Reply: 2308A/10  
p/4 321.)

[WA Note.- Above crossed Admiralty

1652A/5, see page 154]

Commodore C. C. Chinn 30/1/42

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- RAMDAS. Departure a.m./5 RAMDAS. E.T.A. Colombo 0330 G.M.T./6 route 009° 58' N. 075° 46' 30" E. and thence direct outside 200 fathom line keeping 2 operators watching in accordance with L.D.M. 525 para. (2). My 0432/5 to N.O.I.C. Colombo for requirements on arrival follows in P/L. (N.O.I.C. Cochin 0430Z/5 to Admty. etc.)
- B.M.13. Your 0619/3. Regret no ships can be spared from India owing to the large number of present commitments. (P.S.T.O. India 0703Z/5 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. E.I.)
- ATHENE. Your 0017/17. ATHENE due Batavia on 6/2 to unload aircraft. What are intentions for her further use? (C. in C. E.F. 0903Z/5 to Admty. (R) C.C.C.F. Abdafloat, C. in C. E.I.)
- THORDIS. S.O.I. Colombo 0552/1. Is THORDIS (Norge) to go to Rangoon?. (C. in C. E.I. 1120Z/5 to Admty.) Reply: Yes, urgently. (D.T.D.1126A/6.)
- M.R.4. My 0552/28 M.R.4 revised date of sailing 15/2. (P.S.T.O. India 1133Z/5 to C. in C. E.I.)
- DORSETSHIRE. Departure DORSETSHIRE for Colombo. (S.O.I. Bombay 1236Z/5 to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. S.O.(I) Colombo.)
- Raider Report. My 1507 4th (476C) and 1501 4th (475C), for raider number 2 read raider number 1. (C. in C. E.I. 1253Z/5 to E.I. Stn.)
- Persian Gulf Mine-watching. Your 0842/3. Following is a repetition of my 0539/24. (Begins) S.N.O.P.G. (R) Admty. from C. in C. E.I. F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 1225/19/12. It is hoped to provide the present outstanding 9 launches from boats to be sent out shortly by Admty. from U.K. (Ends). (C. in C. E.I. 1600Z/5 to Admty.)
- COETLOGON. (French) Departure 4th COETLOGON, Sete, 1725/5. (Barcelona, 1725/5 to D. of S.T.)
- Movements. Summary Number 23. 5/2. (1) WORCESTERSHIRE at Simonstown. (2) ALAUNIA leaves Durban 6/2 due Kilindini 11/2. (3) EREBUS and MARGUERITE due Kilindini a.m./10 and p.m./6 respectively from Durban. (4) ASTER, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK and TULIP leave Cape area during 1st week February for Mauritius and Colombo. See p 144.

/(5) ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements contd. (5) RAMILLIES at Mombasa.  
 (6) COLOMBO and HECTOR at Aden. (7) HERMES left Simonstown 1/2 due Colombo 14/2 calling at Mauritius 7/2. (8) \*DORSETSHIRE leaves Bombay 5/2 due Colombo 8/2. (9) CORFU leaves Bombay 3/2 due Colombo 6/2. (10) GLASGOW and CARTHAGE at Colombo. (11) ENTERPRISE and EMERALD at Trincomalee. (12) ABDIEL at Colombo. (13) ROYAL SOVEREIGN leaves Port T 5/2 due Trincomalee 8/2 escorted by BATHURST and LISMORE. (14) CORNWALL escorting A.J.1 left Colombo p.m./3 S. of A. 8½ knots towards (? Sunda Strait). (15) MANOORA and INDUS on escort duty between Madras and Rangoon. (C. in C. E.I. 1754Z/5 to E.I. Sqdn.)

*\* Sailed - See previous page*

INDOMITABLE. Not yet decided whether INDOMITABLE is to repeat operation "Opponent" or re-embark her aircraft. In either case she should return to Red Sea as early as practicable consistent with completion of such work mentioned in your 1845Z/25 as is essential. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1804A/5 to C. in C. E.F.)

*See p. 148*

Minelaying. Your 0514Z/1, request further information.  
 A. What will be extent of declared area?  
 B. Will mines be laid? If so, approximate position of mined area. C. The following points are relevant:- (1) Declaration of mined area without implementing declaration will only have very temporary effect. (2) Laying of shallow minefield imposes restrictions on freedom of movement of our own forces. Enemy observation from outside mineable waters will in time indicate the swept channels in use. (3) Deep minefield, in conjunction with air and surface patrols, is probably more effective, and avoids restriction of movements of own forces. Short distance to which mineable waters extend from coast make deep field of limited value. (4) Declaration is not required for deep minefield. 2. Experience in U.K. shows that unless minefields extend well out from the coast they have little effect. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1811A/5 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Shipping Intelligence in Neutral Hands. Your 1612Z/4/10. M. of W.T. states that Netherlands Shipping and Trading Committee cabled Batavia on 6/10 to take steps to prevent a recurrence. (Head of M. 1819A/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Singapore. Situation report 57, 1630 hours G.M.T.4/2. Some enemy shelling in naval base area Sembawang aerodrome and woodland petrol depot. Negligible damage. Several air raids Singapore. Bombs dropped Singapore harbour area mainly in sea and in residential areas. (G.O.C. Malaya 0103/5 to W.O. etc.)

Anzac Area. Natel 1/2 gives information of Anzac area under U.S. Admiral. I would be grateful for details of limits of this command and the duties and responsibilities of the U.S. Admiral and composition of force under his orders. (C.C.C.F. 0511Z/5 to Admty.)

ABDIEL, Minelaying. Your 1333Z/31. Concur. (Abdacom. 0515Z/5 to Admty.) Note: 1333Z/31 from C. in C. E.F. intended, requesting concurrence in laying of minefield by ABDIEL.

Rangoon. Situation report 4/2 1500 G.M.T. Southern Front Situation generally satisfactory. Enemy activity at Paan increasing and all our troops in this area now west of Salween. Situation in Martaban quieter. 16 Brigade H.Q. Thaton heavily bombed little damage. Several parties of our troops which were cut off when evacuating Moulmein have now arrived at Martaban. Our aircraft bombed enemy concentration Paan 4th February. All bombs fell in target area. Two air raids night of 3/4 in Rangoon area. First on town where some civilian casualties occurred, Second on aerodrome no damage or casualties. Toungoo bombed two times some damage to four aircraft on ground in second raid. (G.O.C. Burma 0530/5 to W.O.)

7th D.F. Intend Capt. D.7 in NAPIER should take under his orders as part of 7th D.F. JUPITER, ENCOUNTER, ELECTRA, EXPRESS. (C. in C. E.F. 0910Z/5 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence. Intelligence No.3. Further indications coordinated movement involving nearly all naval and air forces Malaya to Jaluit between 3 and 10/2. Convoy from Saigon area ordered to R/V Anambas Islands 5/2. Possible this is further pointer to operations in Palembang Area. Theory further strengthened by air activity over Banka and Billitor whence more unconfirmed reports of parachutists. 2. Balik Papan convoy still in position possibly either awaiting essential replacements or scheduled date of movement according to plan mentioned above. 3. Examination reports of raids on Surabaya and Malang indicate probability bombers came from both Balik Papan and Mendari while fighters came from carrier in Java sea. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1046/5 to W.O. etc.)

/B.M.12 ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

B.M.12. Convoy B.M.12 arrived. Dive bombed in approaches to Singapore. EMPRESS OF ASIA on fire and abandoned. Personnel saved except those due to bomb casualties. FELIX ROUSSEL 2 hits, superficial damage, W/T wrecked, few casualties. CITY OF CANTERBURY steering gear damaged by blast (N.O.I.C. Malaya 1100Z/5 to Admty.)

Dutch Minelaying. Q.D.C.1. Dutch authority intend to lay mines without further notice in area bound by parallel 006° 50' S. and 007° 03' 20" S. and meridian 113° 02' E. and 114° 11' E. (S.O.China Force 1132Z/5 to Far Eastern Sqdn. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.I. C. in C. E.F. A.C.N.B. Melbourne, N.O.I.C.Malaya).

ABDIEL. ABDIEL has sustained damage to propellers due to grounding. Request spare propellers be forwarded at first opportunity to Colombo. (C. in C. E.F. 1135Z/5 to Admty.)

My 1135/5. ABDIEL grounded Port Anson, Andamans Island, during minelaying operations 1/2. (ii) Preliminary examination reconsidered following damage sustained. (a) 2 blades starboard propeller damaged (b) Starboard shaft may be slightly out of true. (iii) ABDIEL will be docked Colombo on 13/2. (iv) Enquiry has been ordered. (C. in C. E.F. 1340Z/5 to Admty.)

Situation. Information No. 12 to 1200Z/4. 1. U.S.A. (cruisers) MARBLEHEAD and HOUSTON were damaged by air attack this morning East of Madura Island. Extent of damage not yet known but is considerable and both ships are proceeding to harbour. 2. Yesterday Balai (near Asahan in Sumatra) was bombed and slight damage caused to railway station. Further attack made on Kota Baroe (Lauet Island) and town is in flames. 3. Ref. para. 2 of Information No.11, in addition to damage previously reported, erecting shop at Maespati (Madioen) and 10 aircraft were damaged. At Surabaya several houses were destroyed and 31 civilians killed. (No.11) 9 Dutch 1 American fighters, 4 B.17's and 12 naval aircraft on ground or water. Enemy losses 3 certain (1 by A.A.) plus 4 possible. 4. A corrupt message received at Dutch H.Q. on 3/2 from Ambong indicated resistance was still continuing. (C. in C. S.W.Pacific, 1237/5).

Air Report. Intelligence Summary No.74, 0800 hrs. 4/2 to 0800 hrs. 5/2. 27 plus aircraft dropped bombs dock area, 18 plus aircraft bombed residential area. Dive bombing attacks against ships off Johore and Rhio Archipelago. (A.H.Q. F.E. 1520/5).



From: Straits Settlements,  
Governor (Sir S. Thomas).

1716/5th February  
(local time)  
Date 6.2.42.  
Recd. 1110 (London time)

Addressed - Secretary of State for the Colonies.  
13029/42A/42.  
No. 153 Government House.

General.

Absence of adequate fighter defence and damage by bombing affecting morale which the police assess at 60%. Other reasons (1) Sudden disappearance of Netherlands Consular Officer without so far as I can ascertain making arrangements for visas for Asiatics who are within Netherlands East Indies quota of 500. (2) Departure of many European women in several cases without good reason who had joined medical auxiliary or other war service. (3) Departure of prominent Chinese members of Mobilisation Council without warning. (4) Pessimistic tone of many British papers as reported Reuters which may have to be censored. It is essential that any suggestion of the fall of Singapore should not be sent here. On the other hand passive defence service police doing well. Eurasian and Chinese nurses, telephone girls particularly good.

Curfew imposed. People within one mile of the shore on the north and part of the west of the island evacuated. Fish supply greatly reduced since withdrawal of troops from the mainland. Now about 1.3 tons per day as compared with 27 tons pre-war. Trying to arrange passes for selected fishermen. Owing to lack of transport retailers of foodstuffs on the outskirts of the city being ~~replenished~~ supplied from our depots which are themselves being replenished and enlarged by Food Control organisation. Supplies good but the main problem now is to get food to the people. Fresh meat being rationed at 3½ pounds per week per head. Ghee short and with Chinese help we are trying to manufacture Government Ghee compound by which 15 tons of real ghee will be increased to 100 tons still retaining the real flavour. Firewood and charcoal short, most comes from the South Coast of Johore and Rhio archipelago. Labour most unreliable, ditto lorry drivers. Singapore Harbour Board go down damage severe, one portion west wharf out of commission.

1716/5.

RECORD OFFICE

REQUISITION FOR PAPERS

<u>No. of Paper</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Subject</u>
---------------------	---------------	----------------

Copy of Signal  
attached herewith

E. Hamblin  
Ro. 4/4/42.

Forwarded with  
RMB  
14/1/42

THIS REQUISITION, WITH PAPERS OR CHARGES

IS TO BE SENT TO

Miss Buzzard  
TSD / HS.

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Duties of Aidac. A. After consultation with C. in C. E.I. C. in C. E.I. request you will remark on following proposals C. in C. E.F. for the responsibilities of C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. E.I. B. It is anticipated that C. in C. E.F. will spend considerable periods afloat with the Fleet. It is, therefore, necessary to retain the appointment of C. in C. E.I. to deal with all routine station matters and to have a deputy C. in C. E.F. who will act for C. in C. E.F. when latter is afloat. C. It is, therefore proposed:- (i) That C. in C. E.I. should remain in command of E.I. Station and responsible for all routine duties on the station, the command and administration of all local defence forces and shore establishments including fleet bases, except those in Australia which will remain under A.C.N.B. for Naval advice to the Gov. of India and for the routing of shipping. (ii) That all H.M. Ships and Vessels on E.I. Station other than local defence vessels should form the Eastern Fleet under the command and administration of C. in C. E.F. who will be responsible for the provision of naval forces for all operations, including convoy escorts other than those provided out of local defence forces. China Force to be regarded as a detachment from Eastern Fleet as at present arranged. (iii) That C. in C. E.I. should also be appointed Deputy C. in C. E.F. and should act for C. in C. E.F. when latter is afloat. D. As very close co-operation between C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. E.I. will be necessary C. in C. E.F. and his staff will be provided with accommodation ashore at Colombo and when C. in C. E.F. proceeds to sea a portion of the staff will remain ashore to assist C. in C. E.I. in his capacity as Deputy C. in C. E.F. (D. of P. Approved by 1st Sea Lord 1652A/5 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I.) [See also C. in C. E.F.'s 12352/S, page 149]

C.C.O.S. Cables. C.C.O.S.I. Ref. J.S.M. Washington unnumbered telegram dated 2/2. 1. Abdacom cables addressed both to Washington for Combined C.O.S. and Troopers for C.O.S. will in future be prefixed with indicator C.C.O.S. and appropriate serial number. This is C.C.O.S.1. 2. If at any time a cable is sent only to Combined C.O.S. Washington or only C.O.S. London dealing with a purely domestic matter and therefore not repeated to the other it will not bear above prefix. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 2114/5 to British J.S.M. Washington, (for combined C.O.S.), War Office (for C.O.S.).)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- U/B's. Intercept 2354 G.M.T. Camperdown, Nova Scotia, Radio. SSSS de VACY position Lat. 35.14 N. Long. 60.05 W. at 2040 patrolling Stn. (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O. to Admty. Recd. 0102/5) W.D.Note. Probably MONTRALITE, see 0320/5.
- D/F Bearings at 1218Z/4 indicate S/M within 100 miles 43° N. 33° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0021Z/5 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)
- MONTRALITE U/B. My SSSS report T.O.O. 0030Z/5 (N.T. in W.R.) Correct name of ship to read MONTRALITE instead of TORONTOLITE. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0320Z/5 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Opanav, C. in C. A.W.I., C.O. R.N.A.S. Kingston, Jamaica). W.D.Note. 0030/5 repeated in Halifax 0335/7, q.v.
- S.C.67. My 1341Z/3. DUNVEGAN has serious defect and cannot sail. (C.C.N.F., 0036Z/5 to Admty.) DUNVEGAN has serious defects and cannot join you. (F.O.N.F., 0037Z/5 to Com. Task Unit 4.1.15).
- U/B. (Group missing) Japanese coded message intercepted at 1410 G.M.T/3 call sign SIE 6, position 041° 00' N. 137° 53' W. Submarine sighted by Navy Plane 20 miles S.W. of Farallones at 2348 G.M.T/3. A.1. (N.C.S.O. San Francisco, 0110Z/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (S.O.(I) Esquimalt).
- HOLLINSIDE, distress. HOLLINSIDE disabled in vicinity of your route. Estimated position at 0915Z/4 032° 00' N. 050° 54' W. If sighted report her position to MARON. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0123P/5 to PANDORA (R) MARON).
- SINCLAIR SUPERFLAME, U/B. 0023 G.M.T. Intercept "autoalarm signal. SSSS 33.15 N. 78.52 W. S.S. SINCLAIR SUPERFLAME. Had torpedo fired across bow, 0015" (ends). Bearing 219° approx. de VAU. (Halifax W/T, No T.O.O./5 recd. 0309).
- W.W.BRUCE, U/B. Intercepted at 0240 G.M.T. SSSS W.W.BRUCE 10 miles 20° Frying Pan Shoal, followed one hour by suspicious small craft low in water. Controlling station Tuckerton, N.J. (Valentia Radio, 0239/5, to Admty.) (P.P. Radio, 0345/5 to Navycharge, Greenock) (Halifax W/T, 0415Z/5).
- Escort Groups. Your 1927R/2. Concur with scheme (A). (D.S.D., 0247A/5 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/DIOMEDE ...

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5.2.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

→ DIOMEDE. This is Comtaskfor 3's dispatch 1425/4 (begins). You will patrol area Eastward of Trinidad bounded by 8° to 12° N. and 37° 30' W. Keep originator and addressee informed of movements. Base at Trinidad and San Juan. Opanav inform C. in C. A.W.I., and C. in C. S.A. By hand to DIOMEDE. (ends).  
 (Opanav, 0315/5 to DIOMEDE, (R) Admty. pass to C. in C. S.A., Comtaskgroup, 6.3, Task for 3 Opanav, Cominch, C. in C. Lant, C. in C. A.W.I., informed).  
 DIOMEDE sailed on patrol in accordance with orders from Com. Task Force 3 passing position  
 (A) 012° 00' N., 050° 00' W. 1600Z/7.  
 (B) 010° 00' N., 040° 00' W. 1300Z/9.  
 (C) 008° 00' N., 050° 00' W. 1000Z/11.  
 thence to Trinidad E.T.A. 1300Z/13.  
 (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, Port of Spain, 1002Q/5 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., B.A.D.) See also p. 161.

O.N.59. Serial 15. Inform Commodore ships with destinations S. of Crocodile establish new first positions on independent routes 4° S. of old first positions. From thence as follows to new destinations. (details). Disperse as far South as escort endurance permits. All ships for Canadian and North American ports sail Halifax, keeping as close as possible to Coast after dispersal. Dispersed ships will receive further orders if necessary by G.B.M.S. (Opanav, 0405/5, to Comtaskunit 4.1.2. (R) Admty. Comtaskfor 4 Comtask Groups 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.)

U/B. D/F bearings at 0318Z/5. Place submarine within 50 miles of 036° 20' N., 062° 50' W. (N.S.H.Q., 0745Z/5 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

SIXAOLA, Intercepted 0759 G.M.T. de SIXAOLA. SSSS. 33.40  
 U/B. N., 77.15 W., 35° true, 14 knots. Chased by submarine at (0755 G.M.T.).  
 (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O., Recd. 0907/5).  
 Following has been read. SIXAOLA 33.40 N. 77.15 W., course 60° true, chased by two submarines.  
 (Valentia Radio, 0814/5).

PANDORA. PANDORA routed through 035° 20' N. 045° 30' W. left Bermuda 1000/3 speed 10 knots. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0959P/5 to MARON (R) PANDORA).

→ DIOMEDE. S.O. (I) Kingston, (Jamaica) from N.O.I.C. Trinidad. DIOMEDE sailed to patrol area between latitudes 008° and 012° N. and longitudes 037° 30' W. returning Trinidad 1300Z/13. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1032Q/5 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D. Washington). See also p. 161.

/O.N. 61. ...

War Diary.

5.2.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

O.N.61. O.N.61 and S.C.67 N.U. Admty. plot indicates  
S.C.67. convoys will cross tonight 5/2. Recommend escorts  
exchange position reports.  
(D.T.D. , 1043Z/5 to Opnav).

Troop Your 1537A/4. Is there any objection to using  
Transports accommodation in these ships for personnel  
and U/B awaiting passage to U.K. from Bermuda? Numbers  
Situation concerned. Opportunities of passage from Bermuda  
calls at are infrequent at present.  
Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1054P/5 to Admty.)  
Reply: 0636A/7.

DUCHESS OF If you have sailed from Trinidad for U.K. return  
ATHOLL. immediately to Trinidad.  
(Admty., 1127Z/5 to Ships in Area 9 and 7  
for DUCHESS OF ATHOLL only).

SURCOUF. B.N.L.O. SURCOUF has given me copies of his  
reports dated 17/12 1/1 and 16/1 addressed to you.  
Am convinced that this most unsatisfactory state  
of affairs is not in the least exaggerated.  
2. The two main troubles are lack of interest and incompetency  
(the E.R. Department is however moderately clean and efficient  
and the machinery is in fair order). Discipline is bad and the  
Officers have little control. I have no suggestions to make  
which are likely to assist in eliminating these defects which  
I am afraid are inherent.  
3. SURCOUF is a large, complicated, and indifferently designed  
submarine and in my opinion could only be of operational value  
if manned by an exceptionally well trained crew. Even then her  
size places severe limitations on her sphere of usefulness.  
At present she is of no operational value and is little short  
of a menace.  
4. SURCOUF will leave Bermuda on 7/2 for Tahiti via Panama  
Canal unless otherwise ordered. For Political reasons it may be  
considered desirable to keep her in commission, but my view is  
that she should proceed to U.K. and pay off. Request very early  
decision on this question, and in any case before 13/2 when  
SURCOUF will be due at Colon.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1221P/5 to F.O.S., (R) Admty.)

S.S.QUEEN Admty. 1945/4. (1) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested  
ELIZABETH. to confirm that QUEEN ELIZABETH can dock at  
Esquimalt on about 23/2.  
(2) If so (a) will she be able to lie in harbour  
prior to docking or must she arrive at exact time and date of  
docking? (b) request armament mentioned in Admty. 1922/31 may  
be sent to Esquimalt for fitting and not to San Francisco.  
(c) Suggest Naval Board, Melbourne, route ship direct to  
Esquimalt from Nukuhiva keeping well clear of American Coast.  
(B.A.D., 1231R/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, A.C.N.B. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Rescue Ships. Commencing with O N S 64 whenever special rescue ships are sailed with O N or O N S convoys they will remain with the convoy until arrival at Halifax. Request you will sail them as requisite with H X and S C convoys routed to Greenock. The duties of these ships are referred to in W.A.C.I's Part 112.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1237A/5 to C.O.A.C.)

DVINOLES. Following for C.C.R.T. PRUDENT sailed 0830Z today to salvage S.S. DVINOLES in 47.14 N. 50.44 W. (F.O.N.F., 1322Z/5 to Admty.  
(R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

MINISTER WEDEL. Your 1813P/3. MINISTER WEDEL sailed Balboa 1900R/4 E.T.A. Tahiti 24/2, cargo 945 tons diesel and 8658 tons fuel oil.  
(N.C.S.O. Colon, 1336R/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.,  
(R) Admty. etc.)

CASTLE HARBOUR. Your 0844P/2. Guns should be retained in CASTLE HARBOUR. A/S gear being removed, before passing. No action should be taken until arrival date of relief is given.  
(D.S.V.P., 1340A/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B. Report of sighting S/M received from unidentified M/V in 33° 47' N. 78° 05' W. at 1735Z/5.  
(B.A.D., 1359R/5 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)

BERNHARD, O.S.16. Your 1703/8. Norwegian BERNHARD has not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1418Z/5 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.,) See Admty. 1720/7.

U.S.A. and Pacific Islands. Admty. 2053A/27. (N.T. in W.D.).  
Following telegrams have been sent by Dominions Office to Australia (refers to recommendations under consideration by combined Chiefs of Staff at Washington). (1st S.L., 1438A/5 to B.A.D.)  
See Lion Copy.

Boston Minelaying. Boston Harbour approaches between Cape Ann and Cape Cod will be mined second week February, approx. location entrance buoys follows. Northern passage near Cape Ann 42° 36.2' N. 70° 33.8' W., Southern Passage near Cape Cod 42° 10.3' N. 70° 08.3' W. (Opnav, 1531Z/5 to Admty.)

U.S. Dispositions. Following is Cinclant 2245/4 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet for information passed to Spensavo and Admty. for information. Dispositions as of noon

/G.C.T. ...

**MOST SECRET**

158A

1438A/5th February.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT.

To: B.A.D. WASHINGTON. 53.

1.T.T.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Ref. Admiralty Signal 2053A/27.

Following Telegrams have been sent by Dominions Office to Australia.

A. Begins.

My Telegram of 23rd December Commonwealth of Australia No. 874 New Zealand No. 520. The following recommendations have been under consideration by the Combined Chiefs of Staff at Washington:-

- (a) That the United States should arrange for the local defence of Palmyra, Christmas Island (Pacific Ocean), Canton, American Samoa and Bora Bora.
  - (b) That the United States should assist New Zealand, which is responsible for the local defence of Fiji Islands, in providing equipment and air defences for them.
  - (c) That as a temporary measure, to be taken immediately after meeting the emergency in the A.B.D.A. area, the United States should furnish forces for New Caledonia, for the local defence of which the Commonwealth of Australia is responsible. The opinion of the Commonwealth Government should be sought as to the priority of arming the Free French troops in the island.
  - (d) That the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand should be invited to afford all possible supplies to such United States forces as might be assigned to assist in the defence of New Caledonia and Fiji.
2. Estimates of the garrisons recommended for New Caledonia, Fiji, Christmas and Canton will be communicated separately.
  3. It is understood that on the assumption that proposals in general are acceptable to Commonwealth and New Zealand Governments detailed arrangements are being made in Washington to give them effect.
  4. Text of this telegram is being repeated to the Joint Staff Mission in Washington. Ends.

My Telegram of 3rd February No. 156.

- B. Begins. As regards paragraph 2 (c), it is understood that the Joint Staff Mission in Washington has already been in communication with the Australian Chiefs of Staff on the subject of equipment for Free French troops in New Caledonia and a further telegram from them will follow. Ends.

1438A/5

Sec. to 1st S.L.

1st Lt. Col.  
 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.  
 Hd. of M. (12)  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 N.I.D. 10.  
 P.A.S. (3)



c  
1588

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1550/5th February IN

FROM: The War Office. Date 5.2.42.

## CIPHER

ADDRESSED: British Joint Staff Mission, Washington  
Repeated O.C. Troops, Jamaica. O.C. Troops, Aruba.  
O.C. Troops, Curacao. O.C. Troops, Trinidad,  
O.C. Troops, Bermuda.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

0146/1288 No. 68744 Cipher (M.O.4) 5/2.

Reference your GO 78 of 2/2.

First. Relief will be effected. Issue instructions to O.Cs. Troops Aruba and Curacao to complete hand over to U.S. Commanders in full co-operation with Netherlands authorities.

Second. Coy. of 4 Camerons in Bermuda will be relieved by one coy. of Canadian Bn. now in Jamaica. Arrangements being made between War Office Canadian Department of National Defence through Canadian Military H.Q. London. Destination of coy. 4 Camerons is U.K.

1550/5

Received from War Office 0715/6th Feb.

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

War Office Circulation.

- D.H.O. & P.
- D.D.M.O. (O)
- N.C. 1. 2. 3. 4.
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- D. of P. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.S.C. (2)
- E.P.S.
- Hd. of H. (10)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10. Pay Cdr. Wilson.
- Admiral Bailey.

ops  
1

159

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U.S. G.C.T/5 same as in my 0548/4 except VINCENNES  
Dispositions. enroute Casco Bay due 6th. Bermuda group at sea  
(Contd.) south of Bermuda. Task For.15 in 43° 50' 49° 25' W.  
This is Lantflt daily location sheet No.2  
Cominch pass to Spenavo and Admty. Admty. pass to Spenavo.  
(Opnav, 1552/5 to C. in C. U.S.Fleet (R) Spenavo, Admty.)

DUCHESS OF Your 1229A/5. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL arrived.  
ATHOLL. (N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1614Q/5 to Admty.)

ALCOA PIONEER S.S. ALCOA PIONEER reports being followed by  
U/B. submarine in 22.55 N. 85.59 W. at 1830Z/5.  
(B.A.D., 1639R/5 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.A.W.I.  
S.O.(I) Jamaica).

S.C.67. LETHBRIDGE sailed 1600Z/5 to overtake S.C.67.  
(F.O.N.F., 1643Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

U.S. S/M. Positions are latitude N. and longitude W. times  
Dispositions. are G.M.T. U.S. S/M Notice. S. 31 departed 39°  
66° at 2330/5 for Canal Zone via Mona Passage  
passing through 39° 65' 30' at 0330/6 then  
through following points at approx. 1800 on dates indicated.  
30° 65' 30' 8/2. 19° 23' 67° 51' 11/2. 16° 48' 70° 07' 12/2.  
10° 22' 78° 56' 15/2. S.30 departed 37° 66° at 2330/5 then  
37° 65' 30' then at Panama, passing through same points  
designated for S.31 but 120 miles ahead. Average speed 9 knots.  
Total bombing restrictions requested in Lane 15 miles each side  
of route and 120 miles ahead and behind above ? given directions  
for positions of both vessels. S.30 and S.31 inform Addressees  
of delay or advance of more than 120 miles.  
(Cominch, 1645/5, to Cdr. Task Force 5. 05. 04. 02., U.S.Group,  
N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.Jamaica Force).  
S.32 will depart 36° 30' 69° at 1030/6 for canal zone via  
Raraguana and Windward Passage passing through following points  
at approx. 16 hours on dates indicated. 6th 36° 30' 70°. 10th,  
22° 22', 73° 21'. 11th, 19° 04' 74° 44'. 14th, 09° 32'  
79° 55'. Average speed 9 knots. Request total bombing  
restrictions in a lane 15 miles each side of route and 120  
miles ahead and behind above forces position. S.32 inform  
addressees of a delay or advance of more than 120 miles.  
(Cominch, 1656/5, to Cdr. Task. Force 5.05, 02, 12, U.S.Task  
Group, Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I)  
Kingston (Jamaica).

Suspicious Ship. R.N.O. St. Lucia passes following report from  
Alcoa Supt. and U.S. Army Intelligence. At  
1100/4 in 013.50 N. 061.05 W. ship 5000 tons,  
hull light grey, funnel white with blue top,  
mast yellow, Swedish colours in vertical stripes fore and aft  
with flag amidships, raised poop and forecastle. Course 280°  
speed 11 knots. Similar PALIME (Ger.) but shorter funnel.  
U.S.aircraft searched on Arc of 30 miles at 1630Q/4 no trace.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1700A/5 to C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

/Defence ...

# MOST SECRET

159A

## M E S S A G E

MOST SECRET

1845R/5th February

IN

From J.S.M. Washington.

Date 6.2.42.

Recd. 0650

Naval Cypher One Time Table by Cable.

---

Addressed - Chiefs of Staff.

No. 28.

1. Latest report from New Caledonia received Washington 29th January states annual rate of Nickel Matt production is 10,000 tons which would go long way to satisfying Japanese requirements.

2. Please confirm action taken to ensure demolition in accordance with paragraph 9(E) of W.W. (JPC) 8 of 10th January, defence of Island bases.

1845R/5

Advance copies Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F)., D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

N.A.1st S.L.

P.A.S.(S).

D.O.D.(F).

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

D.N.I.(4).

D.of P.(2).

D.C.(2).

D.D.I.C.(2).

E.P.S.

Hd. of M. (33 for distribution).

I.P.(2).

W.D.

N.I.D.10 Pay Cdr. Wilson.

Admiral Bellairs.

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Defence of Air Routes. No. 29. Please confirm approval of following recommendations re defence of West African Air routes agreed by Combined Staff Planners for submission to Combined Chiefs of Staff.

(1) That British confirm responsibility for defence of routes except for Ascension Island and aerodromes in Liberia. British presumably utilizing Free French assistance in Chad Territory.

(2) That U.S. accept responsibility for defence of Ascension Island and aerodromes in Liberia.

(3) That appropriate action be taken to develop alternative routes via Ascension Island, Leopoldville and Belgian Congo to Mombasa thence across Indian Ocean.

(J.S.M. Washington, 1915R/5 to Chiefs of Staff).

U/B Reports, Submarines reported by BOLLAMER 27-28 N. 66-46 W. probably Allied. 2200Z/04 and MONTROLITE 35-14 N. 60-05 W. at 2040Z/04 believed to be U.S.S. MARLIN and PANDORA respectively. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1933/5 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Casablanca Intelligence. British Consulate General New York reports French ships ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER sailed Casablanca 26/1 for New York and ILE DE OUESSANT sailed Casablanca 30/1 for Philadelphia. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1946Z/5 to Admty. C. in C.A.W.I. Opnav, B.A.D.)

Meter. Casablanca 3/2. A.1. 1. Following Naval vessels present 31/1. JEAN BART, PRIMAUGUEST (under repair). Destroyers FOUGEUX, BRESTOIS, BOULONNAIS, L'ALCYON, TEMPETE, SIMOUN, REDOUBTABLE Class S/M's, CENTAURE, FRESNEL, ACTEON and Nos. 53 and 54, DIANNE Class S/M's, VESTALE, ARETHUSE and Nos. 171, 172, 173, 174, 181 and 183. Miscellaneous - LA GRANDIERE, GRACIEUSE, LA BOUDEUSE, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, SERVANNAISE, LOT.

2. My 2053/4. Understood PASCAL and POINCARÉ are proceeding Toulon to repair ballast tanks.

3. U.S. Consul, Casablanca, has been asked to identify numbered S/M's and to report on method of numbering S/M's and Destroyers. (B.A.D., 2005R/5 to Admty.)

Shipping Losses, publication. Your 1228A/2. Policy of Navy Dept. is substantially the same as British Policy. Reasons for apparent freedom given to U.S. Press in this matter. As U.S. have only been in war for 2 months the "war sense" of public is still elementary and inevitably matters such as these can only be gradually tightened up. (B.A.D., 2053R/5 to Admty.)

GUADELOUPE, French. Arrival 4th. (New York, 2100Z/5 to D.S.T.)

/DIOMEDE ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

DIOMEDE. DIOMEDE on patrol 1300/5 passing through position at time indicated, 1600/7 012° N. 050° W. 1300/9 010° N. 050° W. 1000/11 008° N. 050° W. thence Trinidad arriving 1300/13. Speed 15, zigzagging, all time G.C.T. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2114/5 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O. S.A. Patrol, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F. Force).  
*See p. 156*

Navigation Lights, Shipping. Routeing Officers issue instructions to U.S. merchant vessels to use dimmed navigation lights in Gulf of Mexico along coasts of South America and in U.S. coastal lanes except Atlantic North of 29° (U.S.C.N.O., 2220Z/5 to Cdrs. Naval Coastal Frontiers).

BRASIL U/B. Following has been read. Intercept 1735 G.M.T. SSSS 33.47 N. 68.57 W. BRASIL (Norwegian) submarine sighted. (Halifax W/T, No T.O.O./5, Recd. 1945/5).

Enemy Units. Following received from Commandant 14th U.S. Naval District Pearl Harbour (begins).  
Combat Intelligence Bulletin number 20 Page A.  
1 Enemy Auxiliary Vessel reported near 41° N. 140° W. At least 3 submarines in area 41° 14' N., 176° 178° W., probably moving East. Makbn (as received) Gilbert Is., not heard since 1st. No new information on Carriers or Battleships. 1 Sub., reported 21° N., 157° W. (Ends.) C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2038Z/5 to Admty., B.A.D. C.O.F.C.)

SILVERAY Survivors. LUCILLE M, Fishing Vessel, landed 6 survivors one body from S.S. SILVERAY at Lockport, Nova Scotia today 5/2. Rescue 32 miles South of Roseway Light. Survivors claim were in sight of Little Hope when torpedoed. Survivors now in Lockport Marine Hospital. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 2119Z/5 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D.)

SILVERAY (torpedoed 4/2.) My 0809R/4. U.S. Coast guard cutter <sup>GEORGE W. CAMPBELL</sup> reports picking up 35 survivors from S.S. SILVERAY in 43.45 N. 64.16 W. at 1245Z/5. (B.A.D., 2155R/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

NIOBE U/B. 1817 G.M.T. Intercept SSSS de HPFQ (NIOBE) submarine 36.31 N. 75.45 W. too weak for bearing. Yarmouth Radio Station. (Halifax, No T.O.O./5, Recd. 2244/5 to Admty.)

/INDOCHINOIS ...

War Diary.5.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

INDOCHINOIS. Your 1534/23. Adm. Muselier has reported to Free French H.Qs. that he has settled with Canadian Govt. the business of the war material shipped on S.S. INDOCHINOIS. Please elucidate. (Head of M. 2241A/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)  
Reply: 1459/6.

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Serial No. 16 (?from) C.W.R.(1) 5 Catalinas attacked enemy shipping Rabaul night 3,4/2. 1 probable (?direct) hit on large vessel, 1 stick of bombs near missed another. Aircraft attacked by 2 type Zero fighters but all returned to base. (ii) 9 type 97 flying boats attacked Port Moresby at 1700Z/4, some damage (?to) building, power and telephone systems. No known casualties. (iii) 4-engine flying boat circled Nauru for 30 minutes from 0001Z/4 but no bombs dropped. (A.C.N.B., 0518Z/5 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S.Singapore, N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M., Opnav, C. in C. U.S.Pacific Fleet, C. in C. U.S.Asian Fleet.)

AQUITANIA. My 1136Z/3. Delete all reference to Wellington, AQUITANIA will proceed to Sydney (N.S.W.) direct to position 020° 30' S. 160° 25' W. (A.C.N.B., 0714Z/5 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C.Sydney N.S.W.)  
Admiralty 2013A/2. Estimated draught on arrival 33 feet 7 inches. (A.C.N.B., 0838Z/5 to B.A.D.)

Dockyard Naval Board have recently reviewed question Supplies from supply Naval Stores to Eastern Yards and regret Australia. in view recent developments unable continue supply to Alexandria, Ceylon, and India, but are prepared to make arrangements for supply to Singapore and New Zealand. Reasons. In case of individual items if difficulties experienced in obtaining supplies from other sources endeavour would be made to meet demands in Australia, but comprehensive lists of requirements cannot be met under existing conditions. (A.C.N.B., 1826Z/5 to Admty.)

Sydney.

Use as Eastern Fleet base, accommodation.

(A.C.N.B. 0652Z/5 to Admty) Lion Copy only.

**MOST SECRET**

162A  
Recd. 19.2.42. after  
Diary of 5/2 had been  
typed.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

0652Z/5 February

? A.C.N.B.  
From ~~Naval Board~~ Wellington

Date 5.2.42.

Recd. 1848

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated C.in C. Eastern Fleet  
C.in C. South Atlantic, C.in C. East Indies, C.in C.  
Mediterranean, Navy Board Wellington, N.O.I.C. Simonstown  
R.A. South American Division.

AIDAC.

888. Your 2125Z 27th December 1941 Reference  
use of Sydney as fleet base The following berths could be  
made available reference Admiralty chart 1069-(a) below  
bridge

(i) Alongside 4 R Class battleships Woolloomooloo  
one aircraft carrier Sydney Cove 2 8 inch cruisers  
Woolloomooloo one 8 inch cruiser Sydney Cove one submarine  
depot ship Woolloomooloo 10 submarines Woolloomooloo.

(ii) One PRINCE OF WALES battleship Neutral Bay.

(iii) Buoys 8 destroyers Farm Cove and 16 Destroyers  
Main Strait anchorage.

(b) Above bridge alongside 4 Q E battleships  
Walsh Bay 2 aircraft carriers Johnstons Bay one aircraft  
carrier(?Millers) Point one 8 inch cruiser White Bay one  
8 inch cruiser Darling Harbour 5 6 inch cruisers Woolloomooloo  
Al Bay note: Ships particulars taken from C.B. 1791((4) and  
01815 (?B) (April 1941). Also assuming all repetition all  
ships can pass under bridge - maximum headway 172 feet 6  
inches.

Although opinion is not unanimous the general  
technical opinion in Australia is that the bridge would not  
form an obstruction due to bombing. Can the above berths  
be accepted. If not a subsidiary harbour is necessary.  
Port Stephens or Pittwater have been considered but both  
present considerable difficulties.

0652Z/5

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. (2).

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

War Diary.

5.2.1942.  
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1435A/5, 1437A/5).



War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

ADVENTURE and TASAJERA (tank assault ship) were damaged last night in collision off Skerryvore. Both ships are unseaworthy and entered the Clyde.

In order to provide through Atlantic escort for O.N., O.N.S., H.X. and S.C. convoys between Westomp in about 45° W. and Londonderry, 14 escort groups are being organised, composed of destroyers and corvettes (R.N., R.C.N. and U.S.A.)

Enemy coastal batteries fired a few rounds towards Dover this evening, during the passage of Convoy C.W. 67. All rounds fell in the sea. During this time some 4 to 6 E-boats, which had been detected by R.D.F. 4 miles north of Gris Nez at 1910 turned away from C.W. 67 and were engaged by our 6-inch coastal batteries at a range of about 15,000 yards.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S. 717 was bombed at 1041 in 52° 3' N. 1° 49' E. No damage has been reported.

Convoy F.N. <sup>6</sup>24 was bombed at 1309 in 53° 30' N. 0° 51' E. At 1400 LEEDS report that Convoy F.N. 624 had been attacked by 7 aircraft since 1300 and had damaged one of the enemy. The convoy was attacked again at 1500 by 3 Dorniers and PUFFIN severely damaged one of them. No damage to the ships is reported.

S.S. BLUSH ROSE was bombed and damaged at 1815/6 about 3 miles south of St. Anne's Head and was beached.

War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation  
"S.C."

The 4th M/S F completed today the clearance of Gap A.

WELSHMAN returned to Portsmouth at 0200 and MANXMAN to Milford Haven at 0937, from minelaying operations.

37 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines in the Frisian area at noon today.

North Atlantic.

The entire crew of Norwegian tanker PAN NORWAY, sunk by gunfire by 2 large German U/Boats on 26/1 in 35.56 N., 50.27 W., was brought into Lisbon today by Greek S.S. MOUNT AETNA.

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM at a sea anchorage in the Plate area reports damage apparently by sabotage.

The Uruguayan Government signed a decree last night granting non-belligerent facilities to British warships.

Mediterranean.

There were 8 alerts at Malta between 1714/5 and 0526/6, but no naval damage is reported. There were several attacks on the dockyard and submarine base today, but no naval damage has been reported. Serious damage was caused at Hal Far at 1345.

24 Wellingtons last night dropped 27 tons of bombs on Benghazi to cover a minelaying operation by 4 other Wellingtons. 8 mines were laid at the harbour entrance.

Tripoli was bombed last night by 2 Liberators which carried 8,000 lbs. of bombs from Fayid. One returned there without an intermediate landing, flying 2,300 miles in 12 $\frac{1}{4}$  hours, the other landed at an advanced base in Western Desert. Much valuable operation data for Liberators was obtained.

LLANDOVERY CASTLE reported being attacked by enemy aircraft at 1134 today in 32° 1' N. 26° 32' E.

/THORN ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean-Contd.

NINNUCCIA (4583 tons)  
Sunk 26/1-  
MEDUSA - S/M -  
Sunk 30/1-  
(Torpedo Attack Register.)

THORN, returning from patrol in the Adriatic, reports having sunk a U-boat and a merchant vessel.

It is reported that on the night 5/6 Feb. an A.S.V. Sunderland obtained 4 direct hits with 250 lb. bombs on an enemy S/M 40 miles N.E. of Sidi Barrani; the S/M was very badly damaged and considered sunk.

China.

EXPRESS has been damaged by a fire in a boiler room. She is seaworthy and can steam on 2 boilers and is adequate for convoy escort to a refitting port.

There are continued indications of imminent enemy activity. An unknown unit from Amboina has been ordered to a position south of the western leg of the Celebes, arriving at dawn tomorrow.

R-A. W.G. Tennant, C.B., M.V.O., has been appointed F.O.C. China Force to date 15/2 in succession to Commodore J.A. Collins, R.A.N. His flag will be hoisted in NEWCASTLE on that date. NEWCASTLE will leave the Home Fleet with Convoy W.S.16; the ship will not be fully worked up on sailing.

~~C. in C. Eastern Fleet is asking for a submarine minelayer, to work off the coast of enemy occupied areas such as Malaya, if one can be spared.~~

S/M  
minelaying.

C. in C. E.F. suggests a S/M minelayer would be of utmost value for an operation on coast of enemy occupied areas such as Malaya, if one can be spared. C. in C. Mediterranean cannot spare PORPOISE for the purpose.

Burma.

There were 3 moonlight raids on Mingaladon Aerodrome last night, and damage was caused. 30 enemy fighters attacked this morning, of which a large number were destroyed.

Malaya.

Increased enemy shelling was reported today of Seleter, the Naval Base, Sembawang and Tengah.

/N.E.I.....

War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China-Contd.

N.E.I.

There were minor air attacks today on Billiton and Shipping at Macassar and Koepang, but damage caused was negligible.

R/C of the Anamba Is. today showed 9 ships at anchor, apparently 4 merchant vessels, a cruiser and 4 destroyers.

Philippines.

The Japanese are landing additional troops in Lingayen Gulf.

America and West Indies.

Panamanian S.S. HALCYON reported at 0335 G.M.T. being bombarded by a warship raider in 34° 20' N. 59° 16' W. Admty., however, do not consider it likely that a raider was present. U-boats have recently been in the area. The ship has sunk. It was later established that HALCYON was sunk by gunfire from a submarine.

S.S. ESSO BELGIUM reported at 1048P being followed by a suspicious vessel, apparently a submarine, in 29° 20' N. 74° 9' W.

Lloyds report that U.S. Tanker CHINA ARROW was torpedoed and sunk off the U.S. Atlantic coast today.

Australia.

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH left Sydney N.S.W. at 0030 G.M.T. today for San Francisco.

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Admiral  
Miles.

Admiral Miles arrived here 1040A today.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1208A/6).  
Admiral Miles intends to leave Archangel for  
Moscow by air 0800A/8.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1523A/6).

5 Corvettes  
for S.A.

Your 1614A/5. Propose to sail Corvettes as  
follows.  
A. HYDRANGEA working up at Tobermory to sail  
with CAPE HAWKE. AUBRETIA now at sea, and  
PETUNIA completing refit, sail with O.S.20.  
B. SNOWDROP and OXLIP when released from  
Denmark Straits patrol.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1308A/6 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE is required to reinforce the Eastern  
Fleet sailing from Scapa as convenient to  
attend W.3.16 convoy conference a.m./15 in  
the Clyde and thence with the convoy.  
2. It is realised that ship will not be fully  
worked up on sailing. At Scapa she is to  
concentrate on L.A. efficiency, every effort  
being made to carry out at least one full  
calibre shoot at B.P. target before sailing.  
Opportunities for H.A. practices will be  
provided on passage.  
3. Rear Admiral W.G. Tennant C.B., M.V.O.  
will hoist his flag in NEWCASTLE a.m./15/2.  
(V.C.N.S., 1744A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

A/S and A/A  
protection  
of North  
Russian  
Convoys.

C. in C. H.F., 2112A/2.  
This important matter is under consideration  
by the Chiefs of Staff.  
(1st S.L., 1841A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Iceland  
Situation  
Reports.

Request you amplify your daily situation  
report by stating the actual names of all  
H.M. Ships other than Capital ships.  
2. Capital ships should be referred to as  
Fleet units.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1854A/6 to A.C.I.C.)

/Russian ...

War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. - contd.

Russian  
Delegates  
in CAIRO.

Mishap to ADVENTURE necessitates the transport to Murmansk of thirteen Soviet Trades Union Delegates in CAIRO.

2. Request arrangements be made for the ship to sail from the Clyde as early as possible.

(A.C.N.S.,H) 1912A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Denmark  
Straits  
Patrol.

Your 2136A/4. (N.T. in W.D. Copy asked for). Any ship fitted with R.D.F. is of value in watch on Northern passages but CITY OF DURBAN and CAPE SABLE are unsuitable on account of their size and speed. They are vulnerable to U-Boat attacks and if they should intercept a warship their destruction is almost certain.

2. Withdrawal of corvettes is regretted because:-

(a) It means reduction in number of ships on patrol at a time when extra vigilance is required.

(b) If U-Boats are stationed in Denmark Straits the cruiser will have to be withdrawn and corvettes will be only type of ship suitable for patrol.

3. It would be most unfortunate if corvettes are withdrawn until present situation clears.

(C. in C. H.F., 2045A/6 to Admty.)

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.

Sydero A/A defences. One 40 mm Bofors Gun is now ready for action in Trangisvaag Sydero. Request A/C may be informed. (N.O.I.C.Faroes, 1210A/6).

W.A.Coastal Forces. Your 6128/10/12. Report of coastal forces available on 6/2. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1643/6 to Admty.)

Movements.

CAIRO, JAVELIN. Your 1504A/5. Cancel A.M.1405A/23. Request you sail CAIRO to Clyde to work up as directed by C. in C. W.A. (D.O.D. H., 0038A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Your destination is now Clyde. Leave JAVELIN to continue to Scapa at junction of your route with Q Z S 259 and proceed by Q Z S 259 and Q Z S 53 to Greenock.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0142A/6 to CAIRO).

Sailed 1030 in company. CAIRO E.T.A. Clyde 1430/7. JAVELIN E.T.A. Scapa 1030/8. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1136A/6).

TUNA. Sailed TUNA escorted by CAPE WARWICK in accordance with S 3's 1445A/5. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0858A/6).

TUNA passes through position (a) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles about 1300A/8, thence on surface at C.O's discretion through (b) 061° 30' N. 0° 35' W. (c) 065° N. 002° 30' E., thence submerged by day to patrol in vicinity of (d) 065° 20' N., 010° E., until 2200A/10, then TUNA proceeds to patrol area Z one E, Fro Havet keeping North of 65° N. until 0001A/11. (Capt. S.3, 1521A/6).

TUNA escorted by CAPE WARWICK Northbound North Channel through Minches during dark hours tonight.

(C. in C. W.A., 1545A/6 to GAVOTTE, LIVERPOOL, etc.)

HESPERUS. Intend sailing HESPERUS 1400A today in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 0850A/6. E.T.A. Falmouth 1000A/7. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 1051A/6). Sailed (F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 1547A/6). Proceed to Plymouth to de-ammunition. (C. in C. W.A., 1821A/6 to HESPERUS).

Maunsell Fort. My 1308A/31 and 1750A/2. Fort further delayed. Tow will leave Tilbury at 0830/8. Add 4 days to other dates in my 1308A/31. (C. in C. Nore, 1230A/6.)

ASPHODEL, HYDRANGEA. ASPHODEL escorting FINLAND is to be sailed to R/V as required by F.O.I.C.Liverpool with HYDRANGEA escorting CAPE HAWKE. Ships and escort are to proceed in Company to Gibraltar by QZF18 and as routed by C. in C. W.A. On arrival at Gibraltar F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail HYDRANGEA to join S.A.Station and ASPHODEL to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1413A/6).

/Proceed ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (contd.):

ASPHODEL,  
HYDRANGEA.  
(contd.) Proceed to Liverpool.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2357A/6 to HYDRANGEA).

LIVERPOOL. LIVERPOOL completed D/F calibration and sailed in accordance with my 1608A/5.  
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 1424A/6).

B.P.T. Intend to sail tug ATTENTIF with B P T in tow from Montrose to Aberdeen sailing 0800/7.  
(N.O.I.C.Dundee, 1508/6).

UTMOST. (1) Intend sailing UTMOST escorted by SHERWOOD at 0930A/8 for Blyth. E.T.A. 1800A/11.  
(2) F.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation.  
(Capt. S.3, 1511A/6).

AURANIA. When ready for sea request you will sail AURANIA for Devonport.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1743A/6 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

MAURITIUS. MAURITIUS sailed from Freetown 0900/2 for Plymouth routed through A. 14° 45' N., 25° 43' W.  
B. 38° 18' N., 30° 20' W., C. 49° N., 15° 28' W.  
S. of A. 16 knots to position 'C'.  
2. Request you will route MAURITIUS from position 'C' to Plymouth adjusting speed as necessary. Her present orders are to proceed at 26 knots from position 'C' arriving Plymouth 0800/11.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1910A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operations.

Patrol "C". QUORN and HOLDERNESS carrying out patrols C and D  
Patrol "D". respectively tonight Friday. Keep one mile south of centre line of Channel between 57 D and 56 B buoy unless in contact with E-boats.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1040B/6).

Iceland-  
Faroes  
Patrol. C. in C. H.F's 2026A/5. Intend leaving patrol "Black" at 1600A/10 passing through 059° 20' N. 8° W., thence to Scapa. E.T.A. 1600A/11.  
(C.S.18, 1216A/6).

Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol. BERWICK is to sail from Hvalfiord to pass through position X. 066° 30' N., 023° W., at 0930N/8.  
Thence patrol "White."  
(2) KENT is to leave patrol to meet BERWICK in position (X) and thence return Hvalfiord.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1231A/6).  
Estimate at 2159 tonight. Cruiser and 2 corvettes on patrol "White."  
(A.C.I.C., 1701A/6).

/M.L. ...



War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - contd.

- M.L. sweep of French Coast. My 1532/4. M.L's are to carry out similar operation tonight, except sweep is to be from a position 048° 58' N. 003° 30' W. to 360° Ile De Bas Light 5½ miles. M.L's are not to go west of second position.  
(2) Object and general instructions as before, date being amended accordingly. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1412A/6 and 1652/6 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)
- Fro Havet S/M Patrol. (1) STURGEON is to leave patrol after dark 10th and proceed submerging after dark 10/2 and proceed submerging by day through (a) 064° 49' N. 009° 40' E. at about 1900A/10 (b) 064° 40' N. 002° E., thence on the surface at C.O's discretion through (c) 061° 30' N., 000° 39' W., to R/V with CAPE WARWICK in position (d) 020° Muckle Flugga 5 miles at 0900A/13 for onward passage to Holy Loch.  
(3) A.O.C. in C. C.C. is requested to arrange submerged bombing restrictions and total bombing restrictions as follows. (Capt. S.3, 1431A/6 to STURGEON).
- East Coast Patrols. Patrol tonight. 1. 2 M.G.B's Q E (2) shifting to Q.E. (3) at 2345/6. (2) 2 M.G.B's Q E (3) shifting to Q E (4 A) at 2345/6.  
(3) 2 M.L's Q E (4 A) shifting to Q E (6 A) at 2345/6. (C. in C. Nore, 1509A/6).
- British Air Activity.
- Sighting of Sunderland A/C. Your 0155A/6. My position 55° 6' N., 10° 52' W. (CLEOPATRA, 0240A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
- "Shad" Messages. Your 2204/5. Concur. (C. in C. W.A., 1146A/6 to Admty.)  
Your 2204A/5. Concur. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1538A/6 to Admty.)  
Your 2204/5. This is already carried out on the East Coast. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1655/6 to Admty.)
- A/C at Manston. A.O.C. in C. C.C. 1830A/5. It is considered more convenient on this occasion to co-ordinate the operation of Swordfish Aircraft at Manston with A.O.C. 11 Group who has agreed to this course and who is already holding Hurricane bombers and flare droppers available for the same purpose. I have been under the impression that A.O.C. in C.C.C. had been informed vide my 1327/3 addressed to 11 Group repeated Admiralty, A.O.C. in C.C.C. (V.A. Dover, 1148A/6).
- Patrol "Biscuit." Sortie detailed in CC/G1/5/2/42 will be referred to as Patrol "Biscuit" in future. (H.Q.C.C., 1445/6 to 19 Group).

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

CORLAND (Sunk 5/2). F.O.I.C. Humber's 1902A/5. Contact lost with CORLAND during darkness. Probably sank in position mentioned in my 2109A/5. Four survivors in WINDSOR remainder in RAVONIA in F.S. 17. Understood no casualties. (C. in C. Nore, 1007A/6).

Convoy F.S. 17. attacked. Enemy bombing Convoy "Booty" position 52° 3' N., 1° 49' E., (JASON, 1041/6).

A/C claimed shot down on 2/2. It is now known that between 1305 and 1320/2 near 57 E and West Sheringham Buoy H.M.T.S. BRITISH, WITHERNSEA, CHALCEDONY, GREGORY, TERVANI and ARNOLD BENNETT engaged an enemy plane with considerable volume of fire. Hits were claimed by all ships. At 1345 it was reported that 2 men were seen to bale out of an enemy plane near 57 C Buoy. At 1600 H.M.T. MONIMA picked up the body of a German airman who had been dead only a short time in the vicinity of 58 buoy. Request consideration for this claim. (F.O. Humber, 1245A/6 to C. in C. Nore).

Convoy F N 24. (624) attacked. Enemy aircraft are bombing Convoy "Pilot" in 53° 30' N., 0° 51' E., (origin unknown, 1309/6). F.N. 24 attacked by 5 Dornier 217, one Junkers 88, and one unknown since 1300. One Dornier damaged by LEEDS last seen on fire, one Dornier broke off attack and jettisoned bombs. No damage or casualties. (LEEDS, 1400/6). My 1400. Attacked again at 1500 by 3 Dorniers. No damage or casualties. (LEEDS, 1551A/6). LEEDS 1521A/6. One Dornier 215 severely damaged by PUFFIN in this attack. (PUFFIN, 1640A/6).

ROTA (bombed 5/2). *(British sources) p. 136* Danish cargo boat ROTA en route U.K. (? to (?Iceland) bombed and machine gunned 1245/5. 6 miles East of Skaa (?L)efjord. No casualties. Some damage. (O.C. Troops Faroes, 1530/6 to War Office)

A/C claimed shot down on 5/2. MENDIP's 0900A/6 Begins. At about 1500/5 off Humber Estuary while proceeding to join F.S. 17, at least two Dorniers were seen carrying out dive bombing attacks on scattered merchant ships. These were engaged by MENDIP and PYTCHLEY at long ranges though seas made gunnery conditions difficult. Type 285 proved most valuable in MENDIP. One attack was made on S.S. HIGHWEAR and S.S. HELDER who both claim their short range gunfire caused Dornier to hit the sea and explode. MENDIP closed the area and amongst the wreckage of landing wheels, decapitated body etc. an inflatable rubber dinghy was picked up with all its equipment including a

/wireless ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

A/C claimed wireless set.  
shot down PYTCHLEY was ordered to investigate possible  
on 5/2. damage to S.S. HELDER from the near miss but after  
difficulty was satisfied that she suffered no  
serious damage and ordered her to the Humber.  
It is thought that a second aircraft was later brought down by  
fighters acting on MENDIP's enemy reports. This second machine  
was seen falling in flames but type was not substantiated.  
C.A.F.O. 783/40 is being complied with.  
At 0800/6 near 54E Buoy another inflated Dinghy exuding green  
dye and containing two dead British occupants sank while  
attempting salvage. (C. in C. Nore, 1634A/6 to Admty.)

Unknown R.A.F. Rudloe. At 1809 G.M.T. Automatic AAAA  
Ship. heard D.F. Bearing 310 unreliable strength 2/3.  
(Burnham Radio, 1909 B.S.T./6).

Mining.

Operation S C. Operation S C completed. Areas cleared.  
(Gap A). 057° 10' 42" N., 000° 48' 06" W.  
056° 54' 48" N., 001° 01' 00" W.  
056° 55' 48" N., 010° 04' 48" W.  
057° 11' 24" N., 000° 52' 06" W.  
Total mines swept 38, of which 31 were Mark XIV  
or XV, and 7 were Mark XX.  
(M/S. 4, 1453A/6).

S N 31. Your 1318/5. It is thought that certainly less  
S N 32. than 20 per cent. and probably less than 10 per  
Z M E 1 to 10. cent. of S N 31 and 32 remain effective.  
Remaining fields Z M E 1 to 10 were not laid under  
orders of R.A.M., and no estimate as to their  
present efficiency can be given. D.D.O.D.(M) may  
be able to assist you.  
(R.A.M., 1603/6 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Thames One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 1005/6.  
Estuary. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1840/6).

Enemy Intelligence.

Vessels in Enemy shipping movements plotted by R.D.F. in  
Straits of Dover Strait from 0900/5 to 0900/6. Track  
Dover. E 3 D 4 small vessels at 12 knots from 4 miles  
West North West of Calais at 2230 to Boulogne  
entering at 0015. Possibly Minesweeping.  
(V.A. Dover, 0919A/6).

U-Boats.

ARBUTUS. <sup>Am</sup> returning to Londonderry with 39 survivors  
(Torpedoed from ARBUTUS. 7 seriously ill.  
5/2). (CHELSEA, 0345A/6).

/Atlantic ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - contd.

Atlantic. D/F Bearings at 1045Z indicate U-Boat in area within 80 miles of 56° N., 22° W. (D.D.I.C., 1253A/6 to Escorts O.N.62 and O.N.63).

Convoy O.S.18. One submarine bearing 215° distance 7 miles. My position 44° 17' N., 23° 54' W. (ROCHESTER, 1330/6).  
*U-82 sunk.*  
*(Cmd: 6543 ?)*  
*(Capt: Paulsen's list of losses)*  
 D/F bearings indicate U-Boat in vicinity of Convoy. (D.D.I.C., 1651A/6 to Escorts O.S.18). My 1330A/6. S/M dived and was attacked continuously until dusk. ROCHESTER dropped 78 depth charges, TAMARISK 45 depth charges. TAMARISK is remaining in vicinity until daylight. ROCHESTER rejoined convoy. Position 044° 11' N., 023° 52' W. (ROCHESTER, 2230A/6 to Admty.) *(See also 20/3 - pp 627A, B, 7C)*

Off Finisterre. D/F bearings at 2045Z indicate U-Boat in area within 60 miles of 42° N., 15° W. (D.D.I.C., 2305A/6 to Escorts H.G.78).

Navigational.

E-Buoy. E. Light buoy missing from station. Request Q.Z.H. (V.A.Dover, 1009A/6).

Casualties & Defects.

ADVENTURE, TASAJERA, damaged. ADVENTURE has been in collision with tank assault ship TASAJERA 250° Skerry Vore 9 miles. ADVENTURE starboard side damaged and some bulge compartments flooding. TASAJERA bow damaged. Am standing by. Both ships returning to Clyde approx. speed 5 knots. No casualties in TASAJERA. 2 men injured in ADVENTURE. Passengers safe. (ADVENTURE, 0024A/6). My 0024/6. Damage to ADVENTURE and TASAJERA as follows. Details. Both ships unseaworthy, but not in danger. Making for Clyde at 5 knots. (ADVENTURE, 0123A/6). Does either ship require assistance of rescue tug which is available at Moville. (N.O.I.C.Greenock, 1023A/6 to ADVENTURE). Arrived TASAJERA with collision damage. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1808A/6).

ROSEMONDE My 1115A/30. Movement sheet dated 2/2 shows (Presumed ROSEMONDE as having sailed from Gibraltar on lost 30/1). 30/1. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1217A/6).

BRONXVILLE. BRONXVILLE successfully refloated, and arrived Belfast Lough. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1535A/6).

VIVACIOUS. VIVACIOUS has developed a leak in port condenser. Ship will not be available for sea tonight. (D.21, 1733A/6).

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.S. Convoys. Your 1634A/5. Cancel my 1549A/5.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0023A/6).  
Commencing with O.S.19 on 11/2 sailings of O S  
convoys will be every 10 days.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1047A/6).
- O.N. 63. O.N. 63. After relief at M.O.M.P. CAMELIA,  
PIMPERNEL, COLUMBINE are to sweep 20 miles astern  
of convoy until dawn tomorrow, then proceed as  
previously ordered.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1050A/6 to VERITY).
- F.S. 19. On completion ranging proceed forthwith to  
overtake and escort F.S. 19 replacing WOOLSTON.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1222/6 to VERSATILE).
- P.Q. 11. P.Q. 11. Convoy is to proceed to Kirkwall.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1342A/6).
- Convoys O.N., 14 Escort Groups are being organised as follows  
O.N.S., H.X., to provide through Atlantic Escorts between  
and S.C. Westomp, about 45° W., and Londonderry. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1518A/6). See Lion Copy.  
Following 16 corvettes are provisionally  
allocated for duty with Transatlantic convoys  
under Comtask 4.  
2. Intend to sail as follows.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1531A/6).
- Alternative outward Routes. All ships in outward bound convoys should be  
issued with a route through the Minches and the  
approach channels to West Coast ports, in case  
it is necessary to divert them.  
(D.T.D., 1545A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Outward bound M/V's in ballast. Your 1944A/5. Matter has been thoroughly  
investigated by a Ballast Committee recently set  
up by M. of W.T. Instructions are now being  
issued by the Ministry to all Owners that all  
ships for N.A. convoy are to be ballasted  
sufficiently to ensure complete immersion of the propeller, the  
draft forward being adjusted to about two-thirds of the draft  
aft. It is hoped that these measures will effect a considerable  
improvement in the seaworthiness of ships in convoy.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1546A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
- British Atlantic Escort Groups. Propose that the 5 All-British escort groups  
operating through escort on Transatlantic  
Convoys retain numbers 1 to 5.  
2. Would it be convenient to you that remainder  
should be named Escort Groups 6 to 14?  
(C. in C. W.A., 1602A/6 to Comtask 4).

SECRET

MESSAGE

1518A/6th. February I

From C in C Western Approaches, Date 6.2.4.2.

Recd. 1825

Addressed Capt. (D) Londonderry Greenock, Liverpool  
Repeated Admiralty F.O.I.C. Liverpool,  
Greenock, Belfast

97. In order to provide through Atlantic escort for O.N.  
O.N.S. H.X. and S.C. convoys between Westomp in  
about 45 degs West and Londonderry, 14 Escort Groups  
are being organised as follows:-

- 4 Composed of R.C.N. Destroyers and R.C.N. Corvettes
- 2 Composed of U.S.A. Destroyers and R.N. Corvettes
- 3 Composed of U.S.A. Destroyers and R.C.N. Corvettes
- 5 Composed of R.N. Destroyers and R.N. Corvettes

2. Composition of R C N Groups and allocation of  
R C N Corvettes and U S A Destroyers is not yet  
known, but the following provisional organisation  
of R N destroyers and corvettes is intended:-

A. R.N. Corvettes working with U S A Destroyers  
2 Groups:

ROSE	KINGCUP
ACANTHUS	LOOSESTRIFE
EGLANTINE	DIANELLA
MIGNONETTE	RENONCULE
VERVAIN	ROSELYS
HIBISCUS	ALISMA
PERIWINKLE	SUNFLOWER
POTENTILLA	HEARTSEASE

B. R N Destroyers and R N Corvettes:

HURRICANE S O - Cdr Howard Johnstone HESPERUS  
S O - Cdr Orpen.

---

ARABIS	HONEYSUCKLE
MONKSHOOD	GENTIAN
DAHLIA	SWEETBRIAR
SNOWFLAKE	CAMPANULA ✓
PETUNIA	CALENDULA
ANCHUSA	LAVENDER
CLOVER	CLEMATIS
HIGHLANDER S O - Cdr Boucher	HAVELOCK S O - Cdr Thomas

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CAMELLIA	ANEMONE
COLUMBINE	ABELIA
AMARANTHUS	THYME
BEGONIA	ASPHODEL
LARKSPUR	VERONICA
PIMPERNEL	OXLIP
WALLFLOWER	PENNYWORT
HARVESTER S O - Cdr Henderson	

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176B

~~177B~~

MESSAGE  
(2)

1518A/6th. February

HEATHER  
NARCISSUS  
LOBELIA  
COMMANDANT DETROYAT  
SNOWDROP  
SAXIFRAGE  
COMMANDANT DROGU

3. It is intended to allocate additional long-leg destroyers to these groups, and owing to the large numbers of corvettes refitting this organisation must be considered as provisional.

4. Organisation for remaining destroyers in my command is under consideration, but following destroyers additional to those detailed in My 1230A/5, not to all addressees, will be allocated to C.O.A.C. Halifax shortly.

VERITY  
VOLUNTEER  
MONTGOMERY

1518A/6

Advance Copy Ops O.D. Trade.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st. S.L.  
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.  
Ops (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D.A /S.W.  
O.I.C.  
D.P.S.  
M (2)  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
E.P.S.  
A.H.Q.H.F.  
D. of P. (3)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
A.E. (3)

H.

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

- W.N.42. Intend to sail CITY OF DURBAN and CAPE SABLE A.M./8 to join convoy W.N.42 for passage Rosyth for boiler cleaning.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1630A/6).
- O.S.20. O.S.20 now sails Liverpool 21st and Oban 22nd February and thereafter every 10 days.  
(D.T.D., 1647A/6).
- Convoy. Not met. My P.C.S. at 1500Z 050° 25' N., 021° 20' W., 085°, 20.  
(WITHERINGTON, 1700A/6).
- Routeing through Skopen Fiord. N.O.I.C.Faeroes 1820/5. I entirely concur. In view of frequent enemy air R/C of Faeroes there is every probability of ships being attacked and or reported when making passage of Skopen Fiord. It is for consideration whether the risk of location and attack from air attending use of this bottle neck is not greater than risk from S/M's on more westerly route. (A.C.O.S., 1809A/6).
- ANNA KNUDSEN. My 1907A/4. Amend route of ANNA KNUDSEN to pass through (A) 62° N. 12° 30' W. (B) 59° N. 09° W. thence to Loch Ewe. Ship is not to proceed through Skopen Fiord.  
(Admty., 1859A/6 to A.C.I.C.)



War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation Reports. Much appreciated if your (?2000) situation report could include those ships in W.A. Command which are likely to enter your command within the following 24 hours. This procedure will be carried out in W.A. 2000. (C. in C. W.A., 0035A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply: 1821/7.

MIRROR, COREOPSIS. My P.C. and S. 037° 59' N. 009° 58' W. 151°, 10 knots, E.T.A. 0700/7. MIRROR estimates earliest date of completion of operations 8th, depends on weather. (COREOPSIS, 0145A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LOCH OSKAIG. Departure 1015 LOCH OSKAIG for Y.1. (F.O.C.N.A., 1055A/6 to Admty.) My 1055/6. Ship returned to Harbour with defects 1259. (F.O.C.N.A., 1627A/6 to Admty.)

EUGENIO C. (Italian) Arrival 5/2. (Bilbao, 1125/6, to M. of W.T.)

French Shipping. Gibraltar 1050 hospital ship CANADA eastbound. 1200 armed trawler ESTAFETTE, S.S. LIEUTENANT DE LA TOUR, full deck cargo transport and launches, SCHIAFFINO FRERES, ~~LA~~ VILLE DU HAVRE, MEDIE II, all laden, former deck cargo timber, westbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1907A/6 to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. S.A., S.O. (I) Kingston).

VANSITTART. Weather permitting intend to sail VANSITTART 8/2 for U.K. routed through (a) 22° Cape St. Vincent 20, (b) 42.00 N. 14.00 W. (c) 45.00 N. 14.00 W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. VANSITTART has partially stripped port H/P turbine. Endurance at 13 knots on (corrupt group) engine estimated at 1600 miles. (F.O.C.N.A., 1922A/6 to Admty.)

PAN NORWAY U/B's. Greek steamer MOUNTAETNA arrived Lisbon with entire crew of Norwegian Tanker PAN NORWAY sunk by gunfire by two large German Submarines 35° 56' N. 50° 27' W. 26/1 6 men slightly wounded. MOUNTAETNA passed another German submarine steering W.S.W. 37° 17' N. 18° 42' W. 0810/3. (N.A. Lisbon, 2012/6, to Admty.)

WESTCOTT, CROOME, LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Arriving 1400/7. Request arrangements for immediate removal of 3 Officers and 33 ratings prisoners. 1 Officer and 4 ratings are in CROOME who can be expected to arrive Sunday 8th. Estimated longitude of LLANGIBBY CASTLE at 2000A today will be W. of 012° 30' W. Weather report. (WESTCOTT, 2045A/6 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. D.19, CROOME).

/OMEGA ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - contd.

OMEGA. Following for M. of W.T.R. Please advise immediately whether crew would be available if necessary at Gibraltar for purpose of proceeding to Lisbon to take over Panamanian OMEGA shortly coming on bareboat charter to Ministry. Vessel will sail to U.K. or possibly U.S.A. and will fly British flag.  
(D.S.T., 2221A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B. Bearing at 1855 G.M.T. indicates U-boat in vicinity of convoy.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2240A/6 to Ships escorting Convoy O.S.18. (R) Admty.)

BATORY, SOBIESKI. My 1752/26/1. BATORY is not now required to return to U.K. from Gibraltar. She can continue to West Africa and avoid necessity for two "Ulsters" returning to Gibraltar.

2. All personnel for West Africa now in BATORY and SOBIESKI should be accommodated in BATORY for passage to Freetown. Personnel ex LLANGIBBY CASTLE should proceed in three "Ulsters" to Freetown.

3. Proposals for subsequent service of "Ulsters" will be communicated separately but in first place they may be used as requisite for distribution of personnel ex BATORY along West African Coast.

4. Desired to use BATORY for return to U.K. of relieved R.A.F. personnel ex Takoradi. C. in C. S.A. requested to remark as to escort possibilities.

5. SOBIESKI should be used for return from Gibraltar to U.K. of relieved crews of "Ulsters" and any personnel available as result of D. of S.T.'s 0323/29/1.  
(D.O.D. (F) 2300A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM, (?sabotage). C.A.F.O. 199/41 BIRMINGHAM reports Y turret right and centre guns (expendable) leads cut and locks missing. Ship at sea anchorage in Plate area. BROOMDALE alongside BIRMINGHAM but consider most improbable any of her crew could be implicated. Board of Enquiry ordered, result will be forwarded. (R.A.S.A.D., 0043Z/6 to D.N.I., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Freetown, Water. Your 2115/30. Fresh water taken at Freetown was in most cases considerably in excess of amounts certified by Masters as required. Request urgent report why quantities other than those stated in my 0748/17 were issued.  
(D.S.T., 0537A/6 to S.S.T.O.Freetown).

/CANTON ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

CANTON, Intend following movements of A.M.C's.  
 CILICIA, 1. CANTON leaves patrol when 20% fuel remaining  
 BULOLO, about 8th February and returns to Freetown.  
 CALIFORNIA, 2. CILICIA joins PRETORIA CASTLE in H.34 C and D  
 PRETORIA, keeping East of 026° W. on 11/2 and leaves on  
 CASTLE. 13/2 to join S.A.Squadron as required by  
 S.O. S.A.S.  
 3. BULOLO leaves South America Squadron to arrive  
 Freetown on 23rd February.  
 4. CALIFORNIA, CANTON leave Freetown about 12th February to  
 patrol 36 34 C and D, keeping East of 026° West.  
 PRETORIA CASTLE to return Freetown when these ships arrive in  
 area. (C. in C. S.A., 1125Z/6 to CANTON, PRETORIA CASTLE,  
 CILICIA, BULOLO, S.O. S.A.Squadron, (R) Admty., Cmdr. Task  
 Force No.3, B.A.D.Washington).

Flare. WEST IMBODEN reports sighting when in 020° 57' S.  
 020° 36' W. at 2055Z/23 rocket flare about 12  
 miles due North. Auto alarm signal also sounded  
 twice but erratically. Nothing else sighted.  
 (S.O.I. Capetown, 1240Z/6 to C. in C. S.A.,  
 Admty. etc.)

Uruguay My 1731Z/29. Decree was signed last night granting  
 facilities. non-belligerent facilities to British warships.  
 Extent of facilities granted not completely clear  
 and H.M.Minister, Montevideo, has suggested in  
 Telegram to F.O. that F.O. S.A.Sqdn. visit Montevideo shortly to  
 discuss with Uruguay Authority practical applications as regards  
 Transhipment of Ratings, stores etc.  
 (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1316Z/6 to Admty.)

Q G B 90. Ref. Q G B 90, do you wish A.M.1239B/11/7/1941  
 (N.T. in W.D.) to be amended.  
 (D.T.D., 1649A/6 to C. in C. S.A., S.O.I.Freetown).  
 Reply: 1206Z/9.

NORMAN. Your 1015Z/3. Comply with C. in C. E.F's 0410Z/6.  
 (D.O.D.(F) 1730A/6 to F.O.I.C.Simonstown).

*See p.184*

CARTHAGE. CARTHAGE, at present escorting REINA DEL PACIFICO  
 from Colombo to Durban, is to return to U.K.  
 being used for escort purposes if required. She  
 should not be unduly delayed.  
 (D.O.D.(F) 1754A/6 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C.  
 E.I., S.O.W.P.)

O.S.17. Departure 6/2. BURDOCK, ORCHIS, AURICULA  
 escorting Southbound portion of O.S.17.  
 (S.O.I. Freetown, 1837Z/6 to Admty. N.O.i/c.  
 Takoradi).

/CANTON ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

CANTON, Fuel remaining CANTON 28%. PRETORIA CASTLE 52%.  
 PRETORIA A.M.C. P.C. and S. at 2000Z/6 003° 30' N. 022°  
 CASTLE. 30' W. 074° 15 knots. On reaching 020° W. intend  
 to steer 278° for N.W. corner of Area. From there  
 PRETORIA CASTLE intends to steer to eastwards  
 speed 13½ knots. CANTON parting company at 1800Z/7 E.T.A.  
 1300Z/9. Request urgent demand of condenser pattern 2972 for  
 PRETORIA CASTLE type 271. Weather report.  
 (CANTON, 2000Z/6 to C. in C. S.A.)

*See also previous page.  
 also p. 191 -*

Mediterranean.

Enemy Transmission. Following received at 0312 T.O.O. 0109 G.M.T.  
 frequency 4796 Kcs. bearing 315/2 sensed code  
 letters. (V.A.Malta, 0545B/6 to C.O.T.S.,  
 F.O.C.N.A.)

Oil Track. Following has been received. H.Q. 201 Group.  
 (?Heavy) oil track 15 miles long running west  
 and finishing in 1088 32° N., 25° E., 58.  
 (A/C call sign C5S., 0558/6).

Operation "Coquette." My 1053B/5 (?1653B/5 intended). Troops are to be  
 disembarked at Kabret.  
 (C. in C. Med., 0918B/6 to GLENGYLE for F.O.A.M.  
 (R) F.O.C.R.S.)

ELENI. My 1850B/5. ELENI sailed five hours G.M.T./6.  
 (S.O.(I) Istanbul ?955B/6 to S.O.I.Med.,  
 and S.I. (R) D.N.I.)

Enemy Units. Following has been read. Addressed (CQ?) from  
 Hal Far D/F (Malta Command). Following is what  
 aircraft E of "A" flight No.3 A/A C.U.Malta  
 Command made. (Begins). P.C. and S. of enemy are:- 2 destroyers  
 1 medium vessel 34.50 N., 12° 00' 020° 8.  
 (Nore W/T., 1000B/6 to Admty.)  
 2 Destroyers 1 Merchant Ship 034° 50' 012° 00' 020° 8 knots at  
 1000B. (Capt. S.10, 1059B/6 to P.35).

UPHOLDER, UPHOLDER patrol Cape Vito where 14 knots ship  
 TEMPEST. from S.W. may be encountered between 0300 and  
 0400/7. If encountered by TEMPEST in the vicinity  
 of 037° 43' 012° 11' about 0100/7, ship is to be  
 attacked but is not to be waited for.  
 (Capt. S.10, 1057B/6 to UPHOLDER, TEMPEST, (R) C. in C. Med.,  
 Capt. (S) l.) *See also next page*

/LLANDOVERY ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

LLANDOVERY CASTLE. Following has been read from LLANDOVERY CASTLE. LLANDOVERY CASTLE 32° 03' N., 26° 32' E. attacked by enemy aircraft.  
(Nore W/T, 1134/6 to Whitehall W/T).

Following has been read. Alexandria base ship from LLANDOVERY CASTLE. My position was 32° 01' N., 26° 32' E. when attacked.  
(Nore W/T, 1136/6 to Whitehall W/T.)

Movements. Arrival 5th DULVERTON, SOUTHWOLD, MOY, HASTY, ERICA, ST. MONANCE, M.L.1017, HAILSTORM, THORGRIM. Departure 5th, DELPHINIUM, MOONSTONE, COCKER. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1138B/6 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units. About 1040B following ships from (a) position, 034° 00' 012° 00'. Small, 315° 37 miles, course 270° 5 knots. Medium, 331° 32 miles, about 090° 8 knots. Medium, 332° 21 miles, 245° 5 knots.  
(Capt. S.10, 1445B/6 to S/M Flot. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1).

SULLBERG, LISBOA. Arrived 5th departed 5th SULLBERG Marseilles via Burriana, Oranges. Arrived 4th Gandia LISBOA (German). Marseilles in ballast. (Valencia, 1618/6 to M.W.T.)

Enemy M/V. One medium vessel (M/V not exceeding 10,000 tons) Destroyer. one destroyer IEV 36° N. 12° E. 300, 360° 10 knots. (A/C Q of A Flight A.A.C.U. Malta Cmd., 1640B/6 to Hal Far).

P.C. and S. of enemy, 1 M/V. 1 destroyer 1 escort vessel 036° 30' N. 012° 00' E. course 360° 14 knots, at 1640B/6.  
(V.A.Malta, 1806B/6 to TEMPEST, UPHOLDER). *See previous page*  
My 1806B/6 to TEMPEST. Aircraft from Malta will endeavour to attack at about 2200B near Pantellaria. Torpedo aircraft will also sweep the vicinity of Zuara about 0100B/7.  
(Capt. S.10, 1843B/6 to Subs. on patrol, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1,)

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. 6/2. Night 5/6. 8 alerts 1714 to 0526 hours, 12 bombers and Ju.88 intruders. 11 crossed coast. Bombs land sea, slight damage houses. 5 civilians wounded. Buildings Kalafrana slight damage. 5/2. (?6/2 intended). 4 alerts 0658, 0829, 0854, 1000 hours. Total 63 Me. 109's and Ju.88's target dockyard and submarine base. Much damage buildings Sliema, 1 civilian killed 24 wounded. Hurricanes up no combats. Heavy A.A. shot down 1 Ju.88 and 1 Me.109 3 prisoners.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1715/6).

THUNDERBOLT. Attacked U-Boat course 300° 10 knots with torpedo and Gun in 034° 36' 023° 22' at 0817B/6. Result unknown. (THUNDERBOLT, 1827A/6 to Capt. S.1, TURBULENT, (R) S/M's on Patrol, S.10, C. in C. Med.)

/THORN ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

→ THORN. Your 2128B/6 (N.T. in W.D.). Well done indeed. Estimate your E.T.A. dawn/11th. (Capt. S.1., 2345B/6 to THORN, (R) C. in C. Med.) THORN reports in course of Adriatic patrol sank 1 M/V, no details. (D.S., 886) Also sank 1 U-Boat. (D.O.R. 7/2.)

~~NINNUCCIA 25/~~  
4583 tons  
~~MEDUSA. 30/~~ → U-Boat. (D.O.R. 7/2.)  
(Torpedo Attack Register) \*

Enemy Units. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 082° Cape Bon 50 miles probably surface vessel. (A/C of A.A.C.U. Malta Duty T., 2140/6 to A.H.Q. Malta).

Enemy previously reported are 1 big, 1 small enemy, course and speed unknown. Am maintaining touch with contact reported. (A/C Duty T, 2154/6 to A.H.Q. Malta).

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy M/V (medium vessel not exceeding 10000 tons) 2 destroyers, 60° Cape Bon 51 miles course 350° 13 knots. (A/C of "A" Flight No. 3 A.A. C.U. Malta Duty T. 2240/6 to A.H.Q. Malta).

P. C. and S. of enemy, 1 medium M/V one F V - 084° 34° N., 11° E., 30, 180° 8 knots. ("A" Flight No. 3 A.A. C.U. Malta Duty R., 2300/6 to A.H.Q. Malta).

U/B (?) XX5 unidentified Plot 31.49 N., 27.00 E. possibly sub. (A/C of No. 230 Squadron Duty X, 2305/6 to 201 Group H.Q.)

UNBEATEN. S.W. corner of your Area was compromised by sighting report at 1104B. (Capt. S.10, 2309B/6 to UNBEATEN).

→ \* THORN My position noon/7 036° 21' 020° 11' normal S. of A. Have sunk one merchant ship and one U-Boat. (THORN 2128B/6 to Capt.(S) 1)

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Colombo arrival 5th, 0325Z, CLIVE, 0845Z, ABDIEL, 1620Z, CALEDON. Addu departure 5th, \*ROYAL SOVEREIGN, \*GUARDIAN. (S.O.I. Colombo 0121Z/6 to Admty. etc.) \* See also next page

\*NORMAN. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1015/3. Request NORMAN be ordered to Colombo where she will join NIZAM for A/S work in Colombo area until required for fleet duty. (ii) It is my intention that NORMAN and NIZAM should provide additional A/S protection to FORMIDABLE on arriving in Port (T) area. (C. in C. E.F., 0410Z/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Capt. D.7, B.S.3, N.O.I.C. Simonstown). See also South Atlantic 1730/6.

\* See p.180

My 0645/5. It has not yet been decided whether operation "Opponent" will be repeated, but you will sail for Aden as previously arranged. NIZAM will remain at Colombo for the present. (C. in C. E.F., 0550Z/6 to INDOMITABLE (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.I., R.A. (A) Eastern Fleet., Capt. (D) 7, B.S.3., Admty.)

Troopship Capacity. Your 0307/10. In short time available following arrangements have been made for extra accommodation DURBAN CASTLE troop accommodation of 1200 increased to 1400. STRATHALLAN present troop accommodation 3270 can be increased to 3660. ANDES no increase. (P.S.T.O. India, 0631Z/6 to D. of S.T.)

ALAUNIA. Sailed ALAUNIA for Mombasa S. of A. 14 knots E.T.A. 1600Z/11. Routed through 029° 00' S. 035° 00' E. 025° 00' S. 037° 40' E. 020° 00' S. 039° 00' E. 014° 50' S. 041° 35' E. 010° 00' S. 041° 35' E. thence Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0646Z/6).

Colombo R/C Party. My 1870/G dated 29/1 (1835/29) and your 0634Z/3. R/C party assembles Colombo 11/2/1942. (C. in C. India, 0773/6 to C. in C. E.I.)

S/M Minelayer. If a S/M minelayer could be spared she would be of utmost value for operation on coast of enemy occupied areas such as Malaya. (C. in C. E.F., 1034Z/6 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.) See also 1315/7.

THORDIS (Norge). Your 1120/5. Yes, urgently. See my 2215/24. (D.T.D. 1126A/6 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Control.....

War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Control of  
Prisoners.

C.O's should take precautions to guard against concerted action by bodies of Japanese Prisoners whose fanatical character renders such possible. (C. in C. E.F., 1235Z/6 to Eastern Theatre. 80X)

GUARDIAN.

F.O.C.R.I.N. 1101/29. GUARDIAN has now completed laying the Diego Garcia nets and is available for F.O.C.R.I.N's requirements subject only to A.M. 1841/1. Admty. decision is requested on F.O.C.R.I.N's proposal. (C. in C. E.I., 1336Z/6 to Admty.) *See previous page*

100 Marines.  
(Force "Viper")

My 1516/2/2 para. 6 (A). 1. Code Name force "Viper". 2. This force expected time of arrival Rangoon 11/2. 3. On arrival at Rangoon it will be placed under the operation control of G.O.C. Burma. 4. N.O.I.C. Rangoon inform Commodore Graham on arrival. (C. in C. E.I. 1337Z/6 to Admty., Abdacom, N.O.I.C. Rangoon, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., Armindia, G.O.C. Burma).

J.S.3.

My 0807/1. J.S.3. will consist of (a) CITY OF LONDON, EASTERN PRINCE, JOHAN DE WITT, EGRA, ESPERANCE BAY, CITY OF PARIS, KOSCIUSKO, ASCANIUS and EL MADINA carrying personnel. (b) TROJA, SILVERTEAK, MARISO, BIRCHBANK and AFRICAN PRINCE carrying "Gelding" and "Tuiton".

(c) MADRAS CITY, EMPIRE GLADE and possibly SILVERWILLOW and PENRITH CASTLE carrying part of the M.T. for "Stepsister One".

(2) Ships with reinforcements for Singapore will be notified later. (3) Request you confirm that Java ports can deal with this force observing that in addition to the above the remaining nine M.T. ships of the first flight as well as the fast section of the second flight Australians can be expected to reach Abda area about end of February. (4) D. of S.T. requested to indicate intended movements of ships after unloading. (C. in C. E.F., 1348Z/6 to Abdacom, C.C.C.F.)

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

My P.C. and S. at 1500 G.M.T./6, 002° 00' N. 077° 20', 048° 11 knots. Speed of escort precludes arriving before dark on 8th. Unless fast escort can be sent intend to alter course eastward at 0600 G.M.T. 7 and arrive 0200 G.M.T./9. Weather. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN, 1538Z/6, to C. in C. E.I.) *See previous page*

S.S.  
JALATARANG.

C.A.F.O. 292/40. British S.S. JALATARANG gunned by large submarine in 12° 59' N. 81° E. and sunk by one torpedo. Three boats left ship with survivors, eleven in one boat were picked up by S.S. KEPONG. Nothing further known of other two boats. (C. in C. E.I. 1720Z/6).



War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

SPONDILUS.

C.A.F.O. 292/40. Tanker SPONDILUS torpedoed in 6° 10' N. 79° 38' E. at 1405Z/3. One hit port side forward. No 6 tank holed, Ship reached Colombo safely with no casualties. Tanker fired two shots at Submarine one possible hit, silencing Submarine. (C. in C. E.I., 1721Z/6 to Admty.). Independent from Abaden to Fremantle. (D.S. 886).

EXETER.

Personal from 1st S.L. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>

(A) My 2319A/6. Request you will allocate EXETER accordingly. I realise that you can ill spare her but it is essential that we reinforce Abda area quickly, and it must be accepted that you may have to reduce convoy escorts west of Ceylon to an A.M.C. only.

(B) Your 0947/5 (N.T. in W.D.) Para. 2. Normal Strength of China Force was defined in A.T. 1511/20/1 and includes these 4 destroyers. (1st S.L., 2320A/6 to C. in C. E.F.)

China.

Air Report.

Daily Op. sum. up to 1030Z/5. Fighter effort concentrates on protection of convoy. 1 ship dive bombed and set on fire, personnel landed by Navy. 2 bombers shot down in further dive bombing at examination anchorage. Sembawang, Seletar and Tengah aerodromes shelled during morning necessitating removal of most aircraft to Kallang and subsequent transfer of some aircraft to Palembang. (A.H.Q. F.E., 0155/6).

Situation.

Intelligence No. 4. Continued indications of imminent enemy activity. Unknown Unit from Ambon ordered to position South of Western leg of Celebes arriving dawn 7/2. Direct attack on Surabaya considered improbable at this stage, more probable operation designed either against Maccassar or to secure further stepping stone in Southern chain e.g. Sima (Sumbawa), where there is anchorage and landing field. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0315/6 to W.O. etc.)

/Situation....

WD.

Admly message 2320/6 is HUSH -  
MOST SECRET and ambivalent  
will have to be obtained from  
Director of Plans before War  
Registry can dated the  
distribution to include WD.  
available

War Registry

may we have a copy please of

Admly 2B19A/6, referred to in Admly 2320A/6

Most Secret, to C in C Eastern Fleet?

Geo Mansford

for Head of T.S.D. Historical Section

War Diary

1/90 Sanctuary Pkdy.

7/2/42.

186A.

M

1920/2

1

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China-Contd.

Situation, Sitrep. No. 58. 1630 hours G.M.T. 5/2. T.O.O.  
Malaya. 0132.  
Dive bombing attack on convoy approaching Singapore and on (? Port) anchorage. EMPRESS OF ASIA set on fire but personnel landed by Navy with few casualties. Dive bombing attack also Changi area. Our Fighters' efforts concentrated on protection of convoy and 2 enemy bombers shot down. During the night 3/4 February aircraft from 225 Group carried out attack Kluang aerodrome. Bombs dropped runway and road South of Yong Peng and railway South of Kluang. (Adv. H.Q. Malaya, 0355/6 to W.O.)

JUPITER. My 0730/2, not to Admty., and your 0815/4.  
ELECTRA. In view of A.M. 1305/2 it will not now be  
ENCOUNTER. necessary to withdraw JUPITER, ELECTRA, ENCOUNTER  
→ EXPRESS. and EXPRESS until a later date. (C. in C. E.F.  
0403Z/6 to Abdacom).

Burma. Situation report 1130 G.M.T.  
Value 3 report received of enemy gunboat off mouth of Salween. 100 enemy reported crossed Salween at Dagwin being engaged by armed police in Papun area and 2 Burif proceeding there. Rangoon two alerts during the night 4/5, bombs on town and Mingaladon but no military damage or casualties. (G.O.C. Burma, 0750/6).

→ EXPRESS. My 0055Z/6th to C. in C. E.F. (N.T. in W.D.)  
(1) Fire in EXPRESS number 1 boiler room has caused following defects, cannot be made good in Batavia or under present conditons in Trincomalee. Ship is sea-worthy, can steam on 2 boilers and is adequate for convoy escort to a refitting port. (4) Propose sailing EXPRESS for Colombo escorting a convoy at first convenient opportunity and thereafter to a refitting port as ordered by you. (C.C.C.F., 1113Z/6 to C. in C. E.F. Admty.)

Shortage of Aircraft. Raids on Surabaya, etc. Re allocation fighter aircraft to Australia. Intense Japanese pressure Java demands pursuit protection for vital areas Tg. Priok, Surabaya, Malang, and Madioen. Must therefore request priority be established allocating first 8 squadrons pursuit aviation in Australia for this mission. Surabaya Malang and Madioen heavily attacked 3/2. Surabaya again attacked yesterday. Dutch fighter forces nil, due enemy action. Loss of 4 B 17s Malang due directly to lack of pursuit protection and A/A equipment which is being rushed for installation. Planes although dispersed were undergoing repair and could not be moved. Low flying aircraft with no opposition attacked at will. All British pursuit forces absolutely committed to protection of Singapore and covering convoys moving to and from Singapore. T.O.O. 0920/6. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1240/6 to J.S.M. Washington for Combined C.O.S.)  
/Rangoon....

War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Rangoon.  
A.V.G.

D.B.A. 11. Chiang Kai Shek has agreed to retaining Squadron A.V.G. at Rangoon until British reinforcing army units arrive. (Combined Chiefs of Staff Washington, 1255R/6 to Abdacom).

Air Report.

Intelligence summary No. 75, 0800/5/2 to 0800/6/2. 1. 27 twin-engine bombers dropped bombs Kallang during morning destroying 1 Buffalo and domestic buildings. Considerable damage civilian property. During same period 54 104? enemy aircraft operating S.W. of Island where ships shallow dive bombing attacks Changi area. EMPRESS OF ASIA set on fire. (A.H.Q. F.E., 1325/6).

Singapore  
Floating  
Dock.

Netherlands tugs DE JONGH and OVERIJSEL will proceed Singapore for small floating dock. E.T.A. 11/2 or 12/2. Will tow to N.E.I. port, provisionally Oosthaven. (Abdafloat, 1500/6 to R.A. Malaya.)

Air Report.

Op. Summ. up to 1030Z/6. Ship set on fire by dive-bombing on 5/2 was EMPRESS OF ASIA few casualties. Several alerts during period. Slight bombing reported Seletar Area, little damage. 20 plus heavy bombers escorted by 18 plus fighters intercepted by 12 Hurricanes. Enemy losses 1 Army 97 fighter destroyed 4 Army 97 fighters damaged. Our losses 1 Hurricane damaged, Pilot safe. 1 Hurricane crashed after take off, Pilot killed. Intermittent shelling of Tengah Seletar and Sembawang during day. R/C by Hudson to Anambas Islands for enemy convoy reported at anchor there. 9 ships sighted at anchor in 03° 14' N. 106° 14' E. (A.H.Q. F.E., 1505/6).

SANDPIPER.

Your 0605Z/31 SANDPIPER is also being offered to the Chinese. F.O. have instructed Ambassador Chungking accordingly. (Head of M. 1635A/6 to C. in C. E.F.)

F.O.C.C.F.

Rear Adm. W.G. Tennant has been appointed F.O.C. China Force, to date 15/2/1942 in succession to Cdre. J.A. Collins R.A.N. His flag will be hoisted in NEWCASTLE on that date. While on passage he will be known as S.O. Force T. (Head of M. 2139A/6 to C. in C. E.F.)

188A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1945/6th February

From:- The War Office

Date. 3.2.42.

## CYPHER

Addressed:- ABDACOM, Batavia, repeated G.O.C. Malaya.

MOST IMMEDIATE

69071. cipher (M.O.10) 6/2

Following telegram for Supreme Commander from Chiefs of Staff No. (S.W.P) 17 is to be deciphered by an officer.

1. Following telegram has been received from G.O.C. Malaya:-

"Your 65611(M.O.10) 21/1. Ammunition in main magazines Singapore Island cannot be destroyed without an explosion which would wreck everything for considerable radius. This would include hospitals. Quite impracticable to clear areas. Believe ammunition of no use for enemy armaments. In these conditions see no alternative to its exemption from scorched earth policy. Do you agree."

2. The over-riding consideration is that the Fortress must be held to the last. If, however, the worst appears imminent and inevitable, policy should be to fire off ammunition, if possible, at the enemy. Balance of ammunition and the magazines themselves should be destroyed or otherwise denied to the enemy.

3. We cannot, of course, contemplate blowing up sick and wounded men in hospitals. Surely some arrangement could be made to evacuate these from the danger zones.

4. Reference G.O.C. Malaya's 29298 of 2/2, demolition policy should provide for following in order of priority. First, docks and workshops of naval base should be wrecked as completely as possible so as to render them utterly useless for the maximum period. Secondly, all Fortress guns should be destroyed.

5. We think that preparations for these most important demolitions can be made forthwith since the sites are in forbidden areas.

6. As regards other valuable stores, equipment and installations, plans for destruction should be made on a priority basis, but we agree that preparations should not be allowed to weaken defence.

1st Lord	Hd. of M.	1945/8	
1st S.L.	I.P.(2)		Received in War Reg. at
V.C.N.S.	W.D.		1341/8
A.C.N.S.(F)	N.I.D.10	War Office circulation:-	
A.C.N.S.(W)	Adml.	S. of S.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	Somerville	C.I.G.S. (3)	
D.O.D.(F)		C.A.S. (8)	
D.D.O.D.(F)		C.N.S. (8)	
D.N.I.(4)		Col. Jacob. (7)	
D. of P. (2)		Colonial Office (Lt. Col. Rolleston) (4)	
D.C. (2)			
D.D.I.C. (2)			
P.S.			
A.S. (S)			

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.HALCYON  
"R"  
Report.

Following has been read by Bermuda W/T, received 0335/6, RRRR HALCYON (Pan) position 034° 20' N. 059° 16' W. bombed by raider.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0127P/6 to Admty. Opnav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D., (R) MARON.)  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0137P/6 to PANDORA.)

Intercept, Cape Race Radio, 34.20 N. 49.10 W. HALCYON bombed by raider. (Valentia Radio, 0342/6 to Admty., Adm. Devonport.)

Note difference in position.

Intercept 0339 G.M.T. RRRR 34.20 N. 59.16 W. HALCYON bombed. (Halifax W/T 0400Z/6 to Admty.)

Your 0127P/6. Request early information whether you think this attack was made by surface raider or submarine.  
(B.A.D. 2231R/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. Admty. Opnav, N.S.H.Q.)

PRUDENT,  
DVINOLES,  
TINTAGEL.

My 1322Z/5 for C.C.R.T. PRUDENT unable locate DVINOLES. Now proceeding to assistance TINTAGEL ex S.C.67 in 49° 30' N. 46° 00' W. who has been in collision. TINTAGEL proceeding under own power towards St. John's but has requested escort and possible assistance.  
(F.O.N.F. 0132Z/6 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

S.S.

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

Your 1231R/5, not to C.O.P.C. Anticipated arrangements can be made to drydock QUEEN ELIZABETH at Esquimalt on or about 23/2.

Armament mentioned in Admty! 1922A/31/1 will be sent to Esquimalt. (2) Request you arrange to forward docking plans to N.S.H.Q. immediately and state when they may be expected. (3) Will M.W.T.R. in Canada be responsible for business arrangements and supervision of work? (4) Request anticipated time required in drydock. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0255Z/6 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. A.C.N.B. C.O.P.C.)  
Request you will reply to para. 4 of N.S.H.Q.'s 0255/6.  
(B.A.D. 1209R/6 to A.C.N.B.)

My 0255/6 para. 1. Cancel last sentence. Presume B.A.D. has the guns mentioned in A.M. 1922/31 and will ship them to Inspector of Naval Ordnance, Esquimalt.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1526/6 to B.A.D.)

Pass to D.E.M.S. New York. Give all information contained in A.M. 2204/12, 0122/18 and 1922/31 of January to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, also any experience gained arming QUEEN MARY. D.E.M.S. Personnel for Q.E. leaving U.K. 6/2.  
(D.T.D. 2134A/6 to B.A.D.)

My 0255Z/6. M.W.T.R. states docking plans can be expected very shortly. (2) It has been arranged that M.W.T. and the owners will look after husbandry arrangements.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2355Z/6 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. C.O.P.C.)

Japanese  
Intelligence.

Following received from Commandant 14th U.S. Naval District, Pearl Harbour (begins).  
Combat Intelligence Bulletin No. 21 Page A.  
No sign of increasing strength in Marshall Island except possibly 1 air squadron. Forces in Celebes in southward moves include 1st and 2nd combined air forces. 1 or 2 carriers of Carrier Division 2. Air Squadron 23 and Section of Air Squadron 24. Battleship Division 3 and at least one /cruiser ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Japanese Intelligence. contd. cruiser division and destroyer squadron. 3 Submarines reported in area to west of Oahu (ends). C. in C. E.F. N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B. informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0529Z/6 to Admiralty B.A.D. C.O.P.C. Esquimalt.)

U/B's. D/F bearings indicate S/MS (a) within 100 miles 44° 56° W. on transmissions at 0030Z, 0120Z, and 0208Z/6, (b) within 50 miles 38° N. 66° W. at 0221Z/6. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0632Z/6 to Brit. warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. Opnav, C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.)

A.T.12. Your 1209/4. Agree. 2. Request report of names and details of U.S. ships to be included in A.T.12. Limitations given in my 2101/7/1 to B.A.D. Washington only should be observed. C.T.12. 3. Request you ascertain whether U.S. authorities will agree to use in C.T.12 of two of returning A.T.12. Troop transports for British personnel for Canada. 4. Agreed with W.O. (D.S.T. 0640A/6 to B.A.D.) Reply 1335/8. p 268

AQUITANIA. Admty. 2322/1. Request report whether U.S. authorities still propose to use AQUITANIA to Australia observing that she will not now be ready to sail San Francisco earlier than QUEEN ELIZABETH. 2. Agreed with W.O. (D.S.T. 0641A/6 to B.A.D.) Reply: 1041R/7.

CAVINA. My 0942P/2. CAVINA coaling delayed due to indifferent labour. Further signal will be made. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0952P/6 to S.O.W.P.)

U/B's COAMO. B.B.C. Empire News 1100Z/6 broadcast news of enemy submarines off West Indies and described spirited effort at ramming by a M/V. Presume this news report came from U.S. COAMO who made SSS at 2015Z on 1/2/42 reporting three submarines in position 19.58 N. 77. 54 W. Enquiry from Opnav revealed 3 U.S. submarines in vicinity. Suggest B.B.C. be prevented from publishing such news without full confirmation as tending to create unnecessary excitement. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1031P/6 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

SURCOUF. My 1221P/5. SURCOUF now reports defective main motor armature. Estimated time if undertaken at Bermuda three months. Not desirable to undertake work at Bermuda owing to other commitments. C.O. has proposed temporary repairs as he is anxious about effect on morale of crew if further prolonged time is spent in dockyard hands. I do not consider temporary repairs a satisfactory solution. Propose ship proceed U.K. and pay off. SURCOUF being detained at Bermuda pending decision. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1032P/6 to F.O.S. (R) Admty.)

/C. in C. ...



War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SURCOUF. C. in C. A.W.I. 1221P/5. I adhere to my previous  
contd. opinion expressed in my S.M. 00106 of 22/12/1942.)  
C.O. of SURCOUF is a seaman who knows his job  
and his ship well. The 1st Lieut. is a good  
officer and experienced in submarines. The Engineer and key  
ratings are well experienced. The crew have suffered in action  
and anti-British propoganda in Canada. To get any results from  
these Free French they must be put in the front line and kept  
there. I am sure Commander Cabanier at Tahiti can make use of  
SURCOUF and in an active war area in defence of their own soil  
I consider SURCOUF may be of considerable use. SURCOUF  
occupies a peculiar position in French Naval mentality and the  
Free French would hate to pay her off. In any case a large  
crew would be required for care and maintenance and she would  
be a nuisance in this country. I strongly recommend SURCOUF  
proceeding as already ordered.  
(F.O.S. 1703A/6 to Admty.)  
C.O. SURCOUF informs me that he has received orders from  
Adm. Muselier to remain at Bermuda pending latter's arrival  
in MIMOSA. Nothing is known of the reason for this. SURCOUF  
is already detained at Bermuda with main motor defect vide  
my 1032P/6. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1221P/6 to Admty. (R) F.O.S.)

ESSO Following received at 1247G.M.T./6 (begins):-  
BELGIUM. SSSS ESSO BELGIUM 29.20 N. 74.09 W. followed by  
U/B. suspicious vessel (ends).  
(Navycom, Bermuda 1048P/6 to Admty.)

Movements. Summary at 1800 G.M.T/6.

Ship.	Position	Course.	Speed
MAURITIUS	30°N. 28½°W.	350°	16
MARON	32°N. 52° W.	Searching	blank
PANDORA	34½°N. 49½°W.	079°	10
REGENT	32°N. 46° W.	262°	10
ASTURIAS )	20°S. 27°W.	Patrol	Blank
BULOLO )			
CANTON )	01°N. 20°W.	Patrol	Blank
PRETORIA )			
CASTLE )			
WARSPITE	Arrive Henderson Island.		
KANIMBLA	38½°S. 140°E.	100°	15
CANBERRA	Arrive Fremantle.		
HOBART )	08°S. 105°E.	010°	10
M.S.3.)			

(D.O.D. (F) 1115Z/6 to Opnav. (R) Spenavo.)

POMELLA Following received at 1349 G.M.T/6 POMELLA  
U/B. 35.43 N. 60.37 W., submarine on surface.  
(Navycom, Bermuda 1128P/6 to Admty. Halifax W/T  
1535/6 to Admty.)

/Washington ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - contd.

Washington Report. Washops 05 (?55 intended) (1) Philippine Islands. Luzow - Japanese are landing additional troops in Lingayen Gulf. Except for harassing bombing all has been quiet on Bataan front. (J.S.M. Washington 1147R/6 to Admty. etc.)

MONTRONITE U/B. C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 1933/5. Consider it doubtful whether MONTRONITE's submarine was PANDORA who should have been about 140 miles to Southward of position. Admty. 1426A/3 showed a U-Boat within 150 miles of position. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1152P/6 to Admty.)

ROODE ZEE. Your 1337A/30/1. Tug situation at Bermuda has again altered as result of U-Boat activity in this area, and the presence of an Ocean going reserve tug is now essential. ROODE ZEE is the only tug of this nature available and she has in fact been employed on rescue work three times during the last three weeks. She is about to proceed to sea again now on a similar operation. Propose to retain her unless or until situation alters. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1252P/6 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Com. i/c Bermuda.)

Ship's Lights Area 7. Your 2002/4 para. 3. Opnav's 2220/5 refers. (B.A.D. 1353R/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q.)

EMILIA S/M Report. Following is a repetition of S.O.(I) Kingston's 1254P/4 (begins) C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. B.A.D. Washington. N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1232Q/3. Further from U.S. ship EMILIA, submarine broke surface distance 1 mile, remained stopped, resembled British URSULA class. No attempt attack, master believed Brazilian. 1254P/4 (ends) (C. in C. A.W.I. 1428P/6 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.S.A.D.) W.R. Note:- No trace of previous receipt of 1254/4.

INDOCHINOIS. Free French Corvettes. Your 2241/5. No settlement has been made but Gov. request immediate reply to enquiry from U.K. High Commissioner despatched 4/2. For information Adm. Muselier has stated he will withdraw the 3 Free French Corvettes from convoy escort duty unless material ex S.S. INDOCHINOIS is released. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1459Z/6 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 1124/8.

Corvettes. <sup>N.T.M. W.D.</sup> Your 1647A/5. (1) These 6 corvettes will be included in Trans-Ocean Escort Groups. (2) Since reorganisation of N.E.F. last September NASTURTIUM, PRIMROSE and DIANTHUS have all carried out long refits at Charleston. CELANDINE was under repairs in U.K. Oct.-Nov. 1941 and PRIMROSE is now in U.K. POLYANTHUS is shortly proceeding to Galveston for refit.

/CANDYTUFT ..

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Corvettes.  
contd.

CANDYTUFT has been out of action the entire period paid off and under repairs at Brooklyn and is due to recommission mid-March.

(3) Suggest relief of these vessels be postponed for a few months as ships have now had experience of winter conditions pertaining to this area and have already been partly conditioned for very cold weather. (F.O.N.F. 1637Z/6 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

FRANCONIA.

H.M.T. FRANCONIA delayed for essential repairs to main generator, E.T.A. A.M./11.  
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain 1707Q/6. to Admty.)*see also p. 195.*S/M  
sighted.*by A/C.*

A.O.C. Western Air Command reports:- Following from Sea Island, BOLINGBROKE on patrol. 1437 unidentified S/M 047° 15' N. 128° W. course 220° speed unknown. S/M first sighted by rear gunner breaking surface about one mile behind aircraft. S/M dived immediately,

conning tower and stern clearly visible when diving commenced. Heavy wash visible full length of submarine. Aircraft returned immediately but could locate no trace, heavy sea running. No attack made. Ends. 0509Z/6th.  
(N.O.I.C. Esquimalt 1741Z/6 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I. Opanav, C.P.N.N.C.F.)

Tunis  
Intelligence.

Meter. Tunis 5/2 (A.1) My 2031/2. ST. ETIENNE arrived 3/2 and is unloading new 4 tons trucks. ST. PARCELLE (? ST. MARCELLE) intended) and ST. GERMAINE arrived 4/2 with similar cargo.

3 laden Italian ships are at the Phosphate Dock. French S.S. BOUGARONI is discharging. Please inform F.O.  
(B.A.D. Washington 1833R/6 to Admty.)

LADY  
HAWKINS.  
publication  
of losses.

Your 2116Z/26. It is not now our practice to publish particulars of merchant ships lost as the result of enemy action since this may disclose information of value to the enemy. For this reason it is hoped that Dominion Governments will in general conform to the practice of H.M.G. in U.K. It appears that loss of LADY HAWKINS was confirmed by officials of Canadian National Railways and it is appreciated that in the case of the loss of a passenger ship it is difficult to avoid publicity. It is, however, for consideration that the making of exceptions is liable to lead to difficulties in future cases.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1911A/6 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

Campaign  
against  
Japan  
Strategy.

No.32. 1. While the Combined Chiefs of Staff are agreed on the grand strategy of the war including the Pacific Theatre (W.W.1.) the war with Japan requires more precise treatment. So much combined action is necessary that the combined Chiefs of Staff would have greater strength and authority in pursuing the war if they could formulate an agreed Anti-Japanese strategy. We visualise that this would embrace the Pacific area, including the Anzac  
/area ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Campaign  
against  
Japan  
Strategy.  
contd.

area, the Abda area and the Indian Ocean. Such an agreed strategy should assist in solving questions requiring decisions affecting the whole of this area. The command is virtually in the hands of the combined Chiefs of Staff acting through the medium of the C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Supreme Commander Abda Area, and C. in C. Eastern Fleet, with Australia as a base under a separate command. Under present circumstances we feel, for example, that while we may have certain criticisms of the U.S. strategy in the Pacific, they on the other hand probably criticise our dispositions in the Indian Ocean. Without an agreed strategy it is impossible to clear up such matters. 2. The new Japanese offensive against the Malay barrier itself emphasises the fact that the forces available now or in the near future in this area cannot hope to stem the Japanese advance far less to pass to the offensive until we have achieved air superiority. 3. At the moment pressure of events and independent requests from the Dutch and Australians are leading us to take Ad Hoc decision particularly regarding air reinforcements that are not properly related to an agreed general plan of actions. 4. We feel we should try for agreement on broad issues such as:- (A) The roles to be played by our Eastern and the Pacific Fleets, the broad distribution of naval forces and the naval bases which must consequently be held and developed. (B) The air forces required to defend essential naval and air bases, or the control of sea areas, and for building up the air offensive. (C) The land forces required to hold base areas in the first stage and the organisation of amphibious striking forces for the assumption of the offensive. 5. From the above we should hope to agree on the total forces required and on the manner of their provision. 6. As a first step we therefore suggest a British appreciation of the Japanese war as a whole from a united actions standpoint with as much supporting argument as is possible, which we should then take up with the U.S. Chiefs of Staff.  
(J.S.M. Washington 2009R/6 to Chiefs of Staff, London)

Transfer  
of Russian  
vessels to  
U.S.A. ports.

My 1823/4. Information obtained from Officers of Russian Merchant Vessels recently arriving (? Puget) sound ports suggest that all Russian vessels are being transferred from Siberian and Asiatic waters to U.S. no indication of future employment obtained. Vessels recently arrived notably lack cargo. They carry a Naval armed guard of 10 with machine guns and rifles. Papers and Passports of Officers crew and guard uniformly in order. Information indicates approx. 15 Russian Freighters at Vladivostok, 10 at Petropavlosk and a number at Hong Kong, due to leave for U.S. shortly, Russian S.S. KASHIRSTROV arrived Seattle 29/1 23 days out of Vladivostok - voyage via Bering Sea and Mnimak Pass. Opinion of responsible ships Officer is that Russia is sending all vessels to U.S. to get them out of the way preparatory to war with Japan. He states Russia is ready with fleet of ships, aircraft and guns.

(B.A.D. 2023R/6 to Admty.)

Comment. (1). This confirms previous report of 30 Russian ships proceeding from Siberian ports to United States. (2). Admiral Miles was asked to comment. His reply is given in message 1745C/6. (3). The U.S.S.R. may be taking precautions against an attack by Japan rather than preparing to make an attack herself.

/Tangier ...

War Diary.6.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - contd.

Tangier Meter. Tangier, 6/2 (B.2) JEAN BART.  
Intelligence. Breech Blocks and Firing mechanism have been fitted locally and shells loaded for four 16" guns. Four 110 mm A.A. guns are being re-mounted. Although not actually in seagoing condition it is thought she may make engine and 16" gun trials. There are 104 A.A. positions in Casablanca, including A.A. machine guns and 75's. There are two A.A. 75's at both ends of the Phosphate (?quay). (B.A.D. 2025R/6 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, S.O.(I) Freetown.)

→ FRANCONIA. Admty. 1537A/4 is being passed to you for information. 2. Report proposals for any escort you can provide for FRANCONIA in addition to AUSONIA and RANPURA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2040Z/6 to C.O.A.C. (R) Admty. etc.) ~~3. 193~~

SAN ARCADIO. British Tanker SAN ARCADIO sailed Houston 22/1 due Halifax 2/2 has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2142Z/6 to Admty. C.O.A.C. C. in C. A.W.I. Opnav.)

→ Transports calling at Bermuda. Your 1054P/5. There is a large carry over of passengers for N.A.53 (N.A. 53 intended?) now at Halifax. Request no accommodation be taken in FRANCONIA at Bermuda. Suggest MATAROA which has accommodation for 80 first class available reported by Trinidad. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2215Z/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. B.A.D.)

Australia & New Zealand.

CHEVREUIL, OISEAU, DES ILES. Departure Raratonga, Free French Ships CHEVREUIL for Suva (Fiji), E.T.A. 0300Z/10, OISEAU DES ILES for Papeete. (N.Z.N.B. 0300Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. P.S. LE TRIOMPHANT left Sydney 0237Z/5 for Auckland. Note N.O.I.C. Malaya is no longer included in addressees of A.I.G.115. (A.C.N.B. 0822Z/6 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. N.O. Wellington, C. in C. China, Abdafloat, Capt. A/S Singapore.)

/QUEEN ...

War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - contd.

S.S.  
QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

My 0432Z/3. Your 1231R/5 received too late to amend destination. QUEEN ELIZABETH instructed that if no oil embarked at Nukuhiva to proceed to Magdalena Bay and report by W/T to N.C.S.O. San Francisco. E.T.A. San Francisco 21/2. Alternative E.T.A. Magdalena Bay 20/2. QUEEN ELIZABETH departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 0030Z/6 N.C.S.O. San Francisco not informed. (A.C.N.B. 1014Z/6 to B.A.D.)

AQUITANIA.

Cancel routeing instructions in my 1136Z/3. AQUITANIA is to proceed from Sydney (N.S.W) at 0500Z/10 for Honolulu routed through position "Q" 022° 50' S. (? 168°) 01' W. E.T.A. 20/2. Following secret positions are established. C O W 031° 03' S. 169° 44' W. G O A T (?016°) 52' S. 156° 45' W. D O G 005° 05' S. 146° 21' W. H O R S E 005° 52' N. 151° 51' W. (A.C.N.B. 1204Z/6 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. N.Z.N.B. etc.)

196A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1837/6th February.

FROM: Australia (H.C.)

Date: 6.2.42.

Recd: 1205.

CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: Dominions Office.

IMMEDIATE.

No.113 Most Secret.

Your telegram No.87. Nauru and Ocean Island.

1. Commonwealth Government state that although (?no) decision yet taken on the question of the small administrative staff remaining at Nauru, it is contemplated that a few administrative officers including the medical officer should be left on the island.
2. Note has been taken of the wishes of the United Kingdom Government in regard to the European officials remaining on Ocean Island.
3. High Commissioner Western Pacific has in telegram of January 31st (no doubt repeated to the Colonial Office) raised with the Commonwealth Government the question of the extent of the information which can safely be telegraphed to the Resident Commissioner.

1837/6.

1st Lord.

Recd in War Registry at 1258/7.

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)

N.A.1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.E.I.C. (2)

D.N.I. (7)

Hd. of M.

D.of P. (2)

E.P.S.

Admiral Somerville.

I.F.

W.D.  
D.C. (2)

War Diary.

6.2.1942.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions of U/Bs south of 30° N,  
(D.D.I.C. 1417A/6.)  
Ditto, north of 30° N. (D.D.I.C. 1418A/6.)  
Ditto, Atlantic situation (D.D.I.C. 1230Z/6.)



War Diary.

7.2.1942  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C.S.18 in SHEFFIELD sailed from Hvalfiord at 1430A to relieve KENYA on the Iceland - Faroes Patrol; and BERWICK leaves Hvalfiord at 2345A to relieve KENT on the Denmark Straits Patrol.

In view of the failure of A/C to locate the U-Boats believed to be off Seidisfiord by daylight searches, it is intended if possible to carry out night A/S Patrols in that area with long range S.E. aircraft.

British Air Operations.

32 aircraft attacked Brest last night.

Mining.

MANXMAN left Milford Haven this afternoon and WELSHMAN Portsmouth, for minelaying operations.

Aircraft of Bomber Command this afternoon laid 25 mines in the Frisian Islands - Elbe area.

North Atlantic.

6 F.W. aircraft were active today, 1 at least in Santander area, but there is no evidence that shipping was reported.

War Diary.

7.2.1942  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

S.S. MAHRONDA reported being chased by a submarine at 1100 in 2° 14' S. 2° 15' W, but Admty. considers the report improbable.

Pointe Noire boom is now in operation and the port is now a defended port.

Mediterranean.

There were 8 alerts at Malta last night, but the only damage reported is to one or two aircraft at Hal Far. During the day some aircraft were damaged at Luqa and serious damage was caused at Hal Far. Destroyers leaving harbour were machine gunned, but no damage is reported. A high speed launch on search for a Hurricane pilot off Malta was severely damaged by 4 M.E.109s this afternoon and had several casualties.

4 Albacores attacked and one claims to have torpedoed a 6000 ton merchant ship in approx. 37° 55' N. 12° 14' E. at 0025 today.

Swordfish were sent to attack an escorted 6000 ton ship and claim one hit with torpedo in 33° 40' N. 11° 15' E. at 0320B.

Naval aircraft attacked two 4000 ton merchant vessels south of Pantellaria at 2300 and set one on fire.

7 Wellingtons attacked Sirte in the early hours of today.

E-Boats.

Admty. have received a further report that a flotilla of E-Boats arrived at Marseilles at the end of November. A further flotilla of 8 boats is reported to have passed Chalons (Rhône) on 30/1 southbound.

/Jibuti ...

War Diary.

7.2.1942  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Jibuti.

C. in C. Middle East deals with the question of Jibuti in a message today. C. in C. East Africa considers the situation is deteriorating so rapidly to our disadvantage that our policy must be reviewed with the least possible delay. At the present moment the Army are trying to enforce a blockade whilst the Navy have practically called it off.

East Indies.

C. in C. E.F. is concerned at the complete defencelessness of Colombo and Trincomalee against air attack, and asks for a reasonable scale of defence, which should include R.D./F. and a fighter force at each port.

A Fortress aircraft reported 2 U-boats at 0300/7 in 23° 15' N. 61° 35' E. Air patrols are to go out when the weather permits.

China.

Reports have been received of aircraft carriers south of Java and in the Andaman Sea. These reports have been investigated, and so far have not proved reliable.

16 badly needed A.A. guns have been lost lately in the sinking of a ship from Singapore, an attack on Bali occurred during the refuelling of fighters from Darwin, and valuable A.A. personnel have been lost in a train accident.

/Burma ...

War Diary.7.2.1942  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.China - contd.

Burma.

Enemy aircraft again made several determined night attacks on Mingaladon and Zayatkwint last night, but the only damage reported is to runway and one or two planes at Mingaladon. 24 fighters attacked the Rangoon area this morning and suffered losses.

Our aircraft carried out attacks at Moulmein.

Malaya.

This afternoon (G.M.T) an A.I.F. boat patrol encountered an enemy boat patrol in Johore Strait west of the Causeway and suffered slight casualties but sank an enemy craft with 30 men. Eight aircraft were destroyed on the ground and 12 damaged in air raids on Singapore today, in addition to 9 lost in the air: enemy losses are reported as one fighter damaged.

N.E.I.

The Netherlands Shipping Committee report that the following four Dutch ships were sunk in air attack on Padang on 29/1 :- POELAU TELLO, ELOUT, BUYSKES, BOELONGAN.

Today, 7 bombers escorted by fighters attacked the docks at Surabaya and Catalinas on the water. No report of damage has been received. Palembang was attacked by 6 bombers heavily escorted by fighters and 9 of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground.

America and West Indies.Convoy  
Escort  
Scheme.

Comdr. U.S. Task Force 4 puts forward proposals to initiate the proposed new escort scheme for Transatlantic convoys.

/A/S ....

War Diary.7.2.1942  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies - contd.

A/S Protection C. in C. U.S. Fleet reports credible evidence  
American Coast of the sinking or serious damage of 6 or 7 U/  
Boats to date. He sees no immediate prospect  
of increasing protection along the 1,200 mile  
Eastern Sea Frontier unless a reduction in  
escort units with Transatlantic convoys can be  
accepted. All available vessels of 75 feet or  
more are being employed at sea, and all available  
aircraft of the Navy Coastguard and Army, to  
which will be added others as they are ready.

S.S. EMPIRE SUN reported being torpedoed at  
0400 G.M.T. in 43° 55' N. (later corrected to  
51' N) 64° 22' W. An unknown ship reported  
being torpedoed about 0417 in 43° 51' N. 64°  
20' W. This may have been EMPIRE SUN,  
survivors of which were found in 44° 5' N.  
64° 31' W.

ATLANTIAN reported being shelled by a submarine  
at 0753 G.M.T. in 44° N. 63° 25' W.

S.S. AMERICAN ARROW was reported by Washington  
at 0925R/7 to have made SSSS from 35.49 N.,  
75.33 W.

Anzac Area.

Limits of the new Anzac Area are defined in  
Admty. 1852A/7, with the forces initially  
allocated to it. Vice Admiral H.F. Leary  
has assumed command of Anzac Force with short  
title Comanzac. R-A.. J.G. Grace has assumed  
command of Anzac Squadron with plain title  
F.O. Australian Squadron.

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Close  
defence  
of S/Ms.

F.O.S. 1211A/4. Conference to decide policy for close range defence of S/Ms and to initiate action will be held at Admiralty, London on 13/2 at 1500 Archway South. D.N.O., D.N.C., and EXCELLENT will be represented in London a.m. that day at A.C.N.S.(W)'s meeting on Coastal Craft gunnery. (D.G.D., 1315A/7.)

RODNEY.

It is not anticipated that RODNEY can be spared to refit before the end of February. (C. in C. H.F., 2123A/7.)

Defence of the U.K.Bristol  
Channel  
A/A defences.

G.O.C. in C. Western Command informs me that the two four inch naval guns at Port Talbot and the two at Burry Port are being withdrawn at once, and that the former will be replaced by 5.4. inch guns. These two batteries are of considerable value for anti-invasion purposes: that at Port Talbot covers beaches east and west of the port, while that at Burry Port has the additional duty of guarding the minefield there. The presence of these batteries was also stated to be some compensation for the recent withdrawal of all patrol vessels in the Bristol Channel. It must be some months before the new guns are fully emplaced as they cannot fit existing gun houses. The loss of protection meanwhile should be fully realised. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1032A/7.)

Movements.

WILTON.

On completion of satisfactory trials about 13/2 request you sail WILTON for Scapa to work up. 2. WILTON will probably join Home Fleet on completion. (D.O.D.(H.), 0038A/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

FORMIDABLE.

Sailed FORMIDABLE and M.L. 302 in accordance with her 1706A/6. ~~N.T.A.W.D.~~  
(F.O.I.C. Lamlash, 0534/7.)  
FORMIDABLE arrived Greenock,  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1155A/7.)

PUNJABI.

Proceed passing Swift 1830 today to Hvalfjord to join Capt. (D) 6. Your should pass through 058° 45' N. 007° W. thence through Reykjanes Passage. Latest known positions of U-Boats - 3 near Seidisfjord. (R.A.D. H.F., 1047A/7 to PUNJABI.)  
Sailed PUNJABI for Hvalfjord. E.T.A. 0900Z/9.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1830A/7.)

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- BEAUMARIS. Leave Methil at 1900/8 and proceed by standard route to Greenock. Operate S.A. gear up to 23 Buoy and thereafter in accordance with C.A.F.O. 2150/41.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1117/7 to BEAUMARIS.)
- LA CAPRICIEUSE. Admiralty 1437A/6. Intend sailing LA CAPRICIEUSE for refit at Southampton at 1800A/7 to arrive 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 2300A/8, thence as routed by C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. Portsmouth to Southampton. Speed of advance 15 knots.  
2. C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. Portsmouth are requested to inform LA CAPRICIEUSE of onward route.  
3. Temporary repairs due to weather damage have been effected and LA CAPRICIEUSE has been instructed to seek shelter if necessary.  
4. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation.  
(Capt. S.3, 1145A/7.)  
Sailed LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with S.3's 1145A/7.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1903A/7.)  
Capt. (S) 3's 1143/7. Route from 180° the Lizard 5 as follows to Needles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2011A/7.)
- A.F.D. 16. Your 1030/4. Tug EMPIRE LARCH will be ordered from Hull to Tyne so as to arrive about 16/2 for towage of A.F.D.16 to Invergordon.  
EMPIRE LARCH.  
2. Speed of tow is not expected to exceed 4 knots.  
3. Request towing instructions may be passed to tug.  
4. Request you will arrange any necessary escort and sail the vessels as soon as convenient after arrival of EMPIRE LARCH.  
(D.O.D. H., 1147A/7 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- VANSITTART. F.O.C.N.A. 1922A/6. VANSITTART can be taken in hand for refit at Devonport.  
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to route VANSITTART accordingly from position (C).  
(D.O.D. H., 1226A/7.)  
Admty's 1226A/7. Route from position (C) as follows to Plymouth, Speed to be adjusted so as to arrive position E at 0800/12. Fighter protection will be requested from daylight 12th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1630A/7.)
- O.10. At 2000/10 intend sailing O.10 escorted by ALECTO from Rothesay to arrive 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles at 2000/12. Thence O.10 to patrol to relieve SEALION as directed by F.O.S. and ALECTO to arrive Falmouth 0900/13. N.O.i/c Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection for passage from Rothesay to Falmouth.  
S. of A. 9 knots.  
(Capt. S.7, 1232A/7 and 1902A/8.)

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- CHELSEA. Intend sailing CHELSEA from Lough Foyle at 1900A today for Liverpool. CHELSEA has uninjured survivors of ARBUTUS on board. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1305A/7.)
- SARGASSO. Intend sailing SARGASSO at 1100/8 with M.H. 70 to position G. thence independently to Belfast E.T.A. 0930/9 speed 13 knots from position 'G'. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1521/7.)
- Maunsell Fort. My 1230A/6, further 24 hour delay. Now add five days to dates in my 1308A/31/1. E.T.A. destination approx. 1400/10. (C. in C. Nore, 1526A/7.)
- CAIRO. Arrived CAIRO. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1546A/7.)  
Admiral Kharlamov requests that best available protection to CAIRO may be provided on passage because members of the Supreme Soviet Government are among the passengers. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1635/7 to Admty.)  
A.M. 1912A/6. After embarkation of Soviet delegates at Clyde F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CAIRO through the Minches to Scapa to top up with fuel and R.A.D. H.F. is requested to sail CAIRO to proceed at best speed to Murmansk routed through - A. 62° 20' N. 03° W. B. 72° N. 05° E. C. 71° 30' N. 18° E. D. 71° 30' N. 20° E. E. 72° N. 22° 30' E. F. 72° N. 37° E. G. 70° N. 37° E. MZ. 360° Cape Tereberski 20 miles.  
3. Portion of passage between 015° E. and 030° E. should be made during dark hours as far as practicable. (A.C.N.S. H., 1850A/7.)  
Admiralty 1912A/6. When ready and passengers embarked CAIRO is to proceed to Scapa for onward routing to Murmansk. (C. in C. W.A., 1914A/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- CALPE. Route through Plymouth Command to Needles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1546A/7 to CALPE.)
- MAURITIUS. Admiralty's 1910<sup>6</sup>/6. Route from position C to Plymouth. Speed to be adjusted to arrive at Plymouth not before 0900. Lights will be shown as follows. Fighter escort will be given, weather permitting from dawn 11th till arrival. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1554A/7 to MAURITIUS.)
- 9th M/S. Request 9th M/S Flotilla be sailed to Portsmouth Flotilla. from Harwich. (D.M.S., 1722A/7 to C. in C. Nore.)



War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

H. 44. Intend to sail H.44 for Rothesay on 9/2 escorted by one destroyer to a position off Dungeness whence Swept Channel will be left and S/M proceed independently diving by day to a R/V which S.7 is requested to arrange.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1736A/7.)  
Your 1736A/7. Route in Portsmouth Command. (A) 165° Beachy Head 24 miles (B) 180° Saint Catherine's 23 miles.  
(Capt. S.5, 2214A/7 and 1131A/8 to C. in C. Nore.)

POOLE. Intend sailing POOLE at 1330A tomorrow independently by Swept Channels to 54C Buoy. E.T.A. 1700. Then as additional escort to F.N.626 breaking off at May Island and proceeding independently to Scapa for fuelling and onward routeing to Greenock.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1746A/7.)

Operations.

Convoy C.W.67 shelled. Enemy Coastal batteries fired about eight rounds between 2000 and 2002 during the passage of C.W. 67. All shells fell in the sea, to the eastward of Dover.  
(V.A. Dover, 0014/7.)

Brest S/M Patrol. My 1704A/6. Amend para.C to read SEALION vicinity Ushant.  
Add (D) H.50 in Biscay north zone and H.43 in vicinity 47° 03' N. 07° 20' W.  
(F.O.S., 0044A/7.)

E-Boats shelled on 6/2. At 1910/6 four to six small craft were detected by R.D.F. four miles North of Gris Nez. These proceeded at 1945 towards C.W.67, which was then passing Dover but turned back about 2000 when enemy coastal batteries opened fire. Our 6 inch batteries engaged enemy craft firing 15 rounds at about 15,000 yards range. Craft were unidentified but were probably E-Boats their speed being 35 knots at times. Plot faded North of Boulogne at 2050.  
(V.A. Dover, 1009A/7.)

East Coast Patrols. Brightlingsea auxiliary patrols, except H.A., remaining in harbour until weather moderates.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1315A/7.)

Channel. 2 M.Ls. on patrol 10 miles south Portland. WELSHMAN operating south-east of Beachy Head. E.T.D. Portsmouth 1700/7. E.T.R. Portsmouth 0330/8.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1527/7.)  
Remain at sea and return through Needles Channel at daylight.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2127A/7 to WELSHMAN.)

/North ...

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War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.North Cape  
S/M Patrol.Soviet S/M proceeding to patrol by parallel  
071° 47' N. Estimated position at 1200C/8,  
071° 47' N. 024° E. Admiralty pass to  
Addressees.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1543A/7 to C.S.10,  
Capt. D.8.)Iceland  
- Faroes  
Patrol.My 2026A/5, para.(1). Sailing of SHEFFIELD  
may be delayed until mails have been embarked  
from TARTAR.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1614A/6 to C.S.18.)  
C.S.18 in SHEFFIELD sailed 1430A for patrol

"Black".

(A.C.I.C., 1757A/7.)

My 1703A/7. Add KENYA from patrol "Black" to Hvalfiord.  
(A.C.I.C., 1947A/7.)Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol.Estimated at 2200/7. KENT, OXLIP and SNOWDROP  
on patrol "White". BERWICK leaves Hvalfiord  
2345A for patrol "White".  
(A.C.I.C., 1703A/7.)British Air Activity.Seidisfiord  
A/S Patrols.As day sorties appear unprofitable consider you  
should carry out night A/S Patrols of  
Seydisfjordur Area with long-range S.E.  
aircraft.(C. in C. A.O.C. Iceland, 1505/7 to Iceland, Rptd. 15 Group.)  
Although every endeavour will be made to carry out this  
commitment it is considered very difficult in view of small  
number of L/R S.E. A/C available, the non-operational state of  
H O F N, distance from Kaldadarnes, and present weather  
conditions.  
(A.O.C. Iceland, 1632/7 to H.Q.C.C.)"Shad"  
Messages  
by Convoy  
Escorts.Your 2204A/5. Concur.  
(V.A. Dover, 1717A/7, A.C.O.S. 1802A/7 to Admty.)Procedure  
of Fighter  
Escorts.The responsibility of deciding when the Fighter  
Escort will leave a Convoy rests with the pilot  
of escorting A/C. When about to withdraw from  
Convoy Fighter Leader will fly over escort at  
5,000 feet, provided clouds permit, and flash  
letter of day on the downward recognition light.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1718A/7.)

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.BLUSH ROSE  
damaged  
on 6/2.S.S. BLUSH ROSE from Dublin to Swansea when  
three miles south of St. Annes Head at 1815/6  
was bombed by single enemy A/C.  
Six near misses. No casualties. Ship making  
water in engine room. Now beached at Dale  
Roads.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1325/7.)Mining.Drifting  
Mines.R.A.F. report drifting mines one 6 miles due  
East Flamborough Head and two to the eastward of  
War Channel 080° from Scarborough.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1600/7.)Following from N.O.i/c. Avonmouth begins.  
Master of EMPIRE LEITH reports at 0200A/5 16 miles N. of Smalls  
sighted floating mine. Mine appeared British (manhole in top),  
prongs 3 feet to 4 feet in length. Mine appeared to be  
attached to an underwater weight. Ends. 1429/6.  
The length of the prongs has been confirmed as feet. EMPIRE  
LEITH now at Sharpness.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1618A/7 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)Thames  
Estuary.2 Ground mines detonated by Sweepers 6/2.  
Details.  
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1837/7, 1841/7.)Enemy Intelligence.Unit off  
Boulogne.D/F bearing at 2148Z indicates possibility of  
enemy unit in Boulogne area.  
(D.D.I.C., 0010A/7 to V.A. Dover.)Straits  
of Dover.Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait  
from 0900/6 to 0900/7.  
Track E4D. Four or (sic) small vessels east-  
bound from Boulogne at 1852 faded off Calais  
at 2118.  
Track E5D. Four to six small craft from 4 miles North of Gris  
Nez at 1910 to mid-channel at 2000 and thence returned towards  
Boulogne. Unidentified but probably E-Boats. These were  
engaged by six inch coastal batteries.  
E9D. Three small and one larger vessel westbound 11 knots  
from three miles north-east of Calais at 2215, entered  
Boulogne at 0005.  
E11D. Two small vessels eastbound 10 knots from off Boulogne  
at 0145, fading 3 miles East of Calais at 0410.  
E12D. Six or more small vessels westbound 10 knots from 8  
miles N.W. of Calais at 0253 to off Boulogne at 0455.  
Possibly R-Boats. Except for track E.5D all vessels were  
thought to be engaged in minesweeping.  
(V.A. Dover, 1008A/7.)

/North ...

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War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.North  
Norwegian  
Waters.Russians report one unidentified Warship in  
Soroy Sund, and one in Vestfiord.  
(Ad. Miles, 1236C/6.)  
See U-Boats.Shipping  
in enemy  
waters.(a) The last German convoy known to have  
attempted the Great Belt passage was period  
28th to Feb. 1st when three Danish icebreakers  
and surveying ship were assisting. These  
vessels subsequently returned Copenhagen and  
are still there. Other indications infer that Great Belt is  
now closed to through traffic.

Graded B.2.

(b) Certain Swedish vessels are known to be making return  
voyage from north sea ports passing West of Jutland.

Graded A.2.

(c) Naval oilers normally supplying German warships at Gdynia  
were informed on 23/1 they would in future be stationed at  
Cuxhaven and/or Wilhelmshaven. These vessels no longer fetch  
their oil at Flemhude under ground tanks, but wherever it  
happens to be available.

Graded C.3.

(N.A. Stockholm, 1101/7.)

U-Boats.Convoy  
O.N. 63.By D/F at 1041Z/7 a U-Boat was in vicinity of  
Convoy O.N.63.

(D.D.I.C., 1232A/7.)

A U-Boat was reported by D/F to be near O.N. 63  
at 1041Z/7.(C. in C. W.A., 1432A/7 to VERITY, CAMELIA,  
COLUMBINE, PIMPERNEL.)Russians report (A) 3/2 U-Boat bearing 086°  
from Tsip Nazolok. (B) 4/2 one U-Boat in  
Andsfiord, one unidentified warship Soroy Sund,  
one unidentified warship in Vestfiord.  
(Ad. Miles, 1236C/6 to Admty.)ARBUTUS  
(Sunk 5/2)Preliminary report on loss. Details.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1527A/7.)  
See Lion Copy.

209A.

1527A/7th February.

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN.

From: Capt. D. Londonderry.

Date: 7.2.42.

Recd: 1704.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed: C. in C. Western Approaches repeated  
Captain D Liverpool, Capt. D. Greenock,  
Admiralty D.A/S.W. F.O.i/c Belfast.

Preliminary report on loss of H.M.S. ARBUTUS. (Sunk by U.136)

At 2138A on Thursday 5th February 1942 in approximately 55 degs 5' N 19 degs 43' W ARBUTUS was sunk by torpedo from U Boat which hit starboard side of foremost bulkhead No. 1 Boiler Room. Ship sank in about 30 minutes. One officer (Lieut. V.G. Paremmain R.N.R.) and 33 ratings were rescued by CHELSEA one rating subsequently died on board and was buried at sea. The circumstances were as follows: CHELSEA and ARBUTUS had been detached from O.N.63 by S.O. 6th E.G. in VERITY at about 1920A the same evening to search out on the starboard quarter of convoy for U Boats established in this direction by H/F D/F. At approximately 1950A RDF reported contact on port bow of ARBUTUS at 3000 yards. This was immediately confirmed by sighting a U Boat asdic conditions good but set not operating well U Boat undetected by H.E. or Echo at this time. Weather sea 23 visibility poor to moderate due to patches of fog and very dark wind 2. U Boat was evidently diving as contact by sighting and RDF was lost almost immediately. ARBUTUS was turned towards at full speed and ordered D.C's to be set to 50 feet. Poor asdic contact was obtained during run in Lieut Paremmain who was A/S.C.O. at time ordered stand by D.C's and almost immediately heard D.C. explode. He considered that C.O. had given orders to fire without reference to the asdic. Explosion of D.C's caused dynamo to come off board in E.R. and all power failed and ship was thrown into darkness. This was quickly rectified and subsequent search in vicinity was made by CHELSEA and ARBUTUS until about 2130A. During this time CHELSEA had picked up an asdic contact but reported her steering had jambed. ARBUTUS could not confirm and contact was subsequently lost and not regained. Search was abandoned upon receipt of signal from VERITY and ARBUTUS was torpedoed whilst returning to convoy in company. CHELSEA sighted U Boat and attacked with gunfire. U Boat dived but asdic contact was later gained at about 1600 yards

and/

and three D.C. attacks were carried out. Contact finally lost and CHELSEA returned to pick up survivors between 0030/6 and 0100/6. On completion CHELSEA made to rejoin convoy.

1527A/7.

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)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 Parl. Sec.  
 Sec.  
 Nav. Sec.  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D. of P. (3)  
 Ops. (3)  
 O.D. (5)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 O.I.C. (3)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 D.P.D.  
 Hydrog  
 (3)  
 C.W. (2)  
 N. (2)  
 N.L.  
 Head of P. (Bath) by courier  
 I.P. (3)  
 W.D.  
 D.T.D. (4)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D.M.S.  
 D.M.S. Basement  
 D.T.M.  
 D.D.T.M.  
 D.T.S.D.

Advance copies 1st Lord,  
 N.A. 1st S.L. Ops. O.D.  
 O.I.C. D.A/S.W. Press.

War Diary.

7.2.1942.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Ice. Abridged summary of ice conditions.  
 (a) Approaches to Baltic Sea. Belts are closed. Sound just possible with icebreakers.  
 (b) North Sea. Inner end of Oslo Fjord probably closed. Southern Norwegian Ports east of and including Kristiansand difficult of access. Ice up to 10 fathom line off West Coast of Denmark and Hamburg probably closed. Within next week conditions may be similar to those of 1940. Traffic at Dutch Ports North of Rotterdam must be very small.  
 (c) Denmark Strait. Limits of pack ice about 60 miles N.W. of Iceland C.  
 (D.D.I.C., 2008A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

→ FOXTROT. Have been rammed by ship. Request permission to enter harbour. Request pilot. E.T.A. 0415. (FOXTROT, 0235/7 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)  
 Have been rammed and badly damaged by ship of W.N.41. Am putting into Aberdeen.  
 (FOXTROT, 0300A/7.)  
 My 1224/7. FOXTROT hit abreast E.R. port side. Extensive damage. Dry docking for temporary repairs 8/2. Probable time 4 days.  
 (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1250/7.)

HOWE. Conference on HOWE on 5/2 revealed following. No information of delivery of R.D.F. including power supply. D.F. S.R.E. W.A/T. A/S, all of this is required on board by end February, except A/S gear which is required now. Failure to comply with above will probably cause delay in completion.  
 (A.S. C.B.S., 1055/7 to Admty.)

VIVACIOUS. My 1733/6. Test unsatisfactory. WORCESTER has taken the place of VIVACIOUS.  
 (Capt. D.21, 1937A/7.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Tankers Outward bound tankers with declared speed of from 10 knots or over waiting in Iceland (C) for sailing opportunity should be sailed with escort from Iceland. meeting O.N.65 at M.O.M.P.  
 (D.T.D., 0021A/7 to A.C.I.C.)

E.N. 43. FOXTROT entering Aberdeen after collision. Request relief trawler be sailed with minimum delay to meet E.N.43.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 0449/7.)

→ FOXTROT damaged in collision and has berthed Aberdeen. Have taken over S.O's escort duties.  
 (MINUET, 1000A/7.)  
 Your 1344/7. CHANNEL QUEEN has not joined E.N.43.  
 (MINUET, 2000A/7.)

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

W.S. 16. Following is embarkation programme for convoy W.S.16. Details.  
(D.S.T., 0631A/7.)

Ocean Escorts.  
(A.C.N.S. H., 1638A/7.)  
See Lion Copy.)  
Your 0130A/7.

The possibilities to which you draw attention are appreciated but sailing of W.S.16 cannot be deferred and adequate escort must be provided.

2. Request you sail RODNEY to arrive Clyde by early a.m. 15th, providing one destroyer as A/S escort.

3. C. in C. W.A., is requested to sail two destroyers as additional A/S escort to arrive Hvalfiord as required by C. in C. H.F.

(A.C.N.S. H., 1631A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

(W.D. Note: W.R. has been asked to supply 0130A/7.) (Hush, see p. 212)

C.T. 10. Following ships sailed 4/2 in convoy C.T. 10. CHATEAU THIERRY, HIGHLAND BRIGADE.

2. Of the personnel in CHATEAU THIERRY following are for U.S.A.

These personnel should remain on board for onward conveyance to New York. B.A.D. Washington's 1125/4 refers.

3. After disembarkation at Halifax HIGHLAND BRIGADE should proceed to the Plate to load for U.K.

(D.S.T., 0632A/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

GREY Scapa departures 0454 GREY RANGER escorted  
RANGER. by CHIDDINGFOLD.  
(A.C.O.S., 0911A/7 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

F.N.624. SLEIPNER proceed to meet F.N.624 now off Farne Island and relieve LEEDS. LEEDS proceed Rosyth on relief to boiler clean. LEWES carry out duties A tonight.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1026/7.)

W.N. 42. CITY OF DURBAN with CAPE SABLE proceed as necessary to R/V with convoy W.N.42 off Duncansby Head at 1215 tomorrow.

W.N.42 is escorted by GAVOTTE (S.O.) and COTILLION, A/A escort LOWESTOFF. When met proceed in company to Rosyth for boiler cleaning.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1116A/7.)

Defence  
of North  
Russian  
Convoys.

I wish you to make every effort to get the Russians to assist in the defence of the P.Q. and Q.P. convoys in the Murmansk area. These convoys are threatened by surface, air, and submarine attack and this threat is now increasing daily.

(1st S.L., 1136A/7 to Ad. Bevan, Ad. Miles.)



MOST SECRET.

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE 1638A/7th February

2//A.

OUT

To: C.in C. ~~Western~~ Date 7.2.42  
 F.O.I./c.Greenock.  
 F.O.C.N.A.193  
 C.in C.South Atlantic.207  
 S.O.Force H 548  
 C.in C.Home Fleet.882  
 R.A.(D) Home Fleet.807  
 FORMIDABLE  
 EAGLE  
 DUNCAN  
 PANTHER  
 PALADIN  
 RODNEY  
 NEWCASTLE

Naval Cypher (A.C.O.)

From Admiralty.

- A.M.2331/5 February para 5. Ocean escort of Convoy W.S.16.
- A. H.M.S. NEWCASTLE from Clyde to the Cape.
  - B. H.M.S. EAGLE and H.M.S. DUNCAN from Clyde to position Z whence they will proceed to Gibraltar as arranged by S.O.Force H.
  - C. FORMIDABLE from Clyde, breaking off when ordered by Admiralty.
  - D. H.M.S. RODNEY with one destroyer detailed by C. in C. H.F. and two destroyers detailed by C. in C. W.A. from Clyde to position Y, returning thence to U.K. passing south of Ireland if fuel situation demands.
  - E. Force H less ARGUS from position Y to position Z, returning thence to Gibraltar, utilising DINGELDALE for refuelling if necessary.
2. Position Y approximately 4500 N. 2100 W. and position Z approximately 4100 N. 2100 W. will be included in route signal.
  3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to pass A.M. 2331A/5th February to FORMIDABLE, NEWCASTLE, EAGLE and RODNEY on arrival in the Clyde.

1638A/7  
 D.O.D. (H)  
 Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

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

D.T.D. (4)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.

Head of War Registry,

May I please have a copy of  
C. C. Home Fleet 0130A/7  
to Admiralty.

W. P. Dunningham

W. P.

15/2/42.

W.P.

CulHF's 0130A/7 is in the  
Hush series & it is regretted a copy  
cannot be supplied.

W. P. Dunningham

W. P.

11/2/42

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- S.C. 66. Escort detail "U". NARCISSUS, COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT. "B" BOADICEA, HEATHER. E.T.A. "U"  
2359A/8. E.T.A. 055° 35' N. 007° W. 0630A/8.  
No Oban ships.  
(BOADICEA, 1145A/7.)
- P.Q. 11. P.Q.11 arrived 12 ships.  
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 1415A/7.)
- O.S. 20. A.M. 1634A/5 and your 1047A/6. In order that  
O.S. 21. a number of ships now loading military stores  
may be included in the convoy it is requested  
that you will sail O.S.20 on 22/2. O.S.21  
should be sailed on 3/3.  
(D.T.D., 1529A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
- B.B. 34. ROSEMARY to remain with B.B.34 to Barry Roads  
and escort for Group 0015A/9.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1655/7.)
- ANNA  
KNUDSEN. Sailed ANNA KNUDSEN escorted by PAYNTER,  
THIRLMERE from Seidisfjord at 1500A. Route  
as in your 1859A/6. Speed 11 knots. E.T.A.  
Loch Ewe p.m./9th.  
(A.C.I.C., 1903A/7 to Admty.)
- U.R. 11. Arrived U.R.11, 1530A/6th.  
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 1909A/6.)
- O.N. 60. O.N.60 serial 10. Direct commodore detach  
KING ARTHUR forthwith proceeding through  
Cocanut direct to position (J).  
(C.N.O., 1912/7 to Cdr. Task Unit 4.1.12.)
- O.N. 65. Sail SHIKARI as additional escort to O.N. 65.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1917A/7 to N.O.I.C.Londonderry.)
- ROCHESTER. Not yet rejoined convoy. My P.C.S. 041° 32' N.  
26° 8' W., 186°, 10.  
(ROCHESTER 2000A/7.)
- TYNEDALE. Comply with Capt. (D)'s 1908/7, leaving convoy as  
necessary to make R/V.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2038A/7 to TYNEDALE.)

/Russian ...

War Diary.

7.2.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.- Contd.

Russian  
ships in  
British  
Convoys.

Your 2006A/4. Reports regarding Station keeping and handling of Russian ships have been generally favourable.

(2) Differences between Russian and international morse alphabets have made alterations of course and speed difficult during winter months. Russian translation of Mersigs Vol.I will overcome this difficulty.

(C. in C. H.F., 2046A/6 to Admt.)

War Diary.

7.2.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

O.G. 79. O.G. 79 Gibraltar section 10 ships E.T.A. 1600A/7 escort BLACK SWAN, WISHART, VIDETTE, BLUEBELL, CARNATION, STONECROP. 8 ships for South Spain split off (?0800/7) (corrupt groups) Atlantic. (BLACK SWAN 0601A/7 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.) O.G. 79 Gibraltar Section and EMPIRE SNIPE arrived. (V.A.C.N.A. 1621A/7 to Admty.)

BATORY. Your 2300A/6. In view of large number of cabin passengers for U.K. which includes women and children from Lisbon and Tangier intend to send BATORY to Capetown and SOBIESKI to Freetown as cabin accommodation to U.K. is not adequate otherwise. (F.O.C.N.A. 0932A/7 to Admty.) SOBIESKI. Your 0932/7. Not approved. 2. Early return of SOBIESKI to U.K. is essential and instructions in A.M. 2300/6 must therefore stand. 3. Some discomfort must if necessary be accepted. (D.O.D. (F) 1301A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLEOPATRA. My P.C. and S. at 0800Z, 46° 18' N. 14° 36' W. - 180° - 25.5 knots, E.T.A. 2100Z/8. Weather report. (CLEOPATRA 1139A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1139A/7. Adjust course and speed to pass through position 290° Cape Spartel 20 miles at 2000A/8 then proceed high speed to enter harbour by northernmost entrance at 2230A/8. 2. 3. Berthing, oiling. 4. There is to be no communication with shore. No signals are to be made unless absolutely essential. Ship's company to be warned no information to be divulged to oiler crew. 5. You will sail with FORTUNE at 0530A/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 2342A/7 to CLEOPATRA).

PANDORA. C. in C. A.W.I. 1222P/1. Onward route from (b) through (c) 035° 30' 015° 00' to (d) 350° Spartel 5. Adjust speed to pass (c) at 1000A/14 and arrive (d) to R/V escort at 1000A/16. Bombing restrictions arranged 20 miles either side of this route. Report if unable to comply within 2 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1306A/7 to PANDORA.)

Bombing Restrictions. Capt. (S) 8 1110/4 Request total bombing restrictions in areas G.08 G.09 G.10 G.11 from 1200A/12 until 1900A/14, G.12 from 1200A/14 until 0400A/15 G.13 from 2200A/14 until 1400A/15, G.14 from 0800A/15 until 2359A/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 1310A/7 to Admty., H.Q.C.C., (R) F.O.S., Capt. (S) 8.)

LIGHTNING. Sailed 1700 to join you. WHITEHALL. (F.O.C.N.A. 1756A/7 to Capt. D. 19).

/LLANGIBBY.....

War Diary.

7.2.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Pass to LLANGIBBY CASTLE (begins). All troops and stores are to be ready to tranship immediately on arrival of LLANGIBBY CASTLE at Gibraltar. Following are approx. numbers for troops. (For ships A, B, C.) (F.O.C.N.A., 1804A/7 to Capt. D. 19).

Situation Reports. Your 0035A/6. This had been the normal routine in my situation reports. (V.A.C.N.A., 1821A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

U/B. S/M sighted at 1000/7 60 miles west of Cape Espichel by U.S. Commerical aircraft. (F.O.C.N.A. 1823A/7 to N.A. Stn.)

4 French S/Ms. 4 French submarines escorted by 1 gunboat will pass Straits westwards about noon/10. (B.N.A. Madrid 1841/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Shipping. Gibraltar 1745. French convoy eastbound, ALGERIE full, \*MONT CASSEL full, CHATEAU PAVIE loaded, THISBE full, KITA full, escorted by French destroyer FOUGUEUX. (S.O.I. Gib., 2121A/7 to Admty. C. in C. Med.) \*A.P.V.

Boom Defence. Request a 'Bar' class boom working vessel and full complement may be sent. B.D.O. considers this to be an urgent necessity. (C.S. Gibraltar 2144A/7 to Admty.)

F.W. A/C Activity. A.M. 2117A/4. F.W. Aircraft activity 7/2. 6 were active, one, at least, in Santander area, and 4 westward of Ireland (R) between 1645/7 and 2012/7. No evidence that shipping was reported. (D.D.I.C. 2326A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Routeing of O.S. Convoys. O.S. Convoys. Kapruts. Would much prefer that horizontal sequence of positions as in table be followed by N.C.S.O's when selecting these routes. Consider too much reliance is placed on difference of speeds and exaggerated dispersal courses to obtain dispersion. For instance, ships (? detached) from O.S. 17 on 1/2 were routed

/to.....

War Diary;7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Routeing  
of O.S.  
Convoys  
- Contd.

to such an extent East and West of the normal Kaprut sequence that there was a longitudinal front at position (R) of only 150 miles instead of what could have been 295 miles. Much time is wasted by the fact that some ships, first routed well to the Eastward, are then brought back again well to the Westward, and vice versa.

2. Suggest - (A) Horizontal sequence of Kapruts be adhered to. (B) Ships of 11 knots and over be spaced as widely as possible, alternating with slower ships. (C) The initial Kaprut number of White Route, only be signalled for whole convoy. This would give all information required and no copies of routes need be sent to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 0337Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

W.S.15.  
A.M.C.  
escorts.

Propose following movements February A.M.Cs. employed as escort of W.S.15.

1. CHESHIRE to escort Capetown portion into Capetown and later with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE escort this portion to R/V with Durban portion off Durban.

2. Subsequently to (A) CHESHIRE to proceed East London to await LAFONIA and escort her from Durban to West Africa. (B) DUNNOTTAR CASTLE to proceed to (?Simonstown) to complete gunnery defects.

3. WORCESTERSHIRE to R/V with RESOLUTION, MILFORD and Convoy off Cape and escort Durban portion of convoy to Durban. V.A.3. is requested to signal time and position of R/V.

4. C. in C. E.I. is requested to say whether WORCESTERSHIRE is subsequently to proceed independently to E.I. Station or continue as escort for convoy when it sails from Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0807Z/7).

Pass to Cdre. W.S.15 CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS and EMPIRE WOODLARK should proceed to Durban instead of Capetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1315Z/7 to B.S.3.)

MAHRONDA.  
U/B.

Following has been read: SSSS from VPG 02° 14' S. 02° 15' W. MAHRONDA chased by submarine. (Freetown W/T, 1100/7). Ref. AM. A.F. 02° 14' S. 02° 15' W. at 1100. (C. in C. S.A. 1150/7 to C.B.M.S. 6A. (R) Admty.)

BIRMINGHAM.

S.O. (I) Montevideo's 1316Z/6, Admty. 2122A/5. C. in C. S.A. 1225Z/6 not to Admty. Intend visiting Montevideo after Carnival period about 18/2 and ask permission to remain 4 days for self refit of BIRMINGHAM. By this time more may be known of situation outlined in Admty. 2122A/5. S.O.(I) Montevideo is requested to report if this date would be convenient. (F.O. S.A. Sqdn., 1231Z/7 to C. in C. S.A., S.O.I. Montevideo). Your 1231Z/7th. Owing to carnival 23/2 would be infinitely preferable though His Majesty's Minister is agreeable to 18th if you are unable to delay visit. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2136Z/7 to F.O.S.A.D.)

/ROBERTS.....

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

ROBERTS.

Durban departure ROBERTS, E.T.A. Mombasa 0500 G.M.T./14. S. of A. 11 knots.  
Route as follows:- A. 028° 30' S. 032° 40' E.  
B. 024° 07' 035° 40', C. 019° 00' 037° 35',  
D. 016° 30' 040° 20', E. 015° 20' 041° 00',  
F. 011° 00' 041° 00', G. 005° 00' 040° 12' thence to Kilindini. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1646Z/7, 1648Z/7 to Admty. etc.)

Movements.

Capetown arrivals 6th, DERBYSHIRE escorting ORDUNA. Departures 7th ASCANIA at 0930 for Port Elizabeth S. of A. 14 knots, E.T.A. 1400/8, (?TULIP) at 1032 for Durban, S. of A. 11½ knots, E.T.A. 0700/10. Simonstown arrival 7th ILEX, departure 7th NORMAN at 1550 for Mauritius, S. of A. 17 knots, E.T.A. 1000/13. All times G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1853Z/7 to Admty., etc.)

Pointe Noire.

The Boom at Pointe Noire is now in operation and this port is now a defended port. (C. in C. S.A., 2015Z/7 to Admty.)

Entry of convoys into Freetown.

Local arrangements. (C. in C. S.A. 2355Z/7 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units.

1 medium M/V and 1 escort vessel 034° 02' N. 011° 37' E. course 180° 8 knots at 2300B/6. Swordfish attacking at about 0200B/7. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0006B/7 to P.31 (R) SOKOL).

NR. 2. Position of one enemy M/V (Medium, not exceeding 10,000 tons) and 2 destroyers 100° 34' N., 11° E., 20 miles. (A/C of "A" Flight, No. A.A. CU Malta, Duty R. 0115B/7 to A.H.Q.)

Have attacked with torpedoes. Estimate one hit. (Med. A/C 0320/7 to Med. A/C). Position 20 miles E.N.E. Jerba, Tunisian Coast. (D.S., 886).

My 0006B/7 Swordfish claim one hit on merchant ship in approx. 035° 40' N. 011° 15' E. at 0320B/7. (V.A. Malta, 0533B/7 to P.31 (R) SOKOL).

/Troops.....



217A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0530/7th February

IN

Date 7.2.42

Recd. 0935

From C. in C. Middle East

CIPHER

---

Addressed The War Office, repeated G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

IMPORTANT

254625

57987 cipher 5/2.

Troopers pass Foreign Office following from  
Min. of State. Your 473.

Have received from C. in C. East Africa through his liaison officer in Mideast a letter reviewing situation in French Somaliland. Following are salient points.

1. C. in C. considers situation is deteriorating so rapidly to our disadvantage that our policy towards Jibuti must be reviewed with the least possible delay.
2. At the moment action of three services in regard to blockade is contradictory. C. in C. has an Inf. Bde. Group locked up trying to enforce complete blockade by land. It is performing no other useful purpose and is unable to carry out badly needed training. The activities of troops bring them into contact with Vichy French posts resulting in exchange of shots and occasionally casualties. Free French troops who are co-operating are constant source of anxiety owing to risk of their provoking minor war which might not be to their disadvantage as they are strongly averse from any form of agreement with Vichy French. Army are still buying large numbers of cattle at considerable expense to avoid their being sent into French Somaliland.
3. The Navy on the other hand have practically called off blockade. French submarines and sloops enter and leave Jibuti at will and dhow traffic from the Yemen is now assuming large proportions. C. in C. has no doubt that French are importing practically everything they require. (I understand they recently refused to accept a consignment of tinned milk because it was 8% short weight).
4. Air Force from Aden carry out bi-weekly photographic reconnaissance of Jibuti during which our aircraft are vigorously engaged by French anti-aircraft fire with occasional hits. Although Air Force have been authorised to take offensive action against Vichy

French/....

French vessels no such action is in fact taken to deter French vessels entering and leaving Jibuti.

5. C. in C. considers that impending evacuation of Italian civilians through Jibuti for which first ships are expected to arrive shortly after the 15/2 and which will inevitably entail local contacts with the Vichy French to arrange procedure of evacuation would present opportunity for negotiating with the Governor on a broader basis to end existing situation. He suggests that he should be authorised to send a letter to Governor when it is definitely known that Italian ships are about to arrive at Jibouti and invite him to consider terms for a modus vivendi to end the present impasse.

6. He points out however that if this proposal is approved it must be realised that time has passed when we can expect to impose terms which amount to surrender on Governor and that to attempt to do so would probably merely result in a rebuff. But he believes that there is reasonable chance of obtaining.

- (A) Use of port and railway for all purposes.
- (B) A measure of demilitarisation of the colony including evacuation of the bulk of the troops.
- (C) Acceptance by the Governor of a small mission for the purpose of maintaining status quo and dealing with day to day problems which will arise through our use of port and railway.

7. Free French would certainly have to be excluded from these negotiations and from the colony if any agreement were signed on such conditions. Although such an agreement would be received by them with dismay it would clearly contribute to prosecution of the war by (A) providing us with the use of communications which we require (B) ensuring that Jibuti is not used by Axis powers (C) helping to prevent penetration of subversive or undesirable persons from Jibuti into Ethiopia. I am in full agreement with C. in C.'s estimate of the situation and his recommendations. Nevertheless if it is decided that for reasons of policy affecting our relations with Vichy or with General de Gaulle it is not possible to accept these recommendations only two logical alternatives remain. The first is to enforce an effective Naval blockade which under present circumstances is not possible. The second is to call off the blockade so as to enable the C. in C. East Africa to withdraw the bulk of his troops which he is most anxious to do. I recognise that this

would/.....

# MOST SECRET

-3-

would raise awkward frontier problems and I propose to discuss its implications with Colonel Butt before his return to Nairobi. I apologise for returning to this question again but I feel bound to ask you to reconsider it.

0530/7

Received from War Office 1927/8

1st Lord	War Office Circulation:-
1st S.L.	S. of S.
V.C.N.S.	C.I.G.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)	V.C.I.G.S.
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	Major Morton, 10 Downing St.
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	Mr. Coulson (Cabinet Offices)
	Spears Mission (Mr. Smith)

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Troops for  
Far East.

My 1624B/5 M.T. ships for 3rd flight will be selected from following.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 0056B/7 to D.S.T.) (D.S.T., 0633A/7, 0634A/7 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1831B/7 to D.S.T.O. Mombasa 1833B/7 to D. of S.T.)

U/B  
attacked  
by A/C.

Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs dive and estimate 4 hits. Position 31.55 N., 26.20 E. (A/C 230 Sqdn. X, 0245/7 to 201 Group). Sunderland, position in Gulf of Sollum. (D.O.R. 8/2).

M/V  
attacked  
by A/C.

My 1845B/6. A/C claims (?torpedoing) M/V. in approx. position 037° 55' N. 012° 14' E. at 0025/7. (S.O. 0515B/7 to UPHOLDER).

PORPOISE.

PORPOISE leaves Alexandria searched channel about 1900B/7 routed through 032° 25' 028° 38' and 035° 30' 017° 00' thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. She will pass through second position about moon/12.  
(Capt. S.I. 0925B/7 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy  
Units.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 4 M/Vs. of 4000 tons. 36.57 N. 11.08 E., 170°, 12 knots. (Med. A/C F., 1027B/7).

RUDNITCHAR.  
STARYA VOLK.

My 1915B/5. RUDNITCHAR sailed from Buyukdere for Bourgas 1900 G.M.T./6, 6 knots.  
My 1502B/4. STARYA VOLK sailed for Bourgas 0500 G.M.T./7, 6 knots.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1046B/7 to S.O. (I) Med. N.L.O. Black Sea. (RP D.N.I.) *See p. 220*)

P.39.  
UPHOLDER.

Conform to my 1741B/9 and 1055B/4 to arrive Marsamxett 0730B/11. UPHOLDER will not leave her area until 0001B/11. (V.A. Malta, 1055B/7 to P.39).

ERICA.

Proceed to Port Said.  
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1124C/7 to ERICA).

*Sailed - see next page*

Air Report.

Night 5/6, 24 Wellingtons, dropped 27 tons bombs on Benghazi to cover minelaying operation by further 4 Wellingtons. Many direct hits on Cathedral central and Juliana Moles started number of small fires, violent explosion and large fire at north end Berka Aerodrome, 8 mines successfully laid at Harbour entrance. 2 Liberators bombed Tripoli Harbour from 15000 feet, all bombs bursting on

/Spanish.....

War Diary.7.2.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Air Report  
contd.

Spanish Quay, damage unobserved. Both aircraft operated from Fayid, carrying 8000 pound bomb load, one returned there without intermediate landing, distance covered being 2300 miles, flying time  $12\frac{1}{4}$  hours; second Liberator landed advanced base Western Desert on return flight. Much valuable operational data regarding Liberator obtained on the flight. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1206/7.)

LORENZ L.M.  
RUSS  
(German)

Dept. 6/2 Oran for Marseilles.  
(Cartagena, T.H.I. 1210/7 to M. of W.T.)

PORPOISE

C. in C. E.F.'s 1034Z/6. Regretted PORPOISE cannot be spared.  
(C. in C. Med., 1315B/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Movements.

Arrival 6/2 JERVIS, KELVIN, JAGUAR, LANCE, GRIFFIN, ARROW, HERO, HAVOCK, HURWORTH, HEYTHROP, BAGSHOT, KLO. Departure 6/2 M.L.1017. Arrival 7/2 WOLBOROUGH, SOUTHERN MAID, SULTAN HISAR. Departure 7/2 ERICA. *See previous page.*  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1234/7 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

UNIQUE

Operate in S.W. half of area J from 2000B/9. UNA leaves  $035^{\circ} 51' 015^{\circ} 15'$  about (?2330)B previous day for  $037^{\circ} 15' 016^{\circ} 08'$  to operate in N.E. half of area.  
(Capt. S. 10 1315B/17 to UNIQUE.)

UNA  
P.38

Intend sailing UNA and P.38 p.m./8 for N.E. half of area J in my 1325B/31 and area G,  $036^{\circ} 05' 011^{\circ} 20' - 000^{\circ} - 35 - 60$  respectively.  
(Capt. S. 10 1325B/7 to Capt. S.1 (R) C. in C. Med.)

3rd M.L.  
Flotilla

Your 1309A/4. Yes, as far as Malta.  
(C. in C. Med., 1429B/7 to Admty.)

E-Boats.

A.M. 1859A/13.12.41. Further report corroborates that one flotilla of E-boats arrived Marseilles at end of November 1941. One further flotilla of about 8 E-boats is reported to have passed Chalons (Rhône) on 30/1 southbound. (Graded B.2.)  
(D.D.I.C. 1633A/7 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, C.O.I.S. Alexandria, F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H.)

/ZULU ...

War Diary.7.2.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.ZULU  
LIVELY  
TEMPEST

ZULU and LIVELY will operate on a line Lampedusa-Pantellaria tonight 7/8th, returning by S.E. channel to arrive Grand Harbour 0730B/8. (Capt. S. 10 1635B/7 to 10 S/M Flot. TEMPEST.) TEMPEST approaching Malta through 036° 10' 014° 00' and should be 5 miles south of Filfoa Is. about 0530B/8 speed 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Malta 2341B/7 to ZULU, LIVELY.)

E.H. FISSER  
LISBOA.

Departure 6th ELISABETH HENDRIK FISSER Genoa. Iron Ore, Oranges, Turpentine. Departure 6th LISBOA Marseilles. Oranges. (Valencia 1638/7.)

Black Sea.

Following is a repetition of my 0743B/7 (N.T. in W.D.) addressed N.L.O. Black Sea (R) Admty., (for D.N.I) (begins) Following from

S.O.(I) Istanbul (begins).

(i) RUDNITCHAR sailed from Buyukdere for Bourgas 19 hours G.M.T. 6/2, 6 knots. Ref. my 1915B/5 (N.T. in W.R.)

(ii) My 1502B/4 STARYA VOLK (Bulgarian) sailed for (?Bourgas) 5 hours G.M.T. 7/2 6 knots. (ends). No T.O.O. in message (ends).

(C. in C. Med. 1747B/7 to Admty., for D.N.I.) *See p. 218*

Troop  
Transport.

Your 0646Z/7 NIEUW AMSTERDAM E.T.D. Suez 13th with about 4200 personnel. D. of S.T. requested advise if WAKEFIELD and WESTPOINT tranship at Bombay or Colombo or proceed direct. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1830B/7 to P.S.T.O. India.)

*See p. 223*EMPIRE  
ORIOLE,  
EMPIRE  
PINTAIL,  
EMPIRE  
FULMAR.

EMPIRE ORIOLE, EMPIRE PINTAIL, EMPIRE FULMAR have arrived on Mediterranean Station without my being aware that they flew the white ensign and are being run as H.M. Ships. Request instructions how ships are administered. (C. in C. Med. 1836B/7 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty. 1730A/9.

GLENGYLE.

Departure Suez 7/2 GLENGYLE at 0710B. (N.O.I.C. Suez 1856Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

PROTEUS.

Concentrate your patrol forthwith in vicinity of Cape Dukato. (Capt. S.1 1905B/7 to PROTEUS.)

/Malta ...

War Diary.7.2.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Malta WX.1384. Part 1. 7/2.  
 C.S.R. C.S.R. Malta to 1600 hours 7/2 1942 Most Secret.  
 Part 1 fourth. 1403 hours high speed launch  
 on search Hurricane pilot see my 1.70 attacked  
 by 4 Me.109s off Malta 3 killed 6 wounded of crew, captain  
 seriously wounded, launch returned severely damaged, sixth 1345  
 hours total 59 Me.109s and JU.88s target Hal Far 1 damaged  
 Albacore destroyed other buildings serious damage 3 Blenheims  
 shot down.  
 Part 2. Night. 6/7th 8 alerts 1834 to 0448 hours 18 bombers  
 and JU.88 intruders bombs land and sea harbour machine gunned  
 no damage ack ack fired Hurricane intruder patrols see part 2.  
 7th 4 alerts 0624 0714 0831 1029 hours total 40 Me.109s and JU.  
 88s target Hal Far slight damage none to aircraft 2 Me.109s low  
 level attack damaging incoming Beaufighter wounding all crew  
 of 2, 2 airmen and 1 soldier also wounded, Hurricanes up at  
 periods no combats light ack ack shot down 1 Me.109.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2000/7.)  
 Night 6/7th 1 special Wellington found 2030 hours. 1 M/V 6000  
 tons 1 D/R 1 escort vessel 060° Cape Bon 51 miles course 360°.  
 15 knots at 2210 hours. 4 Albacores attacked M/V hit once  
 possibly twice and stopped D/Rs went to her aid columns black  
 smoke second special Wellington found 2150 hours 1 M/V 6000 tons  
 1 D/R 045°. Cape Turgeunes 30 miles course 180° 8 knots 2315  
 hours second D/R arrived 0100 hours 2 Swordfish 1 torpedo  
 attacked M/V violent explosion followed by large red fire 1  
 Swordfish missing 2 Hurricanes Intruder patrols Sicilian  
 aerodromes 2340 to 0130 hours no activity seen Catania and  
 Comiso. 7 Wellingtons 13 attacked Sirte. 0050 to (000 corrupt)  
 hours. (H.Q. Malta 2005/7.)  
 WX.1384. Part 3 7/2. 1 Wellington arrived 1 Swordfish and 3  
 Blenheims missing.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2010/7.)

GEMLIK My 1138/22/12. Turkish Govt. now pressing for  
 LAPSKEI. delivery of ferry boats GEMLIK and LAPSKEI on  
 completion of 2 months' loan in accordance with  
 agreement. P.S.T.O. Egypt is requested to  
 ensure that ferry boats are in all respects ready to sail by  
 22/2. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is requested to sail ferry  
 boats for Mersina with escort detailed by N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports.  
 (C. in C. Med., 2105B/7 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

S.S.NAPOLI WX.1378. Caesar 681 7/2.  
*Not identified* For A.C.A.S.(I) A.I.1 from Du Boulay. Ref.  
 Meters 1029/4 and 1311/6 to Admiralty.  
 Following received from U.S.A. Consul General Tunis. S.S.  
 NAPOLI NAS (?was) sunk 3/2 by a submarine. Despite protest of  
 French Air Force 3 Army (Dewoitines?) were ordered by the Navy  
 to patrol over the site morning/4. These aircraft were attacked  
 by Cr.42a resulting in one French aircraft missing 2 damaged and  
 one pilot wounded. As a result of this French Air Force  
 furious and repercussions may be expected. Please inform  
 Admiralty.  
 (Rafdel 2220/7 to Airwhit.)

/Comment ...

War Diary.7.2.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.S.S. NAPOLI  
contd.

Comment by O.I.C. :- R.A.F. R/C reported at 1535/1. 6000 ton merchant vessel stationary off Ras Mahedia (between Susa and Sfax) 1 mile. At 0210/3 Albacores of F.A.A. scored 1 certain and 1 possible hit on this vessel, and large explosion occurred. A.N.A. Vichy reported message from American Consul at Tunis of 1712/3 a large torpedo damaged enemy tanker  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off Mahedia and she was protected by 5 German planes. (Graded B.O.) U.S. Consul Tunis reported 4/2 name of tanker sunk was NAPOLI (Note. Only NAPOLI known is CITTA DI NAPOLI 5418 tons, passenger ship not tanker.) R.A.F. R/C at 0930/7 shows ship aground 180 Ras Mahodia 1 mile.

Enemy  
Destroyer.

P.S. and S. of (? 1 enemy destroyer) are 36° 28' N. 12° W. 180° 15 knots.  
(A/C P 2255/7 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Enemy M/Vs.

P.C. and S. of 5 enemy M/Vs are 31° 20' N. 120° (or 125°) 18 knots.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2315/7 to A/C P., Med Sqdn.)  
Am over target now your bearing and distance from me is 180° 20 miles.  
(Med A/C ZD8P, 2320/7 to A.H.Q. Malta.)



War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Colombo, Trincomalee A/A Defence. (i) I have discussed with C. in C. E.I. problem of defence of Colombo Harbour and Trincomalee bases against air attack. Very concerned at its complete defencelessness.

(ii) A few A/A guns will be installed shortly but scale of defence will be quite inadequate.

(iii) There are normally some 40 ships in addition to warships in Colombo Harbour. Should Japanese repeat their Pearl Harbour exploit, there is every reason to believe that Colombo would cease to be a useful port for many months subsequently.

(iv) No need to exaggerate the magnitude of such a blow to our trade and prestige.

(v) Trincomalee, in which large number of ships, including capital ship, now lie, is equally unprotected; ~~(staying)~~ here in addition is concentrated millions of tons of oil fuel and large quantities of other naval supplies.

(vi) Request earliest possible consideration should be given to provision of at least some reasonable scale of defence which should include R.D/F and a fighter force at each port.

(vii) In view of urgency of this problem and in default of arrival of any other R.D/F sets I am erecting type 79 allocated but not yet fitted ROYAL SOVEREIGN. A second set will be required for ROYAL SOVEREIGN. ~~ships.~~

(C. in C. E.F., 0315Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I., N.O.I.C. Ceylon) Reply: 1451A/9.

Troops from Middle East. Your 1629/5 (1624/5 intended?) to D. of S.T., ref. second flight. Request sailing date and contents NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Third flight confirm that only MAURETANIA and ILE DE FRANCE will tranship at Bombay and that WEST POINT and WAKEFIELD will proceed Malaya direct. (P.S.T.O. India, 0646Z/7 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

See p. 220

FLORENCE, LUCKENBACH, JALAPALAKA (torpedoed). FLORENCE LUCKENBACK was sunk by torpedo by enemy submarine 29/1 in 012° 55' 080° 33'. First torpedo fired at 0435 G.M.T. holed below water-line number 1 hold port side, second torpedo 20 feet forward of boiler room port side, ship sank in 25 minutes, no casualties. Survivors landed at Madras that evening. JALAPALAKA was sunk by enemy submarine by gunfire in 013° 081° 08'. Ship was attacked at 1305/30 and sank at 1330 G.M.T. in same position. 54 officers and men were landed at Madras following morning, one man slightly wounded. Third officer third engineer and 11 ratings missing. Form I.D.S.A. posted. (N.C.S.O. Madras, 0750Z/7 to Admty).

EMERALD. Departure at 0845Z/7. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0920Z/7).

/U.S...

223A

MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET~~

MESSAGE

0225/7 February IN.

Date: 7.2.42

From: C. in C. India.

Recd: 0545

CYPHER

Addressed: The War Office repeated C. in C.  
Middle East, C. in C. S.W. Pacific,  
G.O.C. Burma.

IMPORTANT

031551. 2463/G cipher 7/2. S.D.5.

Your 66199 (Q(M)2.a.) 23rd January and Middle  
East Movement 1/54584 27th January.

Agree two dual purpose ships each under control  
Middle East and C. in C. S.W. Pacific but consider  
a further two ships making total of six dual  
purpose ships essential to cope with likely  
casualties and emergency calls. These additional  
two ships to be based on India which is central  
and at call of Middle East or C. in C. S.W. Pacific.  
If you agree confirm control as above. Presume  
you will issue orders on method of provision  
of two additional dual purpose ships.

0225/7

Recd. from War Office at 1153/8

1st Lord  
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.  
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)  
D.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (7) and for A.E. and D.N.L.C.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.A/S.W.  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
D.P.D.  
Admiral Bailey  
Admiral Bellairs.  
E.P.S.

Copies sent by War Office to:

A.G. / T.O.O. 2110/23  
D.Q.M.G.  
D.G.A.M.S.  
D. Mov.  
D.D.M.O.  
M.O.I.  
Q(M) 2.2a.  
A.M.D.1.8.  
D.D.M.S. (M.E. & H.D.)  
Plans Division Admiralty  
J.N. Wood, Esq. for D. of S.T.  
Min. of War Transport.

Admiral Somerville  
M.D.G.  
D.T.D. (2)  
D. of S.T.

/MC

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.U.S.  
Transports.

Your 1157/1. Greek Destroyer\* BASILISSA OLGA leaves Colombo a.m./8 as A/A escort to U.S. ships WESTPOINT and WAKEFIELD due Bombay 10/2. (C. in C. E.I., 1750Z/7 to C. in C. Med).  
\* Alias QUEEN OLGA.

J.S.2.

Your 1348Z/6. Request similar information for Convoy J.S.2. 2. Your 0807/1 has not been received in Admty and dates for J.S.3 are not known here.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1904A/7 to C. in C. E.F.)

Employment  
of Colombo  
dock.

A.M.1531/14/11. Colombo. Present use of dock, OVERDALE WYKE and REXINOR. Prospective, NIZAM, SHOREHAM, (?GLASGOW or CARTHAGE) ABDIEL 4 merchant vessels 2 damaged tankers.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1932Z/7 to Admty etc).

Re Oilers  
and colliers  
necessary  
for Fleet  
attendance.

Your 1211/21st. (1) Fleet attendant oiler.  
(a) Request 2 Dales may be sent East Indies Station now, and FORTOL after refit in March.  
(b) 1 Harbour attendant oiler required at Trincomalee to make both LEAF class available for fleet fuel.  
(2) Following are estimated figures, on the basis of a monthly expenditure of 50,000 tons, to which floating stocks should be increased for March to serve East Indies Station including Eastern Fleet. (c) Port T. 50,000 tons furnace. Also 100,000 gallons 100 octane which as floating reserve could serve Mauritius and Seychelles also.  
(4) 2 colliers taken up by P.S.T.O. Bombay fulfil anticipated requirements of fleet attendance.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1935Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

CORNWALL.

Your 2013/2. I should like to dock and refit CORNWALL at Simonstown in March.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1939Z/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

Diversion  
of 7  
Armoured Bde.

(A) From loading point of view diversion of 7 Armd. Bde. to Rangoon possible. C. in C. E.I. is requested to say if diversion possible from naval point of view and when.  
(B) C. in C. E.I. requested to state approx. date of arrival Rangoon.  
(C) Not possible to divert one regt. only.  
(C. in C. M.E., 2150/7).

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Malaya. Situation report 1630 hours G.M.T.6/2.  
Increased enemy shelling of area Seletar naval base Sembawang Tengah including reported med. artillery. Bombs in various districts Singapore 6/2 caused about 50 civilian casualties but no serious damage. EMPRESS OF ASIA practically burnt out as result air attack 5/2 but possible that contents holds may be salvaged. R/C by Hudson from (?P)alembang located 4 merchant ships, 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers and 2 more probably destroyers at anchor at Matak in Anambas Island 0930 hrs. G.M.T.6/2.  
(G.O.C., Malaya, 0338/7).

Dispositions. Abdafloat's 0201(Z?)/17/1 (a) British dispositions Abda Area. Batavia EXETER, HOBART, ELECTRA, TENEDOS, EXPRESS, MARYBOROUGH, GOULBURN, BURNIE, ATHENE, SPRINGDALE, BARNET, BARRICADE, BARLANE, FASTNET, CIRCE, MEDUSA, M.M.S.51, ISIS, ROVER, ANKING, WAR SIRDAR, BAN HONG LIONG.  
Singapore to Batavia TRUSTY, DANAE, SUTLEJ, YARRA and STRONGHOLD towing. → VENDETTA. Sunda Strait area, TRUANT, KEDAH.  
Indian Ocean CANBERRA southbound. DRAGON, DURBAN, JUPITER, ENCOUNTER, JUMNA Northbound. VAMPIRE westbound.  
(b) (?EXPRESS) ready for sea but requires refit outside Java. ISIS ready for towing to Colombo. MARYBOROUGH docking and (?boiler cleaning) ready 10th. TENEDOS (?boiler cleaning) ready 10th. SUTLEJ requires several days refit on return to harbour. Machinery defects. ROVER, VENDETTA completion of repairs indefinite.  
(C.C.C.F., 0430Z/7 to Admty. Abdafloat, C.Z.M.etc).

Minesweeping. Commander Farguarson (Commander minesweepers) and Lieut. Evans M.R.N.V.R. were sent to Batavia in H.M.A.S. BENDIGO so minesweeping between Batavia and Burian Strait may be operated from Batavia.  
(N.O.I.C. Malaya, 0841Z/7 to C.C.C.F.)

Ships Attacked Further to my 0325Z/4, TALHYBIUS salvaged. PINNA by A/C. burnt and aground in Dutch minefield Singapore main strait, casualties 16 killed, 7 seriously injured. 5/2 in western approach to Singapore, EMPRESS OF ASIA bombed and burnt out, casualties relatively small. CITY OF CANTERBURY bombed, extensive superficial damage casualties 3 killed 9 wounded. FELIX ROUSSEL bombed, extensive superficial damage, 5 killed 10 injured. SUBADAR due Palembang 4/2 not arrived, believed bombed. *See p. 227 - Arrive 7*  
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 0917Z/7 to Admty).

/From...

MOST SECRET MESSAGE **MOST SECRET**

IN

0030/7th February.

FROM: G.O.C. Burma.

Date: 7.2.42.

Recd: 08:10.

CYPHER.

CORRECTION.

ADDRESSED: C.in C.Middle East. C.in C.Eastern Fleet.  
Repeated The War Office. C.in C.India.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

0608 cipher 6/2 031523.

From General Wavell.

1. Visit to-day to Salween<sup>w</sup> front has impressed on me how at this season with rice fields dry greater part of Southern Burma is perfect going for armoured fighting vehicles. Propose therefore to divert whole or part of 7th Armoured Brigade to Rangoon instead of Java. This should make Rangoon and Burma Road safe during critical next few months before Monsoon and may enable offensive to be taken and heavy defeat inflicted on enemy.

Diversion will involve certain risks to defence of Java but during present season at any rate tanks could be practically confined to roads and danger to Java and opportunity to defeat enemy much less than in Burma. After May when country in Burma becomes flooded Brigade only may be transferred to Java or elsewhere.

Please cable urgently to ABDACOM and repeat to BURMARMY

(a) Whether and when 7th Armoured Brigade can be diverted to Rangoon.

(b) If diverted approximate date arrival Rangoon.

(c) Whether possible to divert one Regiment of Brigade only.

0030/7.

Recd in War Reg. at 1720/8.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. N.I.D.10.

V.C.N.S. Ad. Bailey

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

N.A. 1st S.L. Ad. Somerville.

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(7)

D.of P.(2)

D.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

E.P.S.

Hd. of M.

P.A.S.(S)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

War Office circulation:

P.T.O.

## 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. (0)  
 M. O. 1. 5. 10. 12.  
 D. M. I.  
 D. D. M. I. (I)  
 M. I. 2. (2)  
 D. Mov.  
 Q. (M) 2. 3.  
 D. S. D.  
 D. S. S. D.  
 S. D. 1. 2. 12.  
 D. A. F. V.  
 A. F. V. 1.  
 D. S. D. (W)  
 D. D. S. D. (W)  
 Q. M. G.  
 D. Q. M. G.  
 Q. (Ops.)  
 C. N. S. Admiralty  
 D. of Plans Admiralty  
 Hd. of War Reg. Admiralty  
 C. A. S. Air Ministry  
 D. of Plans Air Ministry.  
 Col. Jacob. Cabinet Offices.  
 Burma Office (War Staff) (4)  
 Colonial Office. Lt. Col. Rolleston.

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Situation -  
Air,  
Burma.

From Gen. Wavell. A.W.7.1. We have had run of misfortunes lately. Damage to MARBLEHEAD and HOUSTON, loss of 16 badly needed A/A guns by sinking of ship from Singapore, attack on Bali during refuelling of fighters from Darwin, train accident, which lost valuable A/A personnel.

3. Our air forces in Burma remain well on top and enemy day and night raids during nights Feb. 4/6 and Feb. 6th were ineffective and cost enemy severe loss. Have left American staff officer in Burma to go into question of operation heavy bombers from Burma and China.

4. I still think enemy must be having considerable difficulty in maintaining his air effort and that if all our reinforcements come to hand without delay we shall get on top before long. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1130/7 to J.S.M. W.O.)

Air  
Reports.

A. 589 7/2. Intelligence summary 78., 0800/6 to 0800/7.

1. Recco. by Hudson of Anamba Islands following ships sighted at anchor at Matak (106° 15', 3° 30' N) 1 "Kato" class cruiser, 2 destroyers, 2 probable destroyers 1 10,000 ton M/V, 2-5,000 ton M/Vs, 1-3,000 ton M/V, 10 navy 0 fighters tried intercept Hudson over Matak.
2. Several small formations enemy aircraft over north of island early morning. No bombs dropped. Engagement between fighters resulted 2 enemy damaged 20 plus bombers and 18 fighters intercepted by fighters - result 1 enemy fighter destroyed, 2 damaged. 3 single engine aircraft shallow dive bombed western end Palau Uybn. 80 plus bombers and fighters reported south of island during afternoon.
3. Enemy shelled Sembawang Seletar and Tengah aerodromes and are using fixed observation balloon over Johore Bahru.
4. Casualties over Malaya 24 hours ending 0600 hours 7/2 own 2 Hurricanes destroyed. 1 crashed into sea taking off, other forced landing due enemy action. 1 pilot killed, 1 uninjured enemy one army 97 fighter destroyed and 4 damaged in combats enemy scale of effort over Singapore for 24 hours ended 0800/6. 84 plus.

(A.H.Q., F.E., 1130/7).

Intelligence summary 40 1800/6 to 1800/7. Our effort 27 fighters 2 G.R. enemy effort Rangoon area 24 fighters 16 plus bombers enemy again made determined night attack on Mingaladon and Zayatkwinn. First raid 1900 hrs. G.M.T. total four raids ending 2350 hrs. G.M.T. No damage Zayatkwinn. Damage Mingaladon one Blenheim IV 1 Hurricane destroyed one Hurricane slightly damaged no R.A.F. casualty. At 0200 hrs. G.M.T. 24 enemy fighters Army 97 over Mingaladon area. 9 Hurricanes 14 P.40's sent to intercept. 2 enemy aircraft destroyed 2 probables 4 damaged for loss of nil. 2 Hurricanes on sweep Moulmein section. One railway engine and rolling stock attacked and damaged Moulmein station. Ferry boat and steamer latter high and dry with steam up attacked black smoke seen coming from deck after attack. No activity on ground. (Norgroup, 1230/7).

/WX...

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Air report. WX 1415. OPREP 55 7/2. Daily op. summary up  
Contd. to 1030Z/7. 27 bombers escorted by fighters  
raided Singapore in morning. Bombs dropped in  
Kalang. P.R. Buffalo destroyed and damage to  
Hangars Buildings and Aerodrome. On strip serviceable for  
emergency landing interception made by twelve Hurricanes.  
Enemy casualties one bomber destroyed one probable one damaged.  
Our casualties two Hurricanes crash landed not due to enemy  
action. One pilot wounded by bomb splinters. A further raid  
of six plus faded. Another of 27 aircraft passed north over  
East of Island dropping bombs at Chanji. Eight Hurricanes  
sighted enemy who made off to North East. No combat. Tengah  
and Sembawang shelled. Operational serviceable aircraft 1030Z.  
Hurricanes eleven Swordfish four.  
(Air H.Q., F.E., 1834/7).

SUBADAR. My 0917/7 SUBADAR now reported arrived Palembang.  
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 1247Z/7). *See p. 225*

Japanese Most Japanese troop convoys lift one division  
invasion troops. Composition two to three large transports  
tactics. carrying 2/3 infantry personnel, 15 to 20  
merchant ships carrying stores and equipment.  
Latter stand off shore while initial landing is  
being consolidated. Escorting warships up to one heavy cruiser  
three light cruisers 16 destroyers. Warships disposed seaward  
convoy when anchored. Further information dispositions A/S  
tactics etc. is being forwarded.  
(Abdacom, 1746/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. A.F.  
Opnav, C.Z.M. A.C.N.B. for N.Z.N.B.)

Reports of 00861 7/2. Reports have been received of  
Aircraft aircraft carriers south of Java and in the  
carriers. Andaman Sea. These reports have been investigated  
and so far have not repeat not proved reliable.  
(Abdacom, 1821/7 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. C. in C.  
E.I. R.A. Malaya).



War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- QUEEN MARY. J.S.M. No.22 of 3/2 addressed Chiefs of Staff only mentions U.S. intention that 6000 troops should leave East Coast of America for Australia on 16/2. 2. This is presumably by S.S. QUEEN MARY proceeding via the Cape. 3. Presume we shall receive early information of U.S. intentions for route and escort and whether U.S. escort will accompany ship to destination. (1st Sea Lord, 0020/7 to B.A.D.)
- MONTRONITE. Your 1939A/6. Following is a repetition of C.O.A.C's 0030Z/5, received 0001 G.M.T. SSSS 35° 14' N. 60° 05' W. MONTRONITE attacked by submarine at 2040 G.M.T. de VCS (Camperdown Radio) 0030Z/5 (Ends). (Halifax, 0335Z/7 to Admty.)
- U/B. U-Boat within 90 miles of 049° N. 036° W., by D/F bearing. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 0348Z/7 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S. (R) All Task Force Cdrs., Atlantic, Convoy Escort, Western Atlantic).
- Unknown Ship Torpedoed. Following has been read. SSSS. 43° 51' N., 64° 20' W., Torpedoed. (Freetown W/T, T.O.O. omitted, Recd. 0417/7). Probably EMPIRE SUN, see 0532/7.
- EMPIRE SUN, U/B. Intercepted 0400 G.M.T. SSSS. 43.55 N. 64.22 W. EMPIRE SUN torpedoed (Camperdown Radio, 0532/7, to Admty.) Independent from Portland, Maine to Halifax and U.K. (D.S.886).
- Transport Calls at Bermuda. Your 1054/5. No objection subject to concurrence of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (D.S.T., 0636A/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- U/B. D/F Bearing at 1856Z/6th placed U-Boat within 50 miles of 047° 30' N., 032° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0700Z/7 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)
- AMERICAN ARROW, U/B. SSSS from S.S. AMERICAN ARROW at 0924Z/6 (?0924Z/7) in 35.49 N. 75.33 W. (Washington, 0925R/7 to Admty.)
- ATLANTIAN, U/B. Intercepted 0753 G.M.T. SSSS 44° N. 63° 25' W. ATLANTIAN shelled by submarine, speed 12 knots, course N. Camperdown Radio. (Halifax, N.S., 0953/7 to Admty.)
- HALCYON "R" Report 6/2. Ref. 0335/6 that HALCYON in 34.20 N. 059.16 W. was being bombarded by Raider. U.S.Aircraft from /Bermuda ...

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

HALCYON "R" Bermuda reported 25 survivors from HALCYON on Report 6/2. boats P.M./6 and directed BRITISH PRESTIGE to pick them up. On arrival Halifax request survivors be interrogated to establish if attack was by Raider or U-Boat. B.A.D. pass to Opnav. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1033P/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) Admty. etc.) See also 1629/7.

Chilean Navy. Your 1629R/29 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 1. Personal experience of Chilean Navy makes me doubt that it will ever play an efficient part unless stiffened up by presence of naval advisers. At the present moment I do not think an American naval mission would be popular, but coming weeks may alter this sentiment if U.S.A. are generous in supply of material to Chilean Navy. (N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1035Q/7 to B.A.D., (R) Admty.)

AQUITANIA. Your 0641/6. AQUITANIA will not now be required for Australian voyage. (B.A.D., 1041R/7 to D. of S.T.)

Transatlantic (Admty. from Radio Washington - Pass to C. in C. Convoy Escort W.A. This is Com. Task Force 4 Dispatch 1950/6). Scheme. Refer C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2335/2 and C. in C. Lant 2058/5. Propose following procedure to initiate New Escort System. Designate Midocean Groups under American British Canadian Command as A 1 - A 5, B 1 - B 5, C 1 - C 4 respectively. Place system in effect for eastbound convoys with S C 70 and H X 176. S C convoys 70 - 75 escorted in order by C - 1, C - 2, C - 3, C - 4, B - 1, B - 3, B - 5, H X convoys 176 to 182 escorted in order by A - 1, A - 2, A - 3, A - 5, B - 2, B - 4, A - 4. Place system in effect for westbound convoys with O N S 68 and O N 69. Westbound convoys 68 to 81 escorted in order by B - 1, B - 2, B - 3, B - 4, B - 5, A - 4, C - 1, A - 1, C - 2, A - 2, C - 3, A - 3, C - 4, A - 5. Groups A - 1, A - 2, A - 3, U.S. Destroyers and Canadian Corvettes. A - 4, A - 5, U.S. Destroyers and British Corvettes. In order meet commitments for proposed Mid-ocean groups and Western local groups recommend arrival R.N. Vessels in Western Area as follows. For Western local, 4 Destroyers Halifax by 22/2, 4 Destroyers Halifax by 28/2, 4 Destroyers Halifax by 3/3. For U.S. Mid-Ocean, 4 Corvettes Argentia by 1/3, 4 Corvettes Argentia by 7/3. 2 U.S. Destroyers to arrive Londonderry prior 1/3 for A - 4. Propose C.O.A.C. sail Western local groups F.O.N.F. sail Eastbound Canadian and British Groups starting from St. Johns. Com. Task Force 4 sail American and British Groups starting from Argentia all under supervision of Com. Task Force 4. Use of St. Johns or Argentia by British Groups to be determined by existing conditions. Propose Com. Task Group 4.7 (Capt. Thebaud, U.S. Navy, at Londonderry) sail Westbound American and Canadian Groups under supervision of C. in C. W.A. Propose place U.S. Destroyers in Iceland in time to escort Iceland Shipping to O N S 70 and escort shipping from S C 71 to Iceland repeating for O N S 72 and S C 73. All Eastbound Iceland shipping to move in odd numbered S C convoys and Westbound in even numbered O N Convoys. Iceland Escorts sailed by U.S. Com Task Group 4.6

/in ...

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Transatlantic in Iceland under the strategic direction of Convoy Escort C. in C. W.A. while at sea. Com. Task Force 4 and Scheme. F.O.N.F. now consulting as to logistic and maintenance measures with view to rendering support to British Units at St. Johns and Argentia and to utilizing U.S. facilities Londonderry for Canadian as well as U.S. support. Suggest logistic measures be discussed separately when strategic arrangements are settled. Also suggest communication plan and training be discussed separately when strategic arrangements are agreed upon. Desire Capt. Thebaud act as my Liaison Officer for the present. (Ends.)  
Opnav pass to C. in C. W.A. for action.  
(Com. Task Force 4, 1247Z/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Derelect. Puerto La Cruz reports U.S. GULFPRIDE sighted large ship bottom up 036.04 N. 074.20W at 2115 G.M.T. 27/1.  
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1252R/7 to Admty., etc.)

U/B. D/F bearings at 0331Z placed U-Boat within 100 miles of 038° N. 053° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1312Z/7 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

DVINOLES, EVITA, collision. U.S.S.R. DVINOLES from H X 173 in collision with EVITA, ship abandoned and all crew of 41 landed here. Last report ship still afloat and efforts being made to locate derelect.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F., 1322Z/7 to Admty.,  
(R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax).

MAYFLOWER. C.O.A.C. directs you are to sail for Halifax by direct route, report your route, hours of sailing and speed. You are to sail a.m./13. See R O number 06 regarding consultation with Commandant.  
(B.A.R.M., 1350R/7 to MAYFLOWER (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty.)

Washops 56. (1) Philippine Is. Luzon. An important new development is the attempt by the Japanese to concentrate defence of Forts Mills, Hugh and Drum (all in Manila Bay) by means of artillery concentrations from batteries in Cavite. A 3 hour concentration on these 3 forts caused damage to Fort Drum.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1403R/7 to Admty. etc.)

SURCOUF. Following from Admiral Muselier.  
My journey to Bermuda will be postponed or cancelled. You may proceed on your Mission.  
As quickly as possible 2 Colt Machine Guns which can be unshipped before Diving to be fitted. Acknowledge.  
(MIMOSA, 1407Z/7 to N.O.I.C. Bermuda, for SURCOUF). *See next page.*

/U/B. ...

War Diary.

7.2.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

U/B. D/F bearings at 0433Z and 0453Z 7th indicate S/M within 100 miles 044° N. 062° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1408Z/7 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

SURCOUF. My 1703A/6. In view of C. in C. A.W.I., 1032P/6 and 1221P/6 I consider that even if temporary repairs at Bermuda prove unsatisfactory on passage to Tahiti F.S. SURCOUF can still dive using one shaft. At Tahiti her 8 inch guns would provide a valuable addition to defence of this or other islands. If it were found necessary to pay her off this should be done at Tahiti where her crew could add to strength of local defence force, a few of the better officers and key ratings being sent back to U.K. to act as spares for Free French submarines in this country. Propose therefore that temporary repairs be made at Bermuda. (F.O.S., 1506A/7 to Admty.) *See previous page.*

U.S. Merchant Ship casualties. Your 1538/4. Following is a list of U.S. Merchant ship casualties resulting from enemy action 7.12.41. to date compiled from information at present available in the Navy Dept.

A. Ships known to have been sunk.

B. Ships damaged but which have since made port.

Date	Name	Type	Position	Form of Attack	Remarks.
7.12	CYNTHIA OLSON	Army Aux.	33 42 N. 145 29 W.	Torpedo	Blank.
10.12	SAGOLAND	Blank	Manila	Bombed	Philippine Ship
11.12	LAHAINA	Blank	27 42 N. 147 00 W.	Torpedo	Blank
18 17.12	MANINA	Blank	150 min. South of Hawaii.	Torpedo	Blank
18.12	PRUSA	Blank	100 mins. South of Hawaii.	Torpedo	Blank
20 21.12	EMIDEO	Blank	Off C Mendocino	Torpedo	Beached.
23.12	MONTEBELLO	Blank	4 mins. off Cambria Calif.	Torpedo	Blank
31.12	CRUSADER	Blank	Overdue	Blank	Panama Flag.
31.12	MERIDAN	Blank	Overdue	Blank	Panama Flag.
31.12	RUTH ALEXANDER	Blank	Off Borneo	Bombed	Blank
7.1	ASTRAL	Blank	Overdue Lisbon	Blank	Blank
11.1	LIBERTY	Blank	Sunda Strait	Torpedo	Beached
12.1	VINCENT	Cargo	22 41 N. 118 19 W.	Unknown	Presumed sunk.
13.1	FRIAR ROCK	Cargo	100 mins. S.E. Cape Race	Torpedo	Panama Flag.
14.1	CHEPO	Cargo	200 mins. W.N.W. Rockall	Torpedo	Blank

7.2.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U. S. Merchant  
Ship  
Casualties.  
(contd.)

15

Date	Name	Type	Position	Form of attack	Remarks
18.1	ALLAN JACKSON	Tanker	35 00 N. 74 22 W.	Torpedo	Blank
19.1	CITY OF ATLANTA	Cargo	35 42 N. 75 21 W.	Shelled	Blank
24.1	VENORE	Cargo	15 mins. S. Diamond Shoal	Torpedo	Blank
24.1	NECHIS	Cargo	21 01 N. 160 18 W.	Torpedo	Blank
26.1	GREEN ISLAND	One Carrier	27 19 N. 80 05 W.	Torpedo	Blank
27.1	FRANCIS E POWELL	Tanker	31 45 N. 74 53 W.	Torpedo	Blank
27.1	DONERAIL	Cargo	S.E. of Hawaii	Shelled	Blank
28.1	R. T. FRANK	Army Aux.	20 36 N. 155 42 W.	Torpedo	Blank
28.1	FLORENCE LUCKENBACH	Cargo	12 55 N. 80 30 W.	Torpedo	Blank
30.1	ROCHESTER	Cargo	37 10 N. 73 58 W.	Torpedo	Blank
2.2.	W. L. STEED	Tanker	38 25 N. 73 00 W.	Torpedo	Sinking
3.2.	SAN GIL	Cargo	38 05 N. 74 40 W.	Torpedo	Panama Flag
5.2.	INDIA ARROW	Tanker	38 00 N. 73 30 W.	Torpedo	Blank
6.2.	HALCYON	Cargo	34 20 N. 59 16 W.	Shelled	Panama Flag
B.					
24.12	<sup>A</sup> ABSOROKA	Blank	Off Californian Coast.	Torpedo	Blank
11.1	<sup>D</sup> AFRICANKER	Blank	46 41 N. 52 05 W.	Torpedo	Blank
19.1	MALAY	Tanker	36 53 N. 75 42 W.	Shell & Torpedo	Blank
19.1	TIDEWATER	Tanker	36 50 N. 75 40 W.	Torpedo	Blank
27.1	HALO *	Cargo	17 mins. N.E. Diamond Shoal.	Shelled	Blank

29.

Shelled by U.S. 3

5

(B.A.D. Washington 1515R/7 to Admty.)

\* W.D. Note. (1) Lloyds List describes HALO as a Tanker.

War Diary.

7.2.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

S.S.

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

My 0255/6. Arrangements completed for QUEEN ELIZABETH to drydock at Esquimalt 23/2. She cannot lie alongside or anchor and must proceed into drydock on arrival at top of tide. Request her E.T.A. may be signalled when known. Assume you have arranged for diversion. A.C.N.B's 1014Z/6 refers. C.O.P.O. is to cover her approach to Esquimalt. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1601Z/7 to B.A.D. (R) Admty., etc.)

HALCYON "R"  
Report.

Your 2231R/6. As U/Boats have recently been in this area it is not considered likely that a raider was present. (D.D.I.C., 1629A/7 to B.A.D.)

U/B.

D/F bearings at 0508Z/7 indicate Submarine within 50 miles 038° N. 068° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1640Z/7 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

FRANCONIA  
N.A.3.

N.C.S.O. Port of Spain 1707Q/6. Owing to FRANCONIA defects propose now to sail N.A.3 composed of ALCANTARA and DOMINION MONARCH A.M./11 escorted by MONTGOMERY and GARLAND. Am assuming that restrictions on embarkation of Personnel in ALCANTARA will not now apply and am acting accordingly. My 1938Z/5 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1646Z/7 to Admty.)

U.S. A/S  
Patrol Craft.

Your views conveyed in your 0047A/7 (N.T. in W.D.) fully appreciated. Patrol Craft Programme here badly behind Schedule with no immediate prospect of increasing protection in 1200 mile length of Eastern Sea Frontier. (Atlantic Coast) until programme produces essential vessels, unless we can agree on some reduction in strength of escort units with Transatlantic Merchant Convoys. Be assured that all available vessels of 75 feet or greater length are being employed at sea plus all available aircraft Navy, Coast Guard, Army, to which will be added others as they become ready, which is being expedited. There is credible evidence of sinking or serious damage to some 6 or 7 submarines to date (Admty. pass to Spenavo). (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1705Z/7 to Admty., (R) Opnav, Spenavo, etc.)

BERNHARD,  
O.S.16.

Your 1418Z/5. BERNHARD arrived Tampa 3/2. (D.T.D., 1720A/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

SILVERAY,  
(torpedoed  
4/2).

British SILVERAY torpedoed and sunk 0232 G.M.T/4 in 43.54 N. 64.16 W. My 1835Z/7 which follows contains list of survivors landed at Argentia. (N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 1832Z/7 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

B.A.D. Washington 2155R/5. Following survivors landed at Locke Port, Nova Scotia. (Halifax, N.S., 1712Z/7 to Admty.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Shipping Control, U.S.N. Co-operation. Navy Dept. has instructed their port directors by letter as follows. "1. It is desired to assure the closest possible Liaison and co-operation between British and American routeing authorities in the ports of U.S. 2. To assist in assuring this it is desired that as soon as practical arrangements be made so that office space may be available preferably in the same building and as near as reasonably possible to U.S. Routeing Officer's office for the accommodation of the Consular Shipping Advisors in the ports under your jurisdiction. 3. It is understood that necessary instructions will be issued for the change in location of these offices by the British Authorities." This action on the part of the Navy Department is considered most satisfactory. Proposals to implement this.

(B.A.D., 1849R/7 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). *Administrative agreement 1408A/6/3, page 203 March.*

Marseilles Intelligence. My 1833/6. Vichy 6/2 B.1. Following departures from Marseilles were not published by port authorities but reached U.S. Embassy from reliable source. 24/1, ST. ETIENNE with 1300 tons rice, flour, coffee, sugar, flour paste, cheese, marmalade, preserved meats, dud (as recd.) tomatoes and 12 trucks. 26/1, STE. GERMAINE 16 trucks. 27/1, MANTAISE 15 trucks, 29/1, BOUGARONI 13 trucks. KABYLE was due to depart Marseilles 3/4 Feb. with 1500 tons general cargo, petrol, lubricating oil and trucks. All trucks of 16 ton capacity. Please inform F.O. (B.A.D., 1947R/7 to Admty.)

DELHI. Your 1134/31. Arrangements can be made for outstanding R.D.F. and electrical work to be taken in hand at Devonport.  
2. Cancel A.M. 1630A/26/12.  
C. in C. A.W.I., is requested to sail DELHI for Devonport. (D.O.D. (H), 1949A/7 to B.A.R.M., C. in C. A.W.I.)

O.N. 65. Task Unit 4.1.8 SWANSON (SO), BUCK, MCCORMICK, HERBERT, DUPONT, designated to escort O.N. 65. (Opnav, 2027Z/7 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)

Convoys for Abda. Number 34. Your (W) 37. 1. Ultimate destination of all reinforcements is Abda except those in para. 2 (a) of our number 22. 2. Estimated arrival dates in Australia (only received today). 12/1 convoy arrives 7/2. 23/1 convoy arrives 4/3. 31/1 convoy arrives 28/2. 16/2 now leaving on 19/2 arriving approx. 13/3. 1/3 convoy arrives 26/3. (N.S.M., 2045R/7 to Chiefs of Staff London).

O.N. 60. Serial No. 11. Detach ships for West Indies night-fall 7/2 to steer direct through (J) except SUDEROY through (?U) to Curacao. (Opnav, 2105/7 to Com. Task Unit No. 4.1.12 (R) Task Force No. 4 Task Group No. 7.5 and 4.6 C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty.)

/U/B. ...

War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

U/B. D/F Bearings at 1829Z/7 indicate S/M within 50 miles 39.30 N. 64° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2138Z/7 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

ZEALANDIA. Arrival Darwin 2310Z/5 H.T. ZEALANDIA. Abdafloat pass to C Z M. (A.C.N.B., 0128Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., R.A. Malaya, C.O.S. Singapore, N.O. Wellington).

Anzac Force Command. Vice Adm. H.F. Leary has assumed command of Anzac force with short title Comanzac. Rear Adm. J.G. Grace has assumed command of Anzac Squadron with plain title F.O. Australian Squadron. Traffic to and from Comanzac will be passed to A.C.N.B. Melbourne, and N.Z.N.B. Wellington, Automatically. (Comanzac, 0618/7, to B.A.D., Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Abdacom, etc.)

Situation. Serial number 17 from C.W.R.  
1. R/C of Rabaul by one Hudson morning 6/2 revealed 4 Destroyers, possibly 1 Cruiser, 10 Transports, 6 Flying boats, 6 Float planes, 2 Military landing craft. Activity and buildings in course of erection Matupi and Lakunai. Hudson attacked and badly damaged by 2 (corrupt group) Fighters ex Lakunai 3 of crew wounded but aircraft returned to base. One enemy Fighter believed damaged.  
2. Enemy aircraft over Port Moresby at 1500Z/5 and Woodlark Island. (?01)10Z/6. (A.C.N.B., 0622Z/7 to Navy Office, Wellington Admty., C.Z.M., C. in C. E.F., Opanav, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, C.O.I.S. Singapore, C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet).

Convoy M.S.3. Following is repetition of D.N.O.W. Aust. (Fremantle) 1130Z/30 (begins). My 1100Z/30, delete all reference NORDNES (ends). (A.C.N.B., 0822Z/7 to Admty., (R) C.C.C.F.)

Anzac Area. A new naval area known as Anzac Area has been established. Limits of this area are:-  
1. On north and east from 141° E. on the equator along the equator to 170° E, thence to 20° S. 175° W., thence down 175° W.  
2. On west from 141° E. on the equator south down 141° E. to

/South ...



War Diary.7.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Anzac Area. South coast of New Guinea, thence along south coast to  $143^{\circ}$  E. and down  $143^{\circ}$  E., excluding land areas.

B. Naval forces allocated to Anzac Area will be under strategic direction of C. in C. U.S. Fleet (short title Cominch) exercised through a U.S. Flag Officer assisted by a R.A.N. Flag Officer (F.O. Commanding R.A.N. Squadron).

Note. C. in C. U.S. Fleet occupies a position as regards strategical direction of U.S. Naval Forces analogous to that of 1st Sea Lord relative to British Naval Forces.

C. The following forces are initially allocated to Anzac Area:-

1. R.A.N., AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA, ADELAIDE, 3 A.M.C.'s., 2 destroyers, 2 A/S Patrol Vessels and 6 Auxiliary A/S Vessels.
2. R.N.Z.N., ACHILLES, LEANDER and 1 A.M.C.
3. U.S., 1 heavy cruiser and 2 destroyers.
4. R.N., HERMES.

D. Balance of R.A.N. seagoing forces have been allocated to Abda Area. All other R.A.N. and R.N.Z.N. units will be operated by A.C.N.B. and N.Z.N.B. as required for local defence.

E. The Anzac Force will carry out following tasks:-

1. Cover Eastern and N.E. Approaches to Australia and New Zealand.
2. Protect shipping including coastwise shipping.
3. Support defence of islands in the Anzac Area.
4. Co-operate with forces in Abda Area and with U.S. Pacific Fleet.

F. Consequent on establishment of Anzac Area the limits of East Indies Station are extended on the East to the following line:-

Western limit of Abda Area thence along west and south coast of Australia to  $143^{\circ}$  E. and down this meridian. Command of and responsibility for R.A.N. local defence forces and shore establishments on west and south coasts of Australia will remain as at present under A.C.N.B.

G. Following is a summary of allied naval commands and areas at present in force.

1. British Home Area. Western limit  $26^{\circ}$  W. as far South as  $43^{\circ}$  N. Southern limit parallel of  $43^{\circ}$  N. from  $26^{\circ}$  W. to coast of Spain.

Note. Coast of Greenland is included in the W. Atlantic Area.

2. N. Atlantic Station (British). Limits as at present.
3. S. Atlantic Station (British) Limits. On the west the meridian of  $74^{\circ}$  W. to coast of S. America, thence along E. Coast of S. America to  $20^{\circ}$  S., thence along parallel  $20^{\circ}$  S. to  $26^{\circ}$  W., thence up meridian  $26^{\circ}$  W. to  $20^{\circ}$  N. thence east to African coast. On the east the coast of Africa and meridian  $33^{\circ}$  E.

4. West Atlantic Area (U.S.) Eastern Boundary. The coast of Greenland as far south as  $26^{\circ}$  W. thence down meridian of  $26^{\circ}$  to  $43^{\circ}$  N. thence along parallel  $43^{\circ}$  N. to  $40^{\circ}$  W., thence down meridian  $40^{\circ}$  W. to  $20^{\circ}$  N., thence along parallel  $20^{\circ}$  N. to  $26^{\circ}$  W., thence south to  $20^{\circ}$  S. and along  $20^{\circ}$  S. to coast of S. America. Western boundary coastline of N. and S. America.
5. East Indies Station, (British), present limits modified as in para. F above.

6. Mediterranean Station, (British), limits as at present.

7. Abda Area. See A.T. 1319/12/1.

8. Anzac Area. As in para. A above.

9. Pacific Area (U.S.) On the west the eastern boundaries of Abda and Anzac Area. On the East the coast of N. and S. America and meridian  $74^{\circ}$  W. (Head of M., Approved 1st S.L., 1852A/7, "A" Message 181A) (as amended 1415A/9).

/Unified ...

War Diary.

7.2.1942.

Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Unified  
Control of  
Anzac Area.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff,  
No. (W) 39.

Following on a suggestion put forward by H.M.G. in New Zealand, Chiefs of Staff have recommended, and Prime Minister has approved in principle, that unified control - land, sea and air - should be established in Anzac Area.

2. Arguments in favour may be summarised as follows:-

(i) Problem in Anzac Area is not exclusively a naval one, since there are land and air forces in Australia, New Zealand and various adjacent islands.

(ii) It seems desirable that Supreme Commander of the Anzac Area should receive his instructions from the same authority as the Commander of the Abda Area, and that the machinery for ensuring that these instructions represent the views of the United Nations concerned should be the same in both cases.

3. British Chiefs of Staff consider that the new arrangement should be on following lines:-

(a) It would be necessary for the Anzac Area as now agreed to be extended to include the whole of Australia less the portion allocated to Abda Area.

(b) Since the problem is predominantly a naval one, the Supreme Commander of the Anzac Area would be a U.S. Flag Officer, who should establish his H.Q. ashore, probably in Australia. His H.Q. staff would be on the Abda model and consist of American, British, Australian and New Zealand Officers.

(c) There would be subordinate commanders - land, sea and air, on the analogy of Abda Area.

(d) Supreme Commander would receive his general strategic instructions through same channels as Gen. Wavell.

4. Please take up these proposals with the U.S. Chiefs of Staff as a matter of urgency.

5. Meanwhile this telegram has been repeated to H.M.G. in Australia and New Zealand who have been asked to communicate their views to H.M.G. in U.K. as soon as possible. These will be passed to you at once.

6. Assuming that all are in agreement in principle, we request that Combined Chiefs of Staff should obtain President's approval. Thereafter the detailed arrangements will be the subject of consultation between the Governments concerned.

(1st S.L., 1920A/7 to B.A.D.)

War Diary.

7.2.1942.  
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1407A/7, 1408A/7).

War Diary.

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Eleven corvettes, are being released to U.S.A. They will be manned by U.S. crews.

Commencing with O.S.21 on 3/3 O.S. Convoys will sail every 10 days.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Coastal Command made successful attacks on shipping today, off the Naze and off the Dutch coast.

Enemy Air Operations.

M.L. 478 on passage from Methil to the Tyne was bombed near 20 T Buoy at 1256, but the only damage caused was to her W/T valves.

Mining.

Operation  
S.N. 5B.

AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS and 3 destroyers sailed from Port ZA at 1310 today to lay mines south of the Faroes. SHEFFIELD providing cover.

War Diary.

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

As German battle cruisers may be operating in the Atlantic at any time now S.O. Force H with HERMIONE and 7 destroyers sailed from Gibraltar this evening to the Clyde, to give additional protection to Convoy W.S.16, which will be commanded by Adm. Sir James Somerville in FORMIDABLE. ARGUS remains at Gibraltar, and her aircraft are to be disembarked ready to operate in Straits of Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

As German battle cruisers may be operating in Atlantic at any time now, RESOLUTION is to join Convoy W.S.16 (leaving U.K. 15/2) as far to the northward of Freetown as possible.

Mediterranean.

There were 8 alerts at Malta last night. Damage was caused at Kalafrana, Hal Far and Safi Aerodromes.

7 Wellingtons bombed Salamis Dockyard last night.

Aircraft engaged an enemy M/V last night and at 0115/8 reported her on fire in 36.00 N., 11.53 E.

Libya &  
Western  
Desert.

Six Wellingtons attacked shipping at Tripoli from 0209 to 0303 today; at least 3 hits are claimed. 8 Wellingtons laid mines last night at Benghazi, covered by 11 Wellingtons which bombed the town and Berka Aerodrome.

/U-Boat ...

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.U-Boat  
attacked.A U-Boat was attacked and possibly damaged  
by A/C at 0401 in 31.46 N., 26.39 E.PROTEUS  
damaged.PROTEUS at 0426 unsuccessfully attacked with  
torpedo a destroyer by mistake for a submarine,  
in 38° 43' N. 20° 24' E. The enemy endeavoured  
to ram and the two vessels met in head on  
collision, in which PROTEUS sustained slight  
damage; she is returning to Alexandria.

Egypt.

5 enemy aircraft operated over the Nile Delta  
from 0430 to 0530 today. U.X.Bs. are reported  
7 miles S.E. of Aboukir.Vichy S/M  
attacked.C. in C. M.E. reports that on 22/1 aircraft from  
Aden twice attacked a Vichy submarine proceeding  
to Jibuti. No direct hit was obtained.China.

Burma.

Enemy aircraft attacked the aerodrome areas  
north of Rangoon last night, but caused only  
slight damage. Our aircraft bombed shipping  
and barges at Kado at 1540 local time today.

Malaya.

The 28th Infantry Bde. engaged enemy craft in  
Johore Strait last night. Some 50 to 100 of  
the enemy landed on Pulau Ubin (in the eastern  
part of Singapore Strait) before first light  
today.After heavy artillery fire at 1330 G.M.T. today  
the enemy landed on the north west coast of  
Singapore on a front of 5000 yards from Berih  
to the northward.

N.E.I.

Palembang was again attacked by aircraft today  
and slight damage was caused to aircraft on the  
ground.The enemy convoy located yesterday at anchor at  
Matak (Anambas Is.) has been attacked by aircraft  
details are not known.A U.S. submarine reports sinking one enemy  
transport in a convoy south of Macassar.

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.ALYSSE torpedoed  
by U. 654.  
(G.D. 443.)

Free French corvette AYSSE proceeding to St. Johns N.F. after leaving Convoy O.M.S. 60 was torpedoed this evening in 45° 50' N. 44° 48' W. and was reported sunk at 2230Z (later report says AYSSE sank at 0930Z/10. There were indications of several submarines in the neighbourhood.

S.S. OCEAN VENTURE sank at 0850/8 G.M.T. in 37° 5' N. 74° 45' W. after being torpedoed.

U.S. Tanker J.W. VAN DYKE reports being trailed by a submarine on the surface in 34° 25' N. 75° 44' W. at 0705Z/8.

Australia and New Zealand.

The full text of the Anzac Agreement is given in an Admiralty message today.

A flying boat dropped 2 bombs on Salamoia at 0010Z/8. Tulagi was reconnoitred by an aircraft probably a flying boat, at 2144Z yesterday, and at 0015Z today one flying boat reconnoitred Florida Island and Gavutu and dropped 8 bombs on evacuee ship MORINDA; no casualties or damage were caused.

6 destroyers and 2 tankers are reported lying off Asuncion Island (Mariana Is.) at 2332Z today.

**NEW U.S. NAVAL COMMANDS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—It is announced that the following new naval commands have been established, to take effect immediately:—

(1) Forces which formerly constituted the Asiatic Fleet are now known as the United States Naval Forces in the South-west Pacific. Vice-Admiral William A. Glassford, jun., U.S. Navy, commands these forces.

(2) Admiral Thomas C. Hart is commander of the combined naval forces of the A.B.D.A. [American, British, Dutch, Australian] area.

(3) Combined naval forces in the Australian-New Zealand area have been established, with Vice-Admiral Herbert F. Leary, U.S. Navy, in command. His title is Commander of the Anzac Forces.—Reuter.

8.2.42 Times

War Diary.

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

North  
Russian  
Routes.

My 1941A/21/1 and your 1850A/7/2. Route for CAIRO is along northern submarine route. If it is intended or desired that convoys and H.M. ships should continue to be thus routed it will be necessary to approach C. in C. Northern Fleet for further reduction of S/M patrol zones but he will not consent willingly (?Request) for P.Q.9 and 10 to be routed as far south as 72° N. was (?only) agreed to as a special case. Request early reply. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1436A/8 and 1620A/9).

Corvettes  
for S.A.  
OXLIP.

Your 1308A/6. Proposal A is approved.  
2. The requirements for Corvettes to be transferred to the South Atlantic Command are that they should be fitted tropical and have R.D.F.  
3. It is considered desirable to retain OXLIP in Home Waters in view of her being fitted for Arctic Service and with L.L.  
4. You are requested to nominate one corvette to replace OXLIP and preferably not repeat not fitted with Hedgehog or L.L. sweep.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1924A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Ten Corvettes  
for U.S.  
Forces.

The following corvettes are being released to the U.S.A. BRYONY, LOTUS, BORAGE, POPPY, PERIWINKLE, CALENDULA, BEGONIA, LARKSPUR, CANDYTUFT and HEARTSEASE.  
2. They will be manned by U.S. crews. Officers and Ships' Companies for nine ships will sail for the U.K. in A.T.12 about 19/2.  
3. CANDYTUFT will be taken over in U.S.A.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1925A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

ADVENTURE.

Intend sail ADVENTURE for Southampton in accordance with A.M. 1941A/7 at 1230 today. E.T.A. 1230/10. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0514A/8).  
ADVENTURE sailed. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1248A/8)

MANXMAN.

Nothing to report now entering Milford Haven. (MANXMAN 0819/8).

BLYSKAWICA.

Intend sailing BLYSKAWICA for Scapa passing Clyde Boom 2000A/9. S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 1600A/10. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0956/8).

H.44.

Your 1736A/7. Request H.44 be sailed to Falmouth to await onward escort to Rothesay. (Capt. S.7 1001A/8 to C. in C. Nore).  
Your 1001A/8. This will be arranged. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange for trawler to R/V with H.44 and escort her to destination. (C. in C. Nore 1440A/8 to Capt. S.7).

/H.44.



War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.H.44  
- Contd.

H.44 leaves Dungeness P.M. 9th thence diving by day independently through (A) 165° Beachy Head 24 miles (B) 180° St. Catherine's 23 miles (C) 180° Start Point 20 miles (D) 140° Lizard Head 20 miles, thence R/V vicinity Lizard Head at 0830 (? 12th). Thence to Falmouth. (Capt. S.7. 2131A/8). \* *See p.p. 278 & 313*

UTMOST.

Sailed UTMOST escorted by SHERWOOD in accordance with Capt. (S) 3's 1511A/6. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1018A/8).

CHURCHILL.

Sailing of CHURCHILL is delayed until 0815/10 owing to non delivery of certain armament stores. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1213/8).

CAIRO. etc.

Intend sailing CAIRO to Scapa to comply with Admty. 1850A/7 passing Clyde Boom 1200A/9. S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 0900A/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1214A/8).

A.M. 1850A/7. R.A. (D) H.F. is requested to sail a Hunt Class Destroyer to escort CAIRO to about 65° N. Consider passage between 062° and 66° N. should be during dark hours.

2. After arrival of P.Q. Ten NIGERIA is to refuel and proceed to meet CAIRO and provide escort to Murmansk. R.A. (D) H.F. report E.T.A. CAIRO in position (B).

3. FAULKNER and INTREPID are to escort Q.P. Seven to point of dispersal. (C. in C. H.F. 2042/8). *See p. 250*

AURANIA.

My 1214A/3, para 1. Delayed three days due to leaky patch. (S.O.W.P. 1240A/8 to Admty.)

FURY.

My 1209A/4. Delayed. Please add 48 hours to all times. (F.O. Humber 1242A/8). *See also next page*

RODNEY.

Three H.F. destroyers overdue for boiler cleaning and repair are available to screen RODNEY to Greenock.

(2) Admty.'s 1631A/7, para. 3. W.A. destroyers will not be required.

(3) After arrival of RODNEY N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail the three destroyers as required by R.A. (D). (C. in C. H.F. 1324A/8).

BEAUMARIS.

My 1117/7. Movement postponed. (C. in C. Rosyth 1759/8 to BEAUMARIS).

ANTELOPE.

My 1542/5. Delayed. Please add 48 hours to all times. (F.O. Humber 1832A/8).

/CITY.....

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War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.CITY OF  
DURBAN.  
CAPE SABLE.

Your 2045A/6. As corvettes must be withdrawn it is presumed that you will wish to employ CAPE SABLE and CITY OF DURBAN in Denmark Strait.

2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail CAPE SABLE and CITY OF DURBAN for Hvalfjord in completion of boiler cleaning about 19/2.

3. It is requested that when these ships are available for patrol you will sail the corvettes for their base ports. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1928A/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

BLENHEIM.  
FURY.

My 1310A/5. Owing to delay in arrival of FURY it is regretted that sailing of BLENHEIM must be postponed a further 48 hours.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1935A/8). *See previous page*

Western  
Local  
Force.

My 1939A/8. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> VANQUISHER, WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON, after fuelling at Azores will proceed Halifax to join Western Local Force.

(2) WANDERER, WITCH will sail for Halifax about 22/2 to join Western Local Force.

(3) (?Numbers) of remaining 6 destroyers for this force will be made subsequently.

(4) Previous signals are amended accordingly.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1942A/3). *See also p.p 250-251-*

EAGLE.  
VANQUISHER.

Cancel screen for EAGLE. Sailing VANQUISHER to Liverpool 9/2.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1943A/8).

9th M.S.  
Flotilla.

Admiralty 1722A/7. Request you sail 9th M.S. Flotilla for Portsmouth on 11/2. Route. S.A. and Oropesa Sweep of Q.Z.S. 117 is to be carried out whilst on passage. (C. in C. Nore 2156A/8).

Operations.Enemy  
Units at  
Brest.

Has it been possible to maintain A.S.V. Air Patrols off Brest and is there reasonable prospect of news of sailing of Battle Cruisers apart from P.R.U. R/C.

2. As I cannot afford to strengthen Patrols unnecessarily, can I assume when no information is sent to me and no additional Air Patrols placed that there are other indications that ships have not sailed. (C. in C. H.F. 0112A/8 to Admty.)

/Brest....

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War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.Brest  
S/M  
Patrol.

(A) H.50 is to leave patrol after dark 9th and proceed to Falmouth routed through position K 48° 50' N. 06° 20' W., thence to R/V with an escort off the Lizard on 11/2 as ordered by F.O.I.C. Falmouth.

(B) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange submerged B.R. as follows. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to arrange total restrictions in vicinity of R/V. (F.O.S. 1021A/8).

A. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail H.54 P.M. 9th to arrive in patrol position Number 52 at 2100/11 routed through position (L) 49° N. 06° 50' W. (M) 47° 15' N. 7° 45' W.

B. H.45 is to leave patrol at 1800/11 routed through position (K) 48° 50' N. 06° 20' W. to R/V off Lizard on 13/2 as ordered by F.O.I.C. Falmouth.

C. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange submerged B.R. as follows. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to arrange total restrictions in vicinity of R/V. (F.O.S. 1921A/8). W.D. Note Paras B and C. were amended by 1428A/11.

Patrol  
Q.P.1.

Weather permitting one unit of M.G.B's is to carry out patrol Q.P. (1) tonight. Object, destruction of E-boats.

Surface vessels met east of 2° 25' E. and north of 51° 15' N. may be attacked without challenge.

(C. in C. Nore 1140A/8 to BEEHIVE).

My 1140A/8. Patrol cancelled.

(C. in C. Nore 1609A/8).

Operation  
Q.Q.

Cancel my 1508A/51/1 and substitute.

(1) Weather permitting No. 1 Maunsell Fort will be towed from Tilbury to approx. 51° 53' 30" N. 1° 29' 30" E.

(2) Tow will leave at 0800/9. Route.

Approximate timetable as follows.

Fort will be submerged at 1450/10.

(3) Capt. M/S is to arrange for Sweepers to meet tow at Thames Gate and Sweep ahead to site of sinking.

(4) F.O.I.C. London is to arrange for Tugs KING LEAR, DAPPEN, CRESTED COCK and LADY BRASSEY to be ready to tow by daylight 9th.

(6) X.D.O. is to arrange for 2 M.L's or Drifters to be at Tilbury by 1800 today and for 2 A/A Vessels to provide Day Escort from "J" Buoy.

(7) Fighter Protection arranged from daylight 9th until return of Tugs to Thames Gate.

(8) Should circumstances necessitate, six 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 1206A/8).

Iceland-  
Faroes  
Patrol.Hvalfiord arrival 1100A KENYA.  
(A.C.I.C. 1326A/8).

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War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Seidisfiord  
A/S Patrols.

Your 1505/7. 42 Squadron can not home on shadowing aircraft owing to difficulties with homing equipment. (H.Q.C.C. 0029A/8 to H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland).

"Shad"  
Messages.

Your 2204A/5. No objection is seen to "Shad" messages being made by convoy escorts on all occasions of a convoy being shadowed by enemy aircraft. (C. in C. Nore 1916A/8 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.Enemy  
A/C  
crashed.Following received from Fishing Trawlers HEVIOS, IRANIAN, CLARE  
On leaving Humber 1230A/5/2 steaming for 62 Buoy plane thought to be a Junkers 87 crashed into the sea and explosion took place and after searching for sometime no wreckage could be seen of machine. This occurred 6 mile E.N.E. of Humber. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1158A/8)M.L. 478  
attacked.

M.L. 478 on passage Methil to Tyne was attacked near 20 T buoy at 1256 today by Heinkel 111. Three bombs dropped near misses. Only damage W/T valves. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1929/8). Position about 55° 22' N. 1° 22' W. L.L.B. from 50 to 80 feet by one Heinkel 111. Three bombs all near misses. No M/G fire. Ship armed with 2 Rolls Royce 2 pounders and 2 strip Lewis, did not open fire. (C. in C. Rosyth 2137/8).

Mining.Cylindrical  
Object.

R.A.F. Station Oban reports finding of Cylindrical object on shore of Loch Alsh opposite Skye, length 5 feet, diameter 3 feet, domed one end, colour yellow, figures 1710 painted each end. (H.Q.C.C. 1040/8 to Admty.)

Harwich.

Mine detonated by 'LL' Drifters at 0948 in 51° 54.6' N. 01° 23.3' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1057A/8 and 1151A/8).

S.N. 5B.

Sailed AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, LANCASTER, NEWARK, ST. MARY's. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1310A/8).

Enemy Intelligence.LÜTZOW.  
GRAF  
ZEPPELIN.

LÜTZOW and GRAF ZEPPELIN at Gdynia on 1/2. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1053/8). Comment by O.I.C. GRAF ZEPPELIN was moved from Stettin to Gdynia on 15/11/41 to finish

/completion...

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

LÜTZOW. completion. LÜTZOW left Kiel between 10th and  
 GRAF 24th Jan. after completion of torpedo damage  
 ZEPPELIN. repairs, and is believed to be in Baltic.  
 - Contd.

Straits of  
Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait  
 from 0900/7 to 0900/8. Track E3D three small  
 and one larger vessel eastbound 9 knots from  
 Boulogne 1825 fading off Calais at 2140. Track  
 E5D two small vessels south westbound 9 knots.  
 From off Boulogne 1905, Rade at 1935. Track  
 E7D four small vessels operating off Calais  
 from 2150 to 0245 when two of these entered  
 Calais and the other two proceeded to Boulogne.  
 All above tracks possibly minesweepers.  
 (V.A. Dover 1131A/8).

SCHARNHORST.  
 GNEISENAU.  
 PRINZ EUGEN.

Air R/C P.M. today shows PRINZ EUGEN alongside  
 in Rade Abri. One Battle Cruiser in dock other  
 battle cruiser off Lanveoc. It appears  
 improbable that main units will exercise before  
 tomorrow. (F.O.S. 1641A/8 to SEALION).

Photographic R/C of Brest at 1000/8 showed SCHARNHORST in  
 centre of Rade d'Abri, with bows towards dry dock.  
 A later reconnaissance at 1330/8 showed SCHARNHORST in No. 9  
 dock, GNEISENAU at moorings off Lanveoc, and PRINZ EUGEN  
 alongside Coaling wharf. (D.D.I.C. 1652A/8).

U-Boats.South of  
Iceland.

By D/F at 0235/8 a U-Boat within 60 miles of  
 61° 30' N. 17° W.  
 (D.D.I.C. 0433A/8 and 0839A/8).

Navigational.Iokanka  
Channel.

Iokanka. Shipping Channel exists 2 and half  
 cables either side line joining the following  
 positions. This channel will be swept  
 periodically. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F.  
 (S.D.N.O. North Russia 1023A/8).

Miscellaneous.

MANCHESTER  
 CITY.  
 (Endurance  
 Tests.)

Your 1249A/31/12. Estimated endurance found  
 seriously at fault. Following figures obtained  
 in practice. 13 knots full speed 3600 miles,  
 11 knots keeping station estimated 4000 miles,  
 8.5 knots keeping station 4800 miles, 6 knots  
 keeping station 4000 miles. (MANCHESTER CITY  
 1031Z/8 to Admty.)

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.Ship in  
distress.Red flare reported 090° Robin Hood Bay 3 miles.  
Keep a good look out for ship possibly in  
distress. (C. in C. Rosyth 0054/8 to VORTIGERN,  
etc.)SALTARELO  
(Trawler)  
damaged.  
HARPALION.SALTERELO returning to Forth with collision  
damage. (C. in C. Rosyth 0715/8).  
SALTERELO, escort to E.N. 44, returned Methil  
with hull damage after collision with HARPALION.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1021/8).

MAUVENET.

My 1458A/8. <sup>N.T.N.W.3.</sup> MAUVENET returned to Clyde with  
Boiler defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145A/8).Shipping and Convoys.North  
Russian  
Convoys.  
Routeing  
and  
Protection.The following are my views on sea passage  
of P.Q. convoys. Present conditions are that  
visibility is frequently extreme with fine  
weather and there are now 10 hours of daylight  
and twilight increasing rapidly daily. Under  
such conditions I consider convoy route should  
pass as near Bear Island as circumstances permit  
and should on no account be within 50 miles of  
enemy shore based A/C which can attack ships and home U-Boat on  
to convoy.Where U-Boat dispositions are known or suspected safety of  
convoy can best be assured by evasive (? paces) to northwards  
or by passing through U-Boat area during dark hours. At  
least twice the number of A/S escorts are required to afford  
reasonable protection from U-Boat attack. Where form of  
attack is limited to U-Boats, A/C and E-Boats, the presence  
of a cruiser is an added liability since it doubles the chances  
of detection without adding to protection of convoy. Risk  
to convoy will increase progressively as the weather improves  
and daylight increases while ice limitations persist. Proposals  
regarding any improvements that can be made to increase  
protection of convoy approaching Kola Inlet will be submitted  
after consultation with S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
(C.S.10 0758A/8 to C. in C. H.F.)Your 1809A/6. Concur. In deciding upon the routeing of  
shipping all risks are considered and for the time being  
it is only intended to use Skopen Fjord in emergencies. P.Q.11  
is route east of the Faroes and Iceland (C) on account of  
the great saving in length in voyage. C. in C. H.F. 1752A/31/12/  
41 and my 1924A/4/1 refer. (D.T.D. 1849A/8 to A.C.O.S)

R.U.10.

R.U. 10 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1034A/8).

A.M. 1205B.

Attention is drawn to A.M. 1205B dated 18th May  
1941 to A.C.I.C. for N.C.S.O.  
Your 1911A/6 MAX PEMBERTON was not received in  
Admiralty till 24 hours after ship had sailed.  
(D.T.D. 1039A/8 to N.C.S.O. Reykjavik).

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

- E.N. 44. Your 0715A/8. (See Casualties) Regret no relief trawler is available.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1127A/8 to C. in C. Rosyth)
- F.N.625. Intend to sail SELKIRK to Methil in F.N.625  
SELKIRK. acting as additional escort.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1225/8).
- O.S.20. My 1047A/6. O.S.20 will sail from Liverpool on  
O.S. 21. 22/2. O.S.21 will sail on 3/3. Thereafter  
O.S. convoy will sail every 10 days.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1431A/8).
- W.S.16. My 2331A/5. S.S. POTARO is required to load  
2 M.Ls at Greenock. She will be ready to  
leave Newport by noon 10th.  
2. Request escort be arranged and ship be sailed  
accordingly. (D.O.D. (H) 1559A/8). *See 9/2 - p. 284*
- W.S. 16. Anticipated following destroyers will be required for  
escort duty 15/2. VANQUISHER, WALKER, VERITY, VANOC, WITHERINGTON  
PIORUN, FIREDRAKE, LAUDERDALE, CHURCHILL, CHESTERFIELD.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1939A/8).
- C.A.F.O. My 2141/5 reported that when first instituted  
873/41. this weekly signal effected noticeable relief  
to Clyde position, but that effect is no longer  
apparent.  
Request attention of escorts and rescue tugs  
may again be directed to C.A.F.O. 873/41.  
(D.T.D. 1852A/8).
- P.Q.11. P.Q.11 is at Kirkwall ready to sail.  
Q.P. 7. 2. Request intentions for sailing of Q.P.7 and  
P.Q. 11.  
3. C. in C. H.F. has signalled that he is unable  
to provide destroyer escort for P.Q.11 until  
FAULKNER and INTREPID rejoin him.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 2017A/8 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).  
FAULKNER and INTREPID are to escort Q.P.7 to  
point of dispersal. (C. in C. H.F. 2042/8).  
*See p. 244*
- Atlantic Convoy Escorts. Your 1950/6.  
1. Concur in (a) Naming of groups (b) Sequence  
sailing of groups (c) Arrangements for authorities  
to sail groups.  
3. Concur generally in proposals for Iceland  
escort, but assume it is intended to sail  
westbound shipping with alternate O.N.S. convoys,  
not successive convoys as shown.

War Diary.

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Atlantic  
Convoy  
Escorts.  
- Contd.

4. (A) Your allocation of group to convoy would mean that certain groups always escorted fast convoys whilst others always escorted slow convoys. (B) It seems very desirable that all groups should have about same time in harbour to achieve this

I suggest that a group bringing a slow eastbound convoy should take back a fast westbound convoy and vice-versa.

(C) Propose therefore that starting with O.N. 68 even numbered westbound convoys should be fast odd numbered slow.

5. Eastward local escorts will meet eastbound convoys at Eastomp up to and including S.C. 69 and H.X. 175. After these dates no corvettes will be available for this duty and shortage of destroyers makes it necessary to ask that eastbound escorts remain with convoys till vicinity Londonderry. I will provide relief escort from Eastomp whenever possible.

(C. in C. W.A. 2142A/8 to Cmdr. Task Force 4).

Your 1950/6th and my 2142A/8.

(i) Owing to refits and defects it is impossible to supply immediately my full quota of destroyers for Western local force and corvettes for American and Canadian groups without undue reduction of my own force. I hope therefore that you will accept 8 out of 12 destroyers and 10 out of 16 corvettes as first instalment. I will use every endeavour to make up full quota as soon as possible.

(ii) Heavy commitments for troop convoys at this transitional period prevent despatch of destroyers as early as I should wish, but it is intended destroyers should arrive Halifax as follows:- (a) VANQUISHER, WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON on 26/2. (b) WANDERER, WITCH on 4/3. (c) 2 Town Class Destroyers early March.

(iii) Intend Corvette movements as follows. Details.

(iv) Previous signals as to movements of destroyers and corvettes to be amended accordingly.

(C. in C. W.A. 2143A/8 to Cdr. Task Force 4).



War Diary

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. /8.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
	MAURITIUS	42° N. 29° W.	018°	16
	Convoy O.S.18)	40° N.		
	ROCHESTER	26½° W.	185°	7
	PANDORA	35½° N. 40° W.	090°	10
	REGENT	31° N. 56° W.	263°	10
	MARON	32° N.	272°	6
	HOLLINSIDE)	57½° W.		
	in tow.			
	PRETORIA	04° N.	Patrol	Blank.
	CASTLE.	23° W.		
	CANTON	07° N. 18° W.	070°	15
	ASTURIAS)	25° S.	Patrol	Blank.
	BULOLO	30° W.		
	WARSPITE	28° S. 134½° W.	258°	14
	Oiler			
	BISHOPDALE	20½° S. 131° W.	323°	10
	F.F.S.	17½° S.	287°	13
	CHEVREUIL	174½ W.		
	H.M.Transport)	Arriving	100°	21
	QUEEN	Auckland.		
	ELIZABETH			
	Convoy M.S.5)	37½° S.	280°	11
	PERTH	128° E.		
	Convoy C.T.10)			
	CHATEAU			
	THIERRY			
	ANDALUCIA	51½° N.	267°	13
	STAR	41° W.		
	HIGHLAND			
	BRIGADE			
	ROCKINGHAM			
	BEVERLEY			
	(D.O.D.(F), 1001Z/8 as amended 1820Z/8 to Opnav, (R) Spenavo.)			

North Atlantic.

U. 581.

Confirmed that the U-Boat rammed by WESTCOTT (on 2/2) was U.581. Name of Captain Pfeiffer. (D.O.R., 8/2.)

/Force H ...

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Force H., As German battlecruisers may be operating in the Atlantic, Force H., less ARGUS is to proceed to Clyde to arrive not later than p.m./13/2. Force H., is required to give additional protection to W.S.16. ARGUS is to remain at Gibraltar and her aircraft are to be disembarked ready to operate in the Straits of Gibraltar. 2. W.S.16 will be under the Command of Adm. Sir James Somerville in FORMIDABLE. (1st S.L., 0012A/8 to S.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A.)

→ Your 0012/8. Intend to sail at 1800A/8 with MALAYA, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, ANTHONY, ACTIVE, BLANKNEY, EXMOOR, CROOME. HERMIONE will R/V a.m./9.

(2) Intended route - A. 036° 25' 010° 00'. B. 041° 30' 015° 00'. C. 050° 00' 015° 00'. D. 055° 15' 010° 20' all positions north and west. F.O.C.N.A. concurs as far as N.A. Station limits. (3) Expected S. of A. 16 knots. (4) If necessary short endurance destroyers will be detached to Londonderry. (S.O. Force H., 1151A/8 to Admty.)

My 1724/8th\* MALAYA and destroyer screen will pass through 180 Europa Point 7 at 2200 / (steer) steering 250° S. of A. 16 knots. Keep to the northward. (F.O.C.N.A., 1846A/8 to CLEOPATRA.)

\* N.T. in W.R. / As received.

→ S.O. Force H's 1151A/8 vessels sailed HERMIONE in company. Q.Z.F. 42 H. 258 S. 324 X. 607 575 313. (F.O.C.N.A., 2302A/8.)

LLANGIBBY Departure 1457 escort to LLANGIBBY CASTLE p.m. CASTLE. 7th WHITEHALL, LIGHTNING, WISHART, VIDETTE. 0900/8 WIVERN and escort group 37. (F.O.C.N.A., 0932A/8.)

LLANGIBBY CASTLE arrived and anchored in Bay for the night. Weather permitting she will be berthed in harbour daylight tomorrow Monday. (F.O.C.N.A., 2346A/8.) *See next page 7 p. 255.*

Destroyers EXMOOR, CROOME, LAFOREY and BLANKNEY are to & LLANGIBBY return to Gibraltar independently at best speed CASTLE. as WISHART (? VIDETTE) LIGHTNING and WHITEHALL join. Escort for LLANGIBBY CASTLE is not to be reduced to less than four destroyers. (F.O.C.N.A., 0620A/8 to Capt. (D) 19, (R) WISHART.)

WIVERN, BLACK SWAN and escort Group 37 are being sailed from Gibraltar to act as additional escort to LLANGIBBY CASTLE. S.O. 15th Escort Group is to return to Gibraltar at best speed when WIVERN has joined LLANGIBBY CASTLE. (F.O.C.N.A., 0642/8 to D.19, (R) WISHART, LIGHTNING.)

Return to harbour at best speed. (F.O.C.N.A., 1446A/8 to LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, EXMOOR, CROOME, BLANKNEY. Repeated (D) 19.) *See next page 9 p. 255.*

War Diary.

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

→ Situation Report No. 1 at 2002A/8. (1) Fleet unit 7 destroyers sailing 1800/8th through 35.30 07.00 and 36.25 10.00 thence 323° 16½.  
(ii) HERMIONE sailing 2200/8 to join Fleet unit. *Sailed - see previous page.*  
(iii) WISHART, WHITEHALL, WIVERN, VIDETTE and one sloop and 8 corvettes escorting LLANGIBBY CASTLE with tug THAMES 36.05 06.58 to Gibraltar 5 knots. *See previous page.*  
(iv) CLEOPATRA 290° Spartel 20 to Gibraltar 25½. *v p.255*  
(v) VANSITTART 36.24 08.09 through 220° Cape St. Vincent 20 thence 325° 13.  
(vi) ALOUETTE escorting cable ship MIRROR 270° Cape Roca 40.  
(vii) SCOTTISH sailing 1330/9 to R/V 41.27 MIRROR 10. (F.O.C.N.A., 1342A/8.)

PANDORA. Situation Report No. 3. (1) PANDORA estimated 34.49 39.23 082° 10.  
→ Situation 2002A/8th. (F.O.C.N.A., 1350A/8.)

→ DINGLEDALE. DINGLEDALE will be required South of Azores 20/2. Unless you require her before then you should bring her back to Gibraltar with escort to top up and sail them again as necessary.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1353A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

German S/M report. German S/M made sighting report bearing Gibraltar 297°/3.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1624A/8.)

PONTET Arrival Leixoss 7th.  
CANET. (N.C.S.O. Oporto, 1625/8.)  
(French).

→ CLYDE, DINGLEDALE & escort. Are to return to Gibraltar passing through 034° 00' N. 017° 00' W. VETCH pass to DINGLEDALE.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1836A/8 to CLYDE, DINGLEDALE, GERANIUM, VETCH, repeated Admty., Force H.)

Oiling Escort of W.S.16. Your 1638/7 para. (e). As oiling at sea cannot be relied on and EXMOOR and CROOME cannot oil in Azores they must be detached from W.S. 16 direct to Gibraltar when their endurance necessitates.

2. Suggest for consideration they be temporarily exchanged for 2 Western Approaches "Hunts" eligible to fuel in Azores. (S.O. Force H., 1928A/8 to Admty, repeated C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., Captain D.19.)

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War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.Movements.

Arrivals 1600 CROOME 1700 LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, BLANKNEY 1800 EXMOOR 2000, WHITEHALL, WISHART WIVERN, VIDETTE, 37th escort group Dutch Tug THAMES, LLANGIBBY CASTLE.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2024A/8). *See p. 253 & 254.*

South Atlantic.RESOLUTION  
W.S.16

As German battle cruisers may be operating in the Atlantic in the near future, RESOLUTION is to be sailed as soon as possible for Freetown to escort W.S.16 leaving U.K. 15/2. She is to join the Convoy as far to the northward of Freetown as possible. 2. It is desired that Vice-Adm. Tait should remain in RESOLUTION.  
(1st S.L., 0028A/8 to V.A.3).  
Ref. A.M.0028/8 intend RESOLUTION should fuel at Capetown night of 9th/10th sailing for Freetown dawn/10.  
(R.A. 3 B.S., 0825Z/8 to Admty).

BIRMINGHAM.

Your 2136Z/7th 23/2 quite convenient.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 0917Z/8 to S.O.(I) Montevideo)

SEMLA.

Admty. 1550/28. Confirmed that SEMLA could reach Ceylon via Mauritius and Seychelles with 15 tons extra oil fuel stowed in drums. (2)  
Since vessel retained status of merchant ship there would presumably be no objection to fuel her at Beira if this route is considered preferable to para. (1)  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0949Z/8 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. (R)  
C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. East London).

Dispositions. Weekly state 7/2. Freetown VINDICTIVE, CILICIA, BOREAS, WILD SWAN, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, PRINSES BEATRIX, 4 Corvettes. Patrol H. 34 C and D,  
CANTON, PRETORIA CASTLE.

Freetown Area. BRILLIANT, VIMY, 11 Corvettes, O.S.17.  
Bathurst. IBIS, WESTON, WELLINGTON, SENNEN, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, PHILOCTETES. Capetown\*DERBYSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.  
Durban\*ROBERTS, ENGADINE. Simonstown HEEMSKEK, JANUS,\*ASCANIA, ILEX, BRIDGEWATER, WORCESTERSHIRE,\*EMPIRE FULMAR, 1 corvette.  
Cape Area,\*NORMAN. Home Ports. NEWCASTLE, WRESTLER, VELOX, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, four Corvettes. U.S. DEVONSHIRE, CARNARVON CASTLE,\*ALCANTARA, ALBATROSS. Bermuda, DESPATCH.  
U.K. to Freetown, two Corvettes WIVERN, CALIFORNIA.  
Freetown to U.K. VANSITTART, one Corvette. Freetown to Cape W.S.15 RESOLUTION, CHESHIRE, MILFORD, DEMIR HISAR one Corvette  
Gulf of Guinea QUEEN EMMA, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, Plate Area BIRMINGHAM, K.32. K.33. BULOLO, ASTRURIAS.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1431Z/8.) /O.S.17...

*See next page.  
left - see 7/2  
p. 217.*

*See 7/2.  
p. 220*

*+ Halifax } P.L.*

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

O.S.17 O.S.17 arrived Freetown A.M./8 no stragglers but two through routed ships BENGKALIS and NEW TORONTO came to Freetown defects and shortage of water. (C. in C. S.A., 1602Z/8 to Admty).

Movements Area P. AURICULA with O.S.S.17 006° N., 013° 30' W., 154° 8.5 knots.  
Summary CANTON 007° 05' N., 016° 52' W., 067° 15 knots.  
2000/8. PRETORIA CASTLE 008° N., 021° 12' W., 090° 13.5 knots. RAPIDOL 000° 10' S., 011° 20' W., 340° 10 knots. CALIFORNIA about 009° 40' N., 017° 40' W., to Freetown 13 knots. REINE DES FLOTS 002° 40' N., 006° 40' W., 113° 8.5 knots. VIMY searching in 006° N., 013° W. SOUTHERN GEM 003° 40' S., 008° 55' E. 111° 7 knots. SURPRISE off Freetown from South. POLAR V 006° 20' N., 011° 44' W., 305° 8 knots. Area Q. RESOLUTION with W.S.15 031° 00' S., 012° 52' E., 134° 12.5 knots. Area S. BIRMINGHAM Plate area. BULOLO, ASTURIAS patrol K.32 K.33. (C. in C. S.A., 1613Z/8).

ORDUNA, ORDUNA escorted by DERBYSHIRE sailed 1600Z/8  
DERBYSHIRE. S. of A 13 knots, to 010° S., thence 12 to Freetown, E.T.A. Freetown 19th Route.  
(M) 025° 55' S., 011° E. (N) 015° 05' 008°.  
(O) 005° 55' 003° 20'. (P) 000° 003 05' W. (Q) 004° 15' N., 010° 10'. Ref. (R) "Alarm" 011° S., 009° 30' E. (S) Southern 017° S., 008° 30' W. (T) 003° N., 003° E. (U) 006° N., 014° W.  
Endurance 35 days. Requirement.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1615Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

CILICIA. My 1125Z/6, CILICIA is to leave Freetown at 1800/9 and proceed to R/V with PRETORIA CASTLE in 005° 00' N., 020° 00' W., at 0900Z/11. CILICIA is to part company with PRETORIA CASTLE at 1800Z/13 and proceed to patrol in K.33 or as ordered by R.A.S.A.D. (C. in C. S.A., 1945Z/8 to CILICIA).

BULOLO, Your 2300A/6 para. 4 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 0932A/7.  
SOBIESKI. BULOLO should be available as escort for SOBIESKI to U.K. about 24/2. This should not unduly delay SOBIESKI. (C. in C. S.A., 2001Z/8 to Admty).

VIOLET, Arrival 8/2 VIOLET towing MALAKAL.  
MALAKAL. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2101Z/8 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos).

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- U/B Submarine reported 31° 50' N., 26° 30' E.  
2240 hours.  
(201 Group H.Q., 0035/8 to Aircraft X of No.  
230 Sqdn.)
- Enemy M/V attacked. Enemy has been engaged, one merchant vessel,  
on fire, position 3 (?6)° 00' N. 11° 53' E.  
(Aircraft P. of Station Flight Hal Far  
0115/8 to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
Have obtained ASV Contact in 36° 15' N. 11°  
40' E. (?probably a surface vessel).  
(Aircraft P5 Station Flight Hal Far 0130/8 to  
Air H.Q. Malta.)
- U/B attacked Am over enemy S/M in 31.46 N., 26.44 E.  
(Aircraft X of Med. Sqdn. 0347/8 to No. 201 Group  
H.Q.)  
Have attacked enemy S/M on surface with bomb dive and estimate  
nil hits, position 31.46 N., 26.39 E.  
(Aircraft X of Med. Squad. 0401/8 to 201 N.C. Group, H.Qs.)  
Remaining over oil streak till dawn, believe Sub damaged.  
(A/C X 0450A/8 to Malta W/T.)
- U/Bs. Enemy submarines expected near Malta. Take  
all precautions.  
(V.A. Malta 0530B/8 to ZULU, LIVELY, TEMPEST.)
- M/V. Position of large merchant vessel is 35.50 N.  
11.50 E. course 175° speed of 10 knots.  
(Med A/C 0940B/8 to Med. A/C.)
- Alexandria Raid. Air raid 0430 to 0530/8. 5 planes crossed coast,  
5 U.X.B. near railway at Ezbet Khurshid.  
(R.A. Alexandria 0951B/8 to Admty., (R) C. in C.  
Med., H.Q. M.E. (corrupt group) (?Cairo)  
H.Q. B.T.E.)
- Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 4 large enemy merchant vessels and  
2 Destroyers 34.46 N., 11.40 E. 200° 12.  
(Med A/C Q 1050/8 to Hal Far D/F (Malta Command.)
- Enemy M/V. 1 small merchant ship 035° 50' N. 011° 50' E.  
175° 10 knots at 0940.  
(V.A. Malta, 1112B/8 to SOKOL, P.31, UNBEATEN.)

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- P.38. P.38 leaves p.m./8 for 036° 05' 012° 35' to operate in area G. 036° 05' 011° 20' - 000° - 35 - 60.  
(Capt. S. 10, 1115B/8 to P.35 (R) 10th S/M F.)
- Opsum 2. Egypt Day 7/2. Single enemy aircraft  
622. reconnoitred Alexandria at midday. Hurricanes were unable to intercept.  
Night 7/8 Feb. About 6 enemy aircraft reported over Delta during night of which 1 flew inland remainder operated off coast between Port Said and Alexandria. Fighters up no interception. No bombs reported.
3. Palestine Day 7/2. Single enemy aircraft reconnoitred Aqir area during morning.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1146/8.)
- TUAPSE. Arrived Famagusta (?) Admty. pass to Adm. Miles.  
(Russian) (C. in C. Med., 1552B/8 to Admty.)
- Aden A.833 Opsum for 24 hours ending 1500/8.  
Opsum Aden single Blenheim Aden Aisha Aden reported submarine one mile to sea heading for Jibuti Harbour at 0505 hours. At 1320 hours one submarine in usual position Jibuti Harbour. Slight (corrupt group).  
(C.H.Q. Aden 1654/8.)
- Malta C.S.R. WX.1657. Most Secret. C.S.R. 8/2 Part 1, 7th My 1.76.  
Alert 0831 hours 2 Wellingtons damaged Luqa 2 p.m. alerts 1225 and 1639 hours 52 Me.109s, 9 JU.88s target Hal Far and Luqa. D/Rs leaving harbour machine gunned by Fighters. No damage to D/Rs Hal Far serious damage to stores administrative W/T buildings workshops officers quarters barracks and transport office. Many big craters aerodrome. Negligible damage aircraft few airmen slightly wounded. Hurricanes up, no interception ack ack fired.  
Night 7/8 8 alerts 1711 to 0348 hours, 14 raiders. Targets Kalafrana, Hal Far and Safi. Kalafrana sergeants mess and barracks seriously damaged, 1 airman injured. Hal Far bombed and machine gunned many craters in dispersal area. 1 Albacore direct hit, burnt out. Safi slight damage to aircraft. 1 Wellington under repair extensive damage now not repairable. Ack Ack fired. 8th. 2 Alerts 0858 and 1233 hours 15 Me.109s fighter sweeps. Hurricanes up. No interception, ack ack fired.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1745/8.)  
Part 2. Special Wellington shipping search co-operating with naval force Lampedusa Pantellaria. 2100 hours 2 M/V 4000 tons south Pantellaria 19 miles. 2300 hours attacked by Navy. Large explosion. 1 M/V on fire 7 Wellingtons 1 C shipping Tripoli. 1 returned mechanical trouble. 6 attacked 0209 to 0303 hours. Effective smoke screen. At least 3 hits evidenced by explosions among splashes other near misses. 1 stick hit Spanish mole.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1749/8.)

/Italian ...

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Italian Hospital Ships. Your 0243/6 (Repetition of 2015/3) 4 reports, probably all emanating from Greek refugees, state that in November and December Italian hospital ships were used to carry troops between ports in Aegean. No proof available. At least 10 eye witnesses state that on 23/12/1941 the hospital ship SICILIA left Benghazi for Tripoli (L) carrying some 1500 persons including naval officers, soldiers and prisoners of war. This appears to have been somewhat of a panic when regulations with regard to hospital ships were neglected. (C. in C. Med., 1824B/8 to Admty.)

Information for THUNDERBOLT. Several unescorted merchant ships E.T.A. a.m./9 2 slow escorted convoys on inshore route westbound left Alexandria 1700B/8. (Capt. (S) 1 1945B/8 to THUNDERBOLT.)

Jibuti, Vichy S/M. Following addressed Mideast for Minister of State. Received from E.A. Command No.3032 T.O.O. 1400 of 7/2. In continuation of my D.O. letter (29/1) information has since been received that aircraft from Aden twice attacked one Vichy submarine proceeding to Jibuti on 22/1. No direct hit obtained. Submarine moored to pier in Jibuti was observed by Air R/C on 23/1. Information just received, not Free French source, indicates two Vichy ships expected shortly to evacuate part of Garrison Jibuti destination unknown. Source considered reliable but unconfirmed. (C. in C. M.E. 2010/8 to W.O.)

PROTEUS rammed. At 0426 in 038° 43' 020° 24' unsuccessful torpedo attack on destroyer mistaken for U-boat. Enemy endeavoured to ram. In head on collision port fore plane removed and remaining gear distorted. No other apparent damage. My P.C. and S. 038° 01' 020° 01' 160° 9 propose returning to Alexandria. (PROTEUS 2130B/8 to Capt. (S) 1.)

S/M movements. Your 1441B/7th to V.A. Malta para.13 and Capt. (S) 1's 0931B/8th. Intend to sail UNA and UPRIGHT 9/2 TEMPEST following day for patrol line 3 - 039° 25' 017° 20' - 060° - 10 - 150° - 20. UNA in position (a) 039° 25' 017° 20' TEMPEST in position (b) UPRIGHT in position (c). P.36 will sail 11/2 for North East half (and P.34 provisionally 13/2 for South W half) area J as in my 1325B/31/1 and UNIQUE ordered to position (d) 040° 00' 017° 17' all submarines (except P.34) to be in position a.m./12. Intend sailing URGE 12/2 to carry out operation A in your 1208B/30/1 before relieving UPHOLDER on North Sicilian Coast. C. in C. Med. please pass to Capt. (S) 1. (Capt. (S) 10 2235B/8 to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta.)

/PANDORA ...



War Diary.

8.2.1942  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PANDORA  
PARTHIAN

Arising out of F.O.C.N.A.'s No.X.1/395 of 1st Jan. 1942 containing patrol report of O.21 for 9th - 28th Nov. F.O.S. suggests that in view of the many targets and slight A/S opposition in Tyrrhenian Sea PANDORA and PARTHIAN should carry out their working up patrols in this area. 2. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2316A/8 to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

RESOLUTION. As the German battlecruisers may be operating in the Atlantic at any time now it is necessary for RESOLUTION to assist in escorting W.S.16 to the Cape. 2. A.M. 0028A/8 has directed V.A.3 in RESOLUTION to proceed as soon as possible to Freetown for this purpose. This upset to your arrangements is much regretted but it is hoped that you will be able to send RAMILLIES or some other ship to take on W.S.15. (1st S.L. 0105A/8 to C. in C. E.F.)

GLASGOW. Present condition of GLASGOW gives cause for some concern. 2. In summer of 1941 it was accepted that GLASGOW should continue to operate on the E.I. Station on 2 shafts with consequent loss of speed and manoeuvrability. At that time the threat of attack was limited to comparatively slow surface craft and her efficiency as ocean escort was not very considerably reduced. 3. Now however, unless kept well clear of scene of active operations, she is open to attack from air and submarine. To both of these GLASGOW in her weakened state is very vulnerable. A near miss from a bomb or one torpedo might prove fatal. 4. In addition her C.O. reports that the repairs to stern gives cause for anxiety in bad weather, which will be accentuated with the on-setting of S.W. Monsoon. 5. In fact GLASGOW, a potentially powerful modern fleet Cruiser, is a very lame duck (?relegated) to convoy work on the outer ocean. This I feel, is wasting a good ship and must, if continued indefinitely, affect morale. 6. Have discussed with C. in C. E.I. and we are both of opinion that GLASGOW should be taken in hand for refit and complete repairs at very early date. 7. We are aware of shortage of Cruisers in meeting our world wide commitments, but we would ask for early replacement of this ship, observing that out of 7 other cruisers available for vital troop convoys 5, comprised of the (E) and (D) Class, are of relatively low fighting value. (C. in C. E.F. 0527Z/8 to Admty. C. in C. E.I.)

W.S.15. Your 0105/8th. RAMILLIES will meet W.S.15 north of Mozambique Channel and escort D.M.3. RAMILLIES, REVENGE. portion to port T. 2. REVENGE due Mombasa 16/2 to fuel, thence to Durban, will provide a small degree of cover in Madagascar area. (C. in C. E.F. 0715/8 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. C. in C. S.A. F.O. 3rd B.S. N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

U-Boats. W.X.1500. Special operations summary. Serial No.1 up to 0600G.M.T./8. Information received from SNOPOQ (?SNOPOG) Fortress reported 2 U-Boats position 23° 15' N. 61° 35' E. at 0300/7 244 Squadron detachment at Sharjah instructed patrol area concerned and attack U-Boats on sight with bombs and depth charges. Patrol ordered dawn to dusk Feb. 8 and 9. Information just received indicated heavy rain and low clouds at Sharjah. Aircraft unable patrol at present but standing by. (A.H.Q. Iraq. 0806/8.)

/HOLLYHOCK...

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

HOLLYHOCK, Durban 8/2 arrived HOLLYHOCK 0752. Departure  
 ASTER, ASTER and VERBENA in company E.T.A. Mauritius  
 VERBENA. 1200 G.M.T./13 S. of A. 12½ knots routed through  
 following route (X) 028° 00' S. 040° 00' E.  
 (Y) 026° 00' S. 048° 00' E. (Z) 021° 30' S.  
 057° 00' E. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0914Z/8.)

Burma  
Coast.

I have been directed to co-ordinate the activities of all local defence craft available from India and Burma for defence of the Bay of Bengal including Burma. 2. On arrival at Rangoon you are to assume duty as Commodore Commanding Burma Coast (short title C.B.C.) 3. Your duties are as follows:- (A) Operational Command of all local Naval Defence vessels and personnel now employed and about to be employed in Burmese Waters. (B) Command of all Naval Shore Establishments in Burma. 4. You are to maintain close touch with the administrative military and air authorities in Burma. 5. In the above matters you are directly responsible to me. 6. Recommended that your H.Q. be set up at Rangoon. 7. Signals will be addressed N.O.I.C. Rangoon for C.B.C. (C. in C. E.I. 1031Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Rangoon for C.B.C. (R) C. in C. E.F. Abdacom, Admty.)

Movements. Addu departure 0630Z/7 BARBOUR. Colombo arrival 8th 0515Z DORSETSHIRE, 0645Z Netherlands Destroyer ISAAC SWEERS, 1300Z BATHURST. Colombo departure 8th, 0715Z Greek destroyer\*BASILISSA OLGA, U.S. WEST POINT, U.S. WAKEFIELD, 0615Z LAOMEDON, 0820Z ENTERPRISE, 1030Z CARTHAGE, 0140Z RAMDAS. (S.O.I. Colombo 1634Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

*\*also QUEEN OLGA*CLAN  
FORBES.

Your 1110/26/1. You will appreciate that CLAN FORBES on account of her speed, heavy derricks and other features is of the utmost value for W.S. Convoys and other special operations. Ships of this type are few in number and becoming fewer. 2. British India vessels MADURA, MALDA, MANTOLA, MATIANA, MODASA and MULBERA all now in the Indian Ocean would appear to be just as suitable for M.N.B.D.O. work as CLAN FORBES. Request you will consider the possibility of using one of them and releasing CLAN FORBES in the near future. Suggest you consult M.W.T.R. as to possibility of fitting additional heavy derricks if necessary. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2018/8 to C. in C. E.I.)

N.C.S.  
requirements.

My 2152A/8. If required by Abdafloat could officers be provided from station resources to meet immediate N.C.S. requirements at Tjilatjap (Java) and Oosthaven (Sumatra). Reliefs could be arranged from U.K. in due course. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2159A/8 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Supplies  
for  
Singapore.

Intend adopting policy that ships with general cargo are not to be sent to Singapore unless and until N.O.I.C. Malaya indicates that certain commodities are essential to continued resistance of fortress when a special operation must be made to pass supplies through. 2. Am continuing sending tankers to Palembang. (C.C.C.F. 0300Z/8 to Abdafloat, N.O.I.C. Malaya, (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty.)

ATHENE.

Your 0903Z/5 to Admty. ATHENE has been unloaded and is waiting to sail. Harbour is very congested. (C.C.C.F. 0318Z/8 to C. in C. E.F.)

For C.O.S. Ref. Troopers message 68117 (M.O.10) 2/2. After unloading at Batavia ATHENE will be required to proceed to Melbourne to embark crated P.40s and bring them to Java. F.O.J. to inform ATHENE. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0925/8 to ?F.O.J. (R) W.O. C. in C. E.F. A.C.N.B.)

Your 0318/8. Failing previous orders from Admty, sail ATHENE for Colombo. Ship should be warned she may be diverted on passage. (C. in C. E.F. 1328Z/8 to C.C.C.F.)

Your 0318Z/8. No decision yet received from Abdacom as to whether ATHENE is required to transport P.40's from Brisbane to Java. Please find out locally and report. If not required ATHENE is to be sailed for Colombo. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1703A/8 to C.C.C.F.)

Sending of  
large vessels C  
into  
Singapore  
area,

A.M. 1314/30/1\*R.A. Malaya's 1100/5 neither to all addressees. With the increasing scale of air attack I am no longer prepared to send large vessels such as STRATHNAVER into the Singapore area. In future any vessels in this category will be off loaded at Batavia and reloaded into smaller ships. (C. in C. E.F. 0435Z/8 to Admiralty, D. of S.T. C.C.C.F. Abdacom.) \* ?1316/30/1 intended, orders for troop transports.

Convoys  
J.S.3.  
M.S.4.

(M.V. ...)

Your 1348Z/6. On experience of D.M.2 the maximum number of ships that can be dealt with simultaneously at Tanjong Priok is 8. Full (? use) must be made of Oosthaven and Tjilitjap. Cargo destined for these ports must be loaded

into ships of suitable size and draught. (ii) Under present programme convoy J.S.3 of 18 ships and M.S.4 of 12 ships arrive Sunda Strait on 25th and 26th/2. 8 of latter bound for Palembang. This number is too great for N.E.I. ports. Suggest efforts be made to split J.S.3 into fast and slow portions. First portion can be accepted on any date after 18/2, second portion not less than 5 days later subject to adjustment by me of arrival of Australian convoy. (C.C.C.F. 0501Z/8 to C. in C. E.F.)

/M.V. ...

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE 0530/8th February IN

From: Advanced H.Q. Malaya Command.

Date 8.2.42.

Recd. 0352.

**MOST SECRET**Cipher.

Addressed: All concerned.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

031714. 0.379 cipher 8/2/42.

First of 2 parts.

Situation Report 60 1630 hours 7/2.

Enemy shelled our positions frequently but ineffectively during February 7th.

Northern Area. Our counter battery organisation active. Three enemy observation (? balloons) reported today. Our patrol Pulau (?A) bin dive bombed without effect.

Western Area. About 1530 hours G.M.T. 7/2 enemy opened M.G. fire on our positions in area south and Johore Causeway. A.I.F. boat patrol encountered enemy boat patrol in Strait west of Causeway and suffered slight casualties. One enemy craft with 30 men sunk by our M.G. fire. Believed to be patrol encounter only.

Southern and reserve areas. Heavy air raid on Changi and Kallang-Geylang district.

Last part.

At Changi a few (? minor) casualties and slight damage to Fire Command H.Q., and among military buildings and vehicles. R.E. explosives dump hit. At Kallang some damage runway station buildings. Some damage to property and about 60 casualties reported including 12 killed in Geylang. About 40 enemy shells believed 105 mm. medium artillery fell in area Thompson Road Government House Orchard Road on outskirts Singapore Town during morning 7th February. Damage negligible to air. Apart from raid on Changi and Kallang enemy air activity pronounced over Johore Strait. Reported enemy losses 7th February 1 bomber certain 1 probable 1 damaged. Own losses nil in air but Pru Buffalo destroyed on ground at Kallang and 2 Hurricanes crash landed. T.O.O. 0209.

0530/8

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

1st Lord.	Duty Capt. (2)	Received from W.O. 0832/8
1st S.L.	D.N.I. (7) (& for A.E. and D.N.L.O.)	
4th S.L.	D.D.I.C. (2)	W.O. Circulation S. of S.
5th S.L.	D. of P. (2)	C.I.G.S. V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.A/S W.	D.M.O. & P. D.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	I.P. (2)	D.D.M.O. (O) M.O. 1.2.6.102
A.C.N.S. (F)	W.D.	D.D.I.P. D.M.I. D.D.M.I (I)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.P.D.	M.I. 2. (3) A.A. 4. Cabinet
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.S.D.	War Room. Col. Jacob. (Cabinet
Naval Sec.	Admiral Bailey	Offices) Duty Capt. Army.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Admiral Bellairs.	Duty Officer. Upper Army.
D.N.A.D.	E.P.S.	War Room. Head of War Reg.
Head of M.	Admiral Somerville.	Admiralty.
D.O.D. (H)		A.M.C.S. Air Ministry (6)
D.O.D. (H)		S. of S. Foreign (6)
D.O.D. (F)		It was R. Llesion, Co. 22
D.O.D. (F)		111.8.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 0240/8/February  
 From War Office. Date 9.2.42.

CYPHER.

Addressed Supreme Commander, South West Pacific,  
 C. in C. India, Repeated G.O.C. Burma.

IMMEDIATE.

69358 Cipher (M.O.1.) 7/2.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (S.W.F) 19.

1. General J.W. Stilwell has been appointed United States representative in China with concurrence of Chiang Kai Shek and with following functions:-

(a) Supervision and control of all U.S. defence air affairs for China.

(b) Under the Generalissimo to command all the U.S. forces in China and such Chinese forces as may be assigned. Should it be necessary for any of these forces to engage in joint operations in Burma they will come under the command of the Supreme Commander

of the A.B.D.A. area, who will issue necessary directions for co-operation of U.S. representative's forces with forces under British commanders in Burma.

(c) Represent U.S. Government on any international war Council in China.

(d) Control and maintain the Burma road in China.

2. General Stilwell will leave by air for China shortly.

3. To make this project reasonably effective the following points were agreed in Washington during the recent discussions between the Combined Chiefs of Staff:-

(a) In co-operation with Commanders of adjacent areas U.S. representative is to be permitted to establish and/or use bases, routes and staging areas in India and Burma to support his operations in and north of Burma.

(b) U.S. Representative to be authorised to make every effort to increase the capacity of the Burma route throughout its length from Rangoon to Chungking. To do this, he will probably be given complete executive control of China section of route. On British section control will still be exercised by British authorities both military and civil. To achieve general aim these British authorities will

be/.....

-2-

be instructed to carry out every possible improvement to route in accordance with requirements of U.S. representative and will accept such American technicians and equipment as may be necessary for improvement of facilities in port of Rangoon and along the route itself.

(c) U.S. representative by arrangements with British commander in Burma to be permitted to construct and/or use necessary air-fields in Burma.

(d) U.S. representative to be accepted as the principal liaison agency between Supreme Commander of A.B.D.A. area and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

4. United States Chiefs of Staff have subsequently agreed that there is no objection to General Wavell communicating direct with Chiang Kai-Shek using existing communications through British Military Attache Chungking and keeping Senior U.S. Liaison Officer with Generalissimo informed.

5. United States Chiefs of Staff have now asked us to issue the draft instructions contained in Paragraph 3 above. Please wire any comments most immediate bearing in mind that text of instructions has already been agreed in Washington and that any amendments will have to be referred to United States Chiefs of Staff.

0240/8.

Recd. from War Office A.M./9th

Advance copies Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F).

War Office circulation.

1st Lord.	C.I.G.S.
1st S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	Q.M.G.
A.C.N.S.(F).	D.M.O. & P.
A.C.N.S.(W).	D.P.
P.A.S.(S).	D.D.M.O.(O).
N.A. 1st S.L.	M.O. 1.2.10.12.
D.O.D.(F).	D.M.I.
D.D.O.D.(F).	D.D.M.I.(I).
D.N.I.(4).	D.Q.M.G.
D.of P.(2).	Q.(Ops.)
Duty Capt.(2).	C.N.S. Admiralty.
D.D.I.C.(2).	Director of Plans, Admiralty.
E.P.S.	Hd. of War Registry, Admiralty.
Hd. of M.(2).	C.A.S. Air Ministry.
I.P.(2)	Director of Plans, Air Ministry.
W.D.	Burma Office (War Staff).
N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr.	Col. Jacob, Cabinet Offices.
Wilson.	India Office (War Staff).

War Diary.

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.M.V.  
ZACAPA.Following incompletely received on 500 kc/s:-  
S.O.S. ZACAPA (American).  
(Guam Radio Rec. 0827/8.)Burma.  
Situation  
report  
Part A  
1100 G.M.T.

0617 Cipher 7/2.  
Air: Two Hurricane ground strafed Moulmein area. Locomotive rolling stock and ferry boat machine gunned. No ground activity reported here elsewhere on southern front. Mingaladon and Zayatkwint Satellite bombed four times between 0230 and 0620 hours local time. Two runways temporarily unserviceable at Mingaladon and one slightly damaged. Losses were one Hurricane destroyed on ground. (?No) damage Zayatkwint or casualties either aerodrome. 24 fighters attacked Rangoon area this morning. Two destroyed, four probable one damaged our losses nil. Japanese pilots instructions to be prepared to collide with Hurricanes. Northern front quiet. (G.O.C. Burma & N.O.R. Group 0850/8.)

M.S.3.

Batavia portion of M.S.3 arrived.  
(C.C.C.F. 0901Z/8.)D/F Station  
from  
Singapore.OPX1203 00907 8/2. Suggest consideration be given to erection of D/F Station now being dismantled at Singapore at Onslow or other suitable location in Western Australia.  
(Abdafloat 1005/8 to C. in C. E.F.)ISAAC SWEERS,  
COLOMBIA,  
ABDIEL.

OPX 1205 00895 8/2 request following information. E.T.A. Abda area Netherlands destroyer ISAAC SWEERS, submarine tender COLOMBIA, and two submarines names unknown. ABDIEL from A.C.N.B. ref. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2110Z/29/1 names and E.T.A. two destroyers and third sloop in addition to SWAN and WARREGO to be turned over to Abdacom. (Abdafloat, Java 1040/8 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. A.C.N.B.) Reply: Admty. 1923A/9.

South  
Pacific  
report.

00892. cipher 7/2. Information No.15 to 1200Z/7. 1. MARBLEHEAD and HOUSTON (?have) reached harbour, 2. (?Ambon). Reported island almost entirely in enemy hands although some guerilla fighting continues. 3. 9 B 17's took off to attack enemy warships reported south of Celebes but failed to find target. Yesterday an enemy was shot down by P.40's en route Surabaya from Darwin. 4. Yesterday there were minor air attacks on Billiton and shipping at Macassar and Koepang causing negligible damage. Heavier attack by bombers and fighters on Palembang 1 caused slight damage to 6 aircraft on ground. 10 Hurricanes took off to intercept. (?3) are missing. One enemy fighter damaged. Today 7 bombers escorted by fighters attacked docks at Surabaya and Catalinas on water. No report of damage.  
(C. in C. South Pacific 1122/8.)

/Area ...



War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Area Limits. 00919 8/2. Request I may be informed of the Western Limit of Anzac area and Eastern Limit of East Indies Stations. (Abdafloat, Java, 1135Z/8 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.I. C.C.C.F. A.C.N.B.) Reply: 1944A/9.

Intelligence Summary No.41. 1800 hours 7/2 to 1800 hours 8/2. Own effort 26 fighters 3 H B 1 G R 1 photo recce. Enemy effort 28 plus bombers. Small formations enemy bombers attacked Mingaladon and Zayatkwinn between 0355 and 0530 hours L T Hurricanes up no interception. Small petrol dump destroyed Zayatkwinn. No other damage or casualty. Army support as follows. 3 Blenheim IV's with fighter escort attacked concentrations boats and barges near Paan. Reported (?F) eight barges on river off Kyobaein. 2 Hurricanes attacked target in Muohyein Area. Results not yet to hand. (Air Min. 1215/8 to Abdacom.)

Washops 57. (i) Philippine Is. Except for renewal of shelling of American fort in Manila Bay the situation is unchanged. (J.S.M. Washington 1331R/8.)

Intelligence No.6. 00893 Cipher 7/2. Convoy referred to in my No.3 para. 1. seen anchored at Matak (Anambas Island) 7/2. 1 Cruiser, 4 destroyers, 4 M.V., estimated carrying capacity 3000 men. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1410/8.)

JOAO DE LISBOA. <sup>N.T.M.W.D</sup> Your 1707A/6. (A) No objection to route proposed. (B) Only special precaution so far as Allied forces are concerned is that she should give timely notice of her movements. (Abdafloat Java 1430Z/8 to Admty.)

N.C.S. duties. Is any additional staff required for N.C.S. duties at ports in Abda area. Nothing is known concerning present whereabouts of Officers formerly employed on N.C.S. duties in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Manila and Penang. Request any information available. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2152A/8 to Abdafloat.)

Malaya Air Report. Oprep 56, 8/2. Daily Op. summ. up to 1030Z/8. 3 enemy air raids, heavy bombing and dive bombing Changi Area and N.W. of Tengah. Intermittent shelling of army positions all day. No damage R.A.F. Stns. or personnel. Enemy losses one bomber probably destroyed, two bombers damaged by fighters our casualties 7/2 one Hurricane crash landed pilot uninjured. Our Casualties 7/2 increased by one Hurricane damaged by bomb splinters. Enemy landing reported Oulau Ubin and machine gun attack by Hurricanes ordered but aircraft found no targets. Fighter cover provided for convoy. 225 Group report three enemy air raids 7/2, our losses three Hurricanes missing two crashed. Five Hurricanes destroyed on ground 11 damaged.  
/Two ...

War Diary.

8.2.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Malaya  
Air Report.  
contd.

Two Blenheims crashed two damaged. Three  
Blenheims one Hudson destroyed on ground, enemy  
losses one fighter damaged. Three raids on  
Palembang 8/2, results not known.  
(A.H.Q. F.E. 2335/8.)

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Air Report Operations 7/2. 2 Hudson aircraft 11 BR squadron,  
EMPIRE SUN. Dartmouth, with special radio in special search  
for survivors torpedoed EMPIRE SUN. Off base  
1030 G.M.T. At 1158 and 1208 G.M.T. 2 life-  
boats with survivors located position 44.05 N., 64.31 W.  
Rescue boats proceeding to location. No enemy units sighted.  
(A.O.C., E.A.C. 0359/8.)

U/B D/F bearing at 2235Z/7 places submarine within  
100 miles of 040° N. 040° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0613/8 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A,  
Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanv, C.O.A.C.,  
C.C.N.F.)

J.W.VAN DYKE Following has been received. Intercept  
U/B. Tuckerton W.J. Radio (S.S. J.W. VAN DYKE)  
SSSS 34° 25' N. 75° 44' W.  
(Valentia Radio, 0752/8 to Admty.)  
S.S. VAN DYKE reports being trailed by  
submarine on surface in 34°, 25' N., 75° 44' W.  
at 0705Z/8.  
(B.A.D. 0847R/8 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.,  
N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.O.A.C.)

S.S.OCEAN Following received. Intercept, 0847 G.M.T.  
VENTURE SSSS (unread) 37.05 N. 74.45 W., torpedoed.  
U/B. Controlling station Chatham, Mass. Not re-  
broadcast.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0849/8.)

Intercept Hingham Mass. Radio. SSSS OCEAN VENTURE position  
37.05 N., 74.45 W., now sinking. He cannot receive anything,  
no receiver.  
(Valentine Radio, 0851/8 to Admty., Adm. Devonport)  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0954/8 to Admty.)

Jamaica There appears to be a tendency for N.C.S.O's  
shipping in Jamaica area to route independent ships for  
route. U.K. too much to Northward, thus necessitating re-  
routing by diverting authorities. Suggest  
guidance if thought necessary.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1112P/8 to Admty.)

INDOCHINOIS, Your 1459/6. Washington are being asked to  
Free French concur in release of non-military personnel and  
Corvettes. stores. Adm. Muselier is returning to U.K. and  
it is hoped that this question can be discussed  
on his arrival. For your information, Free  
French H.Q. report that Adm. Muselier besides being disgruntled  
is a somewhat sick man and suggest that we do not take his  
threat too tragically. Inform High Commissioner.  
(V.C.N.S. 1124A/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/DESPATCH ...

268

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - contd.

DESPATCH

Ref. A.M.2034A/14/1 and subsequent signal not to all addressees. Expect to sail DESPATCH from Bermuda for Freetown via Trinidad p.m./11. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1252P/8 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., B.A.D. Washington, S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, DESPATCH, N.O.I.C. Bermuda.)

M.L's  
Trinidad.

Your 1701Q/7/1/42 approved. Request you will arrange with B.A.T.M. Ottawa regarding 110'M.Ls. Owing to more important commitments, 72' H.M.L.Ls are unlikely to be available in your command for about twelve months. If any local craft can be obtained they should be used pending arrival of H.D.M.Ls. B.A.D. Washington pass to Ottawa for BATH. (D.D.O.D.(C) 1258/8 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) B.A.T.M., Ottawa, B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

Washops 57.

J.S.M. Washington 1331R/8. See China.

A.T.12.  
C.T.12.

Your 0640/6. Reply to para.2. (Names of ships, U.S.S. FULLER, HEYWOOD, BARNETT, ELLIOT, NEVILLE, AMERICAN LEGION, BETELGEUSE, ALHENA, ALMAACK, S.S. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL(Br). Reply to para.3, yes, provided ships are not delayed in U.K. and that they are sailed direct to New York. (B.A.D. 1335/8 to D. of S.T.) *p.190*

BRAMHILL.

BRAMHILL due Trinidad 30/1 from Montevideo not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1508R/8 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Montevideo.)

JOHNSTOWN.

Panamanian ship JOHNSTOWN due Trinidad 29/1 from Capetown not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1509R/8 to Admty. etc.)

U/B.

D/F Bearings at 0412Z place submarine within 100 miles of 040° N. 037° 50' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1511Z/8 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/B

D/F bearing at 0624Z placed U-Boat within 100 miles of 044° N. 063° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1538Z/8 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

/O.N. Convoy ...

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.O.N. Convoy,  
U/B.

At 1457/8 G.M.T. a German U-Boat made a signal probably a sighting report, D/F bearings place transmission in vicinity of convoy O.N.63 or Convoy O.N.60.  
(D.D.I.C. 1605Z/8 to Task Unit 4.1.1, Task Unit 4.1.11 and 4.1.12 (R) Opanav, C. in C. W.A.)

U.S. D.E.M  
Ships.

U.S. D.E.M. Ships in Halifax have commenced requesting armament stores. Demands received to date. Request early statement of policy regarding issues to U.S. D.E.M. ships from Imperial Stocks at Canadian ports.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1630Z/8 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

MARON  
HOLLINSIDE

MARON was in 032° 01' N. 056° 47' W. minimum 1400P/8 towing S.S. HOLLINSIDE towards Bermuda.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1643P/8 to REGENT.) *See p. 252*

Tunis  
intelligence.~~REPORT~~

Meter my 1947/7 to Admiralty only. Tunis 6/2  
A.I.C. Italian S.S. BOISENA left Tunis night 5/2 for Tripoli with 2200 (2200) tons wheat.  
B. STE GERMAINE and STE MARCELLE left Tunis 5/2.  
S.S. \*DEPINE sailed 4/2. For France A. 50 sand coloured trucks have so far been unloaded from a cargo of additional trucks brought by NANTAIS arrived 6/2. D. Italian GIMMA left a.m./6 with cargo of phosphates for Italy. Please inform Foreign Office. *\* not identified*  
(B.A.D. Washington 1643R/8 to Admty., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)

Diversion of  
shipping.

After one week's experience in diversion of Merchant Shipping in area 7A it is considered work is valuable and should be continued.  
However lack of knowledge of progress of vessels from South Atlantic is unsatisfactory element. Suggest consideration be given to ordering such ships to report position on crossing some latitude in area 7B. At present knowledge of these ships progress is often far too vague to warrant any attempt at successful diversion.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1712Z/8 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I.)

SURCOUF.

My 1221P/6 (1221P/5 intended?) Adm. Muselier has informed C.O. SURCOUF that his visit to Bermuda is postponed or cancelled.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1722P/8 to Admty., (R) F.O.(S))

/N.A.3. ...

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

N.A.3. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1646Z/7. Concur that Convoy N.A.3 should sail on 11/2.  
 2. Speed of slowest ship is 19 knots but owing to endurance of destroyers speed should not exceed 16 knots.  
 3. Destination Clyde.  
 4. Through escort will be provided by GARLAND and MONTGOMERY.  
 5. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail Convoy as requisite for position X in 41° 30' N. 58° 30' W.  
 6. Admty. will promulgate onward route to U.K.  
 7. Agree that ALCANTARA may be filled to capacity.  
 (D.O.D.(H) 1927A/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

MIMOSA. Following has been read by Whitehall W/T addressed F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax.  
 Following from Adm. Muselier. Your 1351Z/7.  
 HAVORN sailed 1800Z today to join convoy. BELLE ISLE sailed 1900Z today for Halifax escorted by MIMOSA E.T.A. 2300Z/9.  
 (MIMOSA 1940Z/8.)

Unified Control of Anzac Area. Number 36. Your (W) 39. (1920A/7) As there will be some delay before Australian reactions are obtained we should like you, before we put proposals to American Chiefs of Staff, to confirm that full weight has been given to following considerations that seem to us important.  
 (a) The American Admiral will be taken away from the Command of C. in C. U.S. Fleet who will not feel the same personal responsibility towards Anzac area as he does at present. We feel that from this point of view the step is a retrograde one as we look upon the present arrangement as directed towards a unified Naval command in the Pacific.  
 (b) Para.5 of D B A Number 7 relative to setting up of Anzac area specifies co-operation with the Air Force in the area and correlation of operation with U.S. Pacific Fleet. The latter will be adversely affected under new proposals for same reason as in (a) above.  
 2. We also think it important to avoid risk of exposing unnecessarily to America divergencies between U.K. and Australian Governments. We should therefore prefer to have the proposal accepted at least in principle by Australia before putting it to Combined Chiefs of Staff.  
 3. Please wire most immediately whether you still wish us to proceed at once or not.  
 4. Looking to future it seems to us that Wavell's centre of gravity may be forced back on Australia which will be his main base. In this case it would seem more logical for him to include Australia in his area and to relieve him of Burma. We do not know how you view this or how in your opinion it affects present proposals.  
 (J.S.M. 2019R/8 to Chiefs of Staff London.)  
 Reply 1359A/9.

/CERAMIC ...

War Diary.8.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

CERAMIC.

CERAMIC arrived Halifax 7/2 without warning.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2117Z/8 to Admty., (R) N.C.S.O.  
Halifax, N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

U.S. Plans.

Your 1721R/30 para (vi). Request you will find  
out when it is intended that the U.S.A. will  
take over the Western area of South Atlantic  
as far as 40° S. It is desired that this shall be as soon as  
possible as it affects our dispositions for the Abda area.  
(1st S.L. 2216A/8 to B.A.D.)

TINTAGEL.

PRUDENT arrived St. Johns, N.F. 0900Z/8 with  
TINTAGEL in tow.  
(F.O.N.F. 2301Z/8 to Admty.)U/B  
Sighting  
Reports.5 convoy sighting reports have originated from  
area 45° N. to 47° N. and 42° W. to 47° 30' W.  
between 1456Z/8 and 1659Z/8.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2301Z/8 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav,  
C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/B.

D/F bearings at 1720Z/8 indicate submarine within  
50 miles of 44° 30' N. 57° 30' W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2325Z/8 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C.  
Halifax, F.O.N.F.)U.S. Attack  
on U/Bs.U.S. Surface vessels have carried out attacks  
after sighting or obtaining sound contacts on  
submarines in the following positions - (1) off  
Argentina at 1440Z/8 and 1733Z/8. (2) 20° 48'  
83° 51' W. at 2148Z/8 (3) 02° 05' N. 84° 21' W.  
at 1355Z/8.  
(B.A.D. 2359R/8 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.,  
N.S.H.Q., S.O.I. Jamaica, C.O.A.C.)Australia and New Zealand.

Situation.

Serial No.18, 8/2, from C.W.R. Trobriands.  
Unknown Japanese unit (upper deck air unit)  
located by D/F in Trobriands Area 5th/6th Feb.  
Also Japanese Naval Auxiliary North of  
Trobriands Area. Possibly former connected with  
aircraft over Woodlark Island 6/2.  
(A.C.N.B. 0542Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

/DUNGAREE ...

War Diary.8.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

DUNGAREE Departure Sydney (N.S.W.) 0205Z/6\* DUNGAREE for  
LEANDER R/V with LEANDER thence Noumea, approx. E.T.A.  
daylight/12.  
(A.C.N.B. 0618Z/8 to LEANDER etc.)

\* Not identified.

Anzac Area. A.G.M. 181A of 7/2 (1852A/7.)  
The full text of the Anzac Agreement is as follows. Begins. The following arrangements for the establishment of the Anzac area have been agreed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

(1) Boundaries beginning at longitude 141° E. at the Equator eastward along the 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 south coast of New Guinea, thence eastward along said coast to Meridian 143° E. thence due south in sea areas only.

(2) Anzac force to be under strategic direction of the U.S. 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; U.S., 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.

(5) Tasks to be assigned Anzac force, in co-operation with air forces available in the area. 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 U.S. Pacific Fleet as well as with local Defence forces of Australia and New Zealand.

(6) Naval forces assigned to Anzac and adjacent area 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. (Head of M. Approved by 1st Sea Lord, 1631A/8 to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.) Amended by Admty. 1131A/14.

Anzac Area. J.S.M. Washington 2019R/8. See America and West Indies.



# MOST SECRET

P. 272 A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From:- Australia (Govt.)

1215/8th February

Date. 7.2.42.

Recd. 1750

CYPHER

Addressed:- Dominions Office.

IMMEDIATE

No. 106.

Addressed to the British Resident Commissioner New Hebrides No. 9 repeated to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific No. 21 Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs No. 106.

Your telegram No. 21 of January 29th to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. Points (a) to (f) raised in paragraph 10 of your telegram have been considered by the Australian Chiefs of Staff who have furnished the following replies:-

(a) Vila is an essential air base for reconnaissance purposes.

(b) As the present forces were designed to combat raiding parties, and are quite inadequate to resist an invasion, they should, in the event of invasion, retire to the hills with tele radios and supplies sufficient for three months and carry on guerilla warfare against the enemy. Forces should resist unless there is a definite proof of imminent invasion.

(c) It is better for the civil population to stand fast.

(d) See paragraph 2 below.

(e) No plan for the evacuation of the New Hebrides is being formulated in Australia.

(f) Any action by the Vichy French forces should be resisted.

2. Regarding application of scorched earth policy, it is assumed that you have received advice from the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific on the basis of the instructions contained in the Secretary of State for the Colonies circular telegram of January 29th.

1215/8.

, Recd in War Reg. 1759/8.

Dominions Office circulation:

Colonial Office:-

Mr. Calder.

Foreign Office

Mr. Mack.

Mr. Sterndale-Bennett. (3)

War Office

Lt. Col. Archibald. (4)

Major Chapman (2)

War Cabinet Offices.

Lt. Col. Jacob.

Mr. Coulson.

Brig. Hollis.

Major Howkins.

Mr. Troutbeck.

Air Ministry

W/Comdr. Grierson.

Spears Mission and

Mr. Somerville-Smith.

Admiralty

Mr. Waldock.

Comdr. Barry (2)

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (W)

A.C.N.S. (T)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Nav. Sec.

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of M.

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.C.D. (F)

D.D.C.D. (F)

D.C. (2)

D.N.I. (7) and for A.E. and D.N.L.O.

D.D.L.C. (2)

D. of P. (2)

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

W.B.

D.S.D.

D.P.D.

Admiral Bailey.

Admiral Bellairs.

E.P.S.

Admiral Somerville.

War Diary.

8.2.1942  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-boat positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1352A/8, 1357A/8.)

War Diary.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

3 enemy destroyers passed Calais westward at 0050A and 2 destroyers passed Cape Gris Nez at 0130 at 25 knots. M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. were on patrol in the Straits of Dover, and M.T.B32 attacked 2 or 3 destroyers off Gravelines at 0030, but without success. M.T.Bs. 34, 30 and 31 ran ashore and were all damaged and rendered unserviceable. The deterioration in weather conditions, which were very favourable at the outset of the patrol, assisted the enemy with his high speed to avoid attacks.

C. in C. Home Fleet reports that the enemy are reinforcing their U-boats on the P.Q. convoy route and the risk of air attacks is increasing every day. The strength of the escort is inadequate and involves the risk of a serious disaster. The Russians are to be asked to assist with surface escort and with air protection: the Admiralty state they "can no longer tolerate the present non-co-operative attitude of the Russians regarding these convoys which are being run solely for their benefit".

Tanker ANNA KNUDSEN was torpedoed at 0450A today in 59° 46' N., 9° 22' W.

Mining.

Operations  
S.N.27 C.  
D.F.6.

R.A.M. reported these operations completed at 0310 today.

The Hvalfjord controlled minefield, which was recently damaged by weather, is now in full operation.

North Atlantic.

CLEOPATRA arrived at Gibraltar at 2230/8 and sailed at 0530 today for Malta with FORTUNE.

War Diary.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Damage was caused at Ta Kali by air attack this afternoon. There were several more alerts up to 2313.

A number of G mines have recently been dropped on land at Malta. It appears that they are being used solely as bombs.

4 Wellingtons bombed Piraeus last night.

FARNDALE was bombed and damaged this evening in approx. 31° 44' N., 26° 11' E.

East Indies.

Boom carrier LAOMEDON was torpedoed in 6° 13' N., 82° 23' E., at 1713Z today and was taken in tow for Colombo.

China.

Admiral Hart has asked to be relieved of his command of the Combined Naval Forces in the Abda area, and Vice-Admiral Helfrich is to be designated Acting Commander of these forces at 2 p.m. G.C.T./11.

Malaya.

The enemy landed at several points on the north-west coast of Singapore last night supported by very heavy artillery fire. At 1630 G.M.T. today it was reported that our forces were withdrawing

Midway I.

A Japanese submarine shelled Midway Island lightly today.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

N.E.I.

Seven aircraft were destroyed on the ground in an air attack on the Batavia district today. The Malang district was also attacked and military damage was caused.

U.S. aircraft were despatched last night and today to attack a convoy south of Macassar in which a U.S. submarine yesterday reported sinking one transport but owing to bad weather the convoy was not found.

America & West Indies.

S.S. EMPIRE HOPE reported a submarine on the surface in 19° 25' N., 67° 35' W., at 0430 G.M.T.

U.S. Tanker CITIES SERVICE KOOLMOTOR reported being chased by a submarine at 0116/9 in 24° 59' N., 84° 40' W.

S.S. STEPHEN R. JONES sighted a submarine at 2325Q today in 38° 54' N., 74° 46' W.

S.S. NORMANDIE (formerly French, and taken over by U.S.A.) which was being prepared for the transport of 12,000 troops, was on fire tonight and eventually capsized alongside, at New York. On 7/2 S.S. MAURIENNE was destroyed by fire alongside the dock at Halifax.

Australia.

Japanese landed at Gasmata (New Britain) today.

War Diary.

9.2.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Stores for Far East. 20 cases of required gear addressed C. in C. Eastern Fleet have arrived at Cammell Laird's yard. Suggest some code word be allocated for embarkation of store to my destination. Also that consideration be given to sending of dummy stores addressed to another destination. (ILLUSTRIOUS 1527A/9 to Admty.)

Force V. Admiral Sir James Somerville will hoist his Flag in FORMIDABLE in the Clyde on 15/2.  
2. For security reasons FORMIDABLE will be known as Force V from that date until Admiral Somerville has arrived at Colombo to take over the duties of C. in C. Eastern Fleet. All policy signals affecting Eastern Fleet should be repeated to S.O. Force V during that period.  
4. Force V will accompany convoy W.S.16 until vicinity of Azores, when it may part company but will rejoin about 300 miles before Freetown.  
5. At Freetown PANTHER and PALADIN will join Force V. Arrangements for onward passage will be made by F.O. Force V.  
6. C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange for an oiler to be available in the vicinity of St. Helena to refuel destroyers of Force V. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2228A/8.)

Norwegian M.F.Vs. My 2134A/28. 5 Norwegian M.F.Vs completion date. Request reply. (D.S.V.P. 2238A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

Defence of U.K.

Bristol Channel A/A Defences. Your 1032A/7. These 4" Naval guns are being withdrawn at Admiralty request, for use in ships. (D. of L.D. 2344A/9 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Movements.

CAIRO. A.M. 1850A/7. Request you arrange for issue of loaned protective clothing and 200 fur caps to CAIRO. (C. in C. H.F. 0147A/9 to A.C.O.S.) Sailed CAIRO in accordance with my 1214A/8. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1218A/9.) *See also p. 281*

4th M/S Flotilla. My 1319/8. ROSS and SUTTON not ready to proceed. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen is requested to sail SUTTON to Harwich and ROSS to Hull as soon as possible. (S.O. 4 M/S F. 0840A/9.)

VIVIAN QUANTOCK. Adjust speed so as not to arrive at B 8 buoy before 0900 tomorrow. It is important this time should be adhered to. (C. in C. Nore 0943A/9 to VIVIAN, QUANTOCK.)

War Diary.

9.2.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

BLYSKAWICA. My 0954A/8 and 0956A/8. Sailing postponed 48 hours. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1058A/9.)

Lizard R/V for S/MS. Your 1021/8/2 and 1221/8/2. In all cases of S/MS returning to Falmouth. Request time for R/V 180° Lizard 3 miles may be daylight. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1112/9 to F.O.S.)

H.44. Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 1202A/9 to PYTCHLEY.) H.44 is delayed 24 hours. Add 24 hours to all times in my 2131A/8. (Capt. S.7. 1714A/9.)

NIGERIA. C.S.10 in NIGERIA arrived Kola Inlet. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1340A/8.)

Screen for RODNEY. My 1324A/8 para (1). Captain (D) 6 in SOMALI with OFFA and ORIBI detailed. (C. in C. H.F. 1402A/9.)

MAURITIUS A.M.1101Z/9. Amend position and course MAURITIUS to 44° N. 22° W., 045°. (D.O.D.(F.) 1443Z/9 to Opnav.)

OXLIP. THYME. My 1308A/6. <sup>P. 148</sup> (1) Delete OXLIP. (2) THYME is to sail with O.S.20 to join S.A. Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1512A/9.)

WELSHMAN. My 1447/9. WELSHMAN will adjust speed to pass 180° Startpoint 12 miles at 0400/10 and 180° Lizard Head 6 miles 0600/10, and then proceed by Standard route to Milford Haven. E.T.A.1330. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537A/9.) Your 2156/8/2. Intend to sail 9th M/S (7 ships) on 11/2. Programme as follows. E.T.A. at E.A.1 Buoy 0830/12. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1608A/9.)

AIGLON. My 1933A/26/8/41 and 2303A/25/11/41. Request you will sail AIGLON in first convenient convoy. (D.M.S. 1718A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

VANQUISHER. My 1942A/8. VANQUISHER will return to Liverpool on completion of escort and will subsequently sail with WANDERER and WITCH. (C. in C. W.A. 1835A/9.)



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War Diary.9.2.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

VISCOUNT. Anticipate sailing VISCOUNT 17/3. No working up practices will have been made. (C. in C. Plymouth 2247A/9.)

SWEETBRIAR. Proceed forthwith at best speed to Scapa Flow. (C. in C. W.A. 2310A/9 to SWEETBRIAR.)

Operations.

Maunsell Tower. Operation QQ sailed 0915. (DAPPER 0925/9.)

Cable laying. Laying of Anglesey, Isle of Man telephone cable completed. Now proceeding Liverpool to lay P W S S Crosby L.B. Cable. E.T.A. 1430 B.S.T. (IRIS 0946/9.)

Brest S/M Patrol. Intend sailing at 1700/9 H.34 escorted by Z5 to 180° Lizard 3'. Thence H.34 as in F.O.S. 1221/8/2. Z5. returning Falmouth. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1022/9.)

My 1022/9. Sailed H.34 and Z5. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1714/9.)

My 1509A/9. Paragraph K amend to read H.50 48° 30' N. 5° 54' W. dived by day through 48° 50' N. 5° 45' W. to R/V 180° Lizard Head 3 miles daylight 11/2. (F.O.S. 2018A/9.)

Operation Q.L.4. My 2300A/3/1. Carry out Operation Q.L.4 with available M.Ls tonight.  
(2) Covering force one unit M.G.Bs from 6th Flotilla to remain "Cut" at Northern end of Q.P.(11) until estimated that M.Ls are clear. Then take up Q.P.(25).  
(3) If practicable on completion of operation M.Ls should check position of Whistle Buoy reported in approx. 51° 58' N. 03° 45' E.  
(4) Care is necessary in approaching enemy coast due to ice. (C. in C. Nore 1030A/9 to BEEHIVE.)

Departures M.G.Bs 64, 65, 59. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1740A/9.)

Your 1030A/9.  
(1) M.L.105 (S.O), 110 detailed. E.T.D. 1600.  
(2) M.G.B.64 (S.O), 65, 59 detailed. E.T.D. 1730. (BEEHIVE 1424/9 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Operations ...

War Diary.

9.2.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Operations in Last night 8th/9th coastal craft were sent to Straits of Dover. patrol :-  
A. M.T.Bs 32 and 71, 7 miles North of Gravelines.  
B. M.T.Bs 34, 30 and 31, 6 miles North of Calais.

C. M.T.Bs 45, 44 and 48 South Varne Buoy.  
D. M.T.Bs 221, 220, 219 and M.G.Bs 324 and 328, Bullock Bank Buoy.

Swordfish with bombs or torpedoes and Hurricanes with flares stood by at Manston for operation under ground control. One Swordfish searched approach route from 2050 to 2145 and sighted six craft, probably 'R' boats, sweeping 3 to 4 miles South of West Hinder Buoy. The second Swordfish had to return owing to visibility which closed down to less than a mile about 2345, ruling out the further A/C operations planned. At 0030 Force A sighted and reported enemy destroyers with 'E' boats in company on a westerly course. M.T.B.32 attacked with torpedoes but missed astern.

Enemy came on the plot at 0050, 6 miles North of Calais showing a speed of 24 knots in locality of Force B, which however did not make contact in visibility of not more than half a mile. Force C. directed by the plot closed the enemy South of Gris Nez, but only managed to sight their wake.

Force D. when proceeding to intercept close south of Boulogne turned back owing to faulty reception of signals.

Force B. returning to harbour ran ashore near South Foreland, damaging propellers and shafts and rendering all three boats unserviceable.

The deterioration in weather conditions, which at the onset were very favourable, must be considered largely responsible for the negative results, and assisted the enemy with his high speed to avoid attacks.

(V.A. Dover 1119A/9.)

My 1119A/9. C.O M.T.B.32 states that he sighted three destroyers when he attacked at 0030 today. R.D.F. is uncertain whether there were two or three.

(V.A. Dover 1351A/9.)

Patrols COTSWOLD and one other Destroyer nominated by "C" and "D". Capt (D) 16 are to carry out patrol "C" and "D" tonight.  
(C. in C. Nore 1250A/9.)

North Atlantic dispositions. My 1144A/5. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland: KING GEORGE V; RENOWN, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, KENT, KENYA, SHEFFIELD, SUFFOLK, TRINIDAD. 12 destroyers.

Area Scapa: DUKE OF YORK (working up).

Area North Russia: NIGERIA and two destroyers at Murmansk.

Area Gibraltar: ARGUS.

Passage from Gibraltar to U.K: MALAYA, HERMIONE and four destroyers. *See also p. 288*

(A.C.N.S. H. 1251A/9 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

(D.O.D. H. 1250A/10 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

War Diary.9.2.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.Sweep of  
French  
Coast.

My 1532/4. M.Ls are to carry out similar operations tonight. Details.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1412A/9)  
My 1412A/9. Operation postponed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1640A/9)

Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol.

Estimated situation 2203 tonight. Farsund  
063° 25', 017° 40' to north eastwards, BERWICK,  
SNOWDROP, OXLIP on patrol "White".  
(A.C.I.C. 1709A/9)

British Air Activity."Shad"  
Messages.

Directive on lines of your 2204A/5 is  
recommended.  
(H.Q.F.C. 1001/9 to Admty.)

T.B.R.

Request T.B.R. within 20 miles radius of 180°  
Lizard 3 miles from daylight till noon on 11th,  
12th and 13th February.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1104/9 to H.Q.C.C.)  
My 1104/9. Cancel bombing restrictions for 12/2.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1741/9 to H.Q.C.C.)

Bombing  
Operations.

On night 7/8 and day 8/2 no operations took  
place. On night 8/9 all operations were  
cancelled except one which was abandoned.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1200/9)

CAIRO.

Request A/S and long range fighter protection  
for CAIRO escorted by destroyer leaving Scapa  
10/2 routed as follows. 14 Group has been  
requested to provide fighter protection category one within  
operational range. CAIRO carries important passengers.  
(A.C.O.S. 1716A/9 to C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.F.C.)  
Your 1716/9. Both A/S escort and fighter escort will be  
arranged for as long as possible.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 2151/9 to A.C.O.S.) *See p. 277.*

Mining.

S.N.27 C.

S.N.27 C. and D.F. 6 completed.  
(R.A.M. 0310/9)

Yarmouth

LL sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at  
1019 in 53° 4' 30" N. 1° 28' 45" E.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1142A/9)

S.N.5 B.

S.N.5 B. completed. All mines laid within  
planned limits.  
(R.A.M. 1901/9)

War Diary.9.2.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Off Calais. 3 enemy destroyers proceeding westward off Calais.  
(V.A. Dover 0050A/9 to BLENCATHRA.)  
2 Destroyers passed Cape Gris Nez 0130, speed 25 knots.  
(V.A. Dover 0141A/9.)  
Track E.14 D. Two or three destroyers with E-boats from six miles North of Calais at 0045 westbound at 25 knots faded 7 miles South of Boulogne at 0219. Several other groups of vessels were plotted between Boulogne and Calais from 1900/8 to 0800/9 possibly minesweepers.  
V.A. Dover 1353A/9.)

Brest TIRPITZ. At 1100/9 photos show one of the Battle Cruisers at Brest still in drydock number nine, and light coloured camouflage erected since 8/2. Other Battle Cruiser now berthed western end T/B station, her bows to east. PRINZ EUGEN still at coaling wharf as yesterday. Four D/Rs still present, though one moved from centre Rade Abri to T/B station now berthed east of battle cruiser. Three T/Bs 270 ft. departed West Jetty but Port de Commerce largely clouded. Drydock eight unoccupied and gate still missing. SCHWABENLAND still Port Militaire where S/M berths not Photo'd. 300 ft. tanker new arrival Rade Abri berthed coaling wharf just west of PRINZ EUGEN and two medium M/Vs also new arrivals Rade Abri. 470 ft. M/V seen in Rade which part cloud covered. Last seen position of GUEYDON Unit off Pte. Doubidy, not photo'd.  
(P.R.U. St. Eval 1430/9)  
Oblique photographs of Brest at 1100/9 show SCHARNHORST in No. 9 dock, GNEISENAU alongside T.B. Station, and PRINZ EUGEN alongside Coaling Wharf. Four destroyers present. Visual R/C Trondheim at 1245/9 showed TIRPITZ at former berth in Aasfiord.  
(D.D.I.C. 1625A/9.)  
At 1300/9 TIRPITZ seen in position she occupied at 23/1 in Aasfiord.  
(P.R.U. Wick 1630/9.)  
Photographs at 1300/9 show TIRPITZ returned to the position she occupied in Aasfiord on 23/1. She lies bows in, and a possible oiler 180 ft and a tender are alongside her. The torpedo boom is in usual position and camouflage rafts arranged round her stern. Loofjord on oblique photos masts of two vessels seen above hills in position occupied by two tankers on 5/2.  
(P.R.U. Wick 1745/9)

U-Boats.

ANNA KNUDSEN (Norwegian Tanker, 9057 Tons) torpedoed. ANNA KNUDSEN reports being struck by torpedo at 0450A/9, 220° 124 miles from Munken. ANNA KNUDSEN considers she will remain afloat. Am searching the area.  
(THIRLMERE 0620A/9)

/Tanker ...

War Diary.9.2.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

ANNA KNUDSEN Tanker appears salvageable. Request tug be sent.  
(Norwegian Tanker, 9057 Tons) (THIRLMERE 0810A/9.)  
torpedoed Request you sail FREEBOOTER with despatch to assist ANNA KNUDSEN. THIRLMERE standing by.  
contd. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0903A/9 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway)  
Sailed FREEBOOTER.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1014A/9)  
F.O.I.C. Greenock's 0903A. Position ANNA KNUDSEN at 1100A is 59° 27' N. 9° 45' W.  
(THIRLMERE 1101A/9)

S.E. of D/F bearings at 1308Z indicate U-Boat in area  
Iceland. within 60 miles of 60 N. 15 W.  
(D.D.I.C. 1525A/9.)

Technical.

Rocket gear My 1728A/6. For D.E.M.S. Inspecting Officers  
in M/Vs. substitute Convoy Equipment Officers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1149A/9.)

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE HOPE. 263° bearing Class 3. EMPIRE HOPE distress.  
(Tiree Radio 0508 G.M.T./9.)

PALADIN. PALADIN has developed trouble with R/F director.  
Intend to sail PALADIN, having boiler cleaned,  
at 1600/10 to arrive Clyde 1200/11 for defect  
to be taken in hand. Ship is required to sail on 15/2 in  
accordance with your 2331A/5.  
(R.A.D. 2214A/9.)

WAR NIZAM. My 2134A/9. (WAR NIZAM in collision). Correct  
last sentence to read "Sternpost reported  
twisted and several bow plates buckled".  
(Commde, Sheerness 2230A/9.)

EDOUARD VAN Admiralty's 1545A/3. Efforts by Icelandic  
VLAENDEREN. firm to salve EDOUARD VAN VLAENDEREN have  
proved unsuccessful. Request authority to  
negotiate sale of ship as she stands.  
(A.C.I.C. 2051A/9 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.173. H.X.173. Sailed WATCHMAN 2200A.  
(A.C.I.C. 0006A/9.)

War Diary.9.2.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- O.N.64. Your 1930/8 and C. in C. W.A. 1531/6. Verify (? composition) of task unit 4.1.14. and advise prospective departure to ensure task unit R/V with O.N.64.  
(A.C.I.C. 0221/9 to U.S. S.N.O. Londonderry.)
- Q.P.7. Your 2017/8. Intend to sail Q.P.7 on 11/2 with FAULKNER and INTREPID.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0659A/9.)
- U.R.12. U.R.12. To avoid U-Boat keep 15 miles to starboard of your route, rejoin route at position (Z).  
(C. in C. W.A. 0955A/9.)
- E.N. and W.N. Convoys. Give A.A. cover to E.N. and W.N. convoys between Forth and Dunnet Head in the following order:-  
CURACOA. E.N.45., W.N.44., E.N.46., W.N.45., E.N.47., W.N.46.  
2. You may anchor at Methil, or enter Scapa in cases where these convoys do not meet at sea with area named.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1009/9 to CURACOA.)
- F.N.627. F.N.627 anchored in channel west of J. buoy  
F.N.628. in thick fog.  
(WESTMINSTER 1010A/9.)  
F.N.627 cancelled owing to fog. Propose to sail F.N.628 with double escort.  
(C. in C. Nore 1226A/9.)
- Return to Sheerness when visibility permits.  
(C. in C. Nore 1232A/9 to WESTMINSTER, VERSATILE.)  
Escorts of F.N.628 WESTMINSTER, VORTIGERN, WOOLSTON, VERSATILE.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1301/9 to Admty.)  
C. in C. Nore 1232A/9. Am returning to harbour VERSATILE in company. E.T.A. Garrison Point about 1430.  
(WESTMINSTER 1340A/9 to N.O.I.C. Sheerness.)
- W.S.16 Admiralty's 1559A/8. P.C.74 is available for this duty and has been detailed. *Escort for POTARO - see p. 250*  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1017A/9.)  
W.S.16. Admiralty 2331A/5. Escort of Bristol Channel portion HASTINGS.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1406A/9.)
- Cancel A.M. 1638A/7.  
2. W.S.16 will be under the command of Admiral Sir James Somerville in FORMIDABLE (S.O. Force V) from Clyde to Freetown, and V.A.3 in RESOLUTION from Freetown to the Cape.  
3. Ocean Escort.  
(A) FORMIDABLE from Clyde to Freetown as directed by S.O. Force V.  
(B) NEWCASTLE (S.O. Force T) from Clyde to Cape.  
(C) EAGLE and DUNCAN from Clyde till detached with Force H. for Gibraltar.

/(D) ...

War Diary.9.2.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.W.S. 16  
contd.

(D) RODNEY with 3 destroyers detailed by C. in C. W.A. from Clyde until prudent limit of destroyers' endurance; returning thence to U.K. south of Ireland unless otherwise ordered by

Admiralty.

(E) Force "H" less ARGUS from Clyde till ordered by S.O. Force V. to return to Gibraltar.

(F) RESOLUTION from North of Freetown to the Cape - (A.M. 0028A/8 February.)

4. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail DINGLEDALE and escort to be in 32° N. 25° W. by 21/2 to be available for fuelling. (A.C.N.S. F. 2357A/9.)

Atlantic and  
Gibraltar  
Convoy  
Escorts.

Allocation of 5 of my corvettes to S.A. and 5 to U.S. Navy reduces paper strength of corvettes on Gibraltar convoys from 8 to 7, and on trans-Atlantic convoys from 7 to 6. (C. in C. W.A. 1517A/9 to Admty.)

F.S.720.

F.S.720 anchored at Nore in thick fog. Some ships have passed through Yantlet Gate. (VORTIGERN 1556A/9.)

My 1556A/9. Visibility 7 cables. Convoy has been ordered to weigh and proceed. Intend entering Sheerness with WOOLSTON. (VORTIGERN 1653A/9.)

Atlantic  
Convoy  
Escort  
Groups.

My 1518A/6. Groups for through Atlantic escort will be numbered as follows.

1. American destroyers and Canadian corvettes A.1 to 3.
2. American destroyers and British corvettes A.4 and 5.
3. British Groups B.1 to 5.
4. Canadian Groups C.1 to 4.

(C. in C. W.A. 1824A/9.)

Following organisation will come into force with sailing of O.N.68. Details.

(C. in C. W.A. 1827A/9) See Lion Copy.

P.Q.11  
HARPALION.

Until further orders are received no more ships are to be sailed to Kirkwall for P.Q. convoy. N.C.S.O. Methil is to sail HARPALION in the next E.N. convoy for Loch Ewe but is to have a route into Kirkwall in case of diversion. (D.T.D. 2000A/9.)

/Your 2017A/8 ...

SECRET

MESSAGE 1827A/9th Feb.

IN

From: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date: 9.2.42.

Recd: 2153.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: Capt. D. Londonderry, (Capt. D. Greenock, Capt. I. Liverpool, Repeated: Admiralty, F.O.i/c. Belfast, F.C.i/c. Greenock, F.C.i/c. Liverpool.

164. Following organization is to come into force with sailing of O N 68.

Group B 1 (Londonderry) HURRICANE ANCHUSA ARABIS CLOVER DAHLIA MONKSHOOD SNOWFLAKE.

Group B 2 (Liverpool) HESPERUS CAMPANULA CLEMATIS GENTIAN HONEYSUCKLE LAVENDER SWEETBRIAR.

Group B 3 (Greenock) HARVESTER COMMANDANT DETROYAT COMMANDANT DROGON HEATHER LOBELIA NARCISSUS SAXIFRAGE

Group B 4 (Londonderry) HAVELOCK ABELIA ANEMONE ASPHODEL OXLIP PENNYWORT VERONICA.

Group B 5 (Liverpool) HIGHLANDER CAMELLIA COLUMBINE GODETIA HELIOTROPE HYDERABAD

Groups A 4 and A 5 (<sup>Argentina</sup> ARGENTILLA) ACANTHUS ALISMA DIANELLA EGLANTINE HIBISCUS KINGCUP LOOSETRIFE MIGNONETTE MONTBRETIA POTENTILLA RENONCULE ROSE ROSELYS STARWORT SUNFLOWER VERVAIN.

Group 36 (Liverpool) STORK DEPTFORD CONVULVULUS GARDENIA MARIGOLD PENTSTEMON RHODODENDRON SAMPHIRE VETCH.

Group 37 (Liverpool) BLACK SWAN FOWEY BLUEBELL CAMPION CARNATION LA MALOUINE MAIOW MYOSOTIS STONECROP.

(2) Following corvettes are allocated to South Atlantic Station:- AUBRETIA HYDRANGEA PETUNIA SNOWDROP THYME.

(3) Following corvettes are allocated to and will be manned by U.S.N:- BEGONIA CALENDULA HEARTSEASE LARKSPUR PERIWINKLE.

(4) My 1518A/6 is amended accordingly. 1827A/9.

1st Lord.	Nav. Sec.	Advance Copy sent Ops. & O.D.	
1st S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.A/S.W.	★Through Atlantic escort
2nd S.L.	N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)	D.S.D. (2)	for HX ON ONS & SC convoys
3rd S.L.	Ops. (3)	D. of V.	& organisation of 14 Escort
4th S.L.	O.D. (5)	D. of S.	Gps
V.C.N.S.	D.T.S.D.	E.P.S.	M. (2) Ad. Bailey Dep. Cont. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (4)	D. of P. (3)	W.P. (3) Mails D. of S.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (M)	Moyts.	W.D. D.N.I. (4) D. of V.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.D. (C)	O.D.B.	A.E. (3) D.P.S. (2) D.A/S.W.
		B.N.L.O. (FF)	A. (F) 2 S.L. S.W.R.



War Diary.

9.2.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

P.Q.11  
HARPALION  
contd.

Your 2017A/8 and S.B.N.O. North Russia 1846A/6. Presumably the congestion at Murmansk will have cleared sufficiently for P.Q.11 to be received on 22/2 which would involve sailing from Kirkwall on 12/2.

2. No H.F. destroyers will be available until return of FAULKNOR and INTREPID about 17th.

3. The enemy are now giving more attention to this route by reinforcing U-Boats. The risk of Air Reconnaissance and attacks is already considerable and increasing every day. I must again urge that the strength of the escort is inadequate and involves the risk of a serious disaster.

4. For reason of endurance, destroyers must be restricted to their speed and are therefore reduced in effectiveness and are open to risk of Torpedo attack. "Tribals" are too large for slow convoys.

(C. in C. H.F. 2230A/9 to Admt.)

War Diary.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary at 1800 G.M.T/9.	MAURITIUS	48° N. 26° W.	018°	16
	PANDORA	35½° N. 35° W.	090°	10
	MARON (towing HOLLINSIDE)	32° N. 60½° W.	272°	6
	PRETORIA CASTLE	03° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
	ASTURIAS }			
	BULOLO }	25° S. 31° W.	281°	14
	WARSPITE	29° S. 141° W.	257°	14
	Oiler BISHOPDALE	17½° S. 134° W.	323°	10
	H.M. Transport )			
	QUEEN ELIZABETH )	34° S. 179½° E.	050°	21
	MONOWAI	35° S. 175° E.	005°	17
	Convoy M.S.5 )			
	PERTH )	37° S. 123° E.	280°	11
	Convoy C.T.10 )			
	CHATEAU THIERRY )			
	ANDALUSIA STAR )			
	HIGHLAND BRIGADE )	50½ N. 48° W.	241°	13
	ROCKINGHAM			
	BEVERLEY			
	(D.O.D. (F), 1101Z/9 to Opanav, (R) Spenavo).			

North Atlantic.

CLEOPATRA, My 2320/7. CLEOPATRA arrived 2230/8 sailed  
FORTUNE. 0530/9 with FORTUNE.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0534A/9 to V.A.Malta) See also  
Mediterranean.

Bombing Ops. 630 9/2. Serial No. G38.  
Restrictions. Institute submerged bombing restrictions as  
follows - area 41 from 0001/10 to 2359/11.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1137A/9 to R.A.F. Gibraltar  
(R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8).

Ops. 632 9/2. Serial G.39. Institute submerged bombing  
restrictions from 0300/10 until 0900/11 within 25 miles either  
side of line joining Lizard Head and 048° 50' N., 05° 45' W.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1412A/9 (as amended 0131A/10) to R.A.F. Gibraltar,  
(R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

LLANGIBBY My 2346A/8. LLANGIBBY CASTLE berthed in harbour.  
CASTLE. (2) Torpedoed 700 miles from Azores.  
Towage and (3) On following morning approached by Focke Wulfe,  
Escort to driven off with gunfire, last seen losing height  
Gibraltar. disappearing in a rain squall. No bombs dropped  
and did not return, destruction considered  
probable.

(4) After leaving Horta further (?150) miles voyage completed  
despite being shadowed by at least two probably more submarines  
/and ...

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE.  
Towage and  
Escort to  
Gibraltar.  
(contd.)

and difficulty in steering without rudder, ship being unmanageable at times unless towed. Towing caused great loss speed. Difficulty of handling enhanced by fact of ship being motor driven.

(5) Consider arrival here with her total company of 1334 persons magnificent piece of seamanship reflecting greatest credit on all concerned.

(6) Trust that suitable recognition of this great feat may be given forthwith to her master, Ronald Frederic Bayer.

(7) Suggest it would be appropriate if simultaneous recognition were awarded to Cdr. Ian Hamilton Bockett Pugh of WESTCOTT for his successful attack on U.581 and arduous escort duty between Azores and Gibraltar.

(8) Also concerned in this epic, Master of Dutch tug THAMES, Barand T. Hart.

(9) Latter's great achievement in bringing CHESAPEAKE to Ponta Delgada will I hope also receive suitable recognition.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1230A/9 to Admty.)Situation  
Report.No.1. Fleet Unit. HERMIONE 7 Destroyers, 37.56  
11.28 through 41.30 15.00 thence 000° 17. *p. 180*(2) VANSITTART 40.14 12.22 through 42.00 14.00  
thence 000° 13.

(3) ALOUETTE escorting Cable ship MIRROR 270° Cape Roca 40.

(4) SCOTTISH 36.10 06.35 to R/V with MIRROR.

Situation 1959A/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1330A/9 to N.A. Stn.)

SCOTTISH,  
MIRROR.

Sailed SCOTTISH to relieve ALOUETTE as escort to cable ship MIRROR. (F.O.C.N.A., 1744A/9 to Admty.)

ELSA  
ESSBERGER.My 1900/23. Air R/C reports floating cranes alongside ELSA ESSBERGER. Immediate information of departure of any vessels with transhipped cargo for Bayonne is urgently required. Vessels will probably be German.  
(D.N.I., 1837A/9 to Consul, Corunna (R) N.A. Madrid)

U/B.

U-Boat observed stationary on surface 032° 50' N. 016° 30' W. approx., 6th. A.1.  
(N.A.Lisbon, 1923/9 to S.O.I. Gib.)EDENCRAE,  
KINGSLAND.Intend to sail EDENCRAE and KINGSLAND escorted by STARWORT and CROCUS for U.K. C. in C. S.A., 1357A/24 refers. Request route.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1946A/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.A.,) (Was Amended by 1711A/10, q.v.)  
*p. 322*O G & H G  
Convoys.Your 1054A/23/1. Approved.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2048A/9 to C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CITY OF  
CAPETOWN  
U/B.8° 6' N., 14° 38' W. at 0835. CITY OF CAPETOWN sighted torpedo track on port bow off Orontes Bank. (Freetown Radio, 0835/9).  
SSSS CITY OF CAPETOWN 8° 6' N., 13° 49' W. at 0835 G.M.T. (Freetown Radio, 0911/9).ANADYR, *British*  
French.Arrival 9th.  
(Forcados, 1200/9 to D. of S.T.)

Q.G.B.90.

Ref. Your 1649/6. (Should A.M. 1239B/11/7/1941 be amended). No repetition No.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1206Z/9 to Admty.)Movements  
2000Z/9.

Area P. WILD SWAN with S L 100, 008° 40' N., 014° 15' W. 282° 7½ knots. CILICIA off Freetown proceeding 005° N. 020° W. BURDOCK, ORCHIS escorting 003° 00' N. 011° 50' W., 090° 8 knots. AURICULA 003° 15' N., 012° 15' W. 276° 12 knots.\* PRETORIA CASTLE patrolling in H.34. C and D keeping East of 026° W, RAPIDOL 003° 30' N., 012° 30' W. 343° 10 knots. REINE DES FLOTS 001° 10' N., 002° 40' W., 113° 8½ knots. SOUTHERN GEM off Pointe Noire E.T.A. 10/2. F.S. LA MOQUEUSE 002° 20' N., 008° 50' to Pointe Noire, 15 knots. High speed minesweeping trawler about 001° 10' S., 002° 20' E. to R/V with BELNOR in 003° 07' S. 002° 27' E. at 1200Z/10. Area Q. WORCESTERSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE with Durban portion of W S 15, 034° 20' S. 017° 05' E., 128° 12½ knots. CHESHIRE with Capetown portion of W S 15 off Capetown. TULIP about 032° 30' S. 029° 40' E. (?11)½ knots for Durban E.T.A. 0700Z/10. Area S. BIRMINGHAM, Plate area, BULOLO, ASTURIAS, patrolling in K 32, K 33.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1735Z/9 to S.A.Stn.)

Troopships.

A.M. 1746A/6 and 2300/6. ROYAL ULSTERMAN should return to U.K. on completion of present service.  
2. ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH may be retained to assist in coastal troop movement but should be sailed for U.K. not later than 1/4.  
(D.O.D. (F) 2332A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

Corvettes.

My 1614A/5 and C. in C. W.A. 1308A/6.  
In view of likely increase of U/Boat activity in Indian Ocean request you will move 5 corvettes south as far in advance of arrival of replacements from U.K. as you can.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2356A/9 to C. in C. S.A.,  
(R) C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Axis Shipping. BOLSENA, Italian, left Tunis night of 5/6 for Tripoli with wheat. GIMMA, Italian, left Tunis A.M./6 for Italy with phosphates. ELIZABETH HENDRIK FISSER, German, left Valencia 6/2 for Genoa with iron ore, oranges and turpentine. LISBOA, German, left Valencia 6/2 for Marseilles with oranges. ELENI, German, sailed South from Istanbul 5/2. (D.S.888).

PROTEUS. Your 2130B/8 approved. Return through 036° 13', 020° 52', 034° 22', 024° 26', 033° 29', 027° 25', and thence direct to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0530B/13. (Capt. S.1, 0045B/9 to PROTEUS).

Admty. Letter 2208. PROTEUS has reported herself damaged and is returning to Alexandria. Admty. pass to F.O.S. (C. in C. Med., 1531B/9 to Admty. (R) Capt. S.1, F.O.S.)

U/B's. (a) Italian submarine bearing 050°/2 at 2311/8 G.M.T. (b) Italian submarine bearing 028°/2 at 0117 G.M.T. (V.A.Malta, 0125B/9 to C.O.I.S. Alexandria, F.O.C.N.A.)

UNIQUE, Cancel my 1315B/7 and proceed as requisite keeping  
UNA, within 30 miles of coast to establish patrol in  
TEMPEST, 040° 00', 017° 17' by 0800B/12. UNA, TEMPEST,  
UPRIGHT. UPRIGHT, will arrive patrol line 3 - 039° 25' -  
017° 20' - 060° - 10 - 150° - 20, A.M./12.  
Object is prevention of southern movement of  
enemy fleet between Feb. 12th and 15th. Bring  
into force reporting condition A at 0001B/11.  
(Capt. S.10, 1011B/9 to UNIQUE).

KIMBERLEY. Intend sailing KIMBERLEY about 25/2 in tow of  
BRIGAND to Port Said. S.B.N.O.C.A. is requested to  
arrange towage through canal and F.O.R.S. to  
arrange towage to Aden. Ship will have no steering and both  
shafts removed. Stern cut off about 75 bulkhead where temporary  
wooden bulkhead is being built.  
(C. in C. Med., 1101B/9 to R.A.Alexandria, S.B.N.O.C.A., F.O.R.S.  
(R) R.A.D. (Med.) P.S.T.O. (E), C. in C. E.I., Admty.)

CLEOPATRA, CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE proceeding high speed  
FORTUNE, through 036° 41' 011° 10' 036° 23' 012° 28' to  
P.38. 036° 12' 013° 32' passing second position about  
0700B/11 thence by South East channel.  
P.38 to keep south of 36.15 and west of 12.20  
until 1200B that day. (Capt. S.10, 1217B/9 to  
P.38, P.39 (R) 10 S/M Flot., C. in C. Med.,  
(Capt. S.1,)

Cross over air patrol between Sicily and Sardinia  
will be established during daylight tomorrow  
Tuesday. (V.A.Malta, 2017B/9 to CLEOPATRA (R)  
FORTUNE, C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)

/Alexandria ...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Alexandria Air raid 0400 to 0530. 5 U X B near paper works  
Raid. east about and some distant in sea.  
(R.A. Alexandria 1229B/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
Med., H.Q. M.E. for H.Q. B.T.E.)  
My 1200B/8 and 1229B/9, all bombs exploded but were very (?)  
small. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1955B/9 to Admty., etc.)

Opsum No.623. Night 7/8. 11 Wellingtons covering mine laying  
dropped 13 tons bombs on Benghazi, bombs burst  
in southern portion of town and on Berka  
aerodrome. Further 8 Wellingtons successfully laid 16 mines in  
Fairway outside the Harbour.  
2. Greece, night 7/8. 7 Wellingtons dropped about 9 tons bombs  
on Salamis Dockyard, bombs bursting among munitions buildings  
and along quay at base of submarine wharves, A.A. severe and  
accurate, many searchlights. Further 1 Wellington bombed Menidi  
aerodrome starting 2 fires.  
3. Egypt. My Opsum 622, 5 enemy aircraft operated over Delta  
night 7/8. 1 came inland remainder flow west along coast over  
Alexandria. 5 unexploded bombs reported 7 miles South East  
Aboukir. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1233/9).

UPHOLDER, UPHOLDER making passage Q B B 65 during daylight  
P.35, 11/2 through 037° 07' 013° 14' and 036° 10'  
FORPOISE, 014° 00' and P. 35 proceeding through 035° 40'  
URGE. 012° 00' and 035° (740') 014° 08' both by south  
east channel to arrive 0730B/13. FORPOISE due  
Grand Harbour by north east route same time.  
URGE leaves 036° 00' 014° 10' about 0300B/13 for 036° 48'  
013° 47'. S/M's encountered after 2200B/12 are not to be  
attacked. (Capt. S.10, 1253B/9 to UPHOLDER, FORPOISE, P.35,  
(R) 10th S/M Flot. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

Turkey. Following is a repetition of my 1246B/9 (N.T. in  
W.R.) (Begins) C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.,  
Ambassador, Ankara, from B.N.A. Ankara.

Following from Adm. Kelly.  
Saw General Asim Gunduz who said President had been to see  
Marshal about proposals put forward by Ambassador and that they  
would do all they could to help, but would not lay themselves  
open to demand reciprocal treatment by Germany. Quoted example  
permitted for mail plane to Adana which was followed next day by  
German demand for plane to Istanbul which had to be granted.  
Roads and rails will be built by them if we supply material,  
otherwise Germans would ask to build roads from Adrianople to  
Bulgarian frontier. For reconnaissance small party only will be  
acceptable. Waiting your approval I have arranged for a Turkish  
naval officer to go to Beirut to visit H.D.M. Tripod now there.  
General is inclined to accept Admiralty offer of 12 of these  
in lieu. T.O.O. 1246B/9 (Ends).  
(N.A. Ankara, 1301B/9 to Admty.)

Malta Air C3R Malta 9/2.  
Report. 3 alerts, 1146, 1300 and 1400 hours. 2 ME.109  
1 JU.88 R/C 3 JU.88 and 7 ME.109 target Takali

/(LQA) ...

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) (LQA) damage not yet known (see 1815/10) Hurricanes up no interceptions, AA fired. (H.Q. Med., 1630/9).

French Shipping. Departure 8th ST. BRIEUC  
Arrival 9th FROMSAC  
Arrival 9th COETLOGON.  
(Barcelona, 1715/9, to M. of W.T.)

"Empire" ships lent to R.N. Your 1836B/7. EMPIRE ORIOLE, EMPIRE PINTAIL, EMPIRE FULMAR and EMPIRE PEREGRINE are to be administered as H.M. Ships by Naval Authority of area in which they are operating, stores and victualling being supplied as necessary from service stocks. Vessels carry own accountant staff. Operational movements are in accordance with instructions given to P.S.T.O. Egypt who should be given all facilities necessary for dealing with cargo. Vessels have been lent by U.S. on condition they are manned by Naval personnel. (Hd. of M., 1730A/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Troops for Far East. My 1624B/5. For ORESTES read ST. ESSYLT. (2) ORESTES allocated to move 45 Squadron R.A.F. and detailed total of 590 personnel 29 M.T. and stores ex Suez about 17/2 to Rangoon. My 1945B/101 and 1109B/28/1 refer. C. in C. Eastern Force pass to Abdacom. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1840B/9 to D.S.T.)

FARNDALE bombed. My position now is 031° 44' 026° 11'. (FARNDALE, 1846/9 to Alexandria W/T. Report situation. (C. in C. Med., 1956B/9 to FARNDALE).  
Your 1956. Both boiler rooms and wardroom flooded. GLOXINIA towing towards Mersa Matruh. One bomb passed through ship. Burst in water. No casualties. (FARNDALE, 2010/9 to C. in C. Med.)  
Send ST. ISSEY to (?assist) GLOXINIA towing FARNDALE from 031° 44' 026° 11' at 1846 (?port of destination) Mersa Matruh. (S.O. Force I., 2142B/9 to N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh (R) GLOXINIA, FARNDALE, Force Z, C. in C. Med.)  
Your 1846. Check position. Where is POPI? (C. in C. Med., 2152B/9 to FARNDALE).  
Your 2152, position correct. POPI 15 miles astern of SOLAR at 1830. My course and speed 110° 3 knots. (FARNDALE, 2220B/9 to C. in C. Med.)  
Am proceeding your assistance. My P.C. and S. 031° 44' 30", 26° 10', 100°, 22 knots. (HURWORTH, 2230B/9 to FARNDALE).

GOUVERNEUR GENERAL GREVY. French. Put into Palma (Majorca) today 9/2 from Algiers, bad weather conditions. Has on board 350 passengers and 200 soldiers. (Palma, 2045/9 to M. of W.T.)

War Diary.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

GYSBERT  
(French).

French seagoing Tug GYSBERT arrived 8th  
sheltered left for Oran midday 9th. Repeated to  
Intelligence Centre.  
(Alicante, T.H.I. 2045/9 to Admty.)

HYACINTH.  
U/B.

U/B attacked by HYACINTH 2049/9 in 32.21 N.,  
25.45 E., 45' N.E. of Bardia. Underwater  
explosions followed attack.  
(D.S., 889). See 0200B/10.

A/S Hunt.

AVON VALE and HYACINTH, hunting submarines in  
(G) (7032°) 21' N., 025° 45' E., SOUTHERN SEA  
proceeding with "Rivet".  
(AVON VALE, 2149B/9 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria  
(R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. D.F. Med. S.O. Force I.)

Land Mines,  
Malta.

A number of G Mines have recently been dropped  
on land at Malta. It appears that they are being  
used solely as bombs.  
(V.A. Malta, 2217B/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.  
R.A. Alexandria).



War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- JALATARANG. 11 survivors landed Colombo report ship torpedoed and sunk on 30/1 about 40 miles E. of Madras, bound from Cochin to Rangoon. (D.S. 889.)
- REVENGE. Departure REVENGE at 1120Z/9. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1130Z/9 to Admty. etc.)  
*See next page*
- Colombo, Trincomalee, A/A defence. Your 0315Z/7. (a) Para. 2. When R.M. Brigade A.A. guns have been installed report numbers and dispositions. (b) Para.6. Full details of scales of defence for Ceylon bases as approved by C.O.S. sent by War Office to C. in C. India (W.O.64880 17/1) who doubtless communicated the plan to G.O.C. Ceylon who can give full information. (c) Arrangements are now in hand for 2 Naval Fulmar Squadrons to be sent from Middle East to Ceylon as a Fighter reserve for the carriers. These aircraft when not employed afloat will be available, pending arrival of Hurricanes, to assist in the air defence of Ceylon. (d) Para.7. Two Army C.O.L. R.D/F sets left U.K. end of November for Ceylon. Pending installation of these sets approved for Type 79 to be erected locally but set is to be re-allocated to ROYAL SOVEREIGN as soon as Army sets are installed ashore. No additional Type 79 can be sent for ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1451A/9 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I. N.O.I.C. Ceylon.)
- COLOMBIA. A.M. 2315A/23/12 Para. 5, Not to Abdafloat. COLOMBIA is due Durban 11/2. Request you will arrange her destination in consultation with Abdafloat and C.Z.M. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1518A/9 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I. A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. Abdafloat, F.O.S.)
- S.N.O.P.G. Your 1516/2. Request whether it is proposed that Capt. P.N. Walter should be given the temporary rank of Commodore 2nd Class while carrying out duties of S.N.O. Persian Gulf. (Naval Secretary 1602A/9 to C. in C. E.I.)
- M.R.3. Sailing Telegram. Escort EMERALD. (2) 1830 G.M.T./9. Route. (N.C.S.O. Madras 1845Z/9 to Admty.)
- H.D.M.L.'s. Your 0633Z/26/1. Paras. 1 and 2. 1. As a result of recent reports, endurance of 72 ft. H.D.M.L.'s given in A.M. 1145/4/10 and C.B. 03055/40 may require modification to 1200 miles at full speed of 11.6 knots and 2000 miles at 10 knots. Endurance at 8 knots should be about 3000 miles. 2. Para.3. Two sets of slings are at present on passage to Durban in same ship as H.D.M.L.'s of 110th Flotilla. (D. of L.D. 1846A/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

W.S.15. N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0807/7 para. 4 and your  
D.M.3. 0105/8. (i) Intend WORCESTERSHIRE and CERES  
to escort W.S.15 A and B and D.M.3 from Durban  
as one convoy. (ii) \*REVENGE will arrive Mombasa  
17/2. Intend to sail (?her) for Durban so as to provide some  
cover during passage of Mozambique Channel. (iii) From  
(?Mombasa) area intend WORCESTERSHIRE to continue with W.S.15 B  
to Bombay. RAMILLIES to escort D.M.3 to Port T and COLOMBO  
to escort W.S.15 A to Aden. (C. in C. E.I. 2016Z/9 to Admty.)

\* See previous page.

China.

Enemy Intelligence. Combat Intelligence Bulletin Number 25. No  
submarines noticed except 1 squadron in Yokosuka  
preparing to exchange stations with submarine  
squadron 6 in Celebes Area. W/T unusually  
quiet yesterday. Carriers division westbound as before  
except A/C.C. SHOKAKU ~~Yokosuka~~ Yokosuka to Palao and A/C.C.  
HOSHO (spell word commencing with E) Saipan to Truk. Air  
squadron 19 in Marshall Is. and air squadron 17 in Truk and  
Rabaul. (C.14th U.S.N.O. Pearl Harbour 0130Z/9 to C. in C.  
F.E.F. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.)

Strategic Policy against Japan. 032072. 00925 cipher 8/2. To Britman Washington  
for Combined C.O.S. Troopers for C.O.S., from  
Gen. Wavell. C.C.O.S.4. I should like to be  
informed as early as possible of general outline  
of Allied Plan for defeat of Japan. Though my  
present role must be mainly defensive my lay out  
and organisation may be affected by plan for eventual advance.  
I have no knowledge of intended employment of American Fleet  
in Pacific or of British Eastern Fleet now being formed.  
2. It appears to me there are following possible lines of  
advance against Japanese forces. (a) From East towards  
Philippines or direct on Japan. (b) North from Java and  
Sumatra by Celebes and Borneo to Philippines. (c) Recapture  
of Malaya. (d) Advance against Thailand and Indo-China.  
(e) Through China and from Chinese air bases against Japan.  
3. Of above (a) Presumably depends mainly on action by  
American Fleet. (b) Will probably involve successive recapture  
of bases seized by Japanese in Ambon, Celebes, Borneo, by seaborne  
expeditions on same lines as present Japanese operations and  
will require support of Eastern Fleet. (c) Will probably  
involve landing operations on Malay peninsula. (d) Will be  
carried out from Burma and China. (e) Will be mainly air  
operation. 4. Should like to know whether combined staffs  
have yet decided on any general plan and which of above lines  
of advance are regarded as most advantageous. Outline plans  
for all above except (a) already under consideration by Abda.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0330/9 to J.S.M. Washington.)

/Singapore ...

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War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Singapore, enemy landing. Situation report 61 1630 hours G.M.T. 8/2 (T.O.O. 0115 hours). Heavy enemy artillery fire opened on 22 Australian and 44 Indian Infantry Bde. areas about 1330 hours G.M.T./8 followed by enemy landing on north-west coast on front 5,000 yards from exclusive south Berih to north. Northern area. 28 Indian Infantry Bde. engaged enemy craft in Johore Strait during night 7/8 with unknown result. Enemy strength 50 to 100 landed Pulau Ubin before first light 8/2. Our patrols on island withdrawn with slight loss after inflicting casualties. Artillery on both sides active during the night 7/8 and morning 8th. Enemy fire particularly heavy area Ponggol Point. 20 to 25 small craft reported seen at mouth S. Tebrau after dark 8/2. Air. Hurricanes intercepted one raid by 27 enemy bombers and claim one probably 2 damaged. One Hurricane crash landed pilot safe. General. Enemy landed Pulau Ubin reported wearing Australian type hats and white shirts and shorts, leader with armlets. (G.O.C. Malaya, 0420/9 to W.O.)

Sitrep No.62. 1630 hours G.M.T. 9/2. During the night 8/9 Feb. enemy landed several points on N.W. coast of Singapore Island. Considerable (?infiltration) made before dawn and strong enemy parties reached neighbourhood Tenfah (?way) - Bulim by mid-day. 44 Indian Inf. Bde. in S.W. portion Island threatened with isolation by further enemy penetration south from Tenfah Both coast defence guns Pasir Laba put out of action by enemy dive bombing and later demolished by own troops. Our forces are now withdrawing under pressure to general line Sungei Kranji-Bulim-Hong Kah-Sungei Jurang. Northern Area. Comparatively quiet. Intermittent enemy artillery fire directed at several points particularly Paya Lebar and west end Naval Base area. Damage and casualties slight. Some M.G. fire across straits near Johore Causeway. Southern and Reserve areas nothing to report. Air. Our fighters almost continually air borne against greatly superior numbers claimed 1 enemy bomber certain, 3 fighters probable, 12 fighters damaged. 2 Hurricanes missing 1 pilot believed safe. (Adv. H.Q. Malaya no T.O.O.)

Singapore W/T demolitions. Following to Admty. for information. Following is correct version of my 0311Z/9 (No trace W/R) begins - S.O. China Force, C. in C. E.F., from R.A. Malaya. Have closed down on all waves except Singapore to Batavia and port wave with listening watch on Group U. Instructions issued to demolish Singapore (Suara) W/T station and Kranji. All records scrupulously burnt up to 31/1/1942 inclusive (ends). (R.A. Malaya 0855Z/9 to S.O. China Force, C. in C. E.F.)

NORAH MOLLER. NORAH MOLLER bombed and abandoned owing to fire off West Nangka Point, Banka Strait, 0400Z/3. Master states that ship abandoned hurriedly and C.B. including S.P. 02272 (16) and IND (1) were left on board in canvas bag and is confident were destroyed in fire. (N.C.S.O. Batavia, 0945Z/9 to Admty.)

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

M.S.3. Palembang portion of M.S.3 convoy arrived.  
(C.C.C.F. 1030Z/9 to C. in C. E.F. Admty. etc.)

Portuguese My 1201/28. (JOAO BELO, escorted by Portuguese  
for Timor. Sloop, left Lourenco Marques 26/1 for Timor. )  
Portuguese force left Mozambique 4/2.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1055Z/9 to Eastern Theatre 84X,  
(R) Abdafloat.)

Situation. Information number 16 to 1200 <sup>8/2</sup> (1).  
Palembang attacked yesterday by 6 bombers and  
about 25 fighters. 9 of our aircraft known to  
be destroyed on ground or in air. Enemy losses unknown.  
Again attacked today full reports not available. Unspecified  
number of aircraft destroyed on ground. 2 Hurricanes shot  
down. Yesterday enemy appeared over West Java but no bombs  
dropped. (2). 9 B. 17s took off today to attack Kendari but  
failed to reach objective. They were attacked by enemy  
fighters and 2 B.17s were shot down and one is missing. 4  
enemy fighters shot down and one damaged.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1115/9.)

Singapore Summary No.77 period 0800 hr. 7/2 0800 hrs.  
Intelligence. 8/2. Considerable enemy air activity near  
Straits Johore from first light. 25 plus  
bombed Kallang Aerodrome morning destroying  
PRU Buffalo damaging Hurricane damaging (corrupt portion).  
2. 6 Twin-engine bombers and 20 plus Navy S fighters attacked  
Palembang W 18 Aomys dropped fighters machine gunned injuring  
12 airmen. 10 Hurricanes intercepted. Own casualties 4  
Hurricanes destroyed 1 pilot safe 1 Hurricane destroyed  
crashed landing pilot safe. Destroyed on ground 3 Blenheims  
IV 2 Blenheim I, 1 Hudson 12 aircraft damaged on ground, 1 not  
repairable at Unit. 3. Seletar Tengah and Sembawang  
Aerodromes shelled during morning. (A.H.Q. F.E. 1246/9.)

Singapore Oprep/57, 9/2. Daily Op. Summ. to 1030Z/9.  
Air Continuous enemy air activity during daylight.  
Report. Enemy landing in early morning in N.W. of  
Island supported by dive bombing and low  
flying attacks. Situation rendered necessary  
denial and evacuation of Tengah and destruction of Swordfish  
aircraft. Coast defence Battery at Pasir Laba damaged by  
enemy air action. Our fighters airborne most of the day.  
Enemy losses 2 bombers destroyed 3 fighters probably destroyed  
9 Fighters damaged. Our casualties 2 Hurricanes missing.  
Palembang 1 attacked 8/2 by bombers and fighters. Slight  
damage aircraft and no casualties to personnel on ground.  
2 Airborne Hurricanes destroyed, pilots killed. Pakan Baroe  
attacked by 3 fighters. No casualties and only slight damage  
to 2 aircraft on ground. (A.H.Q. F.E. 1430/9.)

/ISAAC ...

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SECRET

M E S S A G E

0420Z/9th February

IN

From C.C.C.F.

DATE 10/2/42  
RECD 2327

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY W/T  
AND T/P

Addressed C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Admiralty

Only Naval ammunition at present available in Java is 5044 rounds 4 inch mark XVI at Sourabaya and 1500 rounds Tanjong Priok. Request supplies of all natures necessary for ships of China Force be released for Tanjonk Priok first opportunity ((? Singapore) H these ) ammunition is very urgently required.

0420Z/9

\* Repetition requested from originator

1st Lt. Com.	O.I.C. (2)	D.N.O. (2)	
1st S. Lt.	D.N.I. (2)	FILE X	
3rd S. Lt.	D.G.D. (2)	T/P for Dep. Contr. (3)	
T. J. N. S.	De of L.D. (3)	D.A.S. (3)	} BATH
A.C.N.S. (F)	De of P. (3)	D.N.O. (4)	
A.C.N.S. (W)	E.P.S.		
T. J. N. S. Lt. S.L.	D.T.S.D.	(B.A. 7728)	
Spec (3)	M. (2)		
C.D. (5)	D.A.S.		

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

ISAAC SWEERS, Your 1040/8. Netherlands destroyer ISAAC  
COLOMBIA SWEERS arrived Aden 2/2 on passage to you. 2.  
S/M's Submarine tender COLOMBIA due Durban 11/2. See  
ABDIEL. \* A.M. 1518A/9. 3. Dutch submarines due to leave  
U.K. for you after refitting - 0.23 end of  
February, 0.21 and 0.24 in June. British  
submarines TRUSTY and TRUANT have joined you. 4. ABDIEL at  
disposal of C. in C. E.F. is at Colombo with damaged propellers.  
5. Dutch A/A cruiser HEEMSKERK is at Simonstown en route to  
you. (D.O.D.(F) 1923A/9 to Abdafloat (R) C. in C. E.I. C. in C.  
E.F. A.C.N.B.) \*p.294

Area Your 1135Z/8. See A.G.M. 181A T.O.O. 1852A/7.  
Limits. (D.O.D.(F) 1944A/9 to Abdafloat.)

R.A. China Rear-Adm. W.G. Tennant, appointed R.A.C. China  
Force. Force, will be addressed while on passage in  
NEWCASTLE as S.O. Force "T". 2. Until Cape  
area NEWCASTLE will be escorting convoy W.S.16  
and Admty. will pass to Adm. Tennant necessary information  
about China Force, etc. 3. After arrival of NEWCASTLE in  
Cape area, all signals of importance addressed or repeated  
to C.C.C.F. should also be repeated to S.O. Force "T".  
4. F.O.I.C. Greenock pass to ships addressed on their arrival.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2230A/9 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock,  
F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A. S.O. Force "H", C. in C. E.I.,  
C. in C. E.F. Abdacom, B.A.D. Washington (R) C.C.C.F. A.C.N.B.  
N.Z.N.B., C. in C. A.W.I. NEWCASTLE, FORMIDABLE, F.O.I.C.  
Simonstown.)

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B. D/F bearing at 1744Z/8th placed submarine within 100 miles 42 N. 52.30 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0037Z/9 to British Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

CITIES SERVICE KOOLMOTOR. Following received from Baltimore and Falls Church, S S S, CITIES SERVICE KOOLMOTOR, 24° 59' N., 84° 40' W., submarine gaining on us, we zigzagging and he is still gaining. (Freetown 0110/9, Ottawa 0116/9 to Admty.)

Wreckage. 3 large pieces of timber reported ?0100 G.C.T. in vicinity 39.15 N., 74.07 W. (Radio Washington, 0215/9 to Hydrog.)

ALYSSE ALYSSE sunk by torpedo at 2230Z/8. Indication torpedoed *by U.S.S.* of several S/Ms in the vicinity. (O.N.S. 60) (SHERBROOKE, 0215Z/9 to U.S.C.N.O., (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

F.S. ALYSSE torpedoed at 2230Z/8 in 045° 50' N. 044° 48' W. Buoyancy destroyed from stern to wardroom flat. MOOSEJAW has 21 survivors (one nerve case) HEPATICA 13 survivors. Had ALYSSE in tow but line parted. Suggest standing by until daylight to resume towing if practicable. Request permission to retain MOOSEJAW for screening and instructions regarding destination. (HEPATICA, 0536Z/9 to C.C.C.F., (R) SHERBROOKE, Capt. D. St. Johns, N.F.)

O.N.61, serial 8. C.T.U. 4.1.12 with O.N.60 reports ALYSSE sunk by torpedo 2230Z/8, estimated position 44.49 N. 45.51 W. several U-Boats apparently in vicinity. (Opnav, 0617/9 to Comtask 4.1.3, (R) Admty., Comtask 4, Comtask groups 7.5 and 4.6, C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

ALYSSE torpedoed at 2230Z/8 in 045° 50' N. 044° 48' W. flooded from stem to wardroom flat. MOOSEJAW and HEPATICA standing by. PRUDENT escorted by MINAS sailed to effect salvage. 34 survivors, 1 cot case. (F.O.N.F., 1338Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) Admty., Cmdr. Task Force 4.)

Observed position at 1500Z/9 046° 28' N. 043° 08' W. course 281° speed 3 knots. (HEPATICA, 1620Z/9 to C.C.C.F., (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns, N.F., MINAS, PRUDENT.)

PRUDENT sailed 0625Z/9 for 44.40 N., 45.51 W. to salvage ALYSSE. Admty. pass to C.C.R.T. (F.O.N.F., 1926Z/9 to Admty., (R) C.C.R.T., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

EMPIRE HOPE Intercepted at 0510 G.M.T. de B C P C. S S S S  
U/B. EMPIRE HOPE, submarine on surface, 19° 25' N. 67° 35' W., 0430 G.M.T. B C P C (Think Belle Isle Radio controlling station.) (Port Patrick Radio, 0625/9 to Navycharge Greenock.)

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- U.S. Forces. Please deliver to Spenavo. Following is C. in C. Lant 2138/8 addressed Action Opnav, Infor C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Lantflt, daily location sheet number 6, noon G.C.T./9. Only changes my 2311/7 delete <sup>\*</sup>NASHVILLE and one DD from Bermuda Group, also Task Force 15. Opnav deliver to Admty. for action, and Spenavo London for info. C. in C. Lant originator.  
(Opnav, 0801/9 to Admty.) \* See p. 305
- U/Bs. D/F bearings indicate S/Ms within 100 miles of (A) 041° 30' N. 057° W. at 0017Z/9. (B) 046° N. 044° W. at 0201Z/9 and 0311Z/9. This transmission was a sighting report. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0908Z/9 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F.)
- CULEBRA. Admty. 1529A/1. CULEBRA (British) not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 0956R/9 to Admty., etc.)
- PENELOPI. No information obtainable of Panamanian PENELOPI since sailing New York 23/1 for Trinidad. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1224R/9 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I. B.A.D. Washington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
- OCEAN VENTURE. Your 2047Z/8, not to Admiralty. Search of area by aircraft failed to find any survivors of OCEAN VENTURE. (C.S.A. Norfolk Va., 1332Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) Admty. New York.)
- Unified Control of Anzac Area. Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 40. Your 36 (2019R/8). We agree that you should await Australian reactions from us before putting proposals in our C.O.S. (W) 39 to American Chiefs of Staff. (1st S.L., 1359A/9 to B.A.D.)
- Washops 58. 1. Philippine Is. Luzon - Japanese pressure against the Bataan position has increased considerably in the past 48 hours with many dive-bombing attacks. Numerous attempts at infiltration have been repelled. The artillery duel between the U.S. forts and enemy batteries in Cavite has temporarily subsided. Mindanao - skirmishing between patrols is reported. 2. Hawaii Is. estimates 2 Japanese submarines are operating in the vicinity.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1509Q/9 to Admty., etc.)



War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Navigation Lights. Your 2002/4 and B.A.D's 1353/6. Under present conditions it is recommended that dimmed navigation lights should only be shown in area 7A. (A) when within 5 miles of Harbour entrances or approaches to inland waters.  
(B) At Master's discretion in low visibility.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1603Z/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)

U/B. D/F bearing at 0643Z/9 indicated S/M within 100 miles 45° N. 48° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1609Z/9 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

EVERASMA. Master Latvian Ship EVERASMA reported pro-Axis, boasting will try run blockade if cargo suitable. F.B.I. cognisant.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1621R/9 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington for Director of Security Co-ordination.)

QUEEN MARY. Your 0020/7. QUEEN MARY probably sails from Boston 18/2 with 8000 troops. U.S. intends giving A/S escort for first 24 hours thence ship will proceed unescorted relying on high speed for protection. Opnav will signal route as far as Capetown via Trinidad.  
(B.A.D., 1627Q/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.)

Atlantic Troop Convoys. Your 1537/4. U.S. Authorities are being consulted. No approach to Canadian Authorities has been made as I understand all suitable Canadian escorts are operating with Trade convoys.

2. U.S. Atlantic Fleet has many calls to escort U.S. troop movements to Caribbean as well as to and from Iceland and U.K. Although 13 U.S. and 3 R.N. Destroyers were allocated to troop convoy escort in recent North Atlantic re-organisation there will be pressure from C. in C. U.S. Fleet to reduce frequency of North Atlantic troop convoys. Possible restriction to a 40 day cycle has been mentioned.

3. I have anticipated this by suggesting to Navy Department that schedule of projected troopship sailings for Trans-Atlantic movement be referred to the Combined Military Transportation Committee for re-arrangement "Designed to reduce escort requirements to a minimum compatible with most economical employment of transports to meet necessary troop movements".

4. Request information to enable us to show necessity for as frequent a schedule of North Atlantic troop convoys as is possible with the 16 destroyers.

5. Army Movements Section and R.A.F. Delegation are being consulted as to minimum requirements and will communicate with London and Ottawa.

(B.A.D., 1631Q/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)

/Limit ...

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Limit of S.A. Stn. Admty. 1852A/7 para.G. I propose to continue to regard 40° W. as the western limit of South Atlantic Station for the purpose of transfer of control of H.M. Ships. Do you concur?  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1642P/9 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., S.O.I. Jamaica.) Concur. (C. in C. S.A. 1106Z/10.)

U.S. A/S Patrol Craft. Your despatch 1705Z/7. We appreciate your difficulties. 2. We suggest as a temporary measure that destroyers in mid-ocean escort in groups A.1 to 5 be reduced to 1 U.S. long-leg destroyer\* in each group, which would release at least 5 more destroyers for coastal escort work for the time being. 3. Should be grateful to know whether you intend to institute coastal convoy, and, if so, date of starting and cycle.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1801Z/9 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) Opnav, Spenavo, Cinclant.)

DELHI. Leave Bermuda 1300P/10 and proceed to Devonport passing through following positions. A. 038° 30' N. 050° 00' W. B. 043° 00' N. 030° 00' W. C. in C. W.A. is requested to issue onward route from position B. DELHI report to C. in C. A.W.I., E.T.A. position B on leaving Bermuda.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1802P/9 to DELHI, (R) Admty., etc.)

Proposed Mining of Torres Strait. No. 37. U.S. C.O.S. have proposed that Combined C.O.S. should instruct Abdacom "To block Torres Strait thoroughly with contact and magnetic mines at the earliest possible date, employing own forces and arranging direct with Australia for co-operative action by that Commonwealth".

Anzac Naval Commander would simultaneously be instructed to press Australian Govt. to agree and to maintain air patrol of minefield.  
2. This proposal is stated to follow a request made by Opnav some months ago to defer mining of Strait then proposed by Australia. We have no knowledge of this proposed action.  
3. In U.S. Chiefs of Staff view, Port Moresby and N.E. Australia would be greatly threatened and military position of United Nations in Anzac area would be endangered if enemy gained free passage through Torres Straits.  
4. It is probable that Anzac Naval Commander would have been given direct orders by C. in C. U.S. Fleet to carry out this task if he had had necessary resources and had Torres Strait not been partially in Abda area.  
5. Without wishing to turn down any new proposals following factors must be considered:  
(a) Available resources may be better employed elsewhere.  
(b) Doubtful if either magnetic mines or suitable aircraft are available.  
(c) If Cape York peninsula is lost the Strait can be swept by Japanese at leisure.  
If peninsula holds sea and air patrol should be capable of denying free use of Straits.

War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Proposed  
Mining of  
Torres  
Strait.  
(Contd.)

6. U.S. proposal is probably based on fear of N.W. Australia falling into enemy hands, in which case use of Torres Strait would assist enemy penetration into Anzac Area.

7. Request your views before we discuss proposals.

(J.S.M. Washington, 1919Q/9 to British C.O.S. London.)

SURCOUF.

Your 1032P/6. It is considered desirable that SURCOUF should proceed to Tahiti after temporary repairs in accordance with present instructions.

2. Though she will not be fully efficient when submerged she will be an asset in the defence of the Free French Pacific Islands.

3. It is confidently anticipated that morale will improve as soon as she becomes operational.

4. Request you will arrange accordingly.

(A.C.N.S.(F), 1927A/9 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) F.O.S.)

Adm. Hart,  
Vice-Adm.  
Helfrich

D.B.A. Number 13. Personal for Gen. Wavell. In view of Hart's request to be relieved, the designation of Vice-Adm. Helfrich as Acting Commander of Combined Naval Forces in Abda area is directed. Press release will be issued

simultaneously in London and Washington at 2 p.m. G.C.T. 11/2. (Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, 1931Q/9 to Abdacom, (R) Chiefs of Staff London.)

Dakar  
Intelligence.

Meter. Dakar. 7/2. A.1. Following sailed for North, FORT DE DOUAMONT, PORT DE BOUC, EQUATEUR, JAMAIQUE, PLATON, CARBET, CAP BLANC. (B.A.D., 2037Q/9 to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Freetown, S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

Repair of  
U.S. Ships  
in British  
Yards.

Reported to C.N.O. that when U.S. Ship Y S D 22 was recently docked at Bermuda, C.O. was asked to sign form D.461. We have no copy of this form but apparently it involves indemnification for any expenditure incurred.

2. U.S. Govt. do not ask for any such undertaking for British ships refitted here, and in order to forestall any bad impression I am explaining to Adm. Stark that this action is strictly in accordance with peace time regulations but that I am suggesting to Admiralty that U.S. Ships refitted in British dockyards should only be called upon to sign a receipt similar to that which is signed by British ships refitting in U.S.A.

3. Text of this receipt is as follows:- "This will acknowledge for and on behalf of the United Kingdom completion to our entire satisfaction of work requisitioned on requisition number .... for refitting H.M.S. ....".

/4. You ...

War Diary.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Repair of  
U.S. Ships  
in British  
Yards.  
(Contd.)

4. You will note that this letter leaves open question under discussion between Treasury and Phillips of extent to which we expect ultimate payment for reverse lend-lease. See Embassy telegrams to F.O. 481 and 482. (B.A.D., 2031Q/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., C.i/c. Bermuda.)

French  
Shipping.

Meter. Date	Marseilles. 29/1. Ship	B.2. Arrivals. From
25/1	STE. GISELE	Tunis
26/1	GRETE	Valencia
26/1	G.G. LEPINE	Tunis
26/1	FAUZON	Algiers
27/1	DJEBEL-DIRA	Algiers
27/1	GENERAL BONAPARTE	Ajaccio
27/1	G.G. TIRMAN	Oran
27/1	ST. LUCIEN	Unknown
28/1	ARCTURUS	Casablanca
	Marseilles departures.	To
25/1	BONIFACIO	Unknown
25/1	P.L.M. 21	Algiers
25/1	KITA	Unknown
25/1	STE. ROSELINE	Memours
26/1	CYRNOS	Proprianoste
26/1	G.G. CHANZY	Oran
26/1	VILLIERS	Algiers
27/1	STE. MONIQUE	Memours
27/1	STE. GERMAINE	Tunis
27/1	RABELAIS	Sfax
28/1	G.G. LAFERRIERE	Algiers
28/1	NANTAISE	Sousse
28/1	GRETE <i>not identified</i>	Valencia.

(B.A.D., 2033Q/9 to Admty.)

Falklands.

Your 1529/22. If they have not already done so you should ask Embassy to show you their file to recent telegrams concerning Falkland Islands.

You will appreciate that Adm. King's proposal might raise this problem in an acute form. If therefore he reverts to this proposal you should leave him in no doubt of our attitude concerning the Falkland Islands.

Para. 3 of your 1931/17/12 refers.

(Hd. of M., Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 2208A/9 to B.A.D.)

W/T.

Admty. 2144A/7 (emergency arrangements in event of failure of Louisberg transmitters.)  
Reply. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2208Z/9 to Admty.)

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War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

N.A. 4. Your 1533A/4. Movement Control request accommodation for at least 7000.  
 2. CAMERONIA due Halifax about 23/2 my 1925Z/4 refers, accommodation 3100 reported by D. of S.T. 2155A/1 and 2990 reported by P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1003/1.  
 3. ORION due Halifax about 23/2 accommodation about 3000 reported by D. of S.T. 0312A/4 and 2590 by A.C.N.B. 0928Z/4.  
 4. If destroyer escort is considered sufficient for inclusion in N.A.4 of FRANCONIA, now delayed Trinidad, her accommodation available reported by D. of S.T. 2155A/1, 2550, by P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1003Z/1, 1450, and by N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1139Q/7 to N.S.H.Q. only 896.  
 (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2214Z/9 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

Movements. Bermuda arrivals DELHI. <sup>See p. 302</sup> Bermuda departures U.S. Submarines S.30 and S.31 for Canal Zone, U.S.S.\*NASHVILLE and WILSON for Carfo Bay. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2233P/9 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.) \* See p. 300

PENELOPI. Panamanian PENELOPI sailed New York 24/1 due Trinidad 2/2 has not arrived. Opanav has been informed.  
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2306Z/9 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica, C.S.A. New York.) Arrived, see 2214/10.

U-Boat. D/F bearings at 1837Z/9 placed S/M within 50 miles of 045° 30' N. 048° 00' W.  
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2356Z/9 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

Australia and New Zealand.

AUSTRALIA, Departure Wellington AUSTRALIA and U.S. Destroyer LAMSON, LAMSON for Suva (Fiji) 1600N/28(?8).  
 (N.Z.N.B., 0046Z/9 to Admty., A.C.N.B., etc.)

New W.F. 139. All entrances to mainland New Caledonia and all waters enclosed by encircling Mining. barrier reef are dangerous due to mines. Vessels entering New Caledonia must pass through Bulbari passage and there take a pilot.  
 (A.C.N.B., 0101Z/9.)

/ACHILLES ...

**MOST SECRET**

305A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2100/9th February

IN

From The War Office.

Date 9.2.42.

CIPHER

Addressed Britman, Washington.

69606. cipher M.I.3c. 9/2.

Personal for F.M. Dill from C.I.G.S.

PART I.

At request of American Ambassador following summary of military conversations held in Russia in December 1941 and report of Mason MacFarlane on visit to Russian Front in January, 1942 are sent for information of President. Full text follows by bag.

1. M. Stalin was informed that on conclusion of operations in Libya it had been hoped to send 10 Squadrons of Hurricanes to the Russian Front, but owing to changed situation in the Far East that was now impossible. Supply of tanks and aircraft, however, would continue. He fully understood we could not help in the way we had proposed.
2. Stalin enquired as to likelihood of opening second front in Europe. We replied that we should not be able to in immediate future, but that one of the objects of the Libyan campaign was to secure a base from which we could attack Italy.
3. Policy of Russians had been to fight continuous rearguard action, thereby tiring the German troops. They were now able to make a counter-offensive which they proposed to continue throughout the winter; however, they expected the Germans to attack again in the Spring, as the Germans still had a great superiority in tanks, whereas the Russians had only a slight superiority in the air.
4. When asked how he would view the situation if Russia became engaged on the Eastern Front, Stalin replied that he would regard it without enthusiasm, but by the Spring, troops that had been withdrawn from that theatre would be replaced by new formations so that it would then be as strong as it was previously. He believed the Japanese would attack the Soviet Union before the Spring, but if this did not happen, he was prepared to resume conversations as to the advisability of Russia declaring war on Japan.
5. Russians suggested an operation to seize Petsamo, the Russians providing the land forces while we provided naval and some air forces. (This plan has subsequently been dropped at Russian instigation).
6. Transportation facilities on the Persian Gulf Supply Route were discussed. The Russians asked for capacity of 60,000 tons per month, rising to 90,000 or 120,000 tons by April. Maximum we could offer was 90,000 by April. With regard to taking material by road to Tabriz it was pointed out that we were trying to obtain vehicles for this, but they

would/.....

would have to come from the U.S.A.

7. General Nye states "there was a general feeling of confidence in Moscow and morale of the Army was high. Marshal Shaposhnikov (C.G.S.) appeared to be clear headed, capable staff officer with all qualities of a commander, whereas Generals Timoshenko and Voroshilov, although they had great drive and energy, did not impress him as having much intellect or general ability. Stalin's confidence struck a more sober note and in private conversation he stated that Russia's strength would be so improved next year and the German Army so shaken by its experiences that he thought it possible the war might be over by Autumn, 1942."

General Nye felt that the Russians were inclined to over estimate not so much their resources as their military skill vis-a-vis the Germans, and that they are only likely to obtain striking successes offensively if the morale of the German Army cracks.

#### PART II.

Following is summary of General Mason MacFarlane's report on his visit to one division of 5th Army on the Mozhaisk Sector 26th to 28th January.

#### General Situation.

5th Army attacking on 37 mile front astride Moscow-Smolensk road, 5 miles East of Gzhatsk. Considerable resistance especially in centre, where Germans hold positions in considerable depth which they clearly intended holding. 5th Army apparently intend to maintain pressure on centre while right wing conforms to southerly movement by next army on right.

#### Climatic Conditions.

Temperature minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit and snow 2 feet 6 ins. in open country and from 3 to 5 feet in forests. Medium and heavy tanks can get across country slowly and with difficulty. Cavalry, artillery and infantry largely confined to proximity of roads.

#### German Defensive Tactics.

Germans hold towns and villages linked up by small defended localities. In retirement, Germans employ tanks and anti-tank guns on all roads leading to their positions. Before withdrawing everything is scorched. On front of 5th Army are five infantry and one Panzer divisions, latter's tanks being distributed among all divisions.

#### Russian Offensive Tactics.

Consist chiefly of infiltration of infantry and also ski troops. Latter work round defended localities and pin down garrison while infantry attack. Russians do lot of night fighting at which they excel. Russian artillery was deployed in depth along main road.

# MOST SECRET

## Air.

German activity on this front almost negligible, while Russians showed considerable activity.

## Russian Commissariat.

Troops had no blankets but their clothing provided adequate protection. All troops wear felt not leather boots. Endeavours made always to provide two hot meals a day also have haversack ration.

## Miscellaneous.

All German light tanks have been withdrawn. Prisoners interrogated by General MacFarlane were ill-clad and depressed. Russians say captured letters show low morale of home front. General MacFarlane much impressed by senior commanders and commissars, also by group of partisans he met.

## General Impressions.

Seven months of war had made veterans of Russians. Russians started war with relatively untrained staffs, but their officers are neither uneducated nor unintelligent. No signs of bragging or of under-estimating Germans, but healthy confidence that tide has turned.

Under present climatic conditions, Red Army is definitely superior to Germans. Their equipment apparently still adequate and no shortage of man-power. Possibility of German come-back realized, but High Command intends giving them no respite. Definite deterioration of German fighting ability since beginning of campaign. Danger exists that Red Army may outrun its transportation, but leaders intend to keep contact with enemy and not let him disengage to refit and regroup.

Russian staff work and administration typically Russian and gets progressively worse higher up, but end is usually achieved. Red Army in bad way in Autumn, but its tail is now up.

Full summary of telegrams follow by air mail.  
2100/9.

Received from the War Office at 2140/11.  
Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord	D.O.D. (F)	<u>War Office Distribution:-</u>
1st S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)	S. of S. Admiralty (War
V.C.N.S.	Duty Capt. (2)	C.I.G.S. Registry)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.I. (4)	V.C.I.G.S. Foreign Office (Mr.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D. of P. (2)	D.M.O. & F. Cavendish-Bentinck)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.D.I.C. (2)	D.D.M.O. (C) R.L.G.
A.C.N.S. (W)	E.P.S.	M.O.2. M.I.3,3c.
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P. (2)	D.M.I. M.I. (J.I.C.) (3).
D.O.D. (H)	W.D.	D.D.M.I. (I)
D.D.O.D. (H)	Head of M.	Air Ministry (A.M.C.S.)



War Diary.9.2.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

ACHILLES. Departure Auckland ACHILLES for R/V with F.O.C.A.S., at 0600Z/10. (N.Z..N.B., 0910Z/9 to Admty., A.C.N.B., F.O.C.A.S., Comanzac.)

Situation. Serial No.19, 9/2 from C.W.R.  
(1) Flying boat dropped 2 bombs Salamoia at 0010Z/8. No damage.  
(2) Tulagi reconnoitred by one aircraft, probably flying boat, at 2144Z/7. Later at 0015Z/8 one Type 97 flying boat reconnoitred Florida Island and Gavutu and dropped 8 bombs on evacuee ship MORINDA. No casualties or damage.  
(A.C.N.B., 1128Z/9 to Admty., etc.)

Anzac Area. A.G.M. 181A of 7/2 (1852A/7) amend para.A (i) to read - (Begins) "On North and East from 141° E." etc. Amend para.A (ii) to read - (Begins) "On West from 141° E. on the Equator South down 141° E." etc.  
(Director of Plans, 1415A/9 "A" Message.)  
W.D. Note. Corrections made in 1852A/7.

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Following from Dawson in H.T. QUEEN ELIZABETH (begins). Estimated time required in dry dock 7 days. Block plan in ship but suggest Cunard Liverpool be requested Clipper plan to dockyard to facilitate preparation dock. Bottom composition on board.  
(N.Z.N.B., 1448M/9 to B.A.D.)

LEANDER, FALKEFJELL. LEANDER and R.A.N. tanker FALKEFJELL departed Brisbane 0100Z/8 for Suva proceeding independently, LEANDER E.T.A. 12/2.  
(A.C.N.B., 1452Z/9 to A.I.G. 115, Negative, N.Z.N.B. Wellington.)

Oil Fuel, Suva. My 1150/6. Owing to constantly recurring fuel difficulties at Suva (Fiji) through comparatively small storage, intend that whole tankage Suva be regarded as Admty. installation instead of partially commercial. Commercial requirements are very small. My 0910/8. Intend diverting BRITISH COLONY to Suva to replenish shore tanks following impending heavy commitments. BRITISH COLONY will proceed thence to Auckland with balance of her cargo.  
(N.Z.N.B., 1641M/9 to Admty., (R) A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C. Fiji.)

War Diary.

9.2.1942.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1440A/9, 1442A/9.)

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The corvette patrol is being withdrawn from the Denmark Straits in order to assist in Far Eastern requirements.

S.S. KINA II reported sighting a submarine today in 50° 45' N., 28° 19' W; her position at 1900 G.M.T. was 50° 31' N., 28° 1' W.

The U.S. Naval Attache to Vichy reports that 6 or 8 large German destroyers and the HIPPER arrived at Brest on 28/1 to escort PRINZ EUGEN and the battle cruisers to Germany for completion of repairs. Admiral Leahy reports that the French Admiralty consider all three ships ready for sea and will soon sail.

An enemy destroyer was sighted at 1025A today 180° Alderney 8 miles proceeding south at high speed.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. LIEUTENANT ROBERT MORY in Convoy <sup>P.</sup> F.W.109 was bombed 5 miles west of Trevoze Head.

S.S. HEINA in Convoy S.C.67 was bombed at 1956 in the N.W. Approaches and sank later.

see p. 342  
11th Feb

North Atlantic.

LLANDOVERY CASTLE was bombed at 0815 today in 31° 52' N., 27° 23' E. No damage was caused.

N.A. Lisbon reported (A.1) that at 1200 an unknown cruiser and several destroyers were seen 10 miles off Caminha (41° 55' N., 8° 50' W) steering south.

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

RANGITATA reported a probable submarine on the surface in 5° 22' N., 13° 57' W., at 1300 today.

Mediterranean.

There were further attacks on Malta from 0144 onwards, the targets being mainly Luqa, Ta Kali and Hal Far. Slight damage was caused, Gozo was also bombed.

6 Wellingtons were sent to bomb the submarine base Leros Island last night, but the attack was largely frustrated by bad weather.

CLEOPATRA reported being bombed at 1325 today in 346° 37' N., 5° E., (~~25~~) 24 miles.

HURWORTH reported being bombed at 0953 today 27 miles 305° from 32° N., 26° E.

China.

Malaya.

No operational aircraft remain at Singapore.

Last night further enemy landings supported by artillery fire took place from Sungei Mandai to the west. Our troops withdrew to a line running west of the main road to Johore causeway as far south as Bukit Timah village, thence south west to Sungei Pandau. Several barges carrying troops have been sunk in Johore Straits.

War Diary.

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

N.E.I.  
and Borneo.

3 aircraft took off last night and 6 today, to attack enemy shipping in the south-west Celebes. Only 2 aircraft found the target; one of them claims hits on a ship off Sindjai, believed to be an aircraft carrier.

The Balik Papan convoy has moved but there was no sign of it at Macassar this morning.

America & West Indies.

Tanker VICTOLITE was torpedoed at 0220 G.M.T. in 36° 12' N., 67° 14' W.

It is reported that Japanese submarines are again operating in the Eastern Pacific. It is estimated that there are 4 in the area 40° - 45° N., 140° - 165° W., and 4 in the area 9° - 28° N. 164° - 177° W.

Australia & New Zealand.

The question of mining the Torres Strait is discussed in messages from the Joint Staff Mission Washington and Combined Chiefs of Staff Washington yesterday and today. (The Admiralty, however, considered the proposal to be unsound see A.M.1230A/12)

4 Japanese submarines are estimated to be working in the area 9° - 28° N., 164° - 177° W.

/Aircraft...

War Diary.

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Aircraft attacked enemy shipping and the aerodrome at Gasmata today. No hits on shipping were seen, but bombs were dropped on the runway.

The Japanese Military Attache to Portugal told the Portuguese General staff today that a landing will be made at Port Darwin between 26/2 and 28/2.

A 4 engine flying boat bombed Samarai at 2200Z today, causing civil damage.

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Scapa. Owing to the difficulties in arranging suitable  
New working up programmes for newly commissioned  
Destroyers at other ports it is desired to  
working continue to make as much use as possible of  
up. Scapa for this purpose. 2. It is realised,  
however, that there is a limit to the number  
of destroyers which you can accommodate at any  
given time and that other arrangements may sometimes be  
necessary. 3. By 15/2 it is anticipated that the following  
destroyers will be working up under your orders at Scapa:-  
PAKENHAM, JAVELIN, MAUVENET, LOOKOUT, AIREDALE, ALDENHAM,  
GROVE, LEDBURY and WILTON. 4. The following destroyers are  
expected to complete acceptance trials between 20 and 22/2.  
NOBLE, PENN, MATCHLESS, PARTRIDGE and ALBRIGHTON.  
5. Of the destroyers mentioned in para. 3 those allocated for  
foreign service, except PAKENHAM, will probably be required to  
leave Scapa in time to sail with convoy W.S.17 about second  
week in March. 6. Request you will say whether you can accept  
some or all of the destroyers mentioned in para.4.  
7. No further destroyers from new construction are expected  
to complete before mid-March.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0020A/10 to R.A.D. H.F.)  
(1) The limiting factors to the number of workers up that can  
be sailed at Scapa are: (a) The absolute necessity of keeping  
Home Fleet destroyers efficient. (b) berthing in winter when  
destroyers cannot berth at a buoy. (c) practice requirements  
of the Fleet and ships other than destroyers working up.  
(2) Subject to the Fleet being absent all destroyers mentioned  
in para. 3 and 4 can be taken. (3) On return of Fleet, a  
maximum of 6 workers up can be berthed and dealt with. In this  
eventuality, it is requested that arrangements may be made in  
advance for allocation to other ports of the surplus ships.  
Should this be necessary, it is suggested that R.A.(D) H.F.  
should nominate ships to leave Scapa in accordance with their  
outstanding practice requirements.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1215A/10 to Admty.)

Norwegian  
M.F.V's.

Admiralty's 2134A/28/1. Icelandic vessels  
substituted are BIRKIR, VOGGUR, ARTHUR ADUSTA,  
and EGILL SKALLATRILSSON. Norwegian ships are  
still under repair and as these were taken up  
on a bare boat charter completion dates cannot  
yet be given. (A.C.I.C. 1209A/10.)

Larne.  
4 M.L.'s  
requested.

In order to comply with A.M. 1905A/27/1 it has  
been found necessary to withdraw the 17th M.L.  
Flotilla from operations. It is therefore  
requested that four M.L.'s of the 30th Flotilla  
which were allocated temporarily to Larne in  
A.M. 1843A/27/1 may now be sailed to replace them. This is  
the largest number of M.L.'s of this Flotilla that can be  
accommodated at Larne until the 27th Flotilla has sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1822A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Protection ...

313

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia.

Protection of North Russian Convoys. Ref. A.T.1136A/7. A. We are finding it increasingly difficult to provide sufficient A/S escort for P.Q. convoys and we cannot provide air escort. B. It will be necessary for the Russians not only to provide at least 2 destroyers as additional escort during the last half of the passage of P.Q. convoys and the first half of passage of Q.P. convoys but also as the days grow longer and German air activity increases it will be necessary for them to provide sufficient bomber fighter and R/C aircraft to neutralise the German air effort. C. It is necessary that 2 destroyers be provided to meet convoy P.Q. 11 leaving Kirkwall on 12/2. E. Unless you can obtain a firm promise from Russian C.N.S. that he will implement (B) and (C) I shall have to take the question up on the highest plane as we can no longer tolerate the present non co-operative attitude of the Russians regarding these convoys which are being run solely for their benefit.  
(1st S.L. 0039A/10 to Ad. Miles. Reptd. C. in C. H.F.)

Japanese Landing tactics.

Admty. 1826C/30 to Admiral Miles.  
See China.Movements.

SNOWDROP. My 1928A/8. SNOWDROP is required to proceed to S.A. Station in immediate future. Request you will sail her to Liverpool.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 0008A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

SWEETBRIAR. E.T.A. Stangerhead 0700A/11. My position 056° 41' N. 011° 10' W.  
(SWEETBRIAR 0700A/10.)

ATALANTA. Intend sailing ATALANTA at 0800/11 E.T.A. Padstow 1433/11 escorted by M.L.'s 184-341. SUZANNE ADRIENNE will act as additional escort in Lands End area. Fighter cover requested.  
(R.N.O. Penzance 0940/10.)

RODNEY. Intend sailing RODNEY to arrive Greenock in daylight 14th. (C. in C. H.F. 1318A/10.)

MINERVE. MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH sailed for Lerwick. (Capt. S.9 1345A/10.)

H.44. Sheerness. Departure H.44 at 1240 escorted by PYTCHLEY to Dungeness. E.T.A. 0830/13 at R/V in 180° Lizard 3 miles.  
(C. on C. Nore 1408A/10 to F.O. Falmouth.)

/PRINS ...



314

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

PRINS ALBERT. Intend sailing PRINS ALBERT for Portland at 0830/13. Calling at Tail of Bank for landing craft. E.T.A. Point of arrival 2200/14. (V.A. C.T.C. 1450/10.)

MAURITIUS. My 1554A/7/1. Adjust speed to pass breakwater at 0830/11. If you are delayed and cannot pass longitude of Bishop by 0630/11 remain west of that longitude until 0800/11. (C. in C. Plymouth 1606/10 to MAURITIUS.)

Sailing of Western Local Force destroyers. My 1942A/8. Following destroyers are now allocated to western local force at Halifax and will be required to sail as shown; (1) WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON with W.S.16 15/2. (2) CHELSEA, CALDWELL 15/2. (3) VANQUISHER, WANDERER, WITCH 23/2. (4) BULLDOG, ANTELOPE, MONTGOMERY 3/3. (5) ROXBOROUGH on completing refit in U.S.A. early April. (C. in C. W.A. 1639A/10 to Capt. (D) Liverpool, Greenock.)

NEWCASTLE. Intend to sail NEWCASTLE at 1730A/13. E.T.A. Clyde 1330/14. (A.C.O.S. 1901A/10.)

CAIRO. Sailed CAIRO for Murmansk escorted by AIREDALE in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 2042/8. E.T.A. position B, 0700Z/13, and position M Z 0700/15. Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (R.A.D. H.F. 1907A/10.)

Operations.

Patrol off Start. Intend sailing at 1700/10 M.G.B.314 to 135° Start Point 2 miles, thence Southwards, returning to Dartmouth 0800/11. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1036/10.)

Brest S/M Patrol. A. My 1921A/8. After passing through patrol position number 52 H.34 is to proceed to patrol in vicinity of position number 55. B. 0.10 leaving vicinity of Wolf Rock 2000/12 is to proceed diving by day through (a) 049° N. 7° W. to patrol vicinity of position number 56. C. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange submerged bombing restrictions between Wolf Rock and position (a) from 1600/12 to 1000/13. (F.O.S. 1109A/10.)

As far as is known main units at Brest have not exercised during last four days. There is nothing to indicate any have been hit by bombs and any or all of the three ships may exercise at any time or even break out, though the latter seems unlikely until further exercises have been carried out. I do not want you to go in unless all circumstances are in your opinion favourable. (F.O.S. 1309A/10 to SEALION.)

/Intend ...

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Brest  
S/M  
Patrol.  
contd.

Intend sailing Z.5 at 0600/11 to R/V with H.50  
180° Lizard 3 miles, on making contact returning  
to Falmouth. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1646/10.)

Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol.

OXLIP and SNOWDROP are to return Hvalfjord.  
(2) Corvette patrol will not be carried out for  
the present. (C. in C. H.F. 1202A/10.)  
C. in C. H.F. 1202A/10. R/V me in 5 miles  
028° from Straumnes at 1830N/10.  
(OXLIP 1250N/10 to SNOWDROP.)

Maunsell  
Tower.

Operation Q Q passed Yantlet Gate 1500, speed  
4 knots. (C. in C. Nore 1639A/10.)

N.L.7B.

M.L.'s 101, 102, 104 carrying out operations  
N.L.7B. E.T.D.1830. E.T.R. 0030/11.  
(V.A. Dover 1709A/10.)

Landing  
Exercises.

Combined operation landing exercises will take  
place as follows. Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1748A/10.)

Fro Havet  
S/M  
Patrol.

P.37 leaves Lerwick 1800A/10 proceeding on  
surface unescorted through positions (A) 90°  
Muckle Flugga 10 miles (B) 61° 30' N. 00° 30' W.  
(C) 65° N. 01° E. thence submerged by day  
through (D) 65° N. 8° 20' E. to patrol in zone  
K 7 area W. (Capt. S.9 1803A/10.)

British Air Activity.

Proposed  
Air  
Operations.

Following received from C.O.825 Squadron Manston,  
begins. S.629 9/2. 1. Due to the state of  
the moon consider night conditions are suitable  
for carrying out only the following operations,  
weather permitting until 22/2. (A) Daily armed  
R/C after dusk carrying bombs. (B) Emergency Squadron  
Torpedo attack assisted by flares, against very large vessels  
only. After 22/2. (A) Normal Squadron Formation Night  
Torpedo attack against target more than 300 feet length.  
(B) Daily Armed R/C after dusk carrying bombs. (C) Nightly  
Torpedo Sweeps by sections of two aircraft equipped with H.F.  
(TR 1133) and controlled whilst airborne by R.A.F. Swingate.  
2. Great importance is attached to co-operation with R.A.F.  
Swingate and it is requested that arrangements may be made for  
all six Swordfish at Manston to be fitted with H.F. (TR 1133) as  
soon as possible in preparation for the suitable night weather  
likely after 22/2. T.O.O. 1640/9 Ends. I concur and I  
would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made  
and co-ordinated with by Air Staff Officer. Admiralty's  
1739A/7/2 refers. (V.A. Dover 1136A/10 to 11 Group.)

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy  
P.W.109.  
LIEUTENANT  
ROBERT MORY  
(French,  
3176 tons)  
bombed.

Following received from Lands End Radio.  
Intercept 1853 G.M.T. De GMNN. AAAA badly  
damaged, required immediate assistance. Please  
take QTE off me. My receiver out of action.  
1956/10 Lands End Radio.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 2005/10.)  
Am standing by LIEUT. MORY who is standing by  
to beach. (JASPER 2010A/10 to ATHERSTONE.)  
Following received begins. Received 1958  
G.M.T. 040° GONIO B unreliable sector. De GMNN here hit  
amidships. Several men need immediate medical attention.  
Please send tugs at once. Please take Q T E off my trans-  
mission. Not rebroadcast. 2058/10.  
(C. in C. Plymouth T.O.R. 2107/10.)  
Tug is on the way from Milford Haven. If ROBERT MORY is not  
sinking anchor her in St. Ives Bay. 2 rescue boats from St.  
Ives with doctor being sent to take off wounded.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 2120/10 to JASPER.)  
Sailed Tug CHERBOURGEOIS III. to assist LIEUTENANT ROBERT MORY  
bombed 5 miles West of Trevoise Head.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2153A/10.)  
If in danger of sinking endeavour to beach ROBERT MORY in  
Perran Bay. Otherwise comply with my 2120.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 2334A/10 to JASPER, ELLESMERE.)

Mining.

WELSHMAN. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1200 /10. Nothing to  
report. (WELSHMAN 0830A/10.)  
Arrived WELSHMAN.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1243A/10.)

Tyne. At 1301/10 one Red Mine exploded by Sweepers  
in 55° N. 1° 21' 31" W.  
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1821/10.)

S.N.5B. My 0937/7. <sup>N.T. 2143</sup> For NEWARK read SKATE.  
(R.A.M. 1848/10.) *See 8/p - p.247 -*

U-Boats.

ANNA  
KNUDSEN.  
(Torpedoed  
9/2)

On indicated position at midnight. Nothing  
in sight.  
(FREEBOOTER 0035/10.)  
Contacted with ANNA KNUDSEN, preparing to take  
in tow to make for Clyde via Barrahead.  
(FREEBOOTER 1055A/10.)  
FREEBOOTER commenced towing 1245A/10.  
(THIRLMERE 1300A/10.)  
Commenced towing again at 1830A/10 from 59° N. 9° 50' W.  
Course 155°. Speed about 6 knots.  
(THIRLMERE 1845A/10.)

North  
of Rockall.D/F bearings at 0746Z indicate U-Boat in area  
within 30 miles of 59° 30' N. 14° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 1055A/10.)

/Atlantic ...

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - contd.Atlantic.  
Sighted by  
KINA II.Intercepted at 1906 G.M.T. de KINA 2.  
SSSS position 50° 31' N. 29° 01' W.  
Sighted submarine.  
(Port Patrick Radio 1900/10.)  
Position at 1900 G.M.T. 50° 31' N. 28° 01' W.  
(KINA II 2008/10.)Enemy Intelligence.M/V's in  
Straits of  
Dover.Track E7D three plus small vessels from 1½ miles  
north of Calais at 1943 Westbound at 9 knots  
to Boulogne at 2210. (V.A. Dover 0916A/10.)Brest  
Main  
Units.

Following received U.S. Naval Attache Vichy 9/2.  
Six or eight large German destroyers and the  
HIPPER arrived Brest 28/1, to escort PRINZ  
EUGEN, GNEISENAU, and SCHARNHORST to Germany for  
completion of repairs. French engineers in  
Brest say that one of the ships either PRINZ EUGEN or GNEISENAU  
cannot be considered fully serviceable as she has large cement  
patch in her hull. Germans in Brest say ships were hit during  
bombardments in January but all three are now ready for sea.  
Above information was received from Civilian Naval Instructor  
serving in Ministry of Marine. He received the report from  
Maval Medical Officer stationed in Brest.  
(B.A.D. Washington 1103Q/10 to Admty.)  
N.I.D. Comment. 1. PRU Brest 1100/9 only 4 destroyers present,  
berthed at T/B station, but 2 more passed the Straits of Dover  
westward on night of 8/9 February. No PRU has disclosed  
presence of second Hipper Class Cruiser. 2. HIPPER reported  
in Kiel 24/1 (graded B.2). 3. No photographic evidence of  
damage by air attack. All 3 ships have done extensive trials  
lately, and may be considered quite ready for sea.  
My 1103/10 and your 1041/5. Admiral Leahy reports 10/2 that  
French Admiralty consider all three ships ready for sea and  
will soon sail. Leahy has this information from two Officials  
in different Ministries in whom he has confidence. B.1.  
(B.A.D. 1555Q/10 to Admty.)

Destroyer.

Enemy destroyer 180° Aldernet (?Alderney) 8 miles,  
course 180°, high speed, at 1025A/10.  
(F.O.S. 1239A/10 to SEALION.)Navigational.Bass  
Rock.Bass Rock North West Light Buoy extinguished.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0052/10.)Casualties & Defects.

PALADIN.

Proceed passing Switha 1600 today to Clyde for  
repairs in accordance with my 2214A/9.  
(R.A.D. 0928A/10 to PALADIN.)  
Your 2214/9. PALADIN can be taken in hand forthwith at  
Clydebank for defects to R/F Director.  
(D.O.D. H. 1333A/10 to R.A.D. H.F.)

/Raft ...

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - contd.

Raft. Over raft in 59° 18' N. 13° 48' W. 2 men.  
(A/C 3XJG 1145/10 to Aldergrove.)  
Detach one trawler to pick up two men from a  
raft sighted by A/C in 59° 17' N. 13° 48' W. at 1145A/10.  
A/C will endeavour to co-operate.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1211A/10 to ST. ELSTAN.)  
Proceeding in accordance with your 1211A/10. My P.C.S. 060°  
25' N. 015° 56' W., 138°, 11. (ANGLE 1615Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 1211A/10. Position now amended to 58° 30' N. 13° 23' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1757A/10 to ST. ELSTAN.)  
My 1757A. Flying boat will co-operate from daylight.  
Position was at 1355A/10. Estimate raft drifting to south-  
westward at about 2 knots.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1816A/10 to ST. ELSTAN.)

Convoy S.C.67. LAGARFOSS now reports will have coals to reach  
Loch Ewe provided present fine weather prevails.  
LAGARFOSS Suggest having tug stationed off Barra Head  
(Icelandic, 0800Z/13th (?).  
1211 tons.) (Commodore of S.C.67 1415Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 1145Z/9, my 1935A/9. Request immediate  
reply. (C. in C. W.A. 1540A/10 to Task Unit  
4.1.15 for Commodore.)  
Your 1935A/9 and your 1540A/10. Tug requested at 0800Z/13  
off Barra Head. (SPIKENARD, 1520Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

STANGATE. STANGATE in collision with WANDLE near B2 buoy  
at 1500/9 has proceeded to Gravesend for repairs.  
Damage as follows. Details.  
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1538A/10.)

HONEYSUCKLE. Both boilers out of action. GENTIAN standing  
by. Hope to be under way and meet convoy  
during the night.  
(HONEYSUCKLE 1715A/10.)

WAR NIZAM. My 2134A/9. WAR NIZAM. Stem post and  
adjacent plating badly bent to starboard at  
waterline, forepeak flooded. Leakage beyond  
capacity ships pumps. Vessel unseaworthy.  
Needs docking for examination and repair which  
cannot be undertaken at Sheerness.  
(Cdre, Sheerness 2147A/10.)

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.11. Cancel my 2000/9.  
HARPALION. (D.T.D. 0138A/10.)  
My 2310A/9. Proceed Kirkwall. You will be  
required to escort P.Q.11 to Murmansk sailing  
12/2. (C. in C. W.A. 0944A/10 to SWEETBRIAR.)

O.N.64. In view of depletion of escort of O.N.64 request  
O.N.65. Task Unit No.4.1.8. be given directions to  
augment as recommended in my 0919/15. (Cdre.  
Task Group 4.6. 0625Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)  
/Your ...

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War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N. 64.  
O.N. 65.  
contd.      Your 0625Z/10. (1) Am reinforcing O.N. 64 with KINGCUP, DIANELLA, LOOSESTRIFE to Westomp. 5 Corvettes will thus escort 36 ships including 2 tankers. (2) As O.N. 65 will consist of 42 ships including 29 tankers propose Task Unit 4.1.8 should escort this convoy as intended. (C. in C. W.A. 1424A/10 to Task Group 4.6)
- Q.P. 7.      Intend local escort of two minesweepers shall remain with Q P seven until reaching meridian 016° E. Q.P. seven sails 12/2. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0831A/10.)
- P.Q. 9 & 10.      My 1001A/10/1 FAULKNER, INTREPID, trawler SHIKA, and following ships of P.Q. 9 and 10 arrived Kola inlet. EL LAGO, NOREG, EMPIRE SELWYN, TBILSI, ~~FREDERICK ENGELS~~, ~~REVOLUTIONER~~ TREVORIAN. (2) Trawler HAV and stragglers (?exclusive of) IJORA, WEST NOHNO, not arrived. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1001A/10, 1219A/10.)  
~~X FRIEDRICH~~
- E.N. 46.  
FOXTROT.      My 1606/9. Propose sailing FOXTROT in E.N. 46. Owing to structural damage vessel has maximum speed 8 knots. If weather deteriorates vessel should break off from Convoy for Shelter. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1108/10.)
- Atlantic  
Escort  
Units.      Your 1631R/29/1. Does term British-Canadian mean mixed British and Canadian units or is reference to all escort units whether British, Canadian or mixed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1513A/10 to B.A.D.)
- N.A. 3 route.      A.M. 1927A/8. Amend position X 4230 N. 5830 W. thence through position (p) 44° 30' N. 38° W. (q) 48° 30' N. 35° W. (r) 50° 50' N. 20° W. (s) 10 miles 180° from Fastnet Rock. Thence by QZF to destinations. Amend destinations as follows DOMINION MONARCH to Liverpool. ALCANTARA to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1622A/10.)
- HARMATRIS.  
COLD HARBOR.  
BRITISH  
WORKMAN.      Please request New York advise with cargo details expected draft measurements on arrival Murmansk enable alteration of plans of berthing (2) HARMATRIS now waiting favourable weather dry dock. This ship has no oil stove, and heating has broken down. Why do you not put a few oil stoves on all ships for North Russia for crews' welfare in emergency. (3) COLD HARBOR. Russians now endeavouring to discharge heavy lifts and Master threatening sailing with first convoy if lifts not discharged. We have suggested to him he should miss first convoy but not 2nd convoy account heavy lifts which are very tricky and may not be possible. Presume New York and you agree our attitude. (4) BRITISH WORKMAN discharged about 5000 tons. Will not sail first convoy. (Maclay 1630A/9 to Admty.)

/W.S.16 ...

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - contd.

- W.S.16. A.M.2331A/5. Destroyer escort arrangements. Amend para: 6 (C) as follows:- C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide 6 destroyers in addition to the above. 2. Of these 6 destroyers C. in C. W.A. is requested to (A) Detail 3 to return with RODNEY and (B) detail 3 to remain with the convoy until relieved by PALADIN and PANTHER after the latter have completed fuelling at Ponta Delgada. The 3 W.A. destroyers will then return to Ponta Delgada fuel and proceed to Halifax N.S. 3. 7 destroyers of Force H will provide additional escort and with DUNCAN will proceed to Gibraltar as ordered by S.O. Force V. 4. Short endurance destroyers of Force H should proceed to Londonderry for fuel before making R/V with convoy. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1916A/10.)
- S.C.67. Owing to reported S/M request Task Unit 4.1.15 may remain with S.C.67 till prudent limit of endurance. (C. in C. W.A. 1955A/10 to C.C.N.F. Task Force 4.)
- Atlantic Convoy Escorts. Your 2142A/8 and your 2143/8. Agreements noted. Eastern local situation understood. Proposed arrival dates of destroyers satisfactory except that one British destroyer should be available to depart from Halifax 25/2 with Western local escorts for H.X.177. Proposed movements of corvettes to Newfoundland with O.N.65, H.N.S.66 and H.N.73 (A-4) satisfactory. Consider essential points established and will initiate new system which, by assigning C-1 to escort S.C.70 and A-1 to escort H.X.176 western local escort, will meet B-1 with O.N.S.68 in Westomp. (Cdr. Task Force 4 2003/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Q.P. Convoys. In view of altered arrangements of O.N. Convoy Escorts will Q.P. ships of less speed than ten knots destined for United States be ordered to U.K. instead of to Akureyri in future. (A.C.I.C. 2148A/10 to Admty.)
- O.N.S.66  
O.N.67. Your 1915A/10.\* (1). Following detailed. WELLARD, LE TIGER, ST. ZENO, NORTHERN GEM, CAPE WARWICK, ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY, BODO, MOLDE, NARVIK, SENATEUR DUHAMEL, PENTLAND FIRTH, STELLA POLARIS. (2) Intend sailing 5 trawlers AM/14th to join O.N.S.66. 6 trawlers AM/15th to join O.N.67. 2 Trawlers independently AM/18. Earlier sailing could be arranged in some cases if absolutely necessary. (3) Propose U.R. Cycle be opened out to 9 days U.R. 13 sailing 17/2. (4) Consideration might be given to abolishing or supplementing UR and RU convoys when American short 'leg group is in operation from Iceland. (C. in C. W.A. 2357A/10.)\* (N.T. in W.D.)

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War Diary.

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 1702A/3 and 1610A/4.  
HALCYON reported being gunned by raider in 034° 20' N. 059° 16' W. at 0127P/6. Survivors statements not yet received, but considered probable that attack was made by U-Boat. Raider E thought to be the only German Raider operating at present, probably in South Atlantic. (D.D.I.C. 1704A/10 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

Bombing Restrictions. Ops. 639, 10/2. Serial G.40. Amend serial G.39  
Ops. 632 to read 048° 50' N. 005° 45' W. (H.Q.C.C. 0131A/10 to R.A.F. Gib., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)  
Ops. 641. 10/2. Serial G.41. Ref. my Ops. 624, serial G.36 and Ops. 630 G.38. Add 24 hours to all times. (H.Q.C.C., 0740D/10 to R.A.F. Gib., (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8).  
Ops 645 10/2 Serial G.42. Institute total submarine bombing restrictions from 0730/11 until 1200/11 within 25 miles radius of position 180° Lizard 3 miles. (H.Q.C.C. 1103/10 to R.A.F. Gib. (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8).

LLANDOVERY CASTLE bombed. Following received. 31° 52' 27° 23'. LLANDOVERY CASTLE attacked by enemy aircraft. (✓) Three bombs dropped - no damage. (Nore W/T, 0815/10 to Whitehall W/T).  
W.R. Note:- (✓) Message incompletely received, part missing indicated.

OLYMPUS. Intend to sail OLYMPUS P.M./12 for Malta. OLYMPUS will pass position 038° 00' 009° 00' E. at about 1600A/17 and has a copy of V.A. Malta 1741/9. (Routeing instructions for P.36). (F.O.C.N.A. 1136A/10, to C. in C. Med.)

CLEOPATRA. FORTUNE. (? Italian) R/C aircraft have reported sighting one cruiser one destroyer at 1045A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1142A/10 to CLEOPATRA (R) Admty., V.A. Malta.)

/Situation....



War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

Situation.

Report No. 1 at 2001A/10.

(1) Fleet unit HERMIONE, 7 destroyers, 042° 42' 015° 00' 000° 15.5.

→ (ii) ALOUETTE escorting cable ship MIRROR 270° Cape Roca 40. On relief by SCOTTISH coastwise to Gibraltar.

(iii) CLYDE, GERANIUM, VETCH escorting tanker DINGLEDALE 034° 46' 012° 35' 078° 10.

(iv) SCOTTISH approx. 210° Cape of St. Marys 15 to R/V with cable ship MIRROR.

(v) Convoy of 4 destroyers sailed 2000/10 through 35.50 06.40 thence 220° 12½, S.O. WISHART. (F.O.C.N.A. 1302A/10 to N.A. Stn.).

→ My 1302A/10 add para. 6. STELLA CARINA sailed 1700 to R/V cable ship MIRROR. (F.O.C.N.A. 1540A/10 to N.A. Stn.).

ELSA  
ESSBERGER  
(German).Ship entered harbour (Ferrol) with 2 masts. Her centre mast has been replaced in original position and bridge reduced to normal size dismantling canvas camouflage. She is fitted as repair ship with efficient personnel on board. No trace as yet of British prisoners of war. (R.O. Corunna 1330/10 to Admty., (R) S.O. (I) Gib., B.N.A. Madrid.)  
Your 1837/9. Crane used for fixing mast reported in my 1330/10. (R.O. Corunna, 1940/10 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid.)PANDORA.  
PARTHIAN.

Your 2316A/8. Consider submarines would reach full operational efficiency most (?speedily) by carrying out 7 days working up patrol in close vicinity of Gibraltar.

(ii) Working up patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea would require 15 days including return to Gibraltar for embarking gear and stores.

(iii) If adequate force were available at Gibraltar to prevent passage of enemy warships, I would welcome opportunity of renewing operations in Tyrrhenean Sea but consider PANDORA should remain in vicinity of Gibraltar until return of Force H. (F.O.C.N.A. 1550A/10 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.S.)

→ STELLA  
CARINA.

Sailing STELLA CARINA to relieve ALOUETTE as escort to cable ship MIRROR. (F.O. C.N.A. 1700A/10 to Admty.)

BORGFRED.  
KINGSLAND.My 1946A/9. <sup>del p. 288</sup> Cancel EDENCRAIG and substitute BORGFRED. Request destinations for KINGSLAND and BORGFRED. (F.O.C.N.A. 1711A/10 to Admty.)Suspicious  
Warships.

Unknown cruiser and several destroyers seen 10 miles off Caminha, 041° 55' N. 008° 50' W. 1200 steering south. A.I. (N.A. Lisbon, 1845/10 to S.O.I. Gib., (R) Admty., N.A. Madrid.)

/U.B's.....

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

- U.B's. At 1725 G.M.T. Italian submarine made sighting report bearing approx. 299° Gibraltar. At 1752 G.M.T. German submarine made sighting report bearing approx. 303° Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1853A/10 to Ships escorting S.L.99 (R) Admty.)
- H.G. 79. In view of earlier sailing of H.G. 79, request M.O.W.T. representatives be instructed to expedite turn round of shipping. (D.T.D. 1946A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- U.B. Bearings at 1745Z/10 of Italian U/Boat 88D. (D.D.I.C. 1953A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- WIVERN. WIVERN has been delayed. She will join you later. (F.O.C.N.A. 2101/10 to WISHART).
- Rescue Tug  
Azores. Your 1629/27/12.  
In view of the importance attaching to stationing a rescue tug at the Azores you should enquire whether Portuguese would accept following solution of difficulty:-  
Admiralty to provide a tug which would be given Portuguese registry and fly the Portuguese Flag; a proportion of the crew could, if necessary, be recruited locally.  
Please report urgently. (Hd. of M. 2143A/10 to N.A. Lisbon)
- Landing in  
Port Darwin. Japanese Military Attache to-day told Portuguese General Staff that a landing will be made at Port Darwin between 26/2 and 28/2. (Comment. Authorities in Far East have been informed by War Office). (M.A. Lisbon, 2340/10 to W.O.)
- ROYAL  
SCOTSMAN. ROYAL SCOTSMAN left convoy and turned back off Burling Island at 2310 without report.  
(WISHART, 2358A/10 to F.O.C. N.A. (R) WIVERN)

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- RESOLUTION. Your 1203Z/8 not to Admty, and Admty. 0028A/8. Fuel not available at Walvis Bay. RESOLUTION proceeding direct to Freetown at best speed but cannot arrive before next Saturday 21st or possibly 20th. (F.O.3. B.S. 0455Z/10, to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
- JOHNSTOWN. S.O. (I) Kingston 1509/8. Panamanian ship JOHNSTOWN due New York 11/2, not Trinidad. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0806B/10 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O. (I) Kingston, S.O.(I) Freetown).
- DERBYSHIRE. My 1547/9\* DERBYSHIRE carrying bullion in accordance with A.M. 1515/21/11/41+ Para. 5 (ii). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0943Z/10 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)  
\* N.T. in W.R. - repetition called for.  
+ Re shipment of bullion from South Africa to U.K., U.S.A. and Canada.
- Movements. Tuesday 10/2. Arrivals Capetown, CHESHIRE with portion of convoy W.S.15, and Netherlands ship COLUMBIA. Simonstown, DEMIR HISSAR. Departures, Capetown RESOLUTION at 0512Z for Freetown direct, S. of A. 12½ knots, E.T.A. p.m./20 or a.m. /21. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1009Z/10 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. N.L.O. Durban).
- Limit of S.A. Stn. Your 1642/9. Concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1106Z/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- South Africa. Recent sabotage of communications in S. Africa Sabotage. has had nuisance rather than actual effect but Coast Defence. situation might have been serious and Govt. is perturbed at possibilities.
2. Govt. considers sabotage is financed by Wertz from Lourenco Marques. Several persons of medium standing in Union are known to be involved but no action is being taken against them yet in hope of identifying principal intermediary.
3. Govt. also worried by defencelessness of Union coast against external aggression and are prepared to take action but inability to secure war material especially A/A guns is producing feeling of frustration. I have noticed recently in private conversation of Ministers a tendency to suggest that men and material are being "hoarded" in U.K. to detriment of other war zones. Any irritation such as that recently expressed in Australia would be real danger here owing to strength of anti-war party in local politics.
4. Understand Govt. considering raising armed native infantry in spite of inherent Afrikaner objection to arming natives but difficulty is lack of rifles.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1115/10 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.

- A/S Tactics. Anti-U-boat tactics laid down in C.B. 4097 (XII) para. 770 to 774 should be employed by A.M.C's on the S.A. Station. (C. in C. S.A. 1258Z/10 to S.A. Stn. (R) Admty.)
- RANGITATA. Following has been read: SSSS 05° 22' N., 13° 57' U/B. W. RANGITATA sighted probable S/M on surface, visibility good, cloud 5000 feet. (Freetown W/T, 1300/10) Amplified, see 1848/11.
- CITY OF CAPETOWN. CITY OF CAPETOWN's SSSS at 0835Z/9 has now been investigated. One torpedo track only said to have been sighted. Consider presence of U-boat doubtful. Destroyer was within  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of CITY OF CAPETOWN at time and searched area immediately, being joined by flying boat shortly afterwards. No result from search. (C. in C. S.A. 1341Z/10 to Admty., amended 1746Z/10).
- PHILOCTETES. Departure 1200/10 PHILOCTETES escorted by BRILLIANT, FRITILLARY and NIGELLA, E.T.A. Freetown A.M./12th. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1421Z/10 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)
- W.S.15B. Your 2016/9. Request whether STAFFORDSHIRE, D.M.3. AUTOLYCUS and PARDO whose present destination is Burma should be organised to form part of D.M.3. or W.S. 15 B. D.M.3 now consists of EMPIRE WOODLARK, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, STRATHNAVER, AAGETEKERK and PORT CHALMERS. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1433Z/10 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. N.L.O. Durban). Reply: C. in C. E.I. 1855/11.
- COLOMBIA. My 1009/10 not to all addressees. Request destination and onward instructions for H.M.T.S. COLOMBIA. 2. Admty. pass to B.D.Z. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1447Z/10 to Admty. (R) B.D.Z., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F)
- LAERTES. Departure 10/2 H.M.S. LAERTES towing WAMI. WAMI. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1525Z/10 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- TONJER. U.S. KENTUCKY on arrival Durban reports at wreckage. 1902Z/10 sighted waterlogged lifeboat, name on stern TONJER. Appears to be three bodies in boat under thwarts. Gunwales broken in on bow and stern. Position 29° 48' S. 31° 32' E. TONJER QQQQ Message dated 2/2 refers. S.D.F. Vessel is being sent to investigate boat. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1652Z/10 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. (R) N.L.O. Durban).

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.

Aerodrome.

My 2515Z/23/1. (N.T. in W.D.) Site has been examined by Lieut. Com. C.S. Fenwick R.N. Details. In view of importance of having accommodation (in addition to Hastings) available before wet season, request early decision.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1845Z/10 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

→ FARNDALE.

My P.C. and S. are 031° 41' N. 026° 19' E. 110° 3½ knots. HURWORTH in company.  
(FARNDALE, 0001/10 to ST. ISSEY (R) 234 Wing, KIPLING, etc.)

HYACINTH  
attack  
on U/B.

My 2149B/9, S/M was sighted on surface by HYACINTH and was seen to dive. HYACINTH reports that underwater explosions followed her attack and enemy may be damaged. No other ships gained contact. Consider S/M will now have escaped on surface and am rejoining convoy "Rivet". HYACINTH in company.  
(AVON VALE, 0200B/10 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria (R) C. in C. Med. R.A.D. Med. S.O. Force I, 201 Group).

WAKEFIELD.  
WESTPOINT.

Your 1830/7. WAKEFIELD and WESTPOINT will proceed direct to destination and not tranship in India subject to concurrence of C. in C. E.F. from the security point of view.  
(D.S.T., 0632A/10 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

HEYTHROP.

Your 1504/8. Detach HEYTHROP to arrive at Alexandria by 0900 tomorrow by reverse route of "Solar". (R.A. Alexandria, 0947B/10 to N.O.I.C. Tobruk, (R) HEYTHROP, 201 Group, 234 Wing, 262 Wing, Advance 201 Group, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force I, Capt. (S) 1, R.A.(D) Med.)

→ HURWORTH  
bombed.

Enemy aircraft bombing, bearing of enemy 305° 32° N. 26° E. 27 miles. (HURWORTH 0953/10 to Alexandria W/T.)

/UNIQUE.....

War Diary.

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

UNIQUE. Anticipate following approx. positions of submarines  
 UNA. at 1930B/11.  
 UPRIGHT. S/Ms.  
 TEMPEST

	Positions.		To.	
UNIQUE.	039° 00'	017° 20'	040° 00'	017° 17'
UNA.	038° 35'	017° 08'	039° 05'	017° 17'
UPRIGHT.	038° 32'	017° 18'	039° 15'	17° 50'
TEMPEST.	037° 35'	016° 30'	039° 10'	017° 38'

Last 3 then to position on patrol line previously ordered. (Capt. S.10, 1140B/10 to UNIQUE, UNA, UPRIGHT, (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)

Air Report.

Opsum No. 624.

1. Cyrenaica Day 9/2. Enemy fighter activity considerably increased with his occupation of aerodromes in Derna - Martuba area. Light bomber operations cancelled as our fighters not available for escort duty.

Low-flying attacks by our fighters on enemy lines of communication now being discontinued as few profitable targets can now be found also enemy using decoy M.T. convoys heavily defended by A.A. guns.

2. Greece. Night 8/9 Feb. 4 Wellingtons bombed Piraeus causing explosion and fire at Chemical works.

3. Egypt. Night 5/6 Feb. Following delayed report now received. A.S.V. Sunderland scored 4 direct hits with 250 pound bombs on enemy submarine 40 miles N.E. Sidi Barrani. Submarine very badly damaged and considered sunk. Night 8/9 Feb. About 4 enemy aircraft reported over Delta. 1 came inland remainder flew along coast over Alexandria. 8 small bombs dropped near Aboukir without damage. 4 Hurricanes on Layer Patrol over Lake Mariut did not sight enemy. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1217/10).

MARRESTRIC.  
IOAN  
KOUTOUFARIS.

German Auxiliary vessel MARRESTRIC, 128 G.T. register and IOAN KOUTOUFARIS 112 G.T. register, arrived in ballast 8/2. Possibly will load here for Burgos. B.4. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1248B/10 to S.O.I. Med. (R) D.N.I.)

Bombing.

Enemy aircraft bombing 346° 37' N. 3° E. 24. (Local Call (Med). (Signification not known) 1325/10 to Malta W/T).

CLEOPATRA  
bombed.

Enemy aircraft bombing 346° 37' N. 5° E. 24. (CLEOPATRA 1325/10 to Malta W/T). My 1325, single aircraft. (CLEOPATRA 1327/10).

Jubal  
Light.

390 W.B. Jubal Island Bluff Point Light is reported to be out of action. (V.A. Malta, 1430B/10 to Med. Stn.)

/Russian.

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Russian  
Tankers.

C.N.S. officially informed me that no more tankers will be leaving Black Sea. 2. Admty. pass to all Addressees except Kuibyshev. (Adm. Miles, 1523C/10 to Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) N.A. Ankara, A.N.A. Istanbul, Embassy Kuibyshev).

Malta Air  
Report.

C.S.R. 10/2. My 179 (1630/9). Alert 1400 hours. 6 civilians killed 22 injured, much damage civilian property. Ta Kali Photographic Section destroyed, sick quarters and barracks much damage. 1 soldier and 1 airman killed, 2 airmen and Medical Officer seriously injured, many other slight casualties. 2 alerts 1539 and 1659 hours. 2 ME. 109's 1 bomber, no bombs dropped, A.A. fired. Night 9/10, 7 alerts 1812, 1934, 2237, 2313, 0144, 0208, 0520 hrs. 7 raiders, damage to houses, AA fired. Night Hurricanes grounded bad weather. 10th, 2 alerts 0903 and 1320 hrs., 27 ME. 109's and JU.88's target Ta Kali, damage not yet known. Gozo also bombed, 2 civilians killed, 3 seriously injured, 5 minor casualties, slight damage to houses. Hurricane up to cover delivery aircraft, A.A. fired. (H. Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1815/10).

THORN,  
Convoys.

Escorted convoys from Eastward and Westwards, E.T.A. early a.m./11. (Capt. S.1., 1829B/10 to THORN). THORN E.T.A. Alexandria Sanctuary 0800B/11. She has been warned of your convoys. (Capt. S.1, 1831B/10 to AVON VALE, HEYTHROP, (R) HERO, BEAUFORT, HYACINTH, HURWORTH, SOUTHERN SEA, KAI-KLO) A Buoy has been laid out in position 50 feet E.S.E. off end of outer breakwater, to mark an unexploded depth charge. This should be given as wide a berth as possible. (Capt. S.1, 2126B/10 to THORN).

Enemy  
Destroyers  
and M.V.

Sighted by delivery aircraft. 2 destroyers nationality unknown 130° Cani Rock 3 miles, course 90° 20 knots at 1225B/10. 1 medium merchant ship - 315° Ras Engela 10 miles, Course 100° 10 knots at 1345B/10. (ii) Special Wellington call sign I.W.Z.P. will be searching the area west of Sicily for shipping during tonight working on 3460 kc/s. (iii) Maryland will search the vicinity of your route from dawn tomorrow. (V.A. Malta 1839B/10 to CLEOPATRA (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)

/M.W.10.....

War Diary.

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

M.W.10.

My 1635B/4. EMPIRE EGRET allocated for  
M.W.10. and not to Far East.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1901B/10 to D. of S.T. (R)  
C. in C. Med.)

GOUVERNEUR

Continued voyage to Marseilles last night 9/2.  
GENERAL GREVY (Palma, 2000/10 to M. of W.T.)  
(French).



War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA "Q" Report. Q Q Q Q received EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA in 001° 46' S. 086° (?25') proceeding toward Colombo giving word "Suspicious" only. (2) Plot gives probable latitude 001° 30' N. (3) VAMPIRE northward if this is not her (corrupt group) N.S. SUMATRA also in vicinity.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0152Z/10 to E.I. Sqdn.)  
My Q message of 0127 G.M.T./10 cancelled.  
(EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, 0301Z/10.)  
My 0152/10th cancellation received in P.L. and (? continued) in code. Consider genuine.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0804Z/10 to E.I. Sqdn.)

Convoy S.R.5A. Sailing telegram Sandheads departure 0400Z/10. R/V with M.R.3 in 015° 10', 089° 44' at 0200Z/11. Route. Escort INDUS.  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 0406Z/10, 0409Z/10 to Admty.)

Convoy J.S. 3. Your 0501/8. J.S.3 which cannot now reach Sunda Strait before 27/2 cannot split. It will consist of ships detailed in my 1348/6 plus MATHURA and GOVERNOR but less ASCANIUS, TROJA, MARISA, BIRCHBANK, AFRICAN PRINCE which carries "Gelding" to Burma.  
2. Loading details are not known here nor desired ports of discharge. Abdacom's requirements should be met as far as possible.  
3. C. in C. E.I. is requested to inform you estimated draughts of ships on arrival N.E.I.  
4. There are Indian reinforcements for Singapore in J.S.3.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0447Z/10 to S.O. China Force, (R) Abdacom D. of S.T., Admty., N.B. Melbourne, C. in C. E.I., S.S.T.O. India, Bombay.)

J.S. 2. Sailing telegram.  
Convoy. 2. 0250Z/10. Escort DORSETSHIRE. Route.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0520Z/10 to C.C.C.F., Abdafloat, R.A. Malaya, etc.)

Amphibious Operations. Plans in India, and recommendations.  
(C. in C. India, 0617/10 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

INDOMITABLE, NAPIER, NESTOR. Request you will sail INDOMITABLE, NAPIER and NESTOR for Aden on Saturday 14/2.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0623Z/10 to C. in C. E.I., (R) C. in C. Med., R.A.(A) E.F., Admty.)

Force T. Force T previously consisting of HERMES and ENTERPRISE operating on E.I. Station no longer exists as such.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0815Z/10 to E.I. Station.)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

**MOST SECRET**

0617/10th February

From:- C.in C. India.

Date. 10.2.42.

Recd. 0800

CYPHER

Addressed:- The War Office, repeated C. in C.  
S.W. Pacific, C.in C. Middle East.

2656/G cipher 032320 10/2.

First of two parts.

We have seen C.in C. S.W. Pacific telegram No. 00647 of 1st February, regarding amphibious operations.

1. We have already in India been carrying out research on this subject and elementary training of certain formations with limited resources.

2. Our combined training centre located near Poona is small. We are planning new site. First twelve landing craft are being laid down shortly.

3. Our Chief of Staff committee has already examined question of long term policy for defence of India against Japanese combined operations and preparation and training of forces in India for similar offensive operations by our own forces. Our examination indicates that in view of completeness of Japanese offensive and defensive plan for amphibious operation our minimum basis for planning for training should be assault force of one armoured brigade, one army tank battalion and one infantry division supported by suitable naval and air forces.

4. Our main requirements for which we are starting planning are as follows:-

(a) A senior naval officer with the necessary qualifications as Director General amphibious operations.

(b) Necessary combined service staffs for planning training intelligence signals and development purposes.

(c) Expansion of present combined training centre to include landing craft base, aerodrome, seadrome and camp for force under training.

Last of two parts.

(d) Establishment of operating and development centre to study varying conditions and variations of equipment required.

(e)/.....

(e) Provision of special craft and crews.

5. As regards 4(d) we consider that long distances to attain objective in probable future operations and consequent impossibility of approach being made completely by darkness together with lack of aerodromes will necessitate development of faster ships and landing craft greater endurance of all craft and use of seadromes and carriers to much greater extent than in Europe.

6. Above merely indicates lines on which we are thinking on which more detailed proposals are being prepared. We feel that trend of developments in the course of war shows that India is the base in which training for amphibious operations can best be carried out and from where trained expeditions may start. We are investigating provisions of men and materials from resources in India but shall need a very large measure of assistance from outside sources. The most urgent requirements will be officer as D.G.A.O. We consider we should also require initially a number of landing craft of types which cannot be produced in India to enable larger scale training to commence at once. Details will follow separately. Please consult Admiralty and Air Ministry and inform us early of your views. Pass copy to S. of S.

0617/10.

Recd. in War Reg. at 1245/11

1st Lord.	War Office circulation:-	
1st S.L.	S. of S.	D. of Plans, Admiralty.
2nd S.L.	C.I.G.S.	H.W.R. Admiralty.
3rd S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.	C.A.S. Air Ministry.
4th S.L.	A.C.I.G.S.	D. of Plans Air Min.
5th S.L.	D.M.O. & P.	Col. Jacob (Cab. Office)
V.C.N.S.	D.D.M.O. (O)	A.C.O. (Lt. Col. Price)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	M.O.L. (6) 8.10.12.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.M.T.	India Office (War Staff)
Nav. Sec.	D.D.M.T. (A)	
D. of P. (2)	M.T.6.	
D.O.D. (F)	S.D.2.	
D.D.O.D. (F)	C.N.S. Admiralty.	
D.N.I. (4)		
D.N.A.D.	E.P.S.	
D.A./S.W.	Ad. Somerville.	
D. of L.D.	C.C.O. (2)	
I.P. (2)	D.T.S.D. (C.O.)	
W.D.	D.N.E. (C.O.)	
D.C. (2)	Admiral Bellairs. (2)	
Hd. of M. (2)		
D.D.I.C. (2)		

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Naval stores for Eastern Yards. Your 1826/5 to Admty. When this question was considered were requirements Singapore based on needs of Eastern Fleet? If so, can it be understood that these supplies can be maintained if diverted to Ceylon or

Batavia? Future requirements of Naval stores for Singapore will be very small in comparison.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1121Z/10 to A.C.N.B., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Ceylon, C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I.)

JALARAJAN, S/M incident number 6.  
LAOMEDON. (1) JALARAJAN sunk in 000° 18' S. 088° 14/1.  
(2) A local defence vessels was mistaken for S/M off Trincomalee at 0701Z/8.  
(3) H.M.S. LAOMEDON torpedoed in 006° 13' N. 082° 23' at 1713Z/9 and is being towed to Colombo. Depth charge attack was carried out, result not known.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1244Z/10 to E.I. Stn., (R) Admty., etc.)

Colombo Salvage Tugs. My 1352/18/9/1941. The need of at least two salvage tugs based at Colombo is very urgent. There are now three damaged ships in harbour.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1429Z/10 to Admty.)

NORMAN, Your 0929/6. Request you will sail NORMAN as  
W.S. 15. additional escort to W.S. 15 from Durban to latitude 015° N., proceeding thence independently to Colombo calling Seychelles and port T for fuel.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1504Z/10 to F.O.i/c. Simonstown, (R) N.L.O. Durban, Admty., 7th D.F., NORMAN.)  
(Was amended later, see 2051/11.)

Indicator Nets at Bombay. Your 1238Z/5/1 and E.O.C.R.I.N. 1104Z/29/1. Local conditions in approaches to Bombay are difficult for submarines and owing to heavy defence commitments elsewhere patrol craft must be relied upon for the present. The question will be further investigated. GUARDIAN is required in Abda area vide my 1641A/10. /p.333  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 2109A/10 to C. in C. E.I., (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. E.F.)

Position & responsibility of C. in C. E.F. Personal from 1st Sea Lord. Your 1235Z/5 is more or less answered by A.M. 1652A/5. Your paras.3 and 4. We cannot see so far ahead yet and do not wish to lay down any rules before we have to.  
(1st S.L., 2308A/10 to C. in C. E.F.)

From : C. in G. Middle

Date : 13.2.42.

Recd : 1100.

CYPHER,

Addressed : The War Office, G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

255149. 59592. Cipher 1C/2.

My 57987. Please pass to Foreign Office. Following from Minister of State.

Following points arose out of further discussions with Col. Butt (Gen. Platt's Liaison Officer) on implications of total abandonment of blockade.

1. In event of any Axis attempt to make use of Jibuti, it would be easier to mount an attack on French Somaliland if the brigade at present enforcing blockade were concentrated and fully trained. Meanwhile we should revert to normal system of frontier posts.
2. All Free French Units would have to be withdrawn from Frontier Area.
3. Aircraft would be obliged to continue reconnaissances with a view to detection of Vichy or Axis Warships in port.
4. Purchases of cattle would be discontinued.
5. Propaganda directed towards surrender of the Colony would have to cease, but this would not necessarily mean abandonment of all pro-British or pro-Free French propoganda.
6. A decision would have to be taken regarding the use of the railway. If it is to be used it would in fact involve arranging a modus vivendi as suggested by Commander in Chief.

2224/10

Advance Copy D.C., D.O.D.(F)., D.D.I.C.

+ Situation in French Somaliland.  
 Recd. from War Office A.M. 14.2.42.

1st. Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

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

A.C.N.S.(W).

Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(F).

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

D.N.I.(4).

D. of P.(2).

D.C.(2).

D.D.I.C.(2).

N.P.

E.P.S.

P.A.S.(S):

Hd. of M.

I.P.(2).

W.D.

N.I.D. Pay Cdr. Wilson.

Ad. Chalmers.

Ad. Bellairs.

War Office Circulation.

S. of S.

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

D.M.C. & P.

D.D.M.C.(O).

M.O.I. 5, 11, 12.

D.M.I.

D.D.M.I.(I).

M.I. 3.L.

Col. Jacob.

C.N.S. Admiralty.

D. of Plans. Admiralty.

H.W.R. Admiralty.

C.A.S. Air Min.

D. of Plans Air Min.

For. Off. (Mr. Mack).

" " (Mr. Caccia).

" " (Mr. McKereth).

D.P.(2).

Col. Off. (Lt. Col.

Rolleston)(4).

Col. Off. (Mr. Lloyd)(4).

Adm. Chalmers Adm.

Mr. C.H.M. Waldoock. Adm.

Mr. Morrison, M.E.W.

Maj. Morton, 10 Downing Street.

20 Mil. Mission.

Mr. Coulson (Cab. Off.)

Spears Mission (Mr. Smith)

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Singapore Report. Sitrep No.62, 1630 hours G.M.T./9/2. T.O.O. 0200. Western Area. During the night 8/9 Feb. enemy landed several points on N.W. Coast Singapore Island. Considerable (?infiltration) made before dawn and strong enemy parties reached neighbourhood Tenfah(?way) - Bulim by midday. 44 Indian Inf. Bde. in S.W. portion Island threatened with isolation by further enemy penetration south from Tenfah. Both coast defence guns Pasir Laba put out of action by enemy dive-bombing and later demolished by own troops. Our forces are now withdrawing under pressure to general line Sungei Kranji-Bulim-Hong Kah-Sungei Jurong. Northern Area. Comparatively quiet. Intermittent enemy artillery fire directed at several points particularly Paya Lebar and west end Naval Base area. Damage and casualties slight. Some M.G. fire across straits near Johore Causeway. Southern and Reserve Areas nothing to report. Air. Our fighters almost continually air borne against greatly superior numbers claim 1 enemy bomber certain 3 fighters probable, 12 fighters damaged. 2 Hurricanes missing, 1 pilot believed safe. (Adv. H.Q. Malaya, 0230/10 to W.O.)

Transport of P.40's. 00945. Ref. Washington's D.B.A.9, 4/2. Request U.S. Carrier bring P.40's to N.E.I. from America. Pilots and mechanics to be on board. Aeroplanes to fly off Carrier. Mechanics land either in N.E.I. or Australia. ATHENE will bring crated aircraft. LANGLEY is being used to bring assembled P.40's from Australia. HAMMONDSPORT should return to U.S. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0445/10 to J.S.M. Washington.) Reply, see Washington 1721Q/12.

JUPITER action with S/M I160. Following are immediate awards for skill steadiness and determination in the action in which JUPITER destroyed Japanese S/M. I160 on 17/1/42. (List)  
2. This Japanese submarine was located by asdic by single destroyer who successfully hunted her, attacked and forced her to surface with 2 depth charge attacks. In ensuing gun action enemy submarine defended herself with greatest determination, and scored a direct hit on "A" gunmounting JUPITER, killed 3 and wounded 9 of gun crew. The enemy was attacked by JUPITER with long and short range gunfire, torpedoes and depth charge throwers, frequent hits by gunfire, and finally sunk. Her gun crew was continually reinforced by men from within submarine, and her machine gun continued firing when gun was out of action. 3 of her crew were made prisoners. One since died.  
3. This was a skilful and highly successful action against a (? determined) enemy, and immediate awards are strongly recommended. (C. in C. E.F., 0657Z/10 to Admty.)

/Ammunition ...

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.

Ammunition Supply. My 0420Z/9 (N.T. in W.D.)  
It seems probable that no further ammunition will be received from Singapore. Expenditure if (? of) H.A. ammunition is increasing rapidly and this is irreplaceable in Java with the exception of 4 inch mark XVI which serves only for EXETER, JUMNA and HOBART. Facilities for storage and issues of ammunition at Batavia are primitive. Will you consider sending a small A.S.I.S. to Batavia forthwith with ammunition suitable for issue to ships of China Force?  
(C.C.C.F., 0824Z/10 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., Admty., C.A.S.O. Trincomalee.) Reply 0615Z/11.

Enemy A/C Darwin - Malang. 00975, 10/2 a bomber aircraft en route Darwin-Malang was attacked by 3 Japanese fighters at 1000/9 in a position 280° Darwin 200 miles.  
2. Fighters may have come from an aircraft carrier based on Ambon and operating in Banda Sea or Northern Timor Sea.  
(Abdacom, 1000/10 to A.C.N.B., Opnav, (Britman Pass) N.B., C.C.C.F., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., Admty.)

ATHENE. ATHENE sailed 0830Z/10 for Fremantle. Shifted to Australia W/T organization at 1200/12.  
(C.C.C.F., 1047Z/10 to ATHENE, N.O. Melbourne, Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

Singapore Air Report. Ops. Report 58, 10/2.  
Daily Op. Summ. to 1030Z/10. Considerable enemy air activity during day. (?) Mostly against troops and guns positions. One raid Keppel Harbour damage to warehouses. Tengah in enemy hands. 8 Hurricanes left for Palembang a.m. No operational aircraft here.  
(A.H.Q. F.E., 1125/10.)

F.O.C. China Force. Rear Adm. W.G. Tennant has been appointed Flag Officer Commanding China Force in succession to Cdre. J.A. Collins, R.A.N. and will leave U.K. flying his flag in NEWCASTLE on 15/2. Whilst on passage he will be known as S.O. Force T.  
(Naval Secretary, 1428A/10 to A.C.N.B., (R) C.C.F.)

GUARDIAN. Intended that GUARDIAN should proceed to Abda area for work on boom defences. She will embark as much equipment from Ceylon reserves as can be spared. Request you will inform C. in C. E.I. what defences are most urgently required. Probable they will have to be improvised in the first instance.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1641A/10 to Abdafloat, (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., C.C.C.F.) See p. 331.

/Japanese ...

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.Japanese  
Intelligence  
for Russia.

Your 1826C/30. Following is a summary:  
 A. 1. Kota Bharu, 8/12.  
 Preliminary R/C early same night by 2 landing craft  
 each with 4 engineers who installed guiding  
 lights. Initial landing from 3 transports  
 0100. Tide high. Sea very rough, considerable  
 numbers drowned. No fire support at this stage.

Rations, 5 days iron.

Landing craft. All wooden with armour, bullet proof at 300  
 yards. Two types for troops carrying 30 and 60 respectively.  
 One YAMMA type decked sampan for artillery and M.T. each manned  
 by 4 to 6 engineers who were subsequently used for locating  
 mines, bridging etc.

Transports 6 to 8000 tons. Typical load in initial flight  
 consisted of 700 troops, 4/30 m.m. A.T., 8 A.A., 8/70 m.m., 8/75 m.m.  
 guns and five lorries. Heavy arms and equipment in second  
 convoy.

Air. No initial air support as landings made in dark. At  
 daylight neighbouring aerodromes heavily bombed.

2. Philippines. Destroyers stood off  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from shore,  
 heavy ships  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles further out. Transports in two groups  
 between Destroyers and heavy ships with A/C carrier between  
 them. Warships shelled beaches. Landings made on 5 mile  
 front by 50 landing craft each carrying about 150 men. Air  
 support fully adequate from carriers and in some cases from  
 shore based aircraft.

B. and C. Most convoys left one division. Composition 2  
 or 3 transports carrying 2/3 infantry personnel, 15 to 20  
 merchant ships with stores and equipment. Latter stand off  
 shore while initial landing is consolidated. Escort consisting  
 usually of 1 heavy and 3 light cruisers with 16 destroyers  
 disposed to seaward when convoy anchors. Further information  
 on dispositions, A/S tactics will be signalled.

D. Information as far as is known being forwarded by P.Q.11.  
 (D.N.I., 1848A/10 to Adm. Miles.)

Portuguese  
Sloop.

My 0018/9 (N.T. in W.D.) and Ambassador's  
 telegram to F.O. No. 214. C. in C. S.W.  
 Pacific has replied that there is no objection  
 to route proposed by Portuguese and that the  
 only special precautions so far as Allied  
 forces are concerned is that timely notice  
 should be given of the movements of the sloop.  
 (Hd. of M., 2207A/10 to N.A. Lisbon.)



War Diary.

10.2.1942.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Shipping, Routes. 1. Your 1112P/8 (Not to B.A.D. and Opnav). Instructions should be given to N.C.S.O's in Jamaica Area to route independent ships bound for U.K. South of Rockall Bank for the present and that such ships sailing from Trinidad need not be routed through the Caribbean. 2. Your 1632P/28 para. (A). The Chop date approximately on 40° W. for independently routed ships bound for U.K. from Jamaica Area is considered impracticable in view of earlier rerouting often being required by Admiralty shortly after leaving Caribbean. It is therefore considered that Chop date should be about but not less than Noon G.M.T. on the fourth day out. It is not intended to extend this procedure to ships proceeding to Gibraltar area. (D.T.D., 0051A/10 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) S.O.I. Jamaica, B.A.D., Opnav).

Atlantic Convoy Escorts. Your 1915/9. (N.T. in W.R.) Be guided by following principles. Until new system effective, responsibility for providing escorts unchanged. If for any reason Canadian ships unable to sail with assigned Westbound convoys, only means of augmenting escorts lies in securing reinforcements from C. in C. W.A., from amongst ships available and scheduled for voyages to Western Atlantic ports connection with commencement of new system. C.C.N.F. pass to C. in C. W.A., and (?Londonderry). (Com. Task Force 4, 0225/10 to Cmdr. Task Group 4.6 (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) N.O. Harbour, Londonderry, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.C.N.F.)

DESPATCH. Leave Bermuda P.M./11 and proceed via Sombrero passage to Trinidad so as to arrive 15/2. (2) After completing with fuelling and embarking Officers and Ratings leave Trinidad and proceed to Freetown passing through (A) 005° 00' N., 040° 00' W. C. in C. S.A., is requested to issue onward route from position (A). DESPATCH report E.T.A. position (A) before leaving Trinidad. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942P/10 to DESPATCH (R) Admty., B.A.D. Washington, C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Kingston, N.O.i/c Trinidad, PRINCE HENRY, DIOMEDE, VAN KINSBERGEN, N.O.I.C. Bermuda).

U/B. D/F bearings at 0545Z (?indicate) U-Boat within 50 miles 036° 30' N., 065° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0946Z/10 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

Vichy Intelligence. Decided to withdraw from circulation messages 1103 and 1555 of 10/2 from B.A.D. Washington (containing information from U.S. Naval Attache Vichy). All copies of these messages should be returned immediately to Head of Watch, War Registry. (W.R. 11/2).

/QUEEN ...

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- QUEEN MARY. Your 2145/7 and my 1627/9 to Admty. Sparks estimates QUEEN MARY will require approx. 7000 tons fuel and 1000 tons water at Trinidad on about 22/2. Suggest letting Signal Officer signal estimate for later ports of call. (B.A.D., 1125Q/10 to D. of S.T.)
- MAURIENNE. MAURIENNE destroyed by fire morning of 7/2 and sunk alongside dock. (C.O.A.C., 1257Z/10 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., C. in C. A.W.I.)
- Washops 59. 1. Philippine Island. Sporadic but fierce fighting continues Bataan.  
2. East Pacific. Hawaii Islands report Japanese submarines are again operating in Eastern Pacific. Estimate there are 4 in area 040° - 045° N. 140° - 165° W. and 4 in area 009° - 028° N. 164° - 177° W.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1311Q/10 to Admty., etc.)
- JOHNSTOWN,  
BRAMHILL,  
PENELOPI. Your 1509/8. JOHNSTOWN is routed from Capetown direct to New York. Your 1508/8. Your enquiry about BRAMHILL not understood, this ship is employed in home waters. Your 1224/9. PENELOPI arrived Trinidad 7/2 Trinidad's 1205/8 to Fairmiss repeated S.O.(I) Jamaica refers. (D.T.D., 1324A/10 to S.O.I. Jamaica).
- U/B. S.S. STEPHEN R. JONES sighted submarine at 2325Q/9 in 38° 54' N., 74° 46' W.  
(Bermuda W/T, No T.O.O./10 to Admty.)  
Recd. 1420/10.
- HALCYON. C. in C. A.W.I., 1033P/?7. S.S. HALCYON was sunk by gunfire from a submarine.  
(C.O.A.C., 1503Z/10 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)
- S.C. 69. FREDERICTON, QUINTE, GANANOQUE, MIDLAND, OAKVILLE sailed local escort S.C. 69.  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1528Z/10 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)
- EMPRESS OF CANADA. My 1715Z/30/1. It is now anticipated EMPRESS OF CANADA will be completed at Shipyards Norfolk 1/3. Request instructions.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1605Z/10 to D. of S.T.  
(R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C.)
- MONTRONITE. My 0320Z/5. 20 Survivors S.S. MONTRONIAO (? Tanker MONTRONITE) picked up by WINKLEIGH at 1700Z/7 in 36° 40' N., 61° 45' W., and landed at Halifax. 9(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1622Z/10 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

/Shipping ...

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War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Shipping Issue instructions to merchant vessels to show  
Navigation dimmed navigation lights when within 5 miles of  
Lights. harbour entrance or approaches to inland waters,  
though the vessel may be in a declared S/M  
danger zone as now North of 029°. Atlantic Sea  
Board, and at master's discretion during periods of low  
visibility. (U.S.C.N.O., 1623/10 to Comdr. Hawaii Sea Frontier,  
Comdr. Eastern Sea Frontier, Comdr. Gulf Sea Frontier, Comdr.  
Caribbean Sea Frontier, Comdr. Panama Sea Frontier, Comdr.  
Western Sea Frontier, Comdr. N.W. Sea Frontier, (R) A.L.U.S.N.A.  
Rio de Janeiro, Naval Operating Base Trinidad, A.L.U.S.N.A.,  
Havana, S.O.(I) Kingston, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty., C. in C.A.W.I.)

CAVINA. Leave Bermuda 11/2 and proceed by direct route to  
patrol western half of W.P. Area N. 46 N.55 in  
accordance with S.O.W.P. 1810A/31/1.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1642P/10 to CAVINA (R) Admty., MARON, N.O.I.C.  
Bermuda, B.A.D. Washington, S.O.W.P., N.O.I.C.Greenock,  
F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force "H").

DELHI. My 1802P/9. DELHI sailed. E.T.A. position B.  
1900 G.M.T./14. DELHI will shift to area 7A W/T  
organization at 1200 G.M.T./11 and to Home Station  
W/T organization at 0001 G.M.T./14. Watch will not be set on  
North Atlantic organization. Ship does not hold Home Fleet war  
communication orders or any charge documents. R D/F is not  
fitted. Latest Q Z Messages held.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1652P/10 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.,  
F.O.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. Plymouth, DELHI.)

Proposed DBA.14. Owing to the present threat to the line  
Mining of of sea communications through the Torres Strait,  
Torres Strait. the U.S. will in the near future discontinue  
sending ships via this route to the Abda Area.  
Were this Strait to fall freely into the hands of  
the enemy the Military position of the United Nations in the  
Anzac area would be adversely affected. For this reason we are  
considering proposal to block this Strait thoroughly with contact  
and magnetic mines at the earliest possible date, employing your  
own forces and arranging direct with Australia for co-operative  
action by that Commonwealth. Inform us, as soon as possible of  
your views on this proposal and what additional assistance may  
be required by you for it. Leahy is being informed of proposal.  
(Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, 1701Q/10 to Abdacom,  
(R) Chiefs of Staff London). Admty. remarks on proposal, see  
1230A/12.

U.S. Forces. My 1636A/17/12. Following changes in U.S. Forces  
in Atlantic; since Admty. 1815A/3/2.  
Battleships. ARKANSAS at Casco.

Aircraft Carriers. HORNET at Norfolk.  
8" Cruisers. VINCENNES, TUSCALOOSA at Boston.  
WICHITA at New York.  
6" Cruisers. SAVANNAH due Trinidad.  
OMAHA left Pernambuco 9/2.  
CINCINNATI left Pernambuco 6/2.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1827A/10 to C. in C. H.F., etc.)

/Protection ...

337A  
Awi

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1728A/10th February OUT  
To B.A.D. Washington. 164. Date 10.2.42.  
N. V. L. CYPHER O.T.T.

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following for Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff  
No. (W) 43.

Your No. 29 of 5th February.

Your 1. Confirmed British accept responsibility for  
protection African portion air routes except in Liberia,  
Belgian Congo and Free French territory. Belgians and Free  
French being asked to give assurances that they accept  
responsibility in respective territories.

Your 2. Approved.

Your 3. Approved. Problem under examination by  
Air Ministry.

1728A/10.

Secretary to First Sea Lord.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.G.N.S. (W)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- E.P.S.
- Head of M. (33) and for C.I.G.S. and War Office  
C.A.S. and Air Ministry and  
War Cabinet Offices).
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10 Pay.Cdr. Wilson.
- Admiral Bellairs.

ML.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2026A / 10 February

Addressed N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington. Repeated C. in C. America and West Indies. Date 10.2.42. C.O.A.C. Halifax. P.S.T.O. Simonstown. C. in C. South Atlantic. C. in C. Western Approaches Australian Commonwealth Naval Board.

IMPORT TO N.S.H.Q. OFFAWA NAVAL CYPHER (D ONE TIME TABLE).

From Director of Sea Transport.

My 0606/3 not to all addresses. Position regarding Transatlantic sailings in February and early March is now as follows.

(a) N.A.3.

Table with 2 columns: Ship Name, Capacity. Rows: DOMINION MONARCH capacity 1157, ALCANTARA capacity about 500, Total 1657.

(b) A.T.12.

U.S. ships plus DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. Total capacity about 9,00.

(c) N.A.4

Table with 2 columns: Ship Name, Capacity. Rows: ORION capacity about 2600, CAMERONIA capacity about 3000, Total 5600.

Both ships should arrive Halifax about 25.2. Sailing date from Halifax about 27.2.

(d) N.A.5.

Table with 2 columns: Ship Name, Capacity. Rows: EMPRESS OF CANADA capacity about 2000 but possibly increased, ORBITA capacity about 2160 arriving from U.K. about 7.3. in C.T.fl., Total : 4160.

(e) T.C. 17. Sailing date from Halifax about 14.3

Ships to be nominated later. Sailing date as soon as possible. after 20.3.

2. N.A. 5 is intended to make up deficiencies of N.A.3 and N.A.4.

2026A/10.

Director of Sea Transport.  
M.W.T. Extn. 2187.

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

MG

War Diary.10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Protection of shipping on Atlantic Coast. Personal from First Sea Lord. Your 1929Q.  
 (A) I quite agree and have offered King 24 large A/S trawlers which should enable trade on E.Coast of America to be put into convoy.  
 (B) At a pinch I could rake up some more ships if they were essential to get convoys going but you will realise that this would leave us very short on this side and I should prefer not to do it unless you find it essential.  
 (C) Though these 24 vessels will come under U.S. operational control it would appear necessary to send an experienced Commander in charge generally and a Lieut. Comdr. at each port at which they are based. Request your views and to whose command they should be attached. (Admty., 1830A/10 to B.A.D.)

Offer of A/S Craft for U.S. Coast.

Personal from 1st S.L. Your 1705Z/7.  
 I can lend you 24 large A/S fitted trawlers or whalers for operation under U.S.Command on your East Coast and would sail them as soon as possible to any port you specify. I might have to ask for some or all of them back if the weight of U-Boat attack shifted to this side.  
 (1st S.L., 1831A/10 to C. in C. U.S.Fleet).  
 Offer accepted, see 1229/12, *page 408*

OCEAN VENTURE.

My 1332Z/9. 14 survivors of OCEAN VENTURE have been picked up by U.S. Destroyer and will be landed at Norfolk, Virginia.  
 (C.S.A.Norfolk, 1858Z/10 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U.S. Sea Frontiers.

The title Naval Coastal Frontiers has been cancelled, and Sea Frontiers have taken their place. The new names are as follows:

New.	Old.
Eastern Sea Frontier,	North Atlantic Naval Coastal Frontier,
Southern Sea Frontier,	Southern Naval Coastal Frontier,
Caribbean Sea Frontier,	Caribbean Naval Coastal Frontier,
Panama Sea Frontier,	Panama Naval Coastal Frontier,
Hawaiian Sea Frontier,	Hawaiian Naval Coastal Frontier,
North West Sea Frontier,	Pacific Northern Naval Coastal Frontier.
Western Sea Frontier.	Pacific Southern Naval Coastal Frontier.

(B.A.D., Washington, 2009Q/10 to Admty., (R) Various.)

Troop Convoys. Position regarding Transatlantic sailings in Feb. and early March - N.A.3, A.T.12, N.A.4, N.A.5, T.C.17 (D.S.T., 2026A/10 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)  
 See Lion Copy.

After sailing N.A.4 about 25/2 Movement Control require total accommodation about 28,000 between beginning of March and end of May. My 1622Z/30/1 refers.

(2) Suggest, if desirable to eliminate T.C. Convoys for the present, that 28,000 can be taken care of by continuation of regular N.A. Sailings from Halifax about every two weeks, each accommodating 4,000 to 5,000 Navy, Army, and Air personnel.

(3) Request the necessity of sailing 2,000 Air Force from Halifax

/to ...

War Diary.

10.2.1942.

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

- Troop Convoys. (contd.) to U.K. about every two weeks to maintain the steady flow should not be lost sight of. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2255Z/10, to Admty., (R) B.A.D., etc.)
- U/B. Following has been read:- Army Bomber sighted Submarine at 0930Q/9 in 37° 00' N. 73° 05' W. Unable to bomb before submerged. (Bermuda W/T, No T.O.O./10).
- PENELOPI. My 2306Z/9 Panamanian PENELOPI arrived Port of Spain 7th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2214Z/10 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, C.S.A. New York).
- ANDERSON. Intercept, Cape Race, begins S.O.S. SSS ANDERSON ashore Eastern Head\* near St. Shotts, need assistance immediately. (Valentia Radio, 2253/10 to Admty.,)  
\*W.D. Note. (Presumably U.S.A., approx. 44 N. 68° 40' W.)
- VICTOLITE. U/B. Following has been read. SSSS, 36.12 N. 67.14 W. Torpedoed 0220 G.M.T. (VICTOLITE, 2333P/10).

Australia & New Zealand.

- Situation. Serial number 20 10/2 from C.W.R. (i) Japanese landed Gasmata (New Britain). 6 Destroyers and 2 Tankers reported lying off at 2332Z/8.  
(ii) Indications of considerable increase in volume of air and submarine traffic Marshall Is. Area over last few days.  
(iii) Indication 5th. Carrier (?Division) has moved west to Palau Area. (A.C.N.B., 0644Z/10 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).
- CANBERRA, WARWICK CASTLE. (?Arrival) Fremantle 2230Z/9. CANBERRA escorting WARWICK CASTLE. (A.C.N.B., 1134Z/10 to Admty C. in C. E.I., C. in C. China, Capt. on Staff, Singapore, N.O. Wellington).
- Fuel for Portuguese Sloop. My 1831/9. Ministry of Marine enquires whether Port. Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO can obtain oil fuel at Darwin or any Australian port between Darwin and Fremantle. (N.A. Lisbon, 1721/10 to Admty)

/M.S.4. ...



10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.- contd.

M.S.4.

Sailing telegram. 0720Z/9. Escort ADELAIDE.  
Route. (A.C.N.B., 1742Z/10 to Admty.)

U.S.Pacific  
Fleet.

Admty. 1847A/3. Following changes in disposition  
of U.S.Pacific Fleet.

Seaplane Carrier, LEXINGTON off Canton.

8" Cruiser, PENSACOLA en route Samoa,

MINNEAPOLIS off Canton, INDIANAPOLIS off Canton.

6" Cruiser, HONOLULU, off Christmas Island, RICHMOND left Balboa  
3/2 for Bobcat. MILWAUKEE, TRENTON, en route Bobcat.

Following changes in disposition of U.S.ships in Anzac Area.

6" Cruiser, CHICAGO due Suva.

Following changes in disposition of U.S.ships in S.W.Pacific.

6" Cruisers HOUSTON, MARBLEHEAD, at Tjilatjap,

PHOENIX, at Melbourne. (D.O.D.(F).., 1935A/10 to C. in C.E.F.,  
N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q.)

CHEVREUIL.

Departure Suva<sup>for</sup> Noumea via Bulari Passage. Due  
Bulari Passage 0600Z/13.  
(N.Z.N.B., 2040Z/10).

10.2.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1342A/10, 1343A/10).

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
Q.Q.

The operation of towing Maunsell Fort No.1 from Tilbury to a position in the Thames approaches and sinking it there for A.A. protection, was completed this afternoon.

U-Boat  
aground  
off Bute.

At 2200A a suspicious vessel was seen aground near Scoulag Point, Isle of Bute. The vessel refloated at 2259 and made off on the surface to the southward at about 15 knots and was reported as a submarine by a patrol vessel who pursued for 5 miles before losing touch. A thorough search of the Clyde by A/S sweeps and patrols was carried out, without result.

U-Boat ? HEINA.  
attack on  
Convoy  
S.C. 67.

S.S. AGINA in Convoy S.C. 67 was torpedoed at 0034A today in 56° 8' N. 20° 54' W. SPIKENARD (Corvette), one of the escort of S.C. 67, is missing and is believed to have been torpedoed in 56° 10' N. 21° 7' W. GENTIAN picked up 8 survivors and considers it improbable that there are any other survivors.

Trans-  
Atlantic  
Convoy  
Escorts.

The new escort system is to be put into effect with S.C. 70 and H.X. 176 eastbound and O.N. 68 westbound.

British Air Operations.

Last night, 14 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Brest, 34 Bremen and 6 Emden.

Enemy Air Operations.

VANSITTART was bombed at 1759Z today in 49° 10' N. 10° 0' W. No damage was caused.

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

Uruguay has indicated that her ports are open to U.S. ships and British ships under U.S. direction. The operating area of the U.S. West Atlantic Command is therefore extended to latitude 40° S. as from 1200Z/20.

Mediterranean.

There were air attacks on Malta from 0002 today onwards. The aerodromes were again attacked, but no damage was caused.

CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE were bombed at 0918 in 35° 55' N. 13° 56' E. At 1045 they were heavily attacked whilst approaching Malta and CLEOPATRA was hit. The ships arrived at Malta at 1200 today. V.A. Malta reports that CLEOPATRA will require docking. FORTUNE suffered some damage when broaching to during avoiding action but will probably be ready for sea tomorrow.

11 Wellingtons left to attack the submarine base at Leros Island last night, but only 4 located the objective.

East Indies.

A merchant ship <sup>X</sup>raider report was received at 0545Z today from SCOTTISH PRINCE in 4° (? 50' or 24') N., 73° 15' E. The ship concerned may be U.S. CHANT, OKLAHOMAN or British ILE DE BATZ.

*X later cancelled 24.2.42 R839*

The proposed staff organisation for the commands of C. in C. Eastern Fleet and C. in C. East Indies is given in C. in C. E.F. 1426Z/11 to Admiralty.

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.China.

Burma.

2 or 3 Blenheims with fighter escort bombed boats at Moulmein water front at 1625 local time today.

The enemy reported west of Martaban were reinforced this evening by sea landing from a steamer.

Malaya.

Large craft attempting landing at (?) Labrador last night was sunk by Siloso battery.

The Commander of the Japanese Army dropped a letter by air today asking for the surrender of Singapore Fortress. G.O.C. Malaya has no means of dropping a message and does not intend to reply.

N.E.I. &  
Borneo.

Air attacks were made today on escorted convoys from Singapore in the Banka area (see 12/2).

The Anambas Islands force has increased to 14 warships and 30 small boats and there are indications of some concentration of air strength at Kuching, which latter place and Sinkawang are well placed to support operations at Banka.

Philippines.

The Japanese have occupied the island of Nasbaté, south of Luzon and west of San Bernardino Strait.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Tanker THERMO made a submarine distress report at 0356 G.M.T. today in 37° 30' N. 75° 30' W. (close off the coast of Virginia.)

S.S. HAGAN made a submarine distress signal at 0901Z in 38° 20' N. 74° 50' W.

A U.S. Naval plane picked up 9 survivors from S.S. ARCADIO in 34° 28' N. 62° 50' W. 1630 today. The survivors state that the ship was torpedoed on 31/1 in 38° 10' N. 63° 50' W.

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

The Commander of South West Pacific (U.S. Naval) Forces is shifting his main naval base to Fremantle owing to lack of defences and facilities in Port Darwin.

3 Hudsons attacked enemy shipping in the Gasmata area today. Two transports were hit, one being set heavily on fire.

The enemy reconnoitred Port Moresby and Salamoia today.

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Your 1527/9. This matter is being investigated. Regret proposal in your last sentence cannot be approved as this would interfere with existing arrangements which endeavour to provide for elimination of any indicative markings on all such occasions.  
(4th S.L., 1513A/11 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

Movements.

4 N.P. A/S trawlers to be prepared for passage to St. Johns N.F. Your 1912A/10 to A.C.O.S. NORTHERN CHIEF, NORTHERN PRINCESS, NORTHERN ISLES will be ready to sail on 13/2. NORTHERN DUKE arrived Kirkwall today from patrol but owing to boiler defect will not be ready to sail before 15/2.  
Re. special charts and sailing directions.  
(S.O.N.P. Trawlers, 0105/11 to Admty.)

MANXMAN. <sup>KT in W.D.</sup> My 1606/10. MANXMAN expects to pass through 188° Wolf Rock 25 at 0730/11th from southward, proceeding Milford Haven.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0334A/11 to MAURITIUS).

STURGEON. <sup>KT in W.D.</sup> My 1202A/11. Request you will sail CAPE WARWICK to Clyde forthwith and use BEAUMARIS, to escort STURGEON.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1204A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

NIGERIA to escort CAIRO. C. in C. H.F. 2042/8. Intend to proceed 1700C/11 passing through position M.Z. thence through CAIRO's reciprocal route meeting CAIRO in approx. 071° 50' N., 008° 40' E., at about (714) 00C/13. (C.S.10, 0929A/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, CAIRO, Admty. C. in C. H.F. (R) Capt. D.8., S.O.6th M.S.F., NIGERIA)  
NIGERIA sailed.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1621A/11)

RODNEY. On completion practice 12/2 RODNEY screened by SOMALI, ORIBI, and OFFA is to proceed Clyde. Route through 060° N., 017° W., and thence North Channel.  
Port Wireless Watch is to be maintained on B.N.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1400A/11 to RODNEY, Capt. (D) 6, V.A.2.)

TIGRIS. Arrangements for TIGRIS to leave patrol after dark 13/2 and proceed to Holy Loch.  
(2) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange bombing restrictions as follows.  
(3) Name of escort will be signalled.  
(Capt. (S) 3, 1559A/11 to TIGRIS).



War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.

- BLYSKAWICA. Sailed BLYSKAWICA in accordance with my 0956A/8 48 hours late. Code word "Eager". (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1814A/11)
- PRINS ALBERT. Ref. my 1450/10 now intend sailing ship mentioned at 0745/13? ETA. Boom 1115. Time passing Boom outward remains at 1400/13. (V.A.C.T.C., 1901/11)
- AIREDALE. When released return Scapa with despatch. (R.A.D. H.F., 1913A/11 to AIREDALE).

Operations.

- Operation Q.Q. Completed satisfactorily. (S.O.L.D.F. Nore, 1643A/11., C. in C. Nore 1734A/11)
- Biscay patrol. Cancel para. B. and C of my 1921A/8. A. H.43 is to leave patrol at 1800/11 routed through position (Q) 48° 40', 05° 40' to R/V in 180° Lizard 3 miles at 0930/13 as ordered by F.O.I.C. Falmouth. In any event H.43 is to be east of 6° W., by 1900/12. B. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange submerged bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of line joining (Q) and Lizard from 1500/12th to 1200/13th. (F.O.(S), 1428A/11 to S/M area A).
- Operation V.J. Operation V.J. abandoned due to weather. Escort and ~~X~~LINGREFIORD returning to Scapa independently. (A.C.O.S., 1800A/11 to Admty. (R) R.A. (D) H.F. C. in C. Rosyth, A.O.C.18 Group C.C., N.O.I.C. Lerwick, F.O.(S)) *x Not identified.*

British Air Operations.

- Coastal craft, operations. My coastal craft are frequently operated by night off the enemy coast between the Somme and Ostende. In this area all aircraft R/Cs and shipping attacks can be carried out under ground control and co-ordinated with movements of coastal craft. I therefore suggest that air patrols not so controlled should terminate at each side of this area. The necessity for constant bombing restrictions will thus be avoided. (V.A. Dover, 1306A/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

/Night...

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations - Contd.

Night sweeps off Seydisfiordur. As result of U-boat appreciations indicating none Seydisfjordur Area since 8/2 suggest abandoning night sweeps. A.C.I.C. concurs. (A.O.C. Iceland, 1540/11 to A.O.C. in C. H.Q.C.C.)

B.C. Operations. Day 9/2 to day 10/2. inclusive. No operations. Night 10/11 Feb. 14 A/C attacked Brest, 31 Bremen, 6 Emden. Aircraft unable to reach primary bombed Borkum, Wilhelmshaven Docks, Cuxhaven and Wesermunde. (H.Q.B.C., 1600/1)

Enemy Air Operations.

HEINA sunk. (S.L.67) Have all survivors HEINA on board. Stood by for 3 hours believed ship salvable but ship finally sank. Rejoined convoy full speed SHEDIAC in company. (DAUPHIN, 0130Z/11 to C. in C. W.A., SPIKENARD)

*See p. 350*

S.S. LIEUT R. MORY, (bombed 10/2) S.S. LIEUT. ROBERT MORY too big for Hayle Harbour In tow of tug making 4 knots for Falmouth 7 ft. of water in 2 holds and engine room. Apparently no more water being made. Weather fine, prospects good. SUZANNE ADRIANNE will form additional escort with JASPER. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1157/11)

CAIRO reported. It is probable you were reported by enemy aircraft at 1027. (A.C.O.S., 1249A/11 to CAIRO)

VANSITTART. One aircraft shadowing bearing 250° distant 1 mile my position 49° 10' N., 10° W. (VANSITTART, 1731Z/11) My 1731Z/11. Enemy aircraft bombing. (VANSITTART, 1759Z/11) My 1759Z. 4 bombs no hits. 049° 19' N., 009° 12' W. (VANSITTART, 1903Z/11)

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War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining -

Operation S.N.84. Propose carrying out operation (S) N.84 with PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON and MENESTHEUS sailing 0800/15 and laying p.m./16 between position A.  $063^{\circ} 08' 30''$  N.,  $010^{\circ} 29' 30''$  W. B.  $063^{\circ} 19' 00''$ ,  $011^{\circ} 09' 18''$  and C.  $063^{\circ} 32' 42''$ ,  $011^{\circ} 30' 00''$ .  
2. Only 2 of 17th D.F. are available for certain though a third may be able to take part. Request Cruiser escort and 2 additional destroyers may be provided.  
(R.A.M., 1441/11 to Admt)

Thames Estuary. Details of two ground mines detonated by "LL" Trawlers 11/2.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1441A/11, 1734A/11)

Dover Barrage. Ref. Dover letter A 5/1009/41 of 17/10/41. After completing N.L.7 B. propose if there are no objections to operate in the vicinity of N.L. 14, 18, and 17 with mines not fitted with sterilisers.  
(V.A., Dover, 1826A/11 to Admt)

Enemy Intelligence.

Dover Straits. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/10 to 0900/11. Track E 14 D. Three vessels from 7 miles N.E. of Calais at 0505 Westbound at 17 knots faded off Boulogne at 0655, possibly destroyers or T.Bs. Track E15D. Six small Vessels from off Gris Nez at 0720 Eastbound at 24 knots to 5 miles East of Calais at 0815, possibly E/R Boats. Numerous small Vessels were plotted between Boulogne and Calais during the period, most of which believed to be Minesweeping. But some were identified by Aircraft during daylight as Small Coaster Type.  
(V.A. Dover, 1114A/11)

Buoys off R. Maas. Following is latest information about buoys off River Mass (?Maas). Ref. Chart No. 122.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1136A/11)

German Warships in north. Russians report 11/2 enemy warships reliability unassessed and source not known. 8/2. 2 minesweepers off North Coast Norway. At Tromso one minesweeper. Lopkhvet Bay one destroyer. 25 miles (?off) Vannoy Island one destroyer.

Parsanger Fiord one destroyer. 9/2. Lopkhvet Bay one unknown warship. Vardo one minesweeper. Lakse Fiord one minesweeper. Senja one minesweeper. Similar information being received every few days. Are these reports of any value to you.  
(Admiral Miles, 1203C/11 to Admt (R) S.B.N.O. North Russia).

/Brest...

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Brest.

P.R.U. Brest 1630/11 shows two battlecruisers at T/B Station bows East. PRINZ EUGEN at coaling wharf, two destroyers at Jetee Sud, three in Rade Abri and one at coaling wharf pier. (D.D.I.C., 2104A/11)

U-Boats.

ANNA  
KNUDSEN,  
(torpedoed  
9/2).

No assistance required at present. (FREEBOOTER, 0155A/11 to N.O.I.C. Greenock) Noon position 057° 41' N., 008° 50' W., speed 5.5 knots Barra Head 145° 66 miles ANNA KNUDSEN has only one anchor no deck steam no engine degaussing out of action. (FREEBOOTER, 1230/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

0916Z.

By D/F on 7640 Kc/s at 0916Z/11 a U-boat within 50 miles of 50° N., 170° (?17°) 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 1146A/11)

Attack on  
S.C.67  
S.S. <sup>HE</sup>AGINA  
and SPIKENARD  
torpedoed.

Met S.C.67 at 1045A/11 in 056° 26', 018° 30'. Merchant ship ~~AGINA~~ torpedoes at 0034A/11th in 056° 08' 020° 54' SPIKENARD not present believed torpedoed in 056° 10' 021° 07'. GENTIAN detached to search for survivors. Further signal will follow. Position 056° 26' 018° 20' (weather report) not cyphered 5571 1374. (ST. ALBANS, 1200A/11)

My 1200A/11th. 31 survivors picked up by DAUPHIN, none seriously injured. No further news of SPIKENARD. Ships at present in company HONEYSUCKLE, CHILLIWACK, LETHBRIDGE, DAUPHIN, SHEDIAC, LOUISBURG.

(ST. ALBANS, 1500A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Have rescued 8 survivors from SPIKENARD in approx. 056° 07' 020° 44' at 1750A today. None seriously injured. Consider improbable that there are other survivors. Intend to continue search till dusk then rejoin. Weather report 4381 2243. (GENTIAN, 1815A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

[See also p. 563.]

0819Z

By D/F on 7825 kc/s at 0819Z/11. U-boat was within 50 miles of 68° N., 5° E., proceeding North, probably. (D.D.I.C., 1239A/11 to CAIRO).

1417A

By D/F on 11068 kc/s a U/B within 50 miles of 56° 40' N., 16° W., at 1417A/11 Recommend alteration of course to starboard. (D.D.I.C., 1643A/11 to Escorts of S.C.67).

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

S. Varne South Varne Light buoy light extinguished.  
L.B. Request Q. Z. H.  
(V.A. Dover, 1057A/11 to Admty).

Technical.

Corvettes Ref. transfer of Corvettes to U.S.N. as these  
for US.N. ships will all be fitted with type 271, Spenavo  
has been asked to arrange for 3 R.D.F. operators  
to be provided for each ship. It can be arranged  
for these ratings to receive instruction in type  
271 on arrival in U.K.  
(D.S.D., 1957A/11 to B.A.D.)

Casualties & Defects.

CHARYBDIS, Your 1733/9. F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1802/9 is  
RODNEY. approved. Arrangements have been made for  
CHARYBDIS to be taken in hand after completion  
of first series of trails on 17/2 for defects  
and completion or progression of R.D.F. by Cammell Lairds  
Birkenhead. 2. It will be necessary for all work taken in  
hand to be completed before RODNEY arrives for refit early March.  
3. CHARYBDIS is to be at not more than 12 hours notice without  
Admiralty approval.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1102A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Raft. If condition of survivors permits rejoin R.U.11  
otherwise proceed to Clyde.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1307A/11 to ANGLE).

NEW PRINCE Towing vessel NEW PRINCE OF WALES attached Thames  
OF WALES. M/S Force beached following collision 10/2.  
Vessel has been salvaged and will be docked Millwall  
12/2.  
(F.O.I.C. London, 1713A/11)

DRUC REIS Defects have arisen which will take some weeks and  
(P.611) sailing of these vessels will consequently be  
MURAT REIS delayed.  
(P.612) (F.O.S., 1853A/11 to Admty).

<sup>ou</sup>  
EDWARD VAN Propose to regard vessel as total loss. Approved  
VLAENDEREN. to negotiate sale of ship as she lies on best  
terms obtainable.  
(D. of S.T., 2256A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- S.C.67           Remain with S.C.67 to prudent limit of endurance then detach and proceed to Londonderry. (F.O.N.F., 0009Z/11 to Cdr. Task Unit. 4.1.15)
- O.N.64           In view of other depletion of escorts of O.N.64 request Task Unit 4.1.8 (?be subsequently) augmented as recommended in Admty's ? 0919/15. C. in C. W.A. acknowledge and pass to N.O. Harbour Londonderry. (Cdr. Task Unit 4.1.8., 0252/11 to C. in C. W.A.) O.N.64 Your 2043A/10 and 0944Z/11 request C.T.U. 4.1.14 and Opnav be informed of new M.O.M.P. (Opnav, 0427/11 to Admty).
- P.Q. Convoys.   My 0756A/8th following further measures in which S.B.N.O. North Russia concurs are suggested for security P.Q. Convoy:  
(a) position MZ to be altered frequently. (b) S.O. Escort Destroyer to attend Convoy conference. (c) exact degrees latitude and longitude to be avoided when planning route. (d) Convoy to adjust speed to arrive M.Z. about four hours before daylight. (e) To avoid escort breaking W/T silence S.B.N.O. North Russia to make expected time of arrival Convoy at MZ based on estimated speed of advance of Convoy (corrupt group) by Icelandic Local Escort. Local Kola Escort will endeavour to contact Convoy on preceding day, intending movements of escort being signalled by S.B.N.O. North Russia. (f) Stragglers to be ordered to proceed Eastwards until they reach 040° E., or ice edge when they should proceed direct to Iokanskie Chart 3442 where pilot takes them (?out to) await onward escort to Kola Inlet. (g) Possibility of C.A.M. Ship being included in P.Q. Convoy. The question of fighter protection. A/S Air Patrol and other (?possible) assistance of Russians is being investigated with Russian C. in C. (C.S.10., 0908A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)
- O.N.S.64       ON.S. 64. It is estimated that convoy will be at least 12 hours early at M.O.M.P. (C. in C. W.A., 0934A/11 to SHAWINIGAN, EYEBRIGHT)
- E.N.46.  
FOXTROT.       Cancel my 1108/10. Vessel will sail in accordance with A.M. 2018/10. ~~14.7 A.W.D.~~ (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0950/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).
- H.X.172        Congratulations on safe arrival of all the ships in your convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1048A/11 to R.A. F.B. Watson) H.X.172. Average speed 8.72 knots. Calm weather but fog and snow or rain 27/1 - 3/2. One straggler. All ships now arrived. Commodore reports very good convoy. (D.T.D., 1136Z/11 to Opnav).

/Convoy...

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- Convoy S.C.66. Many congratulations on the safe arrival of all the ships in your convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1043A/11 to Cdr. H.C. Birnie, R.N.R.)
- Convoy. Many congratulations on the safe arrival of all the ships in your Convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1051A/11 to Cdre. A.S. Mackay R.D. R.N.R.)
- P.Q.11. NIGER, HUSSAR, BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO, CAPE ARGONA, SWEETBRIAR will be required to provide escort for P.Q.11 to Murmansk sailing daylight/13 and routed in accordance with Admty. 1725A/10 addressed to NIGER and MIDDLETON only.
3. MIDDLETON is to provide A/A escort to position B thence returning to Scapa. If available AIREDALE will be sailed to overtake convoy and provide additional A/A escort to position B. (R.A.(D) H.F., 1129A/11)
3. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange Fighter protection to as far north as practicable. (R.A.(D) H.F., 1131A/11 to N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, A.C.O.S.)
- Signals relating to trans-Atlantic Convoys. It appears advisable to standardise the principal R.N., R.C.N., and U.S.N. authorities to whom signals relating to trans-Atlantic convoys should be addressed and repeated.
2. These signals may be expected to fall under the following headings:-  
(A) General policy. (B) Situation reports.  
(C) Detailed escort arrangements. (D) Operational signals including M.O.M.P.S. and chop. (E) N.C.S.O. Mersey's pre sailing telegrams and corrections. (F) Ocean routes and diversions. (G) Defects and other miscellaneous information. (C. in C. W.A., 1320A/11 to Admty).
- Situation 1956/11 Sec. N.W. H.X.173 WATCHMAN, MONKSHOOD, DAHLIA, ARABIS, ANCHUSA, SNOWFLAKE, 058° 53' 015° 16' to 058° 00' 010° 00' 8½.  
U.R.12 NORTHERN PRIDE, NORTHERN GEM, 063° 00' 018° 34' to 063° 00' 021° 00' thence Reykjavik 7.  
O.N.65 KEPPEL, SHIKARI, KINGCUP, DIANELLA, LOOSESTRIFE, 058° 13' 018° 30' to 058° 00' 025° 00' 8. (C. in C. W.A., 1417A/11)

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Atlantic Convoy escorts. Your 2003/10. (i) Intend sailing LAUDERDALE CALDWELL 15/2 direct to St. John's N.F. for fuel and onward routing to Halifax. I had hoped to send 2 Town Class Destroyers which had recently refitted, by in view of urgency of your requirements none such are ready and I am therefore sending the only 2 available.

(ii) My 2143A/8. Arrival of destroyers at Halifax are amended as follows: (A) LAUDERDALE and CALDWELL 23/2. (B) WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON 26/2. (C) VANQUISHER, VANOC, WITCH 4/3. (D) BULLDOG, ANTELOPE, MONTGOMERY 10/3. (E) ROXBOROUGH early April on completion of refit in U.S.A. (iii) My proposals for mid ocean escorts were based on assumption that U.S. destroyers would be stationed at Argentia with corvettes of their groups to facilitate group training. Anticipate LAUDERDALE, VANOC will return to my command when reliefs are available.

(iv) Concur that even number O.N. convoys should be slow convoys as now, pending stabilisation of system.

(C. in C. W.A., 1538Z/11 to Cdr. Task Force No.4)

(C. in C. W.A. 1430A/14).

My 2003/10th. Commenting further in your 2142A/8\*confirm your assumption that it is intended to sail Westbound Shipping from (?Galveston) with alternate O.N.S. Convoys. The merits of your proposals to start to\*\* O.N.68 sailing even numbered fast convoys and odd numbered slow convoys are appreciated. However the distance between Boston and Argentia lengthens the round trip of U.S. Destroyers by 4 or 5 days and seriously cuts down in ? urgently needed time for relaxation and maintenance. With difficulty I can meet the requirement of your proposals and will conform to your decisions. U.S. Chief of Naval Ops. pass to C. in C. Western Approaches and Admty.

(Comdr. Task Force 4, 1915Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

\* re destroyer Corvette Escorts for Atlantic Convoys.

\*\* As received. ? with, intended

Q.P. Convoys. Your 2148A/10. Westbound shipping will be escorted from Iceland (C) by U.S.A. destroyers on special shuttle service. These escorts will provide a service to and from Iceland (C) in alternate S.C. and O.N.(S) convoys commencing with S.C.71 and O.N.(S) 70.  
(D.T.D., 1821A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

Extension of U.R. Convoy cycle. Your 2357A/10. Para. (3) concur. Para (4) is under consideration. Request you inform A.C.I.C.  
(D.T.D., 1856A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

/C.T.11...



War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

C.T.11. Convoy C.T.11 composed of ORBITA and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE carrying R.A.F. and Military personnel for Halifax will be ready to leave Clyde 25th February. 2. Speed of slowest ship  $13\frac{1}{2}$  knots. 3. Escort will be provided by 2 destroyers for U.K. to M.O.M.P. and 3 destroyers from M.O.M.P. to Halifax. The latter will on arrival join Western Local Escort Force. 4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to (A) sail 3 destroyers detailed for Western Local Escort Force to Iceland (C) as requisite to fuel before proceeding to M.O.M.P. (B) Sail convoy with two destroyers to M.O.M.P. (C) Arrange M.O.M.P. to suit destroyer escort in accordance with route to be promulgated by Admiralty. (D.O.D. (H), 1916A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.G.78

H.G.78. My P.C. and S.  $053^{\circ} 48' 014^{\circ} 52' 070^{\circ} 8\frac{1}{4}$ . Weather report 52801783. (GARDENIA, 2102A/11 to Admty).

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CLYDE,  
DINGLEDALE,  
GERANIUM,  
VETCH. Your 1302A/10. para. (3) At 0100A/11 P.C. & S. of advance of DINGLEDALE and corvette was 034° 25' 014° 34' 078° 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ . My P.C. and S. of A at 0100A/11 was 034° 04' 016° 30' 078° 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  to rejoin DINGLEDALE having parted company to pass this signal. Weather report.  
(CLYDE, 0005Z/11, to F.O.C.N.A., (R) 3.8, GERANIUM, VETCH).

WIVERN,  
WISHART. WIVERN sailed 2330. Will join you during 11th. (F.O.C.N.A., 0031A/11 to WISHART (R) WIVERN).

JOAO PESSOA,  
German. Sailed Hamburg tonight 11th. (Santander, 1120/11 to Admty., (R) Gibraltar, M. of E.W.)  
Sailed unknown destination tonight convoy. (Santander, 1215/11 to M. of W.T.)

ROYAL  
SCOTSMAN. ROYAL SCOTSMAN has returned to harbour and is not fit to proceed to sea.  
2. Main engines require complete refit.  
3. All essential items in defect list forwarded by ship on arrival were completed.  
4. Intend carry out temporary repairs to one generator to enable ship to proceed to U.K. in H.G.79.  
5. Request approval and instructions for onward transport of personnel now embarked.  
Your 1746A/6, 2300A/6, my 1324A/9 refers.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1334A/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Landing Craft  
Gibraltar. Your 62345 (M.O.4.) 5/1.  
R boat unsuitable for slipway handling due to extended keel. Send by air profiles of underside of A.L.C. or other craft recommended.  
(Govr. Gib., 1900/11 to W.O.)

H.G.78A. Departure STARWORT, CROCUS, H.G.78A.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1902A/11 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

ALOUETTE,  
SCOTTISH. Your 1320A/8 (N.T. in W.R.) P.C. and S. 038° 00' N 010° 00' W. 133° 12 knots E.T.A. 2000/12.  
Following from S.O. Trawlers Western Patrol.  
Operation C expected to be finished in 48 hours but further repairs to southward position unknown still to be done. SCOTTISH will report when relieved.  
(ALOUETTE, 2130A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French  
Shipping. Gibraltar O-54 Minesweeper ENGAGEANTE, 3 Ships OUED TIFLET full, CAPITAINE LE DIABAT, IMERETHIE II both laden and with deck cargo motor transport, trawler JOSEPH ELISE, westbound.  
(S.O.I. Gib., 2213A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Kingston).

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.W.S.15,  
Water.  
Freetown.

Your 0537/6. Extra water was only supplied to W.S.15 after careful examination of all factors and upon signed statement of Master certifying cause of extra requirements. (Examples). (S.S.T.O. Freetown, 0041Z/11 to D. of S.T.)

West Africa.

Following from Chiefs of Staff. Your G/17813 cipher 5/2. Your para. (2). Problem under study by Combined Joint Planners in Washington. Prospects of early control of French North Africa have receded since study began. Therefore agree that plans and preparations for occupation of French Senegal by force should be continued. Your para. (3). Noted. Your para. (4). Matter is under urgent consideration. G.O.C. in C. West Africa please repeat C. in C. S.A., and A.O.C. West Africa. (W.O., 0900/11 to G.O.C. in C. W.Africa).

NORMAN.

C. in C. E.I. 1504/8 received by Simonstown today 11th. Cancel previous orders and proceed to Durban forthwith. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0955Z/11 to NORMAN (R) C. in C. E.I., N.O.I.C. Durban, Admty. etc.)  
N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0955/11. E.T.A. 1000Z/13. (NORMAN, 1500Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

CANTON,  
CALIFORNIA,  
PRETORIA  
CASTLE,  
CILICIA.

CANTON and CALIFORNIA are to leave Freetown at 0800Z/12 and proceed to patrol in H.34 C and D keeping East of 26° W. Object of patrol interception of Axis shipping.  
2. PRETORIA CASTLE leaves patrol and returns to Freetown when (? CILICIA) parts company at 1800Z/13. (C. in C. S.A., 1111Z/11 to CANTON, CALIFORNIA, PRETORIA CASTLE (R) Admty., R.A.S.A.D. Cmdr. Taskforce No.3, B.A.D.)

W.S.16,  
RESOLUTION.

A.M. 0028A/8 not to F.O.C.N.A. Anticipate RESOLUTION can meet W.S.16 in about 021° N. (C. in C. S.A., 1117Z/11 to Admty. (R) B.S.3, F.O.C.N.A.)

ASTURIAS.

Your 1450Z/4. Operation completed. (ASTURIAS, 1200Z/11 to R.A.S.A.D. (R) C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad (Port of Spain)).

Convoy.

Departure 0900/11. WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, SENNEN, TOTLAND, GORLESTON and BARRDALE, all for S.L. Convoy. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1211Z/11 to C. in C. S.A., Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., S.O.W.P.) *See also next page*

/BULOLO ...

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

BULOLO, My 1450Z/4 and C. in C. S.A. 1125Z/6. A.M.C's  
CILICIA, are to make R/V in 021° S. 025° W. at 1800Z/17.  
ASTURIAS. ASTURIAS then detach BULOLO to proceed to  
Freetown in compliance with orders contained in  
C. in C. S.A. 1125Z/6. After R/V ASTURIAS and  
CILICIA are to pass through K 33 60, Patrol Northernmost half  
of L 31, and L 32, arriving by 23rd. While both A.M.C's are  
patrolling they are to keep within mutual support distance as  
ordered by ASTURIAS. ASTURIAS will probably fuel at Buenos  
Aires 2/3. (R.A.S.A.D., 1241Z/11 to BULOLO, CILICIA, ASTURIAS,  
(R) C. in C. S.A.)

Vichy Convoy. S.S. RANGITATA reports sighting Vichy Convoy in  
4° 22' N., 14° 03' W., at 0800 G.M.T./10/2  
steering 150°, then 120°, speed about 9 knots,  
three cargo vessels of about 8,000 tons, one passenger vessel  
of about 10,000 tons, escorted by Frondeur Class destroyer.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1318Z/11 to Admty.)

TULIP. Sailed TULIP for Mauritius, S. of A. 12½ knots,  
E.T.A. p.m./16. Route to be followed as in my  
0914Z/8. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1322Z/11 to Admty.,  
C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Simonstown,  
N.O.I.C. Mauritius).

SAVORGNAN DE 11/2. Simonstown arrival F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA,  
BRAZZA, Capetown departure 1400Z ILEX for Pointe Noire,  
ILEX. S. of A. 13 knots, E.T.A. 1100Z/17.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1503Z/11 to Admty.,  
(?C. in C. S.A.) C. in C. E.I., B.N.L.O. Pointe  
Noire, B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Durban).

"Chop" Ref. A.M. 1610A/3. After further consideration  
Dates. "Chop" dates for ships sailing to West African  
ports from South American area under Admiralty  
control are being calculated as being estimated  
date of crossing a line joining St. Paul's Rocks and Ascension I.  
Addition "Chop" dates are as follows:-  
NORMAN STAR - 17/2, TORDENE - 21/2, SUFFOLK - 15/2.  
(D.T.D., 1534A/11 to C. in C. S.A.)

Movements. Summary 2000/11. Area P. WILD SWAN with  
S.L. 100 009° 50' N. 019° 27' W. 282° 7½ knots.  
CLOVER 009° 32' N. 017° 45' W. 295° 12½ knots.  
WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY,  
GORLESTON, 013° 27' N., 018° 24' W., 268° 8½ knots. CILICIA,  
PRETORIA CASTLE patrolling in H.34 C and D. BURDOCK, ORCHIS,  
003° 29' N. 005° 15' W. 081° 8½ knots. French Aux. REINE DES  
FLOTS 001° 38' from 003° 35' E. 111° 8½ knots. CANNA with BELNOR  
about 001° N. 000° 30' E. to Takoradi 8 knots. BRILLIANT,  
FRITILLARY, NIGELLA, with PHILOCTETES about 009° 20' N. 015° W.  
E.T.A. Freetown A.M./12. BERGAMOT, ARMERIA, ROCKROSE with  
S.T.15, 008° 04' N. 013° 50' W. 204° 9 knots. *See next page*  
Area Q. RESOLUTION 027° 32' S. 012° 48' E. 322° 12½ knots.

\* See previous page.

/WORCESTERSHIRE ...

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- Movements.  
(Contd.)                    WORCESTERSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE with Durban  
portion W.S.15, 034° S. 027° 32' E. 059° 12 knots.  
Area S. BIRMINGHAM, Plate area, BULOLO, ASTURIAS  
patrolling K.32, K.33.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1815Z/11 to S.A.D. (R) Admty.)
- RANGITATA                    RANGITATA's 1300Z/10. Captain and 2 Officers  
U/B.                            sighted object similar to U-Boat painted grey  
on range 10,000 yards. Object disappeared about  
5 minutes after initial sighting.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1848Z/11 to Admty.)
- Saving of                    Manager of Anglo-Mexico informs me that Eastern  
Petrol ash.                    developments certify saving petrol ash absolutely  
essential for Vanadium on which we are now even  
more dependent than before. I understand that all  
oil tankers collect their ash. It appears H.M.S. may not have  
been informed of this necessity.  
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1930Z/11 to Admty.)
- S.T.15.                        Departure 11/2. ROCKROSE, ARMERIA, BERGAMOT  
with S.T.15.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2019Z/11 to Admty., N.O.I.C.  
Takoradi).
- TONJER                        S.D.F. Vessels report having found overturned  
("Q" Report                    badly damaged lifeboat identified as one of  
2/2).                            TONJER in 030° 21' S. 031° 11' E. No bodies.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2024Z/11 to Admty.  
C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., (R) N.L.O. Durban).

Mediterranean.

- CAPO PINO.                    D.L.L. yesterday telegraphed Berlin for  
permission to send Italian CAPO PINO (now lying  
here empty) to Samsun load Antimony. A.I.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, (?120B/11 to S.O.I. Med.,  
N.L.O. Black Sea, (R) D.N.I.)
- Troops for                    Your 0056/7. Assume BENREOCH was included in  
Far East.                        error as she is bound for Persian Gulf, not  
Middle East. (D. of S.T. 0014A/11 to P.S.T.O.  
Egypt.)

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

U/B. Have obtained A.S.V. contact probably a S/M in 33.57 N., 11.30 E. (A/C C. Flight, No. 3. A.A.C.U. Malta, 0100/11 to A.H.Q. Malta).

CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE bombed. Enemy aircraft bombing 35.35 N., 13.56 E. (CLEOPATRA, 0918/11 to Malta). Following has been read. Address omitted. ?(Groups missed) 20. FORTUNE now able to proceed. (Via Gib. W/T, 0931A/11).

Heavy attack in progress. (CLEOPATRA, 1045/11 to Malta). CLEOPATRA hit forward. (CLEOPATRA, 1047/11 to Malta). Arrived 1200 CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE, both ships require repairing. (V.A. Malta, 1221B/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1221/11. (i) CLEOPATRA suffered following damage and casualties from near misses and one direct bomb hit when approaching Malta at about 0900/11. 8 killed 11 seriously wounded. Hull damage not yet fully examined but bomb entered forecastle deck and may have passed out through hull of asdic compartment without exploding. Central store and asdic compartments flooded and a magazine flooded as precaution. Ship will be docked 12/2. Warhead cases on upper deck set on fire but extinguished after jettisoning 2. Hurricane engaged bomber but result not known. (ii) FORTUNE had boat and stores washed away and upper deck fittings damaged when broaching to during avoiding action. Ship can go to sea but hope to complete essential repairs p.m./12. (V.A. Malta, 1815B/11 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

UPRIGHT. Owing to unforeseen delays UPRIGHT is not now required at Holy Loch until 1/4. My 2054A/8/1 refers. (F.O.S., 1209A/11 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., S.1, S.10, S.8, S.3, S.5, S.6).

Air Report. Opsum No.625. Night 9th/10th. 6 Wellingtons left to bomb Submarine Base Leros Island. 2 only reached objective, remainder being recalled owing to warning fog and bad weather. 1 Wellington bombed Naval Buildings in Lepida Cove without visible effect, second released bombs unaimed over objective owing to failure of 1 Engine, causing 2 explosions, third Wellington dropped bombs on Southern End Scarpanto Island in neighbourhood of Aerodrome. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1213/11).

Movements. Departure 10/2. ERICA, arrival 11/2. HEYTHROP, HURWORTH, HYACINTH, AVON VALE, JAGUAR, KIPLING, THORN, SOUTHERN SEA. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1233B/11 to Admty., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

/PORPOISE ...

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

PORPOISE. Proceed through 035° 51' 015° 15' and 036° 00' 014° 53' to arrive Grand Harbour 0720B/13, keeping at least 10 miles North of line 112° from 1st position. Further signal will be made. UPHOLDER and P.35 due Marsamxett same time by S.E. searched channel. (Capt. S.10, 1249B/11 to PORPOISE (R) UPHOLDER, P.35, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

UNBEATEN, P.31. Leave patrol to arrive Marsamxett 0720B/14 through following positions, UNBEATEN 035° 00' 012° 25' and 035° 36' 014° 10', P.31, 033° 45' 012° 35' and 035° 32' 014° 14'. S/M's encountered after 2200B/13 are not to be attacked. (Capt. S.10, 1415B/11 to UNBEATEN, P.31 (R) SOKOL, P.35, C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

M.F.5. Carry out Operation M.F.5. D.1 is 12/2. (C. in C. Med., 1619B/11 to All concerned M.F.5.)

COETLOGON. Departure 9th COETLOGON - late French. (Barcelona, 1630/11 to M. of W.T.)

Crew for Greek Destroyer. Your 1128B/28. 1. Request you will send the crew of the third destroyer to U.K. as soon as convenient. 2. It is understood that the crew for a fourth destroyer may become available. Request your remarks. (D.O.D.(F) 1732A/11 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. Malta 11/2. My I.82 (1815/10). Alert 1314 hours, target Ta Kali, slight damage buildings. 1 alert 1548 hours. 4 Ju.88's ME 109's target Luqa but owing to a storm bombs fell on Curmi, 16 civilians killed, 28 injured. 3 houses demolished, other damage slight. Night 10/11. 9 alerts 1805, 1940, 2002, 2132, 2245, 0002, 0016, 0155, 0455 hours, 7 raiders. Bombs mainly Luqa, Ta Kali, Hal Far. Luqa crater in runway and very slight damage 2 Wellingtons. A.A. fired. Night Hurricanes grounded bad weather. 11th. 4 alerts 0759, 1038, 1209, 1503 hours. 65 ME.109's and Ju.88's target incoming naval force, Ta Kali, and Hal Far. Aerodromes no damage. 8 naval personnel killed, 11 seriously injured in one naval ship by near miss. No other damage. Hurricanes up to cover and engaged Ju.88's. 6 Hurricanes fired almost all their ammunition at these aircraft from short range. 3 ME.109's also hit. 2 Hurricanes slight damage, enemy probably lost 1 Ju.88. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1900/11.) Night 10/11th. Gale across runway, no Wellington bombing operations possible. Special Wellington shipping searched Cape Bon Kerkennah Tripoli found nothing. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1914/11.) 11/2. 4 Blenheims shipping sweep Gulf of Gabes 1134 hours.

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air  
Report.  
(contd.)

2 aircraft attacked without success schooner  
200 tons 223° Lampion 108 miles. Remainder  
1150 hours attacked second schooner 200 tons  
scoring near miss, schooner machine gunned after  
attack. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1922/11).

P.39.

S/M P.39 reported blank.  
(Capt. S.10, 2206B/11 to Capt. S.1.)

Stores in  
CLEOPATRA.

Your 1240/30. CLEOPATRA has on board for Malta  
5 complete, 21-inch Mark 8 Torpedo Units and  
2 cases of Torpedo Stores.  
(D.O.D.(F), 2228A/11 to C. in C. Med.)

TURBULENT,  
PROTEUS.

Estimate your position and course at 1800B/12  
TURBULENT 033° 00' 029° 02' 170° PROTEUS 032°  
54' 027° 55' 143°. British forces pass through  
031° 35' 029° 15' about 2000B/12 thence to  
westward. Do not cross 032° 05' before 0001B/13. Enter harbour  
as convenient after 0800B. Care is to be taken not to hamper  
minesweeper which should be given a wide berth. A buoy has  
been laid off end of outer harbour breakwater baffle to mark an  
unexploded depth charge.  
(Capt. S.1, 2359B/11 to TURBULENT, PROTEUS).



War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Vehicles of Troops for Far East. My 0633/7. Understand that essential vehicles of 21st East African Brigade which must be shipped number 429 of which as many as possible should be loaded in the Personnel Ships.

2. D.S.T.O. Mombasa is requested to submit proposals for lifting remaining vehicles.

3. PETROS J. GOULANDRIS now at Mombasa, NORTHMOOR now due at Aden, and CLAN MACNEIL due to start loading immediately at Beira, are suggested but it should not be necessary to use more than two ships. (D.S.T., 0003A/11, to D.S.T.O. Mombasa). Your 0003/11th. Confirmed that vehicles are 650. Propose using NORTHMOOR and position of CLAN MACNEIL now be investigated and if not loaded used. PETROS J. GOULANDRIS loading too far advanced and supplies required at Massawa. Signal here indicates ORNA due Mombasa 20/2. Am investigating possibilities of using her. SHIRALA due Mombasa 20/2 to load cotton for Bombay; suggest she should be requisitioned for personnel and fitted out here. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0842Z/11, to D. of S.T.)

Indian Ocean Bases. Extracts recommendations. Sub-Committee appointed by Chiefs of Staff to consider defence requirements which affect India. (W.O., 0315/11 to C. in C. India). See Lion Copy.

Mine-Watching, Rangoon. Following is repetition of my 0503Z/10/1. (begins), addressed Admty., from C. in C. E.F., Your 1925 (group missing)/5. No mine watching organization exists but N.O.I.C. Rangoon has been directed to establish one as soon as possible. 3 S.A. tugs are fitted but awaiting hammers. 3 Skids are available. (Ends). (C. in C. E.F., 0555Z/11 to Admty.)

SCOTTISH PRINCE, "Q" Reports. QQQQ received at 0545Z/11 from SCOTTISH PRINCE in 004° (750' or 24') N. 073° 15' E. (2) Colombo plot shows U.S. ships CHANT, OKLAHOMAN and ILE DE BATZ may be ships concerned. (C. in C. E.I., 0620Z/11 to E.I. Sqn., (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

N.C.S. Duties, Abda Area. Your 2152/8. Shanghai staff none available see my 0201/20/12 and my 0926/23. Hong Kong staff none available see my 0705/5. Manila staff no information. Penang staff evacuated to Singapore and those not required there already sent to Java. (C. in C. E.F., 0834Z/11 to Admty.)

Flying Boat, Andaman. Enemy large 4-engined flying-boat\* sighted by ABDIEL in vicinity of Andamans on morning of 1/2. (C.O.I.S. Colombo, 1043Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I., Abdacom, F.O.C.R.I.N., for Armindia). \* Another version of this signal says "flying boats."

/ABDIEL ...

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0315/11th February

IN

From The War Office.

Date 11.2.42.

CIPHER

Addressed C. in C. India Repeated Supreme Commander, South  
West Pacific General Kandy O.C. Troops, Mauritius  
O.C. Troops, Seychelles.

IMMEDIATE

69825 Cipher (M.O.12) 10/2.

PART A.

1. Following are extracts recommendations Sub Committee appointed by Chiefs of Staff to consider defence requirements Indian Ocean Bases which affect India. Have not (repeat not) received approval Chiefs of Staff to date except where specifically stated. Confirmation or modification recommendations will follow.

2. Commanders of bases, each with appropriate staff:-

India Command

Addu Atoll.  
Diego Garcia

Naval Officer  
Naval Officer directly  
responsible to Commander Addu Atoll  
Army Officer  
Army Officer directly responsible  
to Commander Mauritius.  
Army Officer

Mauritius  
Rodriguez

Seychelles

ABDA Area.

Port Blair  
Nancowry  
Cocos.

Army Officer  
Army Officer if garrison provided.  
Army Officer.

3. Commanders responsible higher control:-

India Command Area.

Naval

C. in C. Eastern Fleet through  
C. in C., East Indies.

Army

C. in C. India or such officer  
as latter may nominate.

Air

A.O.C. in C. India through  
Commander 222 Group, Ceylon.

Position of C. in C. India in relation to Mauritius, Rodriguez and Seychelles will be identical with position relation Ceylon including Maldives.

ABDA Area.

All services under Supreme Commander S.W. Pacific.

PART B.

Recommendations regarding individual bases:-

India Command Area/.....

India Command Area.

4. Addu Atoll - See W.O. tel. 68322 (M.O.12) of 3/2 - already approved Chiefs of Staff.

5. Diego Garcia.

(a) Required as operational base small carriers, cruisers, light craft. Fleet anchorage Rambler Bay. Advanced Flying boat base up to three aircraft.

(b) Scale of attack - as for Addu Atoll.

(c) Air Raid Intelligence. A.C.O. or T.R.U. one, C.O.L. one.

(d) Air Base Facilities. Aerodrome area S.W. Eclipse Point facilities for one fighter one G/R or T/B Sqd. including limited torpedo maintenance and storage facilities for Fleet aircraft. Flying Boat Base area East Point.

(e) A.A. Gun Defences. Heavy 24, Light 24.

(f) A.A. Searchlights. Twelve if space available.

(g) Balloon Defence. 25 I.E. Mark VI flying from buoys to cover Fleet Anchorage against torpedo attack.

(h) Combined G.O.R. and Fighter control room. Point to Point land line with R/T between R.D.F. stations, aerodrome, gun sites and G.O.R. W/T, R/T and G.R. operational control facilities. Arrangements for co-ordination fire of ships with shore defences. D/F homing facilities.

(i) Naval Defences. Indicator Net - Barton Pass and Middle Pass. A/S, A/B Boom controlled Minefield - Main Pass. A/T Baffle for Fleet Anchorage.

(j) Coast Artillery. Two batteries each three 5.25 inch dual purpose guns one at each Eclipse Point Cust Point areas to replace existing 6 inch naval guns and equal number 3.7 inch A.A. Two A.T.M.B. Fire units. All heavy and light A.A. guns sited if possible to cover beaches.

(k) Anti-Invasion Garrison. Decision by C. in C. India after reconnaissance. Administration difficulties ashore will limit size of garrison. Measures to effect economy as suggested for Addu Atoll should be considered.

6. Seychelles.

(a) Required advanced base up to three flying boats. Fuelling base light craft. Denial harbours in islands as fuelling bases to enemy.

(b) Scale of Attack. Raids 30 T.S.R. from carrier. Brief bombardment by cruisers with 12 inch guns or lesser guns and smaller vessels. Tip and run attacks by torpedo and minelaying craft. Smash and burn raids small landing forces.

(c) Air Raid Intelligence. C.O.Ls. two probably located area North Point and Police Point on Mahe Island.

(d) Air Base Facilities. Outer roadstead between Port Victoria and West St. Anne and Cerf Islands.

(e) A.A. Gun Defences. Heavy 4, Light 4.

(f) Centre for air raid warning and warning to guns.

(g) Coast Artillery. Two 4 inch or 6 inch guns on St. Anne Island in addition two 6 inch naval guns at Connan Point.

(h) Anti-Invasion Garrison. To be decided by C. in C. India after reconnaissance.

7. Mauritius/

# MOST SECRET

7. Mauritius.

(a) Required a land aerodrome and also Advanced Flying Boat base to operate up to three aircraft. Operational Fleet Base Grand Port. Maintenance Base for island Port Louis.

(b) Scale of Attack. As for Seychelles.

(c) Air Rail Intelligence. C.O.Ls. - Three.

(d) Air Base Facilities. Aerodrome Plain of Choisy area with facilities one G.R. or torpedo bomber squadron. Flying Boat base off Troux Au Biches. Limited shore facilities for maintenance torpedo bomber aircraft.

(e) A.A. Gun Defences.

- Grand Port - Heavy 8.
- Aerodrome - Heavy 4, Light 4.
- Flying Boat Base - Light 4.
- Port Louis - Heavy 4, Light 4.

(f) Combined information and operations room for issue air raid warnings. Arrangements for co-ordination ship's A.A. guns with shore A.A. warning system and defences. Point to point communications by land line with standby W/T between G.O.R. and Flying Boat base and aerodrome. D/F homing facilities.

(g) Naval Defences.

- Port Louis - Two A/T Baffles.
- Grand Port - Two A/S A/B booms controlled minefield.

(h) Coast Artillery

- Port Louis - Two 6 inch 45 degree now en route.
- Grand Port - Two 6 inch 15 degree from Port Louis to be replaced later by battery three 5.25 inch dual purpose. Two A/M.T.B. fire units.

(i) Anti-Invasion Garrison. Decision by C. in C. India after reconnaissance.

8. Rodriguez.

Important cable station Port Mathurin. Garrison one 6 inch 15 degree naval gun and C.A.S.L. det. one officer thirty C.Rs. Mauritius Defence Force. Infantry det. approximately 110 all ranks Mauritius Defence Force.

Subject views C. in C. India consider no further measures required. Admiralty enquiring possibility applying deceptive measures to conceal exact location cable station. Will keep you informed.

9. ABDA Area.

India's liabilities respecting army's responsibilities Indian Ocean Bases in ABDA Area will be settled Abdacom and C. in C. India in consultation.

10. Realised with reference army's responsibilities at all Indian Ocean Bases, India will require assistance in provision of equipment and perhaps personnel. Requirements should be notified War Office after reconnaissance.

11. Please inform appropriate Naval authorities.

0315/11.

Received from War Office at 0416/12.

- |                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1st Lord                  | S. of S.                             |
| 1st S.L.                  | C.I.G.S.                             |
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| D.T.S.D.                  | India Office (Col. McCay)            |
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| D.A.S.                    |                                      |
| D.N.O.                    |                                      |
| Head of S.W.R.            | } Bath by                            |
|                           | Courier.                             |

War Diary.

11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

ABDIEL,  
PORPOISE,  
RORQUAL.

Your 1034Z/6. ABDIEL having been transferred to you from Mediterranean, Admty, concur with C. in C. Med. 1315B/7 that PORPOISE cannot be spared. 2. Only other submarine minelayer, RORQUAL, is refitting in U.K. and does not complete till mid-April.  
(V.C.N.S., 1237A/11 to C. in C. E.F.)

Duties of C. in C. E.I., we both agree with proposed division of duties C. in C. E.F. and with appointment of C. in C. E.I. as deputy C. in C. E.F.

2. Following is Staff Organization proposed which is divided into 3 Sections.

(a) Seagoing Staff of C. in C. E.F. to operate (?ashore or) (corrupt group) as decided by C. in C. E.F.

(b) Staff of C. in C. E.I. as deputy C. in C. E.F. ashore at Colombo.

(c) Staff, common to both C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. E.I. which will remain at Colombo when C. in C. E.F. goes to sea.

3. Section C is intended to provide an adequate Staff for

(a) C. in C. E.I., when C. in C. E.F. is at Sea, when the conducting of operations of both the Fleet and other Forces becomes his immediate concern.

(b) The conducting of trade protection including the organization of Convoys and escorts both A/S and Ocean.

(c) Any minor operations unconnected with the Fleet itself.

(d) An efficient War Room Organization.

5. (Details of appointments).

(C. in C. E.F., 1426Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I.)

D.M.3. Burma  
Ships.

Your 1433/10. Ships should form part of D.M.3. (C. in C. E.I., 1855Z/11 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown (R) N.L.O. Durban, Admty.)

NORMAN.

My 1504/10. Amend to read 015° 00' S. (C. in C. E.I., 2051Z/11 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R) N.L.O. Durban, Admty., NORMAN, 7th D/F.)

China.

Transport  
sunk 8/2.

A U.S. submarine has reported that on 8/2 she sunk an enemy transport in convoy south of Macassar. (D.S., 890).

Ammunition.

Your 0824/10. No A.S.I.S. suitable size is available. Stock will be freighted at first opportunity. (C. in C. E.F., 0615Z/11 to Abdacom (R) C. in C. E.I., Admty.) /Situation ...

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

## Situation.

Information number 18 to 1200Z/10.

1. Macassar. No information of landing but communications cut.
2. East Borneo. Enemy has reached Tenggarong 25 km. N. W. of Samarinda, and Negara 100 km. N.E. of Bandjermasin.
3. 3 L.B.30's last night and 6 Bl7's today took off to attack enemy shipping S.W. Celebes. Only 2 aircraft (L.B.30's) found target. One claims hits believed aircraft carrier off Sindjai. All aircraft returned safely.
4. Ref. Para. 4 information number 17; total 7 our aircraft (including D.C.5 already reported) destroyed on ground or in air during attack Batavia district yesterday. Number of enemy attacking 70217.

Malang district also attacked (?yesterday). Damage aerodrome nil; to near by armoured car camp, considerable. One enemy bomber shot down. (C. in C. S.W.Pacific, 0625/11).

## Singapore

Sitrep 63. 1630 hrs. G.M.T. 10/2.

## Army Report.

During the night 9/10 further enemy landings supported by artillery fire took place from Sungei Mandai to west. Our troops forced withdraw to line running west of main road to Johore causeway as far south as Bukit Timah village, thence S.W. to Sungei Pandan. (? Northern area). Enemy activity confined to intermittent shelling some movement of small water craft and considerable air R/C. Several barges carrying troops have been sunk in Johore Straits. Our artillery maintaining harassing fire Johore Causeway supported by mortars and machine guns. Southern area. Large craft attempting landing at Labrador night of 10/11 (? sunk) by Siloso battery. (G.O.C. Malaya, 0640/11).

MARBLEHEAD  
damage.

Number 08045. U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD hull seriously damaged by bombs and rudder out of action. Will have to return to U.S. but must be docked and temporary hull repairs effected before undertaking voyage. Conditions of weather and distance to first possible assistance make West-about journey necessary. Request nearest point for temporary repairs whether Colombo, Bombay, or elsewhere. (Abdafloat, 1000Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. U.S.Fleet, Opnav).  
Reply: No (C. in C. E.I., 0955Z/12).

## Abdafloat

Following is a repetition of my 0435/15/1.

## Instructions

(N.T. in W.D.) (Begins). R.A. Malaya (R) Admty., to R.A. Malaya, B.A.D., F.O.J., C.Z.M., C. in C. A.F., Abdacom, C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.,  
15/1. From C. in C. E.F. Following from Adm. Hart,

Commander, Naval Forces in Abda Area, (short title Abdafloat) Begins: You are responsible to Supreme Commander in (corrupt group) Abda Area through Abdafloat for the local defence of British Malaya.

2. You are to co-operate with the Rear Admiral, British Far Eastern Squadron (short title F.O.J.) in the regulating of convoys and shipping routed to and from Singapore.

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. (contd.).

Abdafloat Instructions to R.A.Malaya. (contd.) 3. You are to communicate as necessary for the execution of these duties with Admty. and with other Authorities as directed by C. in C. E.F. (Ends.) (C. in C. E.F., 1401Z/11 to Admty.)

Situation. Intelligence number 10.  
1. Balik Papan convoy has moved but no sign of it at Macassar morning 10/2.

Anambas Islands Force increased to 14 warships and 30 small boats. Indications some concentration air strength Kuching including possibly part airborne division mentioned my number 1 para. 3 also an air group from Malaya and unidentified (?air components). Comment: Kuching and Sinkawang well placed for support Banka operation.

3. Photographs 9/2 show 3 probable submarines at Penang. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1437/11 to W.O., etc.)

Operational Signals. Following is repeat of our OPX 1223. (Begins). Ref. your 67853 M.O. 10 of 31/1. It is not now intended to introduce special prefix "combat." Signals of special operational urgency are to be prefixed "Emergency Operations" and be dealt with in Signal and Cipher Offices at once. Use of this existing recognised prefix will avoid complications of introducing new prefix. Hitherto "Emergency Operations" has been little used for the purpose for which intended. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1630/11, to W.O.)

Singapore Surrender Demand. Have received letter from Commander of Japanese Army asking for surrender of Fortress. Letter was dropped by air. Have no means of dropping message so do not propose to make reply which would of course in any case be negative. (G.O.C., Malaya, 2100/11 to C. in C. S.W. Pacific).

U/B's. Number 01064 dated 11/2. Photographs 9/2 show 3 probable submarines alongside Swettenham Pier at Georgetown (Penang). C. in C. E.I. please pass to C. in C. E.F. (Abdacom, Java, 2345/11 to Admty., Opnav, (Britman please pass) C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N., R.N.O. Rangoon, C.C.C.F.)



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War Diary.11.2.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

PENELOPI. My 1224R/9. Ship arrived Trinidad 7/2.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 0009R/11 to Admty. etc.)

H.X.174 H.X.174 escort Commander reports ships are  
O.N.S.62 badly scattered. Approx. 13 present. Fog  
continues visibility 500 yards. 45 miles  
behind position. Request opportunity to round  
up stragglers. Therefore my 1638Z/10 has been cancelled  
and O.N.S.62 has been diverted as in my 0045Z/11, serial 7.  
(U.S. C.N.O. 0115/11 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, Cmdr. Task  
Force No.4, Cmdr. Task group No.4.6 and 7.5, C. in C. Atlantic  
Fleet, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.C.N.F.)

ANDERSON. Following received from Lands End Radio.  
Received 0027 G.M.T. De GCK from VCE. S O S  
S.S. ANDERSON ashore Eastern Head S.T. Shotts  
need assistance immediately. Controlling Station V C E.  
Not rebroadcast.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0129/11 to Admty.)  
Intercept to Cape Race VCE from Nerk 1 for retransmission to  
ANDERSON (begins). Help is on the way. 0200/11.  
(Valentia Radio, 0213/11.)

VICTOLITE Intercept Hingham, Mass. begins. SSSS VICTOLITE,  
(torpedoed 36.12 N. 67.14 W. torpedoed.  
10/2.) (Valentia Radio, 0142/11.)

AUSTRALIA Intercept Amagansett (begins) SSSS AUSTRALIA  
U/B. 34.10 N. 76.30 W. course 230°, speed 10 knots,  
being chased by suspicious craft.  
(Valentia Radio, 0252/11, C. in C. Plymouth  
0355/11 to Admty.)

Transatlantic C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 2135Z/2. Cdr. Task Force  
Escort No.4 1950Z/6. C. in C. W.A. 2142Z/8 and 2143Z/8.  
System. Cmd. Task Force No.4 2003Z/10. New escort  
system placed in force eastbound with S.C.70 and  
H.X.176. Placed in force westbound with O.N.S  
convoy 68. C.O.A.C. Halifax sails (?North) (?all) escorts to  
meet commitment of new system beginning with S.C.70, H.X.176 and  
O.N.S. 68, keeping Cmdr. Task Force No.4 and F.O.N.F. informed  
of assignment and movement. F.O.N.F. sail all escorts  
(?starting) from St. Johns (N.F) keeping Cmdr. Task Force No.4  
informed as (?at) present. Cdr. Task Force No.4 will sail all  
escorts (?starting) (?from) Argentia. Cdr. Task Group No.4  
(??) sail U.S. and Canadian escorts (?from) Londonderry.  
Expect Westomps will be promulgated by C. in C. U.S. Fleet and  
Admty. in convoy telegram U.S.C.N.O. transmit to C. in C. W.A.  
Admty. and Cdr. Task Group No.4 as amended.  
(Com Task Force No.4 0417Z/11 to F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax,  
C. Task Group No.4.7 (corrupt addressee) (R) C. in C. Atlantic  
Fleet (U.S) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q.  
Ottawa (corrupt addressee) C. Task Group No.4.6.)

/THERMO ...

11.2.1942  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

THERMO  
 U/B.

Following received from Lands end radio.  
 Intercept 0356 G.M.T. THERMO 10 miles north  
 Hog Island. At 0358 G.M.T. THERMO 37.30 N.  
 75.30 W. Controlling station WSC. Not  
 rebroadcast. 0458/11.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, T.O.R. 0510/11 to Admty.)  
 (Vancouver B.C., T.O.R. 0710Z/11 to Admty.,  
 Bermuda.)

U/B

D/F bearing at 0229Z/11th places S/M within  
 100 miles 45.30 N. 44.00 W.  
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0742Z/11 to Brit. Warships  
 in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav,  
 C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

My 0742Z/11, placing of S/Ms within 100 miles of 045° 30' N.  
 044° W. Further D/F bearings received now change this  
 position to 046° 30' N. 048° W. accuracy 100 miles.  
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1543Z/11 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty.  
 C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

"Chop"  
 Dates.

Your 0051A/10. Para.2. In view of the con-  
 siderable difference in distance from ports of  
 departure in Jamaica area, propose "Chop" date  
 should be noon G.M.T. on date of crossing IY  
 geographical line and that this line should be 145° and 325°  
 from Bermuda. Admiralty to be sole diverting authority for  
 independent ships bound U.K. from Bermuda. B.A.D. pass to  
 Opanav.  
 (C. in C. A.W.I. 1112P/11 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica,  
 B.A.D. Opanav.) Concur. (D.T.D. 1832A/12.)  
 Your 1153P/9. Confirmed that you are diverting authority  
 for fast independent ships from Jamaica area until "Chop"  
 date but it may on occasions be necessary for the Admiralty  
 to intervene in the light of any special intelligence  
 available.  
 (D.T.D. 1533A/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Movements.

Summary at 1800 G.M.T.11/2.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
PANDORA	35½° N. 25° W.	090°	10
MARON	Approaching Bermuda from Eastward.		
ROODE ZEE	" "	" "	" "
HOLLINSIDE (in tow)	" "	" "	" "
DELHI	36° N. 57° W.	063°	15
REGENT	30½° N. 70° W.	343°	10
PRETORIA CASTLE } CILICIA }	03° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
ASTURIAS } BULOLO }	23° S. 40° W.	090°	12
CAVINA	Leaving Bermuda for Eastward.		

War Diary.

11.2.1942  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements -  
contd.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
C.T.10 CHATEAU THIERRY ANDALUCIA STAR HIGHLAND BRIGADE ROCKINGHAM BEVERLEY	45° N. 60° W.	255°	13
N.A.3 ALCANTARA DOMINION MONARCH MONTGOMERY GARLAND			
WARSPITE BISHOPDALE			
s.s. QUEEN ELIZABETH LEANDER			
M.S.4 ADELAIDE			
M.S.5 PERTH	31° S. 153° W.	257°	14
AQUITANIA	11° S. 138½° W.	323°	10
KANIMBLA	22½° S. 165° W.	050°	21
MARIPOSA	24° S. 163½° E.	048°	15
(D.O.D.(F) 1142Z/11 to Opanv (R) Spenavo.)	38½° S. 136° E.	280°	9
	34° S. 114° E.	360°	11
	25° S. 165½° E.	040°	20
	36° S. 126° E.	285°	15

New Aircraft Carriers. Re capacity, and all ships should be of the same design.  
(V.C.N.S. 1151A/11 to B.A.D. for B.A.S.R.)

ROSTHERN My 1300Z/26/1/42. Due to pressure of other work contractors state H.M.C.S. ROSTHERN cannot be completed before 13/2/1942.  
(C.O.A.C. 1200Z/11 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty., B.A.D., Capt. D. Newfoundland, D. Halifax.)

→ N.A.3. Sailed N.A.3., ALCANTARA, DOMINION MONARCH, GARLAND, ST. FRANCIS (local escort).  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1224Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

*See next page*

MALTRAN Intercepted 4101 G.M.T.18 metre band, De WSC. Suspicious Craft. U/B? SSSS (unread) 5. 03 N. 75.23 W. sighted suspicious craft with sail resembling lifeboat thick vapor at 1330 G.M.T. KULB (?MALTRAN). Controlling station WSC Tuckerton New Jersey, message not rebroadcast.  
(Portishead Radio, No T.O.O. rec., 1517/11.)

U.S. Base, Fremantle. We have been informed that Commander of South West Pacific (U.S. Naval) Forces is shifting his main naval base to Fremantle owing to lack of defences and facilities in Port Darwin.  
(B.A.D. 1519Q/11 to Admty., (R) C.C.C.F., C. in C. E.I. A.C.N.B. Melbourne, N.Z.N.B. Wellington.)

/Fleet ...

War Diary.11.2.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Fleet Tankers. Your 1250/2. C. in C. Pacific Fleet now reports another U.S. tanker SEPULGA is already en route Bora Bora to provide stocks there after U.S. tanker RAMAPO is emptied about 18/2. In view of important Anzac area, C. in C. U.S. Fleet would prefer MINISTER WEDEL be diverted from Tahiti to Suva or other destination in that area to discharge balance of cargo and then return to Curacao when empty.  
(B.A.D. 1543Q/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., Naval Board, Wellington.)

Washops 60. (i) Philippine Is. Japanese have occupied the Island of Nasbate, South of Luzon and West of San Bernardino Strait.  
(ii) Eastern Pacific. Midway Island was lightly shelled by visible Japanese submarine on 9/2. Fire was returned by Garrison.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1549<sup>0</sup>/11 to Admty. etc.)

RAMSEY, B.A.R.M.'s 0920R/6. RAMSEY who was part of N.F. Western Local Escort Force is a short-legged destroyer. Request therefore she may be allotted to Western Local Force in addition to the 12 R.N. destroyers from Western Approaches.  
(2) This is extremely desirable owing to the very small force allotted to C.O.A.C. Halifax and withdrawal of U.S. Destroyers from through Escort of H.X. Convoy from Halifax.  
(3) If you concur in para 1. request RAMSEY be sailed Halifax in time to sail with H.X.176 on 19/2.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1550Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.R.M. C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C., Halifax. F.O.N.F., RAMSEY.)

SURCOUF. SURCOUF is to leave Bermuda at 1500P/12 and proceed to Tahiti via Panama Canal.  
2. Route to Colon via Caicos Passage and Windward Passage. Adjust speed so as to arrive Colon at 0800R/19.  
3. Complete with diesel fuel at Balboa.  
4. Route to Tahiti via Great Circle, subject to any modifications desired by Opanav. E.T.A. Tahiti to be reported to all addressees before leaving Balboa.  
5. Opanav is requested to arrange for bombing restrictions on route, and for fuel at Balboa.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1602P/11 to SURCOUF (R) Admty., B.A.D. Opanav, Cdre. i/c Bermuda, S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q., N.Z.N.B.)

N.A.3. N.A.3 consists of ALCANTARA and DOMINION MONARCH escorted by GARLAND and ST. FRANCIS, sails Halifax 1200 G.M.T/11. Route as in Admty. 1622A/10,  
Q.Z.F.42. MONTGOMERY from St. Johns N.F. joins at 1200 G.M.T/14 in 044° 20' N. 039° 30' W. ST. FRANCIS parts company at dark 14/2, S. of A. 16 knots to R/V then 14.5 knots.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1628Z/11 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. A.W.I., C.C.N.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Liverpool, C. in C. W.A., Opanav.) *sailed - see previous page*

/Local ...

War Diary.11.2.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Local Convoy Escorts. C.O.A.C. Halifax reports that he is unable to commence Western local escort until S.C.71. In addition he considers 7 groups are essential with a total force of 20 destroyers 30 Corvettes and 16 Minesweepers. This Force to include provision for Mine-sweeping and local patrols at Halifax and Coastal Convoys.

2. Total R.C.N. Forces allotted to C.O.A.C. Halifax are 5 destroyers 20 Corvettes and 16 Minesweepers. Of these 3 Destroyers 6 Corvettes and 6 Minesweepers are refitting (?for) various periods up to 2 months and 8 Corvettes have to be returned from N.E.F.

3. Request therefore consideration be given to releasing 3 destroyers and 10 corvettes from (corrupt group) North Atlantic Escort Force.

4. Only alternative is a reduction in number of escorts in Western Local Groups.

5. Situation will improve as new Corvettes are completed and by July 1942 a further 8 corvettes can be allotted to C.O.A.C. Halifax.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1648Z/11 to Cdr Task Force No.4, (R) Admty., Cominch, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S) C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Liaison. Re retention of Capt. Parry with U.S. Pacific Fleet.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1737A/11 to B.A.D., C. in C. E.F., Abdafloat, A.C.N.B.)

After consultation with Capt. Parry I am of opinion that it is most desirable to appoint two or three officers of different specialist branches for Liaison duties with Pacific Fleet, who have had recent war experience at sea and who would relieve Parry.

Proposals.  
5. N.A. concurs.  
(B.A.D. 1739Q/11 to Admty.)

Dakar Intelligence. Dakar 9/2 (A.1) 1. Departed 7/2 for southward PROVIDENCE, MAROC, HOGGAR and FORT ARCHAMBAULT.  
2. Following arrived 8/2 in convoy from Northward. KILISSI, FORT DE VAUX, CARIMARE, CARTHAGE, MONTAIGNE, OUED FES, OUERGHA, ROUENNAIS.  
3. My 1643/2. Cargo of PORT DE BOUC believed lifted from stocks in Algeria.  
(B.A.D. 1815Q/11 to Admiralty repeated S.O.I. Freetown, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.) N.I.D. Comment Cargo of PORT DE BOUC was 1800 tons of 87 Octane petrol.

Ships for Iceland. Ships for Iceland (C) should be sailed in odd numbered S.C. convoys commencing with S.C. 71.  
(D.T.D. 1824A/11 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

/DESPATCH ...

War Diary.11.2.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

DESPATCH. Sailed from Bermuda in accordance with my 1942P/10 (?0942/10 intended) (C. in C. A.W.I. 1833P/11 to Admty.)

OCEAN VENTURE. OCEAN VENTURE sunk in 037° 05' N. 074° 46' W. at 0850 G.M.T./8 after being hit by 5 torpedoes at 10 minute intervals. All C.Bs. thrown overboard in perforated boxes. My 1857Z/11 with list of survivors follows. (C.S.A. Norfolk Va, 1856Z/11 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Request for onward Escorts. With arrival of C.T.10 due p.m./11 escorted by ROCKINGHAM and BEVERLEY, the following large ships will be waiting onward escort: AUSONIA, Bermuda, RANPURA, Baltimore, CHATEAU THIERRY, New York, CERAMIC, South Africa via Rio de Janeiro, HIGHLAND BRIGADE, River Plate. CERAMIC has 500 passengers. ROCKINGHAM and BEVERLEY are required for N.A.4 about 27/2. Recommend they escort AUSONIA, CERAMIC and HIGHLAND BRIGADE to vicinity of Bermuda returning with ORION and CAMERONIA. Request Opnav be asked if U.S. can provide onward escort for RANPURA and CHATEAU THIERRY from Halifax or alternatively from Bermuda. (C.O.A.C. 1858Z/11 to C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D. Washington, (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.R.M., Opnav, Admty.) Your 1858Z/11. Concur as regards escort for AUSONIA, CERAMIC and HIGHLAND BRIGADE to Bermuda and return escort for ORION and CAMERONIA. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2232P/11 to C.O.A.C.)

Convoy C.T.12 It is proposed to ask U.S. authorities permission to use 5 of the returning ships of A.T.12 to clear up westbound commitments from U.K. Proposal is dependent on the ability to provide suitable escort. Proposed sailing date is 12/3. Request you will ask U.S. authorities if they can provide through escort from U.K. to Halifax, from destroyers detailed for troop convoys under new organisation. (D.O.D.(H) 1917A/11 to B.A.D.)

Atlantic Troop Convoys. Your 1631Q/9.  
A. Your para 1. Concur that U.S. authorities should be consulted.  
B. Your para 2. Not understood which convoys are to be restricted to 40 day cycle. It is presumed that this refers to U.S. troop movements to Ireland (R) and Iceland (C).  
C. Your para 3 is concurred in.  
D. Your para 4. The priority consideration from British point of view is the regular and frequent movement of R.A.F. personnel of Empire Air Training Scheme, R.N., and Merchant Seamen. For this it is essential that C.T. and N.A. convoys should be maintained at not more than fortnightly intervals. The required lift is 5000 each way per month and to carry this it is

/necessary ...

War Diary.11.2.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Atlantic Troop Convoys - contd. necessary to provide two troop ships and two destroyers as escort each fortnight. This does not take into account the movement of Canadian troops.  
E. Numbers of Canadian troops required to be lifted from Canada amount to about 5000 per month. A few of these can be carried in surplus accommodation in N.A. convoys, balance accumulating and being brought over in a T.C. convoy at intervals of two to three months to be arranged according to the availability of escorts.  
F. It is at present hoped that you will be able to arrange to run T.C.17 carrying a total of 11,000 Canadian Army and R.A.F. at the end of March.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1918A/11 to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Search for ALYSSE. PRUDENT arrived St. Johns 1650Z/11. Admiralty pass to C.C.R.T.  
(F.O.N.F. 1920Z/11 to Admty.)

Cinclant Operating Area. Following has been received from Cominch. Effective 1200Z/20/2. Cinclant has been ordered to extend his operating area to Latitude of 40°S as a result of Uruguay indicating that her ports are open to U.S. ships and British ships under U.S. direction.  
(Spenavo No T.O.O./11, Recd. 1922/11 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Land, Air and Sea Forces in Abda and Anzac areas and reinforcements expected. J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No.(W)45.  
(1st S.L. 1936A/11 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Movements. My 2300Z/7 altered. U.S. Cruiser NASHVILLE U.S. Destroyer WILSON arrived Boston. WILSON proceeding to rescue mission 036° 12' N. 067° 14' W. 30 knots E.T.A. 2000Z/11. SAVANNAH from Trinidad 1100Z/11 arriving Bermuda 14th.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2025/11 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F. C. in C. A.W.I.)

Policy and Plans. J.S.M. No.40.  
(J.S.M. Washington 2027Q/11 to Chiefs of Staff London) See Lion Copy.

<sup>S.S.</sup> QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your T.O.O.1526Z/6. Oerlikons not available in time for QUEEN ELIZABETH at Esquimalt but will be sent to San Francisco by 1/3. 4 in number 3" HA/LA now on rail to Mare Island are being diverted by B.A.T.M. to Esquimalt. N.S.H.Q. pass to High Commissioner Ottawa.  
(D.E.M.S. New York 2035Z/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) D.T.D., B.A.D., C.O.P.C., High Commissioner Ottawa.)

/WICHITA ...

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1336Z/11 Feb.

To B.A.D. Washington 197.

Date 11.2.42

NAVAL CYFHER (One Time Table)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following for Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff.

No. (W) 45

Ref. J.S.M. 22 Para.1.

LAND FORCES

AT PRESENT IN AREAS

- (i) ABDA (a) Burma 1 Burma Div. (2 Bdes.) 17 Ind. Div. (4 Bdes.) Fifteen unbrigaded Bns. (including Burma Frontier Force).
- (b) Malaya 18 Div. (3 Bdes.) 8 A.I.F. Div. (2 Bdes.) 3 Ind. Corps (9 Ind. Div. 1 Bde. 11 Ind. Div. 2 Bdes.) Two Ind. Bdes. (12 & 44) Two Malaya Bdes. Eight unbrigaded Bns. (incl.volunteer forces).
- (c) N.E.I. Java. One Hy. A.A. Regt. Two Lt. A.A. Regts. Borneo. One Ind. Inf. Bn. (about 600) Portuguese Timor. One A.I.F.Coy. (300). Dutch Timor. One A.I.F. Bn. Amboina. One A.I.F. Bn. (Query).
- (d) Australia Port Darwin. Two A.M.F. Bdes. (incl.one M.G. Bn. and one Par. Bn. A.I.F.).

(ii) ANZAC AREA

- (a) New Guinea Port Moresby. One A.I.F. Bde. Gp. and one Papuan bn. Rabaul. One A.I.F. Bn. (query). One A.I.F. Ind.Coy. (query)
- (b) Fiji One N.Z. Bde. Gp. Five N.Z. Bns.
- (c) New Caledonia One A.I.F. Coy. (300)
- (d) Solomons and New Hebrides One A.I.F. Coy.
- (e) Ocean and Nauru Islands Australian Detachments equal to approx. one Coy.

(iii).....



(2)  
(iii) AUSTRALIA (excl. ABDA).

A.M.F. Two Cavalry Divs. Four Inf. Divs.  
Three Mixed Brigades. A.I.F. One Armd. Div.  
forming one tank Bde. forming A.I.F.  
personnel (about 20,000).

(iv) NEW ZEALAND

N.Z.E.F. One Tk. Bde. Home Def. Forces  
about 45,000.

## B.

FORCES EN ROUTE

(For (X) read Unit (Y) expected date of  
arrival, (Z) point of departure).

- i) Burma. (X) 7-Armd. Bde. (Y) end Feb. (Z)  
Mideast. (X) 65 Heavy A.A. Regt.  
43 and 55 Lt. A.A. Regts. (Y)  
early March (Z) U.K.
- (ii) Malaya (X) Ancillaries 18 Div. (Y) end  
Feb. (Z) Mideast.
- (iii) N.E.I. (X) One sqn. 3 Hussars (25 tks.)  
(Y) Mid Feb. (Z) Mideast. (X)  
First Flight Australian Corps incl.  
Corps Troops and 7 Australian Div.  
(Y) End Feb. (Z) Mideast (X) 56 Hy.  
A.A. Regt. 28 Lt. A.A. Regt. 56 A/Tk.  
Regt. H.Q. 9 A.A. Bde. (Y) early  
March (Z) U.K. (X) Balance Australian  
Corps (two divs.). (Y) Mid March  
to end March (Z) Mideast.

## C.

REINFORCEMENTS PROJECTED DURING NEXT THREE MONTHS.

- (i) Burma (X) 2 D.W. Regt. 1 Cameronians. 2  
Ind. A/Tk. Regt. One Ind. Fd. Regt.  
15 and 23 Mtn. Btys. (Y) Mid Feb.  
(but certain units may be later)  
(Z) India (X) 21 East African Bde.  
Gp. (Y) Early March (Z) East Africa  
(X) 25 East African Bde. Gp. (Y)  
Mid March (Z) East Africa (X) 63  
Ind. Inf. Bde. One Ind. Lt. Tk. Squ.  
(Y) Later than April (Z) India.  
Probably (X) 14 Ind. Div. (less one  
Bde.) (Y) March/April (Z) India.
- (ii) Malaya (X) 36 Ind. Inf. Bde. (ex 14 Ind.  
Div.) (Y) Early April (Z) India  
(X) Two Hy. A.A. Regts. Three Lt.  
A.A. Regts. (Y) Mid April (Z) U.K.

AIR.....

# MOST SECRET

(3)

D. AIR FORCES.

(Figures in Part D are squadrons).

D. AT PRESENT IN AREAS

- (i) ABDA (a) Norgroup 4 Fighter. 2½ Light Bomber. 2 Army Co-operation 1 Coast Defence Flight.
- (b) Wesgroup 7 day Fighter. 1 Blenheim Fighter. 4 (equivalent in aircraft to 5) Light Bomber. 2 G.R. Hudson. 2 T.B.G.R. 1 Flying Boat, A.A. Co-op Unit.
- (c) Easgroup. 1 G.P. 2 G.R.
- (ii) AUSTRALIA (R.A.A.F) 4 G.R. Landplane. 4 G.P. 2 Flying Boat. 1 Fighter (no aircraft)
- (iii) NEW ZEALAND (R.N.Z.A.F.) 4 G.R. Landplane. 1 G.R. Flying Boat.

E. EN ROUTE TO AREAS

- (i) ABDA 1 Blenheim Squadron with 24 aircraft. Grand parties 2 further inflated Blenheim Squadron. 33 Hurricanes (inc. 2 P.R.U. aircraft) 19 Hudsons.
- (ii) ANZAC Nil.

F. REINFORCEMENTS DURING NEXT THREE MONTHS.

- (i) ABDA 150 Hurricanes. 49 Hudsons. 1 or 2 Bomber Squadrons (possibly).
- (ii) AUSTRALIA Provision of fighters dependant on reply to query in WEBBER W. 502 6/2. 9 Flying Boats. 54 Beaufighters. Balance of Hudson order.
- (iii) NEW ZEALAND Provision of Fighters dependant on reply to query in WEBBER W. 502 6/2. 14 Ansons. 18 Beaufighters (under consideration). Balance of Hudson order.

NAVAL/...

**MOST SECRET**

-4-

NAVAL FORCES.G. AT PRESENT IN AREAS.

- (i) ABDA                    3 "D" Class Cruisers  
                                  4 Fleet Destroyers  
                                  1 "V" Class Destroyer (R.A.N.)  
                                  3 "S" Class Destroyers  
                                  2 Sloops (1 R.A.N.)  
                                  2 S/M's.
- (ii) ANZAC                    2 8" Cruisers  
                                  2 6" Cruisers  
                                  1 old 6" Cruiser  
                                  3 A.M.C.'s  
                                  2 "V" Class Destroyers (refitted)  
                                  2 A/S patrol Vessels  
                                  6 Auxiliary A/S Vessels.

H. FORCES EN ROUTE

- (i) ABDA                    1 8" Cruiser  
                                  2 6" Cruisers(R.A.N.)
- (ii) ANZAC                    1 Aircraft carrier  
                                  1 A.M.C.

I. REINFORCEMENTS DURING NEXT 3 MONTHS.

- (i) ABDA                    1 6" Cruiser  
                                  1 "V" Class Destroyer (R.A.N.)
- (ii) ANZAC.                    2 A.M.C.'s

NOTE

The above does not include local defence forces.  
 The following Dutch reinforcements are intended  
 for ABDA Area.

(a) 1 A/A ship on passage.

(b) 4 S/M's during the next 3 months.

The 6" cruiser projected for ABDA Area will replace  
 the 8" cruiser shown en route.

1936A/11

1st Lord	D. of P. (2)	
1st S.L.	Duty Capt. (2)	Asst. Sec. to 1st S.L
C.N.S.	D.D.I.C. (2)	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	E.P.S.	
A.C.N.S. (W)	Hd. of M. (33)	& for C.I.G.S. & War Office
N.A. 1st S.L.		C.A.S. & Air Ministry & War
P.A.S. (S)		Cabinet Office.
P.A.S. (F)	I.F. (2)	
D.D.I.C. (F)	W.D.	
D.N.I. (4)	N.I.D. 10. Paym. Cdr. Wilson	
	Admiral Bellairs	

**MOST SECRET**

373 <sup>E</sup>

~~MOST SECRET~~ ~~MESSAGE~~ IN

From Joint Staff Mission  
Washington

2027Q/11/February.

Date 12.2.42.

Naval Cypher O.T.T.  
by T/P

Time 0954.

Addressed Chiefs of Staff London

IMPORTANT

Number 40.

Reference our number 38.

Following are additional results of yesterday's combined Chiefs of Staff meeting - reference our number 25 and your number (W) 41 - War collaboration between United Nations.

The following revisions to draft contained in our J S M number 25 were agreed - Para 2 (B) to read "the term combined Chiefs of Staff is defined as U.S. Chief of Staff and British Chief of Staff. (At present British Chiefs of Staff have accredited representative in Washington.

(E) to read "The Combined Secretariat is the organisation of officers duly appointed by Combined Chiefs of Staff to maintain necessary records, prepare and distribute essential papers and perform such other work as is assigned them by Combined Chiefs of Staff"

Para 4 to read "The Combined Chiefs of Staff will develop and submit recommendations as follows (a) for the ABDA Area specifically as set forth in annex 2 of the directive of the Supreme Commander in the ABDA area (U.S. ABC-4/5, British WW.6 of 5th January, 1942. (b) For other areas in which United Nations may decide to act in concert along same general lines as in ABDA area, modified as necessary to meet particular circumstances.

Combined Military transport committee ?advise following amendments draft contained in our J.S.M. number 25 were agreed - para. 3 (a) (ii) to read "the Committee will advise combined Staff Planners on Transportation connected with Combined Planning.

Final sentence of para. 3 (b) to read "representatives, U.S. and British, of the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board, should be invited to attend meetings"

We did not press the further amendment of para. 3 (A) (2) containing para. 8 (B) of your no. (W) 41 as we felt this was a purely domestic British affair. Neither did we press for amendment to British composition of

/committee

committee as there are not two deputy directors, . . . movements, in Army Staff Washington.

" 2 The economical employment of Air Forces against Japan. We tabled a paper on the above subject because we felt it was essential in view of many Ad Hoc requests received for aircraft for ABDA Anzac and Pacific area that whole position should be reviewed. The committee agreed a comprehensive review of strategical situation in Japanese theatre of war (including entire Pacific area) should be made including preparations for a combined plan for forces of United Nations in including:

(a) The roles to be played by the Eastern and Pacific Fleets, the broad distribution of naval forces and the naval bases which must consequently be held and developed

(b) the air forces required to defend essential naval and air bases, for the control of sea area and for building up the air offensive.

(c) the land forces required to hold base areas in the first defensive stage and the organization of Amphibious striking forces for the assumption of the offensive.

This plan would lead up to the determination of the total forces required and the manner of their provision.

This was referred to the Combined Staff Planners. You will see that this is in line with our requires in Joint Staff Mission 32.

20270/11.

Advance copy 1st S.L., Hd. of M. & D.C.

1st Lord	Hd. of M. (33)
1st S.L.	for C.I.G.S. and W.O., C.A.S. and
V.C.N.S.	Air Min. and War Cabinet Offices)
A.C.N.S. (W)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.N.I. (4)
F.A.S. (S)	D.C. (2)
D.C.D. (F)	D.D.I.C. (2)
D.D.O.D. (F)	Admiral Bellairs.
D. of P. (2)	
E.F.S.	

e.d.

War Diary.11.2.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

WICHITA  
FALLS. Your 1936A/24/1.\* WICHITA FALLS (U.S.) has not arrived.  
(Naval, Ottawa 2046Z/11 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I)  
\* Presumably refers to N.C.S.O. Reykjavik's 1936/24 re sailing of WITCHITA FALLS (U.S.)  
*arrived N.York 11/2 P. 412*

EXCELSIOR. EXCELSIOR (U.S) due New York 27/1 from St. Thomas has not arrived.  
(Naval, Ottawa 2116Z/11)

SAN ARCADIO (torpedoed 31/1.) U.S. Naval plane picked up 9 survivors from S.S. SAN ARCADIO in 34.28 N. 62.50 W. at 1630/11. Survivors state ship was torpedoed on 31/1 in 38.10 N. 63.50 W. Survivors are in King Edward Hospital. Senior survivor is 3rd Officer J.R. Stephens who states that he believes they are only survivors. Names and addresses of others will be signalled as soon as they can be questioned.  
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda 2307P/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. Opanv.)

HAGAN U/B. S.S. HAGAN made SSSS in 38.20 N. 74.50 W. at 0901Z/11.  
(Ottawa 2309/11 to Admty.)

WILSON U/B. U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda received report from U.S.S. WILSON of sighting submarine on surface at 2230Z/11 in 35.00 N. 65.45 W. steering 270°. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2349P/11 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., C.O.A.C. Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Tankers. Your 1234A/5. Tankers always sailed in accordance with your 2003/9/12. Unless early advice is received concerning tankers required to proceed to Abda area avoidable delays at Fremantle must result.  
(A.C.N.B. 0358Z/11 to Admty., (R) Abdafloat.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.11.2.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Situation. Digest Serial number 21, 10/2.  
 (i) Enemy four-engined Aircraft over Nauru and Ocean Island 10/2.  
 (ii) Enemy Air R/C Port Moresby area 10/2.  
 (iii) Unidentified single fighter Monoplane over Darwin at 0515Z/10 grade B.3.  
 (iv) Hudson and Catalinas attacked enemy shipping and Aerodrome Gasmata 10/2. No hits on shipping observed but four bombs on Runway. 3 Enemy Aircraft sighted. Enemy shipping observed includes 2 Transports, 1 Tanker type vessel, 1 submarine, 1 possibly 2 small Cruisers and 3 possibly 5 Destroyers.  
 (A.C.N.B. 0614Z/11 to Admty., C. in C. E.F. etc.)

GONCALVES  
ZARCO.

Portuguese Ministry of Marine enquires whether Port: Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO can obtain oil fuel at Darwin or any Australian port between Darwin and Fremantle. Request your views urgently.  
 (Head of M. 1638A/11 to A.C.N.B.)

<sup>5</sup>  
24 M/S.  
Flot.

LITHGOW, DELORAINE, (?BOTLEA) TOWNSVILLE and WARRNAMBOOL are to form (?24th) Minesweeping Flotilla. My 1406Z/26 to D.N.O. Northern Territory, WARREGO and Admiralty only is cancelled. C.C.C.F. pass to Abdacom and Abdafloat.  
 (A.C.N.B. 1652Z/11 to S.O. H.M.A. Squadron, Capt. Supt. Sydney, Capt. Supt. of Training, Flinders Naval Depot, all H.M.A. ships etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-Boat positions.  
 (D.D.I.C. 1402A/11, 1403A/11.)

War Diary.

12.2.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Trawlers on patrol engaged a group of E-boats at 0120 today, between Gris Nez and Dungeness. Results were not observed, and no damage to our forces is reported.

Escape of enemy main units from Brest.

1125 (9)  
99

At 1042 two Spitfires on Channel reconnaissance, sighted an enemy force stated to consist of 2 battle cruisers, 3 destroyers and 12 E-boats off Le Touquet, steering a north-easterly course. The Spitfires sank one E-boat.

V.A. Dover received the information at 1045; the report was confirmed by an aircraft of Fighter Command at 1105.

The SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINZ EUGEN passed through the Straits of Dover eastbound at an estimated and plotted speed of 29 to 30 knots, accompanied by numerous light and small craft and heavily escorted by fighter aircraft, at about noon.

The weather appears to have deteriorated about noon, 8/10 to 10/10 low cloud being experienced. About 1230 eight M.T.B's from Dover and Ramsgate attacked the enemy with torpedoes and estimate one hit under the bridge of PRINZ EUGEN.

About half an hour later 6 Swordfish from Manston, with fighter escort attacked with torpedoes; their escort report one hit on the port quarter of one of the battle cruisers. All these Swordfish were lost; 5 of their personnel were picked up.

C. in C. Nore assumed control of the operations at 1411.

Information was received at H.Q. Bomber Command at 1127 that an aircraft of Fighter Command had sighted the 3 enemy heavy units from Brest with an escort of auxiliary vessels off Le Touquet heading north at high speed. The first wave of Bomber Command aircraft, 73 in number, left the ground at 1420 and two other waves followed at intervals; in all, a total of 244 aircraft of Bomber Command, including Beauforts armed with torpedoes were despatched, but in the adverse weather few of them found the main target. One possible hit on one of the battle cruisers and near misses on various of the main units and escorting vessels are claimed.

Captain D.21 (Capt. C.T.M. Pizey, R.N.) in CAMPBELL with VIVACIOUS, MACKAY (Capt. D.16), WALPOLE, WORCESTER and WHITSHED, who were exercising off Harwich proceeded at 1150A to intercept the enemy. In order to do so, they had to proceed at 29 knots directly across the mine barrier, and make for a position off the Maas. In heavy rain squalls the enemy were sighted at 1543 bearing 155°, approximately 4 miles off. There was no hope of gaining bearing, and course was altered to close and attack. Our destroyers had now been bombed 4 times.

/CAMPBELL.....



War Diary.

12.2.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Escape of  
enemy main  
units from  
Brest -  
Contd.

CAMPBELL and VIVACIOUS both attacked the leading enemy battle cruiser at about 1545 in approx. 52° 0' N., 3° 36' E, firing torpedoes at 3500 yards and consider they obtained one or possibly two hits. WORCESTER also attacked, from a closer range, but claims no hits; she was hit and set badly on fire, but returned to Harwich safely at 0911A/13.

No other damage to our ships has been reported. MACKAY and WHITSHED attacked at the same time a single enemy ship, later identified as PRINZ EUGEN; no definite results were seen. During this period many enemy aircraft were sighted and engaged by our destroyers, who twice report being bombed.

At 1551 EGLINTON was ordered to proceed with FERNIE, HAMBLEDON, QUORN, BERKELEY and SOUTHDOWN, to support Captain D.21.

In addition to 6 Swordfish, we lost 15 bombers, 3 Coastal Command aircraft, and 17 fighters. Fighter Command report 15 enemy aircraft destroyed and several others damaged or destroyed.

The last sighting of the enemy before dark was at 1800 by a shadowing Beaufighter of Coastal Command, who sighted the SCHARNHORST and 6 destroyers about 15 miles S.W. of Den Helder. Further aircraft were despatched to continue shadowing during the night.

Submarines were disposed off the Coast of Norway, in case the enemy should endeavour to proceed to Trondheim.

Convoy C.W. 68 was postponed and P.S.13 and S.P. 14 were cancelled.

24 A/S trawlers are being lent to the C. in C. U.S. Fleet for A/S operations under U.S. command on the east coast of North America.

It is reported by N.O.I.C. Aultbea that an unexplained explosion, possibly to be due to sabotage occurred in SKYRACK (Coast watching service on 3/2.)

A damaged U-boat was reported on the surface in approx 48° 0' N. 9° 0' W. at 0920/12. H.34 and SEALION were ordered to proceed to intercept.

S.S. JAMAICA PRODUCER reported sighting a submarine close to her about 1300 G.M.T. today on 55° 3' (or 30') N. 12° 23' W.

War Diary.

12.2.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

22 aircraft attacked Le Havre docks last night and 16 Brest.

Mining.

The R.D.F. plot in Dover showed considerable enemy activity between Calais and Boulogne during the 24 hours ending 0900/12; most of this is believed to have been minesweeping.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks on Malta. MAORI sunk.

There were several alerts at Malta last night. At 0230B today V.A. Malta reported that MAORI had been hit by bombs, burnt out and sunk in the Grand Harbour. The blast and debris from MAORI caused some casualties on board DECOY. The air attacks continued by daylight and darkness, and at one time there were 74 enemy aircraft over the island. Slight damage was caused at Luqa and Hal Far Aerodromes.

Operation M.F.5.

Convoy M.W.9 left Alexandria p.m. today, escorted by CARLISLE, LANCE and 7 Hunts.

S.S. LLANDOVERY CASTLE reported being attacked by enemy aircraft at 0725 G.M.T. today in 32° 16' N. 26° 20' E.

Air and Minelaying on Tobruk.

Malta Wellingtons bombed Tripoli last night. 30 enemy dive bombers escorted by 20 fighters attacked Tobruk today; they were intercepted by Hurricanes and the majority of them, jettisoned their bombs; the D/F station was damaged. The enemy also laid mines.

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

The arrangements for the refits of VALIANT and REVENGE and their joining the Eastern Fleet are given in A.M. 2050A/12 to C. in C. E.F.

China.

Burma.

The enemy have taken Martaban mainly by landing from the sea well behind Martaban, combined with land attack from the south. G.O.C. Burma emphasizes again that with present means Rangoon is very far from secure; the scale of attack seems likely to increase and he has no information when further Infantry other than one British Battalion may be expected to arrive. He asks that more British troops may be sent.

Malaya.

At 1416 the Governor reported that the position was threatening, the 18th Division was disintegrating and many Australians half-hearted. Further enemy landing was reported at Loyang, west of Changi after dark today.

N.E.I.

At least 5 enemy convoys containing about 22 transports and 20 warships were reported today approaching Banka and Billiton. Last night, 21 Hudsons and Blenheims were despatched to attack the enemy convoys in the Anambas Is. area. Only 5 found targets and no hits are claimed. 3 aircraft were destroyed when taking off. This morning 12 aircraft attacked shipping in the Macassar area and it is believed that some success was obtained.

Air attacks  
on shipping  
Singapore-  
Batavia.

More extensive air attacks on escorted convoys from Singapore were made today in the Banka area. R.A.F. fighters from Palembang provided what cover was possible to ships within their range. Ships sustained hits. DURBAN was damaged and is to be sent to Colombo for repairs. Six tankers were hit, two of which, SUBADAR and MANWANTARA will it is thought be total losses.

N.E.I.

A heavy air attack on Palembang is reported. No damage was caused to the aerodrome. Hurricanes intercepted, and 3 enemy bombers were destroyed. 1 Hurricane was lost.

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- S.O. H.F. duties at Scapa. R.A.(D) H.F. is continuing duties of S.O. H.F. at Scapa whilst F.O.I.C. 18th C.S. is present. (18 C.S., 0947A/12.)
- R.N. Depot at Hvitnes. Following from B.A.S.R. Bureau of Yards and Docks have intimated willingness to complete Royal Naval Depot at Hvitnes, Hvalfjord, Iceland. Requisition for this work has been requested and is accordingly being lodged. (B.A.D. Washington, 1227Q/12.)
- S.A. Corvettes. Propose following arrangement for exchange and reinforcement of South Atlantic corvettes. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1831A/12.)
- 24 A/S Trawlers lent to U.S. Fleet. Following 24 A/S trawlers are being sailed for St. Johns, N.F. in the course of the next few days. Names. 2. These trawlers are being lent to C. in C. U.S. Fleet for A/S operations under U.S. Command on East Coast of North America. Further signal will be made regarding their disposal after arrival at St. Johns. 3. All trawlers are coal burning except BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER. (D.O.D.(H.), 1940A/12.)
- CAPE WARWICK. Cancel my 1144A/1. Regret CAPE WARWICK is required for immediate foreign service. (C. in C. W.A., 2339A/12 to F.O.S., S.3.)
- Movements.
- H.32. H.32 escorted by ALISMA sailed Lough Foyle 2200A/11 for Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 0020A/12 to MORDEN.) ALISMA is escorting H.32 from Londonderry to Rothesay. E.T.A. 1000A/12. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0149A/12 to AMBUSCADE, etc.)
- SEVERN. F.O.S. 1304A/28/1. Request onward route from 049° 40' N. 005° W. for SEVERN leaving Portsmouth p.m./17. (Capt. S.5, 0946A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth, etc.)
- GWIN. Your 0645A and your 0745A. U.S. Destroyer GWIN sailed from Hvalfjord at 1330A/11 for Londonderry. (A.C.I.C., 1003/12 to TRINIDAD.)

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

BLENHEIM. BLENHEIM proceed with BLYSKAWICA, FURY at 0830 tomorrow to Hvalfjord, destroyers providing A/S escort.  
 (2) You should proceed through 058° 45' N. 7° W., thence through Reykjanes passage.  
 (3) Latest position of U-Boats one in 059° 30' N. 014° W., one in 060° N. 5° W. bound N.E.  
 (4) If weather conditions are suitable BLENHEIM is to carry out H.A. firing in Pentland Firth whilst on passage.  
 (R.A.D. H.F., 1115A/12.)  
 BLENHEIM will not be able to function as repair ship or receive turnover stores from HECLA until stores carried for passage are disembarked.  
 (BLENHEIM, 1421A/12 to A.C.I.C.)

FOXTROT, Intend sailing ROSS escorting FOXTROT 0700/13  
 ROSS. to Methil for onward routing to Humber.  
 (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1124/12.)

Norwegian Admiralty's 1152A/25/12. Whalers SHUSA, SVEGA,  
 Whalers for SILJA, STEFA and SHERA weather permitting will  
 Murmansk. be ready to sail tomorrow.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1206A/12.) *Cancelled 13/2 - See p. 420*

Trials. As R.E.F. Destroyers will not be able to keep up with J. 4067 during her full speed trials, it is intended to allow these trials to take place provided that fighter escort is provided, as was done in case of CLEOPATRA vide Admiralty's 1644A/2/12.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1235/12 to Admty.)

SEAHAM, Owing to operational requirements, SEAHAM and  
 BOSTON. BOSTON are to be sailed to Greenock so as to arrive by 20/2.  
 (D.M.S., 1315A/12 to WESTERN ISLES.)

O.10, (A) Cancel paras. B. and C. of my 1109A/10.  
 H.34. O.10 is to proceed to Falmouth with ALECTO.  
 (B) H.34 is to leave patrol after dark 13/2 for Falmouth.  
 (F.O.S., 1436A/12.) *See also next page.*  
 ALECTO and O.10 position at 1800 off Wolf Rock. Thence O.10 to southward 8 knots and ALECTO to Falmouth.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1756A/12 to WELSHMAN.)

WALPOLE. Proceed to Harwich.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1537A/12 to WALPOLE.)

/DELHI ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.

DELHI.

Onward route from position (B) to (C) 49° N. 15° W. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to issue onward route from position (C). (C. in C. W.A., 1734/12 to DELHI.)

STURGEON,  
TIGRIS.

I have insufficient fuel remaining to reach Clyde. Request permission to call Scapa for fuel after meeting escort.  
(STURGEON, 1801A/12 to Capt. S.3.)

K.T.A.M.B. Cancel my 1559A/11 and my 1431A/6.

(Capt. S.3, 1710/12 to STURGEON, TIGRIS.)

Your 1648. Fuel remaining sufficient 36 hours at speed dependent on sea which is very rough at present. My position approx. (? 062°) 10' N. (? 000°) 08' W.

(STURGEON, 1855A/12 to F.O.S.)

N.T.A.M.B. Cancel my 1648A/12. Proceed in accordance with previous orders to Lerwick to refuel and remain there until further orders.

(F.O.S., 2239A/12 to STURGEON.)

My 1710A/12. Delete reference to my 1431A/6.

(Capt. S.3, 2340A/12 to STURGEON.)

MINERVE.

My 1751A/12. Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1831A/12.) *See pp. 385, 386*

LEDBURY.

My 1807/5. Intend to sail LEDBURY for Scapa on 15 or 16/2.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1837A/12.)

H.34.

A. My 1436A/12 para. B. Onward route through position.

(A) 47° 20', 07° to R/V in 180° Lizard 3 at

0930/15th as ordered by F.O.I.C. Falmouth.

B. H.Q. Coastal Command is requested to arrange submerged bombing restrictions as follows.

(F.O.S., 1947A/12 to H.34.) *See previous page*

RODNEY.

My 1400A/11. To avoid U-Boat area amend route through 062° N. 016° W. and thence Minches.

2. A.C.O.S. inform Northern Patrol trawlers.

(C. in C. H.F., 2027A/12 to RODNEY.)

C. in C. H.F. 1400A/11 and 2027A/12.

Estimate RODNEY and screen passing Reykjanes at 2100A/12, speed 19 knots.

(A.C.I.C., 2359A/12.)

War Diary.

12.2.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Channel Patrol. Sailed TUSCARORA, ST. MODWEN, BOARHOUND, to establish endless chain patrol across North Channel.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0105A/12.)

*Jan p. 392*

Trawler Patrol off Dungeness. Engagement with 4 E-Boats. At 2345/11 R.D.F. plotted what was later identified as eight E-Boats from a position near Gris Nez to Dungeness where one group of four was engaged by trawlers on patrol with unobserved results at 0120/12. The other group of four proceeded to the vicinity of No.12 Air Sea Rescue float seven miles south of Dungeness. Plot then became confused and M.G.Bs. 324, 326, 328 and 330 which were despatched at 0040 to intercept and attack were unable to make contact even though flares were dropped by a Hurricane of 607 Squadron under ground control. E-Boats appeared to lose touch with each other and their movements were difficult to follow, but they finally entered Boulogne about 0530 and M.G.Bs. returned to Dover at 0715. It is not thought that enemy were engaged in minelaying but that they were investigating a plot of our four trawlers passing Dungeness.  
(V.A. Dover, 0806A/12.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic -  
Area Iceland - KING GEORGE V, RENOWN, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, KENT, KENYA, SUFFOLK, TRINIDAD. 13 Destroyers.  
Area Scapa - DUKE OF YORK (working up), SHEFFIELD.  
Area Clyde - EAGLE.  
Area North Russia - NIGERIA, 2 Destroyers.  
Area Gibraltar - ARGUS.  
Passage from Gibraltar to U.K. - MALAYA, HERMIONE, 4 Destroyers.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1038Z/12 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Brest S/M Patrol. My 1349A/7. Amend para. H to read -  
At 1800/13 leave patrol and return to Portsmouth by the reverse of your outward route unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C.  
Portsmouth. S.5 is requested to arrange bombing restrictions.  
(F.O.S., 1107A/12 to SEALION.)  
S/M patrols in Bay of Biscay are cancelled after dark 13th. Captain (S) 7 is to arrange return of S/M of 7th S/M Flotilla from Falmouth to Clyde.  
(F.O.S., 1438A/12.)  
(A) Cancel paras. (B) and (C) of my 1109A/10. 0.10 is to proceed Falmouth with ALECTO.  
(B) H.34 is to leave patrol after dark 13th for Falmouth.  
(F.O.S., 1436A/12.)

H.S.Note.

The following signals, missed from the distribution to War Diary, will be found in pack marked

Operation "Shark"

February 12th - 13th. 1942.

1337/12	0054/13
1354/12	0717/13
1455/12	0721/13
1523/12	0750/13
1556/12	0759/13
1620/12	0804/13
2004/12	0822/13
	0946/13



War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

SCHARNHORST, Messages concerning the movements of German  
GNEISENAU, Battle cruisers etc. will be circulated to the  
PRINZ EUGEN. following authorities, under the title "Battle  
Distribution". Details.

Passed to F.O.(S) if enemy report.

If Most Secret the distribution will be as follows. Details.

Passed to F.O.(S) if enemy report.

Other authorities may be added if the subject matter so demands.  
This will be indicated on the distribution.

(Head of War Registry Memo. February 1942.)

Come to immediate notice forthwith.

(V.A. Dover, 1136A/12 to D.21.)

Enemy battle cruisers passing Boulogne, speed about 20 knots.  
Proceed in execution of previous orders.

(V.A. Dover, 1149A/12 to D.21.)

Departure CAMPBELL, VIVACIOUS, MACKAY, WALPOLE, WORCESTER,  
WHITSHED.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1150A/12 to V.A. Dover.)

Enemy A/C and surface craft detected by R.D/F in 158° 17 miles  
from South Foreland.

(V.A. Dover, 1155/12 to Ships on Port Wave.)

Two battle cruisers and numerous small craft reported passing  
five miles West of Boulogne at 1105A/12, steering N.E.

(A.C.N.S. H., 1202A/12 to A.I.G.2, F.O.S., F.O. Force H, etc.)

2 main units passing through Straits of Dover eastbound 1200  
today. SEALION is not to go in.

(F.O.S., 1214A/12 to S/Ms Area A.)

Surface craft detected by R.D/F in 127° 14 miles from South  
Foreland.

(V.A. Dover, 1215/12.)

Three battleships bearing 130°, distance 5 miles, course 070°.  
My position 095° 10 miles South Foreland.

(M.T.B. 221, 1223/12.)

M.T.B. 221 reports 3 large warships in 107° South Foreland 15  
miles at 1223.

(V.A. Dover, 1228A/12 to Admty., Reptd. C. in C. Nore.)

Most probable route for battle cruisers will be from 53° 36'  
N. 5° 15' E. through 53° 43' N. 5° 57' E. to 54° N. 6° 04' E.  
and thence along 54° N.

(D.D.I.C., 1229A/12 to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C.  
Harwich, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C.)

A/C and surface craft detected by R.D/F in 091° 18 miles from  
South Foreland.

(V.A. Dover, 1235A/12.)

Enemy speed 30 knots.

(V.A. Dover, 1236A/12 to D.21.)

A/C and surface craft detected by R.D/F 085° 23 miles from  
South Foreland.

(V.A. Dover, 1245A/12.)

A/C and surface craft detected by R.D/F in 081° 27 miles from  
South Foreland.

(V.A. Dover, 1255A/12.)

/ A/C and ...

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War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

SCHARNHORST, A/C and surface craft detected by R.D/F in 105°  
 GNEISENAU, 28 miles from North Foreland.  
 PRINZ EUGEN. (V.A. Dover, 1305/12.)  
 (Contd.) A/C and surface craft detected by R.D/F 099°  
 30 miles from North Foreland.  
 (V.A. Dover, 1312/12.)  
 All available "Hunts" at the Nore are to be  
 placed under the orders of V.A. Dover.  
 (A.C.N.S. H., 1326A/12 to C. in C. Nore, V.A.  
 Dover.)

Plot faded 1312.  
 (Dover Port Wave, 1327/12 to Ships *on Port Wave*)  
 2 destroyers bearing 100° 5 miles 081° South Foreland 13.  
 (M.A/S.B. 23, 1330A/12 to Dover W/T.)  
Your code word "Shark".  
 (V.A. Dover, 1348/12 to D.21.)  
 C. in C. Nore has assumed control of operations. *(R) Admty*  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1411/12 to D.16, D.21, V.A. Dover, ~~etc.~~)  
 On meeting at 51 buoy take destroyers addressed under your  
 orders and proceed to patrol 5 miles North and South of 051°  
 50' N. 2° 25' E. Route direct from ~~51 Buoy~~ *51 Buoy.*  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1416A/12 to EGLINTON, Reptd. FERNIE, HAMBLEDON,  
 QUORN, BERKELEY, SOUTHDOWN.)  
 Departures HAMBLEDON, EGLINTON, SOUTHDOWN, QUORN.  
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1419A/12.)  
 Estimated P.C.S. of enemy at 1400, 51° 24.5 N. 02° 32' E., 048°,  
 25 knots.  
 Estimated P.C.S. of D.21 at 1430, 51° 49.5 N. 02° 49.5 E.,  
 090°, 28 knots.  
 Air protection arranged. Code word "Shark".  
 (V.A. Dover, 1420A/12 to C. in C. Nore.)  
 On reaching 51 buoy anchor and await further orders. Take  
 CATTISTOCK, COTTESMORE, PYTCHLEY, and HOLDERNESS under your  
 orders.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1424A/12 to MEYNELL.)  
 All M.T.Bs. return to harbour.  
 (Dover Port Wave, 1424/12.)  
 TRIDENT and MINERVE are to be sailed for patrol in vicinity  
 of Stadtlandet as soon as possible details follow.  
 (F.O.S., 1504A/12 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.) *(MINERVE sailed) - See p. 382)*  
 If nothing is sighted by 1515 search to S.W. as enemy's speed  
 may be reduced.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1509A/12 to D.21, Reptd. D.16.)  
 BLENCATHRA, WHEATLAND, CLEVELAND are patrolling West of Beachy  
 Head. Please take them under your orders if required.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1517A/12 to C. in C. Nore.) *(Reply: 1730A/12)*  
 TIGRIS and P.37 are to proceed forthwith to patrol in vicinity  
 063° 22', 007° 30' and 063° 14', 007° 07' respectively.  
 (F.O.S., 1517A/12. *5 k S/M, on patrol in Area A. LIDDESDALE Admty, etc*)  
 One enemy destroyer in sight 150° 52' N. 3° 20' E., bearing  
 150°.  
 (D.16, 1542/12 to Port Wave Nore.)  
 2 battle cruisers 150°, 5, 52° 1' N. 3° 32' E.  
 (D.21, 1543/12 to Nore.)

/One ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

SCHARNHORST, One battleship 160°.  
 GNEISENAU, (D. 16, 1544/12 *to Nore*)  
 PRINZ EUGEN. Am attacking with torpedoes.  
 (Contd.) (D. 16, 1546/12 to Nore.)  
 My 1504A/12. TRIDENT and MINERVE are to patrol  
 vicinity 062° 48', 005° 20' E. and 062° 23', 004°  
 43' E. respectively. S/Ms are to proceed on the  
 surface by day at discretion, being required on  
 patrol about 0001/14th. Object to attack and  
 then report cruiser and above. Request you arrange route and  
 bombing restrictions.  
 (F.O.S., 1549A/12 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)  
 Attack completed.  
 (D. 16, 1550/12 to D.21.)  
 Proceed to 51° 52' N. 43° E. (sic) to act in support of D.21.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1551A/12 to EGLINTON, Reptd. D.21, D.16, *Admty*)  
 My P.C.S. are 52° (? 00') N., 3° 15' E., 250°, (? 27 knots).  
 (D.16, 1600/12 to D.21.)  
 Enemy course is 040°.  
 (D.21, 1608/12 to Nore, Reptd. F.O.S.)  
 WORCESTER badly on fire.  
 (D.21, 1612/12 *to Nore, reptd. FOS.*)  
 My position is 52° N. 3° 36' E. Picking up WORCESTER  
 survivors.  
 (D.21, 1621/12 to D.16.)  
 Do you require support of "Hunts". If so instruct them as  
 necessary.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1635A/12 to D.21, Reptd. EGLINTON, *Admty*)  
 MACKAY and WHITSHED attacked single enemy ship believed PRINZ  
 EUGEN from beam close in to 4000 yards. Result of torpedo  
 fire not observed but WHITSHED reports hearing 3 heavy explosions  
 but these may have been bombs. Enemy's heavy units were  
 split up taking avoiding action. Some return fire from screen  
 but none from PRINZ EUGEN. Intermittent bombing from enemy A/C.  
 (Capt. D.16, 1637A/12 to C. in C. Nore, Reptd. D.21.)  
 STURGEON is to steer for Utvoer 61° 04' N. 4° 20' E.  
 (F.O.S., 1648A/12.)  
 Ships which have fired all torpedoes return to Harwich with  
 despatch to reload.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1655/12 to D.16, D.21.)  
 TUNA is to patrol Zone E and W keeping close to dividing line.  
 (F.O.S., 1709A/12.)  
 Your 1517A/12. These destroyers are not required, thank you.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1730A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
 WORCESTER P.C.S. 51° 59' N. 3° 30' E., 255°, 8 knots.  
 WORCESTER has no W/T.  
 (D.21, 1745A/12 to C. in C. Nore, Reptd. EGLINTON.)  
 Return to harbour.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1747A/12 to BLENCATHRA.)  
 Your 1655. My position 51° 59' N. 3° 29' E., course 255°,  
 maximum speed in present weather conditions 18 knots.  
 VIVACIOUS in company.  
 (D.21, 1748A/12.)

/Orfordness ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

SCHARNHORST, Orfordness radio beacon will be on from 2006 to 2012, 2032 to 2038, and 2105 to 2111. All times British Summer Time. (C. in C. Nore, 1749A/12 to D.16, D.21, EGLINTON.)

GNEISENAU, Intend to sail MINERVE at 1800A/12 unescorted proceeding on surface at C.O.'s discretion through following positions -

PRINZ EUGEN. (A) 090° Out Skerries 5 miles  
(B) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles  
(C) 061° 44' N. 000° 46' E., thence to patrol in 062° 23' N. (? 004°) 43' E.

(Contd.) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange total B.R. for 30 miles on either side of this route from 1800A/12 until further orders. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1751A/12.) *Sailed - see p. 382*

Intend to sail TRIDENT at 1830A/12 unescorted proceeding on surface through position (a) 090° Out Skerries 5 miles (b) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles (c) 061° 50' N. 000° 08' E. (d) 062° 48' N. 003° 40' E., thence to patrol in 062° 48' N. 005° 20' E. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange T.B.R. for 30 miles on either side of this route from 1800A/12 until further orders. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1755A/12.) *(Also NOIC Lerwick 1837A/12 to 87M's Area A)*

Do not cut through sweepers. (C. in C. Nore, 1819A/12 to MEYNELL.)

Leave patrol position 54 at 1800/13, then comply with my 1107A/12 reporting when 50 miles northward of Ushant. (F.O.S., 1829A/12 to SEALION.)

CAMPBELL and VIVACIOUS both attacked leading enemy battle cruiser and fired all torpedoes at 3500 yards on her bows. Result of attacks not observed accurately owing to heavy rain squalls, but consider one hit probable and 2 possibles. Details of WORCESTER's attack not known. (D.21, 1835A/12 to C. in C. Nore.)

D.21's 1745. Proceed in company with HAMBLEDON, QUORN, SOUTHDOWN to escort WORCESTER. Remainder of your force return to Harwich.

Two tugs are waiting at 51 Buoy. (C. in C. Nore, 1840A/12 to EGLINTON.)

\*ESCAPADE, ANTELOPE, and WINDSOR are to be got ready for service forthwith. Report when ready to proceed. (C. in C. Nore, 1856A/12 to F.O.I.C. Humber.) *See next page*

Request VORTIGERN and VERSATILE may be sailed to 62D Buoy forthwith, proceeding with all convenient despatch. (C. in C. Nore, 1858A/12 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Raise steam for full speed with all despatch and proceed when complete with fuel to 62D Buoy where C. in C. Nore will give you further orders. Endeavour to maintain 24 knots on passage. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1901/12 to VORTIGERN.)

Raise steam for full speed with all despatch and proceed when ready to 62D Buoy, where further orders will be given to you by C. in C. Nore. Endeavour to maintain 24 knots on passage. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1903/12 to VERSATILE.)

/Present ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

SCHARNHORST, Present S/M dispositions on Norwegian coast  
 GNEISENAU, have been made to intercept enemy main units  
 PRINZ EUGEN. should they endeavour to proceed to Trondhjem.  
 (Contd.) (F.O.S., 1906A/12 to S/Ms Area A.)  
 My 1755A/12. (TRIDENT) sailed.  
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1908A/12.)  
 Mine barrier south of latitude 051° 50' N. is  
 believed clear of mines and has been crossed  
 twice today.  
 (D.16, 1917A/12 to EGLINTON.)

Any destroyers available for service and armed with torpedoes  
 are to be placed under operational orders of C. in C. Nore.  
 (A.C.N.S. H., 1924A/12 to C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Humber.)  
 Your 1925A/12. No barrier south of 051° 55' N. has been  
 cleared.

(C. in C. Nore, 1947A/12 to GARTH.)

All serviceable M.T.Bs. in Dover Command are to be placed  
 under C. in C. Nore.

(A.C.N.S. H., 1950A/12 to V.A. Dover.)

Report your E.T.A. 62D Buoy.

(C. in C. Nore, 2039A/12 to VERSATILE, VORTIGERN.)

SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINZ EUGEN escorted by destroyers  
 and numerous light craft proceeded up the English Channel east-  
 bound. Enemy are being continuously attacked by air and light  
 surface forces. Results are at present obscure.

(1st S.L., 2114Z/12 to Opnav.)

Your 2045A. Approved.

(C. in C. Nore, 2131A/12 to CATTISTOCK, Reptd. D.21, MEYNELL.)

My 1856A/12. Delete ESCAPADE. *See previous page*

(C. in C. Nore, 2156A/12 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

Report your E.T.A. Harwich.

(C. in C. Nore, 2217A/12 to GARTH.)

Arrival CAMPBELL, VIVACIOUS.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2229A/12.)

My 1202A/12. SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU and PRINZ EUGEN engaged  
 by aircraft, destroyers, and other light surface forces since  
 1200 today between Boulogne and Texel. Attacks continuing.  
 Results obscure.

(A.C.N.S. H., 2242A/12 to A.I.G., etc.)

The most recent reports of the enemy confirm Admiralty 1229A/12.  
 S. of A. 20 knots.

(A.C.N.S. H., 2258A/12 to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, etc.)

Situation report.

Whitley aircraft made A.S.V. contact with unknown number of  
 ships at 1847 in 52° 50' N., 4° 18' E. and at 2024 in 53° 20'  
 N., 4° 32' E. At 1800 Beaufighter sighted ship he was  
 certain was SCHARNHORST escorted by 7 destroyers in 52° 50' N.,  
 4° 20' E. It therefore appears certain there are 2 groups  
 of ships proceeding at about 20 knots.

Whitley aircraft cast back south of the Hook but made no  
 contact with the ship reported by bomber stopped in 52° 3' N.,

/3° 54' E. ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.SCHARNHORST,  
GNEISENAU,  
PRINZ EUGEN.  
(Contd.)3° 54' E. which it is considered was probably  
WORCESTER. Whitley aircraft has been ordered  
to search from the Hook to Borkum.  
Intention.Until a definite report is received from  
aircraft of a ship stopped or in difficulties  
I do not intend to send destroyers to search  
for it off the Dutch Coast.

MACKAY, WHITSHED, CAMPBELL, VIVACIOUS, GARTH,

FERNIE and BERKELEY will proceed so as to be in 51° 50' N.,  
2° 30' E. by 0645/13. Four Beaufighters of 16 Group will  
be off Dutch coast at 0645 and will search from the Hook  
northwards.Destroyers will move off with all despatch immediately any  
report is received of enemy within reach.(C. in C. Nore, 2328A/12 to Admty, *(R) F.C., Harwich, D.16, D.21, GARTH etc*)  
My 2328. Take destroyers named under your orders and  
proceed as necessary.

(C. in C. Nore, 2332A/12 to D.21, Reptd. GARTH.)

VERSATILE and VORTIGERN on passage South at 24 knots due  
62D Buoy about 0800/13.

(C. in C. Nore, 2333A/12 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Main  
Unit.D/F bearings at 2137Z indicate enemy main  
unit North of Ameland.(D.D.I.C., 2340A/12 to C. in C. Nore, H.Q.B.C.,  
H.Q.C.C.)Patrol  
off  
Start.Intend to sail at 1700/12 M.G.B. 314 to 135°  
Start Point 2 miles, thence southward, returning  
to Dartmouth, 0800/13.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1441/12.)

Channel  
Patrol.Night 12/13th. Two A/S trawlers patrolling  
Q.Z.S.271, returning St. Helens at dawn.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1757A/12.)Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol.SUFFOLK is to sail from Hvalfjord to pass through  
position X 066° 30' N., 023° W. at 0900N/14,  
and thence patrol "White".(2) BERWICK is to meet SUFFOLK in position  
X and then return to Hvalfjord.

(C. in C. H.F., 2026A/12.)

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

A/C  
crashed.

\* BERNARD reports A/C crashed in vicinity of B.7 at 0930, believed Spitfire. Pilot rescued by H.M.D. REIDS.  
(Cdre. Sheerness 1217A/12)

\* Not identified.

Code Word  
"Smilax".

Please use code word "Smilax" for destroyers in vicinity N 49 41.  
(C. in C. Nore 1523A/12 to 11 Group)

"Shad"  
Messages.

Agree with the suggestion contained in your 2204A/5.  
(H.Q.C.C. 1630/12 to Admty.)

Clyde  
Balloon  
Barrage.

My personal letter of 3/7/40 to Capt. Servaes re provision of balloons on north side of Clyde. The fact that the western end of the balloon barrage on the north side of the river ends sharply near the Admiralty oil fuel installation Old Kilpatrick and is likely thereby to draw attention to that installation was raised by me over eighteen months ago; and balloon authorities reconnoitred further positions down river in 1940 and in 1941. Balloon Commander requests me today to obtain Admiralty support with Balloon Command for a proposed early redistribution of balloons in this district and the addition of balloons to cover oil installations at Bowling and Denny's Shipyard at Dumbarton.  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1917/12 to Admty.)

Escort for  
BLENHEIM.

My 1115A/12. Fighter protection and air A/S escort arranged as far north as possible.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 2325A/12 to BLENHEIM, etc.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy  
attacked.

Convoy "Cadet" is being attacked by enemy A/C.  
(PATRIE 1050/12.)

D.21  
bombed.

Whirlwinds are over you.  
(V.A. Dover 1354/12 to D.21.)  
Enemy are bombing "Shark" (Capt.D.21) My position 51° 55' N. 2° 58' E, course 075°, speed 28 knots.  
(D.21 1455/12 to Nore.)  
Enemy are bombing "Shark" heavy.  
(D.21 1556/12)

LIEUT. R.  
MORY  
(Bombed 10/2)

R.N.O. Penzance reports tug CHERBOURG<sup>E</sup> 13 required today and tomorrow to assist LIEUT. R. MORY.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1716/12)

War Diary.12.2.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- Operation  
S. N. 84.                      Your 1441A/11.    It is hoped that WELLS will undock and be completed in time to R/V p.m. 15th.    No other destroyers are available at Scapa.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1205A/12 to R.A.M.)  
Your 1441A/11.    KENYA will be sailed to R/V with you a.m./16th.  
(C. in C. H.F. 2143A/12 to R.A.M.)
- Operation  
"Tincture"                      Request you repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m. 14th in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9/41.  
(D.M.S. 1218A/12 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- Thames  
Estuary.                      Two Ground mines detonated during special sweep for operation "QQ" at 2345/10 and 2346/10 respectively.    Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1232/12)
- Sweep by  
13th M/S  
Flotilla.                      My 0137A/12.    Consider high percentage Oropesa search of QZS 259 and QZS 53 as far as North Cumbrae essential.    Request 13th M.S.F from Belfast may carry this out commencing outer end of QZS 259 at 0730 tomorrow.    No local Oropesa sweepers available.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1404/12 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Sail 13th M/S Flotilla to Clyde in accordance with F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1404A/12.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2210A/12 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)  
Your 1404/12.    Intend sailing 13th M.S.F. 0800A/13.    Commence sweeping from position B at 1230.    Expect complete Q.Z.S. 259 by 1800 and Q.Z.S. 53 Saturday morning.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2236A/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Yarmouth                      LL sweepers detonated one red mine in 52° 56' N. 01° 59' 30" E.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1621A/12.)
- Humber.                      Mine detonated at 1505/12 by Sweeper.    Details.  
(F.O. Humber 2135A/12.)
- Enemy Intelligence.
- Unit off  
Dunkirk.                      D/F bearings at 0314Z/12 indicate surface unit, probably patrol craft, in vicinity of Dunkirk.  
(D.D.I.C. 0442A/12)
- In  
Norwegian  
Waters.                      Add to my 1202/11. 9th February, Parsanger Fiord one Destroyer.    Varanger Fiord one submarine.  
10th February.    Chinney Island one destroyer.  
Soroy Sound one minesweeper.    Parsanger Fiord one minesweeper.    Fugloy Sound one destroyer.  
Harstadt one minesweeper.    Mageroy Sound one minesweeper.  
Kibergnes one minesweeper.  
(Ad. Miles 1427C/12 to Admty.)



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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/11 to 0900/12. Tracks E 15 D and E 16 D two medium sized vessels and six escorts from eleven miles south west of Boulogne at 0140 eastbound at twelve knots faded about fifteen miles North East of Calais at 0535. The plot showed considerable activity by night and also by day between Calais and Boulogne during the period most of which was believed to be minesweeping. Eight E-Boats were plotted from Gris Nez at 2315 to Dungeness area returning to Boulogne at 0530. These were briefly engaged by trawlers on patrol and a Hurricane of 607 Squadron under ground control provided illumination with flares.  
(V.A. Dover 2004A/12)

U-Boats.

Clyde. Proceed forthwith with all despatch to intercept enemy submarine which passed Cumbrae at 2215A/11 steering south on surface at approx. 15 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0039A/12 to BODO, COVENTRY CITY, SPHENE, DRANGEY.)

Am proceeding Mull of Kintyre. Will sweep back from there. E.T.A. 0150.  
(AMBUSCADE 0120A/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

At 2200A/11 inner patrol vessel sighted suspicious vessel aground south of indicator loops near Scoulag Point Isle of Bute. At 2259 vessel refloated and made off at high speed to the southward and was reported as a S/M by patrol vessel who pursued for 5 miles before losing touch. AMBUSCADE from Lamlash, L'INCOMPRISE, BOARHOUND, ST.MODWEN, and TUSCARORA from Campbeltown have been ordered to carry out A/S sweeps and patrols. My 0039A/2 to BODO, SPHENE, COVENTRY CITY, and DRANGEY also refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0137A/12.)

Suspected enemy S/M reported 055° 43' N. 004° 58' W. at 2315A/11 on surface steering south at 15 knots. ALISMA pass to H.32.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0145A/12 to ALISMA.)

Intend patrolling on a line from 196° South Rock 6 miles to 152° South Rock 10 miles. E.T.A. at patrol 0530.  
(COVENTRY CITY 0401A/12)

A/C will co-operate in search from daylight, 2 in number, in area to north west of Mull of Kintyre, one in number in area Anglesby to Mull of Kintyre.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0525A/12 to COVENTRY CITY, etc.)

Suspect enemy S/M was reported at 2315/11 on surface abeam Cumbrae Elbow light proceeding southward. A/S sweep and patrol are being carried out in Clyde approach. ALISMA escorting H.32 from Londonderry is due Rothesay at 1000A today.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0623A/12 to HILARY, MARSDALE.)

Cancel my 0039A/12. Proceed in execution of previous orders.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1203A/12 to DRANGEY, COVENTRY CITY, SPHENE, BODO.)

/off ...

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War Diary.12.2.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - contd.

Off Finisterre. Following received from F.O.H. via A/C begins:  
Sighted U-boat at 1206/10 in position 040° 47' N.  
014° 06' W. T.O.O.1741/11.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0206A/12.)

South of Iceland. Have been following R.D.F. contact since 0445Z  
bearing 146° distant 5 miles, course and speed  
at contact 135° 24 knots. My position 060°  
43' N. 16° 15' W.  
(TRINIDAD 0645A/12.)

Your 0645A. Am proceeding to join you forthwith.  
(C.S.18 0808A/12 to TRINIDAD.)  
Cancel my 0808A/12.  
(C.S. 18 0934A/12 to TRINIDAD.)  
My 0645A. Contact type uncertain U.S. ship GWIN.  
(TRINIDAD 0745A/12 to Admty.)

ANNA Latitude 056° 33' N., longitude 007° 43' W.  
KNUDSEN. Tow fairly comfortable. Requires no  
(Torpedoed assistance.  
9/2.) (FREEBOOTER 0720A/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Request assistance another tug. Second tow rope  
parted. Now towing with towing winch 056° 09' N.  
7° 12' W.  
(FREEBOOTER 1540A/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1943A/12 to TENACITY.)

Hove to in position Inishtrahull Light 166°, 26 miles. Cannot  
handle tow with winch.  
(FREEBOOTER 2205A/12.)

Off St. Search for U-Boat reported by straggler at 0700.  
Kilda. Report approx. position sighting and remain  
searching until short of fuel or otherwise  
ordered. Hudson A/C joining you.  
(S.O.8th E.G. 1052Z/A 12 to ARABIS, ANCHUSA.)

Your 1052A/12. Position of S/M reported 058° 11' N. 011° 58' W.  
25% fuel. Searching area 20 miles astern of convoy.  
(ARABIS 1215A/12.)

My 1052A/12. Object was sighted by S.S. BALLOT straggling 4  
miles astern of convoy in 058° (?) 15' N. 011° 50' W.  
(S.O. 8th E.G. 1222A/12 to ARABIS, ANCHUSA)

My 1222A. If no contact rejoin convoy. S.S. BALLOT report now  
uncertain if S/M was sighted.  
(S.O. 8th E.G. 1332A/12 to ARABIS, ANCHUSA.)

Off N.W. Intercepted at 1134 G.M.T. de JAMAICA PRODUCER.  
Ireland. 55° 30' N. 12° 23' W. JAMAICA PRODUCER sighted  
close S/M. Controlling Station Lands End radio.  
(Port Patrick 1130 G.M.T/12)  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1245A/12.)

/S/M sighted ...

War Diary.12.2.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - contd.

S/M sighted. Bearing 249° first quality <sup>x</sup>GENERAL WOOD submarine sighted. *x Not identified*  
(Tiree Radio 1134 G.M.T./12.)

Damaged U-Boat. Damaged U-Boat on surface in approx. 48° N. 09° W. course 120°, at 0920/12. H.34 proceed to position 51. SEALION proceed to position 54. Owing to own minefield do not go within 15 miles of 47° 18' N. 05° 40' W. Cancel my 1016A/30/1. U-Boats may now be attacked.  
(F.O.S. 1304A/12)

ATHELCROWN N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1842A/12. See A. & W.I.  
DIALA.

O.N.65. H/F D/F bearings at 2119A/12 indicate U-boat possibly reporting Iceland Ships astern.  
(KEPPEL 2200A/12 to SWANSON.)

Navigational.

Buoy T.B.3. T.B.3 Buoy out of position. Now bearing 237° 2½ cables from T.B.4.  
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1420/12.)

Technical.

Pom-pom ammunition. There have recently been some pom-pom stoppages in action due to separated rounds. Re tests and reports to be made.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0012A/12.)

LENIN. My 1539A/7. Additional A/A armament is now being fitted in LENIN and her mainmast has been removed to allow maximum number guns being brought into action. Ship is now literally bristling with guns and Russians are giving crew intensive course of training in co-ordination of A/A fire which will last until 16/2. Ships will accordingly sail about 17/2. In view of LENIN's almost priceless value to Dvina and vulnerability to dive bombing when almost stationary in ice I consider this prudent move outweighs delay to ships.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0856A/12)

Casualties and Defects.

BARON GRAHAM. BARON GRAHAM, Loch Ewe portion R.U.11, has leak in number 5 hold. Water cannot be reduced. VIZALMA detailed as additional escort for BARON GRAHAM with orders to proceed to Londonderry on arrival.  
(ST. ELSTAN 1115A/12.)

/SKYRACK ...

War Diary.

12.2.1942

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

- SKYRACK  
Possible  
sabotage. Unexplained explosion took place in engines of SKYRACK on 3/2. Quantity of cotton waste found in pipes. Possibility of sabotage. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1321A/12 to D.N.I.)
- CHILTERN. Your 1143A/12. Boiler defects will make it impossible for CHILTERN to leave Cardiff before noon 14th. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1514A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
- ANTELOPE. Cancel my 1542/5 and 0955A/8. ANTELOPE delayed about 6 days. (F.O. Humber 1602A/12.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- F.N630. Convoy duty tonight F.N630, COTTESMORE, M.L. from  
F.S723. Yarmouth. F.S723, MENDIP, M.L. from Humber.  
(C. in C. Nore 0948A/12.)  
F.S723 is to keep to extreme western edge channel between 57 E. and 57 D. buoys turn 1 mile south of 57 D. and keep 1 mile south of centre line channel between 57 D and 56 B. (C. in C. Nore 1004A/12 to LEWES, etc.)  
COTTESMORE proceed to join F.N630. Remainder of destroyers under your orders return Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 1643A/12 to MEYNELL.)
- P.Q.11 P.Q.11. E.T.A. position B, 0930/16.  
OXLIP. (R.A.D. H.F. 1045A/12.)  
Proceed as necessary to R/V with P.Q.11 in position (B) at 0930A/16.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1246A/12 to OXLIP.)
- P.Q.11. My 1129A/11. When OXLIP joins convoy Faeroes, CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO are to be detached with orders to proceed to Stornoway. (R.A.D. H.F. 1455A/12 to NIGER.)

Routeing to North Russia. Your 1436A/8. Convoys and H.M. ships are routed in accordance with the latest information available at the Admiralty of the enemy air and sea forces. Though P.Q.9 and 10 and CAIRO were routed to the southward, P.Q.11 has been given a northern route. These routes may vary from day to day and the threat of a chance encounter with a Russian S/M will have to be accepted in the interests of the security of the convoy whilst the situation necessitates the Russian S/Ms operating as at present. (D.O.D.(H) 1120A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

War Diary.12.2.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- U.R. and R.U. Convoys. U.R.13. U.R. and corresponding R.U. convoys will sail at nine day intervals starting with U.R.13 on 17/2.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1151A/12.)  
U.R.13 will sail from Loch Ewe on 17/2 and thereafter the U.R. and R.U. cycle will be 9 days.  
(D.T.D. 1245A/12.)
- O.N.65. My P.C.S. 058° 04' N. 24° 5' W., 267°, 7 knots. Have not contacted American relief escort on 2410 or 4400 kc/s.  
(KEPPEL 1200A/12.)
- C.W.68. C.W.68 postponed.  
(C. in C. Nore 1211A/12.)
- S.C.66. S.C.66. Average speed 6.26 knots. Westerly gale followed by fog and mist during first part of voyage. GLENWOOD which arrived St. Johns, N.F. only straggler. AEGEUS and ILISSOS in collision in fog 1/2, but arrived with other ships of convoy.  
(D.T.D. 1216A/12 to Opnav.)
- H.G.79. H.G.80. C. in C. W.A. 1054A/23 and A.M.2048A/9. Request H.G.79 be sailed on 22/2 and H.G.80 on 11/3, then at 22 day intervals.  
(D.T.D. 1525A/12 to F.O.C. N.A.)
- S.P.13 P.S.13 S.P.14. S.P.13 VALEBORG Newhaven to Cowes Roads. P.S.13 and S.P.14 cancelled.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1532A/12.)
- Atlantic Convoy escorts. Your 1915Z/11 crossed my 1538/11. Intend even numbered convoys should be slow convoys for the present.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1736Z/12 to Comm. Task Force 4.)  
Following are provisional requirements for destroyers subsequent to 22/2. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1832A/12.)  
Following is anticipated escort situation during next 3 weeks. Details. No allowance has been made for breakdowns.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2348A/12 to Admty.)
- W.S.16. Convoy escort orders from R/V onwards will be issued by Admiral Somerville.  
(Head of M. 2003A/12 and 1545A/13 to FORMIDABLE.)

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War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passings 11/2. French Westward, CAPITAINE LE DIABET, OUED TIFLET, IME~~CE~~ETHIE II, full, JOSEPH ELISE. (V.A.C.N.A. 0917/12 to Admty. for M.E.W.) Gibraltar 1150. French Patrol Vessel LA SETOISE, French ships [CHEF MECANICIEN. ARMAND BLANC.] full, two lorries on deck, STE MAXIME laden lorries, mobile oil tank on deck, ARCTURUS laden, many lorries on deck. MONTESQUIEU laden, women passengers, westbound. (S.O.I. Gib. 1807A/12 to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.)

Bombing restrictions. Ops. 661 12/2 Serial G. 46. Institute total submarine bombing restrictions from 0730/13 until 1200/13 within 25 miles radius of position 180° Lizard 3 miles. (H.Q.C.C. 1321A/12 to R.A.F. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

PANDORA. 35.30, 21.48, 090° 8½, situation at 1959A/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1324A/12 to A.I.G. 64.)

ELSA  
ESSBERGER.  
(German) Arrived Ferrol 12/1. Vessel is blockade runner from Japan with valuable cargo for Germany. Arrangements being made by German Admiralty to tranship cargo at Ferrol into German owned small ships probably Dutch skoots which will proceed to Bayonne. Coastal Command are being kept informed. (D.N.I. 1442A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

OLYMPUS. My 1136/10. Sailed OLYMPUS, Q B 65, Q B B 232. (F.O.C.N.A. 1728A/12 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

LEITH. P.C. & S. at 2200A, 025° 56' N. 026° 42' W. 184°, 10 knots, to overtake convoy. BRITISH HUSSAR and GENISTA under own power in company. (LEITH 2302A/12 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. S.A. ROCHESTER.)

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War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Raider  
E.

My 1325/25/12. Raider E is thought to be operating in South Atlantic. (C. in C. S.A. 1203Z/12 to S.A. Sqdn.)

Proposed  
13 knot  
independent  
sailings.

A.M. 1650A/7/1 my 1241Z/9/1 and my 1825Z/11/2 Now that there are many more returning transports and other merchant ships of a fair speed passing through Freetown, routing instructions as laid down in Admiralty message 0001/1/5 appears to require revision. Para. 2 of Admty. 1650A/7/1 is not clear in as much as (A) refers to ships of 15 knots and over. 2. The speeding up of return voyage of these ships is evidently of primary importance and if those of speed within a knot or two of 15 are retained for convoy their arrival in U.K. may be delayed as much as three weeks. Even if included in S.L. convoys and broken off as in para. 2 (B) of A.M. 1650A/7/1 they may still be delayed for 14 days. 3. Questionable whether these large ships are not in greater danger from U-Boat attack sailing in a 7 or 8 knot convoy unless very strongly escorted than independently if they can maintain say 13 knots. 4. It is therefore proposed that for the time being (at any rate?) 13 knots should be the limiting speed for independent sailings. The limits as regards numbers would, of course stand. (C. in C. S.A. 1255Z/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.)

RANGITATA.

My 1825Z/11/2 para. 3. RANGITATA now declares full speed 13½ knots. Ship is not therefore being sailed independently for the present. My 1255Z/12 refers. (C. in C. S.A. 1307Z/12 to Admty.)

SEMLA.

Your 0949Z/8 para. 2. No objection if this route is considered preferable. Request arrival at conversion port may be expedited as far as possible. (D.M.S. 1436A/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

JACOB VAN  
HEEMSKERCK.

Sailed for Seychelles, E.T.A. daylight 18/2 S. of A. 19 knots, routed through positions:-  
A. 030° 00' S. 033° 45' E. B. 019° 00' 039° 10'  
C. 009° 00' 043° 20' D. 004° 00' 053° 20'.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1650Z/12 to Admty. and for B D Z, C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. E.I. N.O.I.C. Seychelles.)

QUEEN  
MARY.

Further to A.M. 0020/7. After completion of voyage from U.S.A. to Australia it is intended that QUEEN MARY should return to Cape Town and be subsequently employed between Cape Town and Suez ferrying troops ex W.S. Convoys. (D.O.D.(F) 1848A/12 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I.)

/FREESIA ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.FREESIA,  
FRITILLARY.

Your 2356A/9. Hope to sail FREESIA and FRITILLARY about 15/2 and further 2 or 3 with W.S.16. This will entail a reduction in scale of escorts until reliefs arrive but I am prepared to accept this.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1905Z/12 to Admty.)

QUEEN EMMA,  
PRINCESS  
BEATRIX.

Intend to sail QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX in company at 0600Z/14 routed through (A) 14° 5' N. 26° 5' W. thence to Ponta Delgada for fuel. S. of A. 16 knots. F.O.C.N.A. and C. in C. W.A. are requested to provide onward route to U.K. (C. in C. S.A. 1931Z/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.)  
N.C.S.O. inform British Consul QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX will arrive Ponta Delgada a.m./20 and will each require 200 tons diesel oil. (C. in C. S.A. 1145Z/12 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, F.O.C.N.A. Admty. QUEEN EMMA, PRINCESS BEATRIX.)

D.M.3.

Your 1855/11. In order to simplify transhipment request I may be informed whether D.M.3 will call at Colombo. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1947Z/12 to C. in C. E.I. (R) N.L.O. Durban, Admty.)

BOREAS.

E.T.A. 017° N. 1100 G.M.T./15. Weather report. (? BOREAS 2130Z/12 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Escorts of S.L.100.)

Mediterranean.MAORI  
sunk.

Regret to report MAORI hit by bombs, burnt out and sunk in Grand Harbour. (V.A. Malta, 0230B/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. R.A.(D) Med.)

U/B.

German submarine report 0214 G.M.T. 326/2, sensed 39 groups. (V.A. Malta, 0417B/12 to C.O.T.S. F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B.

German submarine report 0252 G.M.T. 331/2, sensed 16 groups. (V.A. Malta 0455B/12 to C.O.T.S., F.O.C.N.A.)

/LLANDOVERY ...



War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.LLANDOVERY  
CASTLE,  
A/C attack.Following has been read P/L AAA - 32° - 16' N.,  
26° - 20' E., LLANDOVERY CASTLE attacked by  
enemy aircraft.  
(Nore W/T 0725/12 G.M.T. to Whitehall.)Enemy  
M/V.P. C. and S. of Medium M/V (not exceeding  
10,000 tons) stationary 180 Ras Mahedia 8.  
(A/C U of C. Flight No.3. A.A.C.U. Squadron,  
1006B/12 to Hal Far D/F Malta Cmd.)

TORBAY.

TORBAY leaves Alexandria 1200B/12 for Port Said  
proceeding through (following positions making  
good 8.5) 031° 56', 030° 15', 031° 59', 031°  
15', 031° 55', 032° 23', to arrive 0600B/13.  
(Capt. S.1 1029B/12 to HERO, SNAPDRAGON,  
DELPHINIUM, MOONSTONE, THORGRIM.)  
W.R. Note:- Part in brackets is very corrupt  
and decode doubtful.PANDORA  
PARTHIAN.Your 2316A/8. Concur with F.O.(S)'s suggestion.  
provided operational requirements at Gibraltar  
permit. (2) Consider return to Gibraltar  
unnecessary but not more than five days should  
be spent in proposed patrol Area 2.  
(C. in C. Med. 1114B/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

PORPOISE.

My 1249B/11. Cancel reference to northerly  
route and proceed direct to first position  
given. ABINGDON will leave first position about  
0100B/13 on return sweep of route. Speed 8  
knots. (Capt. S.10 1137B/12 to PORPOISE (R)  
C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)Tobruk  
Raid.Tobruk D/F Station has been demolished by  
enemy R/C aircraft. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 1202B/12  
to C. in C. Med. (R) R.A. Alexandria, S.O. Force  
H, Med. Fleet, N.L.O. 8th Army.)Air  
Report.(A.877, 12/2 Opsum 626.\* A.S.V. Sunderland  
attacked submarine 40 miles east Sidi Barrani  
with 8 250 pounds A.S. bombs, 1 burst close to  
stern of submarine which crash-dived.Presumed damaged. 1 hour later Sunderland machine-gunned  
second submarine on surface 50 miles N.N.E. Sidi Barrani  
without visible effect. 3. Dodecanese. Night 10/11.  
Visibility poor, 4/10 cloud 2000 ft., deteriorating over  
Dodecanese. 11 Wellingtons left to attack submarine base  
Leros Island but only 4 located objective. Bombs among  
buildings at Gonia and Lepida Coves and submarine base started  
a fire. 1 Wellington dropped bombs on southern portion  
Scarpanto Island in neighbourhood of aerodrome. Results  
unobserved. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1209/12.)\* Night 6/7th February.  
Following delayed report now received.

/Barges ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Barges. My immediately preceding telegram (N.T. in W.D.) Barges appear suitable for tank landing (Description) (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1244B/12 to S.O.(I) Med., D.N.I.)

ANJOU (French) Departure 11/2 ANJOU Oranges Marseilles. (Cartagena, T.H.I. 1345/12 to D. of S.T.) Am investigating possible coming tower in position 047° 32' N. 26° E. 19. Have attacked with depth charges. (A/C. XI.JR 1643/12 to 201 Group.)

Troops for Far East. My 1624B/5 para. 4 (a). As it appears WAKEFIELD not now available on (?account) of repairs, P.S.T.O. India 0509Z/12 refers, propose allocating PASTEUR capacity 3500 speed 23 knots. Presume vessel will have to tranship Bombay. Do you concur? (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1751B/12 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

CLEOPATRA. My 1715/11. Divers report jagged hole 4' 6" by 3' 0" just above flat part of keel and 4 feet abaft asdic dome also keel plate buckled for distance of 10 feet. At least 4 days in dock required to effect temporary repairs. Examination in dock may reveal additional damage. Damage to decks and cowls can be temporarily repaired concurrently. Following damaged items can be fit for service in 8 days:- (2). In view of present heavy scale bombing and weak fighter protection, ship must deammunition. Therefore earliest date proposals for service after temporary repairs is first consideration. (V.A. Malta 1817B/12 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

TURBULENT, PROTEUS. My 2359B/11. In addition cruisers and destroyer expected to pass through 031° 28' 029° 04' about 0500B/13. Course 300°. They have been warned of your presence. Remain north of 031° 15' until 0501 (?B). Enemy S/Ms are known to be operating in the vicinity of Alexandria. (Capt. S.1 1845B/12 to TURBULENT, PROTEUS.)

M.W.9A. Convoy M.W.9A CLAN CHATTAN, CLAN CAMPBELL  
M.W.9B. sailed 1600/12 and M.W.9B ROWALLAN CASTLE at 1700/12. (R.A. Alexandria 1930B/12 to V.A. Malta, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Troops for Far East. My 1624B/5, delete EMPIRE EGRET. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 2042B/12 to D. of S.T.)

/Landing ...

402

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Landing  
Craft and  
Combined  
Operations.

Abdacom's 00647 1/2. 1. Recommend Lt. Col. M.W. Hope now available here who has served at C.T.C. U.K., and Mid-East, and possesses up to date knowledge of combined operations, doctrine, equipment, and landing craft. 2. Wire if he should be despatched forthwith. All structural information on landing craft etc., would be taken by him. (C. in C. M.E. 2045/12 to W.O.)

S/M Jibuti.

Situation report 5/2 to 11/2. Air R/C from Aden 8/2 observed submarine heading for Jibuti, later a submarine observed Jibuti harbour. (G.O.C. in C. E.A. 2054/12.)

Malta Air  
Report  
MAORI,  
DECOY.

I.85 C.S.R. 12/2. Night 11/12. 4 alerts 1832 2235, 0145, 0307 hrs. 4 raiders, target Grand Harbour, MAORI hit engine room, caught fire, subsequent heavy explosion, ship settled by stern, bows from break of forecastle still above water. Casualties not yet available.

Casualties DECOY caused by blast and debris from MAORI, killed 2 ratings, 6 others wounded including Captain. Bomb damage also burnt out 4 wooden huts and 24 damaged, and roofs of 18 houses collapsed. Dockyard wall damaged, 2 farmhouses destroyed, hospital 5 other houses damaged, 1 civilian casualty. 12th, 5 alerts 0618, 0812, 0835, 0957, 1151 hrs. 81 Me. 109's and Ju. 88's and 1 Do. 24, at one time 74 enemy aircraft over island. Bombing through cloud targets Luqa, Hal Far, and Dockyard. Crater on Luqa main and diagonal runways, 3 soldiers serious several others minor injuries, no other damage at aerodrome. Luqa Town 50 houses destroyed, 17 damaged, no casualties. 2 craters Hal Far aerodrome, blast damage officers' quarters. 1 Swordfish serious 1 Hurricane slight damage. 1 soldier seriously injured. Target probably dockyard but owing to cloud bombs fell on Tarshien and Paula. 26 persons killed, 10 or more still under debris, large number minor casualties, approx. 100 houses destroyed. Elsewhere 2 other casualties. Hurricanes up intercepted and shot down into sea 1 Ju.88. 1 Hurricane shot down, search in progress for pilot. (H.Q. Malta, 2234/12.)

War Diary.

12.2.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

PATEPINA "Q" Report. QQQQ received from S.S. PATEPINA in 012° 21' N. 080° 26' E. at 0130Z/12.  
(2) Plotting shows 10 Merchant Ships in this vicinity. (C. in C. E.I., 0211Z/12 to E.I. Sqdn. (R) Admty., Cdre. R.I.N.)

J.S.2, (A) Your 1904/7th para.(1.) J.S.2 consisting of  
J.S.3, ORCADES escorted by DORSETSHIRE due Batavia 15/2.  
J.S.4, (2.) My 0447/9 giving dates of arrival J.S.3  
J.S.5. as 27/2.

(B) Further shipment follows. J.S.4 due Sunda Strait 22/2. MOUNT VERNON escorted by CORNWALL. J.S.5 due Sunda Strait about 1/3. Up to 12 M T and 2 personnel ships carrying "Stepsister 1."  
(C. in C. E.F., 0335Z/12 to Admty.)

Movements of Australian Corps. 1. As Java Ports cannot now receive great numbers of ships simultaneously and Colombo is too congested to accommodate ships waiting convoy, departures from Suez should conform more closely to C. in C. Med's 2046 of 14/1.

2. If Abdacom concurs, further sailings are to be regulated as follows.

Flight.	Type of Ship.	Approx. No. of Ships.	Earliest date of arrival at Colombo.	Approx. date due Sunda Strait.
Second	Fast Personnel	3	27/2	4/3
Second	Medium Personnel	4	4/3	13/3
Second	M.T.	Remainder of first twelve not yet sailed.	27/2	9/3
Second	M.T.	Remaining 10.	10/3	20/3
Third	Fast Personnel.	Not known	12/3	16/3
Third	Medium Personnel.	Not known	17/3	27/3
Third	M.T.	First 9.	17/3	27/3
Third	M.T.	Remaining 9.	24/3	2/4

3. P.S.T.O. India should arrange transshipments and B.M. Convoys to conform to programme in para. 2.

4. It will probably be necessary to adjust arrivals of future M.S. and D.M. convoys.

5. Please signal a forecast of intended movements as far as Colombo. (C. in C. E.F., 0356Z/12 to F.O.R.S., (R) M.E., C. in C. Med., etc.)

Netherlands Ships for Trooping. Your 0716/28/1. Request you will arrange for necessary orders to be given to ships. Dutch authorities agree.  
(D.S.T., 0418A/12 to P.S.T.O. India.)

/INDOMITABLE ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - contd.

INDOMITABLE. My 0931/12 (N.T. in W.D.). INDOMITABLE and accompanying destroyer will cease to be known as Force L at 1200Z/20/2. 23/2 (amended 1322Z/19) p. 652. (C. in C. E.F., 0435Z/12 to C. in C. Med., Admty., C. in C. E.I., Capt. D.7, S.O. China Force, INDOMITABLE).

Java Base. As matter of policy ?only our shore commitments in Java should be limited to an improvised organization to deal with immediate requirements. You should constantly bear in mind the facts that there are urgent requirements for Base personnel elsewhere particularly Accountant staff. You should therefore retain no more British personnel in Java than are clearly essential. (C. in C. E.F., 0805Z/12 to S.O. China Force (R) Admty.)

MARBLEHEAD. Abdafloat's 08045 dated 11/2, T.O.O. 1000/11. Owing to acute congestion in the Port and heavy docking programme regret MARBLEHEAD cannot be accepted in Colombo. (C. in C. E.I., 0955Z/12 to Admty., (R) Com. R.I.N., C. in C. E.F., Abdafloat).

Abdafloat's 1000Z/11 not to F.O.C.R.I.N. Request whether arrangements can be made for U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD to be taken in hand for temporary repairs at Calcutta.

(D.O.D.(F) 1301A/12 to D.S.R. Bombay (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., Abdafloat, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Opanav).

Abdafloat's 1000Z/11 has been repeated to D.S.R. Bombay. Opanav pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.

(D.O.D.(F) 2029A/12 to Abdafloat, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., Opanav).

Communications. A.M. 1653/16/1 para. 2 (b) and your 1215Z/8/2. Following is Signal School appreciation for best arrangement of ship-shore waves in Indian Ocean for period from now to end of April. (D.S.D., 1220A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

Trincomalee Minefields. In order to select suitable positions for the guard loops and controlled minefields which I intend to lay at Trincomalee information is requested as to whether a depth of 40 fathoms is acceptable for controlled mines. (ii) Intention is to lay 3 separate loops across the entrance, the middle loop being in an average depth of about 40 fathoms. (iii) It is appreciated that mines at this depth are unlikely to prove destructive but deterrent effect may be considerable. (C. in C. E.I., 1244Z/12, to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., ATREUS, N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, N.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

EMPIRE KUMARI. Transport sailed 11th due Basra 18th. (Cargo).  
(P.S.T.O. Bombay, 1253Z/12, to D.S.T.O., P.G.)

Whale Catchers  
VALIANT,  
REVENGE. Your 1429Z/2 and F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1457Z/1.  
A. The 6 whale catchers which will be delayed are being allocated to Eastern Fleet. In view of development of Japanese U-Boat attacks in India Ocean, delay in their completion is most undesirable.

B. VALIANT is expected to arrive Durban early April for about 6 weeks essential refit before joining Eastern Fleet and must not be delayed. This is to be treated as Most Secret.

C. Refit of REVENGE will have to await completion of VALIANT unless her condition is so bad as to make this impracticable. In this case she might have to go to U.S.A. for refit, but you will realise we cannot afford to send her away for so long if it can possibly be avoided.

(1st Sea Lord, 2050A/12 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

China.

Supplies, (1) Facilities for supplying water at Batavia  
N.E.I. Ports. are poor and very slow and at Oosthaven are difficult. Everything possible is being done locally to improve facilities. Are water carriers available from East Indies?

(2) Fuel supplies at N.E.I. ports also give cause for anxiety..  
(3) It would assist if demands by personnel and all ships routed to N.E.I. ports could be reduced to an absolute minimum. Demands such as those for ORCADES in S.S.T.O. Colombo 1217Z/10 cannot be met. (C.C.C.F., 0351Z/12 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Abdafloat, C. in C. E.I., S.S.T.O. Colombo, A.C.N.B.)

EXETER. EXETER is to form part of China Force for present. (C. in C. E.F., 0557Z/12 to Eastern Theatre 89X).

Refugees at Batavia. Approx. 1000 British Indian survivors arrived this morning 12/2 in WHANGPU. Have arranged for them to be transferred to ~~CLAN~~ MCALPINE, sailing this afternoon for Colombo. Ship will probably catch up convoy 3.J.1. X? CLAN ALPINE

2. Am holding CITY OF CANTERBURY for 1000 service personnel presumably not military and refugees expected this afternoon and intend to sail her to Colombo when transfer completed.

3. Expect number of small ships with refugees from Singapore to arrive in next few days. Intend to transfer to larger ships as

/available ...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Refugees at available and despatch to Colombo or Fremantle as  
Batavia. convenient sending non-Europeans to Colombo.  
(contd.) Am holding PLANCIUS for this.  
4. There are limited facilities at Batavia for  
receiving refugees but intend reserve these as  
long as possible in case numbers exceed shipping space available.  
5. Foregoing agreed by British Consul-General and Burgomaster.  
(C.C.C.F., 0645Z/12 to Abdacom, Abdafloat.)

British My 0430Z/31. ENCOUNTER now ready for sea. No  
Dispositions damage. (C.C.C.F., 0752Z/?12 to Admty.,  
Abda Area. Abdafloat C. in C. E.F., C.Z.M.  
(In Lion Copy only.)

Malaya Following is paraphrase of cable T.O.O. 0510Z/12  
Evacuations. (? received from R.A. Malaya) (begins). Following  
(? movements) have taken place. All slip work at  
Tanjong ?Rhu including 2 motor launches,  
floating crane and floating dock sunk and blown up. All slip  
work at Singapore Harbour board also denied to enemy.  
5 auxiliaries leave for Batavia p.m./12th, 3 of them with women  
and (?wounded). DURBAN CASTLE, AQUARIUS, PANGLIMA 3 motor  
launches M.M.S. in tow, and (?RINTEG) with ammunition all left  
10th and 11th for Batavia with 71 dockyard employees, 20 civilians  
and Naval Stores, all instructed to proceed by night and  
shelter at day. (Ends). (C.C.C.F., 0833Z/12, to Admty.,  
C. in C. E.F., Abdacom, Commodore Anzac Force.)

Singapore No.176, Government House. On the advice of the  
Situation. G.O.C. I am destroying the sole remaining cypher  
and in future I will communicate by Government  
Telegraph Code. Position threatening. Enemy  
advancing down the road near Bukit Timah golf links. 18th  
Division disintegrating. Many Australians half-hearted. If  
McRitchie Reservoir lost we shall be without water.  
(Govr., Straits Settlements, 1416/12 to S. of S. for Colonies).

Intelligence Force referred to in my No. 4 para. 2 sighted  
No.7. dawn today in two parts. (A) East and (B) South  
of Salayer Island (South Celebes). Later  
proceeded West last sighted at dusk 40 miles  
South of Macassar. Composition probably 6 transports with  
standard escort 2 cruisers 12 destroyers apparently being  
joined by 4 destroyers from Balik Papan. Objective most probably  
Macassar at dawn 9/2. Demolitions at Macassar being carried out.  
2. Burma considerable construction new roads and aerodromes  
indicate launch offensive from area Khunyuam (19° 50' N.  
97° 50' E.) with main strength westward against Toungoo possible  
subsidiary action northward from Chiengmai.  
(C. in C. S.W.Pacific, 1630/12).

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- St. Pierre. My 1124/8. U.S. have no objection to non-military personnel and stores proceeding to St. Pierre. (Hd. of M., 0029A/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- INDOMITABLE. Ref. C.O.S. (W) 30 para. 4. Has Wavell's reply been received, if so please repeat it to Admty. INDOMITABLE will shortly arrive Aden and decision must be taken whether she re-embarks her own aircraft or ferries more Hurricanes from Middle East. (1st S.L., 0101A/12 to B.A.D. (R) Abdacom).
- Movements, St. John's N.F. 11/2 Arrivals ARROWHEAD, SNOWBERRY  
ALYSSE ex H.X.174. HEPATICA, MOOSEJAW, ex O.N.60 and with  
survivors. survivors from ALYSSE. PRUDENT, MINAS, ex search  
for ALYSSE. MONTGOMERY ex Halifax. Departure MINAS  
to Halifax with FORT TOWNSEND.  
(F.O.N.F., 0251Z/12 to Admty.)
- FRANCONIA, Your 2214/9. FRANCONIA has been ordered to U.K.  
N.A.4, from Trinidad. Delay involved by including her in  
N.A.4 is most undesirable. N.A.5 as detailed in  
my 2026/10 will provide for numbers cut out of  
N.A.4. (D.S.T., 0715A/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- ATHELCROWN. DAHLIA has 8 survivors from ATHELCROWN torpedoed  
(torpedoed 22/1 position 046° N. 046° W. Survivors report  
22/1). spent 30/1 to 7/2 in S.S. DIALA found abandoned,  
DIALA last entry in log book 19/1. DIALA afloat 7/2  
(torpedoed position 048° 30' N. 041° 30' W. damage forward,  
15/1.) salvage prospect good. 4 injured survivors are in  
SATURNUS bound to Faeroes. (E.G.8, 0732A/12 to  
C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., etc.) See 1845/12. p. 410
- Navigation My 2202P/24. Vessels are to show dimmed navigation  
Lights. lights when within 5 miles of harbour entrances or  
approaches to inland waters, and at master's  
discretion during low visibility. (C. in C. A.W.I.  
0942P/12 to all N.C.S.O's, C.S.A's and R.O's holding routeing  
instructions at Atlantic Ports, Jamaica (I) Area (R) Admty.,  
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).  
Admty. Message HZ. When in Area 7 navigation lights are not  
normally to be exhibited. Dimmed navigation lights are, however,  
to be shown -  
(a) In the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.  
(b) In the Atlantic when within 5 miles of harbour entrances or  
approaches to inland waters.  
(c) During periods of low visibility at Master's discretion.  
2. When approaching Panama Canal, navigation lights are to be  
burned at full brilliance whilst within three-mile limit of  
territorial waters.  
3. C.A.M.S.I. 463/41, para. 9 is cancelled.  
(D.T.D., 1411Z/12 to G.B.M.S. all areas except A.I.G. 12).

/CALEDONIEN ...



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.CALEDONIEN  
(French).

Local censorship's Trinav 3386 reveals sailing of French M.V. CALEDONIEN on 20/2 from Marseilles to Martinique. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad (Port of Spain), 1032Q/12 to S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, (R) Admty.)

U.S.  
Destroyers.

This is Comtaskfor four (Lant) 1751/11 passed to C. in C. W.A. and Comtaskgroup 4.7 from C. in C. U.S. Fleet. Completion escort H.X.174, Taskunit 4.1.7 dissolved. BABRIT ?BABBITT, BADGER, and SCHENCK report at Base C to Comdesron 27 for duty in Iceland Escort Group. Comdesron 30 in PLUNKETT, CAMPBELL return U.S. independently or with O.N.69 if desired by C. in C. W.A. C. in C. U.S. Fleet pass to C. in C. W.A. and Comtaskgroup 4.7. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1050/12, to Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1652/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

C.T.10.

Arrivals BEVERLEY, ROCKINGHAM escorting C.T.10. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1204Z/12 to Admty., etc.)

Repair of  
U.S. Ships,  
Bermuda.

B.A.D. 2031Q/9 is based on entirely inaccurate information. C.O. of U.S. craft was not required to sign D.461 and there has never been any question of claiming repayment for this or any other work undertaken here for U.S. authorities since receipt of C.A.F.O. 1857/41. I wrote to Commandant U.S.N.O.Q. (as received) in December during first docking of U.S. craft and invited his concurrence in the view that the conditions about liability for accident or damage contained in D.461 should apply generally in such cases but stressed that there was no question of repayment. Full copy of correspondence is being forwarded to B.A.D. through C. in C. A.W.I. (Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1222P/12 to Admty., B.A.D., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Loan of A/S  
Craft to  
U.S.N.

Your 1831/10 greatly appreciated and accepted. Request ships be sailed by routeing most satisfactory to you to report to Rear Adm. Andrews, Comdr. Eastern Sea Frontier, New York. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1229/12 to Admty., (R) B.A.I.)

Proposed  
Mining of  
Torres Strait.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W). Your 19190/9 and C.C.O.S. Washington 1701Q/10.  
(A) We cannot understand the object of mining the Torres Strait as any advance by the Japanese into the Anzac area would surely be to the Eastward of New Guinea.  
(B) Generally it is unsound to mine anywhere except for some very definite reason as it only hampers the movement of our own forces.  
(C) It must be realised that with modern minesweeping arrangements any minefield can be swept and as the enemy will know where the passage has been swept and we may not, we shall be at a disadvantage.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Proposed Mining of Torres Strait. (contd.) (D) Owing to the strength of the tidal streams in the various channels of the Torres Strait it is not practicable to use either moored mines or magnetic mines actually in the Channel.

(E) To cover the approaches to the various channels would require a larger number of mines than are available or are likely to be from British sources. (F) If the Japanese get control of either the York Peninsula or the southern shores of New Guinea the minefield will be quite useless.

(G) We understand that the Australians have already laid a minefield off the Western approach to the Yule Channel and in the Western approach to the Endeavour Strait. Colvin does not know why these minefields have been laid as there was no intention of doing so when he left Australia.

(H) Our conclusion is that it is unsound to mine the Torres Straits anyhow at the present time unless there is some reason unknown to us.

(1st S.L., 1230A/12 to B.A.D., (R) Abdacom).

SURCOUF. Your 2121A/25/12 directed that on arrival at Tahiti SURCOUF would come under the orders of C. in C. E.F. It is presumed that as a result of the recent reorganisation of commands this no longer applies and it is considered most desirable that SURCOUF should be quite clear under whose orders he is to be. In the past this has not always been clear and the St. Pierre operation when orders were issued direct to SURCOUF by Admiral Muselier had an unsettling effect on the officers and ship's company.

2. Question of B.N.L.O. and ratings also causes me concern and it is suggested for consideration that if as seems likely SURCOUF is to be under U.S. orders, British liaison personnel should be relieved by U.S. personnel. If SURCOUF is to be employed on local defence of Free French territory consider liaison personnel should be withdrawn without relief. Liaison personnel have carried out a very difficult and most disheartening task in a most praiseworthy manner and are deserving of consideration.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1602P/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.S.)

Bermuda departure SURCOUF in accordance with my 1602P/11. Will cross latitude 30° N. in Windward Channel 0200Q/16.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1733P/12 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., Opanav., S.O.I. Jamaica, N.Z.N.B., N.S.H.Q.)

Transport of F.40's.

D.B.A. 15. Your 00945 (0445/10) not understood. Our D.B.A. 9 specifically states that no U.S. Carrier is available. Assume Admiralty London will issue necessary orders for ATHENE. (Combined C.O.S. Washington, 1721Q/12 to Abdacom).

/Co-operation ...

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Co-operation with U.S.N. Routeing Authorities. B.A.D. 1849R/7 para. 4. Fully concur. This has already been done at Bermuda where U.S. officers are under training at N.C.S.O.'s office. As regards U.S. port of St. Thomas it would be a great help to combine the two offices. In canal zone co-operation is good but is hampered by our main office being at Colon and U.S. offices at Balboa. I am awaiting a report on practicability of moving main office to Balboa. Difficulty is that Edmon is much more suitable as a routeing centre. It is essential that our officers wear uniform at all ports where U.S. officers do. This is not case at present outside the U.S. Request authority to approve this locally, Admty. 2050G/10/12/41 refers.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1741P/12, to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Your 1141/30 and D. of S.T.'s 2051/26. Duration of forthcoming refit cannot yet be estimated but considered six to eight weeks must be regarded as a minimum. Sufficient officers and ratings who do not require leave in U.K. to provide for security and supervision of refit. Proposed therefore that the balance of ship's company proceed to U.K. for leave. 76 ratings in PHOEBE and the remainder numbering 24 officers and 80 ratings direct from Halifax except for a small number required for the ship's passage to refitting port who would follow later. Request early concurrence as it is understood opportunity for passage from Halifax will occur in about 10 days time.  
(B.A.R.M., 1802Q/12 to Admty., (R) D. of S.T., C.O.A.C., C. in C. S.A., QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

"Chop" Dates.

Your 1112P/11. Concur. Request similar procedure as in my 1554R/3 (repeated to you) may be applied for ships from Bermuda.  
(D.T.D., 1832A/12 to C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.A.D., Opnav.)

→ ATHELCROWN,  
DIALA,  
(torpedoed  
22/1, 15/1.)

SATURNUS 4 survivors of torpedoed ATHELCROWN (names follow in P/L to Admty. only). 12 survivors from this ship boarded the abandoned tanker DIALA and were rescued by SATURNUS 6/2 in 047° 28' N., 041° 19' W., 8 of them being subsequently transferred to British Corvettes (names unknown) at 2200Z/9 in 058° 01' N. 025° 10' W. Master of SATURNUS reported abandoned tanker when last seen was drifting North 1½ knots and in his opinion perfectly sea-worthy. Master has been thanked for his action but he particularly requests that the matter be kept confidential.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1842A/12 to Admty., (R) A.C.O.S., C. in C.W.A.)

→ PRUDENT,  
DIALA.

Your 1323A/12 to C.C.N.F. and Opnav only and E.G.8's 0732A/12. Do not consider PRUDENT can tow S.S. DIALA single handed so far to westward. Consider 2 tugs necessary. Neither is there any escort available. Message being passed to C.O.A.C. Halifax and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, with view to possibility of salvage.  
(F.O.N.F. 1845Z/12 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Opnav, N.O.I.C. Iceland, C.C.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Admty. Capt. D. Londonderry, N.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.C. Orkneys). W.R. Note. C. in C. W.A. 1323A/12 is a repetition of E.G.8's 0732A/12. p 407 /Trans ...

War Diary.

12.2.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Trans-Atlantic Convoy escorts.

Your 1648Z/11 conference being held at Halifax with C.O.A.C. Halifax 12/2. Necessary measures to enable western local escort to commence operations with J.C.70 will be taken. Further replies will be made later to other request in your signal.  
(?F.O.N.F. 1921/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U.S. Base Craft.

Your 1830/10. 1. Base ports are not yet decided but a Commander for general charge of trawlers and for Liaison with Rear Adm. Andrews at New York, Commandant East Sea Frontier, would be welcomed.

Also two Lt. Coms. to assist Commander and for duty at Base Ports.  
2. I cannot say it is essential to send more ships at present.  
3. Adm. Stark who appears to be responsible for the provision of craft for service in harbour approaches, not seagoing, has enquired of B.A.S.R. the possibility of obtaining M.T.B's. Am seeing him tomorrow but at first sight it appears these craft are too valuable for the purpose.  
(B.A.D., 2003Q/12 to Admty.)

Trans-Indian Ocean Air Route.

Ref. J.S.M. 1915R/5 and Admty. 1728A/10 for Chiefs of Staff, neither to C. in C. E.I.

1. Navy Dept. informs me that one U.S. air corps officer and one U.S. officer of the corps engineers arrive Mombasa between 20/2 and 25/2 by air and request arrangements be made to convey these two officers by H.M.S. to survey islands of Coetivy and Diego Garcia and subsequent return to Mombasa.  
2. State Dept. has advised London of proposal to establish trans-Indian Ocean air route and for permission for this survey party to visit these Islands.  
3. Should H.M.S. not be a possibility could any other vessel be made available? (B.A.D., 2005Q/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I.)

Convoy Instructions.

Your 1959A/2. (Commodores of Convoy to select best course in regard to conditions). C.N.O. concurs in proposals.  
(B.A.D., 2059Q/12 to Admty.)

EXCELSIOR.

My 2116Z/11. EXCELSIOR arrived Charleston 10/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2134Z/12 to Admty. etc.)

U/B.

H/F D/F bearings at 2119A/12 indicate U-Boat possibly reporting DICK in tow astern.  
Weather report.  
(KEPPEL, 2200A/12 to U.S. Destroyer SWANSON (R) Escort of O.N.65).

War Diary.12.2.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

O.N. 62. O.N. 62, detached 10 ships including SUVA from O.N. 63 for West Indies, Gulf of Mexico, and Bermuda under escort of 2 of your Corvettes to X, 046° 00' N. 049° 00' W., there to disperse and proceed as routed till overtaken. (U.S. C. of N.S., 2209Z/12 to C. Task Unit 4.1.13 (R) Admty., C. Task Unit 4, C. Task Group 4.6 and 7.5 C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F.)

REGENT.

Your 1644P/12 <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> acknowledged. U.S. Authorities need not be asked to send immediate assistance. Report observed position if this differs much from (?D.F.) plotted on. U-Boats are operating off the coast.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2223P/12 to REGENT).

WICHITA FALLS. My 2046Z/11. U.S. WICHITA FALLS arrived New York 11th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2242Z/12 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

RAMSEY,  
Western  
Local Force.

Your 1550Z/11. Concur that you should allocate RAMSEY to, increase Western Local Escort Force if you think proper, but it is pointed out that no other British Destroyer is available to take her place in the Mid-Ocean Groups. Request you will issue sailing instructions as necessary. (D.O.D.(H), 2305A/12 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.R.M., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.N.F., RAMSEY).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation.

Serial Number 22 from C.W.R. 11/2.

- (1) 1 4-engine Flying Boat bombed Samarai at 2200Z/10, Civil buildings afire.  
(2) Enemy air R/C Port Moresby and Salamoia 11/2.  
(3) 3 Hudson attacked enemy shipping Gasmata area 11/2. 2 transports hit, 1 burning over half its length, 1 enemy fighter destroyed, 1 probably. 2 Hudson shot down by fighters. (A.C.N.B., 0514Z/12 to N.Z.N.B., Admty., etc.)

M.S.4.15

Cruising Order, destinations, etc.  
(A.C.N.B., 0922Z/12 to Admty., (R) PERTH, etc.)

MINISTER  
WEDEL.

B.A.D. 1543Q/11. Request N.Z.N.B. give MINISTER WEDEL destination after Tahiti. (D.O.D.(F), 1828A/12 to N.Z.N.B., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.

12.2.1942.  
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1405A/12, 1417A/12).

War Diary.

13. 2. 1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The SCHARNHORST was last definitely located by D/F at 0110 today in the Borkum area. At 0501, 0710, 0850 and 1108 what were apparently main units were located in the Langeoog area. There are no D/F indications north of 54° N. The destroyers engaged in the operations yesterday returned to harbour this morning and reverted to their normal employment.

S.O. Force H in MALAYA with HERMIONE and 7 destroyers arrived at the Clyde at 1106A today.

Submarine patrols in the Bay of Biscay were withdrawn after dark.

RODNEY and RESOLUTION will not now be required to join the escort of Convoy W.S.16.

Convoy P.Q.11 is weather bound at Kirkwall. The ports of Tees and Hartlepool were closed on account of the weather at 1832 today.

South Atlantic.

M.V. DAPHNELLA reported a suspicious vessel closing her at 1314Z today in 19° 43' S. 0° 38' E.

U.S. Air patrols are to operate from Uruguay with the permission of the Uruguayan Government.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks on Malta were continued last night and today. Two direct hits were made on the submarine base and damage was caused at Ta Kali.

/Captain...

13.2.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Captain S.10 sends today a report of results obtained against enemy shipping by P.35 and UPHOLDER on their latest patrols.

One Liberator bombed Salamis submarine base last night and 15 Wellingtons bombed the aerodrome and harbour.

Operation  
M.F.5.

Force B. 15th C.S. and 8 destroyers left Alexandria last night. *see p.434*  
Convoy M.W.9 was repeatedly bombed today. At 1730B CLAN CAMPBELL was damaged by near miss and had to be escorted to Tobruk. Her speed is probably unaffected.  
PENELOPE and 6 destroyers left Malta late tonight escorting BRECONSHIRE. and eastbound convoy.

Malta Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour last night. Hurricanes intercepted a formation of enemy aircraft over Tobruk this morning. The water reservoir at Tobruk was damaged by bombing today.

5 Wellingtons giving cover to our convoys attacked Catania aerodrome from 1835 to 2010, with apparent success.

East Indies.

S.S. CLAN MURDOCH was unsuccessfully attacked by a submarine in 6° 55' N., 82° 20' E. today.

China.

Evidence is accumulating which seems to confirm pre-war impressions that Japanese ships are not good night fighters. C. in C. Eastern Fleet considers we should exploit this feature of the Japanese to the utmost.

/Air...



13.2.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - Contd.

Air  
attacks  
on shipping  
Singapore -  
Batavia.

Throughout today there were heavy bombing attacks on shipping on the Singapore - Batavia route, on which there were about 30 ships of all sizes with evacuees from Singapore, and an unknown number of oilers from Palembang. An oiler convoy from Palembang suffered heavily, 6 ships being hit, of which ?~~X~~MANTAVARA and SUBADAR are probably total losses; the convoy was proceeding to Batavia, escorted by JUPITER and Australian minesweepers. ~~X~~MANVANTARA.

Singapore

Cable and Wireless reported at 1135 today that the station at Singapore had closed down and the company had now no cable or wireless communication with Singapore.

N.E.I.

The Japanese force moving southwards from the Anambas is estimated at one division. It consists of 2 heavy and 4 light cruisers, 14 destroyers, 23 transports or 22 and one aircraft carrier one auxiliary and 6 unidentified. Also 9 flying boats were reported on the water at Sungei Liat (Banka) at dawn today.

S.S. DERRYMORE was sunk, probably torpedoed in 05.18 S., 106.20 E., at 0330 G.M.T. today.

America & West Indies.

REGENT who was in 34° 30' N., 71° 12' W. at 1644P/12 proceeding to U.S.A. to refit, has her speed reduced to 3 knots owing to propeller trouble

S.S. NORLANTIC made a submarine distress signal at 0224Z today in 32° 59' N., 79° 13' W., and  
~~X~~S.S. ER KEMP(?) at 0500Z in 30° 23' N., 81° 10' W. U.S. C.G. cutter DIONE obtained contact in 35° 20' N., 75° 6' W. at 0328Z today.

*x not identified.*

War Diary.

13.2.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

One 4 engine flying boat bombed Tulagi today no damage was caused. Our aircraft dropped 4 bombs on Gasmata aerodrome today.

There are indications of a considerable submarine force operating from Jaluit to the north and east in conjunction with air units.

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.BOLEBROKE.  
BORDER.  
for Greek  
Navy.  
Personnel.

BOLEBROKE and BORDER are being lent to the Greek Navy.  
An Advance Party of 5 Officers and 160 ratings have left for U.K. and may be expected to arrive about the end of this month.  
Balance of crews consisting of 8 officers and 177 ratings are being sent to U.K. by first opportunity.  
Request you will report if these officers and men can be accommodated and if you can undertake co-ordination of their training at Chatham.  
(D.P.S. 1007A/13 to C. in C. Nore).

3rd S/M  
Flotilla.  
Escorts.

The state of escorts belonging to 3rd Submarine Flotilla is as follows  
(A) WHITE BEAR refitting, completes about 8/3.  
(B) LA CAPRICIEUSE refitting, completes end March.  
(C) CUTTY SARK to be taken in hand shortly for refit of turbine gear wheels, probable duration of repairs about 6 weeks.  
(D) CAPE WARWICK lent by C. in C. W.A. to replace (A) and (B) has been withdrawn. C. in C. W.A. 2339A/12 refers.  
Request immediate consideration may be given to temporary loan of two escorts.  
(F.O.S. 1136A/13 to Admt.)

Gold in  
CAIRO.

My 1441A/2. Propose to embark gold in CAIRO and to sail for U.K. 17/2.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1558A/13 to Admt.)

Movements.

STURGEON.

My 1431A/6 and F.O.S's 2239A/12. Infer offender is BEAUMARIS who may be late.  
(Capt. S.3. 0022A/13 to STURGEON.)

→ Capt. (S) 3's 1431A/6. BEAUMARIS has been sailed to R/V instead of CAPE WARWICK. She reported that she is delayed by weather and will be late at R/V. (A.C.O.S. 0955/A/13 to STURGEON).  
STURGEON is to be sailed for Holy Loch after taking in sufficient fuel at Lerwick for passage. (F.O.S. 1449A/13).  
Intend to sail STURGEON escorted by BEAUMARIS at 1600A/14 as ordered by F.O.S. 1449A/12.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 2112A/13).

SEALION.

My 1922A/12. Amend Para. G. to read:- SEALION 49° 18' N. 4° 50' W. Proceeding submerged by day through 50° 10' N. 1° 20' W. for Portsmouth.  
(F.O.S. 0726A/13).  
(i) Your 0322A/13. After dark 13th proceed on the surface at your discretion to R/V 50° 31' N. 0° 41' W. at 1000/14.  
(ii) Following bombing restrictions arranged.  
(Capt. S.5. 0945A/13 to SEALION). *See p. 422*

/FOXTROT.....

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

- FOXTROT. FOXTROT sailed escorted by ROSS.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0730/13 to N.O.I.C. Methil)
- RODNEY. Amend Admiralty 1038Z/12 as follows.  
Passage from Iceland to Clyde RODNEY and three  
destroyers. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 0954A/13 to C. in C.  
U.S. Fleet.)
- SOMALI. When released destroyers enter Clyde complete  
OFFA. with fuel and await further orders. (R.A.D. H.F.  
ORIBI. 1050A/13 to Capt. D.6).  
After entering Minches RODNEY is to detach  
SOMALI to Port Z.A. (C. in C. H.F. 1214A/13 to  
RODNEY.) *also p. 425*
- MALAYA. Arrived Clyde S.O. Force H in MALAYA, HERMIONE,  
HERMIONE. Capt. (D) 19 D.F. in LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, BLANKNEY,  
(Force H). CROOME, ACTIVE, EXMOOR, ANTHONY.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1106A/13).  
Approved for Force "H" to be at 8 hours notice.  
(D.O.D. H. 1321A/13 to S.O. Force H.)
- COTTESMORE. *K.T. in W.D.*  
Your 0815. Proceed at best speed to Tyne for  
fuel. On completion proceed Methil.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1121/13 to COTTESMORE).
- TIGRIS. Recall TIGRIS to Holy Loch.  
(F.O.S. 1247A/13 to Capt. S.3.)  
(1) Leave patrol forthwith proceeding on surface  
at C.O.'s discretion through (A) 063° 25' N. 005°  
30' E. (B) 063° 10' N. 002° 30' E. (C) 061° 30'  
N. 000° 30' W. to R/V in (D) 060° 06' N. 000°  
52' W. with escort at 0900A/15 for entry into  
Lerwick.  
(2) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange T.B.R. as  
follows. (Capt. S.3. 1525A/13 to TIGRIS).
- TRIDENT. Return to Lerwick forthwith by reverse of outward  
MINERVE. route, reporting E.T.A. when West of 001° east.  
(F.O.S. 1248A/13 to TRIDENT, MINERVE).  
E.T.A. 0800A/14. (TRIDENT 1656A/13 to N.O.I.C.  
Lerwick).
- OPHELIA. To avoid U-boat. From position (x) steer for  
(a) 059° 40' N. 015° 40' W., thence Scrabster  
as ordered. Omit (y). (C. in C. W.A. 1322A/13  
to OPHELIA).

/BLENHEIM.....

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

BLENHEIM. R.A. (D) H.F. 1115A/12. Sail one Destroyer P.M.  
 FURY. today to meet BLENHEIM and provide additional  
 PUNJABI. Escort. (C. in C. H.F. 1329A/13 to Capt. D.3.)  
 BLYSKAWICA. BLENHEIM escorted by BLYSKAWICA and FURY left  
 Scapa at 0630 N. today for Hvalfjord routed  
 through 058° 45' N. 007° W. thence Reyknes  
 Passage, speed of advance 10 knots. Proceed  
 as soon as ready and provide additional escort.  
 (Capt. D.3. 1351A/13 to PUNJABI).  
 C. in C. H.F. 1329A/13. PUNJABI sailed 2000A,  
 speed 20 knots. (A.C.I.C. 2046A/13 to BLENHEIM).

CHILTERN A.M. 1152A/25/12/41 and C. in C. H.F. 1601A/30/1.  
 and 5 In view of P.Q. convoys proceeding from Loch Ewe  
 Whalers for request your proposals for sailing of 5 whalers  
 Murmansk and CHILTERN now ready. It is suggested whalers  
 with P.Q.12. should sail from Seydisfiord to R/V with the  
 convoy and if endurance necessitates break off  
 early from the convoy and proceed direct to  
 Murmansk. (D.O.D. (H.) 1335 A/13 to A.C.I.C.)  
 Cancel my 1732A/12.  
 Request you sail L.L. Whalers SHUSA, SVEGA, SILJA, STEFA, SHERA  
 when ready to 270° Cape Wrath 8 miles.  
 (2) A.C.O.S. is requested to signal onward route to Seidis  
 Fiord to complete with oil fuel.  
 (3) C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to sail them to R/V  
 with P.Q.12 to Murmansk. (C. in C. W.A. 1510A/13 to N.O.I.C.  
 Greenock). p 429

8 M.L's. A.M. 1502/3. Request you will sail the eight  
 M.L's to Lowestoft. (D.D.O.D. C. 1350A/13 to  
 C. in C. Portsmouth).

H.34. Cancel my 1947A/12. H.34 is to proceed through,  
 (A) 47° 30', 07° 40' to (B) 49° 00' 07° 40',  
 thence to R/V as ordered by F.O.I.C. Falmouth.  
 H.34 is to remain west of 7° W. until after  
 0630/15. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to  
 arrange bombing restrictions north of 49° N.  
 B. H.Q.C.C. is requested to cancel restrictions  
 in area No. 54 after 2000/14th.  
 (F.O.S.1448A/13 to H.34).  
 R/V with minesweeper trawler in 180° Lizard Head  
 3 miles at daylight 16th. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth  
 2202/13 to H.34).

Trawlers Admiralty 1940A/12. Trawlers from my command  
 for St. are to be sailed at best speed to St. John's  
 John's N.F. N.F. as follows. Details and Route.  
 (C. in C. W.A. 1458A/13).

/Intend.....

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War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

Trawlers Intend to sail Trawlers HERTFORDSHIRE,  
for St. BEDFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, ARCTIC EXPLORER,  
Johns N.F. KINGSTON, CEYLONITE, leaving Plymouth about 1300/14  
- Contd. for Londonderry for onward routeing to St. John's  
Newfoundland. (C. in C. Plymouth 1633A/13).  
Your 1458A/13 para. (11). Concur in route.  
(C. in C. A. & W.I. 2152P/13 to C. in C. W.A.).  
C. in C. Plymouth 1633A/13. Route as in my 1458A/13.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2217A/13 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).  
Your 1458A/13. Intend to sail LE TIGER with SENATEUR DUHAMEL  
and PENTLAND FIRTH. Propose that ST. ZENO now ready to sail  
1200A/15 should R/V with trawlers mentioned in paras. C and D.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2242A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

BROCKLESBY. Your 0957/13. <sup>K.T. & W.D.</sup> Request you sail BROCKLESBY to  
Plymouth independently. (C. in C. Plymouth  
1552A/13 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

VANITY. Subject to satisfactory completion of trials  
VANITY will be ready for service 17/2. Request  
destination. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1627A/13 to  
C. in C. Rosyth).

DELHI. C. in C. W.A. 1734A/12.  
Use route from position (C) to (D) 180° Bishop  
5 miles (E) 180° thence for 7 miles (F) 049°  
52' N. 004° 55' W., then by QZS 278 to Plymouth.  
Adjust speed if fuel permits to arrive (D) 0800/18.  
Fighter protection will be requested for you from  
daylight 18th. (C. in C. Plymouth 1644A/13 to  
DELHI).

H.43. Intend sailing H. 43-44-50 escorted by Z.5 at  
H.44. 0900/14 for Rothesay. E.T.A. 2000/16.  
H.50. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1710/13).  
Z. 5. My 1710/13. Amend sailing time to read 1200/14  
and E.T.A. 2300/16. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1904/13).

NEWCASTLE. Scapa departure NEWCASTLE. E.T.A. 1330/14.  
(A.C.O.S. 1748A/13 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

ILLUSTRIOUS. My 2202/30/1 and your A.M. 6858/41. As result  
of visit of D.A.M.'s representative the following  
amended programme is proposed.  
Then as in my 2202A/30/1.  
(ILLUSTRIOUS 2107A/13).

VETERAN. Request date VETERAN will be ready to sail.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2216A/13 to Commodore, Sheerness).

ST. ALBANS. Return to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 2305A/13  
to ST. ALBANS).

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

SCHARNHORST. E.T.A. 62 D 0730/13.  
 GNEISENAU. (VERSATILE 0010A/13 to C. in C. Rosyth).  
 PRINZ EUGEN. When crossing mine barrier keep south of 51° 55' N. (C. in C. Nore 0015A/13 to EGLINTON). Continue south by Q.Z.S. 277 and 287 towards Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 0118A/13 to VERSATILE VORTIGERN).

Arrival GARTH, FERNIE, BERKELEY. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0158A/13). Your 1107A/12. My position 049° 15' N. 005° 40' W. Am now proceeding course and speed 090° 9 knots to return to Portsmouth by reverse of my outward route. (SEALION 0322A/13 to F.O.S.) *See p 418.*

Arrivals\*WORCESTER, EGLINTON, HAMBLEDON, QUORN, SHEARWATER, SOUTHDOWN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0911A/13).  
 MACKAY and WHITSHED returned to Harwich, remainder to Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 0943A/13 to Capt. D.16, D.21). \* *see also p.427.*  
 Reduce to 20 knots and proceed to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 0945A/13 to VERSATILE, VORTIGERN).  
 Admiralty 1924A/12. These destroyers are no longer required. (C. in C. Nore 0947A/13 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)  
 S/M's are to keep more than 20 miles from 047° 40' N. 006° 06' W. owing to own mines. (F.O.S. 1009A/13 to S/M's Area A.)  
 Remain on patrol where you are. (C. in C. Nore 1045A/13 to D.21., D.16).  
 My 1045. Patrol vicinity of 53 buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1051A/13 to D.21, D.16).  
 Request you make necessary signals for forces placed under your command for operations of yesterday, to revert to their normal dispositions and employment. (A.C.N.S. H. 1052A/13 to C's in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Rosyth, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C.Humber).  
 By D/F. SCHARNHORST which had been proceeding to eastward was last definitely located by D/F at 0110/13 in Borkum area. At 0501, 0710, 0850 and 1108 what were apparently main units were located in Langeoog area. There are no D/F indications north of 54° N. (D.D.I.C. 1149A/13).  
 Return to harbour. CAMPBELL proceed to Harwich, remainder as in my 0943A/13. (C. in C. Nore 1216A/13 to D.21, D.16.)  
 Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/12 to 0900/13.  
 Track E.29 D. from 20 miles S.W. of Boulogne at 1045 eastbound at 20 to 28 knots, faded about 16 miles N.N.W. of Dunkirk at 1320. Identified as enemy warships from Brest with strong escort. (V.A. Dover 1629A/13).  
 All 3 main units from Brest passed Straits of Dover noon yesterday. SCHARNHORST last definitely located at 0110/13 off Borkum. Main units were off North German coast this forenoon and it seems probable they were damaged and will not proceed further north at present. (F.O.S. 1904A/13 to S/M's on Patrol).

Russian S/M Patrol. K.3. leaves patrol off Rostov p.m. today routed through 68 20 59 10 east 72 north 20 east and by parallel 72 north.  
 Contrary to information contained in my 1408A/7 no other Soviet s/m has been detailed to relieve K.3 in this patrol area.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1116A/13 to Admty.)

/Exercise.....

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.

Exercise on 14/2. Leave Convoy to comply with my 1335A/13. <sup>N.T. n. W. D.</sup>  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1540A/13 to CLEVELAND).

Special operation. A.M. 1502/3 and 1350/13. M.L. 196, 200, 201, 294 are required for special operation and will be sailed about 25/3.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1857A/13).

British Air Activity.

Escort for BLENHEIM. Expect A/S air escort by single sorties Hudson A/C from 0900 to dusk today.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0657/13 to BLENHEIM).  
My 0657/13. A/C delayed owing to weather.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1002/13 to BLENHEIM)  
My 1002/13. A/C taking off now.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1236/13 to BLENHEIM).

*Bomber Command Intelligence Narrative of Operations No. 301.*

SCHARNHORST. At 1127/12 information was received at H.Q.B.C. that an aircraft of Fighter Command had sighted GNEISENAU. SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINZ EUGEN with an escort of auxiliary vessels off Le Touquet attacked.

heading North at high speed. At 1130 hrs. all groups were warned to stand by to attack in three waves. At this time 5 Group were at 4 hours notice but the remainder were stood down. In spite of this the first aircraft left the ground at 1330 hrs. and the whole of the first wave was in the air by 1420 hrs.

Weather over the Channel and the North Sea was bad. 8/10 to 10/10 cloud, with base down to 700 feet at times, visibility was 1,000/2,000 yards and there was intermittent heavy rain. The attack was carried out in three waves, 75 aircraft in the first, 130 in the second and 41 in the third. The second wave took off between 1437 hrs. and 1600 hrs., and the third between 1615 hrs. and 1705 hrs. The attack was carried out with great vigour and determination, but owing to the weather the majority were unable to find their targets. 15 of aircraft failed to return.

Fighter Command provided escort for naval units and aircraft of Bomber and Coastal Commands which carried out attacks against the enemy naval units off coast between Calais and Flushing. As a result of combats Fighter Command claim 15 E/A destroyed, 4 probably destroyed, and 17 damaged for the loss of 17 fighters of which 16 pilots are missing.

Summary. 39 aircraft attacked primary target. 190 abandoned owing to weather. 15 aircraft missing. 244 Total Aircraft.

The following are details of individual groups:-

1 Group. Of 37 Wellingtons detailed in two waves, two aircraft in the first wave attacked the ships without observing results. By the time the second wave reached the target area the cloud base was still so low as to make attacks almost impossible. One aircraft attacked the PRINZ EUGEN with a stick of bombs and the nearest burst was seen 15 yards ahead slightly to starboard.

/This.....



War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

SCHARNHORST. This aircraft was then attacked by three M.E.  
GNEISENAU. 109's and during the ensuing combat, one of these  
PRINZ EUGEN. was seen falling with smoke pouring from behind  
attacked - the cockpit and is claimed as probably destroyed.  
Contd. Another aircraft dropped its bombs and one was  
seen to burst near the ship. The remaining  
aircraft failed to find the target and had to  
abandon their task.

2 Group. Out of 47 aircraft including 10 Bostons, detailed  
in three waves, 4 aircraft bombed the ships with one possible  
hit on one of the battlecruisers.

3 Group. Out of 53 aircraft detailed, 1 Stirling and 4 Wellingtons  
attacked, and generally no results were seen but in some cases  
bursts were observed about 100 yards ahead of the ships.  
During combats with enemy fighters, one M.E. 110 is claimed as  
probably destroyed.

4 Group. 13 Halifax and 13 Wellingtons took off in three waves  
and 1 Halifax and 2 Wellingtons attacked the primary but were  
unable to observe results.

5 Group. 64 Hampdens and 15 Manchesters took off in two waves,  
and 16 Hampdens and 2 Manchesters attacked the target ships.  
One stick of 4 x 500 lb. bombs were observed to fall alongside  
a battle cruiser other bursts were observed to straddle a  
battle-cruiser, and two bombs straddled an escorting destroyer,  
other near misses were also seen but accurate observation of  
results was not possible owing to weather and intense opposition.  
Night 12/13 Feb. There were no operations with the  
exception of 11 Hampdens and 9 Manchesters of 5 Group detailed  
for Minelaying. Of these 5 Hampdens and 2 Manchesters  
laid mines successfully. For details see Summary of operations  
No. 301.

(H.Q.B.C. 1430/13) See also H.Q.B.C. 1220/15.

"Shad"  
Messages.

A.M. 2204A/5. Concur. (C. in C. Portsmouth  
1625A/13).

Portsmouth  
Sanctuary.  
Bombing  
Restrictions.

Institute Portsmouth Sanctuary extended 20  
miles to the westward and 25 miles to the  
southward from 0700/14 to 1400/14.  
Institute submerged bombing restrictions in area  
25 miles either side of a line joining Lizard and  
49° N. 05° 50' W. from 2000/14 to 1200/15.  
(H.Q.C.C. 1735/13).  
Institute total submarine bombing restrictions  
as follows:- A. In area G.12 from 1200/14 to  
0400/15. B. In area G.13 from 2200/14 to 1400/15.  
(H.Q.C.C. 1800/13).

Clyde  
Balloon  
Barrange.

Your 1917/12. Request this matter be dealt  
with in accordance with A/L M. 019592/41 of  
5/1/42.  
2. An increase in Balloon strength is improbable  
as a severe cut in personnel is being imposed.  
(D. of L.D. 1946A/13 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

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War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Scapa  
Flow.

Between 1301 and 1308 today Enemy A/C carried out R/C Scapa Flow height 25 thousand feet. Visibility good. Enemy A/C was plotted in from 126 miles East of Orkneys and England by ground defence. Fighters contacted but failed to destroy. (A.C.O.S. 1341A/13 to Admty.)

Mining.

WELSHMAN.

Nothing to report. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1300. (WELSHMAN 0845A/13).

Sweep by  
13th M/S F.

Sweeping impracticable owing to heavy weather. Am returning to anchorage Belfast Lough until weather moderates. (M/S 13 0950A/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Intend to sail 13th M.S.F. to arrive at position B. on Q.Z.S. 259 at 0830A/14 to carry out searching sweep of Q.Z.S. 259 and Q.Z.S. 53.

If weather conditions are unsuitable for sweeping 13th M.S.F. will proceed to Lamlash and S.O. will report his intentions. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1831A/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

S.N. 84.

My 1441/11 and R.A.D's 1205/12. Would it be possible for you to provide one destroyer for operation S.N.84. If so she should R/V with me in 300°. Rudhre 4 miles at 1200/15, and she would be released in time to reach Liverpool by late 18th or early 19th. (R.A.M. 1033/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

After entering Minches, RODNEY is to detach Capt. (D) 6 in SOMALI to Port Z.A. (ii) SOMALI is to provide additional escort for operation S.N. 84, subsequently proceeding to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1214A/13 to RODNEY). ~~See p. 419~~

Your 1441/11. Concur. (A.C.N.S. H. 1407A/13 to R.A.M.) R.A.M. 1033/13. Sail VANQUISHER to comply.

(C. in C. W.A. 1552A/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Intend sailing VANQUISHER 1500A/14 to R/V with R.A.M. in position 300° Rudhre 4 miles at 1200A/15. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1651A/13).

Intend to carry out S.N. 84 as follows. Details. (R.A.M. 1834/13) See Lion Copy.

Yarmouth.

My 1621A/12. One Mine detonated by Sweepers at 1510/12. Details. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1159A/13).

Harwich.

One magnetic mine detonated by L.L. Drifters at 1215 in 51° 47.8 N. 01° 21.1' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1407A/13 and 1734A/13).

Thames  
Estuary.

At 1152/13 One ground mine detonated by Sweepers. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1646/13).

MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

IN

425A

1934/15th February.

Date. 14.2.42.  
Time. 0029.

From: R.A. (M)

Naval Cypher (A1) by T/P.

Addressed: Admiralty, C, in C. Western Approaches, C. in C.  
Rosyth, H.M.S. KENYA, H.M.S. WELLS, H.M.S.  
VANOC, H.M.S. VANQUISHER., repeated R.A. (D)  
Home Fleet, A.C.O.S., F.O.2nd in Cmd. H.F.,  
C. in C. Home Fleet, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.,  
Group 18 Air Ministry.

IMPORTANT.

Intend to carry out operation S.N.84 as follows.

A. Surface mine field laid from south east to north west.

D.1. H.M.S. MENETHEUS (Flag R.A. (M)) H.M.S. PORT  
QUEBEC H.M.S. AGAMEMNON H.M.S. LANCASTER H.M.S. WELLS.

D.2. H.M.S. KENYA, H.M.S. SOMALI. Also  
H.M.S. VANQUISHER as detailed by C. in C. Western  
Approaches.

E. Air A/S escort is requested from 1400 till dark February 15th and during daylight on February 16th and 17th. Initial rendezvous February 15th 095 degs. Butt of Lewis 16 miles at 1500. February 16th 165 degs. Myggaes 19 miles at 0830.

F. From 063 degs. 08' 30" north 010 degs. 29' 30" west through 063 degs. 19' 00" 011 degs. 09' 18" to 063 degs. 32' 42" 011 degs. 30' 00".

G. 0900 February 15th.

H.1. r/v with H.M.S. VANOC off Rudh Re at 1200 February 15th.

H.2. r/v with H.M.S. WELLS in position 095 degs. Butt of Lewis 16 miles at 1500 February 15th.

I. r/v with H.M.S. KENYA in position 165 degs. Myggaes 19 miles at 0830 February 16th.

J. Through position

- (i) 059 degs. 45' north 005 degs. 30' west.
- (ii) 060 degs. 30' 007 degs. 00'
- (iii) 062 degs. 00' 007 degs. 36'
- (iv) 062 degs. 40' 008 degs. 47'

K. 13 knots.

L. 1700 February 16th.

(N)/

(N) Through position (i) 063 degs. 35' north 010 degs 47' west.

(ii) 062 degs. 42' 008 degs. 44'.

(iii) 060 degs. 00' 008 degs. 10'.

O. Port ZA 0500 February 18th.

P. H.M.S. SOMALI to Scapa. Daylight February 18th. Remainder to Port ZA with minelayers.

W. 37 miles. 13½ knots.

X. Mark XXII one star stroke 17 4 star set to 20 feet.

Y. Full outfit. Standard line.

Z. As for 2 line ship in area B throughout.

1834/13.

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

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

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13.2.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Off  
Dunkirk.

D/F bearings at 0903Z indicate unidentified enemy surface unit in the Dunkirk area. (D.D.I.C. 1048A/13).

North  
Norway.

Russians report 10/27 Tromso one destroyer. 11/2 Serroy Island one destroyer one minesweeper. 11/2 U-boat in 68° 20' N. 40° 30' E. (Ad. Miles 1122C/13 to Admty.)

U-Boats.South of  
Iceland.

D/F bearings at 0210Z indicate U-boat within 30 miles of 60° 30' N. 14° W. (D.D.I.C. 0407A/13). At 0852A/13 in 062° 02' N. 022° 41' W. 1st class bearing 6 miles transmitting first sighting report was 281° frequency 5660 kc/s. (KEPPEL 1030A/13).

Off N.W.  
Ireland.

Am over enemy S/M in 56° 47' N. 11° 51' W. Periscope only sighted. (A/C 3XJL 1005/13 to 15 Group).

Clyde.

My 0137A/12. Thorough search of Clyde estuary has been carried out by destroyers, corvettes, and A/S Vessels from training establishments without result. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1204A/13).

ANNA KNUDSEN  
(Torpedoed  
9/2).

Position 120° six miles from Inishtrahull, steering 094°, speed three knots, towing ANNA KNUDSEN. (TENACITY 1300A/13).

U-Boats.

U-Boat transmitted sighting report at 1412Z/13 from area bounded by latitudes 61° and 62° N. and longitude 14° and 19° W. Possibly reporting FLORA II and escorting trawlers. (D.D.I.C. 1622A/13 to TRINIDAD, RODNEY.) U/B may have reported you at 1412Z/13. (D.D.I.C. 1623A/13 to OPHELIA, GREAT ADMIRAL). Unreliable fix and D/F bearings of enemy unit, probable U-Boat, in 71° 45' N. 31° 54' E. at 1745Z/13. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2045A/13 to Admty., C.S.10, CAIRO).

Navigational.Newarp  
Light  
Float.

Newarp light float missing from station. (VORTIGERN 0955A/13). VORTIGERN 0955A/13. This has been confirmed. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1455A/13).

/Wreck.....

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational-Contd.

Wreck Buoy. PANDORA Wreck Buoy Light extinguished. Request Q.Z.H. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1209A/13).

Tees. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to  
Hartlepool. weather. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1832/13).

Technical.

Excessive use of R/T. It has come to my notice that excessive use of R/T on type 66 has occurred in certain escort groups. Transmissions from these sets have been read at 23 miles and D/F bearings obtained at 15 miles range. (C. in C. W.A. 0202A/13).

Miscellaneous.

Belgian refugees. R.N.O. Fowey reports:- French fishing boat with 4 refugees brought into Fowey at 2030/12, occupants Belgian. 1 female 2 French fishermen state they sailed from Carantic near Brest midnight 10th. Security control investigating. 2240/12 Ends. (C. in C. Plymouth 0906A/13).

Casualties and Defects.

WORCESTER. WORCESTER proceeding westwards in possible position 0100 051° 51' N. 2° 10' E. EGLINTON and 3 destroyers sweep westwards search for

WORCESTER. Capt. (D) 21 and 6 destroyers leave Harwich to arrive 051° 50' N. 2° 30' E. at 0645. (C. in C. Nore 0054A/13). Departures: CAMPBELL, VIVACIOUS, GARTH, FERNIE, MACKAY, WHITSHED, BERKELEY. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0433A/13). ~~See 13.4.22~~ Indicate your position. (EGLINTON 0721A/13 to WORCESTER.) WORCESTER found. Return to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 0759A/13 to EGLINTON)

Your 0745. MENDIP reports WORCESTER in vicinity of (?Walmer). (~~Walmer~~). (EGLINTON 0804B/13 to C. in C. Nore.)

WORCESTER has returned to harbour. Air R/C negative. Have ordered D.21 and D.16 to return to harbour. (C. in C. Nore 0946A/13 to Admty.)

M.M.S. 180. Motor Minesweeper 180 on passage Grimsby to Methil rammed in convoy at 2205/12 near 20 Q buoy. Sank off Tyne near T.2 buoy at 0445/13. All crew saved, landed North Shields. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0552/13).

VORTIGERN One seaman reported missing at 0650. First (Seaman missing) missing from gun crew at 0545 in vicinity to 62D Buoy (corrupt group). Request all ships may be warned to look out. (VORTIGERN 0708A/13 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects-Contd.EMPIRE  
PANTHER.

H.G. 78. Lost contact EMPIRE PANTHER at 0200A/13 15 miles off Aran Island when reported steering gear defective and proceeding Londonderry in hand gear. Have detached SAMPHIRE to find and escort her in. (GARDENIA 1051A/13).

*See also next page*BRASTED.  
FOLDA.  
KUL.

BRASTED, FOLDA, KUL are missing from ~~K~~N. 630. Request VERSATILE and VORTIGERN report if they have seen these. (WALLACE 1126A/13 to C. in C. Nore) WALLACE's 1126/13. These ships not seen. (VERSATILE 1349A/13 to C. in C. Nore).

4th M.T.B.  
Flotilla.

Admty.'s 1052A/13. Present state of 4th M.T.B Flotilla  
(A) M.T.B's 30, 31 and 34 slipped for repairs to shaft and propellers damaged by grounding. Expect to complete 16/2.  
(B) M.T.B.'s 18, 32, and 71, Hull defects, extent not yet fully known. Endeavour is being made to effect temporary repairs. (V.A. Dover 1253A/13).

COVENTRY  
CITY.

Your 1256A/11. <sup>H.T. in W.D</sup> COVENTRY CITY has developed a leak and is unseaworthy but will probably be ready for sea 22/2. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1659A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

VICTORIOUS.

It will be necessary for VICTORIOUS to give leave, dock, and refit within the next few months. I do not consider Home Fleet should be without carrier, but, if no relief is likely to be available, now appears to be the time for VICTORIOUS to be taken in hand. Her absence should be as short as possible. (C. in C. H.F. 1916A/13 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.S.C.67.  
H.X.174.

S.C. 67. E.T.A. 055° 35' N. 007° 1430A/13.  
E.T.A. 054°, 005° 03', 0600A/13. Not present steamship AGINA torpedoed.  
Tug not required by S.S. (?CHARFOSS). GENTIAN has picked up 8 ratings, none seriously injured from H.M.S. SPIKENARD.  
Am I to meet H.X. 174 after fuelling?  
(ST. ALBANS 0005A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.Q.11.  
LOWTHER  
CASTLE.

Sailed LOWTHER CASTLE 10 knots escorted by STELLA CAPELLA to R/V with P.Q. 11 as directed by R.A.D. Lyness. Routed direct from position B. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 0010A/13).  
P.Q.11. Convoy weather bound at Kirkwall. (R.A.D. H.F. 1115A/13).  
R.A.D. H.F. 1115A/13. Proceed to Seidisfiord and sail thence as necessary to make new R/V as signalled by R.A.D. F. H.F. (C. in C. H.F. 1740A/13 to OXLIP).

/Q.P.....

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

- Q.P.7. Q.P.7 (Group missing (? sailed)) 12th Feb. for U.K. (Cormack (?Murmansk) 0814A/13 to Admty.) My 2042A/8 para. (3). When Q.P. 7 disperses, FAULKNER and INTREPID are to proceed Scapa refuelling Seidisfjord, if required. (C. in C. H.F. 1709A/13).
- H.G.78. H.G. 78. Lost contact EMPIRE PANTHER at 0200 (15 groups missing) proceed Londonderry in hand gear. Have detached SAMPHIRE to find and escort her in. (GARDENIA 1031A/13). GARDENIA 1031A/13. EMPIRE PANTHER arrived Lough Foyle. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1300A/13).  
*See previous page*
- O.N. 69. (Corrupt Group) glad to accept offer of U.S. Destroyer PLUNKETT, CAMPBELL, for O.N. 69. Will they proceed Iceland or Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1357Z/13 to Cdr. Task Force 4).
- North Russian Convoys. Tankers and Stores. Admiralty (?1107) A/31/1 and your 1124C/12. Provided that tankers are sent from U.K. at regular intervals the situation is satisfactory but no dependence can be placed on Russian aid although it has not ceased entirely.  
2. Only fresh provisions now obtainable here are meat vegetables and fish in restricted quantities at irregular intervals. Fact that cruisers now operate from this base will deprive minesweepers of regular supply of canteen stores dry provisions potatoes and vegetables which recently have been entirely supplied by cruisers of ocean escort.  
3. Recommend that selected ship in each P.Q. convoy should load supply for use of six minesweepers based on Murmansk.  
Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., R.A, (D). (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1421A/13 to Adm. Miles.)
- P.Q.12. Your 1206A/12. Whalers and CHILTERN are to join P.Q. 12. They should be sailed accordingly. (C. in C. W.A. 1732A/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).  
*See p. 420*
- W.S.16. BRISBANE STAR escorted by HASTINGS sailed 1600, PORT JACKSON sailed from Swansea at 1805 to join. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1817A/13).  
A.M. 2357A/9 and A.M. 1916A/10.  
1. RODNEY and her screen of 3 destroyers will not now form part of ocean escort.  
2. DINGLEDALE will not be required and should remain at Gibraltar. A.M. 1353A/3 refers.  
3. PALADIN will not complete defects until p.m. 17/2. She should be sailed as soon as ready direct to Ponta Delgada, adjusting speed as necessary to join convoy after fuelling.  
4. RESOLUTION will not be required to join convoy north of Freetown. *But see 15/2 - p. 505 -*  
5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide one destroyer who will return from the prudent limit of her endurance in place of PALADIN. (D.O.D.(H) 2016A/13).



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War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Bombing Restrictions. Ops. 669. 13/2. Serial G.48. Institute submerged bombing restrictions (A) from 1800/13 until 1200/14 in area 52, East of 006° 30' W. (B) From 1800/13 until 2359/14 in area 53. (C) From 0700/14 until 1600/15 in area 41. (H.Q.C.C., 0856A/13 to R.A.F. Gib., (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8).

Ops. 672 13/2. Serial G.49. Cancel G.48. Institute submerged bombing restrictions (A) area 53 forthwith until 0300/14 (B) Area 41 0001/14 until 1200/14. (H.Q.C.C., 1252A/13 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.N.A. Capt. (S) 8).

Ops. 675 13/2. Serial number C.750. From 2000/14 to 1200/15 institute submerged bombing restrictions in area 25 miles either side of a line joining Lizard and 49° N., 05° 50' W. From 0700/14 to 1400/14 institute Portsmouth sanctuary extended 20 miles to westward and 25 miles to southward. (H.Q.C.C., 1750A/13 to R.A.F. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.N.A. S.8).

Movements. Arrivals CLYDE, GERANIUM, VETCH, DINGLEDALE. (F.O.C.N.A., 0858A/13 to Admty (R) S.O. Force H, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. A.W.I., Capt. (S) 8).

French Shipping. Passings 12/2. French <sup>CHEF</sup>MECANICIEN ARMAND <sup>BLANC,</sup> ST. MAXIME, ARCTURUS, MONTESQUIEU, all full, westbound. (V.A.C.N.A., 0915/13 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

ARCOLA, TAIGETE. Italian vessels ARCOLA and TAIGETE making preparations to leave shortly. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1130/13 to Admty. for D.N.I.) Teneriffe report ARCOLA, TAIGETE, preparing to sail. (F.O.C.N.A., 2212A/13 to S. and A., N.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Flying boat. Position 320 P C L unknown flying boat similar Catalina approached from land and continued southward. (SCOTTISH, 1140A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Catalina A/C attack. Catalina on surface R/C was attacked by Savoia 79 at 1435A/12 in 037° 49' N., 006° 08' E. Later believed same Savoia seen in 037° 47' N., 006° 13' E. Catalina sustained no damage. (F.O.C.N.A., 1152A/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

JOAO PESSOA  
(German). Arrival 12th JOAO PESSOA from Santander.  
Left Quito same date, destination believed to be  
Nantes.  
(Consul, Bilbao, 1259/13 to Admty. (R) M.E.W.)

French  
Shipping. Gibraltar 1820 French Armed Trawler ESTAFETE  
French ships FOUROYANT full, trawlers KEROMAN  
AUGUSTE DENISE both full, and PESCAGEL laden,  
east bound.  
(S.O.(I) Gib., 2017A/13 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

U/Bs. Bearings of Italian U-boats at 1915Z/13,  
1917Z/13, 1956Z/13, 2014Z/13, 2022Z/13.  
(D.D.I.C., 2208A/13, 2226A/13, to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.W.  
Aircraft. Four F.W. aircraft returned to Bordeaux at about  
1900/13, but nothing is known of their movements.  
(D.D.I.C., 2309A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

CANTON,  
CALIFORNIA. Departures 12/2 CANTON, CALIFORNIA patrolling  
H. 34 (YT) and D.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 0315Z/13 to Admty. R.A.S.A.D.)

W.S.15. Durban 13/2 arrivals DUNNOTTAR CASTLE,  
WORCESTERSHIRE and \*MILFORD, escorting Durban  
portion Convoy W.S.15, 0630Z. NORMAN 0638Z.  
Departure DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, 0635Z E.T.A.  
Simonstown 0500Z/16. Route R.2.  
(N.L.O. Durban, 0641Z/13 to Admty etc).  
*\* See next page*

Shipping  
Routes. Your 0337Z/7. Concur with proposals in para 2.  
Commencing 0.5.20 move last positions of Red route  
2° N., and 1° W. schedules to be amended  
accordingly.  
(D.T.D., 1228A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- MAHRONDA S.S. MAHRONDA's SSSS message 7/2 Master states supposed periscope wash only seen. Consider presence of U-boat unlikely. (C. in C. S.A., 1232Z/13 to Admty).
- "S" Report 7/2.
- DAPHNELLA. QQQQ DAPHNELLA 19° 43' S., 038° E. suspicious vessel closing in DE CRH T.O.R. 1109LT. (Freetown W/T 1314Z/13 to Colombo, Freetown, Admty, Simonstown). See also East Indies.
- Sunderlands, Admty. 2348A/29/1. Request you will return 2 of the Sunderlands to Freetown as soon as 3 Catalinas are available at Gibraltar and the remaining two when 4 Catalinas are at Gibraltar. (1st S.L., 1505A/13 to Air Ministry).  
Freetown.
- MILFORD MILFORD sailed. E.T.A. Simonstown 0600Z/16 S. of A. 14 knots, route R two. (N.L.O. Durban, 1625Z/13) *See previous page.*
- Dutch Netherlands Minister has been informed by telegram that Netherlands ship TJISADNE has on board 146 Dutch nationals prisoners ex N.E.I. These are intellectuals and there is one Naval officer among them. They are believed to include shadow government for N.E.I. They are guarded by one lieutenant and 30 other ranks. Ship now in Table Bay and will shortly sail for Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana. Master is satisfied with sufficiency of guard but anxious about possible interception by N.E. craft. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1644B/13 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)  
quislings.
- Troopship My 0307/10/1 and 1642/11/1 and 2319/13/1 and Accommodation. P.S.T.O. Simonstown's 1533/15/1. Accommodation of troopships returning to this country will be permanently increased here but maximum possible temporary increase of W.S. ships used for voyages in Indian Ocean should be carried out by Egypt and India on lines already communicated without delaying ships. Details. (D.S.T., 1822A/13 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown, S.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Egypt.)
- PRETORIA My P.C. and S. are 3° 17' N., 019° 53' W. 49° CASTLE. 15 knots, E.T.A. 0800Z/15. (PRETORIA CASTLE, 2000Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ROYAL SCOTSMAN,  
ULSTER MONARCH,  
BATORY.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1334/11 reports that ROYAL SCOTSMAN is not fit to proceed to sea and requires extensive refit.

2. ULSTER MONARCH should therefore return to Gibraltar from Freetown immediately after disembarkation. At Gibraltar she should embark personnel ex ROYAL SCOTSMAN and return immediately to Freetown.

3. To reach Freetown before W.S.16 sails it is essential that no delay is incurred by ULSTER MONARCH throughout. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to confirm that suitable escort can be provided on about 25/2.

4. Alternatively, if preferred by C. in C. S.A., ULSTER MONARCH and BATORY may be ordered now to Bathurst where former could tranship personnel to latter for oncarriage to Freetown, thus releasing ULSTER MONARCH earlier for second passage.

5. F.O.C.N.A.'s proposal in para. 4 of 1334/11 is approved. (D.O.D. (F), 2020A/13 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Warships and aircraft to operate from Uruguay.

U.S. N.A. informs me that Uruguay Govt. have agreed to U.S. Warships operating from Montevideo and that British Warships attached to this Squadron will receive similar facilities to U.S. Ships. Approval has also been given for U.S. Air Patrols to operate from Uruguay.

Arrangements are being made with Ancap for special oil fuel storage to be reserved for U.S. Squadron. Fuel will be brought by U.S. Naval Tankers. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2138Z/13).

Mediterranean.

A/C Report.

No enemy sighted.  
(A/C Station Flt. Hal Far, 0130B/13 to A.H.Q. Malta)

Air Protection.

Following has been read. Fighter aircraft two Fulmars have been despatched to assistance of "Novel" at 0930, 1030, 1130. R/T 6,000 kc/s, call sign "Beer", , W/T 4400kc/s.  
(Fighter H.Q. Western Desert, 0801B/13, 0821B/13)

/CARLISLE...

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- CARLISLE, Enemy aircraft bombing "Bottom" position 32° 13' N., 26° 7' E.  
bombing. (CARLISLE, 0938B/13 to Alexandria W/T)
- Alexandria, Arrivals 12/2 HERO, FIRMAMENT, departures 12/2  
movements. TORBAY, LANCE, HEYTHROP, AVON VALE, ERIDGE,  
CARLISLE, SOUTHWOLD, BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, DULVERTON  
arrivals 13/2 PROTEUS, TURBULENT, DELPHINIUM,  
Departures 13/2 JERVIS, KIPLING, KELVIN, GRIFFIN,  
HASTY, JAGUAR, ARROW, HAVOCK, DIDO, NAIAD, EURYALUS  
(S.O.(I), Alexandria, 1020B/13). *See p. 415.*
- Op. M.F.S. →*  
*to be T3.*
- Sector Your 1801/20/1 (N.T. in W.D.) Sector system  
System procedure. (D) Identification slower. Doubtful  
procedure. if more certain. (B) Yes in submarines when  
challenged by friend at night. (C) Unanimous  
opinion of C.O.S that sector system should be  
abolished. I agree.  
(C. in C. Med., 1027B/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
H.F., F.O.S.)
- U/B GLOXINIA reports suspected presence of submarine  
at 0630/13 near position Z.  
(S.O. Force I, 1139B/13 to C. in C. Med.,  
Destroyers W.A. Command, South Area, R.A.  
Alexandria, Force I, Med., Fleet).
- Air A.879 13/2. Opsum No. 627.  
Report. Day 12/2. Hurricanes intercepted 30 Ju. 87's  
escorted by fighters approaching Tobruk Harbour  
forcing majority to jettison and destroying 3  
Ju. 87's, 1 Me. 200, probably destroying 1 Ju. 87, 1 Me. 109,  
damaging 2 Ju. 87's. 2 Hurricanes down, 1 pilot safe. About  
50 bombs on North shore of harbour destroyed a truck no other  
damage, R/C reported ship located 11/2 at Ras Aali had left, no  
shipping movements sighted between Southern Greece and Libya.  
2. Egypt. Day 12/2. 2 Ju. 88's bombed Mersa Matruh during  
morning no damage.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1146/13).
- SNAPDRAGON, Leave Alex. at 1700B/13 to arrive Port Said 0700B/  
PRIMULA. 14. PRIMULA with convoy leaves Port Said 1500/13  
for Alexandria.  
(R.A. Alexandria, 1247B/13 to SNAPDRAGON, (R)  
N.O.I.C. Port Said, N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, C. in C  
Med., R.A.(D) Med., PRIMULA, Capt. (S) 1, 201  
Group).

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units. My 2245 280 Tripoli 24. Enemy previously reported is accompanied by one destroyer. (A/C "R" of "A" Flight No. 3 A.A.C.U.1330/13 to A.H.Q. Malta).

THRASHER. THRASHER leaves end of Alexandria search Channel about 1900B/13 and proceeds through 035° 22' 026° 28' to spend daylight 16th within 30 miles Cape Drepano Suda Bay thence through 035° 46', 022° 56' and 037° 24', 020° 38' to Area P within 50 miles 038° 11', 020° 21' W., of 020° 40' but including Zante Channel South of 037° 50'. (Capt. S.I., 1601B/13 to C. in C. Med., (R) R.A. Alexandria, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S)10, TEMPEST, C.S.15. Capt. (D) 2. Capt. (D) 14. 201 Group)

CLAN CAMPBELL. CLAN CAMPBELL damaged by near miss, sending her *M.W.G. (Op: M.F.S.)* to Tobruk. (CARLISLE, 1739B/13 to C.S.15 (R) C. in C. Med., Tobruk).

My 1739. AVON VALE and ERIDGE taking CLAN CAMPBELL to Tobruk, have ordered them to rejoin. (CARLISLE, 1746B/13 to C.S.15 (R) Tobruk, C. in C. Med). AVON VALE, ERIDGE, left S to rejoin you at 2045. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2145B/13 to CARLISLE (R) AVON VALE, ERIDGE).

*See also next page.*

Axis Shipping. Departure 12th DERNA (Italian) Genoa. Departure 12th FRONSAC (French) Sete. (Barcelona, 1745/13 to M. of W.T.)

Tobruk Minelaying. Pertaining to Minelaying raid 12/2 Harbour and Approaches to Channel thoroughly swept for all types of mines. 1 Red Magnetic detonated off Swept Channel. Still possible un-ripe mines maturing. Port is open to shipping. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 1746B/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med).

Malta Air Report. I 87 13/2. C.S.R. Malta 13.2.42. 12th. 1 alert 1407 hours, 21 Me. 109 and Ju. 88 target Luqa for damage see my I.85 Luqa Town. Hurricanes up, no interceptions, A.A. fired. 1 incoming Maryland shot down 1 Me. 109 in flames into sea. Night 12/13, 4 alerts 1835, 2010, 2243, and 0140 hours, 4 raiders bombs sea. A.A. fired. 13th, 4 alerts 0734, 0812, 1045, 1226 hrs. 68 Me. 109 and Ju. 88 targets Ta Kali and submarine base. Ta Kali bombed by 3 Me. 109. 1 ambulance M.T. Office and Filling Bay destroyed 6 other vehicles and farm buildings damaged. 3 airmen wounded 1 airman 1 civilian slight injuries. 2 direct hits submarine base on main mess decks and laundry, known casualties, 2 ratings killed, 5 wounded. Army casualties 2 soldiers killed 7 wounded. 6 Wellingtons IC attacked Tripoli 1847 to 2050 hours. Large fire Spanish fort and Harbour area visible 50 miles. 13th, 3 Hudsons ex Gibraltar 2 Alcores ex El Adem 8 Beaufighters ex Middle East arrived. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1804/13 1812/13)

/SULLBERG...

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13.2.1942.  
FridayWar Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

SULLBERG. Arrival 11th Gandia - SULLBERG Marseilles oranges. (Valencia, 1903/13).

Assistance to Turkey. Following from Admiral Kelly. General Asim Gunduz asks that two ferry boats may be loaded with Turkish war material, if this can be arranged. I anticipate no difficulty in arranging use of further ferry on arrival in Egypt for limited period. General Gunduz approves detailed proposal for defences of Alexandretta and Mersina, presented as the result of recent R/C. I have arranged for crew of Turkish destroyer to remain on board for one clear day after arrival. (B.N.A. Ankara, 1905/13 to C. in C. Med., 1923B/13 to Admty).

Situation Report 193. Operation M.F.5. Force B. 15th C.S. and 8 destroyers left Alexandria night 12/13. MW9 left Alexandria p.m./12 escorted by CARLISLE, LANCE and 7 "Hunts". Convoy repeatedly bombed today 13th. CLAN CAMPBELL damaged by near miss at 1730/13 now being escorted to Tobruk. *See previous page.*  
 2. Western Desert. FARNDALE has arrived Alexandria, bomb passed through ship exploding under boiler room. Temporary repairs to hull being effected.  
 3. Increased scale of air attack against Tobruk but work of port not seriously affected. 18 Ju. 87 intercepted by fighters at 1300/12 and 6 shot down but remainder bombed harbour damaging D/F station.  
 7. Malta. MAORI sunk in harbour in air attack. CLEOPATRA and FORTUNE arrived. CLEOPATRA damaged by bomb. See H.Q. Malta and A.M. reports. (C. in C. Med., 2029B/13). W.R. Note: Paras. 4 - 6 have been given limited circulation.

Hospital Ship. P.C. and S. of 1 enemy hospital ship 37° 04' N., 15° 54' E. 180° 8. (A/C, P. A.A.C.U. 2030/13 to A.H.Q. Malta).

S/M. Operations. P.35 reported at 1637B/3rd fired torpedo set to 6 feet at 6600 ton merchant ship at anchor 2 miles south of Mahedia no result, Partenope destroyer patrolling to seaward. 1702B/3rd fired torpedo set to 10 feet hit abaft funnel, at 1000B/11th this ship was beached in 035° 27' 011° 03' stern well down. No other sighted  
 (2) UPHOLDER reported at 1409B/4th in 260° Saint Vito 4 fired 3 torpedoes at NAVIGATORI Eastbound missed. H.E. indicated enemy sighted track, avoided and counter attacked with 10 D.Cs.  
 (3) At 1225B/5 in 280° Cape Gallo 10 sighted westbound convoy consisting of 2 merchant ships of 2000 tons and 2 destroyers, attack broken off at 1300 out of range, aircraft passed overhead at this time. At 1345 while retiring deep inaccurate counter attack developed, my 1739B/5th addressed to UPHOLDER refers.  
 (4) During 7th spend in Castellamare Gulf air patrol constant, following sighted on St. Vito - Gallo route, eastbound 2 schooners

*X Not identified.*

/westbound...

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

S/M westbound 4 schooners, one tug towing lighter and operations. one armed trawler following by 4 diesel barges 90 feet long with bow ramp, vessels specially constructed possibly M.T. carriers, speed 8 knots.

Contd. (5) At 1739B/8th in 090° St. Vito 008° fired 3 torpedoes at diesel 2500 tons eastbound merchant ship in ballast escorted by one destroyer. One hit on target H.E. detected, after manoeuvring 10 minutes destroyer counter attacked 15 charges. At 1830 destroyer withdrew at over 30 knots, nothing in sight, consider merchant ship sank.  
(Capt. S.10., 2151B/13).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 3 unidentified enemy units is 27  
8 - 315 - Tripoli - 12.  
(A/C R., A.A.C.U., 2245B/13 to A.H.Q. Malta).

Movements. Departure PENELOPE, BRECONSHIRE, SIKH, ZULU, LEGION, FORTUNE, DECOY, LIVELY. Arrivals P.35. UPHOLDER, PORPOISE.  
(V.A. Malta, 2335B/13 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) I).



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- B.A.15. My 1111/4. B.A.15. Both ships now sail a.m./14. (P.S.T.O. India 0705Z/13 to C. in C. E.I. (R) D.S.T.)
- B.M.13. Departure CALEDON with B.M.13. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0915Z/13.)
- B.P.34. VARELA with troops and stores for Basra sailed 0630Z/13 due Rooka float 1800Z/18 routed through (V) 020° 16' 067° 20' (W) 025° 15' 057° 10'. thence P G W knots 12½ 16 Ind One. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0937Z/13 to Admty.)
- Convoy  
B.M.13. (2). 0930Z/13. (4) 10 knots. (5) (8) Route. (6) CALEDON to vicinity of Ceylon. (8a) Ships. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0937Z/13.) 0930Z/13. CITY OF PARIS, CITY OF LONDON, EASTERN PRINCE, EGRA, ESPERANCE BAY, KOSCIUSEKO, all troops and stores Singapore. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0941Z/13.) *See also next page.*
- VARELA. Transport sailed from Bombay 13/2. E.T.A. Basra 1800Z/18 Numbers, stores. Ship to be returned to Bombay. (P.S.T.O. Bombay 1039Z/13 to D.S.T.O. P.G.)
- Programme of Troop Movements. Following is revised and up to date programme of troop movements which have been arranged. (A) M.R.6. 3 personnel ships CHILKA, ELLENGA, WINGSANG sailing 15/2. (B) M.R.4. 3 personnel ships PRESIDENT DOUMER, KUTSANG, NEURALIA sailing 15/2. (C) M.R.5. 4 personnel ships VARSOVA, ETHIOPIA, ERINPURA, KAROA sailing 26/2. (D) M.R.6. 4 personnel ships CHILKA, ELLENGA, PRESIDENT DOUMER, KUTSANG sailing 8/3. (E) M.R.7. 4 personnel ships VARSOVA, ETHIOPIA, ERINPURA, KAROA sailing 14/3. (F) M.R.8. 4 personnel ships CHILKA, ELLENGA, PRESIDENT DOUMER, KUTSANG sailing 27/3. (G) B.M.14. 5 personnel ships DILWARRA, NEVASA, NOVASCOTIA, EKMA, EL MADINA sailing 23/2. (H) B.M.15. 5 personnel ships FELIX ROUSSEL, DEVONSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, JOHAN DE WITT, DUNERA sailing about 4/3. (I) B.A.16. 1 personnel ship KHEDIVE ISMAIL sailing 18/2. (J) B.P.35. From Bombay two personnel ships ISLAMI, CAP ST. JACQUES sailing 19th February from Karachi INDRAPOERA SANTHIA sailing 17/2. (K) B.P.36. 3 personnel ships ROHNA, VARELA, INDRAPOERA sailing 7th March. Bombay to Batavia. ALAVI with 3000 goats and stores sailing 21/2. (P.S.T.O. India 1127Z/13.)
- Trans- Indian Ocean Air route. B.A.D. Washington's 2005Q/12. Request you will make necessary arrangements and inform B.A.D. (D.O.D.(F) 1244A/13 to C. in C. E.I.)

/J.S.3 ...

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War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.- contd.

- J.S.3. My 1348/6. When unloaded following ships are  
B.M.13. to proceed to Bombay, CITY OF LONDON, EASTERN  
PRINCE, JOHAN DE WITT, EGRA, CITY OF PARIS,  
ELMADINA, ROSCIUSKO. (C. in C. E.F. 1303Z/13  
to C.C.C.F. (R) Abdacom, etc.) *See previous page*
- W/T In the event of Batavia W/T going out of action  
communication. intend to maintain group U between Colombo and  
Coonawarra from experience at Colombo up to date  
it appears that communication between these  
two stations would be satisfactory. 2. It  
would be of very great advantage to ships in Abda area if  
Coonawarra W/T could as soon as possible add simultaneous  
transmission on a seven MC/S wave as in my 1103/4 (not to  
C.C.C.F.) para. 4 (D). This will be necessary if Batavia  
becomes in-operative. 3. If communication between Colombo  
and Coonawarra does not prove to be 100% reliable it would be  
necessary at least at certain periods by day to add simultaneous  
transmission at both stations on a 16 MC/S wave. 4. A.C.N.B.  
and C.C.C.F. are requested to remark, the latter particularly  
on (A) readability of group U to be expected in Abda area with-  
out either Batavia or Singapore (B) Practicability of  
establishing or borrowing a transmitter ashore in Java  
elsewhere than at Batavia as a safeguard for group U.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1308Z/13 to C.C.C.F.)
- DAPHNELLA QQQQ received at 0800Z/13 (see South Atlantic)  
"Q" Report. from DAPHNELLA in 019° 43' S. 038° 00' E.  
(2) Colombo plot shows several Merchant ships  
in vicinity. (DAPHNELLA 1314Z/13 to Colombo etc.)  
(C. in C. E.I. 1604Z/13 to E.I. Sqdn. (R) Admty.  
N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
- Minesweepers. Your 0555Z/11 (N.T. in W.D.) If tugs have 110  
volt generators suggest you arrange fly hammers  
from Bombay where stocks should exist. 220  
volt hammers for M.M.S. building at Rangoon,  
shipped end October 1941. Can if necessary be  
adapted for any voltage by rewiring.  
(D.M.S. 1441A/13 to C. in C. E.F.)
- D.M.3. Your 1947/12. D.M.3 will not call at Colombo.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1517/13 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
- GONCALVES Your 1724A/22/12 Ministry of Marine requests  
ZARCO Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO may fuel at  
fuel. Colombo 18th or 19th. My 1638/11. Possible  
visit Australian Port is in addition to visit  
to Colombo. (N.A. Lisbon 1911/13 to Admty.)

/Mining ...

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1820/13th February IN

**MOST SECRET**

From: War Office. Date 13.2.42.

Cipher.

Addressed: C. in C. India, Repeated Supreme Commander,  
South West Pacific, General Kandy, O.C. Troops  
Mauritius, O.C. Troops Seychelles.

IMMEDIATE.

70542 cipher (M.O.12) 13/2.

Reference War Office 69825<sup>+</sup> (M.O.12) of  
10/2. Delete first sentence of paragraph 5 (a)  
substitute "Required as operational base Battleships  
Carriers and below if depth of water in entrance is  
found to be sufficient"

1820/13.

\* Re defence requirements Indian ocean base  
affecting India.

+ 0315/11.

Received from W.O. 0700/14.

1st Lord.

D.T.S.D.

1st S.L.

D.A.S.

2nd S.L.

D.N.O. ) Bath by courier.

3rd S.L.

Hd.S.W.R. )

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

F.A.S. (S)

D.E.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

D.C. (2)

D.D.I.C. (2)

E.P.S.

D.O.D. (F)

Head of M.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10

Admiral Bellairs.

Admiral Bailey

Admiral Somerville.

Head of C.W.

D.N.A.D.

D.A/S W.

F.B.D.

D.S.D.

D. of L.D.

D.G.D.

W.O. Circulation:-

W.O.S. C.I.G.S. V.C.I.G.S.

D.M.G. & P. D.D.M.O. (0)

M.O. 1.10.12. (10)

D.S.D. D.S.D. (W) D.D.S.D.

D.D.S.D. (W) S.D. 2. 12. D.A.A. &

C.D. A.A. 4. 4a. 4b. E. in C.

E. Ops. E. 6. Q.M.G. D.Q.M.G.

Q. Ops. D.U.S. D.F. (c) F.I. W.F.

C.N.S. Admiralty. D. of Plans

Admiralty, Admiralty (Col. Fuller)

Hd. War Reg. Admiralty, C.A.S. A.M.

D. of Plans A.M. Air Ministry

(Air Commodore Whitworth Jones)

Colonial Office (Lt. Col. Rolleston)

India Office (Col. McCay)

Colonel Jacob.

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Mining,  
Trincomalee.

Your 1244Z/12. Considered Trincomalee Harbour entrance is unsuitable for controlled loop mining, as depth of water is too great. ATREUS and ALSEY should be held in readiness for further overseas commitments details of which will be signalled shortly. (D.T.M. 1927A/13 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F. ATREUS, N.Os 1/c Trincomalee, Ceylon.)

W/T  
Services.

My 2231/3. Now decided that the order of priority for fresh W/T services from India is:-  
1. India - Batavia, 2. India - Australia,  
3. India - Baghdad and India - Teheran.  
4. India - U.S.A.  
(Head of M. 2143A/13 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.Situation  
Report.

01109, cipher. 12/2. Information No.19 to 1200Z/12. Last night 21 Hudsons and Blenheims were despatched to attack enemy shipping in <sup>Am</sup> Anabas Island area. Only 5 found targets, no hit claimed. 3 aircraft destroyed taking off. 11 Bombers successful attack Kluang. Majority bombs in target area. All returned. This morning 12 B.17s attacked shipping Macassar area. 1 Ship believed hit and another large fire seen on water. All returned. Yesterday and again more extensively today air attacks were made on escorted convoys from Singapore in Banka area. Ships sustained hits but no details available. R.A.F. fighters from Palembang provided what cover possible to ships within their range. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0155/13.)

Rangoon,  
river  
mining.

In order to deny river approach to Rangoon to enemy in the event of evacuation by Allied Forces intend sending you 20 magnetic ground mines for laying in narrower part of river. In calm water mines can easily be laid from a flat topped barge or similar craft. A charge man of (?Colombo) is being sent to Rangoon. Request you will earmark and prepare suitable laying craft in anticipation of his arrival. Mines should be laid in narrowest parts of river where depth of water does not exceed 10 fathoms. Mines are safe for 15 minutes after laying. They must on no account be allowed to fall into enemy hands. (C. in C. E.F. 0542Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Rangoon.)

/Singapore ...

0030/13.2.42.

SECRET

M E S S A G E

INFrom Secretary of State for the  
Colonies.

Date: 17.2.42.

Secret Code.

---

Addressed: Governor (Sir S. Thomas) Straits Settlements.MOST IMMEDIATEColonial Office Reference No. 13139/35/42.  
No. 264 Secret.

Your secret telegram 12th February regarding departure of certain Europeans. Course to be followed by European Government officers in British territories invaded by enemy has recently been reviewed by War Cabinet.

Following is summary of their conclusions:-

(a) Governor, as representative of King (and any headquarters staff considered indispensable) should remain with defending forces to the last and if territory is overrun should either evacuate with them (if evacuation is possible) or surrender with them if they have to surrender.

(b) Other European officers should in general remain so long as they can serve useful purpose or render assistance to military. When these conditions cease to apply they should withdraw after carrying out duties required of them and should not remain to face unnecessary capture.

(c) In order to avoid any suggestion of racial discrimination any instructions issued should be worded so as to apply to all officers in any particular grade whether European or non-European.

You will understand that these conclusions are of general character and not framed with special reference to Singapore. You have full discretion in applying them to special local conditions with which you are faced. You will no doubt keep in close touch with G.O.C. and so far as possible arrange priority evacuation for European women and children

and/

and for married officers before single.

0030/13.

Received from Colonial Office  
1750/17.

1st Lord  
1st 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)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
P.N.S. (S)  
D.N.I. (7)  
O.D. (5)

Ops. (3)  
Mc (2)  
D. of P. (3)  
O.I.C. (2)  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
E.P.S.  
Admiral Bollairs  
Admiral Danckwerts

L. [Faint, illegible text follows, appearing to be a list or schedule of items, possibly related to the military or naval units mentioned in the header.]

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War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.- contd.

- Singapore. Situation report No. 65. Enemy air raids mainly confined troops and transport in forward area but bombs also dropped on Changi, Keppel Harbour, and Alexandra.. Several areas in Singapore town shelled intermittently during the day. Further enemy landing reported Loyang west of Changi after darkness 12/2 strength unknown. Denial schemes in evacuated or immediately threatened area proceeding according to plan. (G.O.C. Malaya, 0645/13 to W.O.)
- Martaban Area. 032915 12/2. Situation report 1400 hours G.M.T. Enemy took Martaban mainly by sea landing well behind Martaban, combined with land attack from south. Company of K.O.Y.L.I. got to close quarters with enemy east side of Martaban and charged. Enemy fled and suffered considerable losses. Enemy pressure against Thaton from direction Martaban and also against our position opposite Paan continues. No penetration of our main position on (?general) line Yinnyfin Paan. Air. Rangoon quiet, no alert for last 24 hours. (G.O.C. Burma, 0855/13.)
- DALSTROW. <sup>(Lloyd Reg.)</sup> Russians report that DALSTROW which sailed from Vladivostock for U.S.A. to refit on 5/2 was stopped by a Japanese destroyer on 9/2 in 32° 13' N. 133° 08' E. 133, and subsequently allowed to proceed. (Adm. Miles, 1112C/13 to Admty.)
- Singapore W/T. Cable & Wireless report that station at Singapore has closed down and the Company now have no cable or wireless communication with Singapore. (Telegraph Censorship, 1135/13 to Admty.)
- Japanese and night Fighting. / Evidence is accumulating which seems to confirm pre-war impressions that Japanese ships do not take kindly to night fighting. They do not usually succeed in seeing before being seen and are very liable to confusion, rash use of searchlight illumination, and opening fire on their own ships. 2. Concrete instances of this latter are Pearl Harbour. (a) Japanese destroyer which was seen by Netherlands Submarine K.16 off Sarawak at I Z Z U Z 24/12, apparently being sunk by gunfire by unknown ship, no allied force being in vicinity. (b) Japanese destroyers seen by VAMPIRE off Endau at 0315/27/1 to be heavily engaging one another, resulting in one of them being blown up. 3. I do not know full details of recent action in Macassar Strait but reports I have heard are to confirm this impression. 4. It seems therefore that we should exploit this feature of Japanese to the utmost and our policy should be to seek night actions by every means. In doing so we may also serve our purpose by reducing opportunities for enemy aircraft to get in their attacks. (C. in C. E.F. 1227Z/13 to Admty. Abdafloat, A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. B.A.D.)

/O11 ...

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War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Oil Supplies, With the loss of Borneo and the possibility of Java. being denied access to Sumatran sources consideration must now be given to supplies of oil products to Java from elsewhere. 2. This question is particularly important in view of the requirements of ships now proceeding to Java with the Australian Corps. 3. Request your early remarks in order that diversion of and convoy arrangements for tankers may be made if alternative supply is now required for Java. (C. in C. E.F. 1302Z/13 to Abdacom.)

Hurricanes. 50 Hurricanes are expected towards end of this month in INDOMITABLE; these are required as initial equipment of fighter squadrons here and to meet wastage. There is no information at present of further deliveries. Flow of Blenheims now passing through Burma are the initial equipment of squadrons here. Have no knowledge of any subsequent flow to maintain wastage. (Abdair 1353/13 to Norgroup.)

Air Attacks on Batavia Convoy. Throughout today 13th there have been heavy bombing attacks on route Singapore-Batavia. About 30 ships of all sizes with evacuees from Singapore and an unknown number of oilers from Palembang were on this route. 2. Included in foregoing were H.M.S. SCORPION (?KUALA), GIANG, BEE, MATA HARI, TAPAH, BULAN, one fairmile, 3 motor launches, and 1 M.M.S. in tow. 3. DURBAN, STRONGHOLD and KEDAH sent to Singapore 11th at request of R.A. Malaya to (?assist in) evacuation returned to Batavia. DURBAN 8 killed, some wounded, hull damaged extent not yet ascertained. Separate signal of casualties and (?damage) follows. 4. Oiler convoy from Palembang has suffered heavily. 6 ships hit of which (?MANTAVARA) and SUBADAR are probably total losses. Convoy proceeding to Batavia escorted by JUPITER and Australian mine-sweepers. 5. No report of effect of air attack on remainder of ships. 6. My 0645Z/12 para. 2. SCOUT, DARVEL, and KINTA arrived 12th with R.A.F. personnel and small number of civilians. Latter were anticipating sailing with some naval personnel in CITY OF CANTERBURY in convoy S.J.1. (C.C.C.F. 1546Z/13 to C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.I. Abdafloat, (R) Admty. A.C.N.B.)

Japanese Army.

Assessment after Malayan Campaign (Central, Singapore  
29777, 13/2, see page 703A)



MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1455/13th February, IN

From G.O.C. Burma.

Date 13.2.42.  
Recd. 1330**MOST SECRET**CIPHER.Addressed C. in C. S.W. Pacific, Rept. C. in C. India,  
The War Office, Military Attache Chungking.MOST IMMEDIATE.032948 O.664 cipher 12/2.  
Personal for Wavell from Hutton.

Have visited Toungoo - Mawchi - Bawlake front and met Chinese representative at Taunggyi. 49 Chinese Division now beginning to move in. Have arranged for (?55) Division to follow immediately and take over front as far south as Bawlake approximately. This will enable 1 Burma Division to concentrate for defence of vital Karemi area. Movement will take over a month to complete and will probably overlap that of 5 Army. Chinese regiments are about 1700 strong but effective rifle strength appears only about 600 remainder being used as carriers. Returned urgent owing situation on R. Salween. Troops are fighting back and minor offensive operation undertaken but with forces now at my disposal as already notified must emphasize that Rangoon with all its means is very far from secure. Scale of attack appears likely to increase and I have no information when further infantry other than one British Battalion may be expected to arrive. Request acceleration if possible and also more British troops if these can be made available. Am most grateful for tank brigade.

1455/13.

Rec'd from War Office 2230/13.

W.O. Circulation:-

S. of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S., D.M.O. & P., D.P.(2)  
D.D.M.O.(I), M.O.1, 10, 12, D.M.I., D.D.M.I.(I), M.I.  
2.(2), Q.M.G., D.Q.M.G., Q(Ops), D.Mov.D.D.Mov.  
Q(M)2.3., C.N.S. Admiralty, D. of Plans Admiralty,  
H.W.R. Admiralty, C.A.S. Air Ministry, Col. Jacob  
(Cabinet Offices), F.O. (Mr. Sterndale-Bennett), Burma  
Office (War Staff)(4). D. of Plans A.M.

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)(2)

A.C.N.S.(T)

A.C.N.S.(W)

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of M.

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.C.D.(H)

D.C.D.(F)

D.D.C.D.(F)

D.C.(2)

D.N.I.(7) and for A.E. &amp; 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.

Ad. Bailey

Ad. Bellairs

E.P.S.

D. of L.D.

War Diary.

13.2.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

REGENT. Request immediate assistance be sent to REGENT whose speed is reduced to 3 knots owing to propeller trouble. Position at 1644P/12 was 34° 30', 71° 12' W. proceeding toward 38° 19' N. 74° 26' W. Towage may be required. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0552/13, to Cinclant (R) C. in C. A.W.I., Admty., B.A.D.) U.S. Coast guard Cutter NIKE and Tug ALLEGHENY will be in 036° 12' N. 072° 39' W. at 0900Q/14 to assist. Report your P.C. & S. Keep constant watch on 500 KC/S. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2302P/13 to REGENT.)

72 ft. M.L's. A.M. 1258/8. Does this mean that the 12 72 foot H D M.L's being constructed on Eastern Sea board of U.S. are to be consigned elsewhere than A.W.I. if so request destination. (B.A.D., 0935Q/13).

O.N.67. O.N.67 Taskunit 4.1.4 designated escort, EDISON, BERNADOU, LEA, MIZAR and PLEIADES. (Opnav, 1116/13 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.) My 1116/13 delete MIZAR and PLEIADES. (Opnav, 1431/13).

Atlantic Coastal Convoys. Continuous consideration being given to convoys in Atlantic coast sea lanes. Your 1801Z/9. Am sure you appreciate that important factor is that massing ships in convoys is inviting trouble unless and until adequate and suitable escort vessels become available which is not yet. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1200Z/13 to Admty., (R) Spenavo, B.A.D.)

Refits. Ref. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1340Z/17/10/41.

A.	B.	C.	D.
SKEENA	St. John's N.E.	12/2/1942.	28/3/1942.
SANGUENAY	St. John's N.E.	12/2/1942.	28/3/1942.
CAMROSE	St. John's N.E.	12/2/1942.	23/2/1942.
WETASKIWIN	St. John's N.E.	12/2/1942.	23/2/1942.
HUSKY	St. John's N.B.	12/2/1942.	2/3/1942.

(N.O.I.C. St. John's, 1257Z/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) Admty., Commander D. Halifax, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F., Capt. (D) St. Johns, N.F., B.A.D.)

French Naval Movements. Meter. Dakar 11/2. A 2. S/M BEVEZIERS and Sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX due to sail P.M./11 A.M.C. QUERCY from Cotonou will meet them at sea and then all proceed to Madagascar. (B.A.D., 1305Q/13 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.I., S.O.(I) Capetown, N.O.I.C. Simonstown, N.O.I.C. Mauritius). Note by N.I.D. A.M.C. QUERCY previously reported (B.A.D. 1809/29/1) left Dakar 26/1 for South (A.1) said to be proceeding via Corakry to Madagascar intending to round Cape with a clearance of 300 miles (C.O).

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- ALYSSE. F.S. AYSSE sank at 0930Z/10 in 46° 34' N. 44°  
10' W. (F.O.N.F., 1311Z/13 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)  
*Torpedoed by U. 654*
- INDOMITABLE. C.O.S.(W) 30 para. 4 and Admty. 0101A/12 both  
repeated to Abdacom. Unless you indicate  
immediately that you wish INDOMITABLE to embark  
her own aircraft for operation in Timor-Darwin area in defence  
of Keopang air route, we are assuming you wish her existing  
programme of transporting 50 Hurricanes from Middle East to  
Abda area to be adhered to.  
(B.A.D., 1335Z/13 to Abdacom (R) Admty.)
- A.T. and Troop convoys to "Magnet" from U.S. designated  
T.A. Convoys. A T and returning T A with appropriate numerals.  
Next movement A T 12. (Opnav, 1342/13 to  
C. in C. Lant, Com. Eastern Sea Frontier (R)  
Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)
- DIALA. F.O.N.F. 1845Z/12 to C. in C. W.A. Request every  
endeavour be made to locate DIALA. If found  
H.M. Tug PRUDENT should tow to Eastward when  
arrangements will be made to meet with second Tug.  
(D.T.D., 1408A/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F.,  
(R) Opnav, N.O.I.C. Iceland, C.O.A.C. Halifax,  
C. in C. W.A.)
- A.M. 1408A/13. PRUDENT proceeding forthwith to search for DIALA  
with orders to tow to eastward if found.  
(F.O.N.F., 1748Z/13 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. (R) Opnav, F.O.C.  
Iceland, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. W.A.)  
Admty. 1408/13. Suggest escorts of O.N.64 and O.N.65 be given  
last known position of DIALA and instructed to report if  
sighted. Possibility of diverting convoys through area to N.E.  
of this position might be considered. 2. F.O.N.F. report if  
air search is feasible.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1919Z/13 to Opnav (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.,  
C. in C. W.A., Admty.)  
Correct my 1919Z/13 to read North East. Approximate rate of  
drift 15 miles per day.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2211Z/13).
- Coal for Your 1940A/12. No Welsh steam coal available here,  
A/S trawlers. and cargo S.S. ALCOR on the way here urgently  
needed for Naval and M.W.T. requirements. No  
Sydney (C.B.) coal available here for bunkers.  
Please confirm that collier with requisite coal  
will sail with trawlers.  
(C.C.N.F., 1409Z/13 to Admty.) Reply: 1430/15.

/Atlantic ...

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- Atlantic Escort System. From Capt. Carney. Ref. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1648Z/11. Problem of starting new escort system with S.C.70 solved. C.O.A.C. Halifax prepares meeting requirements of Comtask force 4 0417/11 by somewhat reduced strength of escort for S.C.70. Operational plan worked out on seven groups agreed. C.O.A.C. Halifax states he will comply with Comdr. Task force 4 0417/11. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1422Z/13 to Com. Task Force 4, (R) C. in C. U.S.Fleet, Opanv, Admty., N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, C. in C. W.A., F.O. Newfoundland.)
- FLORIDA. Departure 1200 local time U.S. transport FLORIDA for Curacao. 4th Bn. Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders on board. Escort one U.S. Destroyer. (Aruba, 1425/13 to C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica, Admty., S.N.O. Curacao).
- U/B. D/F bearing at 0914Z/15 indicates S/M within 50 miles of 047° 00' N., 042° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 1444Z/13 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanv, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)
- U/B's. S.S. NORLANTIC made SSS in 32° 59' N., 79° 13' W. at 0224Z/13. 2. S.S. >ER.KEMP SSS in 30° 23' N., 81° 10' W. at 0500Z/13. 3. U.S.Coastguard cutter DIONE obtained contact in 35° 20' N., 75° 06' W. at 0328Z/13. (Ottawa, 1558/13 to Admty.)
- SURCOUF. C. in C. A.W.I. 1602P/12. Entirely agree with proposal that British Liaison personnel be withdrawn and suggest this being done at Bermuda or Panama. Americans would presumably do as they wish as regards provision of American Liaison personnel. (F.O.S., 1722A/13 to Admty.)
- U.S. S/M's. My 1707/30. Our submarines are clear of specified area North of Lat. 34 X. Bombing restrictions removed area between latitudes 39° 40' and 34° N. and longitudes 66° to 69° W. X. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 1730Z/13 to Cinclant, etc., C. in C.A.W.I., Admty.)
- A.T.12,  
T.A.12,  
A.T.14,  
C.T.17. Your 1917/11 and my 1335/8 to D. of S.T. U.S. Authorities agreeable to following arrangements assuming Belfast portion of A.T.12 arrives about 1/3. U.S. ships returning ex A.T.12 will be known as convoy T.A.12 (T.A.12). Allowing ten days to unload Military stores, Belfast portion of T.A.12 should leave with British escort 12/3 to M.O.M.P. with Iceland Portion and U.S.Escort about 15/3. U.S.Escort thence to New York arriving about 22/3.

/British ...

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. contd.

A.T.12, British Personnel may embark in T.A.12 as necessary  
 T.A.12, provided no delay in sailing date is involved.  
 A.T.14, C. in C. U.S. Fleet hopes to arrange that A.T.14  
 C.T.17, and C.T.17 will combine and sail about end of  
 (contd.) March with U.S. escort as far as M.O.M.P. thence  
 British escort. Request B.A.D. be kept informed of  
 position regarding British troopships returning  
 from Cape which might be included in American A.T. convoys if  
 required. And in particular, what ships would be available for  
 A.T.14. There will be no A.T.13. U.S. are preparing to provide  
 escort for N.A.5 on about 14/3. Observing that BEVERLEY and  
 ROCKINGHAM are already earmarked for N.A.4 they do not propose  
 to provide escorts for this convoy. See C.O.A.C's 1858/11.  
 Request your comment. (B.A.D., 1813Q/13, to Admty. (R) D.S.T.,  
 C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

QUEEN MARY. Your 2052/12. (a) Sydney. (b) All troops are for  
 Abda Area. (B.A.D., 1815Q/13 to D. of S.T.)

PARTHIAN. PARTHIAN is to proceed to New London p.m./15  
 provided you have made the necessary security  
 arrangements with the local Commandant. FURIOUS  
 pass to B.S.O. Philadelphia.  
 (B.A.R.M. 1823Q/13 to PARTHIAN).

QUEEN OF C.O.A.C's 1801Z/12. I do not consider QUEEN OF  
 BERMUDA. BERMUDA should be towed to New York unless adequate  
 A/S escort is provided. This cannot be provided  
 by R.C.N. Suggest American authorities be asked  
 if this could be provided by their destroyers on passage  
 Argentinia to Boston or by other means.  
 (C.N.S. Canada, 1932Z/13 to Admty., (R) B.A.R.M., C.O.A.C.,  
 B.A.D.)

Taking over Ref. your 2216A/8 and your 2208A/9. You will have  
 Western Area received, Coma message through Spenavo instructing  
 of South Cinclant to take over the area to lat. 40° S. on  
 Atlantic by 20/2.  
 U.S.A. (2) In discussion with Coma described reason for  
 placing the limit at 40° S. was that he viewed  
 resulting area as being largest practical area  
 which task force could look after but that it was his intention  
 that they should proceed further south to deal with any  
 particular incident including an occasional visit to the  
 Falkland Is. It was his intention to station 2 D-class cruisers  
 at Southern end with this object in view.  
 (3) I reminded Admiral King of Argentine's claim to Falkland Is.  
 and how this situation might become acute if Argentine took over  
 this area. He was conversant with the problem but it does not,  
 of course, arise in immediate future.  
 (4) Can I be informed, in due course, how it is proposed to  
 dispose of ships released from South American Division?  
 (5) Coma intends to inform Cinclant of intentions referred to  
 in para. 2 above. (B.A.D., 2015Q/13 to Admty.)

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War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Bombing restrictions. U.S. S/M notice my 2048/10 bombing restrictions removed eastward of 066° W. between 033° - 30' N. and 036° N. Ends.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2042Z/13).

Movements. Ships sailed AUSONIA, CERAMIC and S.S. HIGHLAND BRIGADE escorted by BEVERLEY and ROCKINGHAM at 1500 G.M.T./15 routed through S S 043° 40' N. 062° 20' W. T T 033° 00' N. 061° 25' W. S. of A. 12½ knots. HIGHLAND BRIGADE for Trinidad and CERAMIC for Rio de Janeiro and ~~CERAMIC~~ will be detached at position T T and proceed independently to destination. AUSONIA, BEVERLEY and ROCKINGHAM will proceed to Bermuda. E.T.A. Bermuda 1400 G.M.T./18.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2111Z/13 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

T.C. Convoys. My 2255Z/10 (N.T. in W.D.) movement control now estimate accommodation required (A) March 14300 of which 5800 Air Force (B) April 10150 of which 5500 Air Force (C) May 9800 of which 5500 Air Force Total 34250 increased from 28000 is accounted for by R.A.F. personnel completing courses in U.S.A. being available for despatch via Canada.

2. Request early decision if T.C.17 will definitely sail end of March your 1918A/11 refers. If T.C.17 cannot be arranged the requirements for N.A. convoys after N.A.4 will be about 5700 all services in each. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2206Z/13 to Admty.)

RIMOUSKI Sub contact gained in 47.52 N. 51.51 W. at 1836Z/13  
U/B. 20 charges dropped before dark. Large patch of oil came to surface after 3rd pattern. Contact lost after being held for 2½ hours. Searched the vicinity for one hour. (RIMOUSKI, 2145Z/13 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, U.S. C.N.O., C.O.A.C. Halifax, (R) ST. LAURENT).

At 2120Z/13 ST. LAURENT reported RIMOUSKI and TRILLIUM detached from 4.1.13 escorting O.N.62 to stand by A/S contact classified S/M's in 047° 50' N. 051° 48' W.  
(C.C.N.F., 2321Z/13 to Cdr. Task Force No.4, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

U/B. Submarine indicated by D/F bearings within 100 miles 056° 30' N. 034° W. 342° 1847Z/13.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2155Z/13 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.)

W.S.C.69. (1) W.S.C.69 (2) 2330Z/13 47°22' N. 51° 21' W. at 1000Z/14.  
All ships have SP.02272(16) (18) SP.02406(112) and search certificates. (N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 2335Z/13, 2336Z/13 to Admty.)

War Diary.13.2.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

M.S.5. U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX escorting Melbourne portion of M.S.5 after dusk comprising ~~WILLARSA~~ HOLBROOK, DUNTROON, KATOOMBA, POLYPHEMUS. Depart <sup>^</sup>Cooling Marshes 0734Z/12 for Fremantle.  
(A.C.N.B., 0108Z/13 to A.I.G.115, C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.) C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, C.C.C.F., B.A.D.)

A.M.C's. Ref. Admty. 1232A/30/10/1941, and 1852A/7/2/1942, it is assumed A.M.C's allocated to Anzac area are MANOORA, WESTRALIA and KANIMBLA, also MONOWAI.

Request when MANOORA will return to Anzac area and whether it is intended that MONTCLARE and ASCANIA shall join Anzac area.  
(A.C.N.B., 0530Z/13 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., N.Z.N.B.)

Situation. Serial No.23 from C.W.R.154/12th.  
(1) Enemy flying boat reported 90 miles S.E. of route to Island at 0220Z/12 course N.W.  
(2) Kamoi remains C.O. of Chitose air squadron and Yokohama flying boat squadron in Rabaul area. Portion of Chitose squadron including fighters at Gasmata together with 4 destroyers and possibly submarine depot ship ZINGEI.  
(A.C.N.B., 0622Z/13 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M., Opanav, C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.)

MARECHAL Recruitment of Free French recruits. Report  
JOFFRE. urgently whether you have received C.A.F.O.2499,  
(French). dated 25.12.41, giving procedure for recruitment to Free French Navy and Mercantile Marine.  
(Head of M. 1353A/13 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

13.2.1942.  
Friday.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1345A/13, 1346A/13).



War Diary.

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Hartlepool was reopened at 0941.

RODNEY is to refit on 18/2.

In view of the departure of the German main units from Brest F.O.S. today made proposals for the operation of our submarines and to permit a maximum and unrestricted effort by mining and aircraft against U-Boats.

British Air Operations.

/ Eleven Wellingtons bombed Le Havre last night.

Mining.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the outer Thames Estuary between 1845 and 2010 today. There is no positive evidence of mine-laying, but it is suspected that it took place in Barrow Deep.

North Atlantic.

N.A. Madrid, reports the decision of Spain on her attitude towards German ELSA ESSBERGER which arrived recently at Ferrol after running the blockade from Japan.

War Diary.14.2.1942.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

N.C.S.O. Duala reports bad behaviour and anti-British demonstrations by C.O., officers and men of Free French LA MOQUEUSE during her recent visit to Duala.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks on Malta continued last night and today. Serious damaged was caused at Ta Kali this morning.

Capt. S.10 reports that TALBOT (S/M Depot Ship at Malta) is "severely bent". Presumably this is intended to mean that the ~~ship~~ <sup>establishment</sup> has been damaged by bombing at Malta.

Operation  
M.F. 5.

The eastbound convoy was twice unsuccessfully attacked this morning by single German aircraft. The east and westbound convoys met at 1440 in 34° 58' N. 19° 56' E., each attended by its own enemy bombers. The exchange of escort, involving 27 warships, was effected with every ship in action against enemy aircraft: the convoys then continued to their destinations. The eastbound convoy was attacked sporadically by single Ju.88 and torpedo bombers during the day and heavily from dusk to 1945. CARLISLE was stopped for a time by minor damage.

The westbound convoy was heavily attacked from 1500 to 1830, the last attacks being by torpedo bombers.

ROWALLAN CASTLE was severely damaged by a near miss at 1515 and had to be sunk by our own forces at 1956; and CLAN CHATTAN was reported sunk at 1615B, but all her personnel were saved.

Good fighter support was given and several enemy aircraft were shot down by fighters and ship's A.A. guns. The cruisers exclusive of PENELOPE fired 3700 rounds of 5.25 ammunition.

Early this morning 4 Albacores attacked and damaged a merchant ship north-west of Tripoli.

/5 Wellingtons ...

War Diary.

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

5 Wellingtons attacked Catania Aerodrome last night.

Naval Armament Supply Officer, Eastern Mediterranean, states that owing to the conscription of Greeks, N.A. Depots in E. Med. will shortly be crippled by the loss of over 200 men, including Navy key ratings.

East Indies.

S.S. KAMUNING was attacked by a submarine at 0400Z today in 8° 35' N. 81° 44' E. The torpedo missed and the ship was set on fire by gunfire. The submarine was subsequently located by air search; surface search is in progress. S.S. KAMUNING subsequently sank whilst being towed to Trincomalee.

China.

The enemy, who is now using Penang and may later use Mergui and Tavoy for attacking our sea communications in the Indian Ocean could eventually occupy the Nicobars and Andamans as advanced bases. This would not necessarily cause considerable increase in the scale of attack and C. in C. S.W. Pacific considers we are not justified in dissipating our forces to attempt denials of the islands.

Burma.

6 Blenheims with fighter escort attacked the water front at Martaban at 1545 today, with satisfactory results. Various convoys of small boats and tugs are reported near Kado, Alwi and Zigon.

/Attack ...

453

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.China - Contd.Attack on  
Singapore  
evacuation.

KUNG WO (minelayer) and KUALA (A.P.V.) are reported to have been sunk and TIEN KWANG (A.P.V.) damaged today by air attack. Four hundred survivors, including women and children are ashore on Lingga Archipelago; PINANG is proceeding to rescue them. A party of naval survivors from various ships is endeavouring to proceed overland to Batavia.

*Striking force  
under Admiral  
Doorman*

A naval striking force was sent to intercept the Japanese expedition which was yesterday reported moving south from the Anambas and was today approaching Banka and Billiton. The naval force failed to make contact; it was heavily bombed without effect, but Dutch destroyer VAN GHENT struck a reef and was abandoned. *[For question about the route taken by Rear Adm. Doorman see p. 703B.]*

Sumatra.

Japan today began an invasion of Sumatra. As a prelude, a heavy bombing attack was made on Palembang aerodrome and refinery and parachutists were dropped.

N.E.I. High Command claims that the attack failed and over 700 parachutists had been killed. Meanwhile landings were taking place from transports at the mouth of the Moesi River (Palembang Rivier). All available bombers were sent against this convoy and claim 3 hits on a cruiser.

America and West Indies.

S.S. LADY NELSON made a submarine distress signal at 2042 today in 45° 59' N. 55° 11' W. She arrived at St. Johns on 15/2.

MIMOSA sighted a periscope at 1050Z today in 47° 30' N. 52° 30' W.

At 2345 (0245Z/15) today SHERBROOKE reported a ship torpedoed in 44° 14' N. 62° 41' W. This was Greek S.S. MEROPI.

/No certain ...

War Diary.

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

No certain U.S. merchant ship casualties are reported for the week ending 14/2, but 7 or 8 ships are overdue.

M.T.Bs.

U.S. Navy Dept. asks if it can take over 12 Canadian-built M.T.Bs. now at Greenwich, Connecticut, awaiting armament, for use on Atlantic Coast. This was agreed to by the Admiralty.

Australia.

Oil  
Supplies.

It is assumed that oil supplies from Palembang to Australia must cease; the scarcity of tankers prohibits avoidable risk for the sake of shorter haul. Clean tankers are being sailed from Fremantle to Bahrein and dirty tankers to Colombo for loading from Admiralty stocks at Trincomalee.

U.S. Destroyer PEARY was attacked at 0205Z today by a flying boat, in 12° 12' S. 130° 1' E., but was not damaged.

War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Congestion in Clyde. Attention is called to C.A.F.O. 873/41. Congestion in the Clyde is again becoming acute.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1423A/14.)

Movements.

SOMALI. E.T.A. in SOMALI 0900A.  
(Capt. D.6. 0539A/14 to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh.)

HAV. Admiralty 1335A/13. HAV and SHIKA arrived here with only 5 tons fuel remaining.  
SHIKA. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0709/14.)  
Your 0709/14. Request confirmation that whalers were not in tow at any time.  
(A.C.I.C. 2201A/14 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

N.S.B.1. My 1626A/11. <sup>N.T. in N.D.</sup> Sailed.  
SHERWOOD. (Capt. S.6. 0809A/14.)  
My 1025/13. <sup>N.T. in N.D.</sup> Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0830/14 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

STURGEON. Cancel my 2112A/13 in view of Capt. S.3's 1527.  
TIGRIS. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1040A/14.)  
My 1525A/13. (i) BEAUMARIS with STURGEON in company will meet TIGRIS at R/V and escort both submarines to Holy Loch. (ii) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange necessary fighter co-operation.  
(Capt. S.3. 1437A/14 to TIGRIS.)

O.23. My 1905A/13. <sup>N.T. in N.D.</sup> O.23 and LOCH MONTEITH are to anchor every night at Methil and not at Budden.  
(Capt. S.9. 1155A/14.)

RODNEY. Cancel Admiralty's 1622A/7.  
2. RODNEY will be taken in hand at Liverpool on 18/2.  
3. RODNEY must arrive at Bar Light vessel p.m.16th. F.O.i/c Liverpool's 1802A/4 refers.  
5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail RODNEY from the Clyde to arrive Liverpool as required by F.O.i/c Liverpool and to arrange the necessary escort.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1216A/14)  
A.M.1216A/14th. Request you sail RODNEY to arrive I one float AM QZS 298 at 1300A/16. Speed in swept channel must not exceed 9 knots. RODNEY is to anchor area radius 5 cables about position 233° Bar L.V. 1.1 miles. Approach area on course 180°. Minesweepers will commence sweeping AM.QZS 298 inward at 1200A/16, speed 7 knots. Draught must not exceed 32 feet.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1802A/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Admiralty's ...

War Diary.

14.2.1942  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RODNEY contd. Admiralty's 1216A/14. (1) WATCHMAN from Londonderry PIORUN from Clyde are to escort RODNEY sailing Clyde early a.m.16th to Bar Light Vessel.

(2) Destroyers are to return to bases on completion.  
(3) If PIORUN is required for W.S.16 either CHURCHILL or CHESTERFIELD is to escort RODNEY. *See p. 464.*  
(C. in C. W.A. 1820A/14.)

H.43 My 1710/13. "Cloak" sailed.  
H.44 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1228/14.)  
H.50.  
Z.5.

TAKU. After working up in Clyde area TAKU is to be sailed for Gibraltar to carry out working up patrol.  
(F.O.S. 1311A/14.)

Trawlers My 1940A/12. 17 Trawlers sail 13th/15th for St. February, remaining 7 sail 18th/22nd.  
Johns, N.F. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1409A/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)  
CALDWELL is to proceed Londonderry 15/2.  
After fuelling CALDWELL, LAUDERDALE are to proceed best speed through (a) 055° N. 020° W. (b) 051° 40' N. 040° W, thence St. Johns, N.F. unless routed otherwise by C. in C. A. & W.I.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1428A/14.)  
Intend sailing at 1600/15. NORTHERN PRINCESS, NORTHERN CHIEF, NORTHERN FOAM, NORTHERN ISLES for St. Johns Newfoundland calling at Reykjavik for coal. E.T.A. Reykjavik a.m./20th.  
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1826A/14.)

LINCOLN. Request anticipated sailing date of LINCOLN.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2130/14 to F.O.I.C. London.)

Operations.

SCHARNHORST 1. My 1835/12. From positions given by Dover  
GNEISENAU enemy were plotted until 1312 which gave a S. of  
PRINZ EUGEN, A. of 29 knots; it was immediately realised that  
12.2.42 a speed of 29 knots directly across the mine  
barrier was necessary in order to intercept them  
and a position off the Maas would have to be made.  
2. On the way across a J.U.88 shadowed for some time and four  
bombing attacks were carried out.  
3. No further enemy information was received until 1517 when  
CAMPBELL's type 271 detected two ships at a range of 9½ miles.  
Subsequent plotting confirmed their speed as at least 27 knots  
and that destroyer screen was stationed five cables fine on  
either bow.

War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

SCHARNHORST  
GNEISENAU  
PRINZ EUGEN.  
contd.

4. At 1543, enemy battle cruisers and destroyers were sighted bearing 155° approx. four miles. It was at once realised that there was no hope of gaining bearing and course was altered to close and attack. At 3500 yards a turn was made to port and torpedoes fired - deflection 20 left. VIVACIOUS and WORCESTER followed. WORCESTER closed in further and was hit on the starboard side while turning to port to fire. She continued swinging and was hit again. Torpedoes were fired in local control, but no hits claimed. Commanding Officers WORCESTER and VIVACIOUS state definitely that they observed one heavy explosion aft in the leading battle cruiser and other officers in both CAMPBELL and WORCESTER affirm that there were definitely two hits.
5. MACKAY and WHITSHED turned at the same time as CAMPBELL and attacked a large ship on their starboard beam which was taken to be one of the battle cruisers but was later identified as the PRINZ EUGEN. Ship was steering towards MACKAY when first sighted and attack was made on an opposite course ships turning to starboard. MACKAY fired from beam of target at 4000 yards using deflection of 18 left. Target turned away after MACKAY had fired and WHITSHED closed in further and fired after ship had swung round, using deflection 12 right. Some officers in MACKAY stated that they observed an orange flash on the target.
6. Many enemy aircraft were sighted and engaged by all ships during this period.
7. On retiring later CAMPBELL sighted a destroyer in the distance and on closing with VIVACIOUS found WORCESTER stopped, badly on fire forward and pouring smoke from both funnels with boats and rafts in the water. While survivors were being picked up air attacks took place, including one torpedo attack at 1615. CAMPBELL was about to take WORCESTER in tow when she reported that she was able to steam at about 7 knots.
8. A retiring course was shaped with CAMPBELL and VIVACIOUS as escort.
9. At 1745 CAMPBELL and VIVACIOUS returned to Harwich in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 1655A/12 having ascertained that WORCESTER was able to proceed on her own.  
(D.21 0030A/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

North Atlantic Dispositions. Disposition of Operational Units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland (C) KING GEORGE V., RENOWN, VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, KENT,\*KENYA, SUFFOLK,\*TRINIDAD. Eleven Destroyers.  
Area Scapa. DUKE OF YORK (working up) SHEFFIELD.  
Area Clyde. MALAYA, EAGLE, FORMIDABLE, HERMIONE, NEWCASTLE. Four destroyers. On passage to Clyde. RODNEY. Two destroyers.  
Area North Russia. NIGERIA. Two destroyers escorting to Iceland (C). Area Gibraltar. ARGUS.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1107A/14) \* See next page.

/Iceland ...



War Diary.14. 2. 1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.Iceland -  
Faroes  
Patrol.KENYA is to proceed as necessary to R/V with  
R.A.(M) for operation S.N.84 and when detached  
is to carry out patrol "Black".(2) TRINIDAD is to leave patrol at 0900N/15  
and proceed to Hvalfiord through 062° 30' N.  
022° W.(3) KENYA will proceed to Scapa on completion  
of patrol.

(C. in C. H.F. 1203A/14.)

Sweep of  
French Coast.M.Ls are to carry out tonight operation  
ordered in my 1412A/9.(C. in C. Plymouth 1302A/14 to N.O.I.C.  
Dartmouth.)Proposed S/M  
Patrols.A. Owing to departure of the enemy main units  
from Brest it is my intention to discontinue  
submarine patrols in the Bay of Biscay for the  
time being in order to permit a maximum andunrestricted effort by mining and aircraft to be made against  
U-boats. Submarines hitherto based at Portsmouth therefore  
become available for other patrols.B. With the number of submarines available I can then provide  
a continuous patrol of two S/Ms off Norwegian Coast and  
occasionally a third.C. Although I recognise that 2 S/Ms can scarcely effectively  
cover Fro Havet I consider that a permanent patrol close in  
must be compromised before long and can be effectively dealt  
with by the enemy.D. I therefore propose to maintain one submarine off Fro Havet.  
This submarine to patrol in existing zones E and W when PQ and  
QP convoys are passing to the northward and that during the  
intervals she should move to an outer zone say 60 miles northward  
of Fro Havet.E. With the second submarine I would like to recommence an  
offensive patrol in the hitherto profitable zones K2 and K3  
before the nights get too short. Such a patrol might also  
provide intelligence of enemy main units passing Germany and  
Norwegian West Coast.F. If a third S/M becomes available I suggest she should make  
a second S/M off Fro Havet and in any event whenever there were  
indications that TIRPITZ contemplated moving I would arrange  
for a maximum effort in the Fro Havet area.

G. The A/S Training S/M at Scapa will be provided.

H. Request your views on the above.

(F.O.S. 1308A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

My 1308A/14. If you wish to maintain two S/Ms off Fro Havet  
it will be necessary to sail MINERVE from Lerwick a.m./17th.  
If on the other hand you agree with my proposals I would sail  
TRIDENT from Lerwick on 19th for zones K2 and K3, MINERVE  
sailing on 18th to relieve TUNA.

(F.O.S. 1309A/14 to C, in C. H.F.)

/A.S.R. ...

War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

A.S.R. My 1234A/30/1. In view of increased number of  
Patrol. M.Ls available A.S.R. patrol is now to be  
carried out nightly instead of on alternate  
nights subject to weather and cancellation as before. H.Q.B.C.  
is requested to inform C. in C. Nore on all days on which patrol  
is not required.  
(C. in C. Nore 1502A/14 to F.O. Humber.)

Channel 3 A/S Trawlers patrolling Q Z S 271 to Beachy  
Patrol. Head and turning to westward 0100/15.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1547A/14.)

Denmark Estimated situation at 2200/14. SUFFOLK on  
Strait patrol "White".  
Patrol. (A.C.I.C. 1703A/14.)

Patrol "M" Remain on patrol "M" for the present.  
(C. in C. Nore 1916A/14 to PYTCHLEY.)  
Your 2050A. Patrol between 54 F Buoy and  
position Z. See N O M 11.  
(C. in C. Nore. 2130/14 to PYTCHLEY.)

British Air Activity.

Escort for 7 troop ships, 3 store ships, 3 destroyers from  
Convoy 1030A/15 until R/V with "Mainstay" at 0900/16.  
W.S.16. Details.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1009A/14 to 9th Fighter  
Group, H.Q.F.C.)

One battleship, 2 aircraft carriers, 2 cruisers, 11 destroyers,  
7 troopships and 4 store ships from daylight 16th to limit of  
endurance. Details.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1026A/14 to 13 Group, 82 Group.)

Bombing Request as follows.  
Restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1010/14 and 1241/14 to H.Q.C.C.)

A/C for <sup>K.T.R. W.D.</sup> My 1915A/5. Date of embarkation postponed  
ILLUSTRIOUS. 2/3. Defer movements of air party 810 and  
829 squadron until 23/2. Ground party to  
embark as previously arranged.  
(F.O. N.A.S. 1039A/14 to R.N.A.S. Lee on Solent)

R/C of P.R. Trondheim Area is to be despatched from  
Trondheim. Wick at 1130 hours.  
(H.Q.C.C. 1125/14 to Wick.)

North Sea Cancel my 1833A/25/1.  
Fleet R/C (A.C.N.S. H. 1351A/14 to A.O. C. in C. C.C.)  
priority.

/LIEUT ...

War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - contd.

LIEUT R.MORY      Your 0951/13.      Sailed.      Tug CHERBOURGEOISE III.  
(Bombed      (R.N.O. Penzance 1410/14 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)  
10/2.)

On day 12/2 during operations.      Bomber Command  
claims against enemy aircraft reports.      Now  
show that 4 E/A were probably destroyed by our  
A/C as follows 1 ME.110, 2 ME.109s and 2 HE 113(?)  
On day 13/2 there were no operations.  
On night 13/14 eleven A/C bombed Havre.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1520/14.)

Operations  
cancelled.Operations "Fuller" and "Maifa" are cancelled.  
(Air Ministry 1725/14)Escort for  
Operation  
S.N.84.Your 1834/13.      Air A/S escort arranged as  
follows 15th single Hudson, 16th one Catalina,  
17th one Catalina.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 2151/14 to R.A.M.)Enemy Air Activity.Convoy  
Q.P.7.Indications that Q.P.7 sighted and reported by  
enemy aircraft from Tromso at 1320C/14.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1431A/14 to Admty.,  
Capt. D.8.)Mining.Sweep of  
Q Z S 259  
and 53.My 1831A/13.      Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0545A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Have commenced sweeping from position B.  
Request Channel be kept clear.  
(S.O. 13th M/S F. 0835A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

→ S.N.84.

Your 1834/13.      VANOC is not available.      Only  
one destroyer was asked for.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1009A/14 to R.A.M.)  
My 1834/13.      Item H1.      For VANOC read  
VANQUISHER.  
(R.A.M. 1032/14.)  
KENYA is to proceed as necessary to R/V with  
R.A.M. for Operation S.N.84.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1203A/14.)1530A sailed VANQUISHER in accordance with my 1651A/13.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1727A/14.)Expect to pass Reykjanes 0330A/15, thence direct to R/V with  
R.A.M.      S. of A. 15½ knots.  
(KENYA 1745A/14.)

**MOST SECRET**~~SECRET~~ 1946/14 Feb. IN

From 30 Mission, Moscow.

Date 15/2/42  
Recd. 2010

MSCOFF X BY T/P.

Addressed Air Ministry. Repeated Admiralty.

AIR 3039. For V.C.A.S. from Collier.

- (1) Ref. Admiral Miles signal to Admiralty only 1331C/14. Russian Naval Staff today raised question of provision by us of long range fighters for protection of our convoys off Kola Peninsula and in White Sea. Russian request is part of larger request for naval assistance which is being made to Admiral Miles. Russian emphasise that request should not be regarded as official approach by Soviet Government but as preparatory exploration of possible assistance by us.
- (2) Russians ask for thirty long range fighters of Mosquito or Beaufighter type but preferably Mosquitos to provide daylight protection for our convoys against German air attacks. Russians cannot release long range fighters for this purpose. They would accept a unit manned by R.A.F. personnel or alternatively would man the aircraft themselves after short training by British instructors.
- (3) Aerodromes available are Vaengo, Iokango and Panoi. Panoi is the same size as Vaengo Iokango is smaller and would require enlarging. Russians have promised full details regarding aerodromes.
- (4) No. D/F stations or beacons available in neighbourhood Russians state they would provide these if required. Doubt if wise to rely on Russian services.
- (5) Russians state that fighter aircraft now available for convoy protection are Hurricanes from Vaengo and I.15(3)'S at Panoi. Numbers not stated. They promise that Russian units would remain at their present stations whether or not we supply long range fighters.
- (6) Information at my disposal here makes it difficult to comment on need for long range fighter protection of Northern convoys as compared with requirements elsewhere of British convoys. It seems probable that Germans will increase their air effort against convoys when days increase and night disappears. If you decide to accede to Russian request I would advise that British flying and maintenance crews should be provided to man aircraft. This would ensure maximum life of aircraft and close liaison with British convoys. Liaison between Russian pilots and British escorts might prove difficult.

7. I doubt whether Russians will be persuaded to reinforce this area with their own fighter aircraft to a scale exceeding the present strength in this area.

8. An alternative arrangement would be for us to offer Russians fifty sets of long range Hurricane equipment.

9. Please instruct me what answer I should give to Russian unofficial request.

1946/14

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

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War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.

Operation Q.L.7 Z. Prepare to carry out operation Q.L.(7) Z 1st night that weather permits. Details.  
(C. in C. Nore 1500A/14 to BEEHIVE.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/13 to 0900/14. Track E.4 D. Four vessels from Boulogne at 1850 eastbound at 11 knots to three miles north west of Gravelines at 2135. Possibly M Class minesweepers or trawlers.  
(V.A. Dover 1147A/14.)

Fro Havet. Intelligence (lights etc.) STURGEON during patrol in Fro Havet 2/2 to 10/2.  
(F.O.S. 1521A/14 to Admty.)  
O.I.C. Comment. It is most improbable that this vessel is an aircraft carrier. It may be a whale factory ship.

TIRPITZ. A.M.1625A/9. P.R.U. Trondheim at 1201/14 shows TIRPITZ still in Aasfiord. A/T baffle in position.  
(D.D.I.C. 1709A/14.)

Rodven Fiord. Further examination of Sortie N/401 shows on a single (?distant) oblique photograph a large vessel resembling an aircraft carrier in Rodven Fiord in approx. 62° 37' N. 7° 32' E.  
(P.R.U. Wick 2330/14.)

U-Boats.

ANNA KNUDSEN (torpedoed 9/2.) Abeam Mull of Kintyre. E.T.A. Rothesay 1000/14. ANNA KNUDSEN has flooded engine room but in no immediate danger. Approx. draught 30 ft.  
(TENACITY 0030A/14.)

Arrived ANNA KNUDSEN in tow of FREEBOOTER and TENACITY escorted by THIRLEMERE and PAYNTER.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1538A/14.)

Off N.W. Ireland. Enemy S/M in 55° 8' N. 13° 56' W. Enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted, course 150° speed 8 knots.  
(A/C Duty D. 1040/14 to 15 Group)  
NNN Oil after attack. Continuing patrol.  
(A/C 260 Sqdn. 1242/14 to 15 Group.)

Off Brest. By D/F homeward bound U-boat in 047° 30' N. 007° 30' W. at 1145A/14.  
(F.O.S. 1244A/14 to H.34.)

Inward bound U-boat in approx. 048° N. 008° W. at 1300/14th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1944A/14 to WELSHMAN, MANXMAN.)

War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

Off Brest contd. My 1944. Further D/F at 1956, 048° N. 7° 30' to 8° 30' W. (C. in C. Plymouth 2042A/14 to WELSHMAN, MANXMAN.)

Off Shetlands. Indication by D/F 2 U-boats in vicinity of 060° 40' N. 002° W. noon today, steering westwards. One Hudson searching until 0300/15. (A.C.O.S. 1942A/14 to NIGER.)

Navigational.

Tees and Hartlepool. My 1832/13. Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0941/14.)

No.54 B. Buoy. Number 54 B. Buoy missing. (LEWES 1740A/14) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2110A/14 to C. in C. Nore) (C. in C. Nore 2331A/14 to Admty.)

A.S.R.5. A.S.R. number five is out of station and at 2200 was 055° number 54 G. Buoy 2 miles. (PYTCHLEY 2215A/14.) If A.S.R. number five can be located at daylight tow it to Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore. 2521A/14 to PYTCHLEY.)

Technical.

W/T for Archangel. Owing to anticipated increase in traffic in coming spring and summer it is desirable to expedite Marconi S.W.8B transmitter erection before end of April. Request early despatch. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1917A/14 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

WORCESTER (damaged 12/2.) Following received from Salvage Officer, Harwich. Major underwater damage to WORCESTER has, by listing ship, been brought out of water. Patching is continuing and this major damage will be patched by p.m. tomorrow. No.1 boiler room which was flooded has now been pumped out. All shot holes are being welded over and force and salvage party will be in attendance throughout night. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0920A/14.)

? Tow is to be taken to Scrabster where you will be relieved by CAROLINE MOLLER. On relief proceed to Scapa. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1147/14 to RESTIVE.)

A.M.1204A/13 and my 1147A/14. CAROLINE MOLLER is being ordered to Scapa. Request you sail her to take over tow when RESTIVE's E.T.A. is known and arrange fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1153A/14 to A.C.O.S.)

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War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

- EMPIRE  
PILGRIM.  
(Grounded  
27/1) My 1724/13. Intend sailing ABEILLE 4 0900/15 attempt salve EMPIRE PILGRIM. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1445/14.)
- CHARLESTOWN. My 1727A/11. CHARLESTOWN delayed owing to defective H.P. Air compressor. Anticipated date of sailing 20/2. (F.O. Humber 1547A/14 to R.A.M.)
- CLARE. Intend to detach CLARE on arrival position K to proceed direct to Londonderry to effect repairs. (ENCHANTRESS 1815Z/14.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- Whalers for P.Q.12. Sailed SHUSA, \*SOL, SVEGA, SIL<sup>J</sup>A, STEFA, SHERA, in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1510A/13 for 270° Cape Wrath 8 miles. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0136A/14 to A.C.O.S.)  
\*Not identified.
- D.S.23.  
BANFORA. My 0339/11. BANFORA should be made available immediately after completion of exercise "Charcoal" to enable increase of accommodation to be carried out prior to use in D.S.23. (D.S.T. 0428A/14.)
- A.T.12. Composition and particulars. (D.S.T. 0429A/14) See Lion Copy.
- Q.P.7. To avoid U-Boat alter course forthwith to 360° until reaching latitude 73° 30' N., then direct to R. (D.T.D. 0940A/14 to FAULKNOR, etc.)
- Your 1455A/12. It is estimated that Q.P.7 will arrive Seydisfiord a.m./20th. Request NIGER may be instructed to detach BLACKFLY, CAPE ARGONA, and CAPE MARIATO to that port, instead of Stornoway, to act as escort to Q.P.7. (C. in C. W.A. 1404A/14 to R.A.D. H.F.)\*  
Retain local escort until reaching 016° E. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1441A/14 to Capt. D.8.)  
My 1455A/12 and C. in C. W.A. 1404A/14. When released BLACKFLY, CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO have been instructed to proceed to Seidisfiord to act as escort to Q.P.7. ~~See~~ 17 465.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 2215A/14 to NIGER.)
- \*Indications that Q.P.7 sighted and reported by enemy A/C from Tromso at 1320C/14. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1431A/14 to Admty. Capt D.8.)

/W.S.16 ...



463A 3

MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE

OUT

0429 14 February

Addressed D.S.T.O. Belfast  
Repeated P.S.T.O. West of Scotland. Date 14.2.42.  
D.S.T.O. Greenock.  
D.S.T.O. Liverpool.

NAVAL CYPHER (A.C.O).

From Director of Sea Transport.

Convoy A.T. 12. is due Belfast about 2.3. comprising following vessels.

<u>SHIP.</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER TROOPS.</u>	<u>LENGTH OVERALL.</u>	<u>BEAM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM DRAFT</u>	<u>DRAFT ON ARRIVAL</u>
U.S.S. NEVILLE	1080	507.6.	56.2	24.00.	22.00.
U.S.S. FULLER	1120	507.6.	56.2	24.00.	22.00.
U.S.S. HEYWOOD <i>- Regt</i>	1070	507.6.	56.2	24.00	22.00.
U.S.S. BARNETT	1380	486.5.	63.9	25.04	24.01.
U.S.S. ELLIOTT	1080	507.6.	56.2	24.00	22.00
U.S.S. AMERICAN LECTION	1650	535.2	72.0.	30.06	28.02
S.S. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL	3000	582.0	75.2	27.06 $\frac{3}{4}$	25.06
U.S.S. BETELGURSE	-	459.0	63.0	25.10 $\frac{3}{4}$	25.00
U.S.S. ALHENA	-	479.8	66.5 $\frac{1}{2}$	27.01	26.05
U.S.S. ALMAACK	-	473.0	66.0	27.09	27.01

2. It is expected that draught of these vessels on sailing may be less than maximum consequently draught on arrival may be less than those shown in column 6.

3. Last three named vessels are M.T. and Cargo ships Each of troop transports will have Military cargo etc. on board. Details will be communicated as soon as possible.

4. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL after disembarkation of U.S. personnel and discharge of U.S. cargo will proceed to Liverpool to disembark approximately 100 R.N. personnel for U.K.

5. Some of U.S. troop transports will probably proceed to Clyde after disembarkation and discharge of cargo for use in C.T.12 But further instructions will be sent.

6. D.S.T.O. Belfast should report as soon as possible what assistance is required in regard to Tenders etc.

0429A/14.

Director of Sea Transport.  
M.W.T. Extn.2187

1st S.L.	N.A.2nd S.L.	D.of P.(2).	Hd. of N.
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D.(H).	D.of S.T.	D.C.(2).
A.C.N.S.(H).	D.D.O.D.(H).	D.T.D.(2)	Ad. Bailey.
A.C.N.S.(F).(2).	E.P.S.	D.T.D.(M).	
A.C.N.S.(T).	D.P.S.	I.P.(2).	
N.A.1st S.L.	Hd. of M.(2).	W.D.	
N.A.(F)2nd S.L.	D.D.I.C.(2).	D.N.I.(4).	

War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

W.S.16. Intend sailing Liverpool section W.S.16 comprising 10 ships escorted by WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON at 1030A/15 speed 10 knots, to R/V with Clyde section in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900A/16. Code word "Mainstay one".  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1003A/14.)  
My 1939A/8. Delete LAUDERDALE.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1048A/14.)  
Admiralty's 2331A/5, 2357A/9, 1916A/10, 2221A/12, 2016A/13.  
1. Anti-Submarine escort: (A) Liverpool portion. WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON. (B) Clyde portion. Capt(D) 19 in LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, PANTHER, DUNCAN, FIREDRAKE. (C) To join from Londonderry in 270° Oversay Light 6 miles at 0900A/16. ACTIVE, ANTHONY, BLANKNEY, CROOME.  
2. S.O. A/S escort. Captain (D) 19.  
3. When escort from Londonderry joins, WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON are to fuel at Londonderry and rejoin.  
4. (A) WALKER S.O., VERITY, WITHERINGTON are to proceed direct to Halifax at best speed after fuelling at Ponta Delgada.  
(B) FIREDRAKE return to Clyde at prudent limit of endurance.  
(C) Remaining destroyers are to act in accordance with previous orders.  
5. PIORUN is to remain at short notice in Clyde as stand by escort till convoy sails.  
6. ACTIVE, ANTHONY, BLANKNEY, CROOME are to proceed to Londonderry to fuel after convoy conference.  
7. Request ships may be sailed accordingly.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1124A/14.)  
NEWCASTLE is required as an emergency measure to embark up to 60 tons of spare parts for tanks packed as for air passage.  
(D.O.D. F. 2055A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
In order to embark important stores sailing of NEWCASTLE is to be delayed till stores are on board but not later than a.m./18. She is then to be sailed South of Ireland so as to join her convoy on 20/2.  
(D.O.D. (F.) 2058A/14.)

Trawlers for Q.P. and P.Q. convoys. Propose that the 51st Russian and 52nd group of trawlers from my command Convoys. allocated for P.Q. and Q.P. convoys be transferred to you and administered by R.A.D. Home Fleet.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1044A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)  
C. in C. W.A. 1044A/14. Request your remarks.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1959A/14 to R.A.D. H.F.)

P.Q.11 P.Q.11 sailed except EMPIRE STARLIGHT and HARPALION damaged in collision, and BATEAU D.G. defects. BATEAU sailed without orders, but escort has been requested to turn her back.  
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1120/14 to R.A.D.)  
C. in C. H.F. 1940/13. R/V with P.Q.11 in position (B) at 0930A/17.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1140A/14 to OXLIP.)  
Russian C.N.S. has approved of 2 Russian destroyers acting as additional escort for P.Q.11 and subsequent convoys when within about 2 days of M.Z. 2. Request you will arrange:

/(a) ...

War Diary.14.2.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.P.Q.11  
contd.

- (a) R/V in collaboration with Admiral Golooke.
- (b) Liaison officer, naval signalman and one telegraphist for each destroyer.
- (c) Supply of copy of Mersigs or suitable extracts.
- (d) Supply of copies fleet code or other suitable code for communicating by W/T with British escort. (Ad. Miles 1211C/14 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Sailed P.Q.11 (13 ships) routed in accordance with A.M.1725A/10 and escorted by NIGER, (S.O) HUSSAR, SWEETBRIAR, BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO, CAPE ARGONA. A/A escorts MIDDLETON, AIREDALE. E.T.A. position B 0930/17.

(ii) OXLIP joins convoy in position B when MIDDLETON, AIREDALE proceed to Scapa and BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO, CAPE ARGONA to Stornoway. *See p. 463. (last 3 orders to S. Disford)*  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1505A/14.)

Protection  
of North  
Russian  
Convoys.

For C.N.S. Admiralty 0039A/10. Russia C.N.S. has given me (? definite) assurance that destroyers will be provided as suggested in paras. B and C. as from approx. longitude North Cape. Orders already given for P.Q.11.

2. He has also undertaken to provide as much air protection as possible but fighters can only operate to a distance of about 60 miles to seaward of their bases Vaenga Iokanga and Ponoï. There will undoubtedly be a request shortly for some long range fighters. Air Vice Marshal Collier sending signal on this point to Air Ministry.

3. Admiral Spikov fully understands your difficulties and accepted your proposals without any demur.  
(Ad. Miles 1331C/14 to Admty.)

O.N.  
O.N.S.  
H.X. and  
S.C.  
Convoys.  
"Chop"  
"Times".

Commencing with O.N.S 68, S.C.70 and H.X.176 operational control of escorts with N.A. convoys will pass from C. in C. W.A. to U.S. Naval Authorities and Vice-versa at a prearranged time which will be known as "Chop" and will be signalled.

(C. in C. W.A. 1809A/14.)  
"Chop" propose -

1. Signals by one authority ordering diversion of convoys to avoid U/Bs or raiders are to take precedence over route diversions from the other authority unless -  
(A) The T.O.O. of the subsequent signal is more than 6 hours after the T.O.O. of the first signal or (B) The subsequent signal definitely cancels the first signal.

2. In cases of distress messages C. in C. W.A. should have authority to order any necessary action if ships position is on or east of 26° W. and C.T.F.4 if ships position is west of 26° W. As a guiding principle escort vessels which are approaching the position should be detailed and no escort vessel should be despatched if more than 200 miles from ships position unless approved by the authority in whose area she is at the time of the distress message. Request your remarks.

(C. in C. W.A. 1812A/14 to C.T.F. 4.)

14.2.1942  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - contd.

O.N.68  
O.N.69

Recommend "Chop" dates O.N.68 and O.N.69  
on 25/2.  
(D.T.D. 1924A/14 to Opnav.)

Stores for  
M/S at  
Murmansk.

Strongly concur para 3, S.B.N.O. North Russia  
1421A/13.  
(Ad. Miles 1941C/14 to Admty.)

U.S. ships VERMONT and FLUOR SPAR having  
discharged at Belfast are sailing 15/2 for Tail  
of Bank. These ships are to proceed to U.S.A.  
in ballast. Request you make all necessary  
arrangements for ballasting these ships in  
Clyde and sail them for New York in earliest  
appropriate convoy.  
(D.S.T. 2340A/14.)

War Diary.

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Movements summary.	At 1800 G.M.T./14.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
		DELHI	42° N. 35° W.	073	15
		CAVINA	36° N. 44½° W.	077	13
		REGENT	Approaching Philadelphia from South Eastward.		
		DESPATCH	15½° N. 63° W.	167	15
		SURCOUF	23° N. 72° W.	215	10
		CILICIA	6° S. 23° W.	187	12½
		ASTURIAS	22½° S. 37½° W.	083	12
		BULOLO			
		ADELAIDE	38° S. 120° E.	290	9
		M.S. 4.			
		WARSPITE	32½° S. 172½° W.	260	14
		S.S. QUEEN	10° S. 142° W.	100	21
		ELIZABETH			
		AQUITANIA	29° S. 170° W.	080	20
		Convoy A.3.	44½° N. 33° W.	027	14½
		ALCANTARA			
		DOMINION			
		MONARCH			
		MONTGOMERY			
		GARLAND			
		(D.O.D.(F), 1200Z/14 to Opanv.)			

Instructions for Atlantic Convoys. Undermentioned instructions are to be given to Escorts and Commodores of Atlantic Ocean Convoys:-  
(1) When wind and sea conditions are such that the Commodore finds the convoy cannot make good the route ordered he is to request the S.O. of the Escort to pass to the Operational

Authority concerned the course and speed which he recommends the convoy should make good.

(2) The Operational Authority will signal concurrence or otherwise of the proposed route having regard to the U-Boat situation and positions of other convoys. The Operational Authorities concerned will keep each other informed of the action taken.

(3) The report in para. 1 is to be made by the S.O. of the Escort on the appropriate H.F. wave. The transmitting ship need not leave the convoy to make this report.

(D.T.D., 1217A/14.)

Instructions for merchant vessels. Following instructions should be observed with regard to merchant vessels both independent and in convoy.

1. Merchant Vessels should be instructed that on arrival in harbour they should immediately report to the N.C.S.O. any case of their being unable to decode a message. The reasons should be investigated at time of report.

2. N.C.S.Os. when issuing recoding tables should ensure so far as is possible that the operators know how to use them.

3. Cases indicating further investigation or of special interest should be reported in writing to the Admiralty (Trade Division).

4. N.C.S.Is. will be amended in due course.

(D.T.D., 1345A/14.)

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

Circling torpedoes. Both Germany and Italy are known to have small circling torpedoes for use against ships in harbour or in convoy.

2. Particulars may differ slightly, but following are main features of both:-

(a) Weight 770 pounds. Can be carried by all types of bomber.

(b) Dropped by parachute from any height above 650 feet. Rate of fall is 130 feet per second.

(c) Torpedo runs on a circling or an opening spiral course for about 40 minutes, starting at 13 knots, and probably reducing speed.

(d) Depth gear is absent, and surface running is expected.

(e) Warhead charge is 260 pounds. Impact pistols are fitted, also a self-scuttling pistol to sink torpedo at end of run.

3. Some suggested counter measures are:-

(a) Objects observed descending by parachute to be engaged with close range weapons.

(b) Marksmen with rifles and Lewis guns stationed as high as possible should open fire when torpedo comes within range at which bullet will not ricochet.

(c) Lighters and small craft alongside more valuable units.

4. Further information will be promulgated.  
(A.C.N.S.(W), 2353A/14 to "A" Mge. Home and Abroad.)

North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passings 13/2. Eastward FOU DROYANT, KEROMAN AUGUSTE DENISE, PES CAGEL all full.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 0905A/14.)  
Escorted by ESTAFETTE. Passings on 14/2.  
(D.O.R., 15/2.)

ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ULSTER MONARCH, BATORY. Ref. Admty. 2020A/13th. Anticipate one destroyer will be available.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1142A/14 to Admty.)  
See South Atlantic.

ARCOLA, TAIGETE. My 1130/13th vessels mentioned have now painted hull black with Italian Flag amidships.  
(Tenerife, 1200/14 to Admty.)  
Consul Tenerife reports 1130/13 Italian vessels. ARCOLA and TAIGETE making preparations to leave shortly. Have you received this direct?  
(D.N.I., 1915A/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Situation Report No. 2. Situation 2001A/14th. DELHI 043° 00', 030° 00' 068°, 18.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1356A/14.) *See previous page*

War Diary.14.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

GONCALVES Your 1911/13. C. in C. E.I. has been informed  
ZARCO. that GONCALVES ZARCO will call at Colombo 18th  
for fuel and has been requested to accord usual  
facilities.

(Admty., 1443A/14 to B.N.A. Lisbon.)

My 1911/13 if visit to Colombo approved GONCALVES ZARCO will  
proceed there leaving parallel 003° S. on 16th. Requires  
about 170 tons oil fuel.

(B.N.A. Lisbon, 1808/14 to Admty.)

Las Minister of Marine, speaking of recent Note  
Palmas. Verbale requesting additional precautions in  
connection with Axis vessels at Las Palmas,  
stated he had advised M.F.A. Spain had no  
right to prevent merchant ships which had taken refuge in  
Spanish Ports from leaving when they wished. Obligation was  
confined to ensuring that they did not prepare to act as  
auxiliary warship or make alterations in addition to fit them  
as supply ships. This he was prepared to prevent and in  
present position vessel vigilance was constant and adequate.  
No preparation of this nature indicated had taken place or  
would be permitted. He added Spain was also under obligation  
to prevent use of any port including Las Palmas as base for  
belligerents and swore nothing of that nature had been  
attempted there. Report made to H.M. Ambassador.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1910/14 to Admty., S.O.I. Gib.)

ELSA My 1859/31 (1900/31 intended.)  
ESSBERGER Minister of Marine states after arguing with  
(German) M.F.A. it has been decided definitely that  
ELSA ESSBERGER:-

(1) (? Cannot) land cargo for transmission  
(? overland).

(2) Tranship cargo to any vessel other than German.

(3) Effect repairs in Naval Dockyard.

She can:-

(1) Tranship cargo to another German ship.

(2) Leave with it when she likes.

(3) Remain with cargo on board.

(4) Sell cargo to Spain.

I disputed point permitting transshipment to another German  
ship but he said that could not be altered, though personally  
he thought it doubtful interpretation. Vessel was removing  
camouflage and effecting repairs herself. There had been no  
attempt to tranship cargo, and no German vessel suitable was  
present nor had any request been made for leave to land cargo.  
Request for dockyard assistance had been refused. (? Originally)  
dock was prepared as she was stated to be making water  
dangerously but this proved untrue. Orders had been given  
(? at once) to carry out the decisions as stated above.  
Report made to Ambassador.

(Madrid, 1914/14 to Admty. Amended 2012/15.)

War Diary.14.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.BESSEL  
(German)Report received C.3 that BESSEL likely to sail.  
(R.O. Vigo, 2001/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R)  
Admty. (for D.N.I.), B.N.A. Madrid.)South Atlantic.

ARMERIA.

My P.C. and S. of A. at 2000Z/14, 003° 15' N.  
006° 04' W. 180°, 8 knots. Altering course  
120° at 0700/15. Weather.  
(ARMERIA, 0302Z/14 to C. in C. S.A., (R)  
DERBYSHIRE.) *See also next page.*

W.S. 15.

CHESHIRE, COLOMBIA and portion of convoy W.S. 15  
departed Capetown 0800Z/14 route R.4 S. of A.  
12½ knots to R/V Outer End Durban searched  
Channel 1200Z/17 with WORCESTERSHIRE, CERES, NORMAN and Durban  
portion W.S.15.  
2. CHESHIRE subsequently proceed East London.  
3. ELIZABETH BAKKE did not sail due to defects.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0843Z/14.)  
Sailing 14th. Details. PASTEUR, ORONTES, DORSET, LACONIA.  
(S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1019Z/14.)LA MOQUEUSE  
at Duala.Recent visit of F.S. LA MOQUEUSE to Duala was  
characterised by very bad behaviour and demon-  
strations on intense anti-British feelings by  
C.O., officers and men. Consul-General, Duala,  
has requested B.N.L.O. in LA MOQUEUSE to submit report, and  
considers that, if ship is proceeding to South Africa, Naval  
Authorities in that area should be informed.  
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1445/14 to C. in C. S.A., passed Admty.)

BOREAS.

Departure 1100/14.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1501Z/14 to C. in C. S.A.)

IBIS.

Departure 1600/14 IBIS. Intend joining S.L.100.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1715Z/14 to C. in C. S.A., etc.)ANADYR.  
(French)Arrival 14/2.  
(Lagos, 1800Z/14 to M. of W.T.)*? British.*



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

## Movements

Summary  
2000/14.

## Area P.

WESTON with S.L.100 016° 10' N. 026° 50' W.,  
000°, 7½ knots.ROCHESTER with O.S.18 019° 08' N. 026° 22' W.  
176°, 8½ knots.

CANTON, CALIFORNIA 001° 15' N. 023° 35' W., 058°, 13½ knots.

CILICIA proceeding from H.34 C and D at 1800/13 to K.33.

ROCKROSE about (? 003°) 20' N. 007° West to Freetown.

p. 470 → ARMERIA, BERGAMOT 003° N. 006° (? 50') W., 134°, 10 knots.

WISHART, WIVERN, VIDETTE, ULSTER MONARCH, ROYAL ULSTERMAN  
020° 30' N. 019° W., 190°, 12½ knots.

LAERTES towing WAMI 003° 54' N. 007° 08' W., 265°, 6 knots.

BARCLOSE, BARFOAM, BARFORD 010° S. 011° 40' E. Southbound  
8 knots.

LORD GREY, ROSALIND, 005° N. 012° W. to Lagos 7½ knots.

GNAT with UNIWALECO off Freetown to the S.W.

BURDOCK, ORCHIS with NEW NORTHLAND 004° 10' N. 004° 50' W.,  
267°, 12 knots.

DERBYSHIRE with ORDUNA 004° 30' S. 001° 52' E., 313°, 12 knots.

PRETORIA CASTLE 007° 12' N., 015° 27' W. to Freetown 15 knots.

PRINSES BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA 009° 55' N. 016° 35' W. 293°, 16 knots.

BOREAS about 014° 20' N. 018° W. Northbound 13 knots.

SURPRISE 005° N. 010° 20' W., 127°, 10 knots.

## Area Q.

p. 484 U.S. Destroyer BARNEY 015° 40' S. 002° 52' E., 318°, 12½ knots.

SOUTHERN GEM 015° 32' S. 010° 40' E. Southbound 7½ knots.

LA MOQUEUSE (? 018°) 30' S. 010° E. Southbound 15 knots.

ILEX 019° S. 011° E. to Pointe Noire 13 knots.

JAY about 033° S. 017° E. to Capetown E.T.A. a.m./15th.

## Area S.

BIRMINGHAM Plate area BULOLO, ASTURIAS patrol K.32 K.33.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1831Z/14.)

## O.S. 18.

Following ships of 11 knots and over are to be detached at 1800/16 proceeding through position R R thence direct to T on route S. Longitude of position R R is to be amended 003° to Eastward: CLAN MACTAGGART, INGRIDIA, COLLEGIAN, CLAN SKENE, BENLOMOND, GLENOGLE, BENLEDI. ROCHESTER pass to Commodore.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1847Z/14 to ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, as amended 1204Z/16.)

## Dispositions.

Weekly State 14/2. Freetown.  
VINDICTIVE, PHILOCTETES, VIMY, MANCHESTER CITY, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, 5 Corvettes.  
Freetown Area. BRILLIANT, PRETORIA CASTLE.  
Cape Verde Area. WILD SWAN, BOREAS, ROCHESTER, LEITH, SCARBOROUGH, BRADFORD, (Corrupt Group), VIDETTE, WISHART, WIVERN, WESTON, WELLINGTON,

/FOLKESTONE ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Dispositions  
(Contd.)

*C. V. area contd.:*  
 FOLKESTONE, ULSTER MONARCH, SENNEN, TOTLAND,  
 GORLESTON, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, 5 Corvettes.  
 Capetown. CHESHIRE. *9-12-42 - See p. 470.*  
 Port Elizabeth. ASCANIA.  
 Simonstown. JANUS, DEMIR HISAR, BRIDGEWATER,  
 EMPIRE FULMAR, 1 Corvette.  
 Durban. WORCESTERSHIRE, NORMAN, ENGADINE,  
 MILFORD. *(L. T. sailed 13/2 - See p. 432.)*  
 Cape Area. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.  
 Home Port. WRESTLER, VELOX, QUEEN OF BERMUDA,  
 3 Corvettes.  
 U.S.A. DEVONSHIRE, CARNARVON CASTLE, ~~ALCANTARA~~.  
 Gulf Guinea. 5 Corvettes. *left Halifax 11/2. p. 369*  
 Cape to Freetown. RESOLUTION, DERBYSHIRE.  
 Cape to Pointe Noire. ILEX.  
 Pointe Noire to Cape. F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, 1  
 Corvette.  
 Freetown to U.K. VANSITTART, 2 Corvettes,  
 QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX.  
 Bermuda to Trinidad. DESPATCH.  
 Patrol H.34, C and D. CANTON, CALIFORNIA.  
 Patrol K, daylight hours K.33. BULOLO,  
 ASTURIAS.  
 Plate Area. BIRMINGHAM.  
 From H.34 to K.33. CILICIA.  
 U.K. to Freetown. 2 Corvettes.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 2119Z/14.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units attacked by A/C. P.C. & S. of 2 merchant vessels 1 destroyer 170 34° N. 12° E. 63, 350°, 10. Have attacked enemy with torpedoes, estimate unknown number of hits. (A/C. N., 0327/14 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Greeks in N.A. Depots. Your 1744B/2/2 not to D.A.S. Owing to conscription of Greeks, N.A. Depots in Eastern Med. will shortly be crippled by loss of over 200 men including Navy key ratings. Any men superior to labourers whom you can induce or compel to come to Eastern Med. will help to prevent breakdown and reduce number of Englishmen. Admty. must be asked to provide in replacement and for new depots. Galea and Pontyfort have agreed to stay on. (N.A.S.O. Eastern Med. 0932B/14 to N.A.S.O. Malta, (R) Admty. for D.A.S.)

Navigation. Q B C 387. Ref. Q B C 340, positions of buoys are unreliable. Q B C 386 was a basegram. (Alexandria, 1033B/14 to Admty.)

Instructions to S/M's. TALBOT severely bent. (As worded. Presumably originator means TALBOT damaged.) Submarines except UNA will not be recalled until reorganised. To conserve torpedo expenditure northbound ships of under 5 thousand tons encountered west of Malta are not repetition not to be attacked. (Capt. (S) 10, 1037B/14 to 10th S.F.)

UNA. Your 1819B/13 acknowledged. Proceed through 036° 20' 015° 35'. Force K and convoy may arrive Grand Harbour 0700B/16 by south east channel. (Capt. (S) 10 1039B/14 to UNA, (R) P.36, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.) UNA due (corrupt group) 0720B/16th by north east route from 036° 20' 015° 35' about 1930B/15 speed 8½ knots has been warned your movements. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1042B/14 to Force K.)

Air protection for convoy. P.M. R/C today from Malta 1 Maryland and 1 Blenheim covering area strip 34.40 N. to 36.40 N. and 15.00 E. to 21.00 E. (ii) 4 Beaufighters should be over convoy at about 1530. (iii) C. in C. Med. Fleet pass to 201 Group.) (N.O.I.C. Malta 1106B/14 to Force K, F.O.C. 15 C.S) My 1106B/14. Para.1. Eastern half not covered owing to engine trouble. (V.A. Malta 1627B/14 to S.O. Force "K", F.O.C. 15th C.S.) Repeated

Air attack on Convoy "Chitty" "Chitty" has been attacked by 2 torpedo A/C in 041° 31' N. 27° E. 36 no damage. (ANTWERP 1145/14.) Help "Chitty" 31.26 N. 27.27 E. (C.S.2. 1150/14.)

*Talbot was  
the intention, at  
least 2.*

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

P.34. P.34 leaves 034° 36' 014° 10' about 0001B/15 for 035° 00' 012° 25' then to area (k) 034° 20' 011° 10' - 000° - 40 - 70.  
(Capt. (S) 10. 1151 B/14 to P.38, SOKOL,  
(R) C. in C. Med., Captain (S) 1st S.L.)

CLAN  
CAMPBELL.

CLAN CAMPBELL is at Tobruk damaged but speed probably unaffected. 4 Hunts are to be detached to Tobruk when you consider safe to do so on 15th to escort her to Alexandria. Intention is to sail CLAN CAMPBELL after dark 15th. CARLISLE should be detached to join CLAN CAMPBELL daylight 16th. (C. in C. Med. 1204B/14 to C.S.15.)

Air  
Operations.

Day Feb. 13. Fighter Squadrons employed throughout day on offensive patrol between Gazala and Tobruk and on shipping protection off Tobruk Hurricanes intercepted formation of enemy bombers escorted by fighters over Tobruk during morning destroying 1 ME.109 probably destroying 1 ME 109 1 JU.88 1 HE.111 damaging 1 ME.109, 1 HE.111, 4 Hurricanes down 2 pilots safe no other engagements reported fighters damaged 1 JU.88 which unsuccessfully attacked Merchant Vessel near Tobruk in afternoon 2 fighters missing 1 S.79 1 unidentified enemy aircraft also sighted in vicinity of shipping but no contact made morning tactical reconnaissance reported no movements on tracks Tengeder - Charruba - Chaulan. Part 1 ends. Part 2 follows. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1211/14.) Part 2. Night Feb. 12/13. Weather 5/10ths cloud up to 10,000 feet one Liberator bombed Salamis submarine base dropping 8000 pounds bombs among buildings on west side dockyard damage obscured by cloud 15 Wellingtons bombed aerodrome and harbour. Heraklion details results not yet available one Wellington also employed on special supply dropping operation over Crete. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1257/14.) Night 12/13 Feb. Malta Wellingtons dropped over seven tons bombs on Tripoli harbour starting large fire at Spanish Fort visible for fifty miles. (C. in C. M.E. 1735/14.)

DAISY  
MOLLER.

Have you any news of DAISY MOLLER due Aden 6/2 from Durban. (D.T.D. 1245A/14 to N.C.S.O. Aden.)

RAMB 4.

Hospital Ship RAMB 4 sailed 0900/15 through 032° N. 028° E and 0 E.T.A. Tobruk 0900/16. (R.A. Alexandria 1411B/14.)

A/C  
Almeria.

Almeria reports single aircraft reconnoitred Almeria 2130/10 and Aguroundlas a.m./11 obviously looking for shipping. (Madrid 1615/14 to Admty.)

/CLAN ...

War Diary.24.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

CLAN CHATTAN. CLAN CHATTAN is sunk.  
(F.O.C. 15th C.S. 1615B/14.)

TEMPEST. Proceed forthwith through 039° 15' 017° 50' to vicinity of 039° 15' 019° 55' orders follow. Attention called to Q B B 109.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1656B/14. to TEMPEST, (R) UPRIGHT, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)  
My 1656B/14 not to THRASHER. Amend patrol (? position) to 038° 46' 020° 31. Surface and Air (? A/S) activity must be expected followed shortly by important southbound convoy making for 038° 34' 020° 32' from Eastward of Paxo Is. but unable to advise whether it will coast crawl or pass to Westward. (Capt. (S) 10 1757E/14 to TEMPEST, (R) THRASHER, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)

Convoy "Bottom" bombed. Following has been read from (Local Med. Call Sign). Enemy bombing "Bottom" my P.C. & S. 034° 57' 019° 37' 270° 4 knots.  
(Malta W/T 1710/14.)

ROWALLAN CASTLE. Unless there is a good chance of getting ROWALLAN CASTLE's engines going and of her making good 10 knots she is to be sunk.  
(C. in C. Med. 1718B/14 to S.O. Force K.)

A.104. Arrival A.104. (N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh 1805B/14 to Admty.)

Russian Ships from Black Sea. A.B.N.A. Istanbul's 1159/10 approved in view of Adm. Miles 1523/10. My 1020/12 is cancelled. The operation of bringing down these ships has been very well conducted by all concerned and shows what careful organization combined with good relations with local authorities can achieve. The excellent handling of Russian ships and Seamen like the conduct of their crews has impressed all British conducting officers.  
(C. in C. Med. 1810B/14 to A.B.N.A. Istanbul, B.N.A. Ankara, Adm. Miles, (R) Admty.)

German Barges. 2 German motor barges, MANISSA and TRABSON, said to be of about 500 tons, and 7 knots, passed Istanbul from Varna en route for Piraeus on 14/2. Cargo declared was 175 and 115 tons of lignite. (D.S.894.)

CAPO PINO. Berlin was asked on 10/2 for permission to send CAPO PINO, now lying empty at Istanbul to Samson in Black Sea to load antimony.  
(D.S.893.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Malta C.S.R. I.88 14/2. My I.85 Maori 1 Officer and 1 rating k. 2 Officers 6 ratings w. my I 87 civilian damage and casualties. Pinto Wharf electric light and water supply unserviceable. 13th. 1 alert 1440 hours 34 ME. 109's JU.88's and JU.87's. Targets Grand Harbour and submarine base. A/A fired destroying 1 JU.88 1 JU.87, ME.109 and probably destroying another JU.88 civilian damage Night 13/14. 4 alerts 1759, 2000, 2041, 2236 hours. 12 raiders bombs sea. A/A fired. 14th. 3 alerts 0742, 0852, 0950 hours 33 ME. 109's and JU.88's 2 attacks Takali. 3 Lorries destroyed 1 bus damaged aerodrome buildings serious damage. No damage aircraft. 1 Airman injured. Hurricanes up no combats. A.A. fired. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1830/14.) Night 13/14. 1 special Wellington found in bad weather 1821 hours 1 Hospital Shipp 8000 tons 060°. Passero 40 miles course 180° 8 knots. Second special Wellington found 2020 hours 2 M/V's 3000 tons 1 destroyer 315° Tripoli 12 miles course 270° 8 knots. ?202 hrs. 1 destroyer 300° Tripoli 35 miles course 315° 15 knots 0100 hours 4 Albacores attacked 1 M/V which was left stationary with black smoke from amidships listing to starboard. 2 Swordfish unable to see M/V for smoke screen did not attack. 5 Wellingtons 1C as cover for friendly convoys attacked Catania aerodrome 1835 to 2010 hours. 6 fires 6 explosions 1 very large on aerodrome all probably aircraft. Other bombs fell near harbour railway station and gasworks. 1 Wellington 1C attacked Gerbini aerodrome 1835 to 1950 hours. Results not observed. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1900/14.)

Troops for My 1624B/5th delete DELIUS and RECORDER. Amend Far East. total of all ships for second flight to read 18. D. of S.T. pass to C. in C. E.F. and Abdacom. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 2027B/14.)

UNBEATEN (1) UNBEATEN reported at 1004B/7 in 034° 45' P.31 011° 50' fired 4 torpedoes at 5000-ton north-bound merchant ship escorted by destroyer and 1 aircraft, sea calm, track probably seen, missed, counter attack with 29 depth charges lasted 20 minutes, quite accurate. E-Boat sweep encountered night 12/2 9 miles south Kerkenah number 4 buoy. (2) P.31 reported at 1458B/5 firing 3 torpedoes at 2000-ton laden eastbound merchant ship escorted by aircraft in 037° 07' 012° 03', long range, calm, torpedoes missed. Torpedo boat R/C that night. (3) Regret to report that at 0615B/12 in 033° 18' 012° 01' Lieut. M.H. Gardner, R.N. was lost overboard. Accident occurred through experienced rating making mistake on panel seriously endangering submarine which was saved by coolness and correct action on part of all others. (Capt. S.10 2330B/14 to Capt. S.1 (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.)

U-Boat. At 2030 G.M.T. German U-Boat reported in 033° 15' N. 025° E. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2338B/14 to F.O.C. 15th C.S. (R) C. in C. Med. 201 Group.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- TONJER ("Q" report, 2/2). Your 1552/10 and 2024/11 TONJER was told to report position. Reply has been received 005° 24' N., 050° 32' E., on 13th.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0244Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown  
(R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.L.O. Durban).
- ENTERPRISE. Arrival at 0130Z/14th.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0400Z/14).
- Minesweepers. Your 1646/6/11 and 2304/25/11. Request anticipated date of departure from U.K. of  
(A) BORDE (B) BUSHWOOD. (C) Trawlers of 170, 171, 173, M/S Groups.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0449Z/14 to Admty) Reply: 1105A/17
- Mombasa - Rangoon convoy. Request short title for Mombasa - Rangoon convoy.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0523Z/14 to Admty).  
Your 0523Z/14 request Mombasa - Rangoon convoy be designated K.R.  
(D.T.D., 1738A/14 to C. in C. E.I.)
- Convoy J.S.2 X. (1) Convoy J.S.2 X containing Gelding leaves Colombo p.m./14 due Rangoon 21/2.  
(2) Ocean escort CORNWALL. A/S escort VAMPIRE, HINDUSTAN, and LISMORE, joined by INDUS and RATNAGIRI off Rangoon.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0556Z/14 to Admty). *See last page*
- Iraq air Summaries. A.836, 14/2. No further summaries will be issued unless operations recommence.  
(A.H.Q. Iraq, 0720/14).
- S.S. PEIPING. (1) Swedish ship PEIPING\* was seen proceeding West by Ceylon coast watcher on 4/2 after clearing Colombo for Calcutta on 4/2.  
(2) One of H.M. Ships spoke to her off Marmagoa about 8/2, and PEIPING has (?sent) messages stating she cannot proceed to Calcutta without Owners orders.  
(3) It is possible she has surrendered to Japanese submarine known to be in Ceylon area on 4/2.  
(4) Her arrival in port or sighting at sea is to be reported (as soon as possible?).  
(C. in C. E.I., 0727Z/14 to E.I. Station, F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C.C.C.F. (R) Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.)  
\*W.D. Note. Lloyds Index gives PEIPING British register.
- B.M.13 Sailed from Bombay 13/2. Details.  
(P.S.T.O. India, 0731Z/14 to C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

ASTER,  
VERBENA.

ASTER with VERBENA in company sail<sup>to</sup> Colombo routed through position A.015° 25' 063° 12' B.004° 20' S., 069° 15' C. 001° 20' S., 074° 30' S. of A. 11 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0810Z/14)

ROBERTS.

Mombasa arrived 0840 G.M.T./14 ROBERTS.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0843Z/14).

Aircraft  
for carrier.

Request early information by signal of the number and type of aircraft borne in aircraft carrier allocated to the Eastern Fleet so that operational capacity may be assessed and maintenance facilities (?on shore) in Eastern Theatre may be considered.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0857Z/14 to Admty).  
Reply: Admty. 1732A/17.

DAISY  
MOLLER.

Overdue. DAISY MOLLER left Durban 19/1 for Brisbane.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1016Z/14).

C.B.C.

Commodore C.M.Graham, C.B. has assumed duty as Commodore Commanding Burma Coast (short title C.B.C.)

2. He will be responsible for local naval defence of Burma Coast and will command all local naval defence vessels and personnel operating in Burmese waters.
3. His office will be at Rangoon.
4. Signals should be addressed N.O.I.C. Rangoon for C.B.C. (C. in C. E.I., 1226Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Rangoon, Pass to G.O.C. Burma, Governor Burma, Group Armindia, Abdacom, C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty).

DORYSSA.

Cancel my 1254/13 DORYSSA has been allocated by A.M.1912/11 as fleet attendant oiler for Eastern Fleet. Destination will be signalled.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1231Z/14).

J.S.2 X.

Sailing telegram,\* route. Escort, CORNWALL, VAMPIRE, HINDUSTAN, LISMORE. Details of ships.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1443Z/14 1444Z/14 to Admty. C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Bombay, N.O.I.C. Rangoon). \*0950Z/14.

*See previous page  
next 5/110  
1/30 17 480*



War Diary.

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

S.S. KAMUNING. E. (1) KAMUNING attacked by S/M in 008° 35' N., 081° 44' at 0400Z/14. Torpedo missed. Ship set on fire by gunfire. (2) S/M proceeded North and submerged. Subsequently located by air search. Surface search in progress. (C. in C. E.I., 1456Z/14 to E.I. Sqdn).

KAJAK, MINSK. Have you any news of Russian KAJAK due Basra 5/2 from Capetown and Russian MINSK due Bandar Shahpur 6/2 from Karachi. (D.T.D., 1505A/14 to S.O.(I) P.G.)

Movements. Addu arrival 13 BARONIA. Colombo arrivals 14, 0200Z HERMES, VAMPIRE. 1030Z FALMOUTH, BATHURST, Colombo Departures 14, 1000Z CORNWALL, VAMPIRE, LISMORE, RAMDAS, 0920Z HINDUSTAN. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1511Z/14). *See previous page 7p.480*

Trincomalee Armament Depot. (1) Please see Governor of Ceylon's telegram No. 131 to S of S for Colonies dated 2/2 in conjunction with Defence Department, New Delhi's number VVY/374 of 26/1 which is being passed to you. (2) It is correct that Armament Depot is outside defended area for Trincomalee. Submit fact which has been known to local military authorities since project was first considered. (3) In my view, location of depot should have no effect on disposition of troops at Trincomalee since it will clearly be necessary to demolish it long before the stage is reached where a hostile landing has succeeded to the extent of being able to attack Trincomalee from landwards side. (C. in C. E.I., 1516Z/14 to Admty).

Movement Summary No. 24 14/2. (i) REVENGE left Trincomalee (?9th)/2 due Mombasa 17/2 passing south of Addu Atoll and North of Seychelles. (ii) CARTHAGE left Colombo 8/2 due Durban 18/2 escorting REINA DEL PACIFICO 5 miles 100 miles south of Madagascar. (iii) WORCESTERSHIRE (? H.M.S. NORMAN) and CERES leave (?Durban) 17/2 escorting W.S.15 due off Mombasa about 23/2. (iv) EREBUS and MARGUERITE left Kilindini 10/2 due Seychelles 15/2. (v) COLOMBO left Aden 13/2 due Mombasa 18/2 escorting HIGHLAND MONARCH. (vi) HECTOR left Aden 12/2 due Colombo 21/2 escorting A.J.2. (vii) Leith ship, river gunboat\* VERNON, late WASHINGTON, left Aden 13/2 due Colombo 17/2. (viii) Greek destroyer BASILISSA OLGA left Bombay 12/2 due Aden 15/2. (ix) CORFU at Bombay. (x)\* (?H.M.S. CALEDON) left Bombay 13/2 escorting B.M.13 due off Colombo 17/2. On relief CALEDON to Colombo. *\*Not identified.*

*X See 13/2: A.348. / (xi)...*

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movement Summary No. 24 14/2 Contd. (xi) GLASGOW, FALMOUTH and BATHURST leave Colombo 16/2 with J.S.3 to join B.M.13 due Sunda Strait 25/2. (xii) NIZAM, U.S. Cruiser BOISE and ISAAC SWEERS at Colombo. MANOORA at Trincomalee. (xiii) EMERALD and INDUS escorting convoys from Madras and Sandheads 16th and 17th Feb. respectively to Rangoon. \*(xiv) CORNWALL, VAMPIRE, HINDUSTAN and LISMORE left Colombo 14/2 escorting J.S.2 X due Rangoon 21/2. (xv) DORSETSHIRE left Colombo 10/2 escorting ORCADES and returns from position 400 miles West of Sunda Strait on 14/2 escorting S.J. one. (xvi) INDOMITABLE, NAPIER and NESTOR leave Trincomalee 15/2 due Aden 21/2 through 8 degree channel. (xvii) 814 Squadron re-embarks in HERMES. (C. in C. E.I., 1844Z/14). \* See pp. 478 & 479.

Port T. C in C. E. I 1220Z/14 see 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

China.

Tankers All empty tanker sailings ex Australia in convoy M.S.4 are to remain at Fremantle until further orders. Remaining ships in M.S.4 to proceed on their voyage to N.E.I. Request information of any ships in M.S.4 bringing fuel for delivery to N.E.I. ports with details. (our number 01167 dated 14/2). (Abdacom, 0225Z/14 to A.C.N.B.)

Intelligence No. 12. Movement southward from Anambas began night 12/13. Enemy force estimated (?carrying) one division split into five or six groups with unusually heavy escort (due possibly to presence of aircraft carrier). Composition 2 heavy cruisers 4 other cruisers 14 destroyers 23 transports or 22 and one aircraft carrier one auxiliary, 6 unidentified. Also reported nine flying boats on water at Sungelliat (Banka) dawn 13/2. Ship groups could reach Banka various times from 2000 today to 2000 14/2.

2. Probable objectives (A) Seizure of (?Banka) and Belitong to act as screen and base for (B) Seizure of aerodromes in Palembang area.
3. Possible method if flying boat report is true (A) Preliminary landing on Banka about 250 men from flying boats to establish bridgehead for (B) first flight landing on Banka and Belitong followed by (C) later flights moving direct on mainland. aerodromes by river and creek approaches.
4. Heavy cruisers most likely MOGAMI class, carrier if present is RYUJO.

(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0230/14).

*There was no naval C in C SW Pac  
presumably = Abdacom*

/Aircraft...

14. 2. 1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Aircraft tactics. Planes Navy type 97 have been observed to circle round and wobble their wings on approach. By reason their silhouette these aircraft, particularly those fitted with fix wheels can be mistaken for Hurricanes.  
(S.O. China Forces, 0519Z/14).

Information No. 20 to 1200Z/12. 1. At least 5 enemy convoys containing about 22 transports and 20 warships approaching Banka and Billiton. Blenheims were detailed to attack today but no details are yet available.  
2. Heavy air attack Palembang. No damage aerodrome. Hurricanes intercepted. 1 enemy bomber 3 fighters destroyed. Our losses one Hurricane.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 0814/14 as amended 0530/15)

Singapore. Situation. For C.O.S. From Gen. Wavell, A.W.8  
I was in Singapore during 10/2 and had accident while leaving which has partially incapacitated me for last three days. Latest report from Percival is that water mains are cut and that resistance may be brought to end by lack of water. Situation caused by fall of Singapore and attack on Southern Sumatra has been represented by C.C.O.S.7. Enemy made heavy attack on Palembang aerodrome and refinery with parachutists today, fighting proceeding, refinery and aerodrome believed still in our hands.  
2. All available bombers sent against enemy convoy approaching Sumatra this morning. Results not yet known. All available Naval forces assembled to attack convoy tonight or early tomorrow.  
3. Things look dark at moment but hope Japanese parachutists at Palembang may be destroyed and operations in para.2 get right break.  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1030/14 to J.S.M. Washington for C.C.O.S., W.O. for C.O.S.)

Burma. Situation report part A.1200 G.M.T. Southern front. Severe fighting Paan. Strength enemy advance from Paan estimated 2 battalions and heavy attack on 5 Dogras at Duyinzeik developed today.  
No further enemy advance on Thaton from South. Air. Offensive patrol yesterday attacked about 20 boats crossing river Heinze basin area near Moulmein.\*  
Northern front. Nothing to report.  
Rangoon. No enemy air activity.  
(G.O.C. Burma, 1040/14).  
\* Hits observed but result not seen.

/Dispositions...

SECRET

MESSAGE

0851Z/14th February.

IN.

From: C.C.C.F.

Date: 26.2.42.

Recd: 1256.

Naval Cypher (X) by Cable

Addressed: Admiralty, C. in C. Eastern Fleet 168,  
C. in C. East Indies, Australian  
Commonwealth Naval Board, C. in C. South  
Atlantic, C. in C. Mediterranean,  
C. in C. America and West Indies,  
New Zealand Naval Board, ABDAFLOAT C.Z.M.  
COMSWESPAC.

1. It appears necessary to take over for the Abda area the reporting of independent merchant ship documents previously done by S.O.(I) Singapore. Efforts will be made to effect this as follows but inadequate communications and staff may necessitate alterations.
2. Arrivals and departures of all Allied merchant ships will be reported to Ministry of Shipping London by N.C.S.O. Batavia.
3. Departures and routes of ships routed by N.C.S.O. Batavia will be passed to N.C.S.O. at next routeing port or destination.
4. Departures and routes of ships routed by C.Z.M. will be reported by him to Dutch N.C.S.O. at Bombay for information of N.C.S.O. concerned in India and Ceylon and at Capetown or Durban for N.C.S.O. concerned in Africa.
5. Departures and routes of ships routed by United States Naval Observer Batavia will be reported by him to U.S. N.O. at Colombo for information of N.C.S.O.'s in India or Ceylon and at Capetown for N.C.S.O.'s concerned in Africa.
6. Departures and routes of all Allied merchant ships from N.E.I. to or through Australian or New Zealand stations will continue to be reported by D.M. to Australian Commonwealth Naval Board or New Zealand Naval Board.

058 0851Z/14.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(T)  
N.A.1st S.L.  
D. of P.(3)  
O.D.(5)  
D.S.D.(2)  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(M)  
D.T.D.(C)  
M.(2)  
D. of S.T.(2)

Advance copy sent to Trade.

D.N.I.(7) & for A.E. & D.N.L.O.  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - Contd.

Dispositions. Abdafloat's 0201Z/17/1.\*  
 (a) British dispositions Abda area 0430Z/14.  
Batavia: ANKING, DANAE, YARRA, TENEDOS, SCOUT, VENDETTA, ELECTRA, MARYBOROUGH, CIRCE, MEDUSA, Motor minesweeper No. 51, WAR SIRDAR. Recently arrived from Singapore: DURBAN, STRONGHOLD, JUPITER, KEDAH, JERAM, SIN AIK LEE, 4 B.D.Vs., FRANCOL, AQUARIUS, PANGLIMA, SPRINGDALE, TOOWOOMBA, PANGKOR, SARPEDON, BULBOOT, Oosthaven: HOBART, EXETER, JUMNA. Sunda area: BURNIE, GOULBURN. Indian Ocean: DRAGON, DORSETSHIRE ENCOUNTER. Batavia to Colombo: EXPRESS, SUTLEJ, ISIS (towed by MALANCHA) ROVER (towed by CITY OF PRETORIA). Batavia to Koepang: BAN HONG LIONG. Singapore to Batavia: WODLONGONG, BENDIGO, BALLARAT, SCORPION, GIANG BEE, MATA HARI, JARAK, \*?TERAH, PANGLIMA, RAHMAN, M.M.S. ~~one~~ (in tow), 3 minelayers patrolling to Surabaya, TRUSTY operating (?in co-operation with) C.Z.M. TRUANT position unknown, HUA TONG transferred to East Indies, ?TARANTULA.

(b) DURBAN major gunnery and extensive minor hull defects, before leaving. Gunnery modifies efficiency, ready for sea 15th DANAE, 8 hours notice. Ready 17th YARRA, 8 hours notice, ready 15th STRONGHOLD 8 hours notice, ready 20th SCOUT, docking 16th to fit new A/S dome, ready 18th VENDETTA, awaiting tow to Australia for major repairs, SIN AIK LEE, badly needs docking, only 5 knots. ISIS in tow to Colombo for after action repairs. ROVER in tow to Colombo for after action repairs. (C.C.C.F., 1100Z/14 to Admty., etc.)\*N.T.in W.R. ? Not to Admty.

DURBAN. DURBAN reports following main items of damage sustained in action with enemy aircraft on 11-12th February.

(2) Temporary repairs to hull are being made by ship's staff. It is considered that the ship will be fit for passage in reasonable weather by 0800GH/15. 1631GH/14. Ends. Intend to sail DURBAN for Colombo on or about Monday 16th with convoy.

(C.C.C.F., 1127Z/14 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., Abdafloat, (R) DURBAN.)

Burma Coast. Re appt. of Commodore C.M. Graham, C.B. (C. in C. E.I., 1226Z/14.) See East Indies.

J.S. 3, J.S.4. Please inform Admiralty repeated C. in C. E.F., your intentions for ocean escort of J.S.3 and J.S.4. Owing to importance and slow speed of former, the escort in Sunda Strait area should be at least one 8 inch cruiser and 2 6 inch. (C. in C. E.F., 1331Z/14 to C.C.C.F.)

/Burma ...

War Diary.14. 2. 1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.

Burma, air report. Intell. Summary 47, 1800/13 to 1800/14. Machine-gunned 3 boats containing Japanese soldiers on river at Paan with satisfactory results. 6 Blenheims with P.40s. and 6 Hurricanes as escort attacked water front Martaban 1545 hours. Result satisfactory. Fighter escort afternoon raid reports 2 boats 80' 1 being steam vessel near Ado and Mutpun also convoy 4 boats 50' with tug or steam vessel 60-70' approaching Alwi. 4 small boats with further steamboat with 12-15 sampans off Zigon. Dawn coastal recco Amherst. All clear. (Norgroup, 1400/14.)

Nicobars & Andamans. Your 0825, 10/2. Enemy who is now using Penang and may later use Mergui and Tavoy for attacking sea communications Indian Ocean could eventually occupy Nicobars and Andamans as advanced bases. This would not necessarily cause considerable increase in scale of attack. Do not consider we are justified in dissipating forces to attempt denials of islands.

2. Suggest you arrange to obtain early information of enemy activity so that counter action may be taken.

3. Garrison Port Blair might be specially equipped and trained for operations in Andamans. Request you will consult C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. E.I. regarding co-operation of their forces with Port Blair Garrison. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific, 1630/14 to G.O.C. Burma.)

A.L.Cs. Details and numbers available.  
T.L.Cs. (A.C.N.S.(W), 2127A/14 to C. in C. S.W. Pacific.)

Singapore. Following for Col. Off. from Govr., Straits Settlements.  
G.O.C. informs me Singapore City now closely invested. There are now 1,000,000 people within radius of three miles. Water supplies very badly damaged and unlikely to last more than 24 hours. Many dead lying in the streets and burial impossible. We are faced with total deprivation of water which may result in pestilence. I have felt that it is my duty to bring this to notice of G.O.C. Ends. (Abdacom, No T.O.O./14.) Received from W.O. 1025/15.

War Diary.14.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Air search for DIALA. N.S.H.Q.'s 1919Z/13. Distance too great for R.C.A.F. equipment. Two U.S. aircraft from ~~GANDER~~ <sup>Gander</sup> will carry out search on 14/2 if weather permits. (F.O.N.F. 0031Z/14). N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1919Z/13. Another source gives position of DIALA on 6/2 as 47.28 N. 41.19 W. (D.T.D. 1435Z/14 to Opnav.)
- REGENT. My observed P.C. and S. 036° 41' 073° 06' 327° 4. (REGENT 0201P/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- U.S. Fleet Movements. 14/2. Cinclant originator (2117Z/13) Lantflt daily location sheet number 10. Iceland no change. 2. Casco Bay delete PHILADELPHIA thus immobilizing WASP due lack of heavy escort until arrival TUSCALOOSA 15th. Bermuda AUGUSTA, SAVANNAH, RANGER three destroyers. (Opnav 0530/14).
- A.T.12. Your 1355/8 and Admty. 1917/11. Is there any objection to (a) a few ladies and (b) prisoners of war under guard taking passage in returning A.T.12 ships. 2. Would appreciate early advance information of nature and quantity of cargo in vessels of A.T.12. (D.S.T. 0426A/14 to B.A.D.)
- S/M report. S/M (? placed) within 50 miles of 38 N., 73 W by D/F bearings at 0100Z/14th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0649Z/14).
- DIOMEDE. PRINCE HENRY. Departure: DIOMEDE at <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> 1900Z/13th in accordance with DIOMEDE's 1405/13. PRINCE HENRY for Antillees patrol. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0902Q/14). My 0902Q/14th. DIOMEDE will pass through positions (a) 012° 00' N. 039° 00' W. 1800Z/17. (b) 010° 00' 050° 00' W. 1600Z/19 thence to Trinidad E.T.A. 1800Z/21. (F.O.I.C. Trinidad 0912Q/14). My 1520Z/6 (N.T. in W.R.) It is now desired that PRINCE HENRY be allocated to Force of N.O.I.C. Esquimalt. Request therefore she may be sailed to Esquimalt as early as can be conveniently arranged. (C.N.S. Canada 1612Z/14 to Opnav).
- ? Your 0919/14 (N.T. in W.D.) Ship sailed 11/2 due Havana February 13th. (Capt. I/c Jamaica 0908R/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- Troop Movement. U.S. Destroyers BLAKELY, BARNEY escorting U.S. Transports EVANGELINE with K.S.L.I. and MICHAEL with Cameron Highlanders sailed 1200 local time 14/2. (Route). Present escorting orders to accompany convoy only as far position C. (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1205QR/14 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I. etc.) \*See p. 471 /Periscope....

**MOST SECRET**~~MOST SECRET~~~~MESSAGE~~0038A/14th Feb.  
OUT.

Addressed : B.A.D. Washington, 269.

Date : 1.2.42.

N.C.O.T.T.

From : Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

For Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff  
No. (W) 50.

Reference your No. 40.

- (1) Part 1. We accept agreed amendments.  
 (2) Part 2., has been referred to the Joint Planning Staff.

0038A/14

for S. to 1st.S.L.  
(401).

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (W).

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.

Ed. of M. (33).

F.S. (2).

N.I.D. 10.

D.N.I. (4).

D.C. (2).

D.D.I.C. (2).



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War Diary.14.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

- Periscope sighted. Periscope sighted by MIMOSA in 047° 30' N. 052° 30' W. at 1050Z/14th. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1230Z/14).
- RAMSEY. Admty. 2305A/12th. Request RAMSEY be sailed to Halifax as in my 1550Z/11th. C.O.A.C. Halifax issue necessary route instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1350Z/14).
- BITTERSWEET. Will leave Charleston for Halifax by direct route on 21/2. Ship is to report her route and E.T.A. Halifax to C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D., F.O.N.F., before sailing. (B.A.R.M. 1410Q/14 to BITTERSWEET).
- QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Your 1932/13. C. in C. Atlantic has been asked to provide escort. C.O.A.C. is requested to confirm that draught will be less than 28 feet with a view to towing ship through Cape Cod Canal. (B.A.D. 1411Q/14 to C.N.S. Canada).
- U.S. merchant ships overdue. My 1515/7. No certain U.S. Merchant Ship casualties reported week ending 14/2. Following ships are overdue - FRANCES SALMAN, MALAMA, \*NOR ANA, OLYMPIC, BRAZIL, \*GOLD FOAM, \*MARORE (?), SANTORE. (B.A.D. 1419Q/14). \* *not identified*
- H.X. 176. Your 1130A/13. H.X. 176 Request R/V time at Westomp. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1441Z/14 to Adty.)
- OPAWA. OPAWA due Halifax 7/2 from Cristobal not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1541Z/14).
- RANPURA. Sailed RANPURA for Baltimore. (S.O.I. Halifax 1710Z/14 to Admty. etc.)
- Liaison officers. D.O.D. (H) 1758A/14 to B.A.D.
- Vichy Intelligence. Meter. Tunis 11/2. B.2. Reported that following sailing vessels due: \*GUISEPPE, \*TROMITELLO, \*SAN STESANO, SAN GUISEPPE, \*SAN MICHELE, flying Tunisian flag, were standing off Tunis ready to sail for Libya with wine and wheat. As there are no such sailing vessels under Tunisian Registry, presumed to be Italian. Trinidad reports French M/V \*CALEDON scheduled sail Marseilles 20/2 or Martinique, source Kansership. (B.A.D., 1759Q/14 to Admty.)

\*CALEDONIEN.

\* *not identified*

/Minesweepers.....

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War Diary.14.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

- Minesweepers. Your 1937A/23 and N.S.H.Q's 1641Z/20/10/41. Intend that following R.N. Minesweepers completing on West Coast shall be manned with R.C.N. personnel in accordance with N.S.H.Q's 1656Z/19/5/41:- BAYFIELD, CANSO, CARAQUET, GUYSBOROUGH, INGONISH, LOCKEPORT. Other six R.N. Minesweepers completing or building on East Coast will be manned by R.N. personnel entirely. R.N. Officers and Ratings other than Engineer Officers, Chief E.R.A's, Chief and Stoker Petty Officers now in BAYFIELD and CANSO will be transferred to FORT YORK and PARRSBORO now fitting out at St. John N.B. (N.S.H.Q.. Ottawa 1803Z/14 to Admty.)
- M.T.B's for U.S.N. For 1st S.L.  
(i) My 2003Q/12 para. 3. Navy. Dpt. asked whether U.S. Navy could take over the 12 Canadian built M.T.B's at present at Greenwich Connecticut awaiting final armaments from U.K.  
(ii) Boats are not expected to be ready to ship for about two months. If this is agreed vessels could be taken in hand immediately to fit for U.S. Navy armament and would therefore be in service on this coast shortly.  
(iii) Understood these vessels were allocated to Middle East. Question therefore arises whether they can be spared.  
(B.A.D. 1807Q/14 to Admty.)
- SEVERN. F.O. (S) 1304A/28 and C. in C. Plymouth 1620A/14. Onward route for SEVERN from 049° 30' N. 010° 30' W. through. (A) 046° 00' 025° 00'.  
(B) 041° 30' 040° 00' C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to issue onward route from (B) to destination.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1855A/14 to Capt. S.5. (R) Admty. etc.)
- Meteorology. Proposed formation of Combined Meteorological Committee. (J.S.M. Washington, 1933Q/14 to Chiefs of Staff, London). See Lion Copy.
- LADY NELSON. Intercept De Cape Race begins:- SSSS LADY NELSON 45.59 N. 55.11 W. 2042/14 ends.  
(Valentia Radio 2108/14, C. in C. Plymouth, T.O.R. 2255/14).  
As last, adding LADY NELSON torpedoed 2042/14.  
(C. in C. Plymouth T.O.R. 2157/14).
- Atlantic escort groups. My 1432Z/13 (1422/13 intended). Recommend western local groups be designated W - 1 to W - 7. 1st two groups will be improvised. Remaining groups for 1st complete cycle will consist of 2 destroyers one corvette and one minesweeper. Commencing with H.X. 179 anticipate 2nd corvette will be added to each group. Wherever possible ships returning to Newfoundland from refitting ports will be used to augment escort as far as

/St.....

AW 1486A

M E S S A G E 19330/14th Feb.

**MOST SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

I N.

From Joint Staff Mission, Washington. ~~Date.~~ 15.2.42.

Recd. 0307.

Naval Cypher One Time Table by T/P

Addressed Chiefs of Staff, London.

J S M 43.

The United States Chiefs of Staff have recommended formation of a combined meteorological committee to plan co-ordination and co-operate in meteorological matters affecting current war operations such as

- (A) Exchange of weather information.
- (B) Uniform system of reports, elimination of duplicate summary and simplification of methods.
- (C) Preparation of requisite meteorological codes and cyphers for joint use, including uniform aircraft landing weather code.
- (D) Plans for new or additional services.
- (E) Exchange of information on methods and new development.
- (F) Authentication of weather information transmitted by radio and of requests there for
- (G) Recommendation on restrictions on, and censorship of, weather information.
- (H) Recommendation on contents, time, power, frequency and classification of radio weather broadcasts.

(2). They recommend committee should have members from U.S.S.R. China the Netherlands the British Empire and United States with C.O. - equal voting representation. British Empire representation to include representative from Australia and Canada because of importance to current operations of United States of weather conditions in those countries. This proposal will be discussed at an early combined Chief of Staff meeting. Your approval or comment is requested by A.M. Tuesday 17th.

/(3).....

(3). It will be necessary to nominate a British representative. The only British Meteorological Officer in Washington is instructor Commander S.W.C. Pack, R.N. who has been working in close liaison with United States Navy and Army Meteorological Services and weather Bureau since September 1941. He has had meteorological and operational experience at sea 1940 - 41 and was also involved in development of war meteorology organization in Canada 1939 - 40. We understand there is also a representative of the meteorology office in Canada.

19330/14

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

Secy. . .

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (W)

N.A. to 1st S.L.

D.C.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of F. (2)

D.C. (2)

D.B.I.C. (2)

E.P.S.

P.A.S. (S)

Hd. of M. (33) and for C.I.G.S. & War Office.

C.A.S. & Air Ministry & War Cabinet Offices.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10

Admiral Bellairs.

Admiral Bailey.

MIC.

War Diary.

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Atlantic escort groups - Contd. St. Johns N.F. Composition of each group will be signalled in advance of sailing date as heretofore. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2131Z/14 to Com Task Force 4).

S/M reports. Submarine reported 2045 G.M.T. 14th position 045° 59' N. 055° 11' W. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2115Z/14). D/F bearings at 1619Z, 1630Z and 1632Z place U-boat within 50 miles 037° N. 072° W. and with 100 miles 038° N. 054° W. at 1636Z. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2229Z/14).

MAYFLOWER. Charleston Navy Yard departed 1500 G.M.T./14 MAYFLOWER. E.T.A. Halifax dawn 18/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2335Z/14 to Admty.)

Ship (MEROP) torpedoed. Ship torpedoed in 44.14 N. 62.41 W. (SHERBROOKE 2345/14).

Australia and New Zealand.

Anzac Squadron. Departure Suva Anzac Squadron. (N.Z.N.B. 0110Z/14).

GONCALVES ZARCO. Your 1638A/11th fuel will be available Fremantle. (A.C.N.B. 1038Z/14 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon).

M.S.5. Sailing telegram. (A.C.N.B. 1116Z/14 to D.N.O. W. Australia (R) Admty.)

Anzac area. My 1631A/8. Amendment. (Adty. 1131A/14).

Enemy Intelligence. Serial no. 24 13/2. (i) One 4-engine flying boat dropped 5 bombs on Tulagi noon/13 no damage. (ii) Our aircraft dropped 4 bombs on Runway Gasmata 13/2. One transport (probably army) 3 destroyers and 4 fighters observed but visibility obscure.

/(iii).....

War Diary.14.2.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Enemy  
intelligence  
- Contd.

(iii) C. in C. 4th Fleet probably south of Truk. Indications that force in New Britain area now includes Aircraft Carrier HOSHO Seaplane Carrier KAMOI and probably another carrier, 6th destroyer sqn., 8th Cruiser sqn. portion of at least 2 air squadrons including fighters heavy bomber(s) flying boat(s) and float plane(s).  
 (iv) Unidentified Japanese naval unit operating in Trobriands Woodlark area 12/2.  
 (v) Indications of considerable S/M force operating from Jaluit to north and east in conjunction with air units. (A.C.N.B. 1546Z/14).

PRESIDENT  
DE VOGUE.

Have you any news of Norwegian PRESIDENT DE VOGUE due Wellington 4/2 from Balboa.  
 (D.T.D. 1751A/14 to D.N.I. Wellington).

A/C  
recognition.

D.S.D. 1822A/14 to A.C.N.B.

Oil  
supplies.

Your 1502/13 and Abdacom 0225/14.  
 1. It is assumed that oil supplies from Palembang to Australia must cease.  
 2. Scarcity of tankers forbids avoidable risk for the sake of shorter haul.  
 3. Alternative sources of Australian supply are Persian Gulf and Admiralty stock at Trincomalee.  
 4. It is assumed that empty tankers would be a liability to Abdacom. Certain empty tankers are being sailed from Fremantle to Trincomalee to load and remainder to Persian Gulf.  
 5. U.S. Authorities are arranging supply to N.E.I. of aviation and lubricating oil. Admiralty stock bunker fuel oil at Trincomalee is available to supplement supplies.  
 Request you will arrange with Abdacom and C. in C. E.I. for essential supplies using commercial tankers at or due Colombo if necessary also all tankers now in N.E.I. which are available for this purpose. Request names of tankers as nominated for Trincomalee loading. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2002A/14 to C. in C. E.F.)

Orders for  
tankers.

Abdacom 0225/14. All dirty tankers now at Fremantle should be sailed forthwith Colombo for orders. All clean tankers Bahrain for orders. My 2002/14 not to D.N.O. W.A. refers.  
 (D.T.D. 2003A/14 to D.N.O., W. Australia).

14.2.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1330A/14, 1420/14).

15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 1810 yesterday an R.D.F. plot at Dover showed one vessel, believed to be a Barrage Breaker, accompanied by 4 escorts, proceeding at from 5 to 7 knots North-Eastwards off Calais; and M.T.B's 38, 44, 220 and 221 with M.G.B's 40, 322, and 324 were despatched to intercept. Sea conditions were difficult; and, although M.T.B.44 attacked from a good position at 2110 and attempts to secure a second attack were continued until midnight, heavy enemy fire necessitated the withdrawal of our forces with no hits claimed.

CAIRO with members of the Soviet Government on board has arrived at Kola Inlet at 1041A with NIGERIA in company.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 0845 today the British coaster EMPIRE HEAD, 489 tons, was bombed and damaged off the Tees where she arrived later.

COTSWOLD reported being attacked at 0808 in 53° 24' N. 0° 58' E. No details are known.

Mining.

Operation  
S.N. 84.

RAM. in MENESTHEUS with PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, LANCASTER and SOMALI left Port ZA at 0901 for a mine-laying operation off the Faroes, supported by KENYA, SOMALI and VANQUISHER.

The ports of Tyne, Blyth, Tees, and Hartlepool were all closed tonight on account of suspected mine-laying.



War Diary.

15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Corvettes.

C. in C. W.A. is asked by Admty. to lend 2 corvettes from 37th Group to F.O.C.N.A. during the absence of AZALEA and SPIREA in U.K., and to sail PENTSTEMON and VETCH with H.G.80 for return to Western Approaches.

Motor launch No.169 was destroyed by fire and explosion at Gibraltar today. No evidence of sabotage.

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM, (South American Division), is to go to Simonstown for a month's refit and then to join E. Indies Station in place of GLASGOW, which is to refit in U.S.A. R.A.S.A.D. will transfer his flag to an A.M.C.

Independent Sailings.

Ships of 13½ knots and above may be sailed from Freetown to U.K. with an S.L. Convoy but breaking off when the local escort leaves, or independently with a local A/S escort. This is a temporary measure based on the estimated position of U-Boats.

A ship reported as TABOR made an SSSS message at 1443 in 01.46 N., 06.50 W.  
C.in C. S.A. considers the submarine was probably Vichy.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

No damage or casualties were caused in 2 raids last night, but heavy attacks all day today caused some damage, especially at Luqa.

THUNDERBOLT has returned from patrol and reports that on 1/2 she sunk a 5000 ton merchant ship in convoy off Cape Dukato; on 6/2 she torpedoed and probably sunk a 750 ton U-Boat about 50 miles S.W. of Crete, and on 3/2 she attacked an armed trawler off Vardiana Island (South of Corfu) with  
/gunfire ...

15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - contd.

gunfire and obtained 15 hits before the fire of the shore batteries compelled her to dive.

THORN, on patrol in the Adriatic sunk a 4000 ton laden\*merchant vessel on 28/1 South of Sebenik and a U-Boat of the Sirena class south of Brioni Is. on 30/1. (MEDUSA) \*NINNUCCIA - 500 p.183 -

Barcelona reports that French S.S. COETLOGON probably struck a mine today.

Wellingtons last night laid mines in the entrance to Benghazi harbour, covered by additional Wellingtons which dropped bombs on targets in the surrounding area.

Three torpedoes were fired into Mersa Matruh harbour today. Two exploded harmlessly, the third is being salvaged.

East Indies.

C. in C. E.I. reports that the A.A. Brigade, M.N.B.D.O., now in Ceylon, is without its searchlight component and in consequence is tactically unsound. He asks if the Searchlight Section can join it at an early date.

In addition to THAMES, the first 2 rescue tugs building in U.S.A. and due to complete in June and July have been allocated to E. Indies. Additional base tugs and a salvage vessel are to be sent to Colombo as soon as possible.

A submarine was unsuccessfully attacked off Trincomalee today.

S.S. JOHANN JUSTESEN was sunk in 9° 4' N. 75° 58' E. at 1010 G.M.T. today.

War Diary.

15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Capitulation Singapore. At 1850, C. in C. S.W.Pacific reported that he had been informed from Singapore that owing to losses from enemy action water, petrol, food and ammunition were practically finished, and it was impossible to continue the fight any longer. Japanese H.Q. stated that the surrender was signed at 7 p.m. local time (12.30 p.m. B.S.T) and that the "cease fire" sounded 3 hours later, at 10 p.m. local time (3.30 p.m. B.S.T.)

Attack on Sumatra. The enemy captured Palembang and its aerodrome (Palembang I) this morning from the sea by movements up river. The refinery is believed to have been destroyed before occupation. After parachutists had been dropped yesterday, the main landing took place at dawn today from motor boats and small craft. Aircraft from Palembang II (40 miles S.W. of Palembang) harassed these landings continuously and report that a cruiser and 2 transports were hit. C. in C. S.W.Pacific states there is now practically nothing to prevent the enemy over-running south Sumatra. He has been in conference with the Governor-General, Adm. Helfrich and Gen. Ter Poorten on the defence of Java without Southern Sumatra.

Alor I. (Timor). The island was attacked today by 9 enemy aircraft and considerable damage was caused to Government buildings.

Anzac Area. An Allied convoy proceeding from Darwin to Kupang was bombed today but no damage is reported.

America & West Indies.

S.S.NEVADAN made a submarine report at 1630 G.C.T. in 6.42 N., 83.45 W.

U.S.Army transport TAFT in Convoy M.S.5. was torpedoed at 2255Z/15 in 37° 00' S., 126° 00' E., and was reported to be sinking fast.

Brazilian S.S. BUARQUE is reported to have been torpedoed off Hampton Roads today; 41 men are missing.

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15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

The enemy carried out a further air reconnaissance of Port Moresby today.

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15.2.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Administration Your 1959A/14. As it appears that these craft of Trawlers. will operate between Loch Ewe and Seidisfiord and are unlikely to visit the Orkneys it is considered that in their own interests it would be more suitable if they could be administered by N.O.i/c at Loch Ewe or Stornoway until it is shown that other arrangements are desirable.

In addition boiler cleaning berthing and repairs by R.A.D. would be difficult owing to congestion in Gutter Sound and Tyne's Destroyer and Fleet commitments.  
(R.A.D., 1011A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

M.Ls. 196,  
200, 201,  
294.

My 1857/13.

It has been necessary to retain these vessels as there are only three M.Ls. available now at Portland for convoy covering patrols and air/sea rescue duties, and it is not intended to withdraw any M.Ls. from C.E.C.W. convoy escort.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1623A/15 to Admty.)

New "Hunt"  
Destroyers.

The following allocations have been decided.  
Details.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1706A/15.)  
See Lion Copy.

Movements.

RODNEY.

Clyde arrivals RODNEY, ORIBI, OFFA.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0014A/15.)

PYTCHLEY.

Return to Sheerness when you have disposed A.S.R. float.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0945A/15 to PYTCHLEY.)

Trawlers for  
St. Johns,  
N.F.

My 1826A/14. Routed to Reykjavik via Cape Wrath and then direct.  
Request you will route them to their destination.  
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 0959A/15 to A.C.I.C.)  
Sailed ST. ZENO to R/V in accordance with C. in C.

W.A. 1458A/13 and your 1754A/14.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1158A/15.)

My 1826A/14. Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 1559A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

Sail ST. LOMAN (S.O.) and NORWICH CITY to R/V ST. ZENO from Belfast, thence St. Johns Newfoundland in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1458A/13.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1658A/15.)

CAIRO.  
NIGERIA.

CAIRO and F.O. 10th C.S. in NIGERIA arrived Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1041A/15.)

/SKYRACK ...

495<sup>n</sup>

# MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1706A/15 Feb. OUT

To C. in C. Home Fleet. 56. Date 15/2/42  
C. in C. Western Approaches. 276.  
C. in C. Nore. 749.  
C. in C. Portsmouth. 589.  
C. in C. Plymouth. 437.  
C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 443.  
A.C.O.S. 486.  
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean. 755.  
C. in C. Rosyth. 800.  
A.S.C.B.S.

NAVAL CYPHER (A.C.O.)

From Admiralty.

BASEGRAM

The following allocations of new construction HUNT Class destroyers have been decided.

1. <u>Name</u>	2. <u>Allocation</u>	3. <u>Approximate date of completion</u>
LEDBURY	Orkneys & Shetlands	11th February
WILTON	Home Fleet	13th February
ALBRIGHTON	Portsmouth	22nd February
BLEASDALE	Portsmouth	March
HURSLEY	Eastern Fleet	March
BELVOIR	Eastern Fleet	30th March
COWDRAY	Western Approaches	April
BLACKMORE	Eastern Fleet	April
BEDALE	Plymouth	April
BICESTER	Western Approaches	April
CANTERICK	Eastern Fleet	April

2. BEDALE will be manned by Polish Navy.

3. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to transfer either WHEATLAND or CALPE to C. in C. Western Approaches when ALBRIGHTON joins and one older HUNT to be selected from FERNIE, BERKELEY and BLENCATHRA to C. in C. Nore when BLEASDALE joins.

4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to transfer one older HUNT to be selected from TYNEDALE, CLEVELAND, ATHERSTONE and BROCKLESBY to C. in C. Nore when BEDALE joins.

1706A/15  
for D.O.D. (H)      Approved A.C.N.S. (H).

1st Lord.	A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.D.I.C.	D.C. (2)
1st S.L.	A.C.N.S. (T)	F.N.I. (7)	Ad. Bellairs.
2nd S.L.	A.C.N.S. (W)	D.A./S.W.	E.P.S.
3rd S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	Hd. of M.	I.P. (2)
Vice Contr.	D. of P. (3)	N.A. 2 S.L.	W.D.
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	D.P.S.	N.I.D. 10
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D. (H)	Hd. of C.W.	N.A.F. 2 S.L.
Nav. Sec.	D.O.D. (F)	Hd. of N.	D.T.S.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.O.D. (F)	D.S.D.	D.M.S.
			D.T.D. (2)

War Diary.15.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- SKYRACK. Intend sailing SKYRACK a.m. 17th for Clyde.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1049A/15.)
- BREDA,  
L. 26. At 1500/16 intend to sail BREDA from Rothesay  
to arrive Plymouth 0900A/18 for escort duty  
with L.26.  
(Capt. S.7, 1141A/15 and 1747A/15.)
- READING. Your 2107A/14. <sup>N.T.M. W.D.</sup> Confirmed that READING's  
programme as in my 1004/13 <sup>N.T.M. W.D.</sup> can be postponed  
48 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1144A/15 to F.O.I.C.  
Liverpool.)
- LINCOLN. C. in C. W.A. 2130A/14.  
Anticipated sailing date approx. 21/2,  
depending on Admiralty decision vide my 1145A/13.  
(F.O.I.C. London, 1215A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- LA  
MELPOMENE. Departure LA MELPOMENE.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1234A/15.)
- COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT,  
COMMANDANT  
DROGOU. With regard to the French Chiefs of Staff remarks  
referred to in B.N.L.O.'s letter of 11/2  
addressed C. in C. W.A. only. Request you sail  
COMMANDANT DETROYAT and COMMANDANT DROGOU as  
convenient to relieve WALLFLOWER and ORCHIS  
from S.A. Station.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1621A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.14. Intend to sail O.14 from Dundee 1800A/16 for  
Blyth.  
(Capt. S.9, 1651A/15.)
- CAIRO. Intend sailing CAIRO p.m./17th for Scapa routed  
to M Z and thence as follows to Scapa.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1853A/15.)
- Trawlers for  
St. Johns,  
N.F. Sailed trawlers WELLARD and ST. CATHAN.  
E.T.A. St. Johns 23/2.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 2310/15.)

War Diary.

15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols C and D patrol SOUTHDOWN and MENDIP respectively.  
C and D. (C. in C. Nore, 0938A/15.)

S/M Patrol Following signals are cancelled, my 1016A/30/1,  
Positions. 1029A/1, and 1104A/9.  
(F.O.S., 1004A/15.)

North Disposition of Operational Units in North  
Atlantic Atlantic:-  
dispositions. Area Iceland (C) - KING GEORGE V, RENOWN,  
VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, KENT,  
KENYA, SUFFOLK, TRINIDAD.  
12 Destroyers.  
Area Scapa - DUKE OF YORK (working up),  
SHEFFIELD. 1 Destroyer.  
Area Clyde - MALAYA, RODNEY, EAGLE,  
FORMIDABLE, HERMIONE,  
NEWCASTLE. 10 Destroyers.  
Area North Russia - NIGERIA, 2 Destroyers  
escorting to Iceland.  
Area Gibraltar - ARGUS.  
(D.O.D. H., 1031Z/15 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Engagement As a result of P.R.U. report yesterday of one  
off Calais. M/V 370 feet and two smaller in Boulogne Outer  
Harbour, which it was appreciated would proceed  
eastwards, all available M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs.  
were held ready from 1800. At 1810 an R.D.F. plot confirmed  
by aircraft R/C showed one vessel accompanied by 4 escorts  
proceeding north-eastwards and M.T.Bs. 38 (S.O.), 220, 221  
and 44 with M.G.Bs. 43 (S.O.), 324 and 322 were despatched to  
intercept. Enemy vessel proceeded at no more than 5 to 7  
knots and contact was made at 2110 north-west of Calais.  
M.T.B. 44 attacked from a good position but no hits can be  
claimed. Heavy fire necessitated a withdrawal and though  
M.T.Bs. persevered in their endeavours to get in another  
attack until midnight by which time the convoy had reached  
shallow water they were unsuccessful. Fresh north-westerly  
winds made sea conditions most difficult for our coastal  
craft. The enemy vessel is considered likely to have been  
a barrage breaker illustrated in W.I.R. No.97.  
(V.A. Dover, 1143A/15 to Admty.)

East Coast Patrols tonight.  
Patrols. (1) 4 M.Ls. carrying out balloon flares trial  
2000/15 to 0100/16 between Aldeburgh Buoy and  
number 5 Buoy 5 to 8 miles eastwards of Q.Z.S.  
286, then Q.E. 8.  
(2) 2 M.G.Bs. with patrol (2), then Q.E. 9.  
(3) 2 M.G.Bs. each on Q.E.4A, 6A and Q.P.26.  
(4) 2 M.Ls. Q.E.(3).  
(C. in C. Nore, 1421A/15.)



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War Diary.15.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Channel  
Patrols.

Night 15/16.  
2 A/S trawlers patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 returning to St. Helens at dawn.  
2 M.Ls. on patrol 10 miles South of Portland.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/15.)

British Air Activity.

Reference H.Q.B.C. 1430/13. Cancel second para. "At 1130 all groups were warned" etc. and substitute the following:- "At this time groups 1-5 had 20 A/C standing by at 4 hours notice and groups had also been warned that further A/C might be required. At 1130 all groups were warned to stand by to attack in three waves. The first A/C left the ground at 1330 and the whole of the first wave was in the air by 1420".  
One day 14/2 no operations took place.  
During Night 14/15 five A/C bombed the docks at Havre.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1220/15.)

STRATHAIRD,  
WITHERINGTON.  
(W.S. 16.)

Request fighter escort for one troopship and one destroyer from 1330A/16 until junction with "Mainstay One". Speed to VD 1544 9 knots, thence 18 knots until junction with "Mainstay One". My 1009A/14 para.A amend to read 6 troopship, 3 storeships, 2 destroyers until joined by "Mainstay Two".  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1721A/15 to H.Q.F.C., 9 Group.) *See pp. 502 & 503*

"Shad"  
Messages  
by Convoy  
Escorts.

A.M. 2204A/5 is generally agreed. Request you will issue necessary instructions.  
(D.O.D. H., 1756A/15 to A.I.G.)

Fighter  
Protection  
for North  
Russian  
Convoys.

Russian requests and proposals.  
Details and remarks.  
(30 Mission, Moscow, 1946/14.) *2.460A.*  
See Lion Copy.

Enemy Air ActivityConvoy  
attacked.

1 Shad 040. 1 attempt in 53° 24' N. 0° 58' E.  
(COTSWOLD, 0808/15.)

/EMPIRE ...

War Diary.15.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

EMPIRE HEAD (British, 489 tons) damaged. EMPIRE HEAD entering Tees under own steam. Damaged by enemy action. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1550/15.) At 0845/15 EMPIRE HEAD was attacked by A/C 1 mile N.W. of 19C Buoy. Engine room damage due concussion from near miss, and afterpeak leaking. No casualties, and no damage to A/C claimed. L.L.B 3 bombs dropped, fire opened before attack with 2 twin Marlin, 2 strip Lewis. No Help message sent. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2207/15 to 13 Group.)

Mining.

S.N. 84. KENYA sailed 0015A. (A.C.I.C., 0131A/15.) Sailed R.A.(M) in MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, LANCASTER, and SOMALI. (N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 0901/15.) Sailed WELLS to R/V in accordance with your 1834A/13 para. (H) 2. (R.A.D., 1010A/15 to R.A.M.)

WELSHMAN, MANXMAN. Nothing to report. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1220 MANXMAN in company. (WELSHMAN, 0830/15.)

Operation "Tincture". Request you will repeat Operation "Tincture" by 1600/18 in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9/41. (D.M.S., 1259A/15 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Mine sunk. POST BOY's 1400A/15. <sup>N.T. m W.D</sup> Mine sunk. (HAMBLEDON, 1445A/15 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Thames Estuary. There was considerable enemy activity over the outer Thames Estuary between 1845 and 2010/14. Some 16 enemy A/C were plotted, chiefly in the Barrow Deep and Area to the North and West of it. At 1933 an explosion, probably a premature mine occurred in the East Barrow Sand, and at 1930 a mine or bomb exploded close to Herne Bay Pier. A/C were overhead on both occasions. At 1907 JEANIE DEANS engaged and apparently damaged a plane flying at about 3000 ft. over the Southern end of the Barrow Deep but an R.D.F. pilot from QUEEN EAGLE showed the plane later to be flying strongly to the Eastward. There was no positive evidence of minelaying but it is strongly suspected that it took place in the Barrow Deep, particularly at the Northern end. (S.O. T.L.D.F., 1603/15).

N.R. M.A.S.B. 23 carrying out operation N.R. E.T.D. Ramsgate 1900. E.T.R. 0300/16.  
N.L.6 B. M.L.S.102, 103 carrying out operation N.L.6 B. E.T.D. 2115. E.T.R., 0045/16. (V.A. Dover, 1754A/15).

War Diary.

15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

- 13th M/S F. Arrived 13th M/S Flotilla.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1810A/15)
- Tyne. Port of Tyne closed owing to suspected enemy mine-  
laying. Expect to re-open about 1100 tomorrow.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2145/15).
- Blyth. Port of Blyth closed, suspected minelaying.  
Expected time of opening 1100A/16.  
(N.O.I.C. Blyth, 2204A/15).
- Tees.  
Hartlepool. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to  
suspected enemy minelaying. Expected time of  
opening 1200/16.  
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 2315/15).

Enemy Intelligence.

- Straits of Dover. Enemy Shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait  
from 0900/14 to 0900/15.  
Track E.3.D. One large vessel with four Escorts  
from Boulogne at 1810 eastbound, speed variable  
5 to 7 knots to four miles N.N.W. of Gravelines at 2300. Probably  
the 370 foot M/V reported by P.R.U. in Boulogne at 1230/14,  
and of barrage breaker type.  
Track E.4.D. Two vessels from Boulogne at 1855 westbound at  
10 knots faded at 1910 three miles S.W. of Boulogne. Probably  
two small vessels also reported by P.R.U. as above. Track  
E.10.D. Four small vessels from 10 miles N.W. of Calais at  
0610 at 18 knots faded at 0635 3 miles west of Calais.  
Possibly E or R-Boats.  
(V.A. Dover, 1142A/15.)

- TIRPITZ. Photographs taken at Aasfjord at 1320/15 show  
TIRPITZ in usual position with boom unchanged.  
Camouflage slightly rearranged but still  
surrounds her bows and stern. One tug and one tender seen  
alongside B.S. and small motor boat approaching from E.  
Camouflage netting cover gun barrels of main turrets.  
(P.R.U. Wick, 1825/15.)  
Photographic R/C of Aasfjord at 1320/15 shows TIRPITZ's  
position unchanged.  
(D.D.I.C., 2159A/15.)

U-Boats.

- Convoy P.Q. 11. My 1942/14. A/C now searching till 0800/15.  
(A.C.O.S., 0204A/15 to NIGER.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.15.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - Contd.Convoy  
N.A. 3.D/F bearings at 0915/15/G.M.T. indicate U-Boat  
in vicinity of Convoy N.A. 3.  
(D.D.I.C., 1128A/15.)ANNA  
KNUDSEN  
(torpedoed  
9/2.)Following received from Liaison Officer Rothesay  
begins: ANNA KNUDSEN anchored in Rothesay Bay  
at 1630/14. Torpedoed at after end of engine  
room. Damage. No killed or injured. Ends.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1243A/15.)

I congratulate you on the safe arrival of ANNA

KNUDSEN in port.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1609A/15 to FREEBOOTER, TENACITY.)  
Please convey to the master of ANNA KNUDSEN and FREEBOOTER and  
TENACITY my warmest congratulations on the safe arrival of  
ANNA KNUDSEN.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1907A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)Navigational.

8C Buoy.

Position of 8C Buoy confirmed as  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile 028°  
from charted position.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1057A/15.)  
(C. in C. Nore, 1215A/15.)  
(Hydrographer, 1336A/15.)East  
Dudgeon  
Light Buoy.Commodore F.N.630 reports East Dudgeon Light Buoy  
extinguished 0400/13.  
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1103/15.)Rudh  
Uisenish  
Light.No. 1125 Rudh Uisenish light reported extinguished.  
(Hydrographer, 1605A/15.)

18A Buoy.

18A Buoy in 298° 4 cables chart position.  
(LEWES, 1640A/15 to C. in C. Rosyth.)Technical.KING  
GEORGE V.  
armament.Your 0026A/27. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> In KING GEORGE V the only close  
range weapon bearing ahead or astern is one  
Oerlikon in each case. As KING GEORGE V may be  
required to operate off Norway it is most urgent to improve  
this. One of the alternatives given in para. 2 is necessary.  
Particulars.I appreciate difficulties of supply but consider it vital that  
capital ships already in service should have highest priority  
to ensure maximum effectiveness during next few months.  
(C. in C. H.F., 0355A/15 to Admty.)

War Diary.

15.2.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- SILJA. My 0136/14. SILJA returning to Clyde with collision damage.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0738/15 and 1313A/15.)
- VICTORIOUS. Your 1916A/13. This is being considered and Proposed further signal will be made. refit. (1st S.L., 1234A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)
- LEDBURY. My 1837A/12. Sailing postponed due to electrical defect. Anticipated date of completion 18/2. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1243A/15.)
- EMPIRE CREEK. H.M. Drifter AURILIA was in collision with steamship EMPIRE CREEK at 1015 today in Methil Roads. No damage to AURILIA. A.S. Rosyth is requested to arrange for survey of EMPIRE CREEK. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1750/15.)
- AMBROSE PARE. My 2340A/5th. <sup>W.T. W.D.</sup> Sailing of AMBROSE PARE will be delayed owing to engine defects. (WESTERN ISLES, 2301A/15.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- S.L.100, IBIS. If U-Boat situation permits submit IBIS may be detached from S.L.100 to proceed independently to Londonderry when north of 045° N. to boiler clean and repair minor defects before rejoining 41st Escort Group. (IBIS, 0959A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N. 65. STOCKPORT. Request you will investigate reason why STOCKPORT proceeded Iceland instead of continuing with O.N. 65 as ordered. (C. in C. W.A., 1018A/15 to A.C.I.C.)
- W.S. 16. My 1003A/14, 1009A/14. "Mainstay One" delayed 24 hours by fog. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1151A/15, N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1718A/15 to 13 Group, 82 Group.)
- Codeword "Mainstay One". My 1003A/14, 1009A/14 and 1151A/15. Troopship STRATHAIRD will be 3 hours late at Bar L.V. WALKER detail one destroyer to escort her and overtake convoy. Fighter protection code-word "Mainstay Two" until junction with "Mainstay One". (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1711A/15.) *2-498*

War Diary.15.2.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- W.S. 16. (Contd.) F.O.i/c. Liverpool's 1711A/15. WITHERINGTON detailed.  
(WALKER, 2152A/15.) *in p. 498.*
- Russian Convoy signals. C. in C. W.A. now controls escort arrangements between Seidisfiord and Loch Ewe. Request he be added to addressees of relevant signals - e.g. your 1751A/12.  
(D.T.D., 1254A/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- 13th M/S.F. for Escort Duty. Owing to shortage of escorts intend if you have no objection to use Units of 13th M/S.F. in Irish Sea when not otherwise employed.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1302A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- H.X. 174. *N.T. in W.D.* My 2049Z/14 part one of my 2051Z/14 for *N.T. in W.D.*  
H.M.S. CAMPBELL read U.S.S. CAMPBELL.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1555A/15 to KEPPEL, SHIKARI, etc.)
- My P.C.S. at 2000Z/15 062° 30' N. 022° 46' W., 178°, 10 knots. SHIKARI astern.  
(KEPPEL, 2100A/15.)  
KEPPEL's 2100A/15.  
Do not risk damage from weather. Convoy may be late at M.O.M.P.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2343Z/15 to KEPPEL, SHIKARI.)
- "Chop" Signals. "Chop" propose.  
1. Signals by one authority ordering diversions of convoys to avoid U-Boats or raiders are to take precedence over route diversions from the other authority unless (A) The T.O.O. of the subsequent signal is more than 6 hours after the T.O.O. of the first signal or (B) the subsequent signal definitely cancels the first signal.  
2. In cases of distress messages C. in C. W.A. should have authority to order any necessary action if ships position is on or East of 26° W. and C.T.F.4 if ships position is West of 26° W. as a guiding principle escort vessels which are approaching the position should be detailed and no escort vessel should be despatched if more than 200 miles from ships position unless approved by the authority in whose area she is at the time of the distress message.  
Request your remarks.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1712A/14 to C.T.F.4.)  
*8*
- see p. 465-*  
Q.P. 8. Escort Q.P.8 to point of dispersal is to be OXLIP, SWEETBRIAR and two minesweepers detailed by S.O.M.F. sixth.  
(2) When convoy disperses, escort is to proceed to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2005A/15.)

War Diary.

15.2.1942  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- EXMOOR. Emergency Repair Overseer, Greenock, now reports probable date of completion of EXMOOR p.m./18. In view of your 1425/14 request F.O.I/c Greenock may be instructed to sail EXMOOR direct to Gibraltar at best speed.  
(F.O. Force H. 1018A/15 to Admty.)
- Bombing Restrictions. Ops 692, 15/2. Herewith repeat of my 1535, RASKA, Serial G.53. Institute total submarine bombing restrictions from 0700/16 until 1200/16 within 25 miles of position 180° Lizard 3 miles. (H.Q. C.C. 1539/15 to R.A.F. Gib (R) F.O.C.N.A. S.8.)
- Corvettes. F.O.C.N.A's 1148A/14 and A.M.1902A/13 not to C. in C. W.A.  
1. C. in C. W.A. is requested to lend 2 corvettes from 37th Group to F.O.C.N.A. during the absence of AZALEA and SPIREA in U.K.  
2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail PENTSTEMON and VETCH with H.G.80 for return to Western Approaches.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1617A/15 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A)
- WALKER For British Consul Ponta Delgada. WALKER, VERITY and WITHERINGTON E.T.A. 23/2 will require 200, 230 and 230 tons of fuel oil respectively. Request following provisions.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1619A/15 to N.C.S.O. P. Delgada.)
- WITHERINGTON.
- ELSA ESSBERGER My 1914/14. For "disputed first point" read "disputed point permitting transshipment to another German ship".  
(N.A. Madrid 2012/15 to Admty)  
Correction made in W.D.
- M.L.169 Regret Motor Launch No.169 destroyed by fire today. (ii) Explosion took place in engine room when started up to proceed on patrol.  
(iii) Casualties. (iv) No evidence of sabotage.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2334A/15 to Admty.)

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War Diary.15.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Independent Sailings. Your 1255Z/12. Ships of 13½ knots and above may be sailed from Freetown to U.K. in accordance with para. 2 (b) of A.T. 1650A/71 or independently with local A/S escort.

2. This must be regarded as a temporary measure based on estimated position of U-boats.  
(V.C.N.S. 1233A/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

CILICIA I am informed you will be assuming responsibility  
ASTURIAS down to 040° S. on 20/2. I have 2 A.M.Cs  
BIRMINGHAM. CILICIA and ASTURIAS in area 20° to 30° S.  
30° to 40° W. Would you like me to keep them there until the 2 British D Class Cruisers have joined your Flag?

2. R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM has arranged to visit Montevideo from 23rd to 27/2 and I should like this visit to stand if you have no objection.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1235Z/15 to Cmdr. Task Force 3 (R) R.A.S.A.D., Admty.) Reply: Affirmative (1510/16)  
R.A.S.A.D.'s 1231Z/7, 0917Z/8 and my 2335Z/14 para 8. Should like visit to stand as arranged. BIRMINGHAM also requires a period for running repairs.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1303Z/15 to Admty. (R) R.A.S.A.D.)

IBIS. IBIS's 0340Z/2. IBIS sailed from Bathurst 14/2 to join S.L.100.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1315Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

TABOL Following has been read Freetown W/T from  
U/B. Ascension Radio. SSSS 01.46 N. 06° 50' W.,  
TABOL, suspicious.  
? TABOR p. 491  
(Freetown T.O.R. 1443/15, 1559/15, 1610/15,  
C. in C. S.A., A.F. message 1506/15.)

→ BIRMINGHAM BIRMINGHAM is to be sailed so as to arrive at  
GLASGOW. Simonstown by 3/3 for one month's refit.  
2. On completion she is to join East Indies Station, relieving GLASGOW, who is to be sailed to U.S.A. for refit.  
3. R.A.S.A.D. is to transfer his flag to an A.M.C. before BIRMINGHAM leaves South America.  
(V.C.N.S. 1831A/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

RESOLUTION In view of recent events in home waters and  
W.S. 16. suspected U-Boats activities in this area is it still desired that RESOLUTION should come north for W.S.16?  
(C. in C. S.A. 2011Z/15 to Admty. (R) F.O.3 B.S.)  
Reply: Yes. (Admty. 1143A/16.) p. 533

/FREESIA ...



War Diary.15.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - contd.

FREESIA. Corvettes FREESIA and FRITILLARY sailed for  
FRITILLARY. Simonstown via Pointe Noire 0900Z/15. E.T.A.  
Pointe Noire a.m./24. Subject to these being  
available to proceed east at short notice they  
will be at your disposal for local escort work. FREESIA just  
boiler cleaned. FRITILLARY should be boiler cleaned on  
arrival.  
(C. in C. S.A. 2037Z/15 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

W/T Reports All ships fitted with H/F transmission sailing  
of from South Atlantic ports and bound direct to  
positions. ports in the Ottawa Intelligence Area are to be  
instructed to break W/T silence and report on  
H/F to Halifax their position on crossing 25° N.  
Message to be made twice through. If no acknowledgment is  
obtained, message should be repeated an hour later. Signal is  
to be made in the following form. Ships which have no War  
Call Sign are to use their International Call Sign for this  
message.  
(D.T.D. 2246/15 to C. in C. S.A. amended 2311A/16.)

Mediterranean.

THUNDERBOLT. Returned from patrol off Cephalonia, reports  
following successes. 5000 ton M/V in S.E.  
bound convoy off Cape Dukato (S. of Is. of Santa  
Maura) torpedoed and sunk at 1030/1. 750 ton U-Boat, west-  
bound, torpedoed and probably sunk about 50' S.W. of Crete at  
0811/6. Armed trawler attacked with gunfire at 1105/3 off  
Vardiana Island, S. of Corfu, and after sustaining 15 hits was  
partly abandoned when THUNDERBOLT finally dived to avoid fire  
from shore batteries.  
(D.O.R. 15/2) (D.S.894)

THORN. Vessels reported sunk by THORN (Diary 6/2) were:-  
\*4000 ton M/V, northbound, off Malo Island,  
Yugoslav Coast S. of Seberico, at 1030/28.  
U-boat of SIRENA class, sunk south of Brioni  
Island at 1400/30. (MEDUSA) \* NINNUCCIA  
(D.O.R. 15/2) (D.S.894) p. 183.

Enemy Two cruisers, 1 destroyer 037° 39' 015° 54'  
Units. course 150° speed 20.  
(P.36, 0121B/15 to Capt. S.10) (V.A. Malta 0423B/15  
to Med Fleet.)

DAISY MOLLER Your 1245/14th to N.C.S.O. Aden only and S.O.(I)  
Colombo's 1016Z/14th. DAISY MOLLER arrived 13/1  
speed 6 knots. My Vesca 336 1524/13 refers.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0751Z/15 to Admty.)

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War Diary.15.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

PORPOISE

PORPOISE leaving 035° 51' 015° 15' about  
2300B/15 course 102°.  
(Capt S.10 1053B/15 to UNA.)\*UNIQUE  
UPRIGHT.UNIQUE returns to Malta through 039° 05' 017°  
25' and 037° 30' 016° 40' to arrive Marsamxett  
by N.E. route 0720B/18. UPRIGHT patrol between  
Alice and position C after 0001B/16.  
(Capt S.10 1110B/15 to UNIQUE, UPRIGHT.)\* See also next  
page

LUCANIA.

Your 0117A/15 (re broadcast of torpedoing of  
LUCANIA - N.T.in W.D.) UNA was operating off  
(?Port) Alice on 12/2. Enquiry and further  
signal will be made after her arrival tomorrow  
16/2.  
(V.A. Malta 1135B/15 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.  
F.O.C.N.A.)  
At 1317/12 LUCANIA, Italian, 8106 tons,  
reported she had been torpedoed in 39.20 N.,  
17.25 E., about 60 m. S. of Taranto.  
(D.S. 894)C.S. 15 and  
convoy.(A) At your discretion 15th C.S. ZULU, SIKH,  
DECOY, LIVELY part company with convoy after  
dark today 15th and proceed to Alexandria at  
high speed. (B) Route convoy to be off  
Alexandria searched channel at daylight 16th. (C) At daylight  
16th, CLAN FERGUSON, AJAX, CITY OF CALCUTTA, JERVIS, JAGUAR,  
KELVIN, KIPLING, FORTUNE are to proceed Port Said.  
(D) BRECONSHIRE and remaining destroyers are to proceed  
Alexandria.  
(C. in C. Med., 1151B/15 to C.S.15 (R) CARLISLE, etc.)SOUTHWOLD. *Jz*:C. in C. reference 1204B/14. E.T.A. with  
DULVERTON, HURWORTH and BEAUFORT 1400.  
(SOUTHWOLD 1200B/15 to N.O.I.C. Tobruk.)*See p. 509.*

Opsum No. 629

Fighter cover was provided for Convoy 3 ships  
with Naval escort which left Alexandria 12/2 for  
Malta within area Alexandria to position 30 miles  
North Tobruk at dusk 13/2. 1 ship damaged by near miss during  
enemy air attack and escorted into Tobruk, remaining 2 sub-  
sequently sunk by enemy air action when out of fighter range.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1226/15.)COETLOGON  
reported  
mined.Departure COETLOGON, French Sete, probably struck  
a mine this evening.  
(Barcelona, 1246/15 to D. of S.T.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.15.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Movements  
Summary 233.

Part A. British Destroyer SULTAN HISAR leaves Alexandria p.m./17 due Iskanderun a.m./19. PRIMULA due Port Said 1200/16 with BULLFINCH thence Haifa. KLO due Mersina 1730/17 thence with merchant ship due Alexandria a.m./20. AMBER with Z lighters due Tripoli a.m./17 from Port Said. SNAPDRAGON with merchant ship due Beirut 0600/17, Tripoli 1300/17 from Alexandria thence to Beirut. \*SHIKA due Beirut 1500/16 from Alexandria to tow ALPHERAT to Port Said.

Part B. Convoy M.E.10 (corrupt group) 032° 30' N. 025° 00' E. at noon/15. BRECONSHIRE due Alexandria with 7 destroyers about 0600/16. Remainder due Port Said with 5 destroyers about 2000/16 001° returning thence to Alexandria. 15th C.S. and 4 destroyers leave convoy after dark 15th due Alexandria night 15/16. CLAN CAMPBELL, CARLISLE, 4 "Hunts" leave Tobruk 1900/15 due Alexandria 1800/16. SOUTHERN SEA, speed 5, 2 Z lighters left Alexandria 1000/15 due Tobruk 0100/8 through F at 0030/16.

Part C. PENELOPE, LANCE, LEGION returning to Malta. *Arrived - Sup p 509*  
(C. in C. Med., 1255B/15 to Med Fleet.) \*In Russian waters.

→ EMPIRE EGRET Cancel my 1901B/10th.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1306B/15 to D. of S.T.)

UNA. My 1039B/14. Pass North and West of 036° 20' N. 015° 40' E. owing to possible U-boat patrol to South and East of that point.  
(Capt. S. 10, 1349B/15 to UNA.)

→ Troops for Far East. My 0056B/7 to D. of S.T. only and 1306B/15. EMPIRE FULMAR and EMPIRE EGRET not required, request disposal instructions.  
2. Intend using AJAX, CITY OF CALCUTTA and CLAN FERGUSON for third flight, my 1634B refers.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1515B/15 to D. of S.T.)

UNIQUE. Subject to operational requirements request you will sail UNIQUE to arrive at Portsmouth about 23/3. UNIQUE will refit at Chatham.  
(F.O.S. 1538A/15 to C. in C. Med.)

→ Convoy. Your 1728C/14 to N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports only. BRITISH ENERGY should be sailed to R/V off end of Haifa swept channel with SNAPDRAGON and northbound convoy for onward escort to Alexandretta. Convoy is expected to be off Haifa at 1600C/16. Speed of convoy to Tripoli (Syria) 7 knots, thence 10 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1610C/15 to N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, Haifa, (R) SNAPDRAGON, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.O. Destroyers, N.O.I.C. Port Said, C.S.A., Alexandretta.)

/Force K ...

War Diary.15.2.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- Force K. PENELOPE, LANCE, LEGION arrived 0800B/15.  
(V.A. Malta 1619B/15 to C. in C. Med., (R)  
Admty.)
- Malta Air Report. 14/2, 1412 hours, 7 M.E.109 approached, did not  
cross coast, Hurricanes up to cover R/C aircraft,  
no combats. Night 14/15. 2 alerts 1750 and  
2359 hours, 13 raiders, bombs land sea, no damage  
or casualties. 15/2. Continuous alert 0600 hours and still on.  
123 M.E.109 and JU.88. Target Luqa, 3 attacks, 1 Wellington and  
1 Special Wellington previously damaged destroyed, a third  
previously damaged probably destroyed, a fourth damaged, 3  
Beaufighters slight damage, 2 fighter Blenheims also damaged,  
huge craters on runway, no other damage. 1 Airman killed else-  
where 6 Civilians 2 Naval Officers slight casualties. Hurricanes  
shot down 2 ME.109 into sea without loss. H.A.A. destroyed 1  
JU.88 and damaged a second L.A.A. shot down 1 JU.88.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1850/15.)
- Convoy "Silent". "Silent" sailed 1900/15. CLAN CHATTAN survivors  
in SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, DECOY.  
All saved. E.T.A. Alexandria 1800/16. Captain  
Demant R.N. in SOUTHWOLD.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 1914B/15 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria,  
F.O.C. 15th C.S. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. D.F.  
Med Fleet, P.S.T.O. Egypt, S.O. Force I.  
SOUTHWOLD, DECOY.) *See p. 507.*
- Enemy Units. 3 Cruisers, 9 Destroyers P.C. and S. 035° 08' N.  
016° 02' E. 220° 20 at 1245B/15.  
(V.A. Malta 1930B/15 to Med. Fleet.)  
3 Cruisers, 9 Destroyers (P.C.S. as 1930B/15) may be returning  
to Messina tonight.  
(Capt. S. 10 2125B/15 to P.36.)
- U/B U-boat was sighted by our A/C at 1530B/15 in  
031° 57' N. 026° 18' E.  
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria 1932B/15 to C. in C. Med.,  
F.O.15th,C.S. S.O. Force I, N.O.I.C. Alexandria,  
Inshore Squadron.)
- Operation M.F.5. S.O. Force K. reports.  
(1) During forenoon 14/2 2 attacks by single  
aircraft on M.E.10, no damage.  
2. Heavy attack during change over of convoy at  
1430. Force K. and ROWALLAN CASTLE heavily attacked by bombers  
about 1500 and between 1700 and 1800 and by several torpedo  
aircraft at 1830.  
3. ROWALLAN CASTLE near missed at 1515 and broke down. Taken  
in tow by ZULU and worked up to 6 knots in tow. Otherwise no  
damage.

War Diary.

15.2.1942  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation  
M.F.5  
contd.

4. Beaufighters from Malta were over Force K. for about half hour from 1545.
5. In view of C. in C. Med's 1718B/14 crew and military personnel of ROWALLAN CASTLE taken off after dark and ship torpedoed by LANCE at 1956.
6. Force K. returned to Malta by dawn 15/2 without further incident.  
(V.A. Malta, 1935B/15 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)

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War Diary.15.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

HOLLYHOCK.

*N.T. in W.D.*

HOLLYHOCK sailed. Route and S. of A. as in my 0810/14. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0215Z/15 to Admty. C. in C. E.I., S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Aden.)

Anzac  
Area.

Natal 1/2 gives information of Anzac Area under U.S. Admiral. I would be grateful for details of limits of this Command and the duty and responsibility of the U.S. Admiral and composition of force under his orders. (C. in C. E.F. 0511Z/15 to Admty.)  
Your 0511Z/15. Information is contained A.G.M. 181A of 7th February as amended by A.G.M. 186A of 9/2. (D.O.D.(F) 1606A/15.)

COLOMBIA.

Admty. 1512/9 intended COLOMBIA to proceed Colombo at best speed pending decision as to next operational base. (C. in C. E.F. 0608Z/15 to Abdafloat.)

MAURETANIA.

Transport MAURETANIA sailed empty from Bombay 14/2 for Suez via Aden, E.T.A. Aden 1230Z/17, requirements at Suez 1750 tons oil, 2700 tons water, draft 31 feet. (P.S.T.O. India, 0639Z/15 to S.S.T.O. Aden.)

ABDIEL  
grounding.

Board of Enquiry report into grounding of ABDIEL on 1/2. Satisfied that no unacceptable risks were taken in view of nature of operation in hand. Damage to starboard propeller was incurred in hitting an uncharted pinnacle rock. I do not intend to take any disciplinary action. (C. in C. E.F. 0659Z/15 to Admty.)

M.N.B.D.O.

A.M. 1111/13/12 (repetition of Admty. 1108/13.) The A.A. Brigade M.N.B.D.O. now in Ceylon is without its searchlight component and the G.O.C. has represented that it is tactically unsound in consequence. 2. I support this view observing that the three A.A. Searchlights now in Ceylon are totally inadequate for the requirements. 3. I therefore recommend that the S/L Section of this Unit with full equipment be sent to join it at an early date. (C. in C. E.I. 0733/15 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. M.E. 1st R.N. Group, M.N.B.D.O.) Reply Admty. 1830A/17.

PALANG.

Your 1413Z/1. Amplify report on PALANG. What prevents attempt to raise her by camels as you intend in case of BABR? Have you considered the possibility of refloating vessel upside down using compressed air? From particulars available, this method appears to be the quickest and most practicable. Clearing of berth before spring floods is of great importance. (4th S.L. 0921A/15 to S.N.O.P.G. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

/Rescue ...

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War Diary.15.2.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Rescue  
Tugs.

Your 1429Z/10 and my 1519A/14. In addition to THAMES first two Rescue Tugs building in U.S.A. and due to complete 15/6 and July have been allocated to East Indies. Arrangements are being made for additional Base Tugs and Salvage Vessel to be sent Colombo as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1707A/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Situation. Intelligence No.14. Parachutists Palembang area 14/2 now estimated 700 dropped in three groups 100, 300, and 300, on refinery area and aerodrome. Main landing from dawn/15 from motor boats and small craft moving by river approaches. 2. Situation enemy transports afternoon 15th, main portion west of line Singkep-Bangka, covering force vicinity Toedjoen Islands. Reports confused owing to presence in Bangka Straits area of considerable number of own shipping ex Singapore. 3. Preliminary comment. Parachute operation appears to have been badly timed or defence underestimated. Parachutists almost 24 hours without support did not gain any of their objectives and largely mopped up. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0140/15 to W.O. etc.)

GUARDIAN. 01234 15/2. What is the earliest date can leave Colombo for Abda Area with full load of Mines. (Abdafloat, 0143Z/15 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.) (W.R. Note. ? Refers to Admty's 1641A/10 re GUARDIAN (B.D.064/42).)

Situation. Information No.21 to 1200Z/14. 1 A Considerable force of medium and American heavy bombers, in some cases escorted by fighters, despatched today to attack enemy convoys Banka area. (See No.22 0400/16.) 2. Enemy parachute troops estimated at about 400 landed from dirigibles plus aircraft in area Palembang I and refinery. Believed being successfully dealt with. 3. Ref. para. 2. Information 19. DURBAN sustained some damage and casualties. 6 tankers hit of which 2 probably total loss. 4. Ref. para. 2, Information 20. Enemy losses should read 1 bomber 3 fighters. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 0530/15.)

DERRYMORE. DERRYMORE sunk, probably torpedoed, in 005° 18' S. 106° 20' E. at 0330Z/13 graded B.2. (S.O. China Force, 0935Z/15 to China Force (R) C. in C. E.I. Canadian Destroyer West Coast, A.C.N.B. Melbourne, Admty.)

*Japanese Army.*

*Assessment after Malayan Campaign  
(C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1205/15, 200 para 703A)/Repair ...*

1031Z/15th February

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 20/2/42

From C.C.C.F.

Recd. 2202

Naval Cypher C by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty ABDALFOAT C.Z.M. C. in C. Eastern Fleet Repeated Naval Board Melbourne Naval Board Wellington C. in C. East Indies C. in C. South Atlantic C. in C. America & West Indies F.O.C.R.I.N. B.A.D. Washington N.S.H.Q. Ottawa COMSOWESPAC.

(i) It appears necessary to take over for the ABDA Area the reporting of independently routed merchant ship movements previously done by S.O.(I) Singapore.

Efforts will be made to effect this as follows but inadequate communications and staff may necessitate alterations.

(ii) Arrivals and departures of all allied merchant ships will be reported to Ministry of Shipping, London by N.C.S.O. Batavia.

(iii) Departures and routes of ships routed by N.C.S.O. Batavia will be passed by him to N.C.S.O. at next routing port or destination.

(iv) Departures and routes of ships routed by C.Z.M. will be reported by him to Dutch N.C.S.O. at Bombay for Ceylon and Indian ports and at Capetown or Durban for African ports. Dutch N.C.S.O. will inform British N.C.S.O's concerned.

(v) Departures and routes of ships routed by U.S. Naval Observer Batavia will be reported by him to U.S. Naval Observer at Colombo for Ceylon and Indian ports and at Capetown for African ports U.S. Naval Observer will inform British N.C.S.O's concerned.

(vi) Departures and routes of all allied merchant ships from Dutch East Indies to or through Australian or New Zealand area will continue to be reported to Naval Board Melbourne or Naval Board Wellington by C.Z.M.

1031Z/15.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.N.I. (7) for A.E. & D.N.L.O.
- D. of S.T. (2)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (O)
- M. (2)
- D.S.D. (2)



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Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - contd.

Repair of Tankers. Australia has better facilities than India for repairing damaged tankers. (D.T.D. 1230A/15 to C.C.C.F.)

Singapore Capitulation. 033341. Following just received from Singapore. "Owing to losses from enemy action water, petrol food and ammunition practically finished. Unable therefore to continue the fight any longer. All ranks have done their best and are grateful for your help." (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 1850/15 to British J.S.M. Washington (For Combined C.O.S.) W.O. (For C.O.S.) C. in C. India, Prime Minister, Australia, C.G.S. Australia.)

Sumatra, Capture of Palembang. C.C.O.S.8. Reliably reported enemy captured Palembang and aerodrome this morning from the sea by movements up river. Our air force based on Palembang II (40 miles S.W. of Palembang) continue to put out maximum effort. Our naval force may gain contact today N.W. of Banka. But above efforts not likely to do more than delay and reduce scale of attack. There is now practically nothing to prevent enemy over-running south Sumatra since all available Dutch troops had been concentrated for defence Palembang. After operating today our air force at Palembang II will be withdrawn to Java. Two ships containing (troops, details) just arrived Costhlyven. These cannot be unloaded in time for any useful action and have been diverted to Batavia. 2. Held conference with Governor-General, Adm. Helfrich and Gen. Ter Poorten on above situation and outlined my views on defence of Java without Southern Sumatra. See my C.C.O.S.7. In particular discussed our air resources which are about 75 fighters, 40 medium bombers, plus 20 Dutch Glen Martins, 14 American dive bombers and 20 American B.17s. Above figures will be reduced by today, casualties not yet known. Reinforcements expected in next fortnight approx. 20 American fighters 10 American dive bombers, 50 Hurricanes 8 American B.17. 3. Governor-General stressed absolute necessity of defence of Java and provision of maximum reinforcements land sea and air. He is making urgent representations to his Government. He is under no illusions as to difficulty of problem and effect that air attack on ports may have on entry of Australian divisions. He gave as usual impression of courage and ability. (C. in C. S.W. Pacific 2250/15 to W.O. J.S.M. Washington for C.C.O.S.)

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- U/B. D/F bearing at 2125Z/14 indicates S/M within 50 miles of 034° 30' N. 071° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0158Z/15 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty., etc.)
- Movements. 14/2 arrivals, MIMOSA ex St. Pierre with Adm. Muselier. COWICHAN ex W.S.C.69. Departures, ASSINIBOINE to S.C.69, DIANTHUS escorting Tanker to Argentina. (F.O.N.F., 0417Z/15 to Admty.)
- NORSEMAN. Departure 15/2 NORSEMAN to 013° 08' 57" N. 061° 17' 05" W. for work on cable. (R.N.O. St. Lucia, 0730Q/15 to Admty.)
- U/B. D/F bearings indicate Submarine within 100 miles 34.30 N. 71° W. at 0236Z/15. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0806Z/15 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)
- Suspicious Warship. Unknown warship believed cruiser 2 funnels 2 masts reported Eastward Barbados 1300 G.M.T. steering Northerly direction. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 0945/15 to Admty.)
- AMERIKALAND (torpedoed 3/2.) Aruba reports arrival Dutch CASTOR with survivors from Swedish AMERIKALAND torpedoed at 0130Z/3 in 36.36 N. 74.10 W. Survivors state 2 boats with 30 men unaccounted for. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0949P/15 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Jamaica).
- MARON. Leave Bermuda on completion of fuelling 16/2 and proceed by direct route to patrol in W.P. area N.46 and N.55 in accordance with S.O.W.P. 1810A/31/1. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1002P/15, to MARON.
- CLARKIA. CLARKIA is to be sailed forthwith for temporary duties at Bermuda. Route direct via Sombrero Channel. Anticipated that CLARKIA will return to Trinidad before Canadian yacht leaves. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1012P/15 to N.O.I.C.Trinidad).
- "Westomp" Your 1441Z/14. Assume "Westomp" for H.X. and S.C. convoys is being issued by C. in C. U.S. Fleet as stated in message 0417Z/11 from Com. Task Force 4. (D.T.D., 1125A/15 to C.O.A.C.Halifax).

/KINGCUP ...

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- KINGCUP, My P.C. and S. 1000Z/15 051° 31' N. 038° 37' W.  
O.N.S. 64. 240° 13 knots.  
What is position of escort O.N.S. 64 please?  
(KINGCUP, 1200Z/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).  
Your 1200Z/15 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa plot indicates your position  
245° 19 miles from O.N.S. 64 at 1600Z/15 but convoy may be  
farther to eastward. O.N.S. 64 steering 241° 7.5 knots.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1946Z/15 to KINGCUP).
- GUADELOUPE. Intercepted letter forecasts a departure during  
February GUADELOUPE for Rio de Janeiro.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1244R/15 to Admty.)
- A.M.C's. Request following information about A.M.C's  
including R.A.N. and R.C.N. (A) Number converted  
(B) Number lost. (C) Number reconverted to depot  
ships. (D) Number already returned to trade  
(E) Number to be returned to trade.  
(B.A.D., 1331Q/15 to Admty.) Reply: 2351A/16.
- U/B. D/F Bearing at 0924Z/15 places S/M within 50  
miles of 049° N. 033° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,  
1356Z/15 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty.,  
etc.)
- Coal for A/S Trawlers. C.C.N.F's 1409Z/13. Collier cannot be sent with  
trawlers. 2. Request you will arrange for coal  
to be made available at St. John's. 3. Trawlers  
normally use North Country Coal. 4. ALCOR not  
leaving U.K. until 17/2.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1430A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- EMPIRE FUSILIER U/B. EMPIRE FUSILIER torpedoed in 044° 45' N. 047° 25'  
W. at 1500Z/9. 38 survivors picked up by  
H.M.C.S. BARRCITE at 0230Z/10 in approx. same  
position and landed at Halifax. 8 of crew went  
down with ship, one died in boat.  
(C.O.A.C., 1550Z/15 to Admty.)
- O.N. 68. Your dispatch 1924A/14, affirmative.  
O.N. 69. (Opnav, 1659/15 to Admty.)
- SEVERN. Intend sailing SEVERN at 1300/17 via Q.Z.S. 111,  
169, thence (a) 050° 12', 001° 18',  
(b) 049° 40' 005° 00'. (c) 180° Bishop Rock  
10 miles. (d) 049° 30' 010° 30'. (e) 046° 025°. (f) 041° 30'  
040° for onward passage to Philadelphia as ordered by C. in C.  
A.W.I.  
(2) SEVERN will dive by day as far as 015° W. thence on surface  
at C.O's discretion, S.O.A. 14 knots.  
(3) W/T watch in accordance with S 2/41 table 2 (3) until

/1200Z ...

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- SEVERN.  
(Contd.) 1200Z/23/2 when SEVERN enters A.W.I. Station and shifts W/T Watch to Table 2 (3) section A C of S 1/42.  
SEVERN is painted grey with N.57 painted in light grey on conning tower.  
(Capt.S.5, 1700A/15 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)  
(as amended 1021A/16).
- Tunis  
Intelligence. Tunis 11/2 A.I. Departures of French ships.  
ST. ETIENNE 9/2 carrying wheat. FENERF 10/2.  
BOUGARONI, 11/2 carrying wine, phosphates, leads, cords, alfa and flour. Arrived 11/2 ST. COLETTE with additional Fiat trucks. My 3031R/2.  
(B.A.D., 1739Q/15 to Admty.)
- Positions. Your 1712Z/8. Arrangements will be made for ships from South Atlantic to indicate their position on crossing 25° N. if fitted with H/F transmitters.  
(D.T.D., 1823A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- NEVADAN U/B. Following rebroadcast by unidentified station  
"S.S. NEVADAN 6° 42' N. 83° 45' W. 1630 G.C.T.  
Sub. 4 miles 180 true NBA."  
(Bermuda, 1849P/15 to Admty.)
- U.S.N.  
Movements. U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Destroyer DAVIS departs for Recife 16/2 through 005° N. 026° W. then 010° N 026° W. and 010° N. 030° W. (?GUENOT), arrives Recife 23rd. Speed over (corrupt group) 15.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2025/15 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C.A.W.I. C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. South American Patrol).
- MEROPI,  
torpedoed. Greek MEROPI torpedoed in 044° 14' N. 062° 41' W. at 0245Z/15. 14 survivors picked up by SHERBROOKE and landed at Halifax.  
C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2040Z/15, to Admty.)
- TAFT,  
torpedoed. Following received from G.2 Western Defence Command. U.S. Army transport TAFT torpedoed by S.S., sinking fast. 37° 00' S. 126° 00' E. at 2255Z/15. (B.A.D., 2159Q/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- M.S.4. Tankers ex M.S.4 are to be sailed in accordance with Admiralty 2003A/14.  
(A.C.N.B., 0428Z/15 to D.N.O. Western Australia (Fremantle), (R) Admty., Abdacom, C.C.C.F.)
- Navigation. Ref. W.F.139 New Caledonia, Noumea. Vessels without a pilot are in no circumstances to proceed to Northward of 22° 30' 30" S.  
(A.C.N.B., 0551Z/15 to Admty., All concerned W/F messages).
- Situation. Serial number 25 from C.W.R. 14/2.  
(1) R/C over Rabaul reveals 1 aircraft carrier, 5 Warships, probably 3 Cruisers, 2 Destroyers, 11 Transports 1 very large, 12 seaplanes.  
(2) At Vunakanau aerodrome 8 miles from Rabaul 6 twin engine 8 single engine aircraft.  
(3) U.S. PEARY attacked by flying boat in 12° 12' S. 130° 01' E. at 0205Z/14 no damage.  
(4) Enemy air R/C over Dilll 0400Z/13.  
(5) Seaplane tender KAMOI Rabaul area is acting as W/T guard ship for C. in C. 4th Fleet.  
(A.C.N.B., 1112Z/15 to Admty., etc.)

Japanese  
Army.

*Assessment of Jap. Army as a result of Malayan campaign.*

*Repetition of General, Singapore's 29777/13/2.*

*(Com C., S.W. Pacific, 1205/15, to War office - see page 703 A)*

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U-Boats estimated in following approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1429A/15, 1434A/15).