

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

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

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

PRINS ALBERT and 5 M.G.Bs. of the 14th M.G.B. Flotilla with 6 A.L.Cs. and 2 L.S.Cs. took part in a combined forces raid on the R.D.F. station at Bruneval 12 miles North of Havre during the night 27/28 February, during which there were no naval casualties or damage. 4 Chasseurs and BLENCATHRA and FERNIE escorted the Force during the latter part of their return to Portsmouth with 3 German prisoners.

The North Russian Convoys P.Q.12 and Q.P.8 are expected both to be proceeding between 5° W., and 15° E. on and after the 5th March. The S/M Patrol positions off Norway have been chosen to facilitate the interception of any enemy Main Units attempting to attack these Convoys from Trondheim; and, as the Home Fleet would be required to assist in such a case, the Admty. has informed A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command that the strength of Coastal Command in Northern waters should not for the present be reduced.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N.51 was attacked at 1914 today by A/C off Peterhead.

Mining.

At 0739 today the British POLGARTH, 794 tons (in Convoy F.S.737) was mined and sunk off Aldeburgh, all her crew being saved; and at 1115 the British Tanker AUDACITY, 589 tons was mined and sunk off Grimsby, 10 of her crew including two D.E.M.S. being lost and the remaining 4 landed at Grimsby.

One Magnetic Mine was exploded by Sweepers today off Harwich, 2 off Dover, and one off the Humber.



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation  
"Spotter".

S.O. Force H., considers 4/3 is the earliest probable D.I. for this, subject to expert approval of modifications to aircraft in EAGLE.

South Atlantic.

Convoy W.S.16 escorted by Force V and Force T arrived at Freetown this morning.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

After a raid-free night, Malta had 7 alerts today, with Hal Far aerodrome and the Submarine Base as targets, but no damage or casualties were caused, although elsewhere there were a number of casualties including a naval officer and his wife.

Bad weather stopped air operations from Malta last night.

From 2117 to 2242, 6 Wellingtons attacked shipping in Tripoli Harbour.

S/Ms.

THUNDERBOLT sailed from Alexandria today for Malta, Gibraltar and U.K.

East Indies.

A summary of recent events and decisions connected with the Eastern Fleet, for the information of S.Os. Force V and Force T, is contained in Admty. 1646A/1.

/S.O...



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. - Contd.

S.O. Force V., has been asked to accelerate his arrival in Ceylon as much as possible consistent with meeting Gen. Smuts and other South African Ministers.

RESOLUTION,  
NEWCASTLE.

In view of the threat to Ceylon, RESOLUTION is to reach at least Addu Atoll as soon as practicable. NEWCASTLE's allocation to Abda area is cancelled and she is at the disposal of C. in C. E.F.

China.

Withdrawal  
from Java.

Early this morning, Adm. Palliser represented to Adm. Helfrich that enemy landings in North Java made the basing of ships at Batavia and Sourabaya impossible and immediately threatened Tjilatjap. Adm. Helfrich was pressed to order all Allied men of war and merchant ships away, and agreed after some friendly objection and an interview with the Governor General. At 0355, Adm. Helfrich informed C. in C. E.F. that he had resigned command of Allied Naval Forces and that S.O. China Force, with his consent, had ordered withdrawal of British naval forces. U.S. Naval Forces except submarines are also being withdrawn. Adm. Helfrich is trying to send all his remaining forces to Colombo, for which he requests all possible escort. All British ships have left Batavia and Sourabaya. At 0346, Adm. Palliser sent a report via Navy Dept. Washington, (which was not received there until 3/3 and not received in Admty. until 0120/4) that a large enemy force was reported 180 miles south of Tjilatjap, and that he was out of touch with C.C.C.F. He had ordered PERTH and small ships to Fremantle, EXETER and ENCOUNTER to Colombo, with the concurrence of Adm. Helfrich. Naval defence of Java except by submarines is now impossible. In South Java, all British and American warships and merchantmen were ordered to leave Tjilatjap tonight. Ships en route were diverted to Colombo or Australia. Adm. Helfrich directed HEEMSKERCK to proceed to Colombo. Adm. Palliser proceeded to Tjilatjap with his staff and saw British ships away except BURNIE (minesweeper), due to leave tonight for Fremantle with Cdre. Collins, C.C.C.F. He afterwards left for Fremantle by air with Adm. Glassford U.S.N.

/Java...



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.China. - Contd.Java  
Landings.

During last night Japanese landed at Kragan in East Java (111° 40' E) at Eretan (108° E) Bantam Bay (106° 10' E) and Merak (105° 55' E). G.O.C. considers objectives are probably Sourabaya and Batavia. Kragan appears to be the main landing.

R.A.F. attacked an enemy convoy approaching Indramajoe last night and scored direct hits on 2 transports. 1 auxiliary was probably sunk. At the same time other aircraft attacked a convoy approaching Bantjar and claimed several direct hits.

Throughout today enemy landings were continuously hampered by R.A.F. Hurricanes N.E.I. Buffaloes, and U.S. Kittyhawks, and several barges were sunk or set on fire.

America & West Indies.

Convoy.

N.A.4 (ORION and CAMERONIA) escorted by ROCKINGHAM and ANNA POLIS, left Halifax at 1300 Z today for U.K.

Recommendations of Combined Staff Planners, Washington, re the future limits and organisation of Abda and Anzac Areas are contained in J.S.M. No. 85 (1435Q/1)

Australia.

Timor.

Portuguese Ministry of Marine today informed N.A. Lisbon that owing to the situation in Timor they had been obliged to order JOAO BELO and her escort GONCALVES ZARCO to proceed to Colombo.



War Diary.

1.5.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M.G.B's at  
Portsmouth.

A.M. 1735/29/1.  
All vessels of Portsmouth Division of 14th M.G.B. Flotilla will be refitting or absent for the next 10 days and there are no other suitable craft available during this period for continuing inter-service training at TORMENTOR. I would be most grateful if M.G.B. 315 and 321 could be lent to Portsmouth for a further 10 days. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1407A/1 to C. in C. Nore.)

Flag of  
V.A. C.T.C.

My flag is to be transferred from QUEBEC to QUEBEC 2 at 0900/10 and will continue to be flown in QUEBEC 2 thereafter. (V.A. C.T.C. 1907A/1).

Movements.

SALVONIA.  
QUEEN  
VICTORIA.  
PETUNIA.  
AIREDALE.

A.M. 1717A/27. Intend sailing Tug SALVONIA from Campbeltown to R/V with QUEEN VICTORIA, PETUNIA, and AIREDALE and proceed in company with them to Gibraltar. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0214A/1).  
Presumed sailed Rescue Tug SALVONIA. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1709A/1 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown) Your 1114/1. AIREDALE (sic) will be read to sail at 1200A/4. (AIREDALE 1727/1 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

My 2247A/28. Further delayed 24 hours by fog. Intend to sail 1400A/2 from Bar Light Vessel. All other times read 24 hours later. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1034A/1).

DRAUG.

My 1444A/28. Amend to read on completion of coaling proceed to Lerwick, E.T.A. a.m./4. (F.O. Humber 1117/1).

SUFFOLK.

Your 1945A/28. INGLEFIELD, LEDBURY detailed. (R.A.D. H.F. 1207A/1 to C. in C.H.F.)

ROMNEY.  
CROMARTY.  
WHITEHAVEN.

My 0936A/28. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1234A/1) Request arrangements for ROMNEY, CROMARTY, WHITEHAVEN to fuel at Ponta Delgada on 7/3. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1236A/1 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

ITHURIEL.

Request ITHURIEL be sailed at 0700/2 for Clyde carrying out full power trial en route. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1305A/1 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

/AURANIA.....



1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

- AURANIA. One Destroyer is to be sailed to R/V as arranged by S.O.W.P. with AURANIA and Escort ship to Plymouth returning to Londonderry on completion of this duty. (C. in C.W.A. 1541A/1 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- PRINSES\$  
 ASTRID. My 1753A/27. PRINSES\$ ASTRID. Sailing delayed from Tilbury until 0900/2 owing to difficulties in deperming. Request programme be amended accordingly. (F.O.I.C. London 1647A/1 to C. in C. Nore.)
- TUNA. Clyde arrival PETERHEAD escorting TUNA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2114A/1).
- GRAPH. Sailed HARTLAND, GRAPH. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2255A/1).

Operations.

Raid on Bruneval on Night 27/28. (Operation "Biting").

The operation went almost exactly as planned. (2) PRINSE ALBERT and 5 M.G.B's sailed 1715/27. The passage to point X 30 uneventful. Flotilla arrived point W at 0023/28. Time first dropped 0015/28. Some light A/A and flak observed. (3) While waiting to embark soldiers 2 E or R boats and 2 destroyers were observed to seaward, but flotilla was not sighted.

(4) 0235/28 A.L.C's proceeded to beach and embarkation was successful although enemy were pressing hard by 0330. All craft had found their M.G.B's and proceeded to tow at about 7 knots. The special apparatus was sent on ahead by M.G.B. and arrived Portsmouth at 1000.

(5) Air escort was provided from 1st light and surface escort joined later. Flotilla arrived Spithead at 1630/28.

(6) Naval casualties and damage to craft nil.

(7) Parachutists 6 killed, 6 missing, and 5 wounded.

(8) 3 German soldiers taken prisoner. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0137A/1 to Admiralty.) (C. in C. Portsmouth 0137A/1 to Admiralty.)

286. The attached message from S.N.O. "Biting" is the report quoted in Para. 9 of my 0137A/1.

In accordance with your orders 0221/68 of 15/2/42 Operation "Biting" was carried out on night 27th/28th February. The weather conditions were most satisfactory until 0300/28 when the wind freshened from the South Westward increasing to force 5 during the day which made the eighty mile passage back with two A.L.C's in tow of each of four M.G.B's very tedious and hazardous. The Operation was carried out almost exactly as planned and the co-operation between the three Services was extremely good. H.M.S. PRINSE ALBERT under the command of Lieut. Comdr. H.B. Peate, R.N.R., and five M.G.B's of the 14th M.G.B. Flotilla, under the command of Lieut. Comdr. W.G. Everitt, R.N. were sailed to rendezvous at East Boom at 1715/27.

/The passage.....



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Raid on  
Bruneval  
on Night  
27/28.  
(Operation  
"Biting").  
- Contd.

The passage to Point "X" was uneventful. The simultaneous lowering of the craft at 2152 was exceptionally good. The six A.L.C's and two L.S.C's were escorted by the M.G.B's to Point 'W' where they arrived at 0023/28. Cap D'Antifer Light was first sighted at 2306 and continued to burn except for slight intervals. This was most convenient. The time of the first "drop" was 0015. Several Whitley Aircraft were distinctly seen at a low altitude about this time and a certain amount of light A.A. tracer fire. "Flak" was also observed in the direction of Havre.

While waiting to be called in to embark the soldiers the M.G.B's and Landing Craft had fortunately closed in to 1.8 miles from the beach and they saw four enemy ships passing from North to South, approximately one mile to seaward of us. The enemy appeared to consist of two single funnel Destroyers and two "E" or "R" boats. They steamed slowly and appeared to be waiting for LeHavre lights as they altered course towards Le Havre where a red light was exhibited. Owing to the position of the almost full moon and the fact that we were landward side our boats were, fortunately, not seen.

Grenades, rifle and machine gun tracer bullets and occasional flares were seen in the vicinity of the valley indicated the activity.

At 0235 as requested from the beach by prearranged signals and R/T, I ordered all six A.L.C's to land simultaneously as I could see that there was sufficient room and that the soldiers were already on the beach. The beach shelved steeply and consequently the craft were able to get off when kept water borne although the tide was falling. It was bright and moonlight. The enemy were pressing hard and a considerable amount of rifle and machine gun fire was exchanged.

As arranged the "apparatus" was placed in No. 3 A.L.C. under the care of Flight Lieutenant Priest, R.A.F.V.R. Two craft needed assistance, one due to overcrowding (68 soldiers) and the other to engine trouble. I decided to take all in tow as quickly as possible to keep together and get as far from the French coast as possible by daylight. By 0320 all craft had found their M.G.B's and at 0326 all proceeded, M.G.B's towing: but only six and a half to seven knots could be made and by twilight the party was only fifteen miles from the French Coast and M.G.B. 312 was despatched with the "apparatus" and twenty soldiers for Portsmouth, where she arrived at 1000.

Spitfires covered the party from one hour after first light and four Chasseurs escorted us from twenty five miles South East of E.A.5. Buoy. H.M.S. BLENCATHRA and H.M.S. FERNIE joined shortly afterwards the A.L.C's returned to H.M.S. PRINS ALBERT (who anchored at Spithead on her return from Point "X" on the previous night) at 1630.

I should like to remark that the Intelligence, Combined Planning and Staff work which were received were extremely accurate and helpful. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0327A/1.)

/Norway.....



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.Norway  
S/M  
Patrol.

My 1553A/28. Add new paragraph (D). SEAWOLF unescorted leaves Lerwick 1900/1 probably on surface through 090° Out Skerries 5 miles and 61° 30' N. 00° 30' W., thence dived by day through 63° 08' N. 04° 30' E. for patrol. (F.O.S. 1022A/1).

My 1554A/28. Your patrol positions have been chosen to intercept enemy main units should they attempt to break out from Trondhjem to attack North Russian convoys. Submarines will be ordered into zones E and W when enemy movements appear to be more imminent. (F.O.S. 1039A/1 to S/M's Area A.)

SEAWOLF sailed at 1907A/1, unescorted and on the surface at C.O.'s discretion routed as follows:-

- (a) 090° Out Skerries 5 miles.
- (b) 061° 30' N. 000° 30' W., thence diving by day through
- (c) 063° 08' N. 004° 30' E. to position
- (d) 064° 50' N. 009° 16' E. to patrol in area, E. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1922A/1 and 0025A/2 to S/M's Area A).

British Air Activity.A/C in  
Northern  
Areas.  
(612  
Sqn.)

Your 1055/27. As the Home Fleet will be required to give support to P.Q. and Q.P. convoys it is not desired to reduce the strength of Coastal Command in Northern area. (V.C.N.S. 1954A/1 to A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy  
W.N.51.  
bombed.

Enemy bombing "Chitty" (Even numbered W.N. Convoy) in 57° 42' N. 1° 43' W. (Convoy Escort 1914/1).

Mining.POLGARTH  
(British,  
794 Tons)  
sunk.

See p.12

POLGARTH sunk in position 052° 00' 10" N. 001° 42' 30" E. All crew saved, 1 injured, disembarking Sheerness. (CATTISTOCK 1009A/1).  
\*POLGARTH was mined two miles S.W. Aldeburgh Napes Buoy, in mid channel. (Cdre. Sheerness 1558A/1). \*At 0739/1.

Sweep by  
M/S 13.

Intend sailing at 0815 tomorrow to commence clearance in Q.Z.Y. 249 starting from western side in Q.Z.S. 305 and 180. (M/S 13 1005/1 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)  
Your 1005/1. Approved. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1042/1 to M/S 13).

/Two.....



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

Two M.M.S.'s  
for  
Harwich.

Two M.M.S. of the 107th Division are to be sailed for Harwich as soon as possible to operate temporarily under F.O.I.C. Harwich. (D.M.S. 1116A/1 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Harwich.

At 0235/1 one Ground Mine exploded by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1157A/1).

AUDACITY  
(British  
Tanker,  
589 Tons)  
sunk.

S.S. AUDACITY sunk by mine at approximately 1130/1 in 53° 33' 39" N. 00° 22' 51" E. Four survivors returning Grimsby. (F.O. Humber 1308A/1). My 1308A/1. AUDACITY mined at 1115/1. Sank at once. Four of crew landed Grimsby. Ten missing believed lost, including two D.E.M.S. (F.O. Humber 1843A/1).

Laying of  
R Mines  
off Dover.

Your 1658A/27. The only boat of third M.G.B. Flotilla not now under your operational control is S.2.

This boat is completing engine trials and will then carry out trials with R. mines. No other boats are fitted with chutes as fitting depends upon trials with S.2. (C. in C. Plymouth 1333A/1 to V.A. Dover).

Search of  
32 Q.Z.F.

In view of future operations of PLOVER request you will forward proposals for carrying out a preliminary search sweep of 32 Q.Z.F. Sweep to be carried out on first suitable day after 4/5 by 4th M.S.F. Search to be as follows. Details. Sweepers should fly balloons. Arrangements will be made for fighter protection or escort as far as possible. Great care is to be taken that secrecy of operation is maintained. (C. in C. Nore 1424A/1 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Dover.

Q.Z.X. 632. 2 Mines swept today. Details. (V.A. Dover 1837A/1).

SCOTT.

Sailed SCOTT. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1912A/1).

Humber.

One Magnetic Mine exploded by Sweepers at 1236/1. Details. (F.O. Humber 2000A/1).



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Straits of  
Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/28 to 0900/1.  
Track E.2.D. Four small vessels from two miles south-west of Gris Nez at 1925 eastbound at 22 knots to 5 miles north of Calais at 2005. Possibly E/R boats.  
Track E.6.D. Two small vessels eastbound from Calais at 0150.  
Track E.7.D. Three or four small vessels from two miles north of Calais at 0435 westbound at seven knots to Boulogne at 0750. Possibly minesweeping trawlers. (V.A. Dover 0934A/1).

DRESDEN.  
JOAO  
PESSOA.  
EUGENIO C.  
BELGION.  
TANNENFELS.

Following received, graded B.2. German M/V's DRESDEN and JOAO PESSOA, Italian M/V EUGENIO C and ex Greek ship BELGION ready for sea at Bordeaux 2/3 to proceed to Bilbao and return presumably with ore.  
German merchant ship TANNENFELS reported also likely to sail for Vigo and South America. (D.D.I.C. 1748A/1).

U-Boats.U-Boats  
sighted  
by A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 49° N. 13° 35' W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Course 300°, 6 knots. (A/C X-Sqdn. 1200/1 to 19 Group). Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. Estimate two hits. (A/C X-Sqdn. 1202/1 to 19 Group).

Am over enemy S/M in 46° N. 9° 30' W. (A/C T-Sqdn. 2129/1 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 49° 27' N. 14° 6' W. Was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C R-Sqdn. 2208/1 to 19 Group). Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 49° 27' N. 14° 6' W. Enemy S/M previously reported was on course 020° when first sighted. (A/C 6L.M.R. 2315/1 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.Sizewell  
Bank Buoy.

Sizewell Coastguard reports Sizewell Bank Buoy has sunk. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0930A/1).

54A.  
Buoy.

54.A Buoy (?moved) irregular. (COTTESMORE 1940A/1)

Casualties and Defects.

YEWKYLE.

Arrival Tug SUPERMAN from assistance of YEWKYLE at 0905. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0931A/1).

DEVON CITY.

Sailed DEVON CITY in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER for Liverpool. Speed of advance six knots. Route. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1019A/15).

/COCLE.....



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

COCLE. Intend sailing my 1201/27 at 1500 today. E.T.A. Tyne 0700/2. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1354/1).

EL OCEANO. Your 0834A/27. EL OCEANO Arrived Akureyri this morning and will be escorted to Reykjavik. (A.C.I.C. 1401A/1).

ATMAH. My 1235. Main Engine trials unsatisfactory. Sailing postponed for further trials. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2242/1).

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.12. Your 1244A/28. P.Q.12 expected to cross  
Q.P.8. longitude 05° West and Q.P.8. expected to cross  
longitude 015° E. both on 5/3. Speed of advance  
7½ knots. (D.O.D.(H. 0020A/1 to F.O.S.)

Unless we are extremely lucky with the weather enemy will undoubtedly have early knowledge of sailing of Q.P.8 as reconnaissance aircraft have been over Kola inlet twice daily at about 1200 and 1800 for the last four days.

(C.S.10 0656A/1 to C. in C.H.F., V.A.2.)

C. in C.H.F. 1926A/26. Intend proceed in NIGERIA passing Toros Island at 2100C/2 through position M.Z., thence 070° N. 037° 15' E. 071° 30' N. 037° 15' E., 073° 15' N. 035° E., covering convoy from S.W. and meeting in latter position at approximately 1400C/3.

2. On leaving convoy in 014° E. intend to proceed through 70° N. 003° 10' W., thence 180° passing West of Orkneys to Scapa. S.O.A. from 014° E., 18 knots. (C.S.10 0744A/1 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Intend sailing P.Q.12 at 1200A/1. Speed 7 knots. GOSSAMER to overtake when repaired. (A.C.I.C. 1259A/28).

<sup>?P.A.</sup>  
Convoy 12. Your 2000A/28. Report if 3 American store ships and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL are in company. 4 troop ships is correct number. (C. in C. W.A. 1153A/1 to KEPPEL).

Your 1153A/1. Yes. 8 ships altogether. (KEPPEL 1250A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.70. Expect to arrive vicinity of convoy at 0230A/2 and meet at daylight/2. (SCIMITAR 1233Z/1 to MACLEISH).

S.A. Gear in P.Q. Convoys. Naval staff informs me that information received from Admiral (?Khar)lamov indicates that 51 sets S.A. sweeping gear had been shipped U.K. to U.S.S.R. up to 19/1. Request confirmation. (2) Russians at Archangel report having received quantities varying between 14 and 30, of long list (corrupt group) items, making it possible to complete 14 sets only of this gear.



War Diary.

1.5.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- S.A. Gear  
in P.Q.  
Convoys  
- Contd.
- (3) Consider it possible that many missing (?parts) may be lost due to Russian interference with work of British Movement Control at Archangel which has successfully prevented proper supervision when unloading. (Ad. Miles 1332C/1 to Admty.)
- Adherence  
to Route  
Instructions.
- THYRA and <sup>\*</sup>POLGARTH were mined through not complying with the instructions given to them regarding routes. POLGARTH was 3 miles off the route ordered. Masters are again to be warned that failure to adhere to their instructions will inevitably lead sooner or later to their vessels being mined. (C. in C. Nore 1414A/1 to N.C.S.O.'s)  
\* See p.8.
- O.N.S. 73.  
MORDEN.
- Your 2222/28 and 2121/28. MORDEN should be ready to sail noon 5th. Propose to sail MORDEN to overtake O.N.S. 73.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1626A/1).
- Convoy  
H.X. 175.
- Many congratulations on the safe arrival of all the ships in your convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1708A/1 to Commodore W.E.B. Magee).
- O.N.S. 70.
- O.N.S. 70. DERRYHEEN and PATELLA did not sail.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1857/1 to PIORUN).



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B Bearings of Italian U/Boat 29L on 8520 Kc/s at 2240/28. Flowerdown 251/B. (D.D.I.C. 0012A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PENTSTEMON My P.C. and S 0200A/1 029° 27' 022° 07' 066°  
VETCH 15 knots. E.T.A. Gate 2000A/3. Am proceeding with all despatch with VETCH as I have rating with broken knee cap. (PENTSTEMON 0200A/1 to F.O.C.N.A. Admty.) *See also p. 15*

AUBRETTIA<sup>1</sup> E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0600 G.M.T/3. Require  
SNOWDROP 100 tons oil fuel each. (F.O.C.N.A. 0210A/1 to N.C.S.O. P. Delgada)

EAGLE My 1549/28. After discussing with EAGLE and  
Operation R.A.F. officers following facts emerged.  
"Spotter" 1. Long range tanks had not been fitted nor tested with petrol in before aircraft left U.K.  
2. Assembly parties had no experience with long range tanks and had no reason to expect that tanks crated in individual aircraft would not fit.  
3. A large number of parts were missing which entailed stripping 16th aircraft to make 15 serviceable.  
4. Hoped an estimated date can be given later today.  
5. I do not intend to leave Gibraltar until Air Commodore reports all aircraft are ready to take the air.  
6. In all respects other than long range tanks I am informed parts of aircraft were serviceable and erection satisfactory.  
7. Urge most strongly that in future operations aircraft are assembled and tested with all components in place in U.K. before being crated.  
8. After consulting Air Commodore consider advisable expert in fitting tanks should be flown out. (S.O. Force H. 0255A/1 to Admty, etc.)  
My 0255/1. Estimated 14 A/C should be fitted to fly by A.M. 2/3 and 15 by A.M. 3/3, subject to experts' approval of modifications made.  
2. A.O.C. considers experts' approval is necessary.  
3. A.O.C. has also asked Cannon Gun expert to be flown out as understood Cannon armament has not been air tested.  
4. Considers 4/3 is earliest probable D 1.  
5. Request consideration be given? to my proposal in para 7 of my 0255/1 to A/C understood being sent in QUEEN VICTORIA. (S.O. Force H. 1237A/1 to Admty. etc.)

French Passings 28/2 French westward FAUZON, full MEN  
Shipping GWEN, BRITTIA,\*MONT CASSEL, KERPAPE. (V.A.C.N.A. 0915/1 to M.E.W.) Later passing on 1/3 (D.O.R. 2/3)

M.L. 244 My 1042A/25/2. Sailing delayed owing to weather. (F.O.C.N.A. 0928A/1 to C. in C. S.A.)



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

M.L.244.  
HYDRANGEA

447. My 0928A/1 not to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia. Sailed HYDRANGEA escorting M.L. No. 244 (Route thence Bathurst. Speed (?subject to) weather conditions 12 knots. If (?separated) M.L. No. 244 keeps wireless watch in accordance with S/42 N.A. para 3 (ii) dropping to section A.F. table 2. (iv) Line one on entering S.A. station. Neither ship in possession of area 2 tables. (F.O.C.N.A. 1732A/1 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

COMMANDANT  
DROGOU  
COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT

Your 1332/28, confirm visit in order provided precautions described in your 1332/28 are strictly observed. Suggest also advisability refer to ships during visit as DROGOU and DETROYAT omitting word COMMANDANT. (B.N.A. Lisbon 1030/1 to Admty.)

Ships should be represented as DROGOU and DETROYAT omitting word COMMANDANT for period of visit. Word COMMANDANT should not appear anywhere on ships. (Admty. 1840A/1 to COMMANDANT DROGOU, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, B.N.A. Lisbon etc.)

LEESEE  
(German)

LEESEE will not complete loading before dark 2/3. (H.M. Consul Bilbao. 1225/1 to Admty.)

Situation

Situation Report Y. (i) O S 20. 40° 57' 21° 50' through 38° 00' 22° 00' thence 184° 8. S.O. of escort LONDONDERRY.

→ Situation 2004A/1. (ii) S L 101. 25° 04' 21° 00' 000° 7. S.O. of escort ROCHESTER.  
(iii) 3 corvettes 44° 08' 21° 59' 201° 12.  
(iv) O.G.80. 44° 40' 20° 48' through 43° 00' 21° 00' thence 136° 7½. S.O. of escort STORK. (F.O.C.N.A. 1324A/1 to Ships & Authorities N.A.)

GONCALVES  
ZARCO  
JOAO BELO  
*(with ships for Timor)*

My 1656/27. and 1908/28 M of M now inform me that they have been obliged by the situation in Timor to order JOAO BELO and Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO to proceed to Colombo and hope usual facilities can be accorded. (B.N.A. Lisbon 1327/1 to Admty.) *See also East Indies & Australia.*

Situation  
Report

Area Z (N.A.S.).  
1. CAMPION, MALLOW 26° 10' 15° 12' through 29° 00' 12° 3' thence 030° 10.  
2. S.L.101 S. 25° 04' 21° 00' 000° 7. S.O. of escort ROCHESTER.

→ Situation 2004A/1.

3. HILARY, MARSDALE on patrol eastern and western half N 64 and N 73 respectively.  
4. MARON, CAVINA on patrol eastern and western half N 46 and N 55 respectively.  
5. DERBYSHIRE escorting ORDUNA 32° 47' 31° 11' 352° 12½. (F.O.C.N.A. 1328A/1 to Ships and Authorities N.A.)



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

SAN JUAN Your 1544A/28/2 SAN JUAN Seville reports negotiations for sale are still proceeding but no decision has yet been reached. (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 1625/1 to M.E.W.)

OLYMPUS Arrival OLYMPUS. (F.O.C.N.A. 2002A/1 to C. in C. Med.)

LAVENDER LAVENDER will not require to go to Ponta Delgada for water. (ROCHESTER 2113A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PENTSTEMON My 0200A/1. P.C. and S at 2000A/1 031° 02' 017° 57' 066° 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Proceeding with all despatch as I have rating for hospital. Weather report. (PENTSTEMON 2130A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.) *p. 13*

Supply of Gas Oil to Faro. Request reply to my 2228A/18/2. Following received from Consul General Lisbon. We have no objection to arrangements if this is of value to you. Maximum requirements 40 tons month. Ruled market price fixed by you accepted by Governor, Faro. (C.S. Gibraltar, 2203A/1 to Admty)

South Atlantic.

DEMIR HISAR Sailed DEMIR HISAR for Mombasa S of A 18 knots E.T.A. 1000Z/5. Route as in C. in C. E.I. 1110Z/18/4/41. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0432Z/1 to Admty.)

CHATTANOOGA CITY, CRIPPLE CREEK Cancel my 1131/27/2 CHATTANOOGA CITY arrived Capetown. My 1024/28/2 CRIPPLE CREEK arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1015B/1 to Admty.)

BRITISH VALOUR Your 1231Z/28/2 BRITISH VALOUR should be sailed in S.L.102 after loading as much as possible in time available. Request report of quantity loaded.  
2. Further signal will be made when policy regarding employment of these tankers is settled. (D.T.D. 1151A/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

/SUPETAR...



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SUPETAR Cancel my 1133/27. SUPETAR arrived Durban 1/3. (S.O.I. Capetown. 1438B/1 to Admty. etc.)

PALADIN My 1707/24 para 2 ABBEYDALE is to arrive James  
PANTHER Bay, St. Helena, at 0600Z/6 to fuel PALADIN and PANTHER. (C. in C. S.A. 1531Z/1 to ABBEYDALE (R) S.O. Force V.)

Transport of Aircraft Your 2215/25 received 1/3. Para 1 of your 1527/  
in HERMES 10/11 as received here read " am unable to agree sending ten Swordfish and four Walrus from Wynberg to Colombo in HERMES" My 1417/15/1 asked you to reconsider the decision quoted above. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1623Z/1 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty.)

WIVERN Departure 1/3 WIVERN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN.  
ROYAL (N.O.I.C. Lagos 1715Z/1 to Admty.)  
ULSTERMAN

ILEX Arrival 1/3 ILEX, MEMPHIS, GREENE, WINSLOW.  
MEMPHIS (R.O. Pernambuco. 1822Z/1 to Admty.)  
GREENE  
WINSLOW

W.S.16. Arrivals 0650/1/3 Force "V" and Force "T" (?with)  
W.S.16. (S.O.I. Freetown 1959Z/1 to Admty.)

CANTON E.T.A. 0800Z/2. Fuel remaining at 2000Z/1 6%  
(CANTON 2000Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

ASTURIAS 35. E.T.A. Freetown in ASTURIAS 1400Z/9/3.  
CILICIA CILICIA patrolling L 31 and L 32 visits Montevideo Monday 9th sails Wednesday 11th to resume patrol. (R.A.S.A.D. 2001Z/1 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Bathurst Arrival 1/3 EGRET, FLEETWOOD, PHILANTE, BANFF,  
arrivals FISHGUARD and BACTRIA. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 2059Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

COWSLIP Your 1934/5/1. Request probable date of completion of permanent repairs to COWSLIP. (C. in C. S.A. 2121Z/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.36 1/3 arrived P.36. (V.A. Malta 0837B/1 to Admty.)

NUBIAN 31. My 1803/24. Add NUBIAN to 22nd D.F. (C. in C. Med. 0920/1 to R.A.D.)

KIMBERLEY Arrival Suez 28/2 KIMBERLEY (in tow) (N.O.I.C. Suez 0921B/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Movements 28/2 Port Said arrivals R.F.A \*DERWENTDALE, \*ERICA Departures 0930B M.T.B's \*266 and \*268. 1245B \*HAVOCK, \*KIPLING. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0935B/1 to Admty.) \* see next page \* See also p.19.

Troop transports for Far East. M.E. move I/656 15 T.O.O. 1915/24/2 and move I/663 59 T.O.O. 1830/26/2. (ii) Ref. first signal para 5 additional M/T ships expected to sail from Suez as follows (a) \*GORGEOUS II, CITY OF CALCUTTA, CLAN FERGUSON, and HINDANGER with about 412 M/T and about 600 personnel 3/3. (b) \*GORGEOUS III, VILLANGER and DELIUS with 333 M/T and 400 personnel 6/3. (c) \*CONSENT, MICHAEL LIVANOS, DORNOCH and GOGRA 548 M/T and 800 personnel 6/3. (iii) Agreed (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 0940B/1 to D. of S.T., as amended 2253B/2) \* not identified

Movements Sailed ARROW, HOTSPUR 2120Z/28/2. NAPIER, NESTOR 0617Z/1. arrived NAPIER, NESTOR 0301Z/1. COLOMBO. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1015Z/1.)

RUNO  
~~RUNO#~~ Your 1630A/28. S.S. RUNO arrived Suez on 12/2 and is waiting there to dock. (S.B.N.O. S.C.A. 1032/1 to Admty.)

Air Report 1. Cyrenaica. Night 27/28/2. 5 Wellingtons successfully laid 9 mines in Benghazi Harbour operation covered by further 10 Wellingtons which bombed objectives in vicinity causing violent explosion and fire on Cathedral Mole. 2 Wellingtons missing of which one believed shot down over Benghazi. 28/2 Bad weather prevented offensive operations. Beaufort R/C sighted no shipping movements between Southern Greece and Libya. 2. Egypt. Night 27/28/2. Shortly after dark 2 JU.88's bombed Fuka main L.G. severely damaging 2 aircraft on ground. 1 enemy aircraft also dropped bombs southwest Mersa Matruh without damage. 28/2. 2 single JU.88's bombed Mersa Matruh in morning causing slight damage. Martlets shot down one JU.88 into sea. Single enemy aircraft reconnoitred Alexandria in afternoon. Hurricanes and Beaufighters unable to intercept. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1103/1. G.M.T.)



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

AJAX My 1251/25. AJAX leaving Suez p.m./1. Advance all dates by two days. F.O.R.S. pass to AJAX. (C. in C. Med. 1115B/1 to Admty.) *See also next page*

UNBEATEN UPHOLDER P.35. Leave patrol as necessary to arrive Marsamxett 0645B as follows:-

Submarine.	Through.	Arrives.
UNBEATEN	035° 40' 012° 00' and	4/3
	035° 40' 14° 20'	
UPHOLDER	034° 00' 012° 50' and	5/3
	035° 32' 014° 14'	
P.35.	037° 02' 015° 40' and	5/3
	035° 51' 015° 15'	

Movements of S/M's from Malta will be signalled. (Capt. (S) 10. 1203B/1 to 10th S/M Flotilla)

Movements Arrivals 28/2. COCKER, \*KIPLING, \*HAVOCK, \*M.T.B's 266, 268, departure 28/2 THORGRIM, arrival 1/3 WOLBOROUGH. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1222B/1 to Admty. C. in C. Med.) \* *See previous page*

Malta Air Report Night 28/2 to 1/3 no alerts. 1/3 6 alerts 0537 0711 1008 1056 1227 1323 hours 63 ME 109's and JU 88's targets Hal Far and submarine base no damage or casualties. Elsewhere 1 civilian killed, over 10 wounded, church hit, block of flats demolished. Hurricanes up, 1 JU.88 damaged. Strikes 1 ME 109 and another JU.88. 3 Hurricanes shot down, 1 pilot safe, 2 killed. AA fired. Night 28/2 - 1/3 bad weather stopped operations. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1815/1)

THUNDERBOLT THUNDERBOLT leaves vicinity of Alexandria about 1830B/1/3 routed (?to) Malta through 032° 11' 028° 41' and 035° 23' 017° 00' thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. She has been ordered to pass through second position about dawn 6/3. (Capt. (S) 1, 1825B/1 to C. in C. Med.)

U-Boat At 1430B/1 a S/M was sighted in 036° 53' 025° 17'. (Capt. (S) 1, 1901B/1 to TURBULENT.)

Situation Report 197. Western Desert convoys continue normally. During daylight air raids on Tobruk on 27/2 SOUTHERN SEA damaged above water by near miss and HARBOE JENSEN holed in engine room and beached. No casualty in HARBOE JENSEN, one officer killed one officer and three ratings wounded in SOUTHERN SEA. Mersa Matruh S.W.S.S. demolished on 28/2 in air attack. No casualty. (2) U-Boats have been sighted by aircraft on Western Desert and Levant shipping routes but no evidence of success in subsequent attacks and hunts. (3) Submarines. My 1309/25 P.34 attacked 3 large merchant ships escorted by 7 destroyers at 1125/23 in position 32° 52'



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Situation  
Report  
197  
(Contd.)

N. 14° (?09') E at long range. 3 torpedo hits heard at correct intervals but heavy and persistent counter attack prevented observation of result.

(4) Levant. 370 Greek Naval and Civilian personnel including 6 Naval Officers escaped by caique from Greece to Cyprus are being transported to Palestine and Egypt. (C. in C. Med. 2121B/1 to Admty.)

Movements

1/3 Port Said, departures 0450B R.F.A.  
\*DERWENTDALE, 0615B \*AJAX, 1212B BEAUFORT, 1225B  
\*ERICA, 1245B PEONY. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2142B/1  
to Admty. C. in C. Med.) \* See p. 17.

\* See previous page

LANCE

My 1602/5/12/1941 and Yard letter number 19 of 16/1/1942. LANCE now in dock for renewal of all (?corroded) rivets in compartments inaccessible at previous dock. Survey reveals corrosion of butts of shell is considerable, and leaking is heavy. Request Admty. approval to drill out all rivets of such butts, etc. Time required in dock at least 4 weeks. (A.S. Malta, 2300B/1 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. R.A.D. Med. etc.)

Smyrna  
Loop.

Following from B.N.A. Ankara (begins) My 1205B/21. Missing loop cable junction boxes have been found and necessary spare cable has been obtained from Istanbul to enable laying of compressed air loop system to be completed. Missing control station equipment has not yet been found T.O.O. 1214B/1/3 (ends). (C. in C. Med. 2331B/1 to Admty.)



War Diary.1.3.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Destroyers. Arrival DECOY, FORTUNE, GRIFFIN.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0349Z/1 to Admty. etc.)  
→ Departure DECOY, FORTUNE for Colombo.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay 1047Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy S.U.1. (1) S.U.1.  
(2) 0130Z/1.  
(4) 10 Knots.  
(5) (Route)  
(6) CORNWALL.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 0556Z/1, 0557Z/1 to Admty.)

AETOS. Intended programme Greek destroyer AETOS.  
Leave Sandheads 3/3, Madras 5/3, Trincomalee 6-7/3, Colombo 8-10/3, Bombay arrive 12/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0658Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

D.M.3. Request following ships of D.M.3 may be sailed to Bombay for disembarking. STRATHNAVER, AAGTEKERK, PORT CHALMERS, EMPIRE WOODLARK hitherto Huyens. Agreed. Request E.T.A. Bombay.  
(P.S.T.O. India 0729Z/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

→ DECOY FORTUNE. Departure DECOY, FORTUNE for Colombo.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay 1047Z/1 to Admty.)

CALEDON. Arrival at 0940 zone time 1st.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1114Z/1 to Admty. etc.)  
*See also next page*

Java Army Report. 036626 9 cipher 1/3. G.H.Q. situation up to 00 hours local time.  
During night 28/2 - 1/3 Japanese landed Kragan in East Java, at Eretan north of Bandoeng (II transport) and at Bantam Bay and Merak west of Batavia. Enemy strength not known but East Java landing reported in considerable strength. Objective not yet clear but probably Sourabaya and Batavia. Kragan appears to be main landing.  
2. Disposition of our own troops midnight 28/2 - 1/3.  
3. Military situation.  
(Britgen, Java, 1115/1 to W.O.)

SILVERTEAK MENDOZA. SILVERTEAK and MENDOZA sailing a.m./2 for Bombay. Troop details.  
(S.S.T.O. Colombo 1129Z/1 to P.S.T.O. India.)

B.M.14. Convoy B.M.(?14) arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 1144Z/1 to Admty.)

/ATREUS ...



War Diary.1.3.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

ATREUS My 1332/24. Further damage has been caused to  
 ELSEY. Colombo Guard Loops. ATREUS and ELSEY will  
 not be able to sail until 6/3 approx.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 1211Z/1 to Admty.)

Adm. Helfrich Following received from Adm. Helfrich (begins)  
 China Force. I have resigned command of Allied Naval Forces.  
 S.O. China Force ordered withdrawal of British  
 Naval Forces and U.S. Naval Forces excepting  
 (?submarines) are also being withdrawn. This is with my  
 consent. Hope you will provide me all possible escort. I  
 shall try to send all my remaining forces to Colombo.  
 T.O.O.0355/1 (ends).  
 (C. in C. E.F. 1230Z/1 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B., B.A.D.)

Convoys. N.C.S.O. Calcutta's 0814Z/26.  
 Request details of any convoys instituted and not  
 mentioned in A.M.'s 1545A/5/1 and 1945A/8/1  
 and 1623A/25/1. Attention is called to para.2  
 of A.M.1545A/5/1.  
 (D.T.D.1244A/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

Movements. Departure TEVIOT BANK, ASTER at 1240Z/1.  
 CALEDON at 1730Z/1. *See previous page.*  
 (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1510Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

Situation. Following is summary of recent events and  
 decisions connected with Eastern Fleet :-  
 A. Situation in Abda area has deteriorated  
 badly during last 10 days.  
 (i) With S. Sumatra, Bali and Koepang in Japanese hands  
 retention of Java against determined attack doubtful.  
 (ii) Timor attacked with resultant increased threat to Darwin.  
 (iii) In Burma we have been forced back behind Sittang River and  
 threat to Rangoon and Burma Road is serious.  
 (iv) Japanese threat to Indian Ocean via Malacca Straits in-  
 creased by fall of Singapore.  
 B. In view of above now decided to concentrate on defence of  
 Burma, Ceylon, and Australia as bases essential for eventual  
 counter offensive. Java will not be reinforced except with  
 air forces and present forces in Java will fight it out to the  
 last. Australian Corps from M.E. now, therefore, diverted  
 to Australia, 70th British Div. from M.E. to Burma and Ceylon,  
 and 7th Armoured Bde. from M.E. to Burma. Latter has now  
 arrived. Additional reinforcements for Burma being found from  
 India as arrival of 70th Div. some way off.  
 C. Future Japanese intentions appear to be the complete  
 occupation of N.E.I. by attack on Java, and to secure their  
 southern flank by occupation of Darwin area, and northern  
 flank by over-running Burma.

/D. Future ...



War Diary.1.3.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Situation contd. D. Future Japanese intentions as regards Indian Ocean still obscure. Activity hitherto confined to operation of submarines in Bay of Bengal. No reports of any sinkings by these recently. Attack on Ceylon of Pearl Harbour type, or full scale invasion considered possible. Immediate steps being taken to provide two Fulmar Squadrons from Middle East. INDOMITABLE will ferry further three Hurricane Squadrons from M.E., and these will probably go to Ceylon but decision as between Ceylon and Java not yet taken. C. in C. E.F. has been instructed to keep 2 R Class in Ceylon area to operate against possible invasion and to retain HERMES until INDOMITABLE is operational.

E. As operations in Abda area now confined to Java and occupation of South Sumatra has cut off Burma, latter now reverted to India and western boundary of Abda area is now the eastern frontier of Burma and down the west coast of Malaya to Singapore at a point of intersection of former boundary. Sumatra remains wholly in the Abda area.

F. Scope of Abdacom now so limited, command of Allied land, sea and air forces in N.E.I. has been transferred to Dutch and Wavell has returned to India. China Force remains as before but now operating under Dutch with Palliser ashore as British Naval Representative at Dutch H.Q.

G. Envisaged that Abda area will gradually fade out, and it is now under discussion with U.S.A. to abolish Abda and Anzac areas and revert to two areas of strategic responsibility; U.S. in Pacific and British in Indian Ocean. Dividing line not yet decided, but Malacca Straits will be in British area.

H. If retention of naval forces inside Malay barrier becomes impossible, Palliser instructed to send all R.N. ships to Trincomalee. Hoped that Dutch ships will also go to Trincomalee, but they may choose Fremantle. R.A.N. forces from Abda area will probably go to Fremantle in first place and later to Anzac area, but we hope to retain some particularly A/S M/S Bathursts at Fremantle. U.S. forces from Abda area will probably go to Anzac area, except submarines which will proceed to Fremantle to patrol off Sunda and Lombok Straits. This will free our own and Dutch submarines operating from Colombo for the Malacca Straits. U.S. forces at Fremantle would probably not be under your orders and close co-operation by means of liaison officers will be necessary.

J. Palliser also instructed that if any of China Force can be released from Abda area before final break-up, so much the better. TRUSTY and TRUANT already transferred to Eastern Fleet to institute patrol north end of Malacca Straits.

K. Following is state of re-inforcements for Eastern Fleet:-

- (i) WARSPITE arrives Fremantle 5/3.
- (ii) ILLUSTRIOUS and ADAMANT leave U.K. 21/3.
- (iii) BIRMINGHAM joins Eastern Fleet after one month's refit at Simonstown, commencing 3/3.
- (iv) DAUNTLESS leaves U.K. 5/3.
- (v) DEVONSHIRE refitting U.S.A. Completes mid-March.
- (vi) FROBISHER refitting U.K. Completes end of March.
- (vii) GAMBIA ready for service in U.K. early April.
- (viii) HAWKINS refitting U.K. Completes early June.
- (ix) Following destroyers ex Mediterranean forming 2nd D.F. have been transferred to Eastern Fleet:-

GRIFFIN, HOTSPUR, FORTUNE, ARROW, DECOY and FOXHOUND.

/These ...



War Diary.1.3.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Situation contd. These now on passage to Colombo except FOXHOUND who leaves Alexandria 12/3. PAKENHAM and PENN accompany ILLUSTRIOUS.  
 L. Air R/C for Indian Ocean. U.S. have agreed to turn over 18 flying boats to us at once and this will enable us to provide three Catalina Squadrons for the Indian Ocean. Four Catalinas have already left.  
 M. Report has been received of 3 Japanese ships at Diego Suarez. This is now known to be not true.  
 N. Decided to move H.Q. of C. in C. S.A. to the Cape.  
 R.A.S.A.D. will become F.O.I.C. Freetown.  
 O. Question of command in Indian Ocean still under discussion as C. in C. E.F. reports confusion arising owing to presence of two Cs in C. at Colombo.  
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1646A/1 to S.O. Force V., S.O. Force T.)

Supplies to Burma. 73755 Cipher (M.O.12(b)) 1/3.  
 1. G.O.C. Burma's Q.31 25/2 shows that fall of Rangoon will make administrative position in Burma desperate. Realise you are doing everything possible to complete new routes to Burma and China.  
 2. Have you considered every possible means of getting goods to Burma?  
 3. Suggestions.  
 (W.O. 1800/1 to C. in C. India.)

Portuguese Ships for Timor. Portuguese Ministry of Marine state they have been obliged by the situation in Timor to order JOAO BELO and sloop GONCALVES ZARCO to proceed to Colombo. Please accord usual facilities. Position of vessels at 1200/27 was 015° 14' S. 108° 10' E.  
 (Head of M. 1913A/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

S.O. Force V. Request you will accelerate your arrival in Ceylon as much as possible consistent with meeting Gen. Smuts and other South African Ministers and officials. Your 1644/26, not to C. in C. E.F. Regret it will not be possible to delay V.A.3's return to Eastern area so that you can meet him in South Africa.  
 (1st S.L. 1932A/1 to S.O. Force V. (R) V.A.3., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

RESOLUTION NEWCASTLE. In view of the threat to Ceylon it is desired that RESOLUTION should reach at least Addu Atoll as soon as practicable. Allocation of NEWCASTLE to Abda area is cancelled and she is at the disposal of C. in C. E.F.  
 (1st S.L. 1937A/1 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)

/Burma ...



War Diary.1.3.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Burma 036497. 4399/CGS. cipher 1/3.  
 Orders from For C.O.S. from Gen. Wavell.  
 Gen. Wavell. I met Governor, Hutton and Stevenson at Magwe  
 this morning 1/3. After discussion issued  
 instructions that Rangoon should be held as long  
 as possible and at least in order to allow 63 Infantry Bde.  
 and other reinforcements immediately to be landed. To put  
 troops in from north will be slow and difficult and we should  
 get in maximum while we can still hold Rangoon.  
 2. This policy involves risk of losing 63 Bde. and of having  
 troops in south cut off but it seems to me only chance of  
 keeping war going in Burma. If enemy action makes Rangoon  
 untenable before arrival 63 Bde. or other convoy they will be  
 reversed.  
 (C. in C. India 2355/1/ to W.O.)

China.

Air Ops. 30.1/3. Java combined air int.  
 Reports. Summary 28/2. 20 enemy sightings reported during  
 day. 2 main convoys were indicated. First,  
 35 transports several cruisers and large number  
 destroyers approaching North Coast Java in direction Rembang  
 approx. 111° 45' E. Second, 25 transports at least 3 cruisers  
 some destroyers approaching west of Indramajoe approx. 108° E.  
 2 B.17s sank 1 transport first convoy damaged another.  
 Continuous series attacks by Allied bombers on sea forces  
 commencing 2000 L.t., 28/2. 1 transport was sunk an auxiliary  
 vessel was probably sunk, 12 direct hits obtained on 9 ships,  
 11 near misses and fires observed on four ships. Enemy bombed  
 Semplak aerodrome 27/2 hitting magazines, hangars, runways  
 unserviceable. 2 dry 3 grounded aircraft damaged. Dutch  
 Merchant vessel XZOONDAM bombed, Dutch Naval Auxship REIGEU  
 attacked by seaplanes, Banten Bay. Maefoen Aerodrome raided by  
 6 unescorted army 97 bombers, damage slight.  
 (Wesgroup 1125/1 to Air Min. etc.) X ? ZAANDAM intended  
 Oprep/5. 1/3, Daily opl. summary to 0030Z 1/3. Numerous enemy  
 warships and transports sighted approaching Java Coast in at  
 least 3 convoys 27/28/2.  
 Night 28/2-1/3 6 Blenheim 2 Hudsons attacked convoy approaching  
 Indramajoe. Night fighters encountered. Direct hits on 2  
 transports. 1 auxiliary probably sunk. Many near misses.  
 Same time 9 Vildebeests made 2 sorties each against convoy  
 approaching Bantjar several direct hits claimed. Our losses 1  
 Blenheim and 2 Vildebeests missing, 1 crashed, crew safe, 1  
 Blenheim and 1 Hudson damaged. Reports not yet complete.  
 American operations. 2 B.17s attacked large convoy 0840 local  
 time 28/2. 1 large transport sunk, 1 damaged. Later Brewsters  
 attacked Indramajoe landing. (Corrupt portion - see 0930/2)

/Japanese ...



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1755Z/10th March

IN

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date 11.3.42.

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME TABLE BY W/T

Recd. 0051

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed Admiralty.

686. IMPORTANT.

Further investigation of ships now arrived in Colombo shows that H.M.S. DANAE and H.M.I.S. JUMNA intercepted emergency signal from H.M.S. EXETER 0253Z/1 reporting 3 Cruisers bearing West steering eastward at distance of 14 miles. At that time position of H.M.S. EXETER was 005 degs 00' South 111 degs 00' East. Since it is known H.M.S. EXETER's speed was limited to 16 knots it is feared she must have been overwhelmed by this force.

(2) H.M.S. DRAGON reports she intercepted signal of H.M.A.S. PERTH 1541Z/28 when in position 005° degs 45' South 106° deg 13' East indicating she had sighted one cruiser to Westward steering 070 at range of 5 miles. From other signals since examined it seems probable there was more than one cruiser concerned and Netherlands destroyer EVERTSEN reports seeing engagement off Nicholas Point at 1555Z/28 of (? Same) day. It is feared H.M.A.S. PERTH and possibly other ships may have been sunk in this action.

1755Z/10.

Advance Copy to D.C. D.O.D.(F). D.D.I.C.

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)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(T).  
A.C.N.S.(W).  
Parl. Sec.  
Fin. Sec.  
Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.F.(2).  
D.O.D.(H).  
D.D.O.D.(H).  
D.O.D.(F).  
D.D.O.D.(F).  
D.C.  
D.N.I.(4).  
D.D.I.C.  
D.A/S.W.  
D.P.D.  
Hydrog.

Hd. of M.  
Hd. of C.W.  
Hd. of N.  
I.D.(2).  
W.D.

Spec. copy. Insert in Diary of 1-3.42



War Diary.

1.3.1942  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Air  
Reports -  
contd.

Japanese landings reported at Banten, Moera, Tjilamaja, Indramajoe, Bantjar, (Kragan). details not yet known. Successful Hurricane attacks on Indramajoe landing in progress. Wesgroup aircraft serviceability 0030Z/1 approx. Blenheim 4, Hudson 1, Vildebeest 6, Hurricane 12.  
(A.V.M. Maltby, 1416/1 to Air Min.)

Directions  
to A.O.C.

1/3. Your A.C.O. 628/2. Following from Chiefs of Staff. We entirely approve your intentions and agree that so long as Dutch continue effective resistance there is no alternative but that all British personnel having arms must fight alongside them.  
2. If Java is eventually overwhelmed we know all British ranks would wish to accept whatever the fortune of war brings them.  
3. We are sure you realise that to send special shipping and attempt organised last minute evacuation would entail unjustifiable loss of shipping besides raising acute difficulties of the kind you mention. We are very conscious of the hard trial in front of you but are sure that the honour of the British Services vis-a-vis our Allies is safe in your hands and in those of all ranks serving under you.  
(Air Min. 1820/1 to H.Q. Britair, Java.)



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U.S. Intelligence. Following from Cdt. 14th U.S. Naval District Pearl Harbour (begins) Combat Intelligence bulletin 44. Japanese seaplane carrier KAMO I by D/F in  $3^{\circ}N157^{\circ}E$ . Air search yesterday from Rabaul to 600 miles to eastward Japanese aircraft carrier SHOKAKU in Navy yard, Yukosuka. 25 planes en route to Palembang. One air tender is at Wotje. (Ends).  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0002Z/1 to Admty etc).

PLEIODON (?) Received at 0030 G.M.T. SSSS  $39^{\circ}57'N$ ,  $55^{\circ}40'W$ , \*PLEIODON torpedoed at 0010 G.M.T. De VCS. (Halifax, 0039Z/1 to Admty). W.D. Note. N.T. in Lloyds, CARPERBY intended? See next signal.  
*\* not identified*

CARPERBY S.S. CARPERBY torpedoed in  $39.57N$ ,  $55.40W$ , at 0009/1.  
(Naval, Ottawa, T.H.I., 0157/1 to Admty).

Convoy Messages. In order to reduce delay in delivery of messages and to reduce number of retransmissions, required that Opnav be made information addressee on despatches transmitted C. in C. W.A. to C.T.F.4 regarding convoys and escorts at sea.  
(C.T.F.4., 0200/1 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Opnav).

SEVERN. Expect me Sambro light vessel 1430Z/1st. (SEVERN, 0207Z/1 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).  
My P.C. and S.  $040^{\circ}53'N$ ,  $061^{\circ}14'W$ ,  $336^{\circ}15$  knots at 2230Z/1.  
(SEVERN, 0209Z/1 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, Admty, F.O.S., S.O.(I) Kingston, B.A.D.)  
Following are required before proceeding Philadelphia (items). (SEVERN, 0208Z/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Your 2057Z/27 and 1759Z/28. Analysis of your signalled positions etc. seems to show that you have been overdriving your submarine in bad weather. Less speed, more haste.  
(F.O.S., 1152A/1 to SEVERN).

U-boats. D/F bearings indicate submarine in position as follows:- (a)  $036^{\circ}30'N$ ,  $069^{\circ}W$ , at 0020Z/1st. (b)  $039^{\circ}N$ ,  $073^{\circ}30'W$ , at 0036Z/1st.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0504Z/1 to British Warships Area 7A., Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

DIALA, ZWARTE ZEE. Sail ZWARTE ZEE in accordance with my 2236A/28. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0512A/1)  
Cancel my 2249A/28. Return to Lough Foyle and remain on stand by duty.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1227A/1 to ZWARTE ZEE).

ZWARTE ZEE is returning to Lough Foyle for stand by duty. On relief you are to proceed to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1229A/1 to TENACITY).  
Cancel my 1657A/28. As weather conditions are expected to be favourable for towing DIALA to westward ZWARTE ZEE is not to proceed at present. (D.T.D., 1235A/1 to C. in C. W.A., F.O. Newfoundland).  
/Your...



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.DIALA,  
ZWARTE ZEE.  
Contd.

Your 1227A/1st acknowledged. Entering Lough Foyle to stand by as ordered. (ZWARTE ZEE, 1408/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). My 2136Z/28 Admty. now direct that DIALA should be towed to westward and that ZWARTE ZEE is not being sent to assist. Endeavour to tow towards St. John's N.F. (F.O.N.F., 1432Z/1 to PRUDENT (R) ST. LOMAN etc).

ORION.

San Diego arrived 1500Z/28 ORION. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0624Z/1 to Admty).

DIOMEDE.

Departure DIOMEDE 2100 G.M.T. 28/2 for Montevideo via Recife arrives 7/3. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1012Q/1 to Admty).

Minefields  
Venezuela.

B.A.D. 2041Q/28. Presume it is desirable that loop should be retained as a standby after mine fields have been laid. Request Admty views whether any (?re-anchoring) of loop is considered advisable. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1112P/1 to Admty).

Arrivals.

WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON arrived. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1115Z/1 to Admty).

Repair of  
U.S. Ships,  
Bermuda.

Your 2031/9/2 and Comdr. i/c Bermuda 1222/12/2. Form D.461 requires all damage to Admiralty property to be made good and an indemnity against any claims made against the Admiralty for injury, etc., to be given. If no similar undertakings are given in respect of H.M. Ships under repair in U.S.A. this undertaking should not be asked for. 2. Form of receipt proposed in your para. 3 approved. (Admty. 1246A/1 to B.A.D., C. in C. A.W.I., Cdr. i/c Bermuda).

N.A. 4.

1. Sailing telegram. 2. 1300Z/1. 4. 13.5 knots. 5. (Route) 6. ROCKINGHAM, BEVERLEY. 9. British ORION, CAMERONIA. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1301Z/1 to Admty etc).

See p. 30

O.N. 73.

ROSE and ACANTHUS arrived. <sup>London Army (Pink List)</sup> Task Unit A.4 composed of MAYO (S.O.) SIMPSON, ROSE, ACANTHUS, EGLANTINE and POTENTILLA designated escort O.N. 73. (C.T.G., 4.7., 1303A/1 to C.T. Force 4, C. in C. W.A.)

/ANGARSTROI...



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

ANGARSTROI. Russian ship ANGARSTROI overdue Salavery.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1412R/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

AZALEA CITY (U.S.) Due Philadelphia 21/2 from Trinidad is non-arrival. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1430P/1 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston, Opanav).

Abda and Anzac Area Limits. No. 85. C.O.S. (W) 76, B.A.D. Washington's 1947Q/26 to Admty. (para. (d)) and 1335A/28 to B.A.D. Washington.  
(i) U.S. Authorities have discussed with us demarkation between Pacific and Indian Ocean on the assumption that Java fell to Japanese. (ii) Combined Staff Planners have examined this and recommended Abda Area should remain in being, its boundary being re defined as follows:-  
(a) Transferring Sumatra to Indian Ocean area. (b) Moving Northern boundary of Abda Area from 030° N., Southwards to 020° N. (c) Moving that part of Abda Area which lies North of the Equator from 140° E., Westward to 130° E., (d) Running S.W. boundary Abda Area from Onslow N.W. to a point in 008° S., 104° E. (e) Transfer all Australians to Abda Area as modified. (iii) This proposal closely follows Adm. King's suggestion as outlined in para. (d) of B.A.D. Washington 1947Q/26 in which he visualises the Abda area as sub area of Pacific with similar status as naval Anzac Area under Cominch. We agree with this. There remains however problem of command of land and air force in Australia. We should be grateful for your preliminary view on boundary proposed for new Abda Area and on question of command in Australia before our meeting with Combined Chiefs of Staff on 3/3.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1435Q/1, to Chiefs of Staff London).

Communications Your 1252/26. (re Procedure to ensure that all with U.S.N. British ships under American control receive Admty. Signals.) As B.A.D. is not an operational command it is considered preferable for ships other than those given in (A) to be the responsibility of C. in C. A.W.I. In exceptional circumstances C. in C. A.W.I. could arrange direct with B.A.D. for the latter to be responsible for certain units.  
(B.A.D., 1519Q/1 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)

CONSUELO U/B. Following received from CONSUELO at 1406Z/1 S.S. CONSUELO 44.10 N., 63.15 W., submarine sighted on surface.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1533Q/1 to Admty).  
Apparently was SEVERN, see N.S.H.Q. 0115Z/4.

O.N.Convoy Schedule. Your 1833Z/27. Affirm.  
(Opanav, 1604/1 to Admty).

/LENNOX...



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

LENNOX torpedoes. Following is description of submarine which torpedoed steamship LENNOX at 1600Z/23, (9009°) 15' N., 058° 30' W. (a) shape size and armament closely similar to U.45 class. (b) Number on conning tower possibly X.O.19 or Z.O.19. Also Gothic gilt letters W.O.F. formed part of a name. (c) Fresh painted green-grey, no sign of weathering, general appearance as just out of dock. (d) Crew of young Germans all fresh shaven markedly suntanned. (e) Submarine surfaced to offer assistance to ship's boat.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1722Q/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Oil Fuel, St. Thomas. Your 2005/27. Com. 10 has been ordered to provide sufficient fuel for vessels to reach nearest bunkering port provided naval stock permits. (B.A.D., 1801Q/1 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., R.N.O. St. Thomas).

CORNER BROOK, PARKHAVEN, MIRAFLORES. Your 1633/28. S.S. CORNER BROOK arrived Halifax 23rd ref. N.C.S.O. Halifax Vesca 2358Z/23. PARKHAVEN (Dutch) arrived Halifax 28th. MIRAFLORES has not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1806Z/1 to Admty).

Diversion of Shipping, Caribbean. Your 1832P/28. Reference is not entirely clear. Necessity for early action has led Admty. to initiate diversions in this area in certain instances but it was not intended that these should indicate any change in responsibility. It may on occasions be necessary for Admty. to intervene in the light of any special intelligence available and you will be kept fully informed of any such diversions made.  
(A.C.N.S. (T) 2031A/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U.S. Shipping Plot. Pass to N.C.S.O.'s. Ottawa's 2117Z/25 to Admty. U.S. Navy Dept. is starting to produce World Shipping Plot. It will be some time before they are ready to undertake analysis of all Vesca and route signals for this.

2. Meantime, to enable Ottawa to summarize and pass the necessary information to Washington, it is requested that Vescas from all stations and Route Signals for all ships crossing Pacific and moving in Atlantic west of 26° W., be repeated to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

3. When this procedure has been put into operation the Chatfold system is to be discontinued.

4. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is at present receiving full Vesca reports from East Indies and America and West Indies stations.  
(D.T.D., 2036A/1 to A.I.G. 19. (R) B.A.D.)

MACGREGOR torpedoes. My 1509Z/25, not to Admiralty. MACGREGOR reported torpedoed and sunk off San(Santo) Domingo 27/2.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2118Z/1 to Admty. (R) C.S.A. Jacksonville, Florida, New York.)



War Diary.1.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

N.A.4. N.A.4 consisting of ORION and CAMERONIA escorted by ROCKINGHAM and ANNAPOLIS sailed Halifax 1300Z /1 routed as in Admty. 1325A/27 and C.O.A.C. Halifax 1258Z/28. 3. of A 13.5 knots. ANNAPOLIS parting company at dark 3/3 and returning to Halifax. F.O.N.F. is requested to sail BEVERLEY to join convoy a.m./3 and signal (?R/V) (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2131Z/1 to Admty. etc). *See p.27.*

J.N. PEW. J.N. PEW due Colon 23/2 for Aruba not arrived. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2334R/1 to Admty etc).

Australia & New Zealand.

Portuguese Ships for Timor. Your 1940A/28th. Yes. (A.C.N.B., 0436Z/1 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon)

PECOS. Your 0237Z/28th. PECOS can be reloaded at Fremantle if destination is in Java. If elsewhere would prefer not to deplete small stock now at Fremantle. (A.C.N.B., 0606Z/1 to C.Z.M.)

TROMP. (?Netherlands) cruiser (?TROMP) passage from Fremantle 0045Z/27 Abda Area departed 0900Z/27 for (?Sydney N.S.W.) (A.C.N.B., 0800Z/1 to Admty. C. in C. E.I., N.O. Wellington, C. in C. E.F., etc). *See 2/2 p.730*

Situation. Serial number 39 from C.W.R. 28/2. (i) 11 heavy bombers escorted by 5 dive bombers or fighters attacked R.A.A.F. aerodrome Port Moresby 0327Z/28th. 3 Catalinas destroyed, 4th received minor damage. No damage to runway or land A/C. Air R/C Koepang 2200Z/27 revealed 12 transports, 2 destroyers, 3 small unidentified vessels. Zero type of fighters used aerodrome. Abdafloat pass to C.Z.M. (A.C.N.B., 1106Z/1 to Admty etc).

Movements. AUSTRALIA and U.S. Cruiser CHICAGO arrived Vila 27/2. Victualling store issue ship MERKUR arrived Noumea 2110Z/27. SWAN arrived Brisbane 2200Z/28. U.S. Destroyer LAMSON and R.A.N. Fleet tanker FALKEFJELL arrived Noumea 0701Z/28. Hospital ship MANUNDA arrived Fremantle 1012Z/26. (A.C.N.B., 1806Z/1 to Admty. etc).

/Timor...



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Timor.

Portuguese ships going to Colombo.  
(Lisbon, 1327/1 and Admt. 1913A/1)  
See North Atlantic and East Indies.

ACHILLES,  
LEANDER.

Departure Suva, ACHILLES, LEANDER for convoy  
duties.  
(N.Z.N.B., 1912Z/1 to Admt.).

Fiji  
defences.

Your 1208M/22. View here is that defence of  
Nandi Waters would be difficult in the following  
respects:-

(a) Much A/T baffle required. (b) Lack of sites  
for A.A. guns which should be sited round anchorage. (c) Number  
of approaches to be guarded against submarines especially midgets

2. Contact mines very close to anchorage should be avoided as  
much as possible.

3. Although a small harbour, Suva has many advantages for  
defence, and berthing could be increased by providing permanent  
moorings, and use of Lauthala by small ships. Understood there  
is an aerodrome at Vucimaca and that the racecourse might be  
developed into another.

4. Suggest therefore that you should consider the development  
of Suva and Lauthala as being preferable to Nandi Waters unless  
U.S.A. desire to use both Suva and Nandi Waters.

5. Wellington seems preferable to Auckland because of the  
greater secure berthing space and it is understood that Welling-  
ton was intended.

6. Further communication will be made shortly about A/S and M/S  
vessels.

(1st S.L., 1930A/1 to N.Z.N.B. (R) A.C.N.B.)



War Diary.

1.3.1942.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Indications of U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1409A/1, 1410A/1)



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

The enemy Coastal Batteries fired about 12 rounds without result at Convoy C.W.70 while it was passing Dover at 2020 last night.

At 1952 last night 3 M.T.B's and 2 M.G.B's were sent to intercept two 4000-ton Tankers escorted by an M-class Minesweeper and at least 3 armed Trawlers which had been plotted at 1950 when leaving Boulogne. Contact was made in bright moonlight 3 miles North of Gris Nez at 2048, when all the M.T.B's fired their torpedoes and M.T.B. 45 hit one of the Tankers which, although searched for later in thick fog by other light craft, would not be found and was able to return to Boulogne today. M.T.B.45. was slightly damaged; and M.T.B.38 of the searching force despatched was also slightly damaged by gunfire from craft escorting the Tanker and suffered 4 casualties of which 2 are serious.

ADMIRAL

At 1330 today TIRPITZ, SCHEER, and PRINZ EUGEN were in their usual positions off Trondheim; GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST are both at Kiel, the former in the Floating Dock; HIPPER is just inside the Kiel Canal at Brunsbuttel; SEYDLITZ is at Bremen; and KÖLN at Wilhelmshaven.

Convoy P.Q.12 left Reykjavik yesterday; and D.T.D. has today requested C. in C.H.F. to notify F.O.S. of the dates upon which P.Q.12 and Q.P.8. may be expected to enter the danger area. Meanwhile the Russians are reported by Admiral Miles today to be sending 20 long-range Fighter A/C and another 30 Hurricane A/C to the North as soon as possible.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 1910 last night the M/S Trawler RETRIEVER and the British Tanker EMPIRE UNITY, both in Convoy W.N.51, were attacked and slightly damaged by A/C off Peterhead.



War Diary.

2.5.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE returned to Port Z.A. at 1410 with the Force which has completed the minelaying operation S.N. 85; and he informed C. in C.H.F. today that of the minefields S.N.11 and S.N. 71, to which C. in C. H.F. attaches great importance, only some 20 miles of S.N. 11 can still be considered to be as much as 10% effective.

One Magnetic Mine was exploded by Sweepers off Harwich yesterday, and one more today.

North Atlantic.

CAUDEBEC. COREOPSIS intercepted Vichy French CAUDEBEC and is sending her into Gibraltar under armed guard.

Boundaries.. Admty. confirm that the southern boundary of North Atlantic Station is 20° N., instead of the former 20° 47' N.

Vichy Convoy? A Hudson A/C on passage from Gibraltar sighted in 23.40 N., 16.05 W. at 1321 today a convoy of 5 M/V's escorted by a destroyer steering 240° at 6 knots.

South Atlantic.

Boundaries. Admty. confirm that the boundaries of S.A. Station are as in Admty. 1852A/7/2. (Diary, P.236), superseding previous boundaries of 74° 41' W. and 32° 55' E.

CALIFORNIA. (A.M.C.) Is to return to U.K. and revert to trade.

Force V. Force V (FORMIDABLE, escorted by PALADIN and PANTHER) left Freetown p.m. today, FORMIDABLE for Capetown and the destroyers for Simonstown.



War Diary.

2.3.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Extensive damage to property was caused in raids last night.

Raids continued today on Hal Far and Luqa aerodromes, but no damage or casualties are reported.

Owing to persistent air raids Capt. S.10 intends sailing UPRIGHT for U.K. tomorrow instead of on 5/3.

East Indies.

Use of Durban.

C. in C. E.F. points out the increased importance of Durban, and suggests the appointment of an independent flag officer there with requisite staff.

Persian Gulf.

As air attacks must be expected shortly, C. in C. E.I. has asked H.Q. R.A.F., Middle East for information as to the present state of aerodromes, whether stocks of fuel and bombs are available, and how long it will take to establish air forces for R/C, A/S patrols, and a striking force.

China.

Adm. Helfrich. Adm. Helfrich and his staff are proceeding to Colombo in 4 flying boats, the first arriving probably tomorrow.

Minesweepers. 4 ships of the 21st M/S Flotilla have arrived at Tjilatjap, S.O. China Force arrived with them in BURNIE. He intends to send them to Fremantle.

Shipping.

The clearance of shipping from the Port of Batavia concluded today.



War Diary.

2.5.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

- Raider. At 1742Z, Baltimore received an "R" report from the American tanker GERTRUDE KELLOGG, in 38.45 N., 72.15 W., who stated that a raider was firing at her.
- U/B. Aircraft attacked a U/Boat in 43.26 N., 61.00 W. at 1655 G.M.T.

Australia.

- ATHENE. In view of the present situation and at the request of the U.S. Army in Australia, A.C.N.B. have ordered ATHENE to return to Melbourne to unload P.40 aircraft.
- PECOS sunk. PECOS, fuel ship, U.S. Navy, was apparently sunk yesterday, 1/5, by dive bombers near Christmas Island.



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

PAKENHAM, PENN, ~~PARRIDGE~~, MATCHLESS, WILTON, INCONSTANT. PAKENHAM completes working up during present week. PENN has just commenced. Propose transferring these two destroyers to Greenock on 5/3. If approved request MATCHLESS and WILTON may then be transferred to complete working up at Scapa. (Commodore D., 1128A/2 to Admty). Your 1128A/2. Concur that when PAKENHAM completes working up she should proceed to Greenock with PENN who is to complete working up in accordance with A.M. 1634A/23. 2. It is not now anticipated that PAKENHAM, PENN, and INCONSTANT will be required to leave U.K. before 21/3 and programme of PENN should be adjusted accordingly. *See also p. 29* 3. MATCHLESS and WILTON are to be sailed to Scapa to complete working up on 5/3. (D.O.D. (H.), 1700A/2 to Commodore D).

M.G. Bs. at Portsmouth. Your 1407A/1. Certainly. Please retain M.G. Bs. 315 and \*326 for the period mentioned. (C. in C. Nore, 1232A/2 to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
*\*321 - See p. 5*

HECLA. Request probable future employment of ship may now be given. (HECLA, 1527A/2 to Admty).

MINNA. Admiralty's 1214/22/2. Date of completion of MINNA now given as end of March. She cannot be spared without relief vide para. 9 of my 5584/01210 of 13/12/41 and enclosures. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1859/2 to Admty).

MONTCLARE. All work on MONTCLARE not essential for passage to United States is to be stopped. (V.C.N.S. 1942A/2 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

DERBYSHIRE. DERBYSHIRE is to be returned to Trade on arrival at Southampton. (V.C.N.S., 1950A/2 to S.O.W.P.)

CIRCASSIA. CIRCASSIA is to be returned to Trade forthwith. (V.C.N.S., 1952A/2 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK, KENYA. U.S. Force 2 Fleet Unit 5 destroyers and several transports arrived Reykjavik on 2/3 may be met after passing Reykjanes. (A.C.I.C., 0131A/2 to DUKE OF YORK.)

/Your...



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

- FURY,  
ECHO,  
ECLIPSE. FURY take ECHO and ECLIPSE under your orders and sail at 0001N tomorrow.  
2. Proceed Northabout to Seidis Fjord and fuel.  
3. R/V with me in 065° 50' N. 013° 30' W. at 1430A/4. (V.A.2, 1354A/2 to FURY.)  
FURY, ECHO, ECLIPSE leave Hvalfjord at 0001N/3 proceeding Northabout to Seidis Fjord.  
(A.C.I.C., 2358A/2 to C.S.1.)
- MALCOLM. Satisfactory trial. Intend sailing MALCOLM from Barry Roads 2200/3 to Devonport. E.T.A. 1400/4.  
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1108A/2).
- HAVELOCK. Intend to sail HAVELOCK for Clyde at 2000 tomorrow. E.T.A. Clyde 0845/5.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1245/2).
- SUMBA,  
SILJA. Intend to sail H.M. Whalers SUMBA and SILJA for Seidis Fjord at 2300A/2 for onward routing to Murmansk. Speed 10 knots. Route.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1248A/2).
- ILLUSTRIOUS. My 1034A/1. Sailed ILLUSTRIOUS escorted by ST. ALBANS. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1320A/2.)  
Admiralty's 2058A/2 February and 2358/25.  
It is now intended to sail ILLUSTRIOUS, PAKENHAM, PENN and INCCNSTANT from the Clyde on 21/3. *See p. 37.*  
(A.C.N.S.H., 1939A/2).
- SKATE. <sup>N.T. W.D.</sup> My 1606/2. Intend to sail SKATE for Londonderry at 0730 tomorrow. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1630.  
(R.A.M., 1609/2).
- NIGERIA. NIGERIA sailed in accordance with C.S.10 0744A/1.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1846A/2).
- SULLA. Whaler SULLA arrived Reykjavik 1800A. Admiralty pass to North Russia.  
(A.C.I.C., 2045A/2 to Admty.)
- MONTGOMERY,  
VETERAN. MONTGOMERY after fuelling at Londonderry and VETERAN are to sail in company to St. Johns by Great Circle leaving Londonderry 6/3 and subsequently joining Western Local Escort Force.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2233Z/2).



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Convoy C.W. 70 shelled. When C.W. 70 was South of Dover at 2020/1 enemy coastal batteries fired about a dozen rounds which fell in its vicinity. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover, 1013A/2).

M.T.B. engagement off Griz Nez. One Tanker torpedoed by M.T.B. 45. At 1930/1 R.D.F. plotted two vessels and a number of escorts leaving Boulogne Northeastwards at about 9 knots. At 1952 M.T.B. 45 (SO), 221, and 219 supported by M.G.B. 43 (SO) and 41 were despatched to intercept. At 2048 in bright moonlight they made contact three miles Northward of Gris Nez and sighted 2 tankers about 4000 tons accompanied by an M-class minesweeper and at least 3 armed trawlers. All M.T.B.'s fired torpedoes and M.T.B. 45 made one hit on one of the tankers and there was possibly another hit. Enemy gun fire was considerable including star shell from shore but only M.T.B. 45 suffered superficial damage. Our forces returned to harbour about 2300. After attack R.D.F. showed one enemy vessel with several escorts stopped and drifting. M.T.B.'s 38 (SO) and 220 supported by M.G.B.'s 322, 324 and 330 were despatched to attack the enemy then drifting North of Blanc Nez. Thick fog had developed and contact could not be made with main target. In clear patches enemy escorting craft were encountered and minor engagements took place in which M.T.B. 38 suffered superficial damage and four casualties including 2 ratings seriously wounded and Commanding Officer slightly. Coastal craft lost touch with each other in fog and returned independently, the last arriving in harbour at 0700. Damaged enemy vessel is now off Griz Nez and aircraft are standing by to attack as soon as weather conditions permit. (V.A.Dover, 1014A/2).  
My 1229A. Plot shows that damaged vessel has now entered Boulogne. (V.A.Dover, 1318A/2).

Operation "Decanter." Request 4 M.L.'s be allocated Portsmouth for training and Combined Operations from 4th to 12th March. My 1617/21/2 refers. No suitable craft will be available in Portsmouth command except M.G.B. 314 who will act as leader.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1217A/2).  
Request you will arrange for four M.L.'s of the 5th M.L. Flotilla to be available at Portsmouth from 4th to 12th March for combined operations under C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 2300A/2 to V.A.Dover).

Patrols. COTSWOLD and CAMPBELL are to carry out patrols D and O respectively tonight. Southern limit patrol O to be 54 E Buoy.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1250A/2).

Estimated situation at 2201/2. SHEFFIELD 063° 15' N., 021° 20' W. to Patrol "Black."  
LONDON patrol "White." (A.C.I.C., 1750A/2).  
Night 2/3. M.L.'s 140, 143 anchored off Dungeness, will patrol O D 7 if visibility improves. (V.A.Dover, 1812A/2).

/TRINIDAD ...



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - contd.

Patrols.  
(contd.)

TRINIDAD is to sail from Scapa at 2000A/7, and proceed to patrol "Black."  
2. F.O.C.18 C.S. in SHEFFIELD is to leave patrol at 0800A/8 and proceed to Scapa.  
3. KENT is to leave Hvalfjord to pass through position X 066° 30' N. 023° W. at 0930A/7 and thence to patrol "White."  
4. F.O.C. One C.S. in LONDON is to meet KENT in position X and then return to Hvalfjord.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1932A/2).  
C.S.18 in SHEFFIELD sailed for patrol "Black" 1645A.  
(A.C.I.C., 1943A/2).

M.L. Sweep  
off French  
Coast.  
("Obstacle.")

Weather permitting operation ordered in my 1306A/21/2 is to be repeated tonight.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1354A/2 to N.O.I.C.Dartmouth).  
C. in C. Plymouth's 1354/2. "Obstacle" sailed.  
(N.O.I.C.Dartmouth, 1922/2).

British Air Activity.

Own A/C  
fired on.

Friendly A/C sent for your protection was fired on and damaged at approximately 2100A/1. Full report is to be forwarded on arrival at destination.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1206A/2 to FIREDRAKE).

Protection  
of North  
Russian  
Convoys.

Admiralty 1716A/22/2. Russians are sending (?20) twin engined long-range fighters and another 30 Hurricanes to the North as soon as possible.  
2. Hurricanes may later be fitted with L R equipment. (Ad. Miles 1551C/2 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N.51.  
RETRIEVER  
damaged.  
EMPIRE UNITY  
attacked.

At 1910/1 H.M.T. RETRIEVER slightly damaged by A/C shell-fire off Buchan Ness, and Tanker EMPIRE UNITY machine-gunned by A/C off Rattray Head.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1829/2).

Mining.

Harwich.

2 mines detonated by L.L.Sweepers. at 2348/1 and 0020/2 respectively. Details.  
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 0158A/2 and 1038A/2).

Sweep off  
Falmouth.

Weather deteriorating, unsuitable for sweeping. Returning to harbour. E.T.A. 1220.  
(S.O. 13 M/S F., 1033A/2 to F.O.I.C.Falmouth).

/Sweep ...



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - contd.

Sweep of 32 QZF. Your 1424/1/3. Following programme is submitted. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1102A/2 to C. in C. Nore).

S.N. 85. Arrived R.A. (M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, LANCASTER and WELLS. (N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1410/2).

Sweep off Falmouth. Intend sailing at 0815 tomorrow for clearance sweep in Q Z Y 249 and anchoring in Fowey overnight. (M/S 13 1650/2 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

State of S.N. 11 and S.N. 71. Your 1832A/28. Consider South eastern 20 miles of S.N. 11 is now not more than 10% effective and that remainder of S.N. 11 and all of S.N. 71 have nothing left at all. If it is desired to relay these fields one standard line either to south westwards or to eastwards of S.N. 11 and reaching as far north as the 300 fathom line could be laid in a single operation. It is considered that this should not be done until ice breaks up late in May (vide para. 14 of my number 66/ML 01000 of 4th February 1942). By this time the deep minefield covering the north Faroes Gap and 81, 82, 88 and 87 ought to be completed leaving only 86 and 89 this series outstanding. (R.A.M., 1807/2 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. By D/F at 2334/1 G.M.T. German unit, probably small surface craft, was in the Boulogne-Calais area. (D.D.I.C., 0125A/2 to V.A. Dover). Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in the Dover Strait from 0900/1 to 0900/2. Track E7D. Two large vessels and four smaller from Boulogne at 1924 eastbound at 9 knots. One of large vessels hit by one torpedo from M.T.B at 2050 and after drifting off the coast during the night is now off Griz Nez. The other vessel faded at 2310 off Gravelines. Also various movements of small vessels, apparently in connection with salvage operations on damaged vessel referred to above. (V.A. Dover, 1229A/2).

Main Units. Photographs taken at 1315/2 show as follows. Kiel. GNEISENAU in southern floating dock which is dry. SCHARNHORST alongside at entrance to inner dockyard basin with camouflage at bows. NÜRNBERG has left south yard quay since 22/2 and is not in the port. (Note: Further examination shows 6" cruiser believed NÜRNBERG alongside jetty of old torpedo boat harbour). Brunsbüttel. 8" cruiser believed ADMIRAL HIPPER at northern bank of canal one mile inside entrance locks. (P.R.U. Leuchars, 1940/2). Trondheim. Visual reconnaissance 1330/2 SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN in usual positions. Photographic R/C 1330/2. TIRPITZ in usual position. Photographic R/C. Kiel. 1315/2 GNEISENAU in Southern floating dock.

/SCHARNHORST ...



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - contd.

Main Units. (contd.) SCHARNHORST alongside entrance to inner basin.  
 Brunsbuttel. 1315/2 HIPPER.  
 Bremen. 1400/2 SEYDLITZ.  
 Wilhelmshaven. 1400/2 KÖLN.  
 Bremerhaven. 1400/2 No major units.  
 (D.D.I.C., 2332A/2).

U-Boats.

Convoys, D/F of German transmission at 1415/1 G.M.T.  
 O.N.71. indicates that probably convoy O.N.71 or possibly  
 O.N.70. convoy O.N.70, was reported by a U-Boat.  
 (D.D.I.C., 0122A/2 to C.T.C. 4.7).

Navigational.

Breaksea Subject to weather it is proposed to move  
 Light Breaksea Light Vessel 2 cables to Southward  
 Vessel. tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1216A/2).

Wick. Wick Harbour closed weather at 1535/2/3.  
 (R.N.O. Wick, 1540/2).

54A Buoy. 54A Buoy light reported irregular.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1609A/2). (Hydrog. 1940A/2).

DEVON CITY. Weather is hopeless (?are) up off Canna Island.  
 Request further assistance.  
 (DEVON CITY, 0520A/2).

DEVON CITY's 0520A. Proceed with tow to best available shelter.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0753A/2 to CAROLINE MOLLER).

Am returning to Loch Snizort for shelter.  
 (DEVON CITY, 0815A/2).

As soon as weather moderates proceed from Loch Bay in accordance  
 with previous instructions. Report when you proceed. CAROLINE  
 MOLLER pass to DEVON CITY.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1723A/2 to CAROLINE MOLLER).

YEWKYLE. Departure tug KROOMAN to assist YEWKYLE ashore  
 off Winterton.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0701A/2).

S.G.B. 3. Your 1108A/2. S.G.B. 3 is unable to sail owing to  
 partial failure of main circulator. Estimated time  
 to remedy defect 3 days.  
 (S.O. 1st S.G.B.F., 2255/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

ON Convoy Cycle. A.M. 1833Z/27. The new schedule will commence with O.N.S.76 sailing on 15/3 and O.N.77 sailing on 17/3 and thereafter at six day intervals. (D.T.D., 1256A/2 to Opnav).

O.N.S.70E. SNOWBERRY. No contact with SNOWBERRY since detached to comply with your 0946Z/1. (PIORUN, 1332A/2 to C. in C. W.A.) PIORUN's 1332A/2. Report your P.C.S. forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 1735A/2 to SNOWBERRY).

S.C.70E. SCIMITAR. Not met 056° N. 014° 58' W. (SCIMITAR, 1400Z/2).

Atlantic Convoy instructions. Your 0427/24/2. Entirely agree with your proposal and copies of all reports from Western Approaches escorts on transatlantic run will be sent to you with copies of my covering remarks, either with reports from this side or separately from advance reports from West-bound escorts.

2. I presume you will deal with reports from H.M. ships in Western local force as you would your own.
3. A fortnightly bulletin is issued to escorts giving details of the battle of the Atlantic for the previous month and extracts from reports of proceedings, suggestions from escorts, etc.
4. A tactical table is being established at Liverpool to investigate convoy problems and for the instruction of escorts, and Western Approaches tactical and training instructions (W.A.X.) are a new series of instructions being issued to escorts.
5. There would be many advantages in having common instructions for the conduct of convoys and escorts in the Atlantic. It is hoped to produce Atlantic convoy instructions (A.C.I.) in the near future based on the present W.A.C.I. and which are common to all R.N. and R.C.N. escorts and areas and contain separate sections giving the local instructions for each area. Do you think this book could be extended to cover U.S. Atlantic areas. (C. in C. W.A., 1545Z/2 to C.T.F.4.)

Propose we issue common instructions for conduct of convoys in Atlantic based on present form of W.A.C.I. and called Atlantic convoy instructions (A.C.I.) each Command having a separate section for local instructions.

2. W.A.C.I. is at present being rewritten, so this seem a good opportunity for the change.
3. I am prepared to edit A.C.I. but suggest each Command issues important amendments to own section by signal.
4. If you agree in principle, request your remarks as to what extent you are prepared to accept general and operational instructions now in W.A.C.I. My 1855A/12/1 refers to amendments. Other minor ones are also in hand.
5. Hope also to obtain agreement with U.S.N. (C. in C. W.A., 1644A/2 to C. in C. S.A., A.C.I.C., C. in C. A. and W.I., F.O.C.N.A.)

Movements of Russian Ships. Serial No.25. (D.T.D., 1639A/2 to Adm. Miles).

/O.N. ...



War Diary.

2.3.1942.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

- O.N.73. O.N.73 is to be delayed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1818Z/2).
- P.Q.12,  
Q.P.8. P.Q.12 sailed Reykjavik 1st March. Amend  
A.M./1146Z/24 as follows, cancel BATEAU and  
BALLOT, add KIEV.  
(D.T.D., 1836Z/2 to Opnav).  
P Q 12 and Q P 8. Request you notify F.O.S. as requested by  
para. (b) of his 1244A/28.  
(D.T.D., 1935A/2 to C. in C. H.F.)  
P.Q.12. Your 1708A/1. Request reason for not sailing BATEAU  
and BALLOT. (D.T.D., 2024A/2 to A.C.I.C.)
- O.S.21. The sailing of O.S.21 is to be delayed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1901A/2).
- AGATHA. Arrival AGATHA Tanker, lost convoy, sailing  
daybreak.  
(N.C.S.O. Swansea, 2131A/2).



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- ? WHITEHALL. P.C. & S. of (?WHITEHALL) at 2000A/1, 042° 39' N. 019° 37' W., 177° 13 knots. Proceeding Gibraltar for fuel. Uncoded weather report. (EXMOOR, 0101A/2 to C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
- BELLWORT. On completion of fuelling proceed through position (P) 27° 00' N., 24° 00' W., (Q) 20° 00' 22° 00' thence as ordered by C. in C. S.A. (F.O.C.N.A., 1102A/2 to BELLWORT). E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T.3/3. (BELLWORT, 1635A/2 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.A.Lisbon, etc.)
- LEITH. C. in C. S.A's 1731Z/23. E.T.A. Funchal 1400 G.M.T/3. Weather report. (LEITH, 1125Z/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- COREOPSIS. My P.C. & S. are 036° 21' N. 009° 18' W. 116° 12, altering to 095° at 1400A. E.T.A. gate 0700A/3. (COREOPSIS, 1200A/2 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. D.13).
- CAMPION, MALLOW. From position (O) proceed through new position (T) 032° 30' N., 011° 30' W., thence 9, omitting (P). (F.O.C.N.A., 1200A/2 to CAMPION, MALLOW (R) Admty.)
- EXMOOR. Your 1032A/2. P.C. & S. 040° 17' N., 015° 15' W., 130° 14 knots. E.T.A. 0200/4. (EXMOOR, 1331A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- CAUDEBEC intercepted. Am sending in Vichy French CAUDEBEC under armed guard. GERANIUM is remaining in company with CAUDEBEC which is bound Casablanca for Lisbon cargo Phosphate. (COREOPSIS, 1731A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- NURTURETON. NURTURETON is to be in position 3 miles South of Funchal by 1400 G.M.T/3. LEITH will R/V her and act as escort. (F.O.C.N.A., 1940A/2 to C.S.A.Funchal). Your 1125/2 NURTURETON will be in position 3 miles South of Funchal at 1400 G.M.T/3. (F.O.C.N.A., 2028A/2 to LEITH).
- Boundary. F.O.C.N.A's 1254A/21/2. Boundary of 20° N. was agreed to during Anglo-American Staff conversations and is therefore confirmed as correct. 2. Similarly boundaries of S.A.Station as promulgated in A.M.1852/7/2 supersede previous boundaries of 74° 41' W., and 32° 55' E. (Admty., 2015A/2 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

VIDETTE. E.T.A. Bathurst 1000 G.M.T./2. At 0100/2  
P.C. & S. of <sup>\*</sup>ULSTER MONARCH 014° 22' N., 019° 15' W.  
126° 13.3 knots. *\* See chronol page*  
(VIDETTE, 0354Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst).  
F.O.C.N.A.'s 1340A/24/2. Sail VIDETTE for Gibraltar A.M. 3/3  
(route) thence Gibraltar. Report S. of A. and E.T.A. Gibraltar  
on sailing. (C. in C. S.A., 1701Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

ALAUNIA,  
NARKUNDA. Sailed ALAUNIA escorting NARKUNDA to Bombay  
S. of A. 13 knots. E.T.A. 0400Z/15/3. Routed  
through Mozambique Channel and thence through 003°  
10' S. 045° 10' E., 010° 00' N., 056° 30' E.  
(N.L.O. Durban 0531Z/2 to Admty., and for D. of S.T.  
C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown,  
F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Bombay). *See also next page.*

BIRMINGHAM. Simonstown arrival 0630Z/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0713/2 to Admty., etc.)

DIOMEDE. DIOMEDE left Trinidad 2100 G.M.T./28/2 for  
Pernambuco then Montevideo. E.T.A. Montevideo 7/3.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1021Z/2 to S.A. Station Sqdn.)

DESPATCH,  
SURPRISE. Your 1720Z/28 to C. in C. S.A. only. DESPATCH  
leaves Freetown 1830Z/2 for Lagos. E.T.A.  
A.M./6. C.O. DESPATCH will conduct enquiry into  
loss of SURPRISE.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1125Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Lagos).  
*See also next page.*

LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE. Your 1003Z/27. Draft ex LLANGIBBY CASTLE is being  
embarked BERGENSFJORD at Freetown.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1131Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

ST. DOMINGUE. Departure 1st.  
(N.C.S.O. Jara. (?Para), 1145/2 to M.W.T.)

Force V. Force V intended programme.  
2/3 leave Freetown, 5/3 detach destroyers to oil at  
St. Helena. Pass through and search area "K" 36 B  
and D as requested by C. in C. S.A., 10/3 arrive Capetown. Clean  
boilers. 14/3 leave Capetown. 20/3 arrive Mauritius, oil  
destroyers and leave Mauritius. 24/3 arrive and leave Port "T".  
26/3 arrive Colombo.  
(S.O. Force V., 1215Z/2 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.,  
(R) S.O. Force "T", R.A. 3rd B.S.)

German Trawler. Extract from a Fairmiss Telegram:-  
From Santos. Departure 1st, German armed Trawler  
for Lofoten Island.  
(Santos, 1331Z/2 to M. of W.T.)

/S.O. ...



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

- S.O. Force V. Your 1937A/1st. As FORMIDABLE should arrive Capetown 10/3 I hope to meet V.A.3 before RESOLUTION sails.  
(S.O. Force V., 1428Z/2 to Admty., (R) V.A.3.)
- NARKUNDA. Sailed 2/3 for Bombay. Total personnel on board. E.T.A., 0400Z/15.  
(S.S.T.O. Durban, 1509Z/2 to S.S.T.O. Bombay).  
*See previous page*
- Sunderlands. A498 2/3. Your AX 745 14/2. (1900/14. 2 West African Sunderlands to return Freetown as soon as 3 Catalinas are available at Gibraltar).  
C. in C. S.A. is enquiring when Sunderlands of W.A. Command on detachment at Gibraltar are likely to be released. Return of 2 Sunderlands if practicable would assist greatly in meeting commitments next few weeks.  
(A.H.Q., W.A., 1700/2 to Air Min.)
- Movements Summary 2000Z/2/3. Area P. ROCKROSE with O.S.19, 009° N. 015° 28' W. 115° 8½ knots.  
WALLFLOWER with O S S 19 007° 38' N., 016° 26' W., 129° 8½ knots.  
LAERTES off Monrovia.  
ABBEYDALE 006° 08' S., 008° 05' W., 166° 10 knots.  
*See previous page.* ORCHIS with\*ULSTER MONARCH 010° 55' N., 017° 20' W., 170° 13 knots  
RESOLUTION 004° 10' S., 005° 20' W., 144° 12½ knots.  
SNAKEFLY 003° 22' N., 005° 52' W., 086° 6 knots.  
M.L. 271, BISSAU, COPINSAY, escorting 005° 12' N., 009° 28' W. to Marshall 7 knots.  
DESPATCH off Freetown to the South 14 knots. *See previous page*  
RUMBA off Marshall.  
LIBERIA, CANNA, 005° 54' N., 012° 20' W. 133° 9 knots.  
GENISTA, JASMINE, 003° 30' N., 011° 12' W., 323° 11 knots.  
PRETORIA CASTLE, BULOLO patrolling H.34 C and D keeping east of 026° W.  
Area Q. FREESIA, FRITILLARY 031° 05' S., 015° 31' E., to the South 12 knots.  
BACHAQUERO, 032° 08' S., 013° 10' E., 144° 8½ knots.  
CHESHIRE, DUNNOTAR CASTLE about 41° S., 021° 45' W.  
BIRMINGHAM, 034° 45' S. 015° 08' E., 084° 20 knots.  
Area S. CILICIA patrol L.31 L.32. ASTURIAS 027° 50' S. 41° 14' W., to Freetown 16 knots.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1815Z/2).
- CANTON. Arrival 2/3.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1953Z/2 to Admty.)
- CAMBRIA. CAMBRIA reports at 1800Z/2 proceeding to 005° 10' S. 035° 12' W.  
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1936Z/2 to Admty., as amended 1149/5).
- Boundaries. Admty., 2015A/2. See North Atlantic.



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

Force V. Departure 2/3.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2221Z/2 to Admty.,  
F.O.I.C.Simonstown).

CALIFORNIA. Request you will sail CALIFORNIA to U.K. as soon  
as convenient. On arrival she will revert to  
Trade.  
(D.O.D.(F), 2248A/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

THRASHER. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
Your 0137B/2 not to THUNDERBOLT acknowledged.  
Estimated your position at noon 2/3 034° 18'  
024° 23'.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 0745B/2 to THRASHER (R) THUNDERBOLT).

THORN.  
TORBAY. If A/S activity is too great you may proceed  
vicinity 037° 19' 020° 19' keeping S. until  
1900B/3.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1051B/2 to THORN, (R) TORBAY).

Movements. Departure 1/3 COCKER, THUNDERBOLT. Arrival 2/3  
JERVIS. Departure 2/3 DULVERTON, HASTY, HURWORTH,  
GLOXINIA, HAVOCK.  
(S.O.I.Alexandria, 1117B/2 to Admty., etc.)

U.Boat. At 0819B/2 U.Boat reported approx. 032° 20'  
027° 20'.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1351B/2 to THUNDERBOLT).

Malta Air Report. 1/3 1 alert 1516 hours 25 ME.109's and JU.88's  
target submarine base no damage or casualties.  
Elsewhere 13 civilians killed 67 wounded. Naval  
Officer and wife killed. 17 houses destroyed many  
others damaged A/A fired. Night 1/2 continuous intruder 13 raiders  
bombs land sea. Some Kalafrana buildings destroyed. Other  
extensive damage to property. Elsewhere. Gas Company furnace hit  
1 civilian killed 8 wounded. A/A fired. 2/3. 3 alerts 0539, 0820,  
1158 hours 61 ME.109's and JU.88's targets Hal Far, Luqa. No  
damage or casualties. Elsewhere. 2 civilians killed 8 civilians  
and 1 airman wounded. 9 houses destroyed. A/A fired.  
1/3. 6 Wellingtons IC attacked shipping Tripoli Harbour 2117 to  
2242 hours. 4 fires on Spanish quay, a third in Arab quarter still  
burning half hour later.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1724/2).



From Vice-Admiral Weichold, 22.2.1950.

P.38 was sunk at 1145 on 23rd Feb., 1942,  
by the Italian t.b. CIRCE, equipped with  
German asdic gear and German operators,  
while attacking an Italian convoy to Tripoli.



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

- AJAX. Departure at 0630B.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 1303B/2 to Admty.)
- LORENZ L.M. Arrival & Departure 27th, LORENZ L.M. RUSS.  
RUSS. Arrival & Departure 28th SULLBERG, both  
SULLBERG. Marseilles oranges.  
(Valencia, 1809/2 to M.W.T.)
- P.38 lost. Regret to report S/M P.38 overdue since 25/2 has failed to reply to signals and must be considered lost. P.38 left Malta 8/2 to operate in Gulf of Hammamet and was ordered to move to area N.E. of Kerkenah Bank on night 11/12. On 16/2 P.38 was ordered to position 32° 48' N., 14° 34' E. to form part of a concentration of four S/M's to intercept an important convoy. These S/M's were ordered to withdraw 50 miles to seaward during 21 and 22 and to return to their patrols by 0001/23 by which time 4 more S/M's joined them. Enemy convoy passed during daylight 23/2. P.38 and UNA were ordered to leave patrol 2000/23 to arrive Malta A.M. 25 but only UNA arrived. 2010/22 Italian broadcast from Athens claimed sinking British S/M and taking 23 prisoners, no date or locality given. No reason to suppose books compromised. S.10 is requested to report casualties documents carried and any other details known. (C. in C. Med., 1832B/2 to Admty., (R) V.A.M. S.1.S.10.)
- S/M Patrol. Shift patrol to within 30 miles of Lampion S. of 035° 30' in anticipation of N. and S. traffic between 033° 08' 012° 57' and close to W. of Island O.R.P. SOKOL leaves P.M. March 3 for area L. 035° 35' 012° 02' - 347° - 65 - 20.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1944B/2 to P.31 (R) C. in C. Med.,  
(Capt. (S) 1st).
- S/M Positions. My 1203B/1 anticipated 0001B positions O.R.P. SOKOL 035° 47' 014° 11' UPRIGHT 035° 52' 014° 15' both 4/3 UNIQUE as for UPRIGHT following day.  
(Capt. S.10, 2025B/2 to 10 Sub. Flotilla, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)
- UPRIGHT. My 1857B/28/2. Owing to present persistent air raids intend sailing UPRIGHT for U.K. 3/3 instead of 5/3.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 2040B/2 to C. in C. Med.)
- GRETE (Danish). GRETE arrived loading fruit Germany, leave for Marseilles mid-day Tuesday 3rd.  
(Alicante, T.H.I.2115/2 to Admty.)



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

C.E.F. 036250. 0877 cypher 18/2. Chinese request that their forces in Burma be called Chinese Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) (G.O.C. Burma 0250/20 to W.O.)  
Your 0877 of 18/2. Agreed. (W.O. 0230/2 to G.O.C. Burma.)

GUARDIAN Departure GUARDIAN at 0005/2. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0250Z/2 to Admty.)

Movements Addu arrivals 1/3 RAMILLIES, NORMAN. Colombo arrival 0515Z/1 SONAVATI, 0620Z/1 CLIVE.  
Departures 0130Z/1 CORNWALL, EXPRESS, HOLLYHOCK, 0300Z EREBUS, MARGUERITE, . (S.O.(I)  
Colombo, 0351Z/2 to Admty, as amended 0234Z/3)

Battleship programme. My (?intended) programme for battleships E.F.  
(1) ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (A) Arriving Trincomalee 6/3 after escorting S U 1. Escort NIZAM and VAMPIRE. (B) 11/3 exercising with RAMILLIES thence to Colombo arriving a.m. 13/3 Escort NIZAM and ARROW.  
(2) RAMILLIES. (A) Arriving Colombo 3/3 with convoy D M 3. Escort NORMAN. (B) Leaving Colombo 6/3 for Trincomalee. Escort NORMAN. (C) Exercising with ROYAL SOVEREIGN returning to Trincomalee on 11/3.  
(3) WARSPITE. (A) Leaving Fremantle p.m. 5/3. Escort DECOY and FORTUNE from about 005° S arriving Trincomalee 15/3. *See next page*  
(4) RESOLUTION proceeding to Addu Atoll as quickly as possible after arrival at the Cape.  
(5) REVENGE remaining on the East Coast of Africa to cover movements. C. in C. S.A. pass to S.O. Force "V" on arrival. (?C. in C. E.F. 0417Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

Admiral Helfrich Admiral Helfrich and Staff Officers 24 persons will arrive at Colombo in 4 P B Y Boats. First boat probably expected 3/3. 3 others uncertain. (C. in C. Netherlands Indies (C.Z.M.) 0525Z/2 to C. in C. E.F.)

Burmese reinforcements. Request you will take necessary action in regard to destination of Burmese reinforcements. Para 3 of A.M. 1331/28/2 which is being passed to you refers. (C. in C. E.F. 0551Z/2 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty.)

ASCANIA Reference (?N.O.I.C Mauritius) 0509Z/26/2 not to A.C.N.B. Delayed by failure of starboard high pressure turbine thrust. My position 0700Z/2/3 028° 15' S (079°?) 33' E speed of advance approx. 12 knots. E.T.A. Fremantle 2200Z/8/3. (ASCANIA 0700Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

/WARSPITE...



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

WARSPITE

WARSPITE's 0504 (?23/2) Request you will sail WARSPITE from Fremantle to R/V 2 destroyers probably FORTUNE and DECOY in position T. 004° 40' S 082° 25' E at 0200Z/13/3.

Thence proceed Trincomalee where her 15 inch outfit will be changed. (C. in C. E.F. 0747Z/2 to A.C.N.B. (R) WARSPITE Admty, C. in C. E.I.)

*See previous page.*

EMPIRE  
GLEN  
"Q" Signal.

EMPIRE GLEN made QQQQ at 0833Z/2 in 003° 52' N 078° 25' E. (C. in C. E.I. 0910Z/2 to E.I. Sqdn. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)  
Ships were DECOY and FORTUNE (C. in C. E.I. 0444Z/3) p. 85

Situation  
Report  
Burma 1630  
hours G.M.T.

Rangoon. With approach of Japanese the normal life of city has come to a stop. The imposition of curfew has caused a decrease in looting and arson of private property.

(2) Northern front. All quiet.

(3) Southern front. Enemy columns were reported

to-day as converging on Pegu via the railway from Sittang and in direction of Thanatpin. 7 Armd. Bde. has been employed with a view to dealing with threat in open country around Waw. No enemy aircraft activities. (G.O.C. Burma 1325/2 to Britair Java etc.)

THELMA

Request you will divert Norwegian tanker THELMA to new destination Trincomalee. Vessel sailed Melbourne 16/2 for Abadan. Estimated position 1800/2 9° S 79½° E. (D.T.D. 1305A/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

Defence  
requirements  
Persian  
Gulf

Your A.264 11/12 T.O.O. 1334/11/12 not to Admiralty or C. in C. E.F.  
As attacks must reasonably be expected shortly, request following information.  
(a) Present state of aerodromes and whether stocks of fuel and bombs are available.  
(b) How long it will take to establish air forces for R/C A/S patrols and striking force.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1331Z/2 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Durban,  
suggested  
independent  
F.O.I.C.

1. My only repair base with dock facilities for capital ships is Durban.
2. In addition it is the one operational base for Eastern Fleet, and is rapidly becoming the Clapham Junction of Eastern Theatre of War.
3. Port in fact is becoming the one key point of the

Empire. Today, only naval authority is the N.L.O. responsible to C. in C. S.A. who is himself now established at Freetown. This cannot possibly be satisfactory, even if he delegates some of his authority to a F.O. at Cape Agulhas.

4. I do not imply criticism of present course but so important do I regard efficient administration and control of this port that I feel C. in C. S.A. should be relieved of his responsibility and that an independent F.O. with requisite staff should be

/appointed...



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Durban  
suggested  
independent  
F.O.I.C.  
(Contd.)appointed at earliest possible date.  
5. I am aware of the political difficulties with Union Gov., but I feel sure, if the case is presented to them with all its implication, that they would agree to the constitution of a Special Naval Command in the area.6. Seems to me very important that F.O. selected should be someone welcome to Union Gov. and at the same time with a considerable naval reputation.  
7. If considered desirable request this message may be repeated to C. in C. S.A.

Admty. please pass to S.O. Force V in accordance with A.M.1309/14/2. (C. in C. E.F. 1347Z/2 to Admty, S.O. Force V, C. in C. E.I)

7 S.U.3.

Part 1. 1. S.U.3. 2. 0930Z/2/3. 4. 15½ knots.  
5. (Route) 6. GLASGOW. (N.C.S.O. Colombo. 1414Z/2 to Admty, (R) A.C.N.B. S.O.(I) Bombay.)

M.N.B.D.O.

Ref. A.M. 1830/17/2 to C. in C. E.I. only.

(1) G.L. sets alone are not enough to make this unit tactical and I must repeat my request that searchlight section be sent to join it as soon as possible.  
(2) I appreciate that operation of this brigade is the concern of C. in C. India, but protection of ships in harbour and of naval shore installations and Trincomalee oil fuel reserves is a matter of urgent concern to me and I must urge every effort be made to augment the present sketchy A/A defences with as little delay as possible.(3) Representation of these facts first to G.O.C. Ceylon then to C. in C. India and finally to War Office is a lengthy process which cannot be acceptable in present circumstances. C. in C. Med. pass to C. in C. M.E. Forces.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1506Z/2 to Admty.)

FENRIS.

Your 1956/20/2 FENRIS is being diverted to Trincomalee.

(C. in C. E.I., 1740Z/26 to Admty.)

→ Movements.

Colombo arrivals 2nd 0330Z BARLANE, BARRIER.  
Departures 2nd, 0100Z BATHURST 0940Z, GLASGOW.  
(S.O. I. Colombo, 1955Z/2 to Admty., etc.)

MARIT.

MARIT due Colombo 10/3 from Abadan is to be diverted to Bombay.  
(D.T.D., 2058A/2 to C. in C. E.I.)



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

21 S/M Flot. 4 Ships of 21st M/S Flot. arrived Tjilatjap. Intend sailing Fremantle as follows. GOULBURN and TOOWOOMBA at 1130Z/2. BURNIE and MARYBOROUGH at 1230Z/2. BALLARAT escorting \*GENERAL VERSTYCK at 1230Z/2, carrying evacuated, including Consular party. S.O. China Force in BURNIE. All ships shift to Australia W/T Organization at 1200Z/4. ~~\*not identified~~ \*GENERAL VERSPITCK intended (S.O. China Force, 0814Z/2 to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., (R) Admty.) See A.C.N.B., 0752Z/3 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.

Air Report. Herewith repetition corrupt portion My Oprep/5, T.O.O. 1416/1. Later (28/2) Brewsters attacked Indramajoe landing. 1 barge sunk 2 others probable. Direct hit on landing jetty, barges machined gunned 1 Brewster damaged. Semplak Aerodrome bombed, unserviceable 2 days. 1 Lodestar 1 Hudson 1 Buffalo damaged. (Abdair, 0930/2 to Air Min.)

Shipping clearance, Batavia. Following received from Thompson D.S.T.O. Abda area. (begins). Continued clearance of British shipping from Port of Batavia according to instructions of Abdafloat concluded today. 36 ships cleared between 19th and 26/2 with all non-effective service and civilian evacuees ships could carry. For extent of movements, my 0645/26. (Reporting cessation of Abdacom). (ends). (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1600B/2 to D.S.T.)

Java Reports. WX.3737. Ops.33 2/3. Java combined intelligence summary, 1/3. Sightings of enemy transports cruisers and destroyers mostly near shore Indramajoe, 06° 20' S., 108° 20' E., Eretan 06° 30' S., 108° 10' E. Tamboeng Boeja 06° 49' S., 111° 50' E., Merak 15° 55' S., 106° E. Kragan 06° 45' S., 111° 40' E., Tjipatoedja 06° 45' S. 105° 40' E., Tembang Cogo, 56° 49' S., 111° 50' E., 40 miles east of Kalidjati, 6° 30' S., 107° 40' E., St. Nicolas Point, 5° 05' S., 106° 05' E. Also two large ships possibly cruisers 09° 53' S., 108° 36' E. Large transport estimated 15,000 tons burned out between Rembang and Toeban. Buffalos successfully used 50 Kg fragmentation bombs on landed troops, barges, transports. 20 transports with 50 or 60 landing craft successfully strafed by 6 Hurricanes, 6 Buffalos, 10 Kittyhawks. 2 enemy seaplanes set on fire. Dutch ship TAWALI and Dutch tanker AUGUSTINA attacked by Jap aircraft. Dutch ship ENGANO bombed reported sinking. Sourabaya lightship and minesweeper machine gunned 28/2. Again raided 1/3, considerable damage property. 30 casualties. Malang aerodrome bombed, no casualties, damage barracks only. Djombang aerodrome machine gunned, many grounded aircraft damaged. Prior to enemy landing Eretan red rockets and fire balls fired. Before landing nine blasts came from coast to landing fleet. Kalidjati aerodrome captured by light mobile force reported including tanks. 5 Hudsons flew off. 21 Blenheims and Hudsons dispersed on aerodrome unable escape. (Wesgroup, 1900Z/2 to Air Min.)



War Diary.2.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.

Java Reports. WX.3728. Oprep/6. 2/3. Agreed that in future (contd.) Britgen and Britair will produce combined daily operational summary covering all Army and Air activities. Army situation to 0630/2. (details).

Air operation summary to 0030Z/2. (1) Night bombing of convoys approaching North Java coast (Oprep/5 refers) was followed by continuous daylight attacks against disembarking and landing enemy forces by Hurricanes, Brewsters, and P.40's. (2) Enemy landings from 11 transports between Pamanoekan and Indramajoe were hampered from dawn to dusk 1/3 by sorties of strafing R.A.F. Hurricanes and dive bombing and strafing N.E.I. Buffaloes. Several barges sunk or set on fire. Heavy casualties inflicted on enemy forces disembarking in Sampans and barges and upon troops, cycle patrols and transport along Pamanoekan-Indramajoe Road. 2 enemy seaplanes set on fire at Eretan.

(3) Enemy landings from 20 transports by means of about 60 barges between Toeban and Rembang hampered by strafing by N.E.I. Hurricanes and Buffaloes and American Kittyhawks. Several barges sunk or set on fire. Enemy strafing of Djombang during refuelling rendered majority of Kittyhawks unserviceable.

(4) No night operations ordered. (5) Wesgroup operational serviceability 0030Z/2, 9 Hurricanes, 3 Vildebeestes.

(Britair, 2320/2 to Air Min. amended 4/3 No T.O.O.)

(Recd. from Air Min. 1848/4).



War Diary.2.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B

Submarine attacked by U.S. aircraft in 46.15 N. 53.15 W. at 1700Z/1. C.T.F.4 organizing air and surface search to continue for next 48 hours.  
(F.O.N.F. 0027Z/2 to N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

CARPERBY  
torpedoed.

Operations 1/3. 2 Canso aircraft 116 BR Dartmouth took off base 0645 G.M.T. and 0739 G.M.T. respectively on search for survivors of supposedly torpedoed S.S. PLEIDON or CARPERBY. Square search made position 39.57 N., 55.40 W. Nil report.  
A.O.C. E.A.C., 0250/2.)

DIALA.

Your 1235A/1. PRUDENT is now standing by S.S. DIALA in 050° 48' N. 040° 50' W. at 1800Z/1 but reports unable to establish tow due to weather and PRUDENT may have to return to base shortly due to urgent defect. Understand Foundation Company unable to send salvage steamer so far afield. Am doubtful if PRUDENT unassisted can ever succeed. Am diverting LADY ELSA, COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS with instructions to render any assistance possible.

(F.O.N.F. 0331Z/2 to Admty.)

Your 0331Z/2. Observing position of DIALA is now 500 miles from St. Johns and 1300 miles from Londonderry request you will bring strongest possible pressure to bear on Foundation Company to send a tug to assist in towing this vessel westward.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 2055A/2 to F.O.N.F.)

My 0331Z/2 PRUDENT reports standing by DIALA in 050° 47' N. 039° 58' W. at 1500Z/2 awaiting favourable opportunity to connect tow, also that more powerful tug essential, and trawlers probably not much assistance.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 2219Z/2 to Admty.)

Movements.

1/3 arrivals VERVAIN ex Argentina. BEDFORDSHIRE ex U.K., NORWICH CITY ex U.K. and standing by DIALA, WELLARD ex EMPIRE CELT. Departures, RAMSEY, QUINTE, MIDLAND, GODERICH to O.N.68. COWICHAN to tow EMPIRE CELT. CAPE WARWICK, SENATEUR DUHAMEL, ST. ZENO, with C.L.3 to Halifax. ~~2-4.58~~

(F.O.N.F. 0356Z/2 to Admty.)

Diversion of  
Shipping  
Caribbean.

Your 2031A/1. Necessity for action by Admiralty is and has always been fully appreciated, but when this occurs there is doubt as to what ships are being diverted by Admiralty until diversion signals are actually received. In order to avoid duplication on these occasions, suggest Admiralty pass to C. in C. A. & W.I. at once, a list of ships it is intended to divert. C. in C. would then be responsible for any others. 2. I am now dealing with any necessary diversions to comply with Admiralty 1711A/27.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 0942P/2 to Admty.)

/011 ...



War Diary.2.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- Oil Fuel, St. Thomas. Your 2005A/27. Permission was obtained to supply oil fuel to diverted ships and enough for voyage was given each. I am promised 500 oil fuel for SEAPOOL but she will not now require so much. U.S. Authorities here are anxious to offer help.  
(R.N.O. St. Thomas 1022/2 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
- Floating Dock. Your 1923/27. This dock is urgently required at Freetown. Before a decision can be made, essential that we should know the strategic background of this request.  
2. Dock was allocated to Freetown in March, 1941, and is due for delivery in the immediate future.  
3. Last minute diversion of important material stultifies any long term planning and cannot be accepted without full knowledge of reasons for proposed diversion.  
(1st S.L. 1120A/2 to B.A.D.)  
Reply: 2015Q/5
- PIORUN O.N.70 Expect to be about 12 hours late at M.O.M.P. P.C. and S. 55° 18' N. 21° 9' W. 245° 4.  
(PIORUN 1201Z/2 to Task Unit No.4.6.3 (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., C.T.F. No.4.6.6 Opnav.)
- SHERBROOKE. My 1640Z/20. Defects H.M.C.S. SHERBROOKE completed.  
(C.O.A.C. 1201Z/2 to N.S.H.Q.)
- BURLINGTON. My 1800Z/16. Defects and alterations and additions H.M.C.S. BURLINGTON completed.  
(C.O.A.C. 1202Z/2 to N.S.H.Q.)
- U/B attacked 26/2. U.S. Naval P B Y bomber report having sighted and attacked large S/M on surface 145 miles S.W. St. Lucia at about 0930Q/26. S/M made a crash dive but two 175-pound D/Cs were dropped from 100 feet which straddled target. Pilot then rose to 1500 feet and dropped 1000-lb bomb which failed to explode, no oil or wreckage was seen. S/M was painted silver which bomber crew stated blended astonishingly with the sea.  
(R.N.O. St. Lucia 1305Q/2 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- PARTHIAN. Para.1 my 2015/26, para 1 Cominch's 2025/28? refers, para 2 your 1202/25. Cominch confirms route for PARTHIAN will be as previously ordered by you.  
(B.A.D. 1323Q/2 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty.)
- Ice. Request trawlers on passage to Newfoundland may be warned of the danger of striking patches of drift ice and icebergs on approaching coast of

/Newfoundland ...



War Diary.2.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Ice - Newfoundland. One case of damage to domes  
contd. has occurred.  
(F.O.N.F. 1433Z/2 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

"R" Report Following received by Baltimore at 1742Z/2 from  
GERTRUDE U.S. Tanker s.s. GERTRUDE KELLOGG, RRRR 38° 45' N.  
KELLOGG. 72° 15' W. course 40° speed 10 knots, S O S raider  
firing on us.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1503Q/2 to Admty.)  
Ship not attacked. See 1659/3.

MIRLO. MIRLO if not already sailed should proceed New  
York for repairs. Report action taken.  
(D.T.D. 1559A/2 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda, (R) S.O.(I)  
Jamaica.)

Dispositions. At 2000 G.M.T./2. N.A.4, ROCKINGHAM, ANNAPOLIS,  
045° 40' N. 053° 55' W. 058° 14.5. BEVERLEY  
joins a.m./3 from St. Johns, N.F.  
S.C.72 Task Unit 4.18.5, 044° 10' 056° 15' 046°  
6.5.  
O.N.69 Task Unit 4.1.16 and 4.18.1, 044° 50' 051° 30' 262° 8.5.  
O.N.68 Task Unit 4.1.15, 047° 15' 046° 15' 236° 5.5.  
C.L.1 LE TIGER 043° 40' 064° 55' 236° 8 altering in 066° 00' W.  
to 252°.  
C.L.2 BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, 044° 45' 061° 20' 260° 8.  
C.L.3 CAPE WARWICK, SENATOR, DUHAMEL 046° 20' 055° 30' 236° 6.5  
altering in 058° 00' west to 260°.  
(? O.N)69, U.S. Destroyers NICHOLSON, LEA, sailed Halifax 1300Z/2 to  
Boston. KINGCUP, DIANELLA, LOOSESTRIFE, SHAWINIGAN, sailed  
Halifax p.m./2 to St. Johns, N.F.  
F.N.F.L. MIMOSA due to sail St. Pierre to Halifax.  
U.S. destroyer BERNADOU due Argentia p.m./2 from westwards.  
Trawlers\*BEDFORDSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, KINGSTON  
CEYLONITE, ST. LOMAN due St. Johns, N.F. from eastward.\*Amir 1/3 -  
Task Unit 4.18.4 due St. Johns N.F. a.m./3 from H.X.177. p. 56  
Trawlers DELIVERER, NORTHERN PRINCESS, NORTHERN CHIEF, NORTHERN  
ISLES, NORTHERN DUKE due St. Johns, N.F. p.m./3 from eastward.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1605Z/2 to N.A. Escort Force, C. in C. W.A.)

Tunis Meter. Tunis 27/2 B.2. Following ships  
intelligence. departed Sfax between 16th and 23/2 for France.  
RABELAIS, P.L.M.24 CAMBRAISIEN, CAPITAINE PAUL  
LEMERLE.  
(B.A.D. 1731Q/2 to Admty.)

/ORION ...



War Diary.2.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.ORION.  
CAMERONIA  
(N.A.4)

Your 0825A/27. ORION has 4670 tons cargo and CAMERONIA 1585 tons cargo in hatches 2,3,6,7, time in U.K. depends on time taken to discharge. No major repairs. From Halifax ORION carrying 2 C/S antitoxin, 4 C/S Military equipment, 364 boxes bullion. CAMERONIA, 2 C/S Radium 1 C/S connecting rod liners.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1805Z/2 to D.S.T.(R) N.S.H.Q.)

ESSO  
COPENHAGEN.  
(Panama)

Sunk 2255Z/25 in position 010° 32' N. 053° 20' W. 38 survivors entire crew landed in Trinidad.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1832Q/2 to C. in C. A.W.I.  
(R) Admty. etc.)

Venezuela.

Ref. Caracas telegram No.45 to F.O. 26/2, could F.O. telegraph Minister here and give him permission to inform M. F.A. that British ships of War operating in Venezuela Waters are under command V. Hoover. This would help Admiral, Trinidad, as he informs me that when a patrol ship guarding loop proceeds between Patos Island and mainland a Venezuelan gunboat endeavours to send her away. I am seeing U.S. Ambassador with our Minister and requesting him to ask M.F.A. for permission that this gunboat be utilized to search and patrol Orinoco River for submarine bases as there is some evidence that a quantity of oil has been reaching ~~\*TUCAPITA~~ gunboat ~~\*CIUDAD BOLIVAR~~ and ~~\*SAN FELIX~~ monthly for alleged local consumption which quantity appears excessive.  
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1850/2 to D.N.I.) *\*not identified*

DIOMEDE  
ILEX.

DIOMEDE left Trinidad 28/2 for Pernambuco. ILEX was due to leave Pernambuco 2/3 for Trinidad.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1913P/2 to DIOMEDE, ILEX.)

U/B.

G.B.M.S. and G.B.7.A. N.S.H.Q., Opanav, F.O.N.F. Submarine attacked by aircraft at 1655Z in 43° 26' N. 61° 00' W.  
(Halifax 1940Z/2 to Admty.)

DIXIE SWORD  
sunk.

C.S.A. New Orleans reports U.S. DIXIE SWORD which sailed for Halifax 7/2 due New Orleans 19/2 was sunk about 14/2. No further information.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2008Z/2 to Admty. etc.)

Transport  
of N.Z.  
Personnel.

Do you know of any opportunity for about 80 or any part R.N.Z.A.F. Personnel now in Canada to proceed from West Coast to New Zealand in near future?  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2025Z/27 to B.A.D. Opanav, (R) Admty.)



War Diary.2.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.U.S. and  
Convoy  
Signals.

Request list of U.S. authorities concerned in handling following types of signals relating to trans-Atlantic convoys together with their functions, short titles and means of routing signals to them including telegraphic addresses:-

(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 and sailing telegram and corrections. (F) Ocean routes and diversions. (G) Defects and other miscellaneous information.

(Head of M. 2052A/2 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

NOORDAM.

My 1740Z/2 (N.T.in W.D.) NOORDAM delayed indefinitely by orders of Netherlands Govt. (C.S.A. New York 2105Z/2 to Admty.)

ANGARSTROI

Your 1412R/1 Russian ANGARSTROI arrived San Francisco 18/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2139Z/2 to S.O.I. Kingston.)

EMPRESS OF  
CANADA.

2026A/10/2. EMPRESS OF CANADA will arrive Halifax by 9/3. Accommodation has been increased to 3002. 2. Is it desirable to anticipate proposed sailing 14/3 if there are no delays to ORBITA due Halifax 7/3 and if U.S. escort is available? B.A.D. 1813Q/13/2 Refers (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2215Z/2 to Admty., C.O.A.C. Opanav, B.A.D. F.O.N.F. C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. W.A., N.A.5., D. of S.T.)

CRANFORD.

CRANFORD (U.S) sailed Norfolk 15/2 for Capetown via Trinidad, non arrival Trinidad. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2328Z/2 to S.O.I. Wellington, Opanav etc.)

Australia and New Zealand.

ATHENE.

In view of present situation and at the request of U.S. Army in Australia have ordered ATHENE to return to Melbourne to unload P.40 aircraft. (A.C.N.B. 0146Z/2 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.) amended 0238Z/3.

/Arrivals ...



War Diary.2.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - contd.Arrivals  
Noumea.AUSTRALIA U.S. Cr. CHICAGO and MONAWAI arrived  
Noumea 1/3.  
(A.C.N.B. 0844Z/2 to Admty. etc.)

Situation.

Serial number 40 from C.W.R. 1/3.  
 (1) 5 Hudson attacked Gasmata night 28/2.  
 Four 250 pound bombs exploded on runway.  
 2 A/A guns near west end of runway. One ship observed in  
 harbour. (2) One enemy flying boat over Salamaua 0043Z/1.  
 (3) 9 heavy bombers flying west from Finschafen 0122Z/1.  
 (4) 4 heavy bombers over Salamaua at 0135Z/1 course south.  
 (5) 1 single engine unidentified aircraft sighted 50 miles S.E.  
 Tanimbarrat 0835Z/1.  
 (6) Qantas flying boat from Java overdue, feared lost.  
 (7) 3 destroyers reported in my serial 38 at 0835Z/27 now  
 definitely reported as being at Lanisso Bay near Cape  
 Bougainville.  
 (8) S/M reported off Darnley Island (Torres Strait) at 0325Z/28,  
 grading C.3.  
 (9) Concerted carrier NITTA MARU at Truk 28/2.  
 (10) One Catalina attacked buildings on Vunakanau aerodrome  
 (Rabaul) night 27/28/2. 7 bombs dropped in target area. One  
 very large fire started. Heavy concentration of light A/A  
 fire which ceased after bombs dropped. No fighters encountered.  
 (A.C.N.B. 1002Z/2 to Admty. etc.)

Navigation.

All concerned W.F messages Comanzac. W.F 141.  
 New Caledonia. Cancel W.F 140 and last sentence  
 W.F.139. In vicinity of Bulari Passage ships  
 are not to proceed eastwards of longitude 166°  
 26' 48" E. until instructed to do so by Pilot.  
 (A.C.N.B. 1841Z/2 to Admty.)



War Diary.

2.3.1942  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1424A/2, 1445A/2)



War Diary.

3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

ADMirAL  
Photographs taken at 1130 today show SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN in their usual positions off Trondheim but the usual berth of TIRPITZ was obscured by cloud.

NÜRNBERG as well as SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU was at Kiel yesterday.

MINERVE and TRIDENT are to move after dark tonight into the positions assigned to them for safeguarding the Russian Convoys against a possible attack by the enemy forces now in Trondheim.

The French S/M JUNON, which had been due to relieve TRIDENT on 7/3, is reported tonight to have broken down to the westward of the Orkneys while on passage to Lerwick.

V.A.2 in RENOWN, with DUKE OF YORK, KENYA and 3 Destroyers left Hvalfiord at 0930A and are to R/V with FURY, ECHO, and ECLIPSE at 1430A tomorrow off Seidisfiord.

North Atlantic.

EAGLE  
Aircraft

To increase fighter protection for Force H during the coming operation to reinforce Malta with aircraft, I.E. of 813 Sqdn. is to be increased temporarily from 2 to 4 Sea Hurricanes, which number can be carried by EAGLE in addition to Spitfires.

Vigo

Spain is to post guards on the German vessels at Vigo from 2000 to 0600 each night.

South Atlantic.

U/B

S.S. BEACONSFIELD made an "S" report at 1753

/G.M.T...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.U/B  
(Contd.)

G.M.T. in 6.02 N, 12.17 W, and at 2045 an aircraft reported survivors in a boat in 5.52 N, 12.27 W, but the latter were apparently from S.S. HELENUS. BEACONSFIELD was missed by torpedo.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Chiefs of Staff have decided that the Military garrison at Malta should be put under C. in C. Middle East. Various schemes are being considered for relieving deficiencies in supplies and personnel.

Severe damage was caused to personnel buildings at Kalafrana, and Luqa was rendered unserviceable in raids last night.

Raids continued today on Hal Far, Luqa and the Submarine Base, while in the Dockyard area the S/M UPRIGHT was slightly damaged.

Palermo  
Raided.

16 Wellingtons from Malta made a successful attack on Palermo, where a convoy is assembling. 1 ship of about 9000 tons with M.T. deck cargo was set alight and was still burning 6 hours later. Fires and explosions were caused in the shipyard, engineering works, and near the seaplane station.

Benghazi.

5 Wellingtons laid 10 mines in Benghazi Harbour, covered by 15 others which bombed bases of the Harbour moles.

Suez Canal  
area.

About 35 enemy aircraft raided Alexandria and Port Said areas and Suez Canal zone last night. 4 Wellingtons were destroyed on the ground, 6 others damaged, and runways cratered at Kabrit. Mines dropped at Kantara and Siale exploded on land. Bombs fell in Sale Park, East of Port Said. Traffic in the Canal is proceeding normally.

A/S vessels.

Four A/S whalers promised to C. in C. Med. in December, to arrive in April, must now, in view of changed conditions, remain in South African waters.

/Black Sea...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea.

Italian ship CAPO PINO and MERANO left Istanbul at 1800 G.M.T. for the Aegean.

East Indies.

INDOMITABLE

At 2205A, Admty. ordered INDOMITABLE to unload all her Hurricanes at Ceylon. She is afterwards to proceed to Aden to embark the balance of her operational aircraft.

A/S and M/S  
Craft.

C. in C. E.F., observing that C.C.C.F. has ordered all R.A.N. A/S and M/S forces to Fremantle, states that he is very hard pressed to meet many calls for such craft in Eastern theatre and would be grateful if A.C.N.B. could spare any for Ceylon. Almost at the same time, Admty, were asking C. in C. E.I. what suitable auxiliary A/S and M/S vessels had been cleared from Abda Area as there is an urgent need for them in New Zealand.

Cocos  
Island  
raided.

At 1400 G.M.T. a raider was reported attacking Cocos Island, and cable communication ceased after 1428. At 1620, Cocos reported by W/T that the station was hit by shell fire. Darkness prevented identification of the raider. It is hoped to establish emergency cable communication tomorrow.

HOBART and DANAE, of the Western Striking Force from Java, reported at midday today that they should arrive at Trincomalee at 0700Z/5. They have nearly 1,000 evacuees on board and will be short of provisions and fuel.

China.Java  
Situation

Adm. Palliser today reported on the situation in Java from Fremantle where he arrived by air this morning. He intends going to Colombo in WARSPITE.

/A new...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.China - Contd.Java  
Situation  
(Contd.)

A new fleet of 51 transports has arrived at Bantam.  
Dutch S/M K.15 has sunk a Japanese tanker of "Naruto" type in Bantam Bay.  
S/M's K.9, K.11 and K.12 left Sourabaya for an operation in Java Sea area and then to go to Colombo.

Abda  
Area

Chiefs of Staffs' proposals for limits of the modified Abda Area are contained in their (W) 99 (1315A/3)

Summary of  
Events.

A short summary of events in Abda Area during the past week, for the information of S.O. Force V and S.O. Force T, now in the South Atlantic on their way out, is contained in Admty. 1010Z/3.

Philippines

Washington reports that an enemy cruiser and destroyers have shelled vessels and port facilities at Argao, Cebo City, and other small ports.

In Mindanao, Japanese have landed at Zamboanga from a cruiser and 4 transports, and the city is reported on fire.

America and West Indies.

AUSONIA.

As more submarine depot ships and repair ships must be provided from A.M.C.'s, no other tonnage being available, U.S. naval authorities are being asked to release AUSONIA, now operating under Com. Task Force 2.

Explosions  
St. John's

At 1730Z, 3 underwater explosions occurred off the harbour entrance at St. John's N.F. probably caused by U-boats attempting to fire torpedoes into the harbour. 3 A/S vessels made a search without result.



War Diary.

3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

Command

Pending new arrangements for command in S.W. Pacific, Commonwealth Govt. have asked that Northern Australia should revert to Australian Command on the understanding that Dutch H.Q. will be allowed to operate Abda aircraft from Australia if they so desire.

Port Moresby was attacked by 11 heavy bombers and 3 fighters between 0420 and 0440 G.M.T.

S.S. TONGARIRO was shelled by a U/B at 0224 G.M.T. in 33.48 S, 113.30 E.



War Diary.

3.3.1942.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- GRUNO. Netherlands Naval Authorities intend to pay off GRUNO on 1/4. If an R.N. crew can be made available they will be pleased to lend this Ship. Request your remarks as to whether it is desired to retain her in present service. BPV 2 might replace GRUNO if desired. (A.C.N.S. (H.), 1351A/3 to C. in C. Nore.)
- JONQUIL for Gibraltar. When ready for sea JONQUIL should be sailed for Tobermory to work up. On conclusion of working up C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her to Gibraltar as convenient. (D.O.D. (H.), 1541A/3).
- CYCLAMEN for S.A. Station. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> N.O.I.C. Humber's 1430A/2. When ready for sea CYCLAMEN should be sailed as required by C. in C. W.A. for re-routeing to S.A. Station. (D.O.D. (H.), 1618A/3 to C. in C. Nore).  
*See also p 78.*
- WRESTLER for Freetown. Your 1547A/2. Eventual destination of WRESTLER is Freetown. WRESTLER will escort 27th M.L. Flotilla to Gibraltar and is to be ready to leave Milford Haven on 15/3. (D.O.D.(H.), 1745A/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
- HECLA for Eastern Fleet. Your 1527A/2. On completion of refit HECLA will proceed to join Command of C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Ship should be equipped to maintain 24 destroyers. (D.O.D.(H.), 1923A/3).

Movements.

- SUFFOLK. Sailed SUFFOLK 2245A. E.T.A. Scapa 1200A/4 weather permitting. (A.C.I.C., 0024A/3 to A.C.O.S.)  
My 2211A/24, F.O.I.C. Newcastle's 1045A/26, and R.A.D. H.F., 1207A/1. Proceed accordingly. (C. in C. H.F., 1722A/3 to SUFFOLK).  
Intend not fuelling at Scapa (?on arrival) March 4th before proceeding for refit. (SUFFOLK, 1926A/1 to C. in C. H.F.)
- INGLEFIELD. D 3 in INGLEFIELD sailed 1745A. E.T.A. Scapa 1700A/4. (A.C.I.C., 0135A/3).
- <sup>M/V</sup>  
SUSSEX,  
ORIBI. ORIBI and SUSSEX position 182° Stokksnes Light 4.5 miles, course 052°, speed 15 knots. E.T.A. 0630 N. (ORIBI, 0235A/3 to A.C.I.C.)
- ROMNEY. My P.C.S. at 0725, 053° 30' N., 016° W., 218° 11 knots. Join me. (ROMNEY, 0732Z/3 to WHITEHAVEN).

/SUMBA ...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

SUMBA,  
SILJA. My 1248A/2. Sailed nine hours late.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0948A/3 to A.C.I.C.)

RENOWN,  
DUKE OF YORK,  
KENYA. V.A.2 in RENOWN, DUKE OF YORK, KENYA, FAULKNER,  
ESKIMO, PUNJABI sailed Hvalfiord 0930A. FURY,  
ECHO, ECLIPSE at 0230A. \*  
(A.C.I.C., 1143A/3 to C. in C. H.F.)  
x ?

PRINS ALBERT. Your 1057/2. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C.Dartmouth, 1424/3 to C. in C.Portsmouth).

ALCANTARA ALCANTARA leaves Clyde approx. 21/3, for  
Freetown. (S.O.W.P., 1714/3 and 1120A/4).

ILLUSTRIOUS. Arrivals ILLUSTRIOUS and ST. ALBANS.  
(N.O.I.C.Lamlash, 1745/3).

PAKENHAM. PAKENHAM will be required to leave Clyde on 8/3  
for Gibraltar with 8 Albacores long range tanks  
which will require particularly careful stowing.  
2. Air crews totalling 16 Officers and 3 ratings  
will also be embarked.  
3. PAKENHAM is to return to U.K. with as little  
delay as possible for final boiler cleaning.  
(A.C.N.S. F., 2216A/3).

Operations.

P.43. P.43 is to be sailed when ready for a working-up  
(Patrol off Aalesund.) patrol in an area within a radius of 30 miles of  
120' from coast 62° 20' N., 1° E. Object as in F.S.B.2, but  
inward bound U-Boats are not to be reported. This  
area should prove fruitful in U-Boats.  
(F.O.S., 1146A/3).

Norway S/M MINERVE and TRIDENT are to move into areas E and W  
Patrol. respectively after dark 3rd March.  
(F.O.S., 1152A/3).  
Following area off Stettlandet is not to be  
entered by submarines in area enclosed by lines joining the  
following positions. (F.O.S., 1804A/3).  
Leave patrol after dark 4th passing through position  
(A) 065° 05' N., 010° E., at about 2200A, thence diving by day  
through (B) 065° 05' N., 009° 20' E., (C) 062° N., 004° 00' E.,  
(D) 061° 30' N., 000° 30' W., thence on the surface at C.O's  
discretion through (E) 060° 25' N., 000° 30' W. to R/V with  
escort 090° Bard Head 5 miles at 1500A/7 for escort into Lerwick.  
(Capt. S.9, 1833A/3 and 2221A/3 to MINERVE).  
F.O.S. 1939A/27. Request you sail JUNON 1900A/4 route as follows  
to 064° 40' N., 008° 40' E., thence after dark 7th to patrol  
in zone W. (Capt. S.9, 1855A/3 to N.O.I.C.Lerwick).

/Patrols ...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - contd.

Patrols. Subject to orders from C. in C. H.F. KENT is to pass through position X. 066° 20' N., 024° 30' W. at 0800N/7 and thence on Patrol "White."

F.O. 1st C.S. in LONDON is to meet KENT in Position X and on completion of any Exercises desired is to return to Hvalfiord. (V.A.2, 1342A/3).

Patrol tonight. 2 M.L's 54 A buoy to Aldeburgh light float. 2 M.G.B's Aldeburgh light float to 54 E buoy shift to Q E 10 at 0400A/4.

2 M.L's return to Humber from Eastward at daylight. (C. in C. Nore, 1642A/3).

My 1932A/2. Cancel paragraph (2). C.S.18 in SHEFFIELD is to leave patrol to comply with my 1716A/3. *N.T. W.D.* (C. in C. H.F., 1756A/3).

WINDSOR is to carry out patrol C tonight. (C. in C. Nore, 1756A/3).

Expect to pass 54 E buoy at 2230, proceeding to patrol C at 25 knots. (WINDSOR, 2054A/3).

M.L's and M.G.B's have been withdrawn. Extend patrol O to position Z. (C. in C. Nore, 2301A/3 to MENDIP).

Cable laying. ALERT, KINGSTON JACINTH, and Chasers 10 and 11 operating in 050° 15' N., 000° 28' 30" W. ALERT and Chasers arrive Newhaven and KINGSTON JACINTH arrive E.A.5 daylight 4th. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2227A/3).

British Air Activity.

Bombing operations. On day 28/2 6 Blenheim A/C with 9 Squadrons of Fighter A/C attacked U-Boats at Ostend. (H.Q.B.C., 0001/3).

Escort for SUFFOLK. Expect air escort about 0830 G.M.T. to-morrow. (C. in C. W.A., 1746 G.M.T/3 to SUFFOLK).

Enemy Air Activity.

HELVIG (Base Mining Depot ship) attacked. At 1925/2 HELVIG was attacked by A/C off Aberdeen. No damage to ship. Hits claimed on A/C with M/G fire. One A/C approached from east at about 400 ft. made run each way fore and aft, then approached port quarter opening fire with cannon and dropping 2 bombs 50 and 25 feet from port quarter. Ship opened fire with M/G's during third run. One Rating killed and one seriously wounded. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0039/3) (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen 0200/3).

A/C shot down on 28/2. NEGRO. My 2240A/28. At 1943/28 off 59 Buoy one Junkers 88 A/C approached ship with moon behind him, dived below balloon, and passed 200 feet above H.M.T. NEGRO. Engaged with twin and single Lewis. Fire

/withheld ...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.A/C shot  
down on 28/2.  
NEGRO.  
(contd.)withheld until plane well in sights five seconds  
burst. A/C straightened out of dive and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile  
from ship was seen to rise gradually and then  
burst into flames and crash.  
(F.O. Humber, 2146A/3).Mining.Operation  
"Tincture."Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by  
p.m. 5th March in the manner described in my  
1207A/10/9/41.  
(D.M.S., 1116A/3 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).Thames  
Estuary.One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 2252/2.  
Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1234/3).Enemy Intelligence.Straits of  
Dover.Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in the Dover  
Strait from 0900/2 to 0900/3. Further movements  
during daylight of small vessels apparently in  
connection with the salvage operations on damaged  
vessel referred to in my 1229/2 and 1318/2. Tracks E 8 D and  
E 9 D five very small vessels, westbound from Calais to Boulogne  
at between 18 to 20 knots between 2105 and 2320.  
(V.A. Dover, 0914A/3).Off Beachy  
Head.Plots indicate possible suspicious craft 50° 33' N.  
00° 30' E. Investigate and return.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1037A/3 and 1447A/3 to  
WHEATLAND.)My 1037A/3 and 1447A/3. Following received from WHEATLAND.  
Area searched. Nothing sighted. Visibility 5 miles.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1741A/3 to Admty.)Western  
Channel.C H L plotted during night 2nd/3rd between 2011  
and 0029 indicated vessel proceeding at convoy  
speed about 3 miles to the eastward of W P 120.  
(?On) return to Plymouth report if there were any  
stragglers following an inshore route.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1144A/3 to CLEVELAND).ADMIRAL  
SCHEER.  
PRINZ EUGEN.  
TIRPITZ.  
NÜRNBERG.Photographic R/C of Trondheim Fiord, 1130/3 shows  
SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN in usual positions.  
TIRPITZ berth obscured by cloud.  
2. P.R.U. Kiel 1315/2. Add NÜRNBERG alongside  
T/B harbour. (D.D.I.C., 1829A/3).



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

8B Buoy. 8B Buoy light extinguished.  
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth 1611A/3 and 1930A/3)  
(Hydrog. 2210A/3).

Breaksea Light Vessel. Breaksea Light Vessel has been moved to new  
assigned position 51° 20' 28" N. 3° 17' 45" W.  
(Hydrog, 2208A/3).

Casualties & Defects.

BIRDLIP (Escort Trawler) sunk. BIRDLIP has been sunk in collision. No casualties. Salvage operations are in progress.  
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 0935A/3).

NORTHMAN. NORTHMAN went aground at Loch Spelve, Firth Lorne, whilst on patrol. Fog prevailed at time. Dome carried away and propeller damaged. Request instructions as to whether vessel should be sailed forthwith to Greenock.  
(N.O.I.C.Oban, 1010A/3 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

MENESTHEUS. MENESTHEUS will be unready for sea until about p.m.12th. (R.A.M. 1016/3 to Admty.)

CHILTERN. Whaler CHILTERN grounded in Reykjavik approaches.  
(N.O.I.C.Iceland, 1504A/3).

SEVILLA. SEVILLA not arrived Oban. Last seen by escorts hove to east of Skerryvore 1930A/2.  
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1720A/3).

JUNON. Owing to weather conditions and F.S. JUNON having lubricating defect in main engine intend proceeding West of Orkneys. Position 2200A/3  
058° 43' N. 003° 52' W.  
(BREDA, 2010A/3).

JUNON both engines broken down. Am hove to standing by in 058° 41' N. 003° 53' W. Estimated time Barrow Deep both engines running 7 hours. (BREDA, 2200A/3 to F.O.S.) 2?

NEVILLE. Arrived NEVILLE and FULLER. NEVILLE went aground Toward Point at 2110 and refloated at 2135. Damage believed slight.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 2256A/3 to F.O.I.C.Belfast).



War Diary.

3. 3. 1942.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.D. 23. S.D. 23. Intend sailing BANFORA, CHARLESTOWN,  
ST. MARYS 0900A. Route C. in C. W.A. 14 (747)A/28.  
(A.C.I.C., 0119A/3).

Many congratulations on again bringing all the  
ships of your convoy safely home.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0934A/3 to Commodore C.G.  
Illingworth).

Irish Cross Channel Sailings. My 1156A/28. Daylight routine may be brought into  
force on or after Monday 9th March.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1204A/3).

W.S. 17. SHROPSHIRE. A.M. 1235/21/2.  
SHROPSHIRE will be required to sail from Scapa as  
convenient to attend W.S. 17 convoy conference  
a.m. 21/3 in the Clyde and thence with convoy to  
Freetown.  
2. It is realised that ship may not be fully  
worked up on sailing. At Scapa she is to concentrate  
on L.A. efficiency. Opportunities for H.A.  
practices will be provided on passage.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1615A/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Q.P. 8. Q.P. 8. Sailing telegram not received.  
(D.T.D., 1929A/3 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)



War Diary.

3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 1644A/24.  
1. No indication of location of Raider E.  
2. Cancellations of QQQ messages from SCOTTISH PRINCE and PIPINA (previously reported in error as PATERPINA) have been received.  
3. DAPHNELLA has now arrived in port. (D.D.I.C., 1910A/3 to A.I.G.13 etc).

North Atlantic.

Movements. Arrivals GERANIUM, COLTSFOOT, COREOPSIS. (F.O.C.N.A., 0810A/3 to Admty).  
Arrived Ponta Delgada AUBRETIA, SNOWDROP 0915, BELLWORT 1100 G.M.T./3. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0907/3 to S.O.(I) Gib).  
Departure LOCH OSKAIG for Y.l. (V.A.C. N.A., 0927A/3 to Admty).  
Arrivals PENTSTEMON, VETCH. (F.O.C.N.A., 0942A/3 to Admty).

BRADFORD, Would you agree to BRADFORD escorting SOBIESKI  
SOBIESKI. sailing as soon as repairs to BRADFORD (?have been) effected.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1240A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

2 M.Ls. C. in C. Med., 1810/24/2 and Admty's 2107/28/2.  
(i) 2.M.Ls. will be ready to sail for Malta about 6/3 subject to arrival of sparking plugs.  
Subsequent pair at about 48 hours interval. (ii) S. of A. about 12 knots, (iii) V.A. Malta is requested to signal route and times of passage 017° 010° E., and provide fighter protection.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1318A/3 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta)  
Reply see V.A. Malta 2303B/3, (Mediterranean).

Situation at Area Z. (1) HILARY, MARSDALE patrolling Eastern and Western half N.64 and N.73 respectively.  
1957A/3. (ii) MARON, CAVINA Patrolling Eastern and Western half of N.46 and N.55. (iii) AUSONIA patrolling in area 20 N., to 30 N., and 35° 05' W. to 45° 00' W.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1344A/3 to N.A. Station).

→ Movements. AUBRETIA, SNOWDROP left Ponta Delgada 1600 G.M.T./3. ^ COMMANDANT DROGOU and COMMANDANT DETROYAT arrived 1630 G.M.T.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1455/3 to S.O.(I) Gib).



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

NURTURETON.

Your 1940A/2. NURTURETON sailed under escort 1430 G.M.T./3. Request N.C.S.O. at Gibraltar to include necessary information in his routing signal.  
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1601C/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U-boat.

S/M sighted in 037° 38' N., 025° 10' W., 1400 G.M.T./3 steering west. Dived soon afterwards. A.l. (....) Words in Brackets omitted from distribution at request D.S.O.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1610/3 to S.O.(I) G1b).

EXMOOR.

Amend E.T.A. Gate 0100/4. Have following passengers etc. Whaler damaged, requires repair or renewal.  
(EXMOOR, 1659A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LEESEE  
(German).

LEESEE now ready for sea probably sailing tonight 3/3.  
(Consul Bilbao, 1705/3 to D.N.I. (R) M.E.W.)

Force H.,  
fighter  
protection.

In order to increase fighter protection of Force H., during period of operation to reinforce Malta with A/C. Request I.E. of 813 Sqn. may be temporarily increased from 2 to 4 sea Hurricanes which number can be carried by EAGLE in addition

to Spitfires.

2. A/C to be drawn from Gibraltar reserve and returned on completion.  
(F.O. Force H., 1744A/3 to Admty. (R) EAGLE, F.O.C.N.A.)  
Approved. (D.N.A.D., 0130A/4).

French  
S/MS.

To French N.A. from French Admiralty. 4 French S/MS escorted by surface vessel will pass Gibraltar eastbound 7/3, and 1 westbound 11/3.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1752/3 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A.)

29th M.L.  
Flotilla.

Your 1844A/27/1 when may 29th M.L. Flotilla be expected.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1822/3 to Admty). Reply: About 25/4. (D.D.O.C. (C) 1527A/4).

Portuguese  
Ships with  
Timor  
garrison.

My 1327/1. (Position of GONCALVES ZARCO and JOAO BELO) Both ships in position 016° 18' S., 112° 07' E., 1200/2 steering west.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1839/3 to Admty).

/Spain...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.Spain  
and German  
Ships.

My 1111/28. M. of M. of own volition informs me today that posting of guards destined for German vessels at Vigo has been delayed by administration details but will take place tomorrow beginning with BESSEL. Guards will be on board from 2000 to 0600. Crews of ships are reduced by degrees to care and maintenance parties. In view of above I have not yet raised the question of BESSEL's possible (?escape) (N.A. Madrid, 1910/3 to D.N.I.)

ELSA  
ESSBERGER,  
(German).

German ELSA ESSBERGER at Ferrol, Minister of (?Marine) stated small ships taking cargo could not be (?treated) as Dutch since all flew German flag and had genuine German papers. Transfer of cargo had therefore to be permitted. Matter rested in diplomatic field. Of course, if we sank or captured one in territorial waters it would also be a diplomatic affair. (Madrid, 1945/3 to Admty)

Albacores.

Your 2354/28/2. Request all 8 Albacores be erected forthwith. Two external and six internal tanks for these machines together with 8 Observers, 8 pilots and 3 air-gunners (of whom only 2 will be required to fly) will be sent out to arrive about 12/3. (D.O.D. (F), 2211/3 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) F.O. Force H).

U-boat.

S/M sighted in 037° 38' N., 025° 10' W., 1400 G.M.T./3 steering west. (F.O.C.N.A., 2337A/3 Ships and authorities N.A. Station).

South Atlantic.

DIOMEDE.

C. in C. S.A. 1235Z/28/2. <sup>N.T.H. 43</sup> Following are <sup>N.T.H. 43</sup> Paraphrases of C.T.F. 23 2106/25. Action DIOMEDE for information U.S.C.N.O. C. in C. U.S. Fleet N.O.I.C. Trinidad, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.F.(U.S.) Com. 10. "Refer my operation order 3-42 modify as follows. On completion of overhaul and replenishment proceed to Montevideo via Recife" and DIOMEDE 0825/27 for action C.T.F. 23 same information addressees "Your 2106/25. Received and understood". Despatches quoted were encyphered in system not held by C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad. (U.S.C.N.O., 25/3 to C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Trinidad. C.T.F. 23. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, DIOMEDE).

/BIRMINGHAM...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- BIRMINGHAM. Simonstown arrival 0630Z/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0712Z/3 to Admtly etc).
- LETITIA. LETITIA sailed 28/2 E.T.A. Freetown 10/3.  
Requirements Freetown.  
(S.S.T.O. Capetown, 0853Z/3 to Admtly for D.of S.T)
- Datum Buoy, Sierra Leone. Datum Buoy with upper half of Buoy and conical superstructure painted red and white checkers has been laid in position 237° from Sierra Leone Lighthouse 6.75 miles.  
(N.O.I.C. Freetown, 0916Z/3 to Admtly).
- SONTAY. Your 2344/27. Accommodation in SONTAY for 115 Officers 1125 O.Rs. S.S.T.O. Durban reports no increase possible in this ship.  
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0933Z/3 to D. of S.T.)
- BRITISH HOPE. Overdue shipping. My 1024/28/2 BRITISH HOPE arrived Capetown.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0951/3 to Admtly etc).
- CANTON, PRETORIA CASTLE. CANTON to leave Freetown 1800/4 and proceed to R/V with PRETORIA CASTLE in 004° 30' N., 023° 40' W., at 1200Z/6/3.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1107Z/3 CANTON, PRETORIA CASTLE, U.S. Dest. CLAXTON, B.A.D. Washington, Admtly, BULOLO).
- BULOLO. BULOLO leaves patrol and returns to Freetown to arrive a.m. 6/3.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1131Z/3 to BULOLO)
- San Tome hardships of Portuguese. From Censored correspondence it is apparent that great hardships and unemployment are being experienced by the Portuguese inhabitants of San Tome and principal islands due to impossibility of shipping their products.  
Suggest that South Africa or other Allied Country might take some of their products to relieve stagnation.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1249Z/3 to Admtly. (R) M.E.W.)
- MILFORD. Intend following programme for MILFORD subject to concurrence of Portuguese Authorities.  
Departure Simonstown 18/3, Loanda 24/3 - 25/3.  
Matadi 26/3 - 27/3, Pointe Noire 28/3 - 29/3. Freetown arrive 4/4. (2) B.N.L.O. West Africa report if date for visit to Pointe Noire and Matadi will be suitable.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1303Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire).

/Movements...



War Diary.3. 3. 1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- Movements. Departure 2/3 U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Destroyer DAVIS. Departure 3/3 ILEX 1140 G.M.T. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1333Z/3 to Admty. etc).
- ~~CHELAMEN.~~ F.O.I.C. Humbers? 1330A/2. <sup>n.t. w.d.</sup> Request you will sail ~~CHELAMEN~~ for Freetown with first convenient O.S. Convoy. (C. in C. S.A., 1357Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)  
*See p. 68*
- Force V. Force V sailed from Freetown p.m./2 E.T.A. FORMIDABLE Capetown, PALADIN and PANTHER Simonstown 10/3. (C. in C. S.A., 1403Z/3 to Admty).
- LA MOQUEUSE. Free French Sloop LA MOQUEUSE will be ready to sail from Simonstown 8/3. C.O. states his endurance at 14 knots is 6000 miles and wishes to sail direct for Aden. Request route instructions. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1513Z/3 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. etc).
- VIDETTE. Departure 1200Z/3 VIDETTE routed in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1340A/24. S. of A. 13.5 knots, E.T.A. Gibraltar 2200A/8. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1513Z/3 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)
- FORMIDABLE, RESOLUTION, C. in C. E.F. V.A. 3. New C. in C. Eastern Fleet in FORMIDABLE and V.A. 3 in RESOLUTION Due Capetown 10/3. Former intends to remain till 14/3, latter may sail as soon as ship is completed with fuel. Important that new C. in C. should see Union Authorities in order to obtain first-hand up to date knowledge of affairs in South Africa. Request you will endeavour to arrange an interview with Prime Minister, C.G.S. High Commissioner and Minister for Railways and Ports. C. in C. will wish to see V.A. 3 at Capetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1521Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
- NEWTON ASH. Have you any news of NEWTON ASH sailed Oban in O.S. 17 due Capetown 21/2? (D.T.D., 1614A/3 to S.O. (I) Capetown).

/Movements...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Movements  
Summary  
2000Z/3.

s. p. 48

Area P. WALLFLOWER with O.S.S. (19)~~(79)~~? 005° 20' N., 013° 40' W., 129° 8½ knots, LAERTES off Deception. ABBEYDALE 010° 00' S., 007° 10' W., 166° 10 knots. RESOLUTION 008° 10' S., 002° 20' W., 144° 12½ knots, SNAKEFLY. 003° 32' N., 003° 25' W., 086° 6 knots, \*M.L. 271 from ~~from~~ BISSAU to Freetown

COPINSAY about 005° 22' N., 010° 08' W., 137° 9 knots. DESPATCH 005° 08' N., 010° 54' W., 127° 14 knots. RUMBA with PINZON 006° 14' N., 010° 55' W., 293° 7 knots, CANNA 003° 50' N., 009° 25' W., 100° 9 knots. PRETORIA CASTLE, BULOLO patrol in H.34 C and D keeping E. of 026° W., VIDETTE about 014° 45' N., 019° 00' W. 000° 15 knots.

Area Q. FREESIA, FRITILLARY off Simonstown from the North E.T.A. 4/3, BACHAQUERO 034° 10' S., 015° 55' E. E.T.A. Simonstown 4/3. CHESHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, about 041° S., 021° E.

Area S. CILICIA patrols L.31, L.32. ASTURIAS about 021° 30' S. 034° 50' W., to Freetown 16 knots.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1715Z/3). \* See p. 48.

5 M/Vs. and  
destroyer.

Hudson on passage from Gibraltar sighted in 23° 40' N., 16° 05' W., at 1321/2 5 merchant vessels escorted by one destroyer steering 240° speed 6 knots.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1744Z/3 to Admty)

BEACONSFIELD,  
S/M.

Following has been read SSSS 6° 02' N., 12° 17' W. BEACONSFIELD. Submarine sighted.

(Freetown W/T T.O.R., 1753G.M.T./3)  
Ref. BEACONSFIELD SSSS of 1818Z/3 aircraft report survivors in boat 5° 52' N., 12° 27' W., at 2045Z/3.

(C. in C. S.A., 2150Z/3 to Admty).

RANGITATA,  
ORDUNA.

Your 0702/27/2. Speed declared due to present condition of vessels. After turn round U.K. should maintain 14 knots.

(S.S.T.O. Freetown, 1907Z/3 to D.S.T. (R)  
C. in C. S.A.)

O.S.19

Arrivals 3/3 ROCKROSE, BURDOCK, BERGAMOT, with O.S.19.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1937Z/3 to Admty etc).

Boat from  
WINDHUK  
(German).

My 2131Z/27. Following further information now received from Captain of Ports at Santos (Begins). On 15/2 20 members of crew WINDHUK left Santos in a 2 masted 12 metre boat painted grey and named HEDY. Boat fitted with 12 H.P.

diesel engine and 6 drums of diesel oil fuel are supposed to be on board. Local authorities consider she has sufficient water and provisions to reach Dakar but think she might contact raider off the coast. Brazilian destroyer SANTA CATHARINA left Santos 0530Z/3 to search for boat and returned this afternoon. (Ends). (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2152Z/3 to S.A. Sqdn. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.) HEDY found, see 2034/4.

/Whalers...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Whalers. Your 0743A/25/2. Under present conditions these 4 whalers should be retained in South African waters, and no request will be made for them to proceed to the Mediterranean.  
(D.A/S.W., 2204A/3 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Shipping Routes. Your 1547Z/27. Concur.  
(D.T.D., 2212A/3 to C.in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

THUNDERBOLT. Admty 1208A/20/2 to F.O.(S) and Capt. (S) 1 only. THUNDERBOLT sailed p.m./1/3 for Malta, Gibraltar and U.K. Capt. (S) 10 and Capt. (S) 8 are requested to arrange onward routing.  
(Capt. (S) 1., 0925B/3 to F.O.S.)

COLOMBO. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1010Z/3).

Troop Transport. GH.Q. M.E.'s movement 1/67620 T.O.O. 1058 not to C. in C. E.I. F.O.C. Red Sea Force.  
"Stepsister" 3. Estimated 21 motor transport ships will be required have provisionally allocated CORNISH CITY, CROMARTY, SINNINGTON COURT, UFFINGTON COURT, BEGUM, BENRINNES, AALSUM, CLAN MACTAVISH, SEROOSKERK, GLENPARK, STAD MAASSLUIS, DUKE OF ATHENS, SKELBRED, KAIMATA, KAFIRISTAN, EMPIRE RENNIE, STANFORD, NEW BOROUGH, SLEMMESTAD, COMLIEBANK, TREVALGAN. (ii) First group of 5 ships commence loading 8/3. Expect complete loading all motor transports by 20/3. (iii) Total of about 4900 personnel will embark in M.T. motor boats. (iv) Capacity of personnel ships allocated in your 0405A/1 only 18100 this with personnel in M.T. ships totals 23000. (v) To transport balance of 1100 propose to fit bunks in DORSET and MELBOURNE STAR for about 600 personnel each. Both could also be used for M.T. in which case it is probable that 2 or 3 ships mentioned in para 1. would not be required. Do you concur? Request immediate reply. Agreed.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1015B/3 to D.S.T. etc).

Italian Tankers. Two Italian tankers, ALBARO and one other expected from Aegean within next 36 hours. B.3.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1026B/3 to S.O.(I) Med).

Movements. Arrival 2/3 PEONY, ZULU, LIVELY, SOUTHERN SEA, departure 2/3 CUMBRAE.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1037B/3 to Admty C. in C. Med).

/Air...



War Diary.

3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air Report. Opsum No. 645. 2.Egypt. Night 2/3 March. About 35 enemy aircraft operated over Alexandria and Port Said areas and Suez Canal zone. Bombs reported at Port Said, Ismailia, Shallufa, Romani and Kabrit. 6 Wellingtons destroyed on ground and runways cratered Kabrit. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1054/3) See also 1831/3.

FARNDALE. Intend following programme for FARNDALE:-

Arrive	Place	Leave.
Nil	Alexandria	8/3
9/3	Suez	9/3
13/3	Aden	14/3
18/3	Mombasa	18/3
23/3	Durban	25/3
27/3	Simonstown	Nil.

C. in C. S.A. is requested to order further programme to (?U.K.) Maximum endurance 2200 mls. at 16 knots. 2nd boiler will only be available (?in emergency). Ship has normal armament. (C. in C. Med., 1221B/3 to Admty (R) F.O.R.S. etc)

DERWENTDALE. My 1758B/26/2. DERWENTDALE should be sailed for Colombo as soon as possible. (C. in C. Med., 1251B/3 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

MERANO, CAPOPINO, (Italian). My 1737B/2 descriptions of vessels are:-  
MERANO is sister ship of ABBAZIA but painted all grey and gun probably 4 inch mounted aft. CAPO PINO (Ex AVEYRON) 4,785 tons 360 feet long. All grey well deck forward, Gunwhale Line sweeps, upwards fore and aft. Two masts counter stern, prominent vertical funnel amid ships. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1313B/3 to S.O.(I) Med).

803 and 806 Sqdn. F.A.A. Move of 803 and 806 Sqn. to Trincomalee. 6 Fulmars leaving Egypt 4/3 12 more by 12/3 date of remaining 6 will be signalled later. 14 reserve Fulmars in ENGADINE. Personnel. 78 ratings in GRIFFIN, FORTUNE, and DECOY, 20 ratings in ENGADINE (?10) officers and 79 ratings in ILE DE FRANCE 261 sailed Suez 1/3 for Bombay. (C. in C. Med., 1421Z/3 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F. R.A.(A.C.) E.F.) Amended 0921B/4.

PORPOISE. PORPOISE sailed for Malta at 1700B/3 routed through 032° 00', 028° 28' and 035° 17' 017° 00' latter position about dawn 8/3 and thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. (Capt.(S.) 1. 1535B/3 to C. in C. Med., etc).



War Diary.

3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements. Departure Suez 3/3\* DERWENTDALE (R.F.A.) at 1000B. KIMBERLEY in tow EMPIRE ALMOND at 0949B. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 1619B/3 to Admty).

\* See previous page.

CAPO PINO, My 1313B/3 and preceding signals. Indications  
MERANO. now that CAPO PINO may not await further cargo and may sail with MERANO within next 36 hours. B.2. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1629B/3 to S.O.(I) Med., S.1. (R) D.N.I.) Sailed 1800 GM.T./3. See 1015B/4.

Service My 1140B/24. Owing to increase in number of  
Personnel Army and R.A.F. Personnel to 800 each service  
Transport. awaiting passage U.K. and South Africa it will be necessary either (1) to embark both PASTEUR and VICEROY OF INDIA ex Suez 9/3, 11/3 respectively in excess unescorted number or (2) limit VICEROY OF INDIA to unescorted allowance and embark balance in PASTEUR. R.N.drafts numbering 770 will be embarked in PASTEUR. Both vessels will probably embark prisoners of war. Request your decision. (P.S.T.O., Port Said, 1655B/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

DUNKERQUE. French N.A. informs me F.B.S. DUNKERQUE was taken to Toulon to be completely repaired. Several months required. Petain told me object was to increase strength of Fleet for future eventualities but Germans would never have her. He also denied published reports assistance of Rommel by French ships but I do not believe he was sure of his ground. I could not mention information not yet published. Incidentally he said (2 missing groups) did not concern him over small points but was personally over main questions of fleet and (?bases).

(N.A. Madrid, 1717/3, to D.N.I.)

N.I.D. Comment. Above report concerning DUNKERQUE is consistent with N.I.D.U.C. Report No. 133 of 22/2/42. which estimated a considerable period for repairs and trials before the ship could be regarded as an efficient fighting unit.

Malta Following from Chiefs of Staff for Cs.in C.  
Garrison to M.E. No. C.O.S. (M.E.) 243.  
be under Reference C.O.S. (M.E.) 240. We consider that  
C.in C. M.E. change in responsibility for military garrison at Malta is desirable.

2. Under present system there is inevitable tendency to regard Malta and Cyrenaica as separate problems to be co-ordinated in London. 3. It has therefore been decided that military garrison of Malta should be put under C. in C. M.E. just as naval and R.A.F. garrisons are under command of C. in C. Med., and A.O.C.in C. M.E., respectively. 4. The three Cs.in C. and M.E. Defence Committee will thus have a joint responsibility for Malta as integral part of the whole Middle East theatre. Governor's hand will be strengthened by having direct access to Minister of State in Cairo as well as to H.M.G. at home. 5. Above change does not in any way imply lack of confidence in Dobbie whose fine inspiration and leadership are admiration of all.



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Garrison to be under C. in C. M.E. Contd. 6. Dobbie has been informed accordingly and told that he will hear shortly of various schemes now being considered for relieving deficiencies in supplies and personnel. (Admty. 1754A/3 to C. in C. Med)

Suez Canal Raid. C.A.F.O. 587. Air raid night - 2-3/3 calm, clear. (b) H/L attack by 12 to 15 Ju.88's and He. 111, no illuminants - full moon. (c) (1) H.E. bombs. (11) Incendiary bomb. (IV) Mines (V) Machine gun (d) Mines at Kantara and Siale. Bombs, H.E. and incendiary and M.G. fire Rau Kabret aerodrome and Naval camp. Mines identified by parachutes. All exploded on land. (e) On D petrol dump at Kabret Camp, burnt out two. 1 civilian killed, 2 ratings slightly injured by burns. (?0) No guns. (k) No mines fell in Canal. Balloon flying. 1 enemy shot down by night fighter. (S.B.N.O., S.C.A., 1831B/3 to Admty etc).

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. Malta 3/3. 2nd. 2 alerts 1518, 1644 hours, 10 Me. 109's and Ju. 88's. Target Luqa, craters, light. A.A. damaged 1 Ju.88. Night 2/3. 3 alerts 1741, 2112, 2309 hours. 13 raiders.

Kalafrana. Severe damage Officers Mess and Married Quarters. Luqa unserviceable, Maryland write off. Craters aerodrome and runways, no casualties, Hurricanes up, no interception. A.A. shot down 1 Ju.88. 3rd. 5 alerts 0547, 0733, 1118, 1219, 1338, 70 Me. 109's and Ju 88s. target Hal Far, Luqa, submarine base, numerous craters both aerodromes. Hal Far 1 soldier and civilian wounded. Slight damage aircraft Luqa. Slight damage submarine UPRIGHT and dockyard property, elsewhere Verdala Barracks and 4 houses damaged. A.A. fired.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1927/3). Part 2. (Night 2-3/3). 16 Wellingtons 1 C excellent attack shipping Palermo where convoy is assembling. Many big merchant vessels with much deck cargo believed MT. Times 2046 to 2230 hours and 0030 to 0314. 1 ship believed 9,000 tons, with M.T. as deck cargo hit, still burning 6 hours later. Same area large explosion, 4 other large fires 1 possibly petrol. All subsequently increased by bombing. Fires in shipyard and engineering works and near dry dock. Explosion near seaplane station. Fires visible 40 miles. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1931/3).

Petrol Carriers. Your 2136A/27/2. Request for two more cased petrol carriers made after very careful consideration present and probable future requirements Western Desert, Eastern Med., and Red Sea.

2. Delays similar to ZEALAND 10 days and GOTHIC 4 days cannot be avoided for operational reasons which depend on enemy activity, convoy sailing conditions at Tobruk etc. CRISTA and X GOTHIC are now in service, HAVRE, MEMAS and VARVARA not expected ready until end April. 4. Position must be envisaged when each ship returning from Western Desert requires varying period of laying up for gas freeing and repair. 5. (?Word omitted) of new carrier can not be undertaken at present without serious interference with other important fittings and repair work.

x Not identified.

/6...



War Diary.3. 3. 1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Petrol  
Carriers.  
Contd.

6. Always when time permits and no other opportunity available petrol carriers are used for stores when en route to petrol loading port. 7. EL HAK crew agreement to exclude service in Mediterranean. She now proceeds

Mombasa  
BINTANG.(P.S.T.O.  
H.Q.M.E.)

for docking survey. 8. My request allows for loss of Egypt, 1936B/3 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med.,

A/S  
Whalers.

A.M.1807A/28/12/41 and A.M.2020A/20/1/42.

In view of changed conditions it is regretted that the four A/S Whalers South African manned must remain in South African waters.

(D.A/S.W., 1943/3 to C. in C. Med).

Suez Canal  
Raid.

Air attack on Canal Area by 12 to 15 aircraft from 0325/3 to 0500/3. 4 Beaufighters 1 Fulmar intercepted and shot down 1 certain, 1 probable. 1 Beaufighter crash landed. Some damage to

Kabret Aerodrome and Naval camp, 2 Seamen injured. 2 Mines exploded on land at 142K. Traffic in Canal proceeding normally. (C. in C. Med., 2111B/3 to Admty).

SOKOL.

Sailed.

(V.A. Malta, 2220B/3 to Admty).

2 M.Ls.

Your 1318A/3rd. 1 A. What is endurance at 12 knots? B If routed direct from Cap Bon could at least 15 knots be maintained for 1211 hours.

2. Suggest boats should be painted black over all and carry Italian ensign.

(V.A. Malta, 2303B/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MERANO,  
CAPO PINO  
(Italian)

My 0934B/27. Arrival Cargo Antimony for CAPO PINO delay by bad weather. Departure of both vessels now improbable before 5/3.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, No. T.O.O./3 to S.O.(I) Med., S.1).



War Diary.3.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

INDOMITABLE. Following from Chiefs of Staff No.(India) 25. Although no final decision will be taken until 4/3, all concerned are to make preparations on the assumption that INDOMITABLE unloads all Hurricanes at Ceylon.  
(W.O. 0105/3 to C. in C. India, C. in C. E.I.)  
Assuming (?Hurricanes) are delivered Colombo, it is my intention to sail INDOMITABLE as soon as possible after disembarkation is completed for Aden: there to embark (?balance of) major operational aircraft. (2) Admty. pass to S.O. Force V.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1052Z/3 to Admty.)  
INDOMITABLE is to unload all Hurricanes at Ceylon. 2. After disembarkation, INDOMITABLE is to proceed in accordance with your 1053/3. 3. Pass to Military and Air Authorities concerned. (1st S.L. 2205A/3 to C. in C. E.F. (R) S.O. Aircraft Carriers, E.F., C. in C. E.I., S.O. Force V. C. in C. Med.)

Importance of Request following be forwarded to S.O. Force V. Durban (begins) S.O. Force V from C. in C. E.F. My Resources. 1347Z/2. (i) Recently Admiralty were compelled to countermand my instructions for refit of REVENGE at Durban in order that no delay should be caused to 6 whale-catchers fitting out at that port. (ii) It seemed incredible to me that with all resources (? existing ? in) South Africa (? the) great port of Durban could be so affected by such a paltry commitment as the fitting out of 6 A/S craft. (iii) It is vital that Durban should now function to its utmost and I suggest you might find opportunity when in South Africa to bring vital importance of this port to our Eastern Fleet home to the necessary authority. 0336Z/4(Ends) (C. in C. E.F. 0337Z/3 to Admty.)

"Q" My 0901/2 (0910/2 intended, re EMPIRE GLEN Report 2/3. Making QQQQ) Ships concerned were DECOY and FORTUNE.  
(C. in C. E.I. 0444Z/3 to E.I. Sqdn. (R) Admty. etc.) *See p. 52*

A/S vessels. A/S vessels are urgently required on Indian Coast. Request you sail BOMBAY and PUNJANB separately for India after minimum working up period, informing me of sailing dates and route. (2) Ships to be sailed for Colombo in first instance for re-ranging. (3) Would like ships routed direct Australia - Ceylon without fuelling if possible.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0602Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Sydney, (R) A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.I.)

JUPITER S.O. China Force referred to survivors from JUPITER in one of his signals. It must be presumed therefore that JUPITER was sunk in battle of Java Sea.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0707Z/3 to Admty.) *See p. 89*  
/Troop ...



War Diary.3.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Troop Transport. My 1127/1 (1129/1 intended ?) If disembarkation of personnel ships in D.M.3 is to be carried out at Bombay and not Colombo request one or more of these ships returning to U.K. may be sailed via Colombo to embark (approx numbers). Please advise as early as possible name of ships and E.T.A. Colombo.  
(S.S.T.O. Colombo 1015Z/3 to P.S.T.O. India (R) D. of S.T.)

JALAKRISHNA bombed. JALAKRISHNA arrived from Batavia buckled amidships and leaking in No.1 hold due to bomb damage. Sailing her p.m./3 for Bombay.  
(S.S.T.O. Colombo 1019A/3 to P.S.T.O. India (R) D.S.T.)

EREBUS MARGUERITE Arrival at 0800Z/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1124Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

HOBART DRAGON DANAE Western Striking Force less DRAGON E.T.A 0600Z/5, Boom 0700Z/5. HOBART and DANAE have on board 648 and 319 evacuees respectively of which 36 are women. All ships will be very empty of provisions and fuel. 37 require hospital accommodation and approx. 80 out patients treatment.  
(HOBART 1214Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Trincomalee (R) C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.I.)

O.24. A.M.2315/23/12 stated Dutch Submarine O.24 would be sailed from Gibraltar via Suez to join Eastern Fleet in early January and O.23 from U.K. at end of February. (2) Grateful for information when these ships may be expected to sail.  
O.23. (C. in C. E.F. 1315Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. S.A. F.O.(S))

A/S and M/S craft. It is observed C.C.C.F. has ordered all R.A.N. A/S and M/S forces Fremantle. I am exceedingly hard pressed to meet many calls for A/S and M/S craft in this Eastern Theatre. Grateful if you would sail any of these that you can spare as soon as possible for Ceylon.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1057Z/3 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty., C. in C. E.I.)

Urgent need in New Zealand for Auxiliary A/S Vessels and Auxiliary Minesweepers. Request you will report, when known, what suitable vessels of this type have been cleared from the Abda Area.  
(Head of M. approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 1444A/3 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.)

/Movements ...



War Diary.3.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Movements.

Addu departure 1/3 RAMILLIES, NORMAN. Addu departure 2/3 RANCHI. Colombo arrival 3/3, 0540 EXPRESS, 0715 NETRAVATI, 0830 PANGKOR, 0900 HOLLYHOCK. Colombo departure 3/3, 1220 VERBENA. (S.O.I. Colombo 1550Z/3 to Admty., S.O.(I) Aden, S.O.(I) Bombay.)

ANKING  
FRANCOL

(1) C.C.C.F. ordered ANKING and may have ordered FRANCOL to Fremantle. (2) These ships are both urgently required to meet demands of Eastern Fleet now in process of constitution. (3) Grateful therefore if as soon as they have completed necessary fuelling and other stocking they be sailed for Port T to await further instructions.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1600Z/3 to A.C.N.B.(R) C. in C.E.I)

Enemy  
Attack on  
Cocos Island.

Following is a repetition of my 1641/3 (begins) (?East Indies Squadron) repeated C.C.C.F. Cdre. S.W. Pacific, Admiral Sourabaya, from C. in C. E.I. Raiders attacking Cocos Island 1400Z/3 (Ends).  
(C. in C. E.I. 1644Z/3 to C.C.C.F.)

Cable and Wireless reports that telegram from Australia states cable communication interrupted at Cocos Island. (Chief Telegraph Censor 1705/3 to Admty.)  
Cable and Wireless received message from Cocos Island timed 1428Z/3 reporting enemy raider attacking. Cable communication with Cocos ceased.  
(D.D.I.C. 1742A/3 to C. in C. E.F. Comanzac, C. in C. E.I. Opnav, (R) A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B.)  
A.M.1742A/3. Cocos Island reported by W/T at 1620Z/3 that station was hit by shell fire. Darkness prevented identification of raider. Hoped to establish emergency cable communication on 4/3.  
(D.D.I.C. 2203/3 to same as 1742A)

Mines for  
Calcutta.

NANCHANG with 20 A Mark 1 mines is being diverted to Calcutta. Original intention was to use these mines in Rangoon river but this project is abandoned. Request you will keep mines at Calcutta for possible future use in this area.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1735Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Calcutta.)

VASNA

On completion of refit about 5/3 request Naval Hospital Ship VASNA be sailed for Colombo via the Cape for Service as ordered by C. in C. E.F. Ship will call Freetown and Durban on outward voyage for bunkers. Master will be instructed to report N.O.I.C. Ceylon on arrival at Colombo.  
(D.S.T. 1750/3 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.)



War Diary.3.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

D.M.3. Destination of units and details of D.M.3 is for you to decide. Personnel ships may sail to Bombay for disembarkation as requested in 0729/1 but they are urgently required in U.K. and must be released earliest possible. Agreed.  
(W.O. 2300/3 to C. in C. India, (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F. etc.)

China.

Java, Personal for 1st S.L. from Adm. Palliser. On Reports from morning of 1/3 I represented to Helfrich that Adm. Palliser. landings North Java made basing ships Batavia and Sourabaya impossible and immediately threatened Tjilatjap. I pressed Helfrich order all Allied Men of War and merchant ships away. Glasford supported representations. After some friendly objection Helfrich agreed except for Dutch and interviewed Governor General. He then announced he had given up command of Allied Naval Forces.

2. Helfrich then dismissed staff. I asked if could help him and if he would move. He said "No must wait for Governor General's approval". He would try send all remaining Dutch ships Colombo.

3. All British ships had by then left Batavia and Sourabaya. Collins was on way Tjilatjap. All British and American warships and merchantmen were at once ordered to leave Tjilatjap Sunday night 1/3 and ships en route diverted to Colombo or Australian ports. Helfrich directed HEEMSKERCK to Colombo.

4. I proceeded Tjilatjap with staff and saw British ships away except BURNIE due leave with Collins last night Monday for Fremantle. I came to Fremantle by air with Glassford arriving this Tuesday morning.

5. Think Helfrich may have left Tjilatjap for Colombo by air yesterday Monday. Intend proceeding there in WARSPITE unless other instructions from you.

6. No news EXETER, PERTH and HOUSTON last known leaving Batavia in company and ordered to Fremantle. Search for Spooner by U.S. submarine unsuccessful.  
(D.N.O. W. Australia 0314Z/3 to Admty as amended 0835Z/3.)  
Following received by Navy Dept. (begins) Please deliver to Brit. Admty., A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.F., C.C.C.F., C.Z.M., Com. S.W. Pacific 0346/1 "Personal from Adm. Palliser". Large enemy force reported 180 miles south of Tjilatjap. Am out of touch with C.C.C.F. Have ordered PERTH and small ships to Fremantle, EXETER and ENCOUNTER to Colombo. Request BELITA remain at Cocos for present. Helfrich agrees to foregoing.

/Naval ...



War Diary.3.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Java,  
Reports from  
Adm. Palliser  
contd.

Naval defence of Java except by submarines now impossible. Stop all shipping. U.S. forces except submarines are also withdrawn."

Deliver to same addressees. Com. S.W. Pacific 0738/2. "U.S. Destroyer WHIPPLE originally expected Cocos Is. about 1/3 to protect BELITA

→ now proceeding Fremantle with survivors from LANGLEY and PECOS and cannot carry out other mission. S.39 made night landing Chibbe Island night 28/2 to take off Air Vice Marshal, Adm. Spooner and party. Found native shacks demolished and no sign of life. 1 Destroyer patrolling through Toedjoe group. Above message to be delivered to addressees from Com. S.W. Pacific". T.O.O. 2355/2 (Ends) Admiralty pass to all authorities.

(B.A.D. 1815Q/3 to Admty.) Passing action being taken by War Reg.

Abda  
Situation.

Following is a short summary of events in Abda area since despatch of A.T. 1646/1.

1. During 26/2 two large escorted convoys were reported apparently heading for Sourabaya and

Batavia. Striking force of EXETER, PERTH, ELECTRA, JUPITER and ENCOUNTER with Dutch cruisers engaged the Sourabaya force. American striking force apparently acting independently.

No details received, but EXETER damaged by bomb and reduced to 16 knots, both Dutch cruisers and one Dutch destroyer sunk by torpedo in night action. ELECTRA and \*JUPITER sunk. One Japanese 8" cruiser and one destroyer sunk, one 8" cruiser, one Mogami class cruiser, 3 destroyers damaged. \* 1-1-85

2. HOBART, DRAGON, DANAE, SCOUT and TENEDOS failed to intercept Japanese western force and are proceeding to Ceylon owing to lack of fuel at Batavia.

3. EXETER with ENCOUNTER and U.S. destroyer POPE sailed 28/2 to Ceylon through Sunda Strait. No further news of these but Japanese claim to have intercepted and sunk all three.

→ 4. U.S.S. LANGLEY with fighter reinforcements bombed and sunk off Tjilatjap.

5. Japanese transports turned north during naval action but turned south again during night 27/28 and have put forces ashore at many points. Air striking forces from Java claim large number of hits on enemy transports.

6. Adm. Helfrich reported on 1/3 that he was sending all remaining British and U.S. naval forces except submarines out of the area and that he intended sending remaining Dutch forces to Colombo. British light forces sent to Tjilatjap to refuel before proceeding - now reported Japanese heavy cruisers are closing that port.

7. Gunnery of Japanese 8" cruisers reported accurate at 28,000 yards. Presumed R.D.F. control. Most efficient night air co-operation with flares.

8. Adm. Helfrich is proceeding with 4 P.B.Ys to Colombo. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1010Z/3 to S.O. Force V., S.O. Force T.)

Abda  
Area.Limits. Chiefs of Staff No.(W) 99.  
(Admty. 1315A/3 to B.A.D.)  
See America and West Indies.



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.JACOB  
JONES  
sunk

Navy Department announced 3/3 that the destroyer JACOB JONES was sunk by an enemy submarine off the Atlantic coast before dawn on 28/2, and only 11 of her crew survived. Among those killed was the captain Lt. Cdr. H. D. Black. The Navy announcement said that neither the submarine nor the torpedo was sighted before the first hit. (The Times, 4/3)

Shipping  
Signals

Your 1532P/13/2 to N.C.S.O. Port of Spain. Request signals from N.C.S.O. Bermuda may also be prefixed Important. As Admiralty is responsible for diversions as soon as ship leaves, early receipt of signals is essential. WAIPAWA T.O.O. 1259P/28 received Admiralty 0410/1 when ship sailed 1500/28. (D.T.D. 0028A/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B

At 2327Z/2 U-boat within 50 miles 41°N, 54°W, indicated by D/F. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0613Z/3 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty, etc.)

U/B

Received from Baltimore from U.S. Tanker SWIFTARROW, S/M. sighted 28° 39' N, 60° 23' W, at 0620Z/3. (Ottawa, 0657Q/3, to Admty.) Your 1909A/3. Refers to 0657Q/3. Ship U.S. Tanker SWIFTARROW 28° 39' N, 60° 23' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2054Z/3 to Admty.)

U/B

Intercept de 42 (begins) DR Submarine astern (ends) (Valentia Radio, 0816/3 to Naval Wireless Admty, London, Admiral Devonport.)

Minefields  
Gulf of  
Paria

Your 2041/28. Complete blocking of Bocas 1, 2 and 4 would immensely simplify problem of control of shipping if suitable arrangements with Venezuela can be come to so that all shipping must enter and leave the gulf by number 3 Boca de Navios. Retention of present loop system will be necessary. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0921Q/3 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. A.W.I. Admty.)

A.M.C's  
needed  
for  
Depot ships.

Development of the war has considerably increased urgency for augmenting number of destroyer and submarine depot ships and for providing repair ships.

2. Shortage of shipping precludes these being found from existing mercantile tonnage, and suitable craft are not now available from vessels building.

3. Therefore decided that requirements must be met from A.M.Cs now in Naval Service. Many of these are in any case inadequately armed to meet a German merchant raider and material is not available to improve more than a few of them.



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.A.M.C's.  
needed  
for  
Depot ships.  
(Contd.)

4. AUSONIA, now operating under C.T.F. 2, has been selected for conversion to a repair ship, being of the same class as ANTONIA, now being converted.
5. Request you will inform U.S. Naval Authorities that we should be grateful if AUSONIA could be released for conversion.
6. A separate signal has been made to B.A.R.M. to ask if this work can be undertaken in U.S.A. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1032A/3, to B.A.D.)

DIALA  
towage

Admty. 2055/2. Report situation regarding Foundation Company. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1041A/3 to C.O.A.C.)

Your 2055A/2. FOUNDATION FRANKLIN can proceed p.m./4 or a.m./5 from Halifax but doubtful if she could handle derelict.

2. If suitable tug cannot be sent from U.K. and you wish FOUNDATION FRANKLIN to proceed, which is not recommended, there will be no ocean going tug available on East Coast Canada.
3. Second Foundation Co. tug is employed on U.S. salvage work for four weeks and third is under repairs at Halifax completing mid-March and is then required for QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
4. C. in C. A.W.I. has been asked if tug can be sent from Bermuda. ROODE ZEE still at Norfolk and B.A.D. has been asked to ascertain if she can be made available if you approve to order her St. John's N.F. immediately.
5. If FOUNDATION FRANKLIN proceeds to assistance DIALA could ROODE ZEE be sent Halifax until FOUNDATION FRANKLIN returns? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1549Z/3 to Admty.)
- My 1549/3. Can ROODE ZEE at Norfolk proceed to St. John's N.F. or Halifax immediately if Admiralty and C. in C. A.W.I. approve? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1555Z/3 to B.A.D.)
- Request you reply to N.S.H.Q.'s 1555/3. ROODE ZEE due to sail with oil barge tomorrow 4/3, having been delayed by weather conditions today. (B.A.D. 1541Q/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- N.S.H.Q. 1549Z/3 not to B.A.D.
- ROODE ZEE is due to leave Norfolk towing oil barge for U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda 4/3 escorted by U.S.S. OWL. On arrival Bermuda ROODE ZEE is to be fitted with 3-inch gun without which master refuses to proceed to sea unescorted. She is therefore not available to go to Halifax at present. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1622Q/3 to Admty.)

FURIOUS,  
shipment  
of aircraft.1706A/21 and M.A.P. 1766. B.A.C. informs me that a total of 30 O S 2 U - 3 with landing undercarriages will be available for shipment U.K. in FURIOUS. Propose embarking them at Norfolk (Virginia). (B.A.R.M. 1056Q/3 to Admty. (R) M.A.P. FURIOUS) *See also next page*~~Corvette~~  
~~Trawlers~~  
for St.  
John's N.F.

Sailed 2/3 for St. John's N.F. KINGCUP, LOOSESTRIFE, DIANELLA, SHAWINIGAN. (S.O.I. Halifax 1107Z/3)



War Diary.5.5.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.836 Sqdn.  
AVENGER,  
\*FURIOUS,  
CHARGER.*\* See previous  
page.*

My 0946R/28 (?0946/21 intended), and your 1148Q/20. Personnel and aircraft for Sqdn. 836 not yet arrived. No difficulty is anticipated in sending personnel stores and mobile equipment of Sqdn. 816 to AVENGER by end of March. (R.N.A.S. Kingston, 1111R/3 to B.A.R.M. (R) AVENGER Admty., etc.)

209. Your 0946/21. It is requested that a very early reply may be given to my 1148/20 regarding shipment of personnel and equipment etc. Matter is most important and present uncertainty with regard to both AVENGER and FURIOUS require settlement. FURIOUS is expected to be ready to sail from U.S.A. on about 31/3 and AVENGER not much later. If 2 aircraft of 836 Sqdn. are damaged and cannot be ready in time suggest substitution of 2 from 816 Sqdn. CHARGER has been handed back to U.S.A. and will not be commissioned as British warship. (B.A.R.M., 1748Q/3 to R.N.A.S. Kingston (R) C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

DAVILA.

My 1122Q/4 DAVILA arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1141Q/3 to Admty.)

Fishing  
Vessels  
Required.

Utmost importance fishing vessels B.C. Japanese Type up to 100 in number be obtained immediately. Previous applications have been made through British High Commissioner in Canada without result. Request early report possibility obtaining and shipping New Zealand direct or to Cape Via Panama for information of Small Vessels Pool. (C.C.C.S., 1151A/3 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty.)

Aircraft for  
A/S Patrols.

Your 1102P/26. No U.S. Aircraft have yet arrived for service at Jamaica.  
(Capt. i/c Jamaica, 1124R/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Abda Area,  
Limits.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 99. Ref. telegram 199 from B.A.D., and J.S.M. No.85.

1. We assume that modified Abda area will form part of Pacific Ocean Area under strategic direction of U.S. Chiefs of Staff.
2. We welcome U.S. proposal to operate their submarines up to Malay Barrier as this will enable us to concentrate on watching the Malacca Straits. As regards the boundary between Indian Ocean and the new Abda Area we appreciate that U.S. will like the waters in which their submarine patrols operate to be in the Abda Area, but at the same time it is undesirable to make this area larger than is necessary, as a regrettable incident might well occur if British surface ships entered Abda Area without U.S. submarines having been previously warned.
3. It is quite possible that if a U.S. submarine reported Japanese surface craft breaking out into the Indian Ocean through one of the channels between the Dutch Islands our surface forces would require to pass to the Eastward of the Western limit of Abda Area as given in J.S.M. 85 and hence it is of importance that U.S. submarines should realise that forces to Eastward of this line may be British.

/4. ...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.Abda Area,  
Limits.  
(contd.)

4. It is preferred therefore that the Western limit of Abda Area should be drawn as follows:-  
(a) to the North of Australia:- South from Singapore to North Sumatra Coast then follow N.E. Coast of Sumatra to and through Sunda Strait along South Coast of Sumatra West to Benkutat Point (5° 36' S. 104° 13' E.) thence to Engano Island (5° 30' S. 102° 15' E.) thence to position 8° S. 102° 20' E. thence East to Dana Island (10° 50' S. 121° 15' E.) thence to Cape Bougainville, West Australia (126° 04'.)

(b) to the South of Australia:- Meridian of 129° E.

5. On the assumption outlined in para. 1, we feel that the command of Abda Area is a question for mutual arrangement between Australian American and Netherlands Govts., subject to the normal requirements for co-operation, for example, that set out in para. 6 below. Our general views remain those set out in C.O.S. (W) 76, para. 7.

6. In any case, arrangements for interchange of operational intelligence between all areas is essential.  
(1st S.L. 1315A/3 to B.A.D.)

EMPRESS OF  
CANADA.

My 2215Z/2. EMPRESS OF CANADA ready to sail Norfolk A.M/6 for Halifax.  
Request suitable escort.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1346Z/3 to Opnav (R) Admty. etc.)

VERITY,  
SEVERN.

Ref. N.S.H.Q.'s 1340Z/17/10/41 (report taken in hand for repairs.) VERITY, Halifax, 2/3 - 5/3.  
SEVERN, Halifax, 3/3 - 10/3.  
(C.O.A.C., 1415Z/3 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. etc.)

Shipping,  
Curacao.

Owing to very limited number of escort vessels on duty in this area it is requested that routing officer stresses importance of ships arriving their last position (i.e. position reported to Curacao) as near E.T.A. as possible. The more varied this position is the better, both in time and place provided remaining distance can be done in daylight.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1501QR/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B Zone.

Southern limit of S/M danger zone on Atlantic Seaboard extended to include Straits of Florida to line drawn between Dry Tortuga and Havana. Gulf of Mexico is not considered S/M danger zone.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 1502/3 to C.G.S.F., C.E.S.F., C.P.S.F., C.C.S.F., C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet (R) Alusna, Rio de Janeiro, N.O.B. Trinidad, Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O. (I) Jamaica, C. in C. A.W.I.)

Convoy  
Telegrams.

Request you include Taskunit designation in sailing telegram on convoys.  
(Opnav, 1527/3 to Admty.)

/EMPRESS ...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.EMPRESS OF  
CANADA,  
ORBITA.My 2215Z/2. Embarkation arrangements of  
EMPRESS OF CANADA 11/3 and ORBITA 12/3  
completing P.M. 12/3.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1610Z/3 to Admty.)U/B Oiling  
from Tanker.  
15/2.My 1831/21. Report emanated from LUBRAFOL (Pan).  
Incident occurred near Cayo Cruz Del Padre.  
LUBRAFOL made SSSS. Same night TRAC made CQ  
asking name vessel reporting submarine in that  
position. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1624R/3 to Admty. etc.)Washington  
Shipping  
Plot.Your 1401Q/28. Information required will be sent  
commencing with OS 21, SL 102, OG 81 and HG 80.  
(D.T.D., 1644A/3 to B.A.D.)GERTRUDE  
KELLOGG.  
"R" Report.RRRR from GERTRUDE KELLOGG (1503Q/2). Navy Dept.  
now state that ship was not attacked by surface  
vessel or submarine.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1659Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

U/B.

D/F bearings at 1122Z/3, 1147Z/3, 1218Z/3 and  
1238Z/3 indicate submarine within 60 miles  
012° N. 061° 30' W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1703Z/3 to Admty., C. in C.  
A.W.I., Opanv).EULIMA U/B  
attack.Report in accordance with instructions covering  
I.D. form S A.  
(1) M.V. EULIMA. (2) Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co.  
(3) 1145 G.M.T. 21/2 041° 46' N., 052° 18' N.  
(4) (5) (6) (9) Submarine not sighted.  
(7) Ship undamaged. (8) None. (10) Torpedo  
(11) Books were not destroyed.  
(C.S.A. New York, 1730Z/3 to Admty.)

Washops 70.

Philippine Is. (1) In Bataan the situation  
remains unchanged but in Visayasan enemy cruiser  
and destroyers have shelled vessels and port  
facilities at Argao Cebo City, Misos Tolong,  
Dumaguete Maricabong Bogo.  
(2) Mindanao. Japanese have made a landing at  
Zamboanga from a cruiser and 4 transports. The  
city is on fire.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1745Q/3 to Admty. etc.)Trinidad  
Shipping.Cancel my 2212P/22. Shipping bound for North  
America and Canadian ports and Bermuda may now be  
routed inside Caribbean Sea in order to avoid  
channel between Tobago and Grenada becoming  
congested in view of Admty. 1711A/27 and 1339A/1.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1802P/3 to N.C.S.O. Port of  
Spain, Trinidad (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.O.(I)  
Kingston, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/Java ...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Java.

Message from Adm. Palliser.  
(B.A.D., 1815Q/3). See China.

Signalling.

As from 0001 G.M.T./10 amend Admty. 37A/10/1  
as follows:-

- (1) Amend heading of para. 10 to read "U.S. Submarines in the Atlantic and in the Pacific".
- (2) Sub. para. 10 (b). Delete word Black and substitute Green.
- (3) Delete sub. para. 10 (c) and substitute following new sub. para. "Do not use either day or night U.S. emergency signals from S.P. 02414".
- (4) Delete sub. para. 10 (d).
- (5) Delete whole of para. 11.
- (6) Delete words "Andus Area" wherever they occur and substitute the words "Abda Area".
- (7) Para. 13 was cancelled by Admty. 191A/9/2.  
(D.S.D., 1831A/3 to A. Message Home and Abroad, 299A.)

ANADARA.

ANADARA now bound Aruba is being diverted  
Curacao.  
(D.T.D., 1832A/3 to S.B.N.O. Curacao).Imperial Land  
Forces in  
Abda Area.C.O.S. (W) 100. Ref. C.O.S. (W) 54.  
1. In view of recent changes do not intend to  
continue this series. Following is summary of  
Imperial Land Forces now in Abda Area:-  
Details at Java, Timor, Borneo, Port Darwin.  
3. Information on U.S. forces most helpful.  
Please continue.  
(Admty., 1924A/3 to B.A.D.)

MIMOSA.

MIMOSA arrived from St. Pierre.  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1950Z/3 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.  
Ottawa, C.C.N.F., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

U.Boat.

D/F Bearings at 1608Z, 1643Z and 1709Z indicate  
S/M within 60 miles 40.30 N. 55 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2015Z/3 to British Warships  
Area 7A., Admty., C.O.A.C., C. in C. A.W.I.,  
F.O.N.F., Opnav.)

U/B. 28/2.

Report considered probable received dated 28/2  
unidentified S/M sighted 2 kilometres N.W. San  
Juanito Island of Tresmartons group.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2022A/3 to Admty., etc.)

U.Boat.

Reliable information enemy S/M in Mona Passage  
area evening 2/3.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2035Z/3 to C.O.A.C. Halifax,  
etc.)

/W.S.C. ...



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.W.S.C. 72,  
sailing  
telegram.(1) W.S.C. 72 (2) 2100Z/3. 47° 18' N., 51° 48' W.  
at 1030Z/4.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F. 2115Z/3 and 2116Z/3  
to Admty., etc.)Use of Bullen  
Bay and  
Caracas Bay.Request discretion to use Bullen Bay and Caracas  
Bay when no reliable enemy submarine report has  
been received within 48 hours and when adequate  
surface patrol with asdic is available during  
loading operations. Request very early reply as  
patrol available tomorrow 4/3.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 2138QR/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.,  
Admty.)Co-operation  
with U.S.N.  
Routeing  
Authorities.Your 1741/12/2 and your 1156/28/2. Consular  
Shipping Advisors may wear uniform within the  
U.S. but must not wear uniform in any other  
American countries. As an exception uniform may  
be worn at St. Thomas.  
(Admty., 2140A/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SEVERN.

C.O.A.C. reports that SEVERN can be made fit for  
diving on passage to Philadelphia and that  
repairs will be completed by 10/3. C.O.A.C. pass  
to SEVERN. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152P/3 to Admty.,  
(R) F.O.S., B.A.D., C.O.A.C., SEVERN).Command in  
S.W. Pacific.For J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 101.  
Ref. your 1135Q/25 para. 2. Pending new  
arrangements for command in the S.W. Pacific  
Commonwealth Govt. have asked that Northern  
Australia should revert to Australian Command on the under-  
standing that Dutch H.Q. will be allowed to operate Abda  
aircraft from Australia if they so desire.  
2. Request C.C.O.S. will issue necessary instructions.  
(Admty., 2202/3 to B.A.D.)CASSIMIR  
collision.U.S. CASSIMIR foundered after collision with  
U.S. LARA latter ship towed into Charleston  
27/2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2306Z/3 to Admty., etc.)

PLATANO.

My 2332R/28. Ship arrived Colon, 2/3.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 2328R/3 to N.S.H.Q.)RAPANA,  
S/M.Following intercepted at 0212 G.M.T. SSSS 28°  
44' N., 59° 15' W. RAPANA sighted S/M on surface.  
(Navycom Bermuda, 2348P/3 to Admty.)



War Diary.3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

ATHENE.

My 0146Z/2nd. ATHENE will probably be required for a further operation.  
(A.C.N.B., 0238Z/3 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

21 M/3  
Flot.

In view of important shipping movements and activity of enemy S/M's off Fremantle vide my 1003Z/3 intend to retain the 5 A M S vessels mentioned in C.C.C.F. 0814Z/2 in that area for time being  
(A.C.N.B., 0752Z/3 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

WARSPITE.

Believe 2 enemy S/M's are operating off Fremantle. A/S protection cannot be given in that area proceed Aldinga Bay, (?thence to) 035° 20' S., 138° 23' E., via Backstairs Passage. Tanker BRITISH CHEMIST will fuel you arriving p.m. 7/3.  
(A.C.N.B., 0754Z/3 to WARSPITE). (See 0712Z/4).

Situation.

Serial Number 41 from C.W.R. 2/3.  
(i) 4 engined flying boat dropped 4 bombs on Tulagi at 0127Z/2 slight damage to buildings.  
(ii) Twin engined enemy aircraft made recce. (?aerodrome) Port Moresby and vicinity at approximately 0001Z/2.  
(iii) One aircraft (?dropped) 10 bombs on edge of aerodrome Bulolo 1/3 runways undamaged.  
(iv) 9 aircraft attacked Wau 1/3 some damage buildings.  
(v) 2 unidentified aircraft reported over Elcho Island (off north east end Arnhem land) at 0430Z/(?1st) course northerly graded C (?3).  
(vi) NARBADA shelled by S/M in position 031° 32' S., 114° 11' E. at 1300Z/2. NARBADA engaged S/M and at 1620Z/2 reported proceeding on her way.  
(vii) Reference my serial number 31 KOOLAMA arrived Wyndham at 0300Z/2.  
(viii) Air recce. Rabaul at 0820Z/2 reported 24 ships in harbour including maximum of 6 destroyers fairly heavy pom-pom fire encountered from ships light A/A fire from land at northern end of harbour.  
(ix) Wyndham reported air attack at 0042Z/3 aerodrome bombed.  
(x) KAMOI with 2 units (one probably seaplane tender) and portion of 24th air squadron including unit of Yokohama flying boat squadron in company was east (of) Rabaul 28/2.  
(xi) Unidentified Japanese (naval?) unit moved from Solombo Is. area to Gilbert Is. area 28/2.  
(xii) (?Indication that) all or portion 22nd air (?squadron) is moving east to Greenwich Island area at some future date.  
(xiii) One unidentified Japanese naval unit probably connected with air and one Maru auxiliary proceeded from Rabaul area to (?Gasarma) area 1/3.  
(A.C.N.B., 1003Z/3 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Suva.

Re material required for advance base at Suva by Cdre. Anzac Force.  
(A.C.N.B., 1438Z/3, 2100Z/4 to B.A.D.)  
See Lion Copy.



MOST SECRET

1438Z/3rd March.  
MESSAGE

IN

From N.Z.N.B.

**MOST SECRET**

Date 4.3.42.

Recd. 0329

97A

Naval Cypher M. by Cable

Addressed B.A.D. Washington, Rept. N.Z.N.B., Admiralty,  
N.O.I.C. Fiji Island.

240. Part One. Cdre. ANZAC force desires very  
early allocation material for advance base at Suva  
as follows. Reference Admiralty Chart Number 1660.

~~Part Two. (A) A/S Boom Type A.1. with 3 foot  
6 inches mesh on line 215 degs. from Lami Beacon.~~

~~(B) Alternative position for  
(A) above on line 290 degs from Northern end of  
reef on eastward side of entrance of passage this  
position is preferred but owing to depth of water may  
not repetition not be practicable.~~

~~(C) If proposal in (A) above is  
adopted A/T baffles in 2 Section total length 1800  
yards Eastward of A/S Boom.~~

~~(D) Indicator loop 1000 yards in  
lengths across inner end of entrance to passage.~~

~~(E) H.D.A.'s in following  
positions from Lami Beacon. Number One. 250 degs 2 cables  
Number two. 244 degs 7 cables.~~

~~(F) Permanent obstruction in  
passage southward Wainiviuto near Suva Point.~~

~~(G) Control hut on Government House  
Hill.~~

Part 3. If principles stated in your 20070/23th Febr  
are approved assuming this material includes  
maintenance and patrol vessel will be provided and  
installed by U.S. Authorities. A further message will  
be sent regarding NANDI to which A.M. 1930A 1st not to  
B.A.D. Washington refers.

1438Z/3

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

1st Lord.	N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.D. (2)
1st S.L.	P.A.S. (S)	D.N.A.D. N.I.D.10.
2nd S.L.	D. of P. (2)	Hd. of M D.D.O.B. (C)
3rd S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	D.T.S.D. D.G.D.
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	D.D.I.C. (2) D.D.O.D. (M)
5th S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	D.B.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D. (F)	Ad. Bellairs.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.N.I. (4)	Ad. Danckwerts.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D. of L.D. (3) (FDO 62/42)	D.A.S. Bath.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.A/S.W.	S.W.R. Bath.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.M.S.	Dep. Contr. )
Civil Lord.	I.P. (2)	Under Sec. )
Hydrog.	W.D.	Asst. Under Sec. )
Secretary.	D.C. (2)	C.E. in C. )
N.A. 1st S.L.		D. of S. ) Bath.
		E. in C. (FMB))



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2100Z/4th March

IN

From Australian Commonwealth Naval Board.

Date 5.3.42.  
Recd. 1020.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CABLE.

CORRECTION

Addressed B.A.D. Washington. Repeated New Zealand Naval Board, H.O.C.F., Admiralty.

Cancel my 1438Z/3 part two and substitute

(a) A/S Boom Type A1 with three feet six inch mesh on line 110 degs. from wreck (1901) in entrance passage additional deep (Section or bottom nets as required) baffle 900 yards in length on line 070 degs. from beacon at inner western side of

(c) Indicator loop 1000 yards in length across inner end of entrance.

(d) H.D.A's in following positions from Jami beacon. No.1 158 degs. three quarter cable, No.2 244 degs. seven and one half cables.

(e) and (f) as for (f) and (g) of my 1438Z/3.

(g) Early provision of items (a) and (e) would enable inner anchorage to be used with reasonable security.

2100Z/4.

Advance Copy L.C., D.O.D.(F), D.T.D.  
D.B.D.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- Civil Lord
- Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- N.A. to A.C.N.S.(T)
- P.A.S.(S)
- Hydrog.
- D. of P.(2)
- D.C.D.(F)
- D.O.D.(H)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(H)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D. of L.D.(3)
- (PD 0762/42)
- D.A/S.W.

- D.M.S.
- I.P.(2)
- ~~W.D.~~
- D.C.(2)
- D.N.A.D.
- Hd. of M.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.B.D.
- Ad. Bellairs
- Ad. Danckwerts
- D.T.D.(2)
- D.D.O.D.(C)
- D.G.D.
- N.I.D.10
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- D.A/S.W.
- Dep. Controller
- Under Sec.
- Asst. Sec.
- C.E. in C.
- D. of S.
- E. in C.(FMB)
- D.A.S.
- Hd. of S.W.R.

Bath

IC



War Diary.

3.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1409A/3, 1426A/3).



War Diary.

4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 2018 last night M.T.B's 34, 30 and 31 supported by M.G.B's 43 and 41 were sent from Dover to attack one large and four small enemy vessels which had left Boulogne North-Eastwards at 1935 and were later found to be screened about 3 miles to seaward by some 12 further enemy small craft. At 2115 in good moonlit visibility M.T.B.34 and M.T.B.31 fired 2 and 1 torpedoes respectively at two 1500-ton M/V's at 600 to 800 yards range without result. Numerous close-range engagements with E/R Boats ensued; and, whilst withdrawing, M.T.B.31 was hit, set on fire, and had later to be towed back to Dover and beached. Her casualties were 1 rating killed, 2 missing, and her C.O. and 1 rating severely wounded. The enemy screen was shelled during the action by our 9.2 Batteries at the South Foreland which fired 8 rounds at about 2120. The enemy forces re-entered Boulogne at 2335.

A R/C of Trondheim Fiord at 1230A today showed all 3 Major Units in their usual berths; and a report dated 27th February received today from Stockholm states that PRINZ EUGEN appears to be heavily damaged with her stern under water and that she is expected to return to Germany very shortly for repairs.

At 2120 today SHEFFIELD reported that she had either struck a mine or been struck by a torpedo in 65° 49' N. 12° 28' W. off N.E. Iceland. She is holed on the water-line and her steering-gear is out of action; but at 2321A she was proceeding at 6 knots towards Seidisfiord.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, and 6 Destroyers left Scapa at 1131.

JUNON, which broke down yesterday off the Orkneys, arrived at Scapa at 1128 today and is to be replaced on the Norway S/M Patrol by SEALION which left Holy Loch at 1830 for Lerwick.

The ports of Dundee, Montrose, Blyth, Peterhead, Tees, Hartlepool and Aberdeen were closed today owing to the weather; but Peterhead Bay remains open for large vessels.

The Kiel Canal was reported today from Stockholm to be still closed for navigation.



War Diary.

4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Patrols covering the approach to Trondheim are being flown from last light tonight until first light on the 6th.

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft was attacked at 1535 and 1548 today without damage. Two bombs fell close off shore and the A/C was driven off by gunfire.

Enemy A/C from Stavanger made a sighting report of shipping in the Orkney and Shetland area at 1018A/4.

Mining.

4 Acoustic Mines were detonated by WINDSOR with S.A. Gear off Harwich at 0915 today, and one Magnetic Mine by Sweepers.

One Magnetic Mine was exploded by Sweepers yesterday in the Thames Estuary, and one was swept today off Dover; where since 22/2 about 50 floating mines have been sunk or washed ashore.

At 1222A the British FRUMENTON, 6675 tons, in Convoy F.S.40 was mined off Southwold and sank at 1803A while being towed towards Yarmouth by SHEARWATER.

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK  
escapees.

On 15/2. 20 members of the Crew of German WINDHUK left Santos in the 2 masted motor boat HEDY with  
/provisions ...



4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK  
escapees.  
(contd.)

provisions believed to be sufficient to reach Dakar. Today the boat was found south of Santos with 11 men alive and 1 killed by a falling spar. It had been as far as Cape Frio.

U/B.

At 0900 MORRIS DANCE attacked a good asdic contact in 6.15 N., 12.40 W. ~~3-114~~ p-114

Mediterranean.

Malta.

23 aircraft maintained continuous intruder raids last night, mainly on Luqa and Hal Far 8 buildings being destroyed.

In 6 alerts between 0545 and 1215 today, no damage was caused at Hal Far but at Luqa both aircraft and buildings were damaged.

Alexandria  
Raided.

From 0330 to 0545, about 5 planes raided Alexandria.

Turkish Ship  
Attacked.

Turkish S.S. ADANA was unsuccessfully attacked last night by an unidentified S/M with torpedo whilst on passage from Eregli to Istanbul, outside territorial waters.

East Indies.

Battleship  
Base.

C. in C. E.F. considers that while there are only 2 "R" class battleships in the Ceylon area it would appear preferable to base them both at Colombo rather than Trincomalee, unless close net defence is available at the latter base.

Convoys.

Convoy W.S.15 B escorted by WORCESTERSHIRE, arrived at Bombay.  
Convoy A.J.3 arrived at Colombo.  
Convoy B.M.15 personnel ships for Rangoon, is cancelled.



War Diary.

4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Java.

Batavia was abandoned by the Allied forces today and declared an open town by the Mayor.

TAWALI and JANSSEN with about 1500-1700 men, naval and dockyard personnel, sailed last night from Tjilatjap.

The minelayers KRAKATAU and GOUDEN LEEUW are ready to close the gaps in the minefields at Sourabaya.

Dutch Submarines are at sea en route to Colombo, except K.12 at Sourabaya which is ready to sail. *Sailed - Jan 3/2 - p.66*

Abda Area.

United States view on the question of the boundary between the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas are contained in J.S.M. 94 (1835Q/4).

Philippines.

4 old P.40 aircraft attacked enemy shipping in Subic Bay. 3 large vessels, reported loaded with troops, were sunk.

America & West Indies.

Venezuela.

Non-belligerent rights have been extended by Venezuela to warships of the United Nations in Venezuelan waters operating under the Caribbean Sea Frontier Command.

Bahamas.

As U-Boat activity in the Caribbean makes Nassau open to attack by raiding parties. 1 Company, Cameron Highlanders, is to move from Fort Slocum, Long Island, New York, to Nassau, until its possible relief by Canadian troops.

Boston.

The establishment of a minefield in the approaches to Boston is indefinitely postponed.

CANDYTUFT.

H.M.S. CANDYTUFT was transferred to the U.S. Navy this morning.

/Caribbean ...



War Diary.

4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Caribbean A/S operations. Captain of VAN KINSBERGEN suggests an A/S offensive hunt of perhaps 48 hours utilising all available craft. As this would necessitate closing port to departures and keeping arrivals to an absolute minimum, S.B.N.O. Curacao asks for views on its practicability. Admty. state that experience has shown that an offensive hunt is ineffective unless considerable aircraft assistance is available and hunting vessels are fast, whereas if ships are in convoy or escorted, U-boats attacking them disclose their presence and expose themselves to counter attack.

Australia.

WARSPITE.

Owing to the presence of 2 submarines off Fremantle, WARSPITE has been ordered to return to Sydney N.S.W., where she will fuel and sail direct for Colombo.



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

LIVERPOOL. My 1251A/10/1. On completion of working up LIVERPOOL is to join Home Fleet.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1712A/4.)

Movements.

CAPE ARGONA. Sailed CAPE ARGONA and CAPE MARIATO for Clyde  
CAPE MARIATO. in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1151A/3.  
E.T.A. 1600A/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1109A/4.)  
CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO are to proceed to Milford Haven. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to route CAPE MARIATO on to Port Talbot.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2045A/4.)

KING GEORGE V. Scapa departures C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V.  
VICTORIOUS. with VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, ONBLOW, BEDOUIN,  
BERWICK. ASHANTI, INTREPID, ICARUS and LOOKOUT.  
(A.C.O.S. 1131/4.)

CHILTERN My 1135A/25. Have CHILTERN and SULLA arrived?  
SULLA. (D.O.D.(H) 1144A/4 to A.C.I.C.)

RENOWN My 1801A/3. Amend R/V to 071° N. 001° E. at  
KENYA. 0800A/6 on course 090°, speed 15, altering to  
DUKE OF YORK. 055° at 1030A/6.  
(V.A.2. 1237A/4 to KENYA.)

EDINBURGH. EDINBURGH sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Newcastle 1250/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Arrived EDINBURGH.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1813/4)

AIREDALE. Admiralty pass to S.O. Force H. Sailed  
QUEEN AIREDALE and QUEEN VICTORIA in accordance with  
VICTORIA. my 1054A/2 and my 1117A/2. E.T.A. Gibraltar  
PETUNIA. 0800A/14.  
SALVONIA. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1254A/4.)  
F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1116A/2. Belfast, sailed  
AIREDALE, PETUNIA, tug SALVONIA.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2216A/4 and 0615A/5.)

JUNON \* JUNON escorted by BREDA due Scapa a.m./4th from  
SEALION. Westward. SEALION escorted by ANTELOPE leaves  
Holy Loch 1700/4 through Minches and Pentland  
Firth for Lerwick.  
(F.O.S. 1302A/4.) \* In HP 105 700  
1830 sailed SEALION escorted by ANTELOPE in  
accordance with S.3's 1321A/4.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2258A/4.)

/27th M/L ...



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.27th M/L  
Flotilla.My 1905/27/1. The 27th M.L. Flotilla is to assemble at Milford Haven by 15/3, not at Londonderry.  
(D.D.O.D. C. 1308A/4 to R.A.C.F.)(1) Intend to sail SEALION escorted by ANTELOPE 1700/4 for Lerwick. E.T.A. 2000A/6. Thence SEALION sails to patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 9 on completion fuelling.  
(Capt. S.3 1321A/4 and 1728A/4.) *sailed - see previous page*

CYCLAMEN.

Intend to sail CYCLAMEN at 1200/7 by swept channels, thence through the Pentland Firth to Londonderry. E.T.A. 1000/10. Speed 10 knots.  
(F.O. Humber 1342A/4.)

DUNBAR.

Intend to sail DUNBAR at 0800/6 by latest searched channels for Port Edgar. E.T.A. May Island 1630/6.  
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 1444A/4.)ROMNEY  
CROMARTY  
WHITEHAVEN.Group delayed by very heavy weather. Amend E.T.A. destination p.m./9. My P.C.S. 1700/4, 050° 26' 30" N. 019° 34' 30" W., 148°, 7 knots. (ROMNEY 1700Z/4.)  
1600 P.C.S. 050° 26' 30" N. 019° 34' 30" W. 214°, 8 knots. Join me. Call me on 2410 kc/s. (ROMNEY 1705Z/4 to CROMARTY.)SILJA.  
SUMBA.*K.T. in W.D.*  
SILJA's 2130/4. If contact not regained at daylight tomorrow both ships are to proceed independently to Stornoway and await further orders.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2357A/4.)Operations.Norway S/M  
Patrol.Cancel my 1855A/3. (re JUNON).  
(Capt. S.9. 0943A/4 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)  
Following paragraph is to be added to 23 S M Z of 1452A/16/2. S/Ms on passage to or from patrol zone may also attack U-boats when west of 006° E.  
(F.O.S. 1924A/4 to S/MS Area A.)

/Engagement ...



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

Engagement  
with E/R  
Boats off  
Gris Nez.  
M.T.B.31  
damaged.

1. At 1935/3 R.D.F. gave an enemy plot leaving Boulogne north-eastwards which was initially estimated to be one large and four small vessels.
2. At 2018 M.T.Bs 34 (S.O), 30 and 31 supported by M.G.B.43 and 41 were despatched to attack. Shortly afterwards R.D.F. showed some twelve enemy small craft about three miles to seaward of main plot, obviously a screen.
3. At 2115 in moonlight and three miles visibility our forces intercepted main target consisting of two M/Vs about 1500 tons with close escort of trawlers and E/R boats in a position 4 miles N.E. of Gris Nez. M.T.B. 34 fired two and M.T.B. 31 one torpedo at 6 to 800 yards range but no hits were claimed. M.T.B.30's attack was frustrated by E.boats.
4. Enemy vessels opened beam fire just prior to the attack and there was in addition a heavy and accurate fire directed at our vessels from shore batteries.
5. M.G.Bs had numerous close range engagements with E/R boats and consider several bursts of fire were effective.
6. Whilst withdrawing M.T.B.31 was hit and her speed reduced. Later she was attacked by E/R boats resulting in casualties and fires forward and aft. This situation was unknown to me until other boats had returned about 2245. M.G.B.322 and 324 were then sent to investigate a possible plot in mid channel. They located M.T.B. 31 there and towed her back to harbour where at 0200 she was beached and fires finally extinguished.
7. Casualties in M.T.B.31 were 1 rating killed and two missing, C.O. and 1 rating severely wounded. No casualties and superficial damage only to other boats.
8. The enemy screen came within range of South Foreland 9.2 batteries, which fired eight rounds about 2120.
9. After attack plot showed that enemy vessels returned to Boulogne. Owing to over estimate of size by R.D.F. it was thought initial plot might have been the enemy tanker damaged on the night of 1st/2nd March but it is now considered possible that the enemy movement was only intended as a ruse to draw our forces and attack them with very superior numbers.  
(V.A. Dover 1019A/4)

SHEFFIELD.

E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1300N/4. Request Oiler  
may be all ready.  
(C.S.18 1301A/4 to A.C.I.C.) *See p.110*

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

It is intended to fly patrols off Trondheim from dusk today until daylight 6th. 2. One Liberator has been sent and another goes today to Iceland (C). These two A/C together with Catalinas not on the Trondheim patrol will be held available for Fleet R/C should any chance of engaging the enemy arise, when they will be operated by the Admiralty.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 1623A/4 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., V.A.2 etc.)

/Patrol ...



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

Patrols contd. Patrol "Prowl" in operation throughout tonight and will be repeated tomorrow night. Patrol "Prowler" will be flown throughout daylight 5th. (C. in C. Rosyth 1707/4 to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrol covering the approach to Trondheim from about 20 miles to seaward by night and 40 miles by day are being flown from last light 4th March until first light 6th March. (C. in C. Rosyth 1751/4 to V.A.2)

Enemy Air Activity.

Orkney and Shetland. Aircraft from Stavanger operating in Orkney and Shetland area made a sighting report of shipping at 1018A/4. (D.D.I.C. 1301A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)

Lowestoft attacked. Lowestoft attacked at 1535 and 1548. A/C driven off by gunfire. Two bombs close off shore. A to D Nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1610A/4)

Mining.

Off Harwich 4 Acoustic mines exploded in position 177 O F N 10. (WINDSOR 0915A/4 to C. in C. Nore.)

4 Acoustic mines detonated by WINDSOR in 51° 54.9' N. 01° 35.8' E. 1 Magnetic mine detonated by S.A. and L.L drifters in 51° 55.1' N. 01° 25.4' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1221A/4 and 1629A/4.)

Acoustic mines detonated by S.A. Gear Type C, at 0915/4 in 52° 07' 15" N. 01° 50' E. Details. (WINDSOR 1300A/4.)

Dover area. Since 22/2 an exceptional number of floating mines have been and are still being sighted and sunk or washed ashore. The majority of those identified are Mark XIV and some appear to have been swept. Total to date is about 50. Fitting dates of those rendered safe on shore are later than April 1940. (V.A. Dover 1029A/4.)

Q Z X 632. One red mine swept today in 50° 57' 30" N. 01° 08' 30" E. Sweeping restricted by weather and fog. (V.A. Dover 1836A/4.)

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated at 1700/3 by Sweepers. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1103/4.)



War Diary.)4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.Sweep of  
QZY.251.My 1744A/3. 4 ships of M/S Flotilla 9th and  
2 M/S trawlers passed Needles 1100 to sweep in  
QZY 251 and for Portland. E.T.A. 1830/4th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1147A/4.)Convoy  
F.S.740.  
FRUMENTON  
(British,  
6675 tons)  
sunk.FRUMENTON mined in 170° 54 E. Buoy 2 miles. Send  
tugs. SHEARWATER standing by.  
(WALLACE 1222A/4.)  
SHEARWATER is endeavouring to take in tow.  
KINGSTON OLIVINE helping. Am rejoining convoy.  
(WALLACE 1301A/4.)  
Have taken in tow FRUMENTON proceeding to Yarmouth.  
No injuries. KINGSTON OLIVINE in company.

(SHEARWATER 1325A/4.)

Departure tug SUPERMAN to assist FRUMENTON.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1333A/4.)

Departure tug KROOMAN to assist FRUMENTON.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1612A/4.)

Departure Salvage Vessel NESSUS to assist FRUMENTON.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1644A/4.)

Have anchored FRUMENTON in 052° 21' N. 001° 58' E. Crew have  
abandoned her, returning to Harwich in H.M.S. KINGSTON OLIVINE.  
Ship still floating, has broken back. Am standing by.

(SHEARWATER 1700A/4.)

My 1700. Ship sunk.

(SHEARWATER 1803A/4.)

FRUMENTON sank in approx. 52° 21' N. 01° 58' E.

(C. in C. Nore 2143A/4.)

PLOVER.

PLOVER will be ready for sea p.m./9th.  
Request destination.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1917A/4.)Rosyth  
Area.Floating mines reported vicinity 20 C buoy at  
1745/4.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1926/4.)Enemy Intelligence.Gdynia  
on 3/3.P.R.U. Gdynia 1340/3.  
GRAF ZEPPELIN, light cruisers EMDEN and LEIPZIG,  
and SCHLESIIEN class battleship present.  
(D.D.I.C. 0118A/4.)Straits of  
Dover.Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait  
from 0900/3 to 0900/4. Track E.5D. Two vessels  
identified by M.T.Bs as being about 1500 tons  
escorted by E/R boats and trawlers left Boulogne  
eastbound at 9 knots at 1935. Track E.6D. Consisting of  
about 12 E/R boats which formed a screen to seaward of E.5D.  
Both tracks turned about at 2115 when E.5D was attacked by  
M.T.Bs in position 4 miles N.E. of Gris Nez. They re-entered  
Boulogne at 2335.  
(V.A. Dover 1103A/4.)

/Trondheim ...



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - contd.

- Trondheim. R/C of Trondheim Fiord at 1230A/4 shows all three major naval units in usual berths. (D.D.I.C. 1618A/4.)
- PRINS EUGEN Report from Trondheim dated 27/2 states PRINS EUGEN appears to be heavily damaged with stern under water. She is expected to go to Germany for repairs very shortly. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1811/4.)
- Navigational.
- Dundee. Ports of Dundee and Montrose are closed due to weather. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1024/4.)
- Montrose.
- Scarweather Light Vessel. On or about 5/3 Scarweather light vessel will be re-established 266° - 5 cables from charted position. (Hydrog 1153A/4.)
- Blyth. Blyth Port closed owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1401A/4.)
- 54 A Buoy. 54 A Buoy reported out of order and burning intermittently. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1436A/14.)
- Peterhead. Peterhead Harbour closed owing to weather. Peterhead Bay open for large vessels. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1500/4.)
- Baltic Sound. Ice report 3rd March. Details.  
Belt. Kiel Kiel Canal still closed for navigation.  
Canal. (N.A. Stockholm 1558/4.)
- Tees Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to  
Hartlepool. weather. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1745/4.)
- Aberdeen. Port of Aberdeen closed due to weather. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1830/4.)



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

JUNON. Proceed forthwith to stand by JUNON in  $058^{\circ} 41' N. 003^{\circ} 53' W.$  at 2200/3rd with both engines broken down. Estimated both engines will be repaired by 0500/4. BREDA is standing by. Pentland Firth lights arranged. Acknowledge forthwith. (A.C.O.S. 0001A/4 to BANDIT.)  
Your 2200A/3. Are repairs in JUNON likely to be such that she can proceed on patrol as previously arranged. If not you should consider taking her to Scapa. Report your intentions forthwith. S.3 is to sail SEALION if JUNON cannot proceed on patrol. S.9 is to be included in the address of further signals.  
(F.O.S. 0118A/4 to BREDA.)  
Expect to arrive R/V 0400.  
(BANDIT 0310A/4 to A.C.O.S.)  
Your 0118A/4. JUNON now reports 36 hours required to effect repairs (?) before proceeding on patrol. Intend proceed to Scapa.  
(BREDA 0320A/4 to F.O.S.)  
BANDIT unable to locate you. Report your position.  
(A.C.O.S. 0741A/4 to BREDA.)  
Am proceeding Scapa. Have failed to contact BANDIT. Approx. position at 0730A,  $058^{\circ} 44' N. 003^{\circ} 51' W.$  Approx. E.T.A. 0940A/4. A.C.O.S. pass to BANDIT.  
(BREDA 0743A/4 to A.C.O.S.)  
Scapa arrival 1128 JUNON escorted by BREDA.  
(A.C.O.S. 1158/4.)

M.L.163. My 1410A/4. M.L.163 returned Larne engine trouble.  
(N.O.I.C. Larne 1640A/4.)

SHEFFIELD. Have struck a mine, or been struck by a torpedo. Am uncertain which. Port side aft. My position is  $064^{\circ} 49' N. 012^{\circ} 29' W.$   
(SHEFFIELD 2120/4 to Scapa.)  
Come and give me protection. My position is  $064^{\circ} 49' N. 012^{\circ} 29' W.$   
(SHEFFIELD 2125/4 to D.8.)  
My 2120. My position  $065^{\circ} 49' N. 012^{\circ} 28' W.$   
(SHEFFIELD 2159/4 to Scapa.)  
Hole in port side aft on waterline. Possibly floating mine. Steering gear out of action. Intend proceeding Seidisfiord.  
(C.S. 18 2255A/4.)  
SHEFFIELD's 2150Z/4. Detach 2 destroyers to SHEFFIELD.  
(C. in C. H.F. 2305A/4 to V.A.2.)  
Am proceeding ESKIMO to protect SHEFFIELD. E.T.A. 2345A.  
PUNJABI joining V.A.2.  
(Capt. D.8 2310A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My course and speed are  $242^{\circ}$ , 6 knots. Intend to keep one destroyer to escort me.  
(C.S.18 2321A/5 to V.A.2.)  
Salvage tug being sent. 2 trawlers without asdics being sailed from Seidisfiord to close you. Air escort will be provided at daylight by Northrops if weather permitting.  
(A.C.I.C. 2335A/4 to C.S.18.)



War Diary.4. 3. 1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.75. My 2132A/3. Sailing date of O.N.75 is 10/3.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0921Z/4.)
- S.C.70. Due to continued gales no headway being made.  
All speed used just keeping convoy together.  
Request authority to permit ships proceed  
independently prior to dark tonight.  
(Escort Unit 4.1.11 0948Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C. 70. Your 0948Z/4. In view of proximity of other convoys  
you should not disperse tonight. Dimmed navigation lights  
should be shown at Cdre's discretion.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1416Z/4 to C.T.U. 4.1.11.)  
In view of proximity other convoy dimmed navigation lights  
should be shown at Cmdre's discretion.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1413Z/4 to Escort Unit 4.1.1)
- Q.P.8. Q.P.8 sailed Kola Inlet 1st March for Iceland  
(C). 15 M/Vs. Names.  
(D.T.D. 1610Z/4 to Opnav.)
- P.Q.12. GOSSAMER sailed Reykjavik 2000A to overtake  
GOSSAMER. P.Q.12. M/S whalers SHUSA, STEFA, SVEGA, SHERA  
SHUSA. sailed Seidisfiord 1400A to join P.Q.12 in  
STEFA. position (K). ~~Admiralty pass to Russia.~~  
SVEGA. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1734A/3 to Admty., C. in C.  
SHERA. H.F., V.A.2., A.C.O.S., ORIBI.)
- U.R. Dates of sailing of U.R. convoys. U.R.15,  
Convoys. March 7th, U.R.16, March 16th, U.R.17 March 25th.  
(2) For U.R.15 DANEMAN, PAYNTER.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1808A/4.)
- Convoy. Convoy anchoring in fog between B four and  
B five.  
(LEWES 1910A/4.)



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

EXMOOR.

Arrival.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0110A/4 to Admty.)Force H.  
Fighter  
protection.Your 1744A/3. Approved.  
(D.N.A.D. 0130A/4 to F.O. Force H. (R) EAGLE,  
F.O.C.N.A.)

LAVENDER.

LAVENDER arrives Ponta Delgada daylight 6/3  
will require 100 tons of oil fuel and 100 tons  
of water. Request arrangements be made.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0820A/4 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)Fuelling  
P.Delgada.BELLWORT, COMMANDANT DROGOU and COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT left Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T/4th.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0940/4 to S.O.I. Gib.)  
*See also p. 115.*

P.42.

Arrival.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1118A/4 to Admty.(R) C. in C. Med.  
etc.)Albacores  
PAKENHAM.Your 2216/3 (?2211 intended) Confirmation is  
requested that necessary sets of modifications  
for internal and external tanks have been  
despatched or alternately will be despatched  
in PAKENHAM.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1130A/4 to Admty. (R) S.O. Force H.)  
Your 1130A/4. Confirmed that 6 sets Albacore  
Alt 60 and 2 sets Albacore Alt 13 are being  
sent in PAKENHAM.  
(D.N.A.D. 1918A/4 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) S.O. Force H.)

BRADFORD.

BRADFORD 2012/3. BRADFORD will not rejoin  
S.L. 101.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1228A/4 to ROCHESTER, SO. Escort  
Group 43.) *See next page*EUGENIO C.  
JOAO PESSOA.  
LEESEE.EUGENIO C. and JOAO PESSOA arrived 3/3 in  
ballast. They will probably proceed Castro  
to load iron ore. LEESEE fully loaded still  
anchored Bilbao harbour.  
(H.M. Consul Bilbao 1242/4 to Admty. (R)  
M.E.W. etc.)

/Situation ...



War Diary.

4.3.1942  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Situation.

Report No.2 at 1959A/4.

1. O.G.80 40° 33' 17" 52' 136° 6½. S.O. STORK.
  2. LOCH OSKAIG patrol off Cape Roca.
  3. LADY HOGARTH, STELLA CARINA, LORD NUFFIELD escorting THAMES towing FARADAY 32° 50' 09" 52' 213° 5½.
  4. CAMPION, MALLOW, 33° 48' 09" 29' 052° to Gibraltar 12.
  5. ALOUETTE patrol Huelva Bight.
  6. SCOTTISH leave vicinity Cape Roca approximately 0200/5 coastwise to Gibraltar 10.
  7. \*BRADFORD escorting SOBIESKI sailed p.m./4 through 36° 00' 12" 00' and 37° 00' 15" 00' thence 314° 14.
- (F.O.C.N.A. 1318A/4 as amended 2002A/4.)

*\* See previous page.*

Situation

Report for Area Z. N.A.

1. HILARY, MARSDALE patrolling Eastern and Western half N.64 and N.73 respectively.
- Situation at 1959A 4th
2. MARON, CAVINA patrolling Eastern and Western half N.46 and N.55 respectively.
  3. AUSONIA patrolling in Area 020° N. to 030° N. and 35° 05' W. to 45° 00' W.
  4. HYDRANGEA, M.L. 244, 25° 12' 16" 28' through 25° 00' 16" 30' thence 201° 12.
  5. VIDETTE 18° 31' 19" 00' through 22° 00' 19" 00' thence 039° 13½.
- (F.O.C.N.A. 1328A/4.)

PANDORA.

Intend sailing PANDORA for patrol South of Alboran Island p.m./5.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1340A/4 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc.)

→ ALOUETTE.

Departure for Y.3.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1345A/4 to Admty.)

Coal Stocks  
Funchal.

Ref. A.M. 1635A/12/12/41 and B.N.A. Lisbon's 1848/13/12/41 and my 1659/4/12/41., Admty. stocks of coal situation has again arisen. Free stocks are now practically exhausted.

The case is likely to arise in the immediate future that Captain of the port will refuse permission to supply a Portuguese ship from Portuguese Government reserves. Suggest advisability of Ministry informing Portuguese Govt. and Commissao Reguladora De Carvoes in Lisbon that they have bought and paid for these stocks and also advise me as to attitude I should adopt with the local authorities and firms.  
(Funchal 1501/4 to B.N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty.)



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

29th M.L. Your 1822/3. About 25/4.  
Flotilla. (D.D.O.D.(C) 1527A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CAUDEBEC Arrival 4th.  
PONTE/CANET (Lisbon 1800/4 to M. W.T.)  
(French)

SAN ANTONIO. American Consul Tunis report Italian SAN ANTONIO due to leave Tunis for Tripoli (Libya) shortly carrying supplies. Route believed to be coastwise\* in 3 stages, lying off Sousse and Sfax or Gabes. \* proceeding by night (F.O.C.N.A. 2214A/4 to V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med. as amended 1628A/5)

South Atlantic.

MORRIS DANCE A/S trawler, attacked good asdic contact 6.15 N.  
U/B. 12.40 W., 90 W.S.W. of Monrovia at 0700/4.  
(D.S. 913)

A/C over St. Helena report 3 A/C sighted at 1845/3.  
St. Helena. Not identified.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0906Z/4 to S.A.S. Squadron,  
S.O. Force V., (R) Admty.)

St. Helena reports three aircraft sighted at 1845/3. Could these have been U.S. Aircraft?  
(C. in C. S.A. 0927Z/4 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)  
Reply: No. (B.A.D. 0905/4 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)  
St. Helena reports sighting 3 unidentified aircraft at 1845/3. No British or U.S.A. aircraft were in that area.  
(C. in C. S.A. 2055Z/4 to Admty., S.O. Force V. etc.)

CERAMIC, Master CERAMIC reports sighting at 1840Z/27/2  
suspicious when in 005° 05' S. 034° 34' W. vessel which  
ship 27/2. behaved in most suspicious manner in twice  
altering to close CERAMIC when CERAMIC twice  
turned away. Since speed of suspicious vessel  
was only 10 to 12 knots CERAMIC was able to leave her astern  
and it would therefore appear probable that ship was not a  
raider but was merely acting unwisely. ~~Dec~~ Would appear to  
resemble Norwegian ship.  
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1038/4 to Admty. etc.)

/BELLWORT ...



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic -contd.

BELLWORT  
COMMANDANTE  
DROGOU  
COMMANDANTE  
DETROYAT

F.O.C.N.A. 1102A/2. From (Q) pass through (S) 015° 00' N. 021° 30' W. T 010° 00' N. 018° 00' W. thence Freetown.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1103Z/4 to BELLWORT etc.)  
*see p 112.*

WIVERN. Departure 1100/4 WIVERN, E.T.A. Freetown 0900/7.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1140Z/4 to Admty. (R)  
C. in C. S.A.)

A. MIKOJAN. F.O.I/c Simonstown's 0843/3. Icebreaker  
A. MIKOJAN should be sailed for U.K. with least possible delay.  
(D.T.D. 1157A/4 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Tristan da Cunha. My 0947/8 para 3A and Admty. 2202/15 (refers to 0947/8 re establishment of Meteorological & W/T and HF/DF at Tristan da Cunha). First advanced party for Tristan da Cunha consisting of 12 South African Engineers and two Meteorological N.C.O's under Capt. Roberts, S.A.E.C.; will be ready to leave Cape for Island on 25/3. Estimated chances of weather favourable for landing at this time of the year are one day in two. Ship will not be required to return to Cape area on account of expedition. If not otherwise required, suggest DUNNOTTAR GASTLE is allocated for this commitment as ship appears entirely suitable for the purpose and importance is attached to having Naval assistance for preliminary landings.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1257Z/4 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

S.L.102 Departure 4/3 BOREAS, VIOLET, GENISTA, ORCHIS, with S.L.102.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1303Z/4 to Admty.)

BARCLOSE  
BARFOAM  
BARFORD  
(B.D.Vs)

Sailed 1430Z today speed of advance eight knots expect to arrive Capetown 8/3.  
(Walvis Bay 1409Z/4 to Admty.)

ORCADES Cancel my 2253/26/2. ORCADES is now proceeding to U.K. via Australasia.  
(D. of S.T. 1632A/4 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

/Movements ...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Movements.

Summary 2000Z/4/3.

Area P. TAMARISK 002° 30' N. 012° 20' W. 090°  
12 knots. *See next page*WALLFLOWER about 003° N. 013° 30' W. to  
Freetown 12 knots. *See next page*

LAERTES off Monrovia.

ABBEYDALE 004° S. 006° 10' W. 166° 10 knots.

RESOLUTION 012° 12' S. 000° (?40') E. 144° 12½ knots.

SNAKEFLY 004° 04' N. 001° 08' W. 163° 6 knots.

DESPATCH 003° 20' N. 006° W. 080° 14 knots.

RUMBA with PINZON 007° 24' N. 013° 30' W. 293° 7 knots.

CANNA 003° 34' N. 005° (?48') W. 087° 9 knots.

PRETORIA CASTLE patrol about 004° 30' N. 023° 40' W. *See next page*

BULOLO about 003° 30' N. 020° W. to Freetown 14 knots.

CANTON off Freetown to South West 17 knots. *See next page*

VIDETTE 019° 22' N. 019° W. 000° 14 knots.

FORCE Y. with S.L.102 008° 34' N. 014° (?28') W. 269° 7½ knots.

Area Q. (?CHESHIRE) (?DUNNOTTAR CASTLE) about 041° S. 021° E.

Area S. CILICIA (?patrolling) L 31. L 32.

ASTURIAS 016° 10' S. 031° W. to Freetown 16 knots.

(C. in C. S.A. 1707Z/4)

Employment of Your 1159Z/20/2 and my 1151A/1. Present tanker Tankers. position is such that a wait of 11 or 12 days at Freetown cannot be accepted. 2. Hoped that by early summer C. in C. W.A. will be able to form 6 groups of sloops and cutters for the escort of O.S. S.L. Convoys. 3. Intention is then that ocean escorts should escort through to Freetown and that the S.L. Convoy should sail about 6 days after arrival of the O.S. This is dependent on fuelling at sea having proved sufficiently reliable. This should also result in a considerable economy of local escorts. 4. In interim period request you will consider when U-boat position permits tanker breaking off from O.S. Convoy early and being sailed late to catch the S.L. in order that a full cargo may be embarked. (D.T.D. 1714A/4 to C. in C. S.A.(R) C. in C. W.A.)

→ WALLFLOWER (KIRKPOOL) reports sighting U-boat in 002° 12' N. U-Boat. 012° 43' W. Am (?stopping) to (?investigate). My position (?093°) 38' N. (?012°) (?24') (?W) → TAMARISK remains with Lagos portion. (WALLFLOWER 1730N/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

PIERRE LOTI A.M.1339A/1/12/41 (Re permit for more than 12 passengers whilst passing through Atlantic waters) Subject to your concurrence PIERRE LOTI may be used to capacity for the conveyance of passengers between West and South African ports. 2. Accommodation. 3. If agreed request you inform S.T.Os and N.C.S.Os concerned. (D. of S.T. 1800A/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

WEST IVIS. Have you any news of American WEST IVIS reported sailed from Guiria about 13/2 for Buenos Aires? (D.T.D. 1807A/4 to S.O.(I) Montevideo.) Reply: 1351Z/5.

/TAMARISK ...



War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

TAMARISK  
WALLFLOWER.

Following is a repetition of my 1237Z/4 (begins) TAMARISK, WALLFLOWER from C. in C. S.A. my 1533Z/27/2 (1535Z/27 intended) cancel last para. Ships for Takoradi and Lagos are also to be dispersed to proceed independently at position Z. TAMARISK is to proceed Takoradi to arrive a.m. 7/3 and will then be required to escort ROYAL ULSTERMAN to Freetown. (Ends)  
(C. in C. S.A. 1949Z/4 to TAMARISK, WALLFLOWER)  
*in previous page*

PRETORIA  
CASTLE.

My P.C. and S. 004° 56' N. 021° 03' W. 270° 14 knots to 005° N. 026° W. thence 004° N. 026° W. thence rendezvous at 1200Z/16/3. Fuel remaining 74%.  
(PRETORIA CASTLE, 2900Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)  
*in previous page*

Boat from  
WINDHUK  
(German)

My 2152Z/3. Motor Boat HEDY was found today few miles south of Santos. 11 men alive and one killed by falling spar. Boat has been as far as Cape Frio.  
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2034Z/4 to S.A. Sqdn.  
(R) Admty. etc.)

Sunderlands.

AX.359. 4.3.43. Your A. 498 2/3 (1700/2/3) Understand that disposition of the 4 West African Sunderlands referred to is now as follows.

One at Gibraltar. One sunk Malta by enemy action. One left Gibraltar for West Africa 3/3. One on major inspection in U.K. Gibraltar should dispatch first mentioned aircraft forthwith in accordance with my A.X.745 14/2 as 4 Catalinas are now available at Gibraltar.  
(Air Min. 2115/4. G.M.T to A.H.Q. West Africa.)

C. in C.  
transfer to  
Simonstown.

Your 1046Z/3rd (N.T. in W.D.) Probable programme as follows: 16/3 leave Freetown in ASTURIAS, 25/3, arrive Simonstown. Staff and retinue, (details)  
(C. in C. S.A. 2221Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown  
(R) R.A.S.A.D. As amended by 2235Z/5.)

Curacao and  
Aruba  
shipping.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. Ships proceeding to Curacao or Aruba are to be instructed to adjust speed so that the final 50 miles of approach is in daylight. Ports are to be approached from varying directions.  
(D.T.D. 2246A/4 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Simonstown, S.O.(I) Freetown, (R) C. in C. A.W.I. As amended 1346A/5.

CANTON.

Departure 1653/4.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2345Z/4 to Admty.)  
*in previous page*



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta  
Military Garrison to be under C. in C.M.E.

Following from Chiefs of Staff for Cs. in C. M.E. No. C.O.S.(M.E) 243. Ref. C.O.S.(M.E)240. We consider that change in responsibility for military garrison at Malta is desirable.

2. Under present system there is inevitable tendency to regard Malta and Cyrenaica as separate problems to be co-ordinated in London.

3. Therefore decided that military garrison of Malta should be put under C. in C. M.E., just as naval and R.A.F. garrisons are under command of C. in C. Med. and A.O.C. in C. M.E. respectively.

4. The three Cs in C. and M.E. Defence Committee will thus have a joint responsibility for Malta as integral part of Middle East theatre. Governor's hand will be strengthened by having direct access to Minister of State in Cairo as well as to H.M.G. at home.

6. Dobbie informed accordingly and told that he will hear shortly of various schemes now being considered for relieving deficiencies in supplies and personnel.  
(W.O. 0300/4 to C. in C. M.E.)

CAPO PINO,  
MERANO.

My 1629B/3. Ships sailed for Aegean Sea 1800 hours G.M.T.3/3.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1015B/4 to S.O.(I) Med., D.N.I)

M.W.11

Request 6 ships of 15 knots speed or over may be allocated for M.W.11 required to start loading on 20/3. Highly desirable they should be steam ships and not motor ships.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1034/4 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med.)

THUNDERBOLT

THUNDERBOLT sailed <sup>to</sup> U.K. on 1/3 with following passenger.  
(Capt. (S) 1.1125B/4 to Admty.)

ALBARO  
PRODROMOS.

Italian Tanker ALBARO (2,260 tons) and ex Greek Tanker PRODROMOS (900 tons) German Flag, arrived Istanbul from Aegean in transit for Black Sea. Awaiting instructions to proceed. Pass to N.L.O. Black Sea, Russian N.A. has been advised.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1243B/4 to S.O.(I) Med. (R) D.N.I.)  
My (?12)43B/4. Vessels expected to sail night of 4-5/3 for Varna.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1750B/4 to S.O.(I) Med. D.N.I.)

Alexandria  
Raid.

Air raid 0330 to 0545. About five planes came within range, remainder toured further east, one dropped 4 bombs in harbour damaging one railway line on coaling quay. One dropped 2 bombs near

Khurshid. Overcast high cloud, light rain, calm, changing to North:Force 3, barrage lights and guns, balloons, 2 Hurricanes, 2 Beaufighters. German crew of four paddled ashore Oaltim having been shot down by fighter night 2/3.  
(R.A. Alexandria 1509B/4 to Admty. etc.)

/Air ...



War Diary.4.3.1942  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

**Air Report.** Opsum 646. 1. Cyrenaica night 2/3. 5 Wellingtons successfully laid 10 mines in Benghazi Harbour. Operation covered by further 15 Wellingtons which bombed bases of Harbour Moles, damage observed.

2. Egypt. My Opsum 645. Attack on Kabrit night 2/3 made by 10 plus HE.111s and JU.88s. 4 Wellingtons destroyed, 6 others damaged and runways cratered. Remainder damage slight. Bombs also dropped at Kantara and between Romani and Port Said and two parachute mines at Shallufa. Damage.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1541/4.)

Night 2/3 Mar. About 20 enemy aircraft operated over Delta of which 10 were over canal zone, about 5 over Alexandria and remainder along coast between Rose Fa and Damietta. About 6 bombs on Alexandria Harbour Cas. Light damage to railway. Bombs also dropped near Aboukir and Baltim. No bombs reported on any R.A.F. Station in Canal zone. 4 Beaufighters, 2 Hurricanes 2 Tomahawks up. 1 Beaufighter sighted 1 JU.88 but could not close within range. Crete, night 2/3 Mar. 4 Blenheims bombed Heraklion, bombs burst on and near barracks.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1617/4.)

**Axis Shipping.** Arrival 3rd FRONSAC (French) Arrival 4th COETLOGON (French), MAURO CROCE (Italian).  
(Barcelona 1605/4 to D. of S.T.)

**Canal Raid 3/3.** C.A.F.O. 587 (A) air raid night 3/3, visibility poor, some drizzle, (B) probably five JU.88 at 14.000 (C) various bombs (D) uncertain (E) Nil (F) Port Said A.A. Guns in action (G) balloons flying (K) bombs fell in Sale Park East of Port Said.  
(S.B. N.O.C.A. 1709B/4 to Admty.)

**Italian A/S gear.** Capt. (S) 1, 0801B/?2/2 and Capt. (S) 10 0319B/14/2. Probable indication periphone gear being fitted in Italian ships. Details.  
(F.O.S. 1744A/4 to Capt. S.1., Capt. S.10)

**Malta Air Report.** C.S.R. 4/3. My 1124. 3rd Alert 1456 hrs., 44 ME 109s and JU.88s, target Luqa, 1 Wellington burnt out, craters aerodrome and runways A/A fired. Night 3/4, continuous intruder 23 raiders bombs mainly Luqa and Halfar areas. 2 Civilians killed, 2 injured, 8 buildings destroyed, Hurricanes up, no interceptions. 4th, 6 alerts 0545, 0810, 0910, 1024, 1145, 1215 hrs, 47 ME.109s and JU.88s, targets aerodromes. Halfar, no damage or casualties. Luqa, 3 soldiers wounded, 2 Wellingtons burnt out, 2 damaged, 2 Marylands slight damage, 2 barracks destroyed, sergeants' quarters damaged, several big craters aerodromes. U.X.Bs dispersal areas. Hurricanes up, 1 ME.109 probably destroyed, 3 JU.88s seriously damaged, 2 with engines smoking, 1 with bits breaking off. German rescue service busy, another JU.88 and 3 ME.109s hit, and probably damaged, A/A destroyed 1 ME 109, 1 prisoner.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1831/4.)

/TORBAY ...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

TORBAY THORN. TORBAY to leave patrol as necessary on 6/3 to proceed through (details), passing through first position shortly after dawn 6/3 and arriving Alexandria searched channel 0530B/11/3.

THORN is to keep S. of 038° 20' and E. of 020° 00' from 0001B to 2359B on 6/3 and then has freedom of movement in whole of area P.

(Capt. (S) 1. 2001B/4 to TORBAY, THORN.)

2 M.Ls to Malta. Your 1318A/3. 1. Route. 2. Above route designed to reach Malta by daylight but in view of possibility of late arrival no fighter cover can be guaranteed until Spitfires are in operation here. 4. With very large air force at disposal of enemy in Sardinia Sicily and Pantellaria consider undetected passages unlikely. Suggest therefore second pair should not be sailed before safe arrival of first pair.  
(V.A. Malta 2031B/4 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

UNIQUE. UNIQUE pass through 038° 10' 009° 00' about 0100B/8 thence as ordered by you.  
(V.A. Malta 2047B/4 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements. Arrival UNBEATEN, departure UNIQUE.  
(V.A. Malta 2145B/4 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

U/B THRASHER. At 1916B/4 A.S.V. contact made by aircraft in 032° 02' 027° 53'.  
(Capt. (S) 1 2231B/4 to THRASHER.)

BEAUFORT ROMEO. BEAUFORT and ROMEO each with convoys and 2 M.Ls and various unescorted merchant ships E.T.A. Alexandria a.m./5. One destroyer on A/S patrol (?off) end of (?searched channel).  
(Capt. (S) 1, 2241B/4 to THRASHER.)

Toulon Mine Report. Following received. DAVURNAV TOULON = NR 5081 Mine P- LA DE-RIVE par 42° - 12' N. at 07° - 42' E. P- 11 heures 35 le 4 Mars- 1325/4/3 Prefet Maritime 3 E-ME Region.  
(Nore W/T No T.O.O./4 to Whitehall Rec 2253.)

Movements. 4/3 arrivals DULVERTON, HURWORTH, GLOXINIA, HASTY, HAVOCK, departures DULVERTON, HURWORTH, GLOXINIA, HASTY, HAVOCK.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2356/4 to Admty., C. in C. Med., S.O. Force I.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- SHIRVAN. Master SHIRVAN reports following essential. Repair cargo pumping system and main bunker leaks. Scale and clean boilers. Docking is also recommended. On arrival report if these repairs are necessary and also purpose of docking. (D.T.D. 0150A/4 to N.O.I.C. Abadan).
- DURBAN. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0230Z/4 to Admty., C. in C.E.I. etc.)
- Mines, Calcutta. For C.B.C. Cancel my 0542/13/2 (re laying of mines in narrow part of river outside Rangoon). Mines have been diverted to Calcutta. (C. in C.E.F. 0245Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Rangoon (R) C. in C.E.I., Admty.)
- M.N.B.D.O. Your 4357/G of 28/2. R.M. A.A. units under your Command. Having regard their characteristics suggest that when satisfied concerning A.A. defences Ceylon R.M. units be employed Addu Atoll and subsequently other Indian Ocean Bases pending installation permanent A.A. defences. You should consult C. in C.E.I. concerning employment. Admty. agree. (W.O. 0300/4 to C. in C. India.)
- WARSPITE. Your 0754/3 and my 0747/2. Request you will signal amended time of R/V. (C. in C. E.F., 0450Z/4 to A.C.N.B. (R) WARSPITE, C. in C. E.I. Admty.)
- W.S.15B. Arrival WORCESTERSHIRE with W.S.15B. (S.O.I. Bombay 0515Z/4 to Admty. etc.)
- SPETSAI. Intend programme Gr. Dr. SPETSAI. Leave Sandheads 5/3, Colombo 8/3 - 10/3, Bombay arr. 12/3. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0636Z/4 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. etc.)
- FALMOUTH. ROVER. ISIS. Arrived and departed 0755Z FALMOUTH. Arrivals ROVER, ISIS both in tow. (S.O.I. Bombay 0921Z/4 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., S.O.(I) Colombo).
- A.J.3. Convoy A.J.3. arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 7112/4 to Admty.)

/Troop.....



War Diary.

4.5.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Troop Convoys. My 1236/24/2. Para. J. Sailing of B.M.15 is cancelled. Para. H. B.P.36 now consists of DEVONSHIRE, ROHNA, EL MADINA. All ships sailing 7/3. Para. I. B.P.37 consists of Personnel ships, from Bombay CITY OF CANTERBURY, XEMMA, from Karachi, SANTHIA, JOHAN DE WITT. All ships sailing 22/3. DUNERA Bombay Colombo with 250 naval ratings sailing 7/3. (P. S.T.O. India, 1245Z/4 to C. in C. E.I. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.) *8? Greek EMMA intended.*

Portuguese Ships for Timor. My 1915/1. Both ships in 016° 18' S. 112° 07' E. 1200/2 steering West. (Admty. 1608A/4 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

D.M.3. STAFFORDSHIRE, AUTOLYCUS, PARDO of Convoy D.M.3 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 1716Z/4 to Admty.)

Movements. Colombo arrival 4th, 0145Z DECOY, FORTUNE, GUARDIAN, 0220Z D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, 0245Z LISMORE, 0300Z RAMILLIES, 0400Z NORMAN, 0445Z CHITRAL, 0550Z depot ship COLOMBIA, 0910Z TULIP, 1045 RANCHI. (S.O.I. Colombo 1748Z/4 to Admty. etc.)

Capital Ships Ceylon. A. Whilst there are only 2 "R" Class Battleships in Ceylon area it would appear preferable to base them both at Colombo where they would presumably be better protected from torpedo A/C attack than at Trincomalee. They will also be in a better position to disengage to seaward and later R/V with reinforcements arriving from the South and West.  
B. Is it your intention to give Battleship cover to INDOMITABLE while she is in Ceylon area?  
C. By what date do you expect to be able to carry out long distance air R/C to eastward of Ceylon?  
D. If close net defence is now available for ships at Trincomalee, this might alter the views in para. A. (D.O.D. (F), 2007A/4 to C. in C. E.F.)

China.

Java Sea Action 27/2.

Revised estimate of the results of the naval engagement off Java on 27/2 gives 1 Japanese 8" Cruiser and 1 Destroyer sunk, 1 Japanese 8" Cruiser, 1 "Mogami" class cruiser, and 3 Destroyers damaged. (D.S. 911, 4/3).

/Java.....



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.-Contd.

Java  
Reports. Ops 39 3/3.  
Java combined intelligence summary 2/3/42.  
Enemy sightings. 9 Transports and 1 Destroyer  
off Eretan. Later reports gave 1 heavy Cruiser  
2 Cruisers, 2 Destroyers, and a large Submarine with 10  
Transports off Eretan at 0700Z/2? 30 ships sighted off Merak  
West Java at 0300Z/2. 1 large Transport off Eretan which received  
direct hit on 1/3 was not to be seen early 2/3. Another,  
reported as direct hit was seen half submerged. R/C of S.W.  
Java coast negative. 12 to 15 twin engined bombers and 20  
Navy O fighters seen on Kalidjati Aerodrome, captured 1/3.  
Also 3 Navy O patrolling over Aerodrome. 1 House railway station  
and locomotive shed at Kalidjati on fire. Battle reported in  
progress near Soebang. Column of 6 enemy cars bombed by Glenn  
Martin. Enemy transports on North Java coast bombed and machine  
gunned. 3 direct hits several near misses with heavy bombs. 2  
direct hits on landing stage and several among troops on beaches.  
1 heavy bomb dropped on 3 seaplanes attempting to take (off?)  
damaged 2 of them. 2 Glenn Martins bombed Kalidjati Aerodrome  
scoring direct hits on runway and aircraft. Enemy air activity  
slight. 3 Navy O machine gunned Madir Aerodrome.  
(7) One Dutch M.V. bombed machine gunned and abandoned 04° (50?)  
S. 109° 00' E. (Britair, 0500/4 to Air Min).  
A.O.C. 7, 4/3. My A.O.C. 6, 28/2. For Chiefs of Staff.  
Number unarmed U.A.F. increased by 100 late arrivals from  
Sumatra, total now 2500. These still awaiting evacuation as  
Dutch have not implemented their promise to arranged shipping  
for them 28/2 and (1/3?) although much has since been used and  
is being used for later claimants. All R.N. and Americans  
evacuated. Am having great difficulty holding them to their  
promise but hope 250 consisting air crews and specialists may  
evacuate 5/3 and further 1000 tradesmen 6/3. Responsibility for  
any failure will lie entirely with Dutch Naval Authorities.  
Request you bring pressure bear through Dutch Govt.  
Remainder approx. 2300 armed whose morale excellent will continue  
to fight it out with Dutch as long as latter continue effective  
resistance. 232 Hurricane Sqn. also putting up grand fight.  
(Britair, 1130Z/4 to Air Min.)  
3/3. Daily Op. Sum. Army to 0630Z/3. (Details). General.  
Enemy main thrusts appear to be on Batavia, and West of  
Sourabaya.  
(2) Air to 0030Z/3. During day 2/3 N.E.I. bombers carried  
out numerous attacks. Direct hits on three large transports  
off Eretan, near misses four others. Several burnt out and  
sunken vessels seen. Near misses three floatplanes taking  
off, only one took off. R.A.F. Hurricanes morning 2/3 destroyed  
enemy seaplane North of Batavia. Ref. Oprep 5, crew ? of one  
missing Vildebeeste now safe also one member remaining  
Vildebeeste crew. These A/C in raid in enemy landing East  
Java, 1/3, scored two direct hits on transport vessel causing  
fire also dropped bombs amongst troops and barges, results  
not observed.  
(Britair, 1500/4 to Air Min.)

/Oprep 8 4/3.....



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Java  
Reports  
- Contd.

Oprep 8 4/5.

(1) Army to 0630Z/4. West Java. Enemy in small numbers are advancing towards Batavia. Central Java. Dutch mobile force attacking Kalidjati was heavily divebombed and forced to withdraw and is now reorganising near Tsisomand. East Java. Enemy continues to infiltrate in small parties and is some miles south of Tjepoe. General. Allied attacks have been considerably hampered by ground strafing. Enemy does not appear to be pressing forward fast.

(2) Air to 0030Z/4. Operations greatly hampered by diminishing aircraft strength and serviceability difficulties resulting from bombardment of our aerodromes.

(3) Intelligence. 34 vessels sighted Bantam Bay and 17 other vessels off West Coast. 9 transports, 3 warships, one big battleship, 2 cruisers, one submarine sighted west Puloe Babi 05° 49' S. 106° 18' E. (Britair, 2200/4 to Air Min.)

Abda Report. J.S.M. 98. (i) Following received from C. in C. Abda Area 1800/5 (begins). A new fleet of 51 transports arrived Bantam. Enemy from Bantam has reached Tangerang and Leuwilliang 10 miles West of Buitenzorg. Attack to retake Soebang and Kalidjati during the night 2nd/3rd failed but will be resumed. Enemy from Rembang area advanced after bridging river at Tjepoe in direction of Tjaroebang past Ngawi. Strong infiltration in line with Bodjonegor - Babad, East from there North of river no enemy. S/M K.15 sank Japanese tanker type NARUTO in Bantam Bay. 3000 men naval personnel sailed from Tjilatjap for Colombo. Dutch S/M K.15 near Bantam Bay. K.18, O.19 operating on North coast of Java. K.10 damaged at Sourabaya. K.14 on her way to Colombo for repairs. K.9, K.11, K.12, leaving Sourabaya for operation Java Sea area then on to Colombo. (ends) (J.S.M 1953Q/4 to Chiefs of Staff.)



War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

WOENSDRECHT. N.C.S.O. Iceland 1944A/10/2. (Dutch)  
WOENSDRECHT not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0104R/4 to Admty).  
Your 0104R/4. Dutch WOENSDRECHT arrived Halifax  
23/2.  
?N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2227Z/4 to S.O.(I) Kingston)

SEVERN. Your 1533/1.(N.T. in W.R., but apparently refers  
to CONSUELO U/B report, Ottawa 1533/1) C.O.A.C.  
Halifax advises that submarine was SEVERN.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0115Z/4 to B.A.D.)

RANPANA Intercept 0207 G.M.T. S S S 28.44 N., 59.15 W.  
U/B RANPANA sighted submarine on surface.  
(Camperdown W/T, 0230Z/4 to Admty).

U.A. 3. Ocean Escort U.A.3 U.S. Dr. GLEAVES S.O. <sup>JOHN C.</sup> SPENCER,  
H.X.178 BITTERSWEET, CHILLIWACK, ALGOMA, SHEDIAC  
designated to escort H.X.178. Task designator  
this unit is 4.1.3. Opnav pass to C.T.G.4.7,  
C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa  
C.T.U. 4.18.6, C. in C. W.A.  
(C.T.F., 24 0620/4 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet).

U/B Place S/M within 100 miles of 047° N., 051° W.  
at 0424Z/4th by D/F bearings.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0843Z/4 to British Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty etc).

Venezuela Verbal notification from Venezuela Foreign Minister  
and Allied to H.M. Minister, Caracas, that non-belligerent  
Warships. rights extended to United nations warships in  
Venezuela waters operating under Caribbean Naval  
frontier command. Written confirmation expected.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 0949R/4 to Admty. C. in C.  
A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D., N.O.I.C.  
Trinidad, S.B.N.O. Curacao,)(See also 1102Q/4)

Use of Your 2138QR/3. Bullen Bay and Caracas Bay  
Bullen Bay, should only be used if essential, and then only  
Caracas Bay. under following conditions. (A) Movements to and  
from berth must take place during daylight.  
(B) Ships must not remain at berth during dark.  
(C) Patrols must be adequate during movements to  
and from berth as well as during loading.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1002P/4 to S.B.N.O. Curacao,  
(R) Admty).

/Makatea...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Makatea Your 0037A/23. J.S.M.90.  
Denial (i) Command General U.S. Force in Society Is.  
Schemes. is being instructed to ensure as far as practicable for effective denial schemes phosphate plants on Makatea.  
(ii) War Dept. point out however that such schemes depend primarily on co-operation of Free French. Makatea is about 200 miles from U.S. garrison in Society Is., which is not strong enough to provide isolated detachments.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1033Q/4 to War Cabinet Office)

Venezuela. Following resolution has been taken by U.S. Naval Attache acting on instructions from Commandant, Santa Lucia Military District, in Command Caribbean Coastal Frontier (Adm. Hoover):-

1. To clarify existing instructions, please be advised that only restrictions regarding ships movements in Venezuelan Ports are as follows: (details).
2. All other vessels should move on schedule without asking for or awaiting instructions. There are no immediate plans for placing vessels in this category in convoys or furnishing escorts.

(Caracas, 1055/4 to Admty).

NORSEMAN. Master NORSEMAN requests permission to proceed St. Thomas effect cable repairs in vicinity. Request instructions be repeated R.N.O. St. Lucia Vessel proceeding that Port 2200 G.M.T./4 in view of open anchorage at Barbados.  
(Harbour Master, Barbados, 1100/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Your 1100/4, no objection.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1603P/4 to H.M. Barbados).

Shipping In view of U-boat situation in Caribbean Sea  
Caribbean. it is important that all shipping including vessels on coastal route should be as widely dispersed as practicable. Route issuing officers are to take particular care in this respect and establishment of regular route is to be strictly avoided.

2. On the Venezuelan and Colombian coast where vessels have hitherto proceeded on coastal voyages unrouted, R.Os. should apply to you or to N.C.S.O. at Curacao or Trinidad for route in cases where ships have not already been through routed by an N.C.S.O. At Caripito and Guiria where R.O. reports that they are not able to issue route instructions, ships should if necessary, be sent Trinidad for routeing.
3. Request you issue necessary instructions. No ship is to proceed unrouted.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1102P/4 to S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, (R) Admty., B.A.D. Washington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.B.N.O. Curacao).

/Venezuela...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Venezuela, facilities to warships. Following received from N.A. Caracas (begins) Director Marine informs me Venezuela Warship has been removed from Gulf Paria and all American, British and (?Dutch) Warships may operate in any Venezuelan waters. His Capt's. of Ports have all been instructed that any of these ships may utilize ports and they need not report their movements. 1825/3 (Ends).  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1102Q/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.(R) Admty. B.A.D.)
- DAVILA. Your 1315A/2 and your 1830A/3 (Request Oiler DAVILA load 2,000 tons Special light diesel oil) DAVILA not arrived. ~~X~~  
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1122Q/4 to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I., etc). *X arrived Trinidad. P-92.*
- MORMACRIO. H.X.177. Following received from MORMACRIO (begins) Vessel has been delayed on account of heavy weather. Have altered course (corrupt group). Cargo has shifted. Advice, lost sight of Convoy, position is (corrupt group) 0300/4 (ends).  
Presume you will advise ship.  
(D.T.D., 1150Z/4 to Opnav).
- Curacao, Aruba. Shipping. My 1532P/23. Add "Ports are to be approached from varying directions". Request Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa issue similar instructions for ships sailing from Ports outside this area.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1152P/4 to A.I.G. 128, (?126)).
- EVERASMA. Latvian ship EVERASMA sailed Norfolk 18/2 Rio de Janeiro via St. Thomas not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1159R/4 to Admty etc).
- DANIEL GETSON. Pan. Ship DANIEL GETSON sailed Norfolk 16/2 for Barbados not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1201R/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., Admty. B.A.D. Washington)
- MILLINOCKET. U.S. ship MILLINOCKET due San Juan 27/2 from Baltimore not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1203R/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa etc).
- Non-arrival. Your 1148A/9/2 (N.T. in W.D.) Ship not arrived St. Thomas.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1236R/4 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).
- NORDVANGEN. Norg. NORDVANGEN sailed Paramaribo 18/2 for New Orleans via Trinidad has not called Trinidad.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1244R/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) C. in C. A.W.I., Admty).



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Explosions off St. John's. At 1730Z/3, 3 unexplained underwater explosions took place on shore line within few hundred yards of St. John's N.F. harbour entrance, 2 to northward and one to southwards within a few minutes of each other. Observers report heavy detonations and columns of water. Most probable explanation attempt by U-boats to fire torpedoes into harbour. From position of explosions torpedoes seem to have been fired from a S.E. direction probably (?determined by) maximum range. One A/S vessel proceeded to sea immediately followed within 30 minutes by 2 more, but extensive 5 hours search yielded no results. (F.O.N.F., 1259Z/4 to N.S.H.Q. Admty, etc).

Rescue Ships. Your 1554Z/3 (N.T. in W.D.) It is preferred that rescue ships should not be entirely excluded from H.X. Convoy. Decision should be made on the basis of economical speed after consultation with Master. (D.T.D., 1304A/4 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

→ DIALA. Your 1549Z/3 and C. in C. A.W.I.1622Q/3. Request you will sail FOUNDATION FRANKLIN to take over DIALA. Tug FRISKY is also being sent from Iceland (C) and will be based temporarily in St. Johns. ROODE ZEE should continue present employment. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1306A/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). Request you will sail FRISKY as soon as ready to assist FOUNDATION FRANKLIN in towing DIALA to St. Johns. Last reported position of DIALA 50.48 N., 40.50 W., at 1800Z/1. FRISKY is to remain at St. Johns temporarily on completion. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1514A/4 to A.C.I.C.)

Shipping. My 1522Z/27/2 amend expected sailings as follows. WILLIAM F. HUMPHREY 4/3, CITIES SERVICE BOSTON, 4/3, YANKEE ARROW 5/3, DIXIE ARROW 12/3, NIOBE 12/3. ( C. S.A. Bermuda, 1500Z/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) C. in C. A.W.I.)

→ DIALA. A.M.1514A/4 DIALA latest position 50.26 N., 38.55 W., 1450Z/3. (F.O.N.F., 1738Z/4 to A.C.I.C.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Your 2204/7/1. Anticipated CARNARVON CASTLE will be ready to sail from Norfolk (Virginia) for U.K. on 24/3. Request destination. Ship's water pipes are unprotected and she should not proceed via Halifax during cold weather. (B.A.R.M., 1332Q/4 to Admty).



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

EMPRESS OF CANADA, escort. Your 1346/3 to Opnav. (i) Following signal has been made by C. in C. Atlantic Fleet to Comtask Force 24 and Comtask Group 24.4. "Provide escort for EMPRESS OF CANADA about 6/3 from Norfolk (Virginia) to Boston, employing DALLAS and UPSHUR when released by C.E.S.F. Provide escort to Halifax with destroyer from Task Force 24 when normally proceeding North". C. in C. Atlantic Fleet knows that ship must arrive at Halifax by 9/3. (B.A.D., 1333Q/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) Admty etc).

DESPATCH, DEVONSHIRE. Your 1941Q/26. DESPATCH will leave Freetown to join Task Force 3 when DEVONSHIRE reaches 3 days steaming from Freetown. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1335A/4 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Nassau. Following for British J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 103. Enemy submarine activity Caribbean makes Nassau open to danger of attack by raiding parties. Very considerable issues are involved. Arrange divert one Company 4 Bn. Camerons earliest to Nassau if this Unit did not sail N.A.4. We will take up with Canadian Govt. the question of relieving this company in addition to Bermuda detachment. Keep Governor Bahamas informed direct of arrangements, repeating London. (1st S.L., 1452A/4 to B.A.D.) J.S.M.96. Orders received from London to divert one company of 4th Bn. Cameron H. now at Fort Slocum Long Island, New York, to Nassau, where it is to remain pending arrangements for its possible relief by Canadian troops. (ii) This company will be moved as expeditiously as possible and you will be informed of its probable date of arrival. (J.S.M. Washington, 1933Q/4 to Govr. Bahamas)

A.M.Cs. needed My 1032A/3. Separate signal mentioned is my for depot ships. 2028A/3 (N.T. in W.D.) not repeated to B.A.R.M. and the two A.M.Cs. include AUSONIA. (S. of C. (61) 1516A/4 to B.A.D.)

U/B D/F place U-boat within 60 miles 012° 30' N., 070° W., at 0826Z. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1521Z/4 to Admty. etc).

O.N.70 O.N.70 Serial 2 N.U. and N.P. pass through (R) then (T) omitting (S) Admty. diversion. (Opnav, 1523Z/4 to C.T. Unit No. 24.1.17)



War Diary.4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Straits  
Shipping  
Survivors.Request names of survivors from ships belonging Straits Steamship Co. reported landed at Perth may be signalled also names of ships lost and any other relevant information.  
(D.T.D., 1528A/4 to A.C.N.B.)Boston,  
mining.Establishment of minefield approaches Boston Harbour indefinitely postponed due to lack of suitable pass (As received - alternative "Patrol Boats") Advance warning will be given when actual laying of minefield is imminent. Reference U.S. C.N.O. 1950/3, 1531/5, (?1622)/7, 2231/7, not to all addressees.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 1530Z/4 to C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F., C.P.S.F., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty, S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, C. in C. A.W.I.)A/S Hunt,  
Caribbean.Capt. of D.S. VAN KINSBERGEN who is in virtual command of escorts and patrol vessels in this area although acting under orders of U.S. Admiral considers (corrupt group) advent of submarines to these islands should be met with offensive hunt of perhaps 48 hours utilizing all available craft. This would necessitate closing ports to shipping departures and keeping arrivals to an absolute minimum. Request views of practicability of diverting shipping for limited time on receipt from Curacao of signal signifying submarine hunt had commenced.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1543QR/4 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Kingston)

CANDYTUFT.

CANDYTUFT was transferred to the U.S. Navy a.m. today 4/3.  
(B.A.R.M., 1604Q/4 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)North  
Australia,  
Command.J.S.M. Number 91. Your W.101. Before we put this to combined Chiefs of Staff would like confirmation that Prime Minister and all governments concerned including Dutch agree that North Australia reverts to Australian Command.  
(J.S.M., Washington, 1621Q/4 to Chiefs of Staff.)S.S.  
QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.Expected QUEEN ELIZABETH will undock on high tide approx. 0740 P.S.T. 10/3. Proposed thereafter to sail her for safety reasons to English Bay, Vancouver, under escort to take on approx. 1,000 tons fuel whence she will proceed P.M. same day to San Francisco arriving Golden Gate high tide 0732 P.S.T. 12/3 berthing on slack water two hours later. Commandant 13 Naval District has been asked to provide if possible destroyer and air escort for sea passage.  
(C.O.P.C., 1650Z/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

/Marine...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Marine  
Casualties.

Lloyds agent Havana reports following aground  
Cuba. Braz. LYDIA M., XBRETON CAYN. U.S.  
MILLINOCKET, NORTH COAST, U.S. CALORIA, XROMANO  
CAY. *x Not identified.*  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1652R/4 to Admty etc).

Martinique  
Jamming W/T.

Master NORSEMAN reports as follows. Wireless  
Stations in Martinique and Guadeloupe appear to  
be deliberately jamming distress traffic.

Instances repeatedly occur of F.P.Q. and F.P.I.  
calling each other for long periods when distress traffic is on  
the air. V's and T's are frequently sent by W/T without call  
signs but the note is recognized.  
(Harbour Master, Barbados, 1700/4 to Admty).

PRINCE HENRY.

Departure PRINCE HENRY for patrol off coast of  
French Guiana.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1702Q/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

N.A.5.

Your 2215Z/2 and 1610Z/3 neither to Cinclant.  
Concur that arrangements should be made to advance  
sailing of N.A.5 from Halifax to 13/3 if Cinclant  
concurs that escort can be provided on this date. Cinclant  
is requested to confirm that escort for two ships will be  
available.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1706A/4 to N.S.H.Q., Cinclant).

EMPIRE CELT.

My 1801Z/27/2, not to Admiralty.  
1. Have abandoned efforts to tow EMPIRE CELT  
now adrift in 46.45 N., 51.28 W. Will probably  
float indefinitely. 2. Can any assistance be sent from Canada  
or elsewhere? Still consider this hulk very well worth salvaging,  
but at present she is a danger to navigation.  
3. No ship available here to stand by her and repeated efforts  
to tow with vessels at my disposal even in good conditions have  
proved useless.  
(F.O.N.F., 1746Z/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) C.T.4., Admty.  
C.O.A.C. Halifax).

AVENGER.

Your 1206Q/2. When ready for sea and after  
embarking 816 Sqn. request you will sail AVENGER  
for the Clyde in a suitable convoy.  
2. On arrival in the Clyde ship will carry out trials and work  
up in the Clyde area.  
3. Subject to the concurrence of C. in C. W.A., AVENGER will  
be administered by F.O.I.C. Greenock.  
4. Request you will report ship's maximum continuous speed when  
this is known.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1803A/4 to B.A.R.M.)

/BAL TIC...



War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

BALTIC. (Pan) BALTIC sailed Norfolk 13/2 for Aruba. Not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1804Z/4 to Admty. U.S. C.N.O. etc).

ARCHER, Admty. 1711A/13/2 to B.A.D. only. Transfer of  
ILLUSTRIOUS. Martlets from ARCHER to ILLUSTRIOUS can best be achieved by sailing ARCHER direct to Freetown with Martlets and Swordfish embarked.

2. Allowing for completion date of 15/3 and five days work up, it is estimated ARCHER should reach Freetown about 3/4, where ILLUSTRIOUS would meet her.

3. Only alternative is to send ILLUSTRIOUS to Charleston or other U.S. port to embark Martlets. This will delay ILLUSTRIOUS' onward move by 10 days and in view of U-boat situation is not recommended.

4. Six fixed-wing Martlets for ARCHER will be shipped in ILLUSTRIOUS and transferred to her at Freetown.

5. To facilitate provision of escort, it might be convenient for ARCHER and ALBATROSS to R/V and proceed to Freetown in company. As ARCHER will have 4 T.S.R. aircraft on board, there will be no necessity for ALBATROSS to call at Trinidad for the Walrus aircraft and crew. These could reinforce local air strength. 6. Request your remarks.

(D.O.D. (F), 1826A/4 to B.A.D.)

Abda Area, J.S.M. 94. Your W.99.

Limits. 1. Question of boundary between Pacific and Indian Ocean areas was discussed at Combined Chiefs of Staff meeting yesterday. King objects strongly to your proposed boundary close inshore to Malaya barrier on the following grounds:-

(a) Too little sea room south of barrier and unduly cramping

(b) With boundary as proposed in our J.S.M.85 para. 2.

(d) U.S. Submarines proceeding to watch Malay barrier could move up from bases on West Coast of Australia and thence into their own area without the need of making special arrangements each time with British forces. It would be the exception for British surface forces to cross this boundary and any such movements would be covered by interchange of information as in your para (vi).

(c) Air R/C over area in question would have to come from Australia any how.

2. King went so far as to suggest withdrawing his previous offer of watching exits for submarines and leave task to British. In these circumstances we did not press (?plan) preferred by you in W.99 para. (?2)

3. Dividing line finally agreed was - from Singapore South to North Coast of Sumatra thence round the East Coast of Sumatra (leaving Sunda Strait to Eastwards of the line) to a point on the coast of Sumatra longitude 104° E., thence South to latitude (?005°) S., thence to Onslow in Australia, thence South along coast of Australia to longitude 117° thence due south.

4. You will note that on South of Australia U.S. have extended their responsibilities further west.

5. Consideration of other boundaries of Anzac and Abda areas was deferred. U.S. recognise whole Pacific area becomes U.S. zone but they have internal difficulties of their own over unity of command to settle first. We will report any developments. (J.S.M., 1835Q/4 to Chiefs of Staff.)

/BURNHAM...



War Diary.4.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- BURNHAM. Your 1750R/3/2. BURNHAM will arrive Charleston at noon zone 5 time 10/3. Route from St. John's N.F., (C.C.N.F., 1849Z/4 to BA.R.M.)
- TORUNGEN. TORUNGEN (Norwegian) sailed Yarmouth N.S. 21/2 for Charleston S.C. has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1852Z/4 to Admty, Opanav, etc).
- SÉLIS, Norwegian Naval Authorities require sealers  
QUEST. SÉLIS and QUEST in U.K.  
2. Request you will arrange for them to be sailed as early as practicable in convoy to Clyde.  
3. C.O.A.C. Halifax inform Commander Hostvedt. (D.O.D. (H) 1917A/4 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).
- U.S. Task Forces. Following modifications of Task Force designation came into force on 2/3. Pacific Fleet employs Task Force numbers 1 to 19, Atlantic Fleet 21 to 39, South Pacific Force 41 to 59, Anzac Force 61 to 79, and for special assignment by Cominch 81 to 99. Hence Task Force 4 of Atlantic Fleet now becomes Task Force 24., Task Force 14 of Atlantic Fleet now becomes 34 etc.  
2. Request this information may be promulgated. (B.A.D., 1917Q/4 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- INDOMITABLE. J.S.M.97. Personal from F.M.Dill. Ref. message from Governor-General N.E.I., Adm. Ranneft has just been to see me to ask what our plans are regarding INDOMITABLE. Could you please say? (J.S.M. Washington, 1925Q/4 to Chiefs of Staff) Reply: 1238/5.
- Abda Report. J.S.M.98. Report from C. in C. Abda Area. 1800/3 (J.S.M., 1953Q/4) See China.
- Arrivals. Arrivals - ST. ZENO, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN DAWN from St. John's Newfoundland. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 2021Z/4 to Admty. etc).
- ILEX, \* ILEX was due to leave Pernambuco 2/3 for Trinidad  
PRINCE HENRY. PRINCE HENRY is patrolling off French Guiana. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2113P/4 to ILEX, PRINCE HENRY).  
\* Sailed Sun 3/3 - p. 78
- GYP SUM PRINCE. GYP SUM PRINCE reported sunk entrance Delaware River a.m. 4/3. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2128Z/4 to Admty etc). My 2128/4 GYP SUM PRINCE and VOCO in collision 1000/4. VOCO returned Philadelphia. Six of crew lost in GYP SUM PRINCE. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2246Z/4 to Admty. etc).



War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

M. MORAN. Information received from U.S. sources that U.S. Tug M. MORAN was torpedoed in 23° 38' N., 84° 07' W., at 0815Q/4.  
(B.A.D., 2145Q/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

U/B D/F indicates U-boat within 50 miles 40° N., 51° W., at 1610Z and 1912Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2218Z/4 to British Warships in Area 7A., Admty etc).

Convoy Instructions. Your 1644A/2 is entirely agreed with and R.C.N. will accept all general and operational instructions in W.A.C.I's.  
(2) C.O.A.C. Halifax and C.C.N.F. will issue necessary local sections and make amendments thereto for their command.  
(3) Suggest consideration be given to W.A.G.Os. and W.A.S.Os. being dealt with in similar manner.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2223Z/4 to C. in C. W.A., Admty. (R)  
C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., A.C.I.C., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.C.N.F.)

A.I.G.128 Your 1532P/23, request details of addressees comprising A.I.G.128 and A.I.G.126.  
A.I.G.126. (D.T.D., 2248A/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Australia & New Zealand.

WARSPITE. My 1336Z/26/2. Owing to presence of 2 submarines off Fremantle, WARSPITE has been ordered to return to (?Sydney (N.S.W.)) when she will fuel 7/3 from Tanker BRITISH CHEMIST and sail direct for Colombo.  
(A.C.N.B., 0214Z/4 to Admty).  
My 0754/3 for Spencer Gulf read Saint Vincent Gulf.  
(A.C.N.B., 0712Z/4 to WARSPITE)  
W.D. Note Neither place mentioned in 0754Z/3 as received.

Proposed Mining, ATREUS, ALSEY. Your 2107A/17. Ref. para. 1 concur. (details)  
Your 2028A/19/2 also refers and has been answered separately.  
(A.C.N.B., 0504Z/4 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.)

/Cocos...



War Diary.4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.Cocos  
Island  
Raid.

My 1432Z/3rd not to Admty. Eastern extension reported at 1755Z/3 COTTESLOE in communication by hand with Cocos Is. at 1715Z/3. Island reports office hit by shell but thought to be operating by today. Staff safe.  
(A.C.N.B., 0948Z/4 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., Admty).

Serial No.42. From C.W.R. 3/3.

(i) Port Moresby was attacked by 11 heavy bombers and 3 fighters between 0420Z/3 and 0440Z/3 aerodrome bombed runway damaged but still serviceable, small petrol dump destroyed.  
(ii) Ref. series No. 41. Wyndham was machine gunned and cannoned by 8 "Zero" fighters 0030Z - 0042Z/3. 1 petrol dump 1 A/C destroyed on ground.  
(iii) Broome bombed by "Zero" type A/C (probably 5) at 0045Z/3. 17 A/C including civil A/C destroyed or damaged on ground and in harbour casualties 4 civilians killed 8 missing believed drowned 20 wounded 1 enemy A/C believed shot down.  
(iv) Merchant ship TONGARIRO shelled by S/M at 0224Z/3 in position 033° 48' S., 113° 30' E. TONGARIRO believed safe: indication of attempt made to jamb TONGARIRO's distress message.  
(v) KAMOI moved further south to position S.E. of Rabaul 2/3. Also indications that unknown naval unit connected with air moved Gasmata area to position S.E. of Rabaul 2/3.  
(A.C.N.B., 1136Z/4 to Admty etc).

Convoy.

Departure Brisbane 2330Z/3 for Melbourne, WESTRALIA escorting U.S.A. (?ships) TASKER H. BLISS and HUGH L. SCOTT.  
(A.C.N.B., 1800Z/4 to Admty etc).

Movements.

Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 2237Z/3 Netherlands Cruiser TROMP, arrivals Port Phillip 0607Z/4 BUNGAREE, 0612Z/4 ATHENE arrival Noumea 0134Z/3 U.S. Aircraft Tender TANGIER.  
(N.O. Melbourne, 1812Z/4 to Admty etc).

Fiji Base.  
New Zealand  
Base

Your 1930/1. Part 1. In spite of disadvantages mentioned Comanzac considers use of Nandi in addition to Suva desirable for the following reasons subject to satisfactory solution of A/S defence problem.

1. Large aircraft carriers are unable to negotiate sharp turn into Suva Harbour. 2. Owing to proximity of Nandi aerodrome, which alone is suitable for fighter aircraft, air defences at Nandi anchorage are stronger. 3. Distance of this aerodrome from Suva and Lauthala would impose limitations on operation and overhaul of carrier borne aircraft.

Part 2. Auckland is preferred to Wellington for following reasons. 1. Better strategical position 2. All existing naval facilities except floating dock are at Auckland. 3. Better aerodrome and flying boat facilities. 4. A/S defences and minefields now being installed will provide ample secure anchorage for deep draught ships.



War Diary.

4.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Fiji Base.  
New Zealand  
Base. Contd.

5. Proximity of exercise area in protected waters.  
(A.C.N.B., 2318Z/4 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.Z.N.B., N.O.C.F.)

Enemy  
Intelligence.

Following from S.W. Area Combined H.Q. Fremantle (Begins) Enemy aircraft carrier reported by U.S. R/C aircraft 015° 06' S., 106° 47' E., at 2153Z/3. Aircraft reported being launched one destroyer escort. One S/M possibly U.S. reported 029° 43' S., 112° 57' E., from U.S. destroyer. 0425Z/4 (Ends).  
(A.C.N.B., 2350Z/4 to C. in C. E.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1422A/4, 1424A/4).



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5.3.1942  
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. with VICTORIOUS, BERWICK and 6 Destroyers and V.A.2 in RENOWN with DUKE OF YORK, KENYA and 4 Destroyers are still at sea, and A.C.N.S. H. has informed Coastal Command today that the first present requirement for Coastal Command Long-Range Fighters is to provide them with the maximum possible protection. *also p 143*

SHEFFIELD, mined or torpedoed last night at 2120, reached Seidisfiord safely at 1115A today under her own power, accompanied by FAULKNOR and ESKIMO who are to remain there for the present to afford A/S protection to SHEFFIELD. *p 147*

No successful air R/C of Trondheim has been possible today, but the Air Patrol of Trondheim Approaches last night was 50% effective and the day patrol today was 100% effective. Both these patrols are to be continued until dusk on the 7th.

A case of suspected sabotage was discovered today in NELSON at Rosyth.

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C operating a shipping search dropped 3 bombs into Milford Haven between 1930 and 2100 last night, and the British ALACRITY, 554 tons, was attacked and damaged by near misses at 0045 today about 7 miles N. by W. of the Bishop Rock.

The British BEECHFIELD was unsuccessfully attacked with 2 bombs at 2005A yesterday off the South Bishop; and the M/S trawler CEDAR was attacked and slightly damaged by A/C gunfire at 1524 today off the Needles.



War Diary.

5.3.1942  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

At 0602A today the Destroyer WHITSHED was damaged by an acoustic mine when 3 miles south of 54 G Buoy, but was brought at 1206A into Yarmouth Roads by the tug KROOMAN escorted by two Trawlers.

2 Ground Mines were detonated by Sweepers today in the Thames Estuary, and 4 Red Mines with one Acoustic Mine were swept today in Q.Z.X. 632 off Dover.

North Atlantic.

GERMANIA.

The German tanker GERMANIA left Teneriffe at 0300 today. BELLWORT, COMMANDANT DETROYAT and COMMANDANT DRAGON have been spread to maximum visibility along her route to try and intercept.

LEESEE

The German LEESEE left Bordeaux late yesterday.

South Atlantic.

S.S. BEN MOHR was torpedoed at 2110 in 06.05 N. 14.15 W. 2 submarines are reported to have been seen on the surface.

At 1020/5 RUMBA attacked a good contact in 6.37 N., 12.31 W.



War Diary.5.3.1942  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

- Malta. Damage to R.A.F. buildings and aircraft was caused in raids on Luqa today, but none at the submarine base. 1 JU.88 was damaged by CLEOPATRA. Last night there was continuous "intruder" from dusk to dawn, with 21 raiders, Luqa being the chief target.
- Submarines. A successful attack on supply ships entering Suda Bay by THRASHER,<sup>6/2</sup> with details of subsequent A/S hunt, are reported today by Capt. S.1.
- Libya. 2 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli hitting the Spanish Quay and straddling ships.

Last night 14 Wellingtons made sorties to Benghazi, 4 for mining and 10 for bombing. Owing to bad weather, one only reached its objective, and 2 mines were laid.

East Indies.

- C. in C. Ceylon. Vice-Adm. Layton has been appointed C. in C. Ceylon. All naval, military, air and civil authorities in the area, including the Governor and civil administration, will be subject to his direction.
- Eastern Fleet Command. Pending the arrival of Adm. Sir James Somerville, Admty. at 1747A/5 directed C. in C. East Indies to take over the duties of C. in C. Eastern Fleet in addition to those of C. in C. E.I. Meantime, C. in C. E.F. had (at 1409Z/5) asked that he should retain command of the Fleet until he could transfer it to Adm. Somerville. The former Admty. signal was thereupon cancelled.
- Adm. Helfrich. Adm. Helfrich has arrived at Colombo and intends to set up an organisation from which he will operate his forces in co-operation with C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

/Convoys ...



War Diary.

5.3.1942  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - contd.

Convoys.

Convoy M.S.5 arrived at Colombo today.  
Convoys M.R.5 and S.R.7 both arrived at Rangoon.

Rangoon.

HINDUSTAN, on patrol off Rangoon River, encountered several enemy craft of which she captured one with a Japanese officer and 55 of the "Free Burman Army".

America and West Indies.

M.T.Bs.

U.S. Navy Dept. has declined with thanks an offer of 12 Canadian built M.T.Bs at present at Greenwich, as they are not of the same type as those now serving in or building for the U.S. Navy.

Australia.

PECOS  
sunk.

The U.S. Navy fuel ship PECOS was today reported to have been sunk by dive bombers on 1/3 near Christmas Island.



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.KRASSIN,  
MONTCALM.

Your 1212A/3. Russians request every effort may be made to expedite arrival of ice breakers KRASSIN and MONTCALM in these waters. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1059A/5 to Admty).

9th M.T.B.  
Flotilla.

A.M. 1258A/17/12/41. The 9th M.T.B. Flotilla is to form and work up at Portland not Dartmouth. (D.D.O.D.C., 1133A/5 to R.A.C.F.)

Allocation  
of "Hunt"  
class  
destroyers.  
ANTELOPE.

Four "Hunt" class destroyers as follows are to be transferred to the command of C. in C. H.F. as soon as possible. (A) WHEATLAND. (B) LAMERTON or BADSWORTH as detailed by C. in C. W.A. (C) LEDBURY on completion of working up practices. (D) EXMOOR on relief by ANTELOPE. 2. ANTELOPE is to be transferred to the command of S.O. Force H. (V.C.N.S. 1902A/5).

Movements.ROMNEY,  
CROMARTY,  
WHITEHAVEN.

My 1236A/1. Amend E.T.A. to p.m. March 9th. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0224A/5 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)  
Your 1745/5. Estimated P.C.S. 044° 24' N., 022° 28' W., 197°, 12 knots. At 0730/6 G.M.T. course 208°  
(CROMARTY, 2345Z/5 to ROMNEY).

SUMBA.

Arrived SUMBA.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1051A/5). *See next page ?*  
*p. 148*

BURAK REIS.

Intend to sail BURAK REIS escorted by CUTTY SARK 1515A/8. E.T.A. Clyde 0830A/9.  
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1101A/5).

VASNA.

Your 1750A/3. Ship cannot make Freetown without refuelling. Suggest this be done Azores. Cannot make Durban direct either from Freetown. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 1154A/5 to Admty).

H. 34

At 0800/13 intend to sail H. 34 escorted by BREDA from Rothesay to arrive 180° Lizard Head, 5 miles at 2000/15. Thence BREDA returns to arrive Clyde 0800/17 and H. 34 proceeds independently diving by day to arrive R/V vicinity Portsmouth at about 0800/17. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange rendezvous and escort thence to Portsmouth. Also onward passage to Sheerness. (Capt. S.7., 1204A/5)

/SILJA...



War Diary.

5.3.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

- SILJA. Your 0830/5. SUMBA has arrived Stornoway. Proceed when weather moderates to Stornoway, sailing thence in company as ordered by N.O.I.C. Stornoway.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1229A/5 to SILJA). *See previous page 1 p. 148*  
Arrivals SILJA.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1516A/5).
- GUDRUN MAERSK. Intend sailing GUDRUN MAERSK escorted by ST. ALBANS for Penarth at 1430A/6 speed 14 knots.  
ST. ALBANS. E.T.A. Barry Roads 1100A/7. ST. ALBANS to Liverpool on completion.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1729A/5).
- DUNBAR. My 1444A/4/3. Postponed.  
(N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1846A/5).
- EDINBURGH. Scapa arrival EDINBURGH.  
(A.C.O.S., 1907A/5).
- SLUNA, PLADDA, SHAPINSAY and HILDSAY are to be sailed in company for Simonstown calling fuel at Horta and Freetown proceeding through following positions. After fuelling at Horta ships are to proceed in company direct to Freetown unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. S.A. Not more than 3 ships are to enter Portuguese territorial waters at the same time.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2115A/5 to Capt. D. Londonderry).
- SLUNA, PLADDA, SHAPINSAY, HILDSAY. *(6<sup>th</sup> Trawler Group) See 16/2. p. 526.*
- SUFFOLK. Scapa departures SUFFOLK, GROVE, and INGLEFIELD.  
E.T.A. 1830/6. *(Fyfe - See 6/3 p. 180.)*  
(A.C.O.S., 2257A/5) (R.A.D., 2303A/5).

Operations.

- J.Y. Operation J.Y. was carried out on nights 2/3, 3/4, and 4/5 March. First two nights negative results. Last night alert established communication distant end. Operation not completed. Intend to resume tonight.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1137A/5 and 1537A/5)
- Western Patrol. If you have not already done so to comply with S.O.W.P's 1110A/26/2 you should leave patrol during daylight today in order to avoid U-boats believed to be approaching patrol areas from the south west.  
(D.O.D. (F.), 1324A/5 to CAVINA, MARON, MARSDALE, HILARY).

/Norway...



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Norway S/M Patrol JUNON. In event of repairs of JUNON being effected by 0700A/6, request you sail her for patrol escorted as far as Bressay thence unescorted on surface at C.O's discretion through position (A) 090 . Out skerries 10 miles (B) 090 Muckle Flugga 10 miles (C) 061° 45' N., 001° W., thence diving by day through position (D) 063° 08' N., 004° 30' E. (E) 064° 40' N., 008° 40' E., thence after dark 9th to Patrol in zone W. (Capt. S.9., 1605A/5 to A.C.O.S.)

Denmark Strait Patrol. LONDON patrol "White". (A.C.I.C., 1704A/5)

British Air Activity.

Escort for H.G.79 Enemy aircraft may be active in your vicinity. Expect 2 coastal Blenheims as escort about 1230. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1158A/5 to Escorts H.G.79)

Patrols off Trondheim. My 1751/4. Night Patrol known as "Prowl" and day patrol as "Prowler". (C. in C. Rosyth, 1219/5 to V.A.2) Patrol "Prowl" 50% effective last night. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1221/5 to C. in C. H.F. V.A.2).  
No successful R/C Trondheim today. (D.D.I.C., 1752A/5).  
Patrol "Prowler" 100% effective. Patrols will be continued until last light 7th. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2151/5).

Protection of Home Fleet. C. in C. Nore is anxious to have the assistance of Long Range Fighters for Minesweeping Operations to the Eastward of the Thames Estuary. Operation will take a total of about twenty four hours. 2. The first requirement for Coastal Command Long Range Fighters is to provide maximum possible protection for Home Fleet at sea.  
3. Request you will, if possible, meet C. in C. Nore's requirement at a time when Home Fleet is in harbour.  
4. You will be informed of Home Fleet's intended movements as soon as possible.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2243A/5 to A.O.C. in C.C.C)



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Milford Haven attacked. ALACRITY (British 554 tons) damaged. A number of enemy A/C operated in a shipping search between Tuskar Rock and St. Govans between 1930 and 2100/4. Three bombs were dropped at random in Haven from 16000 ft. One A/C bombed coaster ALACRITY when seven miles N. by W. of Bishop Rock at 0045/5. Near straddle misses. No casualties, severe underwater damage. Ship now anchored in Dale Roads. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1213A/5).

Convoy attacked. Help "Chain". (?SAWFLY, 1515/5 to Admty).

BEECHFIELD attacked on 4/3. Steamship BEECHFIELD reports being attacked by single A/C at 2005A/4 3 miles west of South Bishop whilst sailing independently from Dublin to Newport. Two bombs dropped. Ship undamaged. Chief engineer slightly wounded by machine gun bullets. (N.O.I.C. Newport, 1602A/5).

CEDAR (M/S Trawler) damaged. CEDAR bombed and machine gunned in 218° Needles 14' at 1524/5. Enemy plane came out of cloud to mast head height. Dropped two bombs, firing cannon and machine guns, crossing ship from starboard quarter to Port bow.

Plane was only visible for a few seconds, and no one heard or saw plane before ship came under fire. CEDAR did not open fire. Casualties 4 wounded (2 serious 2 slight). Starboard life-boat bridge voice pipe, and funnel exhaust pipe damaged by bullet holes. No other damage apparently. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2007A/5).

Mining.

WHITSHED mined. Have been damaged by under water explosion. Request tug. Position 180° 54G. Buoy 3 miles. (WHITSHED, 0602A/5). Tug KROOMAN leaving Yarmouth now and proceeding via number 5 buoy. Fighter protection arranged. (C. in C. Nore, 0643Q/5 to WHITSHED) WHITSHED's 0602. Am closing WHITSHED. My position 54 A Buoy. (SOUTHDOWN, 0645A/5) My 0602A. Accoustic mine exploded very close astern. Warhead magazine flooded, starboard engine out of action. Possibility of steam port engine. M coil D.G. satisfactory and S.A. working. (WHITSHED, 0647A/5 to C. in C. Nore). Departure Tug KROOMAN and Trawlers CAPE MELVILLE and SOLON to assist WHITSHED. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0700A/5). Am proceeding Yarmouth at slow speed. (WHITSHED, 0711A/5) Proceeding to close WHITSHED. (MEYNELL, 0728A/5). Arrival Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER from assisting WHITSHED. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1056A/5). Arrival in Roads. WHITSHED in tow of Tug KROOMAN and escorted by trawlers CAPE MELVILLE, SOLON. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1206A/5)

/PLOVER...



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

- PLOVER. Your 1917A/4. Destination is Harwich unless otherwise desired by C. in C. Nore.  
(D.D.O.D. M., 1117A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- FRUMENTON (Sunk on 4/3). Ref. C.A.F.O. 1968/40. Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1225A/5).
- Operation "Tincture". Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m./8th March in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9/41.  
(D.M.S., 1245A/5 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
- S.N.18 A. Intend to carry out as follows. Details.  
(R.A.M., 1311/5) See Lion Copy.
- MANXMAN. My 1311/5. Intend MANXMAN to remain at Rosyth for 24 hours. Request you will sail her to arrive at Port Z.A. at 0730/9.  
(R.A.M., 1414/5 to C. in C. Rosyth).
- Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by sweepers, at 0433/5. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1500/5)  
One ground mine detonated by sweepers at 0430/5. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1512/5)
- Mines in White Sea Approaches. Your 1615A/23. (A) Moored. (B) 2 and 3 Russian minesweepers Oropesa one mile either side line joining 067° 48' 48" N., 041° 10' E., and 067° 24' N., 041° 19' 35" E.  
Sweepers sweeping in quarter line formation.  
(C) Further mines exploded 23/2 in wake of Russian destroyer KUIBISEV, in 067° 25' N., 041° 19' 24" E.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1533A/28).
- Operation Q.S. (Sweep of 32 Q.Z.F.) Your 1102A/2. Approved subject to following modifications. All six ships are to sweep being stationed so that search covers 2 miles each side of centre line both on outward and return journeys. Sweepers are not to fly balloons.  
If mines are found operation is to be cancelled and vessels are to return. Short title of operation Q.S.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1706A/5 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).  
Operation Q.S. postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2300A/5).
- Dover Area. Q.Z.X. 632. 4 Red Mines and 1 Acoustic Mine swept today. Details.  
(V.A. Dover, 1849A/5)



# MOST SECRET

4-5-42

MESSAGE

1311/5 March IN

From R.A. (M)

Date 5/3/42  
Recd. 1845

NAVAL CYBER D BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Rosyth. Repeated A.C.O.S.,  
C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C. Home Fleet,  
F.O.S., H.M.S. MANXMAN, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., Group 18,  
Air Ministry.

IMPORTANT

- Intend carrying out operation S N 18 A as follows
- (a) Surface minefield
- (d) H.M.S. MANXMAN
- (e) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange appropriate fighter protection
- (f) From 056 degs. 37' North 001 degs. 33' West  
056 degs. 33' 001 degs. 33'
- (g) 1000 March 6th.
- (j) Direct to Pentland Firth thence by searched channel to number 26 buoy and direct to start of laying
- (k) 18 knots
- (l) 0300 March 7th
- (n) Direct to 22A buoy thence by searched channel
- (o) Rosyth 0815 March 7th at Gate.
- (w) 4 miles 15 knots
- (x) Mark 17/17 one star set to 10 feet below chart datum
- (y) 158 standard line
- (z) In accordance with A.F.O.'S' 2/41 Table 2.  
H.M.S. MANXMAN will be off May Island at about 0530 March 7th.

1311/5

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

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- Naval Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(H)
- D.D.O.D.(H)
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- Hd. of M.
- D.N.I.(4)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.M.S.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.S.D.(2)
- D.C.(2)
- N.I.D.10
- C.C.L.S.



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Straits of  
Dover.Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait  
from 0900/4 to 0900/5. Nil.  
(V.A. Dover, 0912A/5)A. B. 2 report dated 27th February states PRINZ  
EUGEN appears to be heavily damaged with stern  
under water. She is expected to go to Germany  
for repairs very shortly.Comment: This report confirms photographic  
interpretation of damage to PRINZ EUGEN.  
(D.D.I.C., 1223A/5 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2)U-Boats.

Iceland.

Report received from Icelandic fishermen of  
sighting S/M several miles off Keta 066° 03' N.,  
020° 01' W., at 1500/4. Thought proceeding west.  
Graded B.2.  
(A.C.I.C., 1934A/5 to C.S.1)Navigational.North Russia.  
Ice.Ice and weather report number 15. Gulf of  
Archangel, White Sea, and Gorlo. Very severe  
ice conditions. Ice edge now extends to Svyatoi  
Nos. Temperature minus 3 ° Fahrenheit. Improve-  
ment forecasted.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1048A/5).River Tay  
Buoys.Approaches to River Tay. No 3 Black Can Buoy has  
broken adrift, No. 2 Red Conical Buoy is known to  
be considerable distance South and West of Charted  
position. All other buoys may be out of position  
and cannot be relied upon.  
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1228/5) (Hydrog, 1754A/5)Rudh  
Uishenish  
Light.Rudh Uishenish light number 1125 reported  
extinguished.  
(N. Lighthouse, Edinburgh, 1535/5) (Hydrog, 1720A  
/5)Otterard  
Buoy.Light on Otterard Buoy near Campbeltown reported  
extinguished.  
(N.L.B., Edinburgh, 1540/5).Scarweather  
Light Vessel.Scarweather Light Vessel has been relaid in 51°  
27' 2" N., 3° 56' 42" W.  
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1700A/5)



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

SHEFFIELD (Damaged 4/3). SHEFFIELD's 2120/4. Sail available tugs and 3 destroyers to assist SHEFFIELD. (V.C.N.S. 0013A/5 to A.C.O.S., Commodore D) My 2335A/4. Your 2321A/4. Sailing of tug deferred (corrupt group) is received of (?your) requirements for tug or salvage assistance. (A.C.I.C., 0059A/5 to C.S.18) Sail tugs ZWARTE ZEE and JAUNTY to proceed with all despatch towards 65° 49' N., 12° 28' W., to assist SHEFFIELD or as ordered by A.C.O.S. (D.O.D. (H.), 0145A/5 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0013A/5. Ship in no danger and under control. E.T.A. Seidisfiord 0600N/5. FAULKNOR and ESKIMO in company. (C.S.18., 0208A/5 to Admty) Tug JAUNTY from Stornoway and Tug ZWARTE ZEE escorted by SALADIN from Londonderry are to be sailed with all despatch to assist SHEFFIELD, or as ordered by A.C.O.S. (C. in C. W.A., 0323A/5 to N.O.I.C. Greenock) My 0208A/5. Position at 0730A 065° 31' N., 013° 27' W., Course 175° speed 4 knots. (C.S. 18, 0731A/5). Cancel my 0323A/5. (C. in C. W.A., 0732A/5) Cancel former instructions. Return to Base. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0735A/5 to JAUNTY). Cancel my 0013A/5. (D.O.D. (H.), 0738A/5 to Commodore D. H.F.) Cancel my 0145A/5. (D.O.D. (H.), 0740A/5 to C. in C. W.A.) SHEFFIELD arrived Seidisfiord 1115A. (A.C.I.C., 1244A/5-). Intend retaining FAULKNOR and ESKIMO at Seidisfiord to provide A/S protection until relieved by A/S trawlers or other suitable craft. (C.S.18., 1804A/5 to C. in C. H.F., (R) V.A.2) My 2255A/4th. At 2119Z SHEFFIELD was proceeding at 20 knots course 62° in 065° 49' N., 012° 28' W. Moderate sea, heavy swell. Course was altered at this time to 107° and speed reduced to 12 knots, with intention of increasing again as much as sea would allow. As ship was steadying an explosion occurred on port quarter. Following is present estimate of damaged sustained. Details. Salvage officer with tug is being sent from Reykjavik but consider advice of specialist in repair work from U.K. is necessary to determine work required to make ship seaworthy for passage. (C.S.18., 1855A/5 to Admty).

YEWKYLE. Salvage Officer Yarmouth reports YEWKYLE on 4/3 partly flooded by Salvors to minimise pounding. Easterly Gale and heavy sea night of 4th drove vessel up beach to N.W. with port bilge now resting on groyne. Bottom now set up more and leakage increased. About 0200/5 vessel was temporarily abandoned and men are now living in hut on beach near wreck. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0925A/5).

MARTHA. Sailed tug SCHELDE to assist S.S. MARTHA broken down in vicinity Helwick L/V. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1133A/5).  
/Arrived...



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.MARTHA  
Contd.Arrived ex P.W.120. MARTHA with engine trouble,  
in tow of tug SCHELDE.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2248/5).

→ SUMBA.

SUMBA sheltering Stornoway. Parted company with  
SILJA during thick weather unable to contact  
SILJA owing to W/T not functioning. Mess decks  
leaking and badly flooded. Sweep box smashed, salt water leak-  
ing into boiler fresh water feed tank. Also deck leak into  
engine room. Request instruction.  
(SUMBA, 1230/5 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).  
SUMBA 1230/5. Nothing can be done at Stornoway until weather  
moderates.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1444A/5). *See p. 141 & 142*

FIDELIA.

Following from Chief Salvage Officer. Eastern  
Area:- FIDELIA after part lifted this morning  
and beached in inner harbour. Boiler has fallen  
out and this and bow portion will be lifted separately. With  
reasonable weather it is estimated that operations will be  
completed in about 10 days.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1245A/5).CHILTERN  
(Grounded  
3/3)  
SULLA  
damaged.My 1504A/3. CHILTERN now at Reykjavik and will  
be slipped to investigate and repair underwater  
damage. SULLA also sustained (?minor) damage  
in gale.  
(A.C.I.C., 1514A/5).

→ SILJA.

Report sweep boxes, sweeping platform smashed,  
midship mess deck and engine room casing leaking.  
(SILJA, 1801/5) *See p. 142*NELSON  
(Suspected  
sabotage.)A case of suspected sabotage in NELSON has been  
found today. Two in number small electric lead  
cased cables situated close together have been  
found to be severed as though by a knife cut.  
Several other electric leads close to and  
surrounding these severed leads are untouched. In addition to  
this an electric cable in another part of the ship which was in  
the process of being clipped up has been found to have two in  
number half crown twists put in it. Believed this cable  
received its damage within the last two or three days. The other  
cables may have been damaged during the last three weeks.  
Damage can be easily rectified and the suspected attempt was  
very clumsy in that the damage was certain to be discovered as  
work on the cables was still in progress.  
(A.S. Rosyth, 1930/5).



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.11. P.Q.11 discharged except 5500 tons.  
 (2) Present half of cargo being discharged direct into wagon maximum daily total discharge P.Q.11 4000 tons.  
 (3) Total cargo now lying Port Area 1100940 tons, but this will clear before arrival P.Q.12 which has been removed.  
 (4) Railway wagons arrived here more free.  
 (Cormack, 0957A/5 to Admty).

Q.P.8. Your 2323A/25 and S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1711A/1 Presume escort Q.P.8 Seydisfiord to Loch Ewe is to consist of OXLIP, SWEETBRIAR and STELLA CAPELLIA ANGLE and NOTTS COUNTY ordered Greenock on leaving P.Q.12 coaling at Seydisfiord if necessary.  
 (A.C.I.C., 1301A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.Q. Convoy Signals. In concurrence with A.O.C. have arranged to discontinue Met and weather signals by A/C escorting P.Q. convoys owing to scarcity of normal W/T traffic in this area and consequent liability of enemy to draw conclusions therefrom.  
 (A.C.I.C., 1326A/5).

Loss of L.L. Gear in P.Q. Convoys. Russians report they have not received greater part of necessary stores required for six sets L.L. sweep gear said to have been ordered by them in London. Request details of despatch.  
 2. Lack of supervision when unloading may again be responsible vide para three my 1332C/1.  
 (Ad. Miles, 1509C/5 to Admty).  
 My 1509C/5. This was the first I had heard of this order. Request details of this and all other requests made by Kharlamov since list forwarded in response to my 1546D/21/11 and your 2052A/22/11.  
 (Ad. Miles, 1729C/5 to Admty).

P.Q.13. Proposed to sail P.Q.13 from Loch Ewe 10th March for Murmansk via Iceland.  
 (D.T.D., 1756A/5) (Passed to V.A.2, R.A.D. H.F., A.C.O.S. and C. in C. Rosyth, 6/3).



War Diary.

5.3.1942.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- GERMANIA. German tanker GERMANIA left Teneriffe 0300/5.  
(Teneriffe, 0745/5 to Adnty.)  
Teneriffe reports German Tanker GERMANIA sailed 0300/5. Description.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1245A/5 to Ships & Authorities N.A.S.)  
German tanker GERMANIA left Teneriffe 0300/5.  
(D.D.I.C., 1249A/5 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)  
Spread to maximum visibility distance along your route and endeavour to intercept German tanker GERMANIA. My 1246A refers.  
(N.T. in W.D.)  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1317A/5 to BELLWORT, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, COMMANDANT DROGOU).
- EMPIRE FOAM. Imperative that EMPIRE FOAM (C) be discharged in time to enable her to spend five days at Huelva necessitated by loading at two berths and thereafter catch H.G.80. Request you report progress.  
(D. of S.T. 1031A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- UNIQUE. Onward route from 038° 10' 009° 00' through  
A. 039° 00' 005° 00' at 2300A/9.  
B. 038° 22' 001° 42' E. at 0800A/11.  
C. 036° 33' 002° 10' W. at 0800A/13.  
D. 036° 20' 004° 42' at 1000A/14 to arrive Gibraltar at 1500A/14. Report if unable to comply within 2 hours.  
Dive by day except on 14/3.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1140A/5 to UNIQUE (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- LEESEE (German). LEESEE left Bordeaux late 4/3.  
(H.M.Consul Bilbao, 1157/5 to Adnty., (R) M.E.W.)
- ELSA ESSBERGER (German). Another motor vessel named BANKA arrived Ferrol and alongside ELSA ESSBERGER will load as soon as motor vessel REGEJA is loaded. This vessel probably finished 5/3, now painted black.  
(Guyatt Corunna, 1320/5 to Adnty., (R) Gibraltar B.N.A. Madrid).
- CAMPION, MALLOW. Arrivals CAMPION, MALLOW.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1608A/5 to C. in C. S.A.)
- French Shipping. Passing Gib. 5/3.  
(D.O.R., 7/3).

/Instructions ...



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - contd.

Instructions Reported B 2 following instructions issued to to French M/V's French merchant vessels in the event of meeting meeting S/M's. a submarine:-

1. In French Territorial waters.
  - (a) When West of 5° E. - on a course from Cape Cerbere France to Bougie, endeavour to ascertain nationality of submarine. If British or if it attacks, report immediately.
  - (b) If East of 5° E., do not report even if intercepted and boarded but report if you are attacked.
2. Outside territorial waters.
 

As in paragraph 1 (b) above.  
(Admty., 1714A/5 to F.O.C.N.A., V.A.Malta, C. in C. Med.)

INAKE. From M.E.W. Your 1145/26 February release INAKE.  
(Admty., 1849A/5 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

A/C over Terceira and Funchal. Ministry of Marine reports 4 engined A/C flew over Terceira Azores, course North East, morning 3rd, also at 2300 large aeroplane flew E. to W. over Funchal. Was either British or Allied.  
(B.N.A.Lisbon, 1900/5 to Admty., (R) Gibraltar).

Portuguese garrison for Timor. My 1839/3. Position of GONCALVES ZARCO and JOAO BELO both ships in position 014° 45' S. 105° 47' E. 1200/4.  
(B.N.A.Lisbon, 1909/5 to Admty.)

Movements, Las Palmas. Las Palmas. 4/3 arrival Spanish minelayer MARTE. Departure Spanish training ship GALATEA for Teneriffe. Gibraltar 0915/5. French armed trawler VICTORIA, French ships ANDRE MOYRAND, GRAND QUEVILLY, SAGITTAIRE, SAVOIE, KEROMAN all laden westbound.  
(S.O.I.Gibraltar, 1916/5 to Admty., etc.)

PANDORA.. Cancel my 1340A/4. PANDORA returned to harbour with defects.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2010A/5 to C. in C. Med.)

COREOPSIS, GERANIUM, HOEGH HOOD. Departure COREOPSIS, GERANIUM escorting HOEGH HOOD. Escorts part company 2200/9 and return to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2030A/5 to Admty.)

MALAYA. MALAYA 1406A/5. Request reliefs may be sent in stages provided in A.M. 2216A/3. <sup>N.T.N.W.D.</sup>  
(S.O. Force H., 2235A/5 to Admty., (R) Combrax Portsmouth, MALAYA).



War Diary.

5.3.1942.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Walrus A/C  
in ALBATROSS.

Ref. A.M.1300A/20/2. Intend to embark 5 I E and 3 A R Walrus aircraft from Hastings in ALBATROSS additional to one already on board. Operation of aircraft will be somewhat restricted until an opportunity occurs to land the A R aircraft. (C. in C. S.A., 1018Z/5 to Admty., (R) S.O. Force V, C. in C. E.I., ALBATROSS). *See also p. 170*

U.Boat.

One submarine submerged bearing 270° from Cape Mount distant 70 miles. (RUMBA, 1020/5 to Freetown W/T). RUMBA, A/S trawler, attacked contact 6.37 N., 12.31 W., 70' W. of Monrovia. No further particulars. (D.S.913). *See next page*

QUERCY  
(French).

Report A.2. QUERCY left Tamatave 1200/4 for Fort Dauphin to load military for France. Carrying mail and cargo. Cruising speed 13 knots. I shall probably not receive further reports of sailings for Fort Dauphin. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1030/5 to Admty., etc.)

CITY OF  
EXETER.

Overdue shipping. CITY OF EXETER due Durban 28/2. from Colombo not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1146B/5 to Admty., C. in C. E.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R) N.C.S.O. Durban).

NORSEMAN,  
CAMBRIA.

Owing to misunderstanding which arose when crews of NORSEMAN and CAMBRIA were recently interchanged it is regretted that my 1936Z/2, 1629/25/2 and 3\* earlier signals contained reports of movements of NORSEMAN which should have referred to CAMBRIA. Therefore in 5 signals referred to above for NORSEMAN read CAMBRIA. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1149/5 to Admty.) \*T.O.O's of the 3 signals referred to are 1431/18/2 (Most Secret), 1530/5 and 1049/4. (Corrections made in W.D.)

Fuelling at  
Sea.

A.M.1925A/17/2 and my 1159Z/20/2. Represented by masters of tankers sailing with O S and SL convoys that if fully loaded it is impracticable to fuel escorts at sea except in finest weather due to very low freeboard and unhandiness. 2. Concur, and suggest that a half loaded state is probably the best condition for fuelling at sea under adverse weather conditions. 3. Propose that tankers sailing with SL convoys should load only about 5,000 to 6,000 tons at Freetown. 4. Also considered that diesel engined tankers are not as suitable for this service as those with steam engines. (C. in C. S.A., 1241Z/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

WEST IVIS.

Your 1807A/4. No information since ship left New York on 24/1. Agent of vessel reports that she had cargo for Santos. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1351Z/5 to Admty.)  
/PALADIN ...



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.PALADIN,  
PANTHER.

Arrival St. Helena 1500/3 PALADIN, PANTHER.  
(General St. Helena, 1515Z/5 to Admty.)  
Departure St. Helena ~~1500~~ 1900/5 PANTHER, PALADIN  
on operations.  
(General St. Helena, 1915Z/5 to Admty., etc.)

U.Boat  
activity

1315/3 HELENUS torpedoed. U-Boat possibly  
Italian Glauco Class. At 1500/3 BEACONSFIELD  
Freetown Area. missed by torpedo. Probably from same U-Boat in  
position 6° N. 12° 17' W. At 2130/3 HELENUS  
survivors recovered by BEACONSFIELD. One European  
and three Asiatics missing. At 0600/4 MORRIS DANCE attacked good  
asdic contact in position 6° 15' N., 12° 40' W. At 1700/4  
KIRKPOOL reported sighting U-Boat in position 2° 12' N. 12° 43' W.  
At 1020/5 RUMBA attacked good contact in position 6° 37' N. *See*  
12° 31' W. (C. in C. S.A., 1721Z/5 to Admty.) *previous page*

GERMANIA.

Reported from Teneriffe that German Tanker  
GERMANIA sailed at 0300/5.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1724Z/5 to S.A. Station).

CUBANGO.

My 0852/27/2/42. Portuguese CUBANGO returned to  
Freetown 5/3/42 and sailed same day. Master given  
undertaking to reship excess cargo. Navigated  
to Funchal.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1754Z/5 to Admty.)

A/C over  
St. Helena.

Your 2055/4. Following from General St. Helena in  
response to my request for:  
(A) type of aircraft.  
(B) distance and height at which sighted.  
(C) direction in which proceeding when last observed.  
(D) reliability of observer.  
(Begins) (A) Clipper type 3 in number.  
(B) Just above horizon which was about 30 miles against red  
setting sun.  
(C) Proceeding S.W. direction.  
(D) Observers 2 sergeants at height 700 feet. Flying arrowhead  
formation.  
Single similar type aircraft observed at the same time.  
1/3 but uncorroborated by second observer and was considered  
unlikely time of origin 1315Z/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1805Z/5 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., etc.)

Repairs.

Your 0242/21/2.  
Controller of Ship Repairs reports following ships  
undergoing repairs at Union ports but that  
temporary repairs to enable them to proceed elsewhere are  
impracticable. At Durban HELGA MOLLER, FANEROMINI, NIDAROS,  
MALOJA, WEST DURFEE. Last named possibly ready in May remainder  
uncertain. At Capetown PACIFIC, SERICA, ready April and July  
respectively. At Port Elisabeth CAP PADARAN and CAP TOURAINÉ  
undergoing repairs and conversion to transports concurrently.  
Dates of completion uncertain.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1829Z/5 to D.S.T.)

/"S" ...



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

- "S" Report. Message incompletely received on 500 kc/s.  
SSSS SSSS SSSS De (portion missed) torpedoed  
(portion missed) RO5N - 14RO 9 W.  
(Freetown W/T No T.O.O./5).
- "S" Report, WALLFLOWER advised. SSSS at 2110Z/5. Probable position is about  
003° 05' N., 014° 09' W.  
(C. in C. S.A., 2236Z/5 to WALLFLOWER).  
Your 2148Z/5 nothing heard. Your 2236Z/5 am  
investigating my position 003° 52' N., 013° 52' W.  
(WALLFLOWER, 2335Z/5 to C. in C. S.A.)
- BENMOHR. British BENMOHR, 5920 tons, was torpedoed at  
2210/5 about 210 miles S.S.W. of Freetown. Crew  
saved. Was bound from Bombay to Freetown and  
Oban with general cargo.  
(D.S., 914). *See p. 191.*

Mediterranean.

- Libya. Appreciation, ref. recapture of Benghazi area  
and supply of Malta. Reply to C.O.S. (M.E.) 240.  
(C. in C. M.E., 0040/5 to W.O. for C.O.S.)  
See Lion Copy.
- Palermo Raid. Now known that in addition to the 9000 ton ship  
set on fire, and now apparently sunk, 2 others,  
each of about 6000 tons, were sunk at Palermo  
in the air raid on night of 2-3/3.  
(D.S., 912, 5/3).
- ALBARO,  
PRODROMOS. Following from S.O.(I) Istanbul sent to N.L.O.  
Black Sea T.O.O. 0445B (begins).  
(?Transport) ALBARO 2260 tons and ex Greek Tanker  
PRODROMOS 900 tons, German (?Flag), arrived  
Istanbul from Aegean Thursday for Black Sea.  
Awaiting instructions to (?proceed) Russian N.A.  
(corrupt group) advised, T.O.O. 1243B/4. (Ends).  
(C. in C. Med., 0043B/5 to Admty.)
- Troop Transport. Your 1015/3. Concur but these ships must be used  
for vehicles required in Australia.  
(D. of S.T., 0047A/5 to P.S.T.O. Egypt (R)  
C. in C. M.E., etc.)

/UPHOLDER ...



MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

0040/5th March

From:- C. in C. Middle East.

Date. 5.3.42.

Recd. 0940

**MOST SECRET**

154 A

CY-HER

Addressed:- The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

GJP/68653 cipher 256935 4/3.

MOST SECRET

First of Two Parts.

For Chiefs of Staff from Cs in C. Ref. COS ME  
240 Troopers 73286 (M.O.5) 27/2.

One. Your para. one. We agree.

Two. Your paras. two and three.

The recapture of the Benghazi area is necessary if we are to reduce the risk of supplying Malta to reasonable proportions since it not only extends our fighter cover for convoys but increases deterrent value of our torpedo-bomber aircraft and enables them to assist more efficiently in protection against enemy surface craft.

Three. Limited offensive to recapture Derna Area gives slight assistance to convoy protection and will facilitate resumption of a major offensive to recapture Benghazi but does not meet your requirement quoted to be so placed in Cyrenaica that we can pass substantial convoy to Malta unquote without very serious risk.

Four. Problem of the possible timing of a major offensive to recapture Benghazi is being re-examined as a matter of urgency and the results will be communicated as soon as possible. From the Naval and Air point of view early resumption is possible and desirable. From the land forces point of view a previous examination leads us to think that resumption may not be possible before late June or early July owing to the need for building up the necessary tank superiority. But this estimate depends on many imponderables. For instance an Axis failure to reinforce Tripoli which might make earlier resumption possible. The situation in this respect is closely watched from day to day and we shall not hesitate to launch offensive immediately situation permits. In the meantime there is no doubt that resumption on a major scale with the object of recapturing Benghazi

before/...



before April dark period is likely to lead to failure. C.in C. M.E.F. is therefore not prepared to attempt it unless the situation radically changes in our favour.

Five. A limited offensive to recapture the Derna Area is continually in our minds and will be undertaken should a favourable opportunity occur. It is however impossible to say whether this is likely before the April dark period.

Six. We would point out that the re-occupation of Cyrenaica is not a complete answer to the problem of supply to Malta. Fighter protection during the reception and unloading of convoys is needed and other aircraft must be able to operate against enemy surface forces. On the other hand the scale of attack which enemy can produce from Sicily may make it extremely difficult if not impossible for Malta to play its part however much the defences of the island are strengthened. We are doing all we can. Anything further which you can do to help will be welcome.

#### Last of Two Parts.

Seven. As regards risks in other parts of Mideast Command we would point out that owing to recent and projected withdrawals of land and Air Forces the whole of the land forces in Mideast if transferred to the Northern Front would be insufficient to ensure our security there. Hence operations on the Libyan Front do not materially affect the risk elsewhere.

Eight. Your para. four. Paras four and five above show that we shall probably have to run convoys to Malta both in March and April dark periods under present conditions of risk. A further convoy is preparing now to sail during the dark period this month but the lack of fast ships is a serious handicap. The difference in prospects of success with a 17 knot as opposed to a 14 knot ship is out of all proportion to their differences in speed and if any of the former can still be found they would be invaluable for subsequent convoys. It is unfortunate that most of the high speed ships are usually refrigerator ships whose value makes their use most undesirable. Preparations will be made to run an April convoy.

Nine. The use of cruisers is being re-investigated but it has serious drawbacks the main ones being the following:

A. Owing to absence of 5.25" ammm. in Malta cruisers of that class cannot replenish and they may use 40% on passage to the island alone. If extra amounts are carried the cargo space is reduced.

B. The stores most urgently needed are not of the type which lend themselves suitably to carriage in a warship.

C/...



**MOST SECRET**

C. The amount ~~a cruiser can carry is so small~~ as to make the game hardly worth the candle. It is estimated that one trip by BRECONSHIRE is the equivalent of at least ten by H.M.S. AURORA.

D. The necessity of fuelling at Malta presents a serious problem and in any case precludes using cruisers until fuel stocks have been increased there.

Ten. Whilst fully agreeing to the necessity for building up stocks the main object for the moment must be to keep the island going and we must defer the building up until the requirements mentioned in paras. two and six are operative so that slow convoys are practicable.

Eleven. Your para. 5 noted.

Twelve. Your para. 6 we are acting accordingly.

Thirteen. Above although drafted before receipt of your C.O.S. M.E. 241 still represents our views. Comments on C.O.S. M.E. 241 will follow as soon as possible.

Fourteen. Troopers pass Admiralty Air Ministry.

0040/5

Received from War Office at 0107/6

War Office circulation:

1st Lord	S. of S.
1st S.L.	C.I.G.S.
4th S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	A.C.I.G.S.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.M.O. & P.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.P.D. (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.M.O. (0)
P.A.S. (S)	M.O.I.5.
P.C.B. (F)	D.M.I.
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.D.M.I. (I)
D. of P. (2)	D.A.F.V.
E.P.S.	Q.M.G.
Hd. of M.	D.Q.M.G. (A)
I.P. (2)	D.Mov.
N.I.D. 10	D.S.T.
W.D.	D.G.A.E.
D.N.I. (4)	Col. Jacob.
D.C. (2)	C.N.S. Admiralty
D.D.I.C. (2)	D. of Plans Admiralty
	H.W.R. Admiralty
	C.A.S. Air Ministry
	D. of Plans Air Ministry
	A.M.C.S.
	Col. Rolleston (Colonial Office)



War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

UPHOLDER,  
P.35. 5/3. Arrival UPHOLDER, P.35.  
(V.A.Malta, 1025B/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.,  
Capt. (S) 1.)

→ Movements. 4/3. Port Said arrivals PRIMULA, ROMEO, BEAUFORT,  
BRIGAND, SOUTHERN ISLES A Lighters Nos. 113, 111,  
4, 9.  
Departures 0700B KLO, 1606B ROMEO, 1700B BEAUFORT,  
1700B M/L's 1046, 1069, 1705B BRIGAND, 1735B  
PRIMULA.  
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 1126B/5 to Admty.,  
C. in C. Med.)

Movements. Vesca number 330 departure 5/3 GEORGIC in tow  
RECORDER and ST. SAMPSON Karachi 28.  
(N.C.S.O.Port Sudan, 1218Z/5 to Min. of Shipping).

FRONSAC,  
COETLOGON,  
(French). Departure 4th both for Sete.  
(Barcelona, 1228/5 to M.W.T.)

→ Movements. Arrival 4/3 CUMBRAE, departures 4/3 SNAPDRAGON,  
ST. MONANCE, arrivals 5/3 BRIGAND, BEAUFORT,  
? ASSEGAI. (not identified?)  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1245B/5 to Admty.)

THUNDERBOLT. Proceed through 035° 51' 015° 15' and 036° 00'  
014° 53' to enter Grand Harbour at 0645B/7.  
Enemy fighter aircraft frequently patrol very low  
off entrance just before dawn and our fighters may be on patrol  
after 0645. If forced to dive black ball will be hoisted at  
Palace Tower signal station when raiders passing.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1247B/5 to THUNDERBOLT).

Caucasus. German threat, and support to Turkey.  
Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 106 to J.S.M.  
(Admty., 1251A/5). See Lion Copy.

(?) ALBARO,  
PRODROMOS. A. My 1750B/4 (N.T. in W.D.) Vessels ordered to  
await further instructions and are still lying  
off Istanbul.  
B. Russian N.A. is urging Black Sea Naval Staff  
to order continuous submarine patrol off Bosphorous entrance as  
chances of interception and successful attack are good.  
C. Have informed Russian N.A. there are no Turkish minefields  
off Bosphorous but submarine should keep  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles radius of  
Roumeli Light which is working to avoid "sound detectors"  
(actually to keep it outside Indicator Loop ?Area).  
D. Surface visibility fair for past few days but slight haze  
makes conditions for enemy aerial R/C unfavourable.  
T.O.O.1225B/5. (S.O.I) Istanbul, 1256/5, 1310/5 to S.O.I.Med.,  
D.N.I.)

/LORD ...



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

OUT

MOST SECRET

1251A/5th March

Addressed B.A.D. Washington. 825. Date 5/3/42

Naval Cypher (O.T.T.)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.(W)106 to Joint Staff Mission.

Reference J.S.M.82.

We agree that Caucasian oilfields are likely objective of German offensive this year and assuming continued Russian resistance see no reason to alter conclusions given in MEDAL 65. We shall not be able to find any forces for direct support of Russians on line of Caucasus mountains. Owing to move of formations to India and Burma land forces in Syria, Iraq and Persia will be considerably below what we planned.

2. Should Germans attack Turkey we intended sending an air force of up to 26 Squadrons with 14 Divisions for their protection and this would assist Turks against German attack on Caucasus through Anatolia.

3. Our ability to send the above air force has always been conditional on situation elsewhere, and recent withdrawals to Far East coupled with Axis reinforcement of North Africa have greatly reduced chances that full contingent would be available to go to Turkey.

4. Apart from continuing supplies to Russians we intend to help their general resistance to Axis attack and thus improve chances of holding Caucasus by:

- (a) Continuing and intensifying the air offensive from United Kingdom to draw off German air forces and air defences from the Russian front.
- (b) Minor raids on German occupied coastline. Owing to shortage of shipping, landing craft and armoured units trained in combined operations, we cannot undertake any major operation before Autumn, but policy of minor raids will be continued.

**MOST SECRET**



(c) Operations in Western Desert and from Malta to contain enemy air forces and possibly land forces also.

1251A/5.

Asst. Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

- 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.
- P.A.S.(S)
- D.O.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- D.C.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- E.P.S.
- D.N.I.(4)
- Hd. of M.(39) & for C.I.G.S. & W.O.

C.A.S. & Air Ministry,  
& War Cabinet Offices.

- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10.
- D.O.D.(H)
- D.D.O.D.(H)

MG



War Diary.

5.3.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

LORD IRWIN,  
Collision.

Ref. K.R. and A.I. Art. 1167. LORD IRWIN collided with IRENE S. EMBIRICOS in Port Said Harbour on 28/2. Damage. Temporary repairs made and vessel fit for sea service. IRENE S. EMBIRICOS damage. Temporary repairs being carried out. (N.O.I.C.Port Said, 1257B/5 to Admty.)

TASSOS  
(Greek).

TASSOS about 200 tons arrived 3/3 from Piraeus. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1312/5 to S.O.(I) Med.)

U.S.Salvage  
Unit.

Concur in your 2241B/16/1 about U.S.Salvage Unit. (Admty., 1328A/5 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

GOVERNEUR  
GENERAL  
BAFERRIERE.

Following extract from Fairmiss Telegram "GOVERNEUR GENERAL BAFERRIERE left today for Marseilles." (Palma Mallorca, T.H.I., 1400/5 to D. of S.T.)

M.L's for  
Malta.

89 V.A.Malta's 2031/4 agree that 2nd pair should not be sailed before safe arrival of first pair. (C. in C. Med., 1414B/5 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) V.A. Malta, Admty.)

S/M refit  
programme.

(A) Following is anticipated refit programme of submarines. Subject to operational requirements request submarines may be sailed accordingly.  
Submarine Port of arrival in U.K. Refitting Port.  
UPHOLDER Portsmouth 8/6 Chatham.  
TORBAY Portsmouth 20/6 Philadelphia.  
UNBEATEN Holy Loch 10/7 Blyth.

(B) Submarines leave U.K. for Med. as follows.  
Submarine.Date of leaving.U.K. Destination. Final Destination.  
TAKU 14/3 Gibraltar  
For working up patrol. 1st Flotilla.  
Blank Far East.  
Gibraltar  
For short working up patrol. 10th Flotilla.

See p. 161.

O 23 14/3  
P 43 About 7/4

P 43 will have carried out one working up patrol in U.K.

(C) Separate signal concerning OLYMPUS and CLYDE follows. (F.O.S., 1534A/5 to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

ADANA.

Report confirmed by Turkish Naval Authorities that Turkish Steamer ADANA unsuccessfully attacked night 3rd 4th March by unidentified submarine, with torpedo whilst on passage Eregli to Istanbul and outside territorial waters. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1615B/5 to S.O.(I) Med., N.L.O. Black Sea (R) D.N.I.)



War Diary.

5.3.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

Service  
Personnel  
Transport.

My 1655B/3. Following received from C. in C. E. I. addressed P.S.T.O. Egypt repeated S.N.O. Red Sea, begins. Your 1655B/3. Adopt para. 2 limiting (GLUX indecypherable) to number in A.M. 1948/25/2 balance in PASTEUR. No escort can be provided for either. T.O.O. 1017Z/5.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1715B/5 to C. in C. Med.,  
(R) C. in C. M.E., etc.)

M.W.11.

P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1034/4 to D. of S.T.  
It may be possible to arrange for a small troop convoy to call at Gibraltar en route to Middle East via Cape. Would this type of diversion assist you and if so about what date should it arrive?  
(D.O.D.(F) 1736/5 to C. in C. Med.)

AURETTA.

Have you any news of AURETTA due Aden 26/2 from Capetown.  
(D.T.D., 1743A/5 to N.C.S.O. Aden).

Malta Air  
Report.

C.S.R. 5/3. 4th 1410 hours, ME. 109's on rescue search and JU.88's with heavy fighter escort attacked Luqa. Immense craters taxi tracks and dispersal areas, no other damage. Hurricanes up, no combats, A.A. fired. Night 4/5th continuous intruder dusk to dawn, 21 raiders, target mainly Luqa. No damage except craters on aerodrome. Takali, craters aerodrome, elsewhere 4 houses destroyed, 5 damaged, 2 civilians slightly injured. 1 JU.88 shot down in flames on land by Hurricane no survivor A.A. fired. 5th, 5 alerts 0550, 0722, 0900, 0955, 1139 hours. 43 ME.109's carrying bombs and JU.88's, targets aerodromes and submarine base. Takali, damage M.T., 1 civilian slightly injured. Luqa, 1 delivery Wellington burnt out. No Naval damage. Elsewhere 1 civilian dead, 1 wounded, Hurricanes intercepted 2 JU.89's seriously damaged each wing, 1 engine on fire. German rescue service now working overtime. 1 Hurricane missing, search in progress 1 JU.88 damaged by heavy A.A. another damaged by CLEOPATRA. Night 4/5th. Benghazi-Greek coast, 3 Wellingtons O C Shipping Tripoli, 1 returned Wireless trouble. C.S.R. 5/3. 2. 2044 to 2110 hours. Two bombed Spanish Quay and straddled ships scoring probable hits.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1750/5, 1755/5 as amended 1130/6).

MANISSA,  
TRABZON.

Further to my 1244/12/2 and ref. your O S 66/42 17/2 MANISSA and TRABZON are clearly German landing craft F boats.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1836B/5 to S.O.(I) Med.,  
(R) D.N.I.)

RADMANSO.

Swedish relief ship RADMANSO expected time of departure Haifa 6/3 for 036° 08' 029° 39' thence Piraeus speed 8 knots. Name and Swedish Flag are painted on both sides of ship. These will be illuminated at night and navigation lights will be burnt. Ship has black hull with brown upper works and single black funnel with yellow band. Ship is not to be molested. (Capt. (S) 1, 1904B/5 to TURBULENT.)



War Diary.

5.3.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

P.31. My 1944B/2 to P.31, most likely route for Northbound traffic appears direct from  $034^{\circ} 53' 11'' 48'$  to  $36^{\circ} 47' 11'' 54'$  being made during daylight. Shift patrols O.R.P. SOKOL to  $35^{\circ} 32' 11'' 51'$  -  $355^{\circ} - 70 - 20$ . P.31 to  $35^{\circ} 00' 11'' 10'$  -  $00^{\circ} - 30 - 70$  and concentrate as circumstances permit on route given until reconnaissance indicates otherwise. Important southbound traffic may be expected on route in signal quoted.  
(S.10, 1943B/5 to SOKOL, P.31 (R) C. in C. Med., S.1.)

Flame Your 1014B/28, details of pump operated flame  
Throwing Sets. throwing sets suitable for harbour entrances with range up to 120 yards are being prepared and will be despatched by Air Mail in the near future.  
(D. of L.D., 1952A/5 to C. in C. Med.)

THRASHER, details of operation. 16/2. THRASHER successfully attacked supply ship escorted by 3 A/S vessels of trawler type one of which camouflaged and resembling British P O 74, 1 M/L fairmile type, 1 M A S B and 1 and possibly 2 aircraft. Conditions flat calm and bright sun.. During approach A/S transmission closely resembling British first heard at 4,000 yards with regular transmission interval of 4,000 yards and frequency about 12 kc/s. Probably sighted on firing by aircraft and subsequently hunted by 3 A/S vessels of trawler type. Hunt appeared to be deliberate with fixed transmission intervals throughout which was not reduced during run in and intensity of impulses varied very little. THRASHER unable to determine when attack was developing. Attack carried out with fair accuracy. Counter A/S measures adopted. On firing went to (?170) feet altered course  $080^{\circ}$  burst speed for 2 minutes. After first depth charge went to 300 feet. At information of each depth charge attack altered course boldly with short burst speed. Eventually withdrew on steady course and steady (?slow) speed with A/S vessel astern. (Capt. S.1, 1959B/5 to Subs. on Patrol). Further details. (S.1, 1347B/6). Lion Copy only, + C.C.Med 1454/6.

T.L.C's. Your 1243/17/2. Re oiling system defects.  
(Admty., 2002A/5 to C. in C. Med., etc.)



From Page 575 - 18.3.42.

After Ceylon - add: "which for this purpose  
includes the Maldiv<sup>e</sup> Islands"  
(1st S.L., 1042A/18 to C. in C. Ceylon,(R)  
C. in C. E.I.).



War Diary.5.3.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Troop Transport. Your 1015/3. STRATHNAVER, CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS and EMPIRE WOODLARK are very urgently required in U.K. and return should not be delayed by diversion to Colombo or by necessity for awaiting escort if more than numbers permitted in A.M.1948/25/2 are embarked. 2. Would prefer STAFFORDSHIRE to be used after disembarkation of D.M.3 Burma portion. 3. Request details of personnel in question as between services, evacuees etc. (D. of S.T. 0048A/5 to S.T.O. Colombo (R) P.S.T.O. India.)

STRATHMORE  
BRITANNIC.

After disembarkation at Bombay STRATHMORE and BRITANNIC should return as quickly as possible to U.K. via South Africa. 2. Vessels should not load cargo in India. Further signal will be sent when they are approaching South Africa whether they are to load in South Africa. (D. of S.T. 0053A/5 to P.S.T.O. India (R) to C. in C. E.I. etc.)

Appointment of Vice-Adml. Layton as C. in C. Ceylon.

Personal to Vice-Admiral Layton, Repeated C. in C. East Indies and C. in C. India. Following from Chiefs of Staff. You are appointed C. in C. Ceylon. All naval, military, air and civil authorities in the area, including the Govr. and the Civil Administration, will be subject to your directions.

- (addition see Admtg 1042/18/3) *how attached*
2. Your immediate task is to ensure that all measures necessary for the defence of Ceylon are taken forthwith and that the military and civil measures are properly co-ordinated. The Govr. has emergency powers under the Constitution, and the power of issuing Defence Regulations, which he can use to the extent you may require for any such measures.
  3. You will convene and preside over any council or conference from time to time which you consider necessary for the effective co-operation of all services in Ceylon.
  4. You will report as soon as possible whether, in order to carry out the tasks specified in paras. 2 and 3 above, it is necessary for you to assume supreme command of all the fighting services allotted to the defence of Ceylon, and what staff and other arrangements this would entail.
  5. On all military matters your immediate superior will be the C. in C. India. As to civil matters, the Govr. of Ceylon will remain at his post and will exercise the civil functions of Governor subject to your over-riding authority and direction.
  6. You will communicate with higher authority as follows :-
    - (a) On military matters you will address C. in C. India, and repeat to Admtg. for communication to Chiefs of Staff.
    - (b) On civil matters you will address S. of S. for Colonies and will ensure that the Governor is consulted and informed to the necessary extent. You will consult with the Governor as to the desirability of his continuing to communicate direct with S. of S. for the Colonies on civil affairs not touching upon defence issues.
  7. In the exercise of your authority in civil affairs you will have regard to the importance and value of the maintenance of the services of the civil government as long as they can operate effectively in the prevailing conditions. (1st S.L. 0159A/5 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I.) See also 1747/5 re C. in C. E.F.

/For ...



MESSAGE 0215/5th March.

MOST SECRET.**MOST SECRET**I N.

From Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date. 13.3.42.

C Y P H E R.

Addressed Governor (Sir A. Caldecott), Ceylon.

MOST IMMEDIATE.Appointment of C. in C., Ceylon.

No. 238 Secret.

1. In present emergency situation His Majesty's Government have decided that Ceylon must be specially treated as a military area under supreme control of high Service officer with title of "Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon".

2. Vice-Admiral Layton has been selected for this appointment, and following is text of directive issued to him by telegraph today. Begins. (Here follows text of directive see Admiralty 0159A/5 to C. in C., Eastern Fleet) Ends.

3. It is not proposed to amend Governor's instruments, but you should interpret them, so long as new appointment of Commander-in-Chief is maintained, in such manner as not to conflict with his overriding powers and authority in civil no less than in military affairs. In effect your overt relations with Board of Ministers will not be affected except in so far as Commander-in-Chief may give directions for Civil measures and will preside at council or conference convened for furtherance and co-ordination of defence measures.

4. Reference is made in last paragraph of directive to situation in which services of civil government can no longer operate effectively. If and when in opinion of Commander-in-Chief such situation has arisen, he will take such special measures in substitution of civil administration as he may judge to be immediately necessary, and will report immediately to His Majesty's Government. If he decided that military regime was necessary it is contemplated that he would himself assume all functions of Governor and special military courts of law would be substituted for civil courts. You yourself would in that situation necessarily cease to be Governor, but His Majesty's Government would hope that you would find it possible to continue to place your essential experience at their service by consenting to remain with Commander-in-Chief as Chief Political Adviser.

/5.....



5. You will, I know, understand that these measures and plans are called for only by exceptional character of present emergency in war with Japan and vital importance of holding Ceylon with consequent need to subordinate all other factors to its use for defence purpose. His Majesty's Government count on your co-operation to the full. They are anxious that civil administration should be maintained as long as possible but if there should be need to substitute full military regime as in paragraph 4 your personal influence and knowledge would still be invaluable.

6. I will telegraph further as to contingency of having to substitute military in place of civil courts if that course were judged necessary.

7. You will need to communicate to Board of Ministers information as to the appointment of Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon, and it is desired that this communication should at present be confined to first three paragraphs of this telegram. I should like to know your views as to your own position if military regime should be established (see end of paragraph 4). And also any suggestions you can make now as to provision of necessary assistance to Commander-in-Chief in any situation in which normal civil administration could no longer function.

8. Please give copy of this telegram and your reply to Commander-in-Chief.

0215/5

Recd. in War Reg. at 1200/13

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 Naval Sec.  
 N.A. to 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 E.F.S.  
 Hd. of M. (39)  
 I.P. (2)  
 N.I.D.10. (Paym. Cdr. Wilson)  
 W.D.  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 Admiral Bellairs.



War Diary.5.3.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Appointment of Vice-Adml. Layton as C. in C. Ceylon - contd.

For Chiefs of Staff. Your O159A/5 not to S.O. Force V.

1. I intend to assume duties of C. in C. Ceylon as soon as I can collect necessary staff about which further signal follows.
2. I most strongly recommend I should retain command of Eastern Fleet until I can transfer this to Admiral Somerville. This, I am sure, will be infinitely more satisfactory than a temporary transfer to C. in C. E.I.
3. I hope it may be possible for Adml. Somerville still further to accelerate his journey and possibly proceed by air from Durban to Colombo.
4. In the meantime I am keeping in close touch with Governor who is giving me the fullest co-operation effectively improving defence.

(C. in C. E.F. 1409Z/5 to Admty. (R) S.O. Force V.)  
W.D. Note. Admiralty concurred. See O209A/6.  
For Chiefs of Staff. My 1409Z/5. Following is approximate composition of staff proposed. (list)

2. It is possible that a proportion of this staff may be available from dispersal of Abdacom H.Q. and I hope to obtain political Secretary from Governor's staff.

(C. in C. E.F. 1418A/5 to Admty.)

Adm. Helfrich.

Adm. Helfrich has arrived and intends to set up organisation here from where he will operate his forces in co-operation with me. Please inform Adml. Furstner. Admty. pass to S.O. Force V. (C. in C. E.F. O222Z/5 to Admty.) (Passing action being taken by W.R.)

Allocation of A/A Guns.

Following from Chiefs of Staff, C.O.S.No(India)28 to C. in C. India and C. in C. East Indies. Following procedure with regards to allocation of A/A guns will be adopted (details). (Admty. O230A/5 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F. W.O. O400/5 to C. in C. India.) See Lion and Tiger copies.

DURBAN.

Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius O415Z/5 to Admty.)

DORSETSHIRE  
VERBENA.

DORSETSHIRE at 0100Z and VERBENA at 0300Z/5. (Arrivals)  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee O716Z/5 to Admty.)

DEMIR HISAR

Mombasa arrivals 0745 G.M.T. 5/3. DEMIR HISAR.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini O746Z/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

/ST. ESSYLT ...



MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E  
**MOST SECRET** <sup>OUT</sup>

160A

0230A/5/March.

To:- C.in C. East Indies 991  
Rept C.in C. Eastern Fleet 755

Date 5.3.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (One T.T.)

From Admiralty  
**IMPORTANT**

Following from Chiefs of Staff. C.O.S. No.(India)  
28. to C.in C. India and C.in C. East Indies.

1. Following procedure with regards to allocation of  
Anti-Aircraft guns will be adopted.

2. Bulk allocation will be made to C.in C. India to  
cover requirements of India Home Defense and Training, Burma  
Ceylon Indian Ocean bases.

3. Allocation from totals under two above to Indian  
Ocean Bases to be agreed upon in consultation with  
C.in C. East Indies.

4. Indian Ocean Bases to be built up in following order  
of priority subject to administrative considerations.

Ceylon  
Addu Atoll  
Mauritius and Diego Garcia  
Other Bases.

5. Further wire follows when situation regarding  
recent diversions is clear, setting out details of guns  
and units placed at your disposal.

6. Request that War Office be kept informed of all  
allocations.

(Amey. 0230A/5.

Asst. Secretary to 1st S.L.

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
Secretary  
C.N.S.  
C.N.S. (W)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (PR)

D. of P. (2)  
E.P.S.  
D.C. (2)  
Hd. of M. (38)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
N.A.S. (2)  
Admiral Bellairs  
Ad. Danckwerts

**MOST SECRET**



War Diary.5.3.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

- ST. ESSYLT. ST. ESSYLT sailed p.m. 4/3 for Bombay with 245 Australian Troops and M/T. Ship has been diverted to your Port to discharge equipment of No.18 British General Hospital. Personnel of this unit sailed in MENDOZA. Please give urgent attention to quick discharge and sail her for Fremantle direct if endurance permits. (S.S.T.O. Colombo 1021Z/5 to P.S.T.O. India.)
- SPETSAI. Departure for Colombo.  
(Gr. Destroyer) (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1026Z/5 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.)
- MARGUERITE. Departures at 1000 zone time 5/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1302Z/5 to Admty.)
- GUARDIAN. Ref. Admty. 1641/10/2. In view of altered circumstances intend to retain GUARDIAN on East Indies Station.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1305/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)
- M.S.5 Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 1320Z/5 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B. etc.)
- M.R.5. M.R.5 and S.R.7 both arrived Rangoon without  
S.R.7. incident.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1507Z/5 to Admty.)
- S.U.3. Your 1430/5 (0430Z/5 intended)  
S.U.2. 1. S.U.3 will have already dispersed. They will be instructed to pass through X C, Y C, Z B and Q H respectively (my 1936/2 refers) thence S. to latitude of 027° S. thence S.E. to 033° S. and finally to Adelaide.  
2. S.U.2 will be escorted for the entire passage by HOBART.  
3. S.U.3 has CORNWALL and MANOORA as escort to Fremantle.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1510Z/5 to A.C.N.B. etc.)
- O.24 Your 1513Z/3 (1315Z/3 intended). Dutch sub-  
O.23. ~~See p. 156~~ marines leave U.K. in accordance with para 3 of A.M.1923A/9/2 except that O.23 is delayed about 14 days. Your 1251Z/3/3. Reserve torpedoes suitable for these submarines and for O.19 are in COLOMBIA, 36 in number, and PACHECO, 28 in number. 2. Further signal will be made about torpedoes for other Dutch submarines.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1627A/5 to C. in C. E.F.)



War Diary.

5.3.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

R/C Party My 4060 26/2 (T.O.O.0531/27/2)  
for Bases. Members of Addu Atoll R/C party will not proceed  
on forthcoming R/C of Indian Ocean Bases.  
They will proceed according to their individual  
instruction previously issued. 6 Army Officers and possibly  
2 B.O.R. from India for new party will proceed Ceylon on receipt  
of instructions from you. (?Can) reach Colombo 5 days after your  
Signal received that sailing facilities available. Air Force  
members will be detailed by A.O.C. India. Col. Jones should  
leave range tables and handbooks forwarded with his directive  
with Administrative Commandant Colombo for Col. Kelly,  
Commanding New Party.  
(C. in C. India 1635/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

VAN CLOON. Have you any news of Dutch VAN CLOON due  
Colombo 18/2 from Sourabaya.  
(Admty. 1742A/5 to S.O.(I) Colombo.)

C. in C. E.F. As Adm. Layton has been appointed C. in C.  
temporary Ceylon you are, pending the arrival of Adm.  
Command. Sir James Somerville, to take over the duties of  
C. in C. E.F. in addition to those of C. in C.  
E.I.  
(1st S.L. 1747A/5 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C.  
E.F.) Cancelled, see 0209A/6.

TREVAYLOR Your 0706/19/2 not to N.O.I.C. Cochin. What are  
orders for TREVAYLOR still waiting at Cochin.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1832Z/5 to D. of S.T. (R)  
P.S.T.O. India, N.O.I.C. Cochin.)

China.

Abda No.101. Following received from C. in C. Abda  
reports. area 4 p.m./4/3 (Begins) Constant enemy R/C  
activity in Bantam Area points to coming attack.  
Our renewed reinforced attack Soebang and  
Kalidjati failed completely because of constant air attacks which  
we could not oppose through lack of fighter planes. Troops  
demoralized and withdrawing to north edge Bandoeng Plateau.  
On east Java the enemy after occupying Patih Blora Tjepoe, also  
occupied Tjaroeban and Bodjonegoro. M.V.S. TAWALI and JANSSEN  
with approx. 1500 to 1700 men, naval and dockyard personnel,  
sailed last night from Tjilatjap. Minelayers KRAKATAU and  
GOUDEN LEEUW are ready to close gaps in minefields at Sourabaya.  
S/M K.9, K.11, K.14, K.15, K.18 and O.19 are at sea en route  
Colombo. K.12 at Sourabaya ready to sail. Apart from 2  
squadron R/C planes (Curtis Falcons) and 8 L.12 planes (which

/are ...



War Diary.5.3.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

Abda reports - are not suitable for action) only a few bombers and about 10 fighters available, but many pilots. contd. 27 P.40s are being assembled, the first will be ready within a few days. In West Java there are still 6 aerodromes in our hands. Enemy strength is now estimated as follows.  
 Banisam area: 4 divisions.  
 Indramajoe area: 1 to 2 divisions.  
 East Java: Probably between 2 and 4 divisions. (Ends)  
 (J.S.M. Washington 1311Q/5 to Chiefs of Staff.)

Batavia evacuated. No.102. Following received from C. in C. Abda area 1230 p.m./5/3 (Begins). Situation 4/3. Increased fighting and infiltration of enemy along river Tjisedane. Enemy occupied Poerwakarta, Tjikampek, Krawang, Solo. Dispersed our troops at Krawang with tanks and infiltrated southwards. Bandoeng under increasing aerial bombardments. Our air strength is being used up. Air attack on Tjilitap. Enemy strength at Bodjonegoro increasing. Today (5/3) have abandoned Batavia leaving a screen behind also in order to maintain order and security. Mayor declared Batavia an open town. (Ends).  
 (J.S.M. Washington 1535Q/5 to Chiefs of Staff)



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- U/B's. D/F Bearings at 2244Z/4 indicate submarines within 60 miles 040° 30' N. 050° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0453Z/4 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admiralty, etc.)
- H.X. 178. Serial 3. Ocean escort designated Task Unit 24.1.3, GLEAVES (S.O.)<sup>3000</sup> SPENCER, SHEDIAC, BITTERSWEET, CHILLIWACK, ALGOMA. (U.S.C.N.O., 0505Z/5 to C.T.U. 24.(?18 or 10).6 (R) C.T.G. 24.7, C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Admty.).
- U/B. Following received from S.S. YARMOUTH. SSS Submarine sighted 35° 13' N. 68° 03' W. at 2210 G.M.T. (Naval, Ottawa, 0946/5 to Admty.)
- Venezuela. My 0949R/4. From N.A. Caracas. Director of Marines states Venezuelan Warships withdrawn from Gulf of Paria. All U.S., British, Netherlands Warships may operate in any Venezuelan waters. Captains of all ports instructed that any of above ships may utilise ports. Port Captains need not report their movements. N.O.I.C. Trinidad, Port of Spain, informed. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1054R/5 to Admty., etc.).
- New Caledonia. J.S.M. number 99. (1) Ref. J.S.M. 22 part 2 para. 2 (a). Complete contingent leaves Australia about 7/3 for New Caledonia. (2) Ref. J.S.M. 54 para. 5. Extra infantry regiment for New Caledonia now confirmed but sailing date not yet fixed. (J.S.M. Washington, 1113Q/5 to Chiefs of Staff).
- DAVILA. My 1122Q/4 DAVILA arrived. (N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1141Q/5 to Admty.).
- Algiers  
Intelligence. Meter. Algiers 3/3. B.2.  
1. SAGITTAIRE arrived Oran 28/2 from Marseilles with war material especially supplies for submarines including batteries and battery elements. She is to proceed shortly to Casablanca and Dakar.  
2. JEANNE SCHIAFFINO ostensibly carrying wheat for Casablanca and Dakar departed Oran 26/2 with an armed guard on board and escorted by ENGAGEANTE. She is believed to be carrying war material mostly machine gun ammunition. (B.A.D. 1203Q/5 to Admty.)  
N.I.D. Comment. (1) SAGITTAIRE passed Gibraltar westbound 5/3. (2) JEANNE SCHIAFFINO has not yet been reported passing Gibraltar.

/MIMOSA.....



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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

- MIMOSA. MIMOSA sailed for St. Pierre. F.O.N.F. inform St. Pierre. (S.O.I. Halifax 1216Z/5 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C. in C.W.A., B.A.D.).  
*See also p. 167.*
- U/B St. Lucia. Following received from U.S. Authorities St. Lucia. (Begins) Submarine sighted 015° 00' N. 060° 30' W. at 1122Z/5, possibly bound N.W. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1222Q/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)
- INDOMITABLE Hurricanes. For F.M. Dill from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 104. Your J.S.M. No. 97. Decided at Pacific War Council that in view of the changed Naval situation it would not be practicable to send INDOMITABLE within flying off distance of Java particularly as no suitable escort was available and INDOMITABLE would be unable to provide any fighter protection for herself. Under the circumstances the Dutch did not press. (1st S.L. 1238A/5 to B.A.D.)
- O.N.71. O.N.71. serial 3. Local escort not required, cancel west O.M.P. Ocean escort remains with convoy from (E) through (F) to limit of endurance and there disperse. (Opnav, 1240/5 to C.T.F. No. 24.1.18, C.T.F. No. 24.18.4., (R) Admty., C.T.F. No. 24, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax.)  
Opnav's 1240/5. Local escort 4.18.4 is being sailed independently to Halifax. E.T.A. 1700Z/7. (F.O.N.F. 1559Z/5 to C.T.F. No. 4. (R) C.T.U. No. 4.1.18, Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.U. No. 4.18.4, Admty.)
- Caucasus. German threat, and support to Turkey. Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 106 to J.S.M. (Admty. 1251A/5). See Lion Copy. (P. 155A)
- Northern Australia. C.O.S. (W) 107. Ref. J.S.M. No. 91. Pacific War Council agreed to the proposal that Northern Australia should revert to Australian Command. (1st Sea Lord 1252A/5 to B.A.D.)
- Abda Reports. J.S.M. 101 (1311Q/5) and 102(1535Q/5) See China.
- WAKEFIELD. Sail WAKEFIELD when ready via Great Circle course to F. 006° 50' S. 033° 00' W.  
G. 006° 25' S. 034° 04' W. H. 004° 37' S. 034° 45' W. J. 001° 25' S. 040° 45' W. K. 000° 00' 041° 00' W.  
L. 005° 00' N. 044° 00' W.  
Thence 100 miles eastward of Bermuda to New York. Inform Opnav (i) Time of sailing. (ii) S. of A. (iii) Est. time of passing point (F).  
(Opnav, 1315/5 to Alusna Capetown (R) C.C.S.F, C.E.S.F. etc.)



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

EMPIRE CELT. F.O.N.F.'s 1746Z/4. Request you will make every endeavour to salve this valuable ship using EMPIRE FRANKLIN if necessary. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1345/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). Admty. 1345A/5. You should divert FOUNDATION FRANKLIN to tow after half of EMPIRE CELT if you consider it advisable having in view necessity for PRUDENT now with DIALA returning to port. My 0515Z/5 not to all addressees refers.

2. C.O.A.C. Halifax to report E.T.A. St. Johns FOUNDATION FRANKLIN.
3. A.C.I.C. requested to report when FRISKY will reach DIALA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1735Z/5 to C.C.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C. Admty., C.T.F. 4, A.C.I.C.)

Curaçao, Aruba. Pass to N.C.S.Os. A.M. 1555A/24/2 add "Ports are to be approached from varying directions." (D.T.D. 1347A/5 to F.O.I.C.'s Liverpool etc.)

Gulf of Paria. Further to my 2041Q/28 and N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0921Q/3.

1. Navy Dept. are now considering closing the Serpent's Mouth to shipping, using mines or any other possible methods and U.S. authorities are negotiating with Venezuela.
2. Navy Dept. now propose to keep the Bocas de Navot open as ship channel for the northern entrance.
3. Request I may be furnished with Admty. and C. in C. A.W.I.'s remarks on this project as soon as practicable. (B.A.D. 1401Q/5 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I., (R) N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

PARTHIAN. PARTHIAN leaves New London P.M. 6/3 routed as in your 1202/25/2. E.T.A. position (C) 0400Z/14. (B.A.D. 1403Q/5 to C. in C.A.W.I. (R) N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, F.O. (S), F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

U/B. G.M.T. 1130/5/3 position 041° 24' N. 048° 09' W. visibility approxy. 1/2 mile, sighted S/M on the surface, diving headed N.E. Diverted at utmost speed. (JAMAICA 1412/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

<sup>5.5.</sup>  
QUEEN ELIZABETH. N.O.I.C. Esquimalt's 1650Z/4, being passed for information. U.S. Ch. of N.O. requested to confirm that suitable escort arrangements are being made. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1412Z/5 to B.A.D. Admty., U.S.C.N.O. (R) N.O.I.C. Esquimalt.)

Proposed A/S Hunt, Caribbean. S.B.N.O. Curacao's 1543/4. Experience has shown that the offensive hunt is ineffective unless considerable aircraft assistance is available and hunting vessels are fast. If ships are in convoy or escorted, U-boats attacking them disclose their presence and expose themselves to counter attack. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1425A/5 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

/EVERASMA.....



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

EVERASMA. Latvian ship EVERASMA torpedoed and sunk 0900 G.M.T. 28/2, 017° N. 048° W. 1 boat with 15 survivors landed Vieuxfort today. B.A.D. pass to Opnav. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 1515Q/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

FURIOUS, shipment of aircraft. Your 1056/3 and M.A.P. 1766. Concur that FURIOUS should bring over 30. Shipments requested for Freetown should now be sent to U.K. Shipments to Bermuda, Capetown and Ceylon as in M.A.P. 1766. Request FURIOUS may also bring largest possible quantity of O.S.2U-3 spares. (D.N.A.D. 1519A/5 to B.A.R.M.)

*See also next page*

Dispositions. At 2000 G.M.T./5.  
S.C. 72 Task Unit 4.18.5 and 4.1.13 050° 15' N. 046° 50' W. 060° 7.

H.X. 178 Task Unit 4.18.6 045° 50' N. 054° 15' W. 056° 9.  
Task Unit 4.1.3 joining at 1600Z/6.

O.N. 69 Task Unit 4.18.1 044° 30' N. 062° 50' W. 270° 8.8.

O.N. 68 Task Unit 4.18.3 044° 20' N. 054° 00' W. 248° 7.

C.T. 11, OTTAWA, VANQUISHER, WITCH, 044° 55' N. 050° 30' W. (? 255°) 11.

F.N.F.L. MIMOSA sailed Halifax 1215Z/5 to St. Pierre. *in p. 165*

BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER sailed Halifax 1230Z/5 to New York.

FORT TOWNSEND, ST. CATHAN sailed Halifax 1600Z/5 to New York. ✓

WELLARD vicinity of Cape Sable en route Cape Cod.

U.S.S. CAMPBELL vicinity of Cape Sable en route Boston.

SENATE DUHAMEL en route New York from Cape Sable.

BEDFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY 044° 25' N. 058° 00' W. 239° 11, altering in 059° 20' W. to 244°.

VANOC E.T.A. Halifax 1030Z/6 from St. Johns N.F.

GODERICH due Halifax 6th from S.E.

MONKSHOOD, VERVAIN due St. Johns N.F. p.m./5 from E.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1620Z/5 to N.A.E.F. C. in C.W.A.)

TRIANA suspected.

Spanish vessel probably TRIANA left Cadiz 22/2 believed bound for U.S.A. Painted grey, about 600 tons, 2 masts, crew of 18 Portuguese 12 Spaniards and 15 passengers of whom 7 are suspected German agents with Spanish passports. Cargo alleged cotton but bales may contain armaments and/or wireless sets. Object of trip may sabotage. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1719P/5 to C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.N.A., Opnav, DIOMEDE, AUSONIA, PRINCE HENRY, (R) Admty., B.A.D. Washington, S.O.(I) Kingston, Jam).

O.N. 70.

O.N. 70 escort unit 24.6.3. reports that Iceland section less NORLOGO straggler joined. Request in future such reports be addressed to you for action.

(Opnav, 1720/5 to C. in C.W.A.)

\*NORLAGO intended

/U.B.....



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U/B.

Following for <sup>not identified</sup> GEORGE BANKER, War Warning. S/M reported 0900 G.M.T. 018° 30' N. 063° 50' W. From naval radio San Juan relayed by C. in C. U.S. Fleet. (Opnav 1722/5 to S.O.I. Freetown (R) Admty.) (Naval Radio, San Juan 1722/5 to G.B.M.S. Area 9.)

U/B.

D/F Bearings at 1358Z/5 and 1520Z/5 indicate S/M within 100 miles of 45° N. 42° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1737Z/5 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

AVENGER.  
FURIOUS.

Your 1111/3. Request personnel stores etc. may be sent accordingly for AVENGER at Norfolk (Virginia). Date when aircraft should reach Norfolk (Virginia) will be signalled.

2. Request reply to my similar request regarding 836 Sqn. FURIOUS. Cannot deficiencies be made up from another squadron as suggest in my 1748/3? Aircraft personnel stores etc. for FURIOUS required as soon as possible after 22/3.

3. Understood 12 officers and 56 ratings of 836 Sqn. now at Halifax leave for Jamaica on 9/3. (B.A.R.M. 1738Q/5 to R.N.A.S., Jamaica (R) Admty. etc.) *See previous page*

Washops 71.

Philippine Is. Yesterday attack on enemy shipping in Subic Bay was carried out by 4 old P.40 aircraft, all of which returned safely. The 3 large vessels which were sunk have now been reported as transports fully loaded with troops. (J.S.M. Washington 1759Q/5 to Admty., etc.)

COLLAMER  
sunk.

S.S. COLLAMER believed torpedoed and sunk in 044° 19' N. 063° 09' W. at 0940Z/5. 31 survivors in S.S. EMPIRE WOODCOCK now entering Halifax. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1808Z/5 to Admty., Opnav, C.T.F. 4, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F.) G.B. 7A.)  
My 1808Z/5 confirmed. S.S. COLLAMER was sunk by 2 torpedoes. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2121Z/5 to Admty., Opnav, C.T.F.4, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F.)

Central  
America,  
Protection.

H.M. Minister, Guatemala, telegraphs. (1) Very seriously concerned for safety Central American Republics. (2) Puerto Barrios, holding entire reserve aviation fuel and diesel oil, is undefended. (3) Similar conditions other Caribbean ports. (4) Local heads of U.S. Missions complacent. (5) U.S. Military Authorities neglectful. Copy of Minister's telegram 47, 3/3 to F.O. and Washington being passed safe hand to C. in C.A.W.I. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1822R/5 to C. in C.A.W.I., Admiralty.)

/M.T.B's...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

M.T.B.'s. For 1st S.L. from Adm. Little.  
My 1807/14 and your 1602/17 Navy Dept. inform me "After due consideration of British offer to deliver to U.S. 12 Canadian built M.T.B's at present at Greenwich decided that these craft are not required. Craft are not of the size nor do they possess characteristics similar to M.T.B's now in service or building for U.S. Navy. While Dept. appreciate generosity of offer it is not felt the acquisition of these craft is necessary or indicated at this time."  
(2) I have confirmed that this decision was given on Adm. King's authority and that he does not consider these M.T.B's would materially contribute to A/S action in American waters, as by the time they are equipped U.S. will have vessels of their own coming into service. (B.A.D. 1847Q/5 to Admty.)

A/S Craft, Caribbean. Your 2315/26. 1. It is not possible to obtain details here without giving some impression of interference. Com. Caribbean is probably the only authority who could give a clear picture.  
2. Such destroyers as can be spared from other essential operations are sent from time to time and this number fluctuates from 4 to about 8.  
3. Any suitable A/S craft that can be collected have been sent, and others are now being fitted for A/S work and will be sent as soon as ready.  
4. Two sub-chasers from Key West are operating in Caribbean but while these two are away the training at the A/S school is severely handicapped.  
5. Cominch admits that A/S forces in this area are very thin and they will not be adequate until new construction craft become available.  
6. Ref. A.M. 1257/26. (N.T. in W.D. Requesting conference with Commandant 10th Naval District re routing instructions in Caribbean Coastal Frontier Zone). Should it be found practicable to send a staff Officer he may be in a position to find out details of local operations.  
(B.A.D. 1853Q/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I.)

U-boat, possible camouflage. Eastern Air Command report deck and conning tower of U-boat sighted in 46° 20' N. 52° 20' W. 1515Z/2 were solid white. As pilot is confident this was not due to ice, possibility exists that U-boats are being painted white for camouflage in waters where ice may be encountered. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1900Z/5 to Admty. Opnav).

Anzac Area, Command. J.S.M. No. 103. Understand from Mr. Nash that a request for a supreme American commander in a somewhat extended Anzac area has come from the Antipodes. If and when this question is discussed by you it seems worth remembering how personality of Adm. King will in our view react to proposal. King is always keen and conscientious regarding areas for which he is definitely responsible but takes little interest in areas for which he is not personally responsible. If any supreme Commander (even an American and particularly

/perhaps....



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Area  
Command  
- Contd.

perhaps MacArthur) of an enlarged Anzac area were interposed between King and Leary I believe King's interest in that area would fade. In other words there is a danger that by achieving unity of command in the Anzac area, unity of naval command in Pacific as a whole may be jeopardised. (J.S.M. Washington 1913Q/5 to Chiefs of Staff).

ARCHER.  
ALBATROSS.

Your 1826/4 and my 1602/4. Quoted signals apparently crossed. ARCHER should be ready to sail about 14/5 with Martlets and spare Martlet wings and also 4 T.S.R. A/C.  
2. ALBATROSS will not be ready until 23/3. Propose therefore to sail ARCHER to Freetown as soon as ready. (B.A.D. 1923Q/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C.A.W.I., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. S.A., R.N.A.S. Lee-on-Solent, ILLUSTRIOUS, ALBATROSS, ARCHER). \*2- p. 152.

War  
Strategy.

No. 104. Conference between Chiefs of Staff and President. (J.S.M., 1933Q/5 to C.O.S. London). See Lion Copy.

Bases,  
Appreciation.

U.S. appreciation of Pacific naval situation is nearing completion and will include U.S. requirements for bases included in my 2007Q/28. We are preparing a similar appreciation for the Indian Ocean, particularly with a view of bringing forward our naval base requirements. This appreciation will be in line with C.O.S. (W) 58 and Red Number 10 from J.P. London of 22/2. Can we please have replies asked for in my 2007Q/28? Important to make progress with this in order that our bases in the Indian Ocean will receive consideration at the same time as U.S. are arranging for those in the Pacific. (B.A.D., 2005Q/5 to Admty.)

U.S. Signals.

Ref. Admty. 299A/5. Add at end of para. (3) "(Except some submarines in the Pacific which may repeat may use Night signals from S.P. 02414, U.S. Emergency Identification Signal No. 1)" (D. S. D. 2014A/5, "A" Message 310A).

Floating  
Dock.

Following from B.A.S.R. A.M. 1120/2. U.S. Navy Dept regret that changed circumstances necessitate their request. This dock which is being built up West Coast is urgently required for a Pacific Base on the point of being established to which they attach very considerable operational importance.  
2. Navy Dept. suggest one of the 3000 ton Wooden Docks now being built on East Coast and referred to in A.M. 1939/4 should be used at Freetown.



**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE 19330/5 March IN

From Joint Staff Mission,  
Washington.Date 6/3/42  
Recd. ?

C. IN C. X. BY T/P.

Addressed Chiefs of Staff, London.

IMMEDIATE

No. 104. We and the American Chiefs of Staff had conference with President this afternoon. President read message from Prime Minister on which general discussion followed. We raised question contained in your (W)105 and finally got President to direct that combined shipping people should examine as matter of urgency how necessary shipping can be provided. On Admiral King's strong representation it was tentatively ruled that combat loaded ships could not be spared for long voyages. They might however be used on such runs as sending troops and material to Hawaii thus relieving ships now on these runs for taking troops to India and Middle East.

2. Admiral King again described his project for driving Northwestwards from Australia - New Zealand capturing and holding island bases as he goes (See J.S.M. No. 50).

3. General Arnold then gave a general outline of his views regarding air dispositions. Provision would have to be made for the air defence of Australia and the support of U.S. Navy operations in the South West Pacific mentioned above. A bombing offensive should be based on India against the Japanese forces and ultimately from China against Japan, this force being established and maintained largely by means of air transport through Africa and the Middle East.

4. After these necessary provisions all available combined U.S. and British striking force should be concentrated in the United Kingdom against objectives in Germany and the occupied territories in North West Europe. The main object of this offensive would be to draw enemy air forces from the Russian front and to force the G.A.F. to oppose the combined U.S. and British air strength in a fight to destruction.

5. ?Nevill stated that, in general terms this proposal coincided with the British Air Staff policy and that they would welcome U.S. bomber forces in the U.K. but that two special factors could not be ignored. First, that it was essential sufficiently to strengthen the air forces in the Middle East to enable them to deal with the expected spring offensive and to secure our communications through that area. Second. That British experience during 1941 had led to the conclusion that the main bomber offensive into Germany must be by night and that fighter escorted raids could not reach targets sufficiently vital to Germany to force any great diversion of G.A.F. strength particularly bombers, from the Eastern front within short period. The effect

of/.....



a sustained night offensive was great, but comparatively slow acting and therefore not to be relied upon to prevent the enemy from concentrating temporarily superior forces in South Russia and the Middle East if they so determined. The need for adequate air reinforcements for the Middle East could therefore not be discounted thereby Arnold was inclined to dispute the difficulty of pinning the G.A.F. to a fight in the West and, when pressed ended by a suggestion that he envisaged a simultaneous land/sea operation to establish a bridgehead on the Continent which would thus constitute a focus for the air struggle. This suggestion we countered strongly pointing out its impossibility in the present state of our shipping and so long as the morale of the German Army and Air Force remained unbroken. All above to show you how minds of President and U.S. Chiefs of Staff are working.

6. As we see it now is the time to concentrate on essentials. These appear to us to be  
 (A) Security of Britain  
 (B) Security of U.S.A.  
 (C) Continuance of all possible assistance to Russia, and  
 (D) Prevention of junction of German and Japanese forces i.e. Germany reaching the Indian Ocean. Do you agree. These simple rules might help us to stick to things that matter in these difficult days.

1933Q/5

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- F.A.S. (S)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D. of P. (2)
- E.P.S.
- Hd. of M. (39)
- I.P. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)
- W.D.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- Admiral Bellairs.



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Dock  
- Contd.

3. Under this allocation towage would be reduced to a minimum and Navy Dept. have assured us that they would give every assistance in obtaining civilian tugs.

4. Am assured that lifting capacity of Wooden Dock is identical with that of Steel Dock and that former type Dock is used in Gulf of Mexico and should therefore be satisfactory for Freetown as regards Borer Worm.

5. Disadvantage from our point of view is that Wooden Dock will not be ready to leave until about 15/4 and would probably arrive Freetown about one month later than Steel Dock.

6. Under the circumstances it would appear difficult to resist this application of U.S. Navy. An early reply would be appreciated. (B.A.D. 2015Q/5 to Admty., as amended 1947Q/16.)

Liaison  
Officers.

My 1739Q/25. Navy Dept. have received following "Cincpac understands services of Capt. C.R.L. Parry, R.N., now serving as B.N.L.O. with Pacific Fleet are desired elsewhere. Further understand that Brit. Admty. has two officers both with war experience available. Either acceptable as relief for Parry". N.A. has received a message from Capt. Parry repeating C. in C. Pacific's view that situation now requires the presence of only one officer. Suggest therefore that Cdr. Laing only be appointed as relief for Capt. Parry. (B.A.D. 2021Q/5 to Admty.)

Explosions,  
St. John's.

My 1259/4. Metal fragments discovered on shore in vicinity of scene have been identified as portions of nose ring of a warhead. (F.O.N.F. 2021Z/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.)

GUADELOUPE,  
French.

Arrival 4th. (New York, 2055Z/5 to M. of W.T.)

BAYOU  
torpedoed.

Sole survivor picked up on raft 7° 36' N. 58° 5' W. noon to-day states torpedoed during the night 27/2 ship sank in half minute. Name of ship BAYOU, Panamanian, Greek crew, carrying manganese ore from Rio de Janeiro to Canada. If correct length of time in water reported calculated ship sunk near Paramaribo. Your 1742Q/28 possibly connection may exist. (N.C.S.O. Georgetown 2056Q/5 to F.O; Trinidad (R) C. in C.A.W.I., S.O.I. Jamaica, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

ABRAHAM  
RYDBERG.

\* ABRAHAM RYDBERG (Swedish) sailed Barbados 8/2 due Boston 28/2 has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2104Z/5 to Admty., U.S. C.N.O., C. in C. A.W.I. S.O.(I) Kingston).

\* not identified.

/Bases.....



War Diary.

5.3.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Bases. Your 2007Q/28/2.

1. Para. 1, 3, 4 and 7, concur.
2. Para. 5.
  - (a) Confirmed, except that it is proposed to develop Kilindini as a repair base instead of Mombasa as an operational base.
  - (b) Confirmed. Presume mobile bases X and Y are unspecified bases referred to in Lonus 195 para. 5 (a) and (b).
  - (c) Confirmed except for Townsville.
  - (d) Confirmed, but add Townsville, Hobart and Port Darwin.
3. Para. 8. Confirmed except that unspecified bases at present priority 5 should now be allotted priority 12A. These are additional to named bases.
4. Para. 9. Information sent under cover of M.0192/42 in bag M/FM/CSA/463/1 in aircraft which arrived Montreal 25/2.
5. Details of our requirements at Sydney, Hobart, Townsville and Port Darwin are contained in Dominions Office telegrams 207-211 of 18/2. (Hd. of M. 2126A/5 to B.A.D. (R) N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.F.)

Ice. It is intended during the coming ice season off the Canadian and Newfoundland Coasts to send you general ice reports in code from time to time. These will be repeated as necessary to above addressees for the benefit of routing officers of adjacent stations. These will replace P/L 'W' messages previously issued in order to avoid the possibility of giving useful information to U-boats now operating in ice vicinity. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2131Z/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C.A.W.I., C. in C.N.A., C. in C.S.A. S.O.(I) Kingston.)

Enemy Transmission. S.S. NOVELIST in 55.50 N. 19.57 W. obtained bearing of 50° true of transmission on 384 KC/s 5/2 1715 to 1720 G.M.T. Text intercepted E barred 360 2013 RBTZ FUBN BRGM GOQC XMHA. Above transmission repeated at 1745Z. At 1845Z E barred 011 intercepted. Bearings taken at 1745Z/ and 1845Z were not included in report. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2216Z/5 to Admty.).

ELLENOR. ELLENOR U.S. sailed Humacao 20/2 due Boston 1/3, has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2251Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

Diversion Signals. A. Following received from Santos via S.O.I. Freetown (begins):-

- (1) Do Diversion signals for U.S.A. ships routed by British Authorities in Area 9 and 7 emanate (a) from U.S.A. Naval Authorities via their own wireless station or (b) via G.B.M.S. Transmission?
- (2) In case of (1) (b) how are signals made to ships not holding British codes?
- (3) How would "Bacon Eggs" procedure be broadcast i.e. P/L U.S.A. or British Code?

/(4).....



War Diary.

5.3.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Diversion  
Signals  
- Contd.

(4) Above information is urgently required for masters of U.S.A. Ships. T.O.O. 1718Z/27/2. (Ends).  
(B) For information. It is not Admiralty policy to divert ships not holding British codes. "Bacon Eggs" procedure is made in P/L.  
(C) Request information on other points raised. (D.T.D. 2322A/5 to B.A.D.)

"S" Report.

Intercept 0117 G.M.T./6 SSSS, rest unheard. 0121 G.M.T. SSSS 29.12 N. 64.29 W., nothing further. VRT called, no reply. (Navycom, Bermuda, 2323P/5 to Admty.)

BALTIC.

My 1804/4. Panama BALTIC returned Miami accounted for fire aboard. Still there. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2344Z/5 to Admty., Opanv, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica)).

Australia and New Zealand.

WARSPITE.

Your 0747Z/2 and 0417Z/2 and my 0754Z/3, not to Admiralty. WARSPITE will be about 5 days late at R/V. (A.C.N.B., 0108Z/5 to C. in C.E.F., (R) WARSPITE, Admty., C. in C.E.I.)

Situation,  
Proposals.

1. Intelligence indicates A. Cruiser or destroyer raider off Cocos Island 1328Z/3 grade A.1. B. PECOS sunk by dive bombers 1/3 near Christmas Is. C. Aircraft carrier with one destroyer escort (corrupt group) off Akka at 2153Z/3 in 015° 06' S. 106° 47' E. not graded.  
2. Evident that enemy aircraft carriers can raid shipping in Indian Ocean.  
3. It is considered A. All troop ships must have adequate escort throughout the passage Fremantle and that route must be well to south and west. B. All independant ships to have wide dispersal and routed well to south and west.  
4. Propose A. If S.U.3. has not yet dispersed, GLASGOW to continue with convoy until relieved by U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX if available and to pass through following positions: R. 004° 20' S. 078° 38' E. A. 036° 08' S. (2097°) 30' E. B. 036° 50' S. 110° 00' E. C. 037° 32' S. 136° 22' E.  
B. If convoy S.U.3 has dispersed, merchant ships be ordered to proceed through secret position "Gosling" thence Adelaide if endurance permits, otherwise Fremantle.  
C. Convoy S.U.1. to pass through positions U. 012° 40' S. 090° 00' E. X. 035° 15' S. 099° 50' E. Y. 035° 15' S. 109° 25' E. Z. 032° 00' S. 115° 00' E. thence through S.C.F.19 to Fremantle.

/D.....



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War Diary.5.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Situation  
Proposals  
- Contd.

D. S.U.1. to be joined by PERTH at a date to be determined later.  
E. S.U.2. to be escorted throughout entire passage and routed well south and west.  
(A.C.N.B., 0430Z/5, to C. in C.E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., etc.) (Reply: See C. in C.E.F., 1510Z/5).

Minesweepers.

CESSNOCK and WHYALLA ready proceed overseas. 2 A.M.S.'s commission March 2 A.M.S.'s commission April. Observing (1) Shortage of A/S craft in Anzac area (vide N.Z.N.Bs. 1208/22), and (2) Difficulty of these ships proceeding to E.I. Station due to their low endurance, request your views regarding R.N.A.M.S.'s remaining in Australian waters to supplement A/S Forces in Anzac and Fremantle areas.  
(A.C.N.B., 0504/5 to Admty.).

Northern  
Australia.

C.O.S. (W) 107. (Admty. 1252A/5) See America and West Indies.

BAHREN.

*not identified*

Your 1737/1. Ship expected sail 10/3. Chinese crew present contract ceases 14/4. They demand £15 per month after that date. Are willing to sail anywhere till then provided they then proceed Bombay. (N.Z.N.B., 1601M/5 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Atlantic U/B situation.  
(D.D.I.C. 1314Z/5).

U-boat dispositions north of 30° N.  
(D.D.I.C. 1413A/5).

Estimated U/B positions south of 30° N.  
(D.D.I.C. 1418A/5).



War Diary.

6.3.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The daylight A/C Patrol of the approaches to Trondheim was discontinued today at 1500 and, owing to shortage of A/C, the night Patrol was not due to begin until 2200 this evening.

At 1801 the S/M SEAWOLF on patrol reported one battleship or 8-inch cruiser steering 045° in position 64° 26' N. 10° 18' E.

At 1212A MINERVE on her way home from the Fro Havet patrol was ordered to establish a patrol off Aalesund forthwith.

An A/S patrol is now to be maintained constantly off the entrance to Seidisfiord by either NAMSOS or WINDERMERE; and 2 whalers are to be employed in sinking floating mines between 65° and 66° N. in that area.

Convoy C.E.70 was shelled by the enemy Coastal Batteries while passing Dover at 0620 today, about 8 rounds being fired without result.

C.S.18 intends to transfer his Flag from SHEFFIELD to EDINBURGH at the first opportunity.

Enemy Air Activity.

The A/S trawler CORNELIAN shot down an enemy Bomber at 2012 yesterday off Plymouth.

Mining.

MANXMAN left Port Z.A. at 1005 today for a minelaying operation off Arbroath.

2 German Mines were cut and exploded by rifle fire off Falmouth yesterday, and 2 Ground Mines in the Thames Estuary were detonated by Sweepers.

/Today ...



War Diary.

6.3.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - contd.

Today 6 Mines were detonated by sweepers off Harwich and 3 off Spurn Point.

North Atlantic.

Operation  
"Spotter"

Force H. left Gibraltar at 0420A for Operation "Spotter".

Spanish  
Fishing  
Vessel  
sunk.

R.O. Vigo reports that Spanish fishing craft  
\* LOCKA MONTENEGRO was bombed and sunk by aircraft  
at 2100/2 about 47° N., 20° W. This and  
another fishing craft were also machine gunned.  
*\* not identified*

French  
Convoy.

Incidents apparently indicative of Free French sympathies occurred when a Vichy eastbound convoy was passing Gibraltar this morning. S.S. GABRIEL GUIST'HAU appeared to try to break away, but was rounded up by armed trawlers, and following a commotion in PARAME, next astern, a seaman jumped overboard and was picked up by SAYONARA (A.B.V) and brought to Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

Convoy W.S.16, with Force T. left Freetown today.

S.S. SYDHAV was torpedoed at 0800 in 4.47 N., 14.57 W. U-boat surfaced 20 minutes after attack and survivors state hoisted Italian flag.



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War Diary.

6.3.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

A continuous alert from dusk to dawn was kept up last night by 18 raiders and slight damage caused at Luqa and Ta Kali.

Today attacks were renewed on the submarine base and aerodromes. TALBOT (S/M Depot) and the submarine trot were twice attacked, and in the second attack P.39 and P.36 were damaged by near misses and a fuel lighter was sunk.

C. in C. Med. again directs attention to the need for faster ships and a fast oiler for Malta convoys.

As refits of S/Ms OLYMPUS and CLYDE about May and June may seriously prejudice the supply of stores by S/M to Malta, F.O.S. suggests they may be deferred until SEVERN rejoins 8th Flotilla.

Libya.

Convoy "Bingo" was bombed at 0706, 6 miles 335° from 32° N., 39° E., without damage.

1 Wellington laid 2 mines E. of Tripoli while 2 others made a successful diversion.

Last night 15 Wellingtons made sorties to Benghazi against shipping and the moles. A near miss was observed on a ship in harbour.

S/Ms.

THORN and TORBAY were ordered at 2130B/6 to proceed towards the Gulf of Taranto.

Sighting Reports.

Agreement has now been reached with the Air Ministry that all first enemy sighting reports should be in S.E. code or Naval Aircraft Code Plain, i.e., unrecoded.



War Diary.

6.3.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Eastern  
Fleet  
disposition.

Until he has seaborne aircraft to operate in protecting his Fleet, C. in C. E.F. is not prepared to take it inside Andaman Islands. As soon as he has submarines at his disposal he intends to establish a patrol in the north end of the Malacca Straits to give warning and provide some measure of offence, and in such case he would consider launching his meagre light forces, supported by cruisers, into a night attack.

Aircraft,  
Ceylon.

All Hurricanes ex INDOMITABLE are to remain in Ceylon by order of the Chiefs of Staff. Flying boats now in Ceylon and on the way there must not be transferred elsewhere without reference to the Chiefs of Staff.

Addu  
Atoll.

Rear-Adm. A.D. Read has been appointed F.O.I.C. Addu Atoll and will fly out to Ceylon as soon as possible. Every possible effort and improvisation is to be employed to get Addu Atoll prepared as an operation base for Eastern Fleet as soon as possible.

China.

Java.

At noon today the C. in C. N.E.I. Army reported that his military air forces were finished, and collapse of the defence as a result of exhaustion was inevitable.

America and West Indies.

U.S. need  
for  
Corvettes.

U.S. Navy Dept. today made a formal request to acquire 10 twin screw corvettes, 15 single screw corvettes (revised type) and 8 Fairmiles now building in Canada.



War Diary.

6.3.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

That part of Northern Australia not within the Abda area will revert to the Australian Command on the understanding that Dutch H.Q. will be allowed to operate aircraft and ships of the Abdacom Command from Australia if they so desire.



War Diary.

6.3.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- Iceland Garrison. In view of acute difficulty providing shipping for withdrawal at short notice wish examine possibility temporary retention British tps. in Iceland (C) for a limited period after arrival U.S. contingents until shipping conveniently available. Assuming U.S. contingents of 5000 next contingent arriving early April what is maximum number British troops which could be retained and for how long.  
(War Office, 0330/6 to G.O.C.Iceland).
- Flag of C.S.18. Intend to join EDINBURGH with my staff at first opportunity. (C.S.18, 1027A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
- LAMERTON for Home Fleet. Admiralty's 1902A/5 para. 1 (B). LAMERTON detailed. Owing to shortage of Trawlers propose LAMERTON be sailed with P.Q.13.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1237A/6). *See p. 128.*
- WOODRUFF. When ready for sea WOODRUFF should be sailed as required by C. in C. W.A. for re-routeing to S.A. (D.O.D. (H.), 1650A/6 to F.O.I.C.Falmouth).
- CIRCASSIA. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> My 1700/5. CIRCASSIA is to be de-stored and Admiralty gear removed. Ship should then be paid off and handed over to D.S.T.O.  
(Head of M., 1750A/6 to F.O.I.C.Belfast).
- CHARYBDIS. On completion of present series of gunnery trials CHARYBDIS will join the Home Fleet until required for refit.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1855A/6).

Movements.

- SALADIN. Intend sailing SALADIN to arrive Lamlash approx. 1400A/6 to comply with your 1905A/5.  
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 0240A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
- SUFFOLK. A.C.O.S. 2257/5. Weather conditions off Tyne make entrance to river most hazardous. Consider SUFFOLK should be diverted to Rosyth till weather moderates.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0710/6 to C. in C. Rosyth).  
Unsafe for you to enter Tyne in present weather. Proceed with your escort to Rosyth securing to 14 buoy. Tug will assist. Report E.T.A. May Island.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0741/6 to SUFFOLK).  
Arrived SUFFOLK escorted by INGLEFIELD and GROVE. *See next page*  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1551/6).
- SUTTON. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> My 1801/3. Delayed.  
(F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 0926/6).

/GROVE ...



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

GROVE. Detach GROVE after passing May Island to anchor at Methil. GROVE is to sail so as to pass May Island at 2000/6 and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1324/6 to SUFFOLK).

ROMNEY,  
CROMARTY,  
WHITEHAVEN. Return to Position D and wait for me. (ROMNEY 1402Z/6 to CROMARTY).

H. 33. Intend to sail H.33 escorted by SHIKARI at 2100A/7 for A S V exercises in accordance with my 1002A/6. Exercising will be within 20 miles of 270° Tory Island 20 miles and starts at 1000A/8 and finishes at 1200A/8. H.33 and SHIKARI return to Londonderry on completion. Request necessary bombing restrictions. (N.O.I.C.Londonderry, 1444A/6).

GUDRUN MAERSK. My 1729A/5. Sailed GUDRUN MAERSK escorted by ST. ALBANS. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 1450A/6 to F.O.I.C.Cardiff).

VETERAN,  
MONTGOMERY. C. in C. W.A. 2233Z/2. If sailed by Great Circle to St. Johns it is anticipated that VETERAN will arrive with only 5 per cent. fuel remaining in good weather. Intend therefore to sail VETERAN and MONTGOMERY on 7/3 to Hvalfiord to refuel and thence to St. Johns. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1612A/6).

PAKENHAM. Admiralty's 2216A/3. Route for PAKENHAM. (C. in C. W.A., 1619A/6).

H. 33.  
H. 50. N.O.I.C.Londonderry is requested to sail H.33 escorted to arrive Rothesay A.M.10th. At 1900A/10 intend to sail H.50 with same escort from Rothesay to arrive Lough Foyle 0800A/11. Fighter protection is not required. (Capt. S.7, 1742A/6 to N.O.I.C.Londonderry).

WILTON. On completion of A/S exercises today request you fuel and sail WILTON for Scapa in accordance with my 1830A/3. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1754A/6 to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown).

SEALION. Your 2258A/4. Arrived. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 2031A/6 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

BEDOUIIN. Following is a repetition of C. in C. H.F. 1809/6. Begins. Proceed Skalefiord for fuel and await further orders. Ends. (C. in C. H.F., 2159A/6 to BEDOUIIN).



War Diary.

6.3.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway S/M  
Patrol.

→ Scapa departure JUNON escorted by BREDA.  
(A.C.O.S., 0827A/6).  
My 1833A/3. Amend position (d) to read 061° 32' N.  
000° 02' W.  
(Capt. S.9, 1027A/6 to MINERVE).

4 submarines on patrol this year off France Havet have found themselves in serious navigational danger owing to the prevailing bad visibility and difficulty in recognising landmarks. 2 submarines have grounded.

C.O's are not to take navigational risks in order to maintain close patrol positions unless acting on enemy report or unless in contact with the enemy. Every care is to be taken to keep accurate D.R. position and to study tides and landmarks.

(F.O.S., 1054A/6 to S/M's Area A).

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol in vicinity of 062° 37' N., 005° 10' E. You will probably be recalled after dark tomorrow night. (F.O.S., 1212A/6 to MINERVE).

Amend my 1939A/27 as follows:- Para. 2 for 7/3 read 9/3.

Para. 4 for STURGEON read SEALION.

→ Para. 5 amend to read TUNA to Lerwick on completion of stand off period and to relieve JUNON on patrol p.m.20th.

Para. 6 amend to read P.37 to Lerwick on completion defects and to relieve SEALION p.m.28th.

Para. 7 for SEALION read STURGEON.

(F.O.S., 1311A/6).

→ F.S. JUNON left Scapa 0827/6 escorted to position (a) 90° Out Skerries 05' thence unescorted on the surface at C.O's discretion through (b) 90° Muckle Flugga 10'. (c) 61° 45' N. 1° W., thence submerged by day through. (d) 63° 08' N., 4° 30' E. (e) 64° 40' N., 8° 40' E. to patrol Zone W.

(A.C.O.S., 1420A/6).

Your object is now in accordance with F S B 2.

(F.O.S., 1549A/6 to MINERVE).

Convoy C.E. 70 When C.E. 70 was off Dover at 0620/6 enemy coastal batteries fired about eight rounds which fell in its vicinity. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover, 0939A/6).

Denmark C. in C. H.F. 1932A/2. Intend passing through Strait Patrol. position 322° Goltr light 8 miles at 0600N/7 on my way position X. (KENT, 1312A/6 to C.S.1.)

Seidisfiord A/S Patrol. A/S patrol off entrance to Seidisfiord will be maintained by A/S trawlers WINDERMERE and NAMSOS from 8/3. Northrop A/C will carry out daily A/S patrol between East Coast and minefield for

35 miles to North and South of Seidisfiord.

Trawlers FARSUND and SVOLVAER will patrol East Coast to sink floating mines.

RESTIVE and NAMSOS will arrive Seidisfiord 7/3.

(A.C.I.C., 1514A/6 to C.S.18).

A/S Trawler WINDERMERE will be sailing to Seidisfiord tomorrow. After her arrival a constant A/S patrol is to be maintained by either NAMSOS or WINDERMERE off entrance to Seidisfiord. NAMSOS

/is ...



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - contd.

Seidisfiord is to carry out patrol until arrival of  
A/S Patrol. WINDERMERE.  
(contd.) FARSUND and SVOLVAER are to be employed sinking  
floating mines between 065° N., and 066° N.  
RESTIVE and NAMSOS will arrive 7/3.  
(A.C.I.C., 1518A/6).

Channel 2 Chasseurs patrolling Q Z S 271 and returning  
Patrol. St. Helens at Dawn.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1737A/6).

Main Unit One battleship or 8" cruiser bearing 126° 10 miles  
off Namsos. course 045°. My position 064° 32' N., 009° 59' E.  
(SEAWOLF, 1801A/6 to Admty.)  
SEAWOLF reports one Battleship or 8" cruiser in  
position 64° 26' N., 10° 18' E., course 045° at  
1801A/6. (D.D.I.C., 2350A/6 to A.I.G., H.Q.C.C.,  
H.Q.B.C., Hofors, F.O.S., S.B.N.O. Murmansk,  
Ad. Miles).

Cable Repairs. Repair of Commercial Cable Company's Fayal -  
MARIE LOUIS Dartmouth cable in 51° 32½' N., 10° 37' W. has  
MACKAY. become important.  
MARIE LOUIS MACKAY is available at Milford Haven  
for this work.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide escort who should remain  
up to 48 hours to provide cover during the operation but must  
return if M.L.MACKAY has to take shelter due to weather.  
Further repairs to Waterville - Weston Cable in 51° 34' N.,  
10° 20½' W. and to Western Union Cables near Valencia both close  
to or within the three mile limit will be carried out immediately  
afterwards.  
M.L.MACKAY should not be sailed if weather likely to be  
unsuitable. (D.O.D. (H), 1831A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

British Air Activity.

Fighter Your 1525C/2. Para. 1. Admiralty and Air Ministry  
Protection of note Russians proposals to supply fighter  
North Russian protection for convoys to Russia and concur.  
Convoys. Para. 2. The control of Hurricanes by V.H.F.  
involves the setting up of two V.H.F. Stations  
(Vaenga and Panoi would be suitable) three or four  
D/F Fixing Stations together with a Central Control Station with  
suitable control staff. Officers from Fighter Command would be  
made available to initiate Russians into the system of control.  
Para. 3. The long range fighter and A/S protection of convoys  
would be dealt with by Coastal Command Officers and we agree that  
two officers per Station operating these types would be necessary.  
We will despatch these officers as soon as you inform us the  
number of Stations operating long range fighters and G.R. types  
of aircraft.  
Para. 4. Meantime, the following are the replies to paragraph 2  
of Collier's signal, Air 3237, 23/2. Details.  
(Air Ministry, 1030/6 to 30 Mission, Moscow).

/Bombing ...



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. - contd.Bombing  
Restrictions.

Bombing restrictions are in force as follows:-  
 (i) Total for 30 miles on either side line joining 60° N. 1° W. and 62° N. 0° 20' W. from 1900A/6 until further directions.  
 (ii) Submerged in area 14 north of 061° N. from 1800A/6 until 0600A/9.  
 (Capt. S.9, 1053A/6 to JUNON, MINERVE).

Air R/C of  
Trondheim  
Approaches.

Patrol "Prowler" was discontinued at 1500. Owing to shortage of A/C "Prowl" will not commence until 2200.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1757/6 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2.)

Enemy Air Activity.A/C shot  
down.  
CORNELIAN.

CORNELIAN reports that at 2012/5 in 50° 06' N. 04° 06' W. she engaged an enemy bomber, believed a Heinkel 111, at very close range 20 feet above sea with Lewis Gun and 4 inch. She disabled its engine and it crashed into the sea.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 2230A/6 and 2016A/7).

Mining.

S.N.18A.

Sailed MANXMAN.  
 (N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1005/6).

Off Falmouth.

13th M.S.F. report having cut 2 German type mines whilst clearing Q Z Y 249 p.m. 5th in 50° 05' 48" N. 4° 52' W. Both mines exploded by rifle fire.  
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1109/6).

Harwich.

One ground mine detonated by SA 'LL' trawlers in approx. 52° 04' N. 01° 48.5' E. at 1016.  
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1223A/6).  
 SA 'LL' Trawlers detonated 2 ground mines at 1315 and one more at 1325. Details.  
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1418A/6).  
 SA 'LL' Trawlers detonated 3 red mines. Details.  
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1928A/6).

Minelaying  
off Harwich.

The proposals in your 1746/26/2 are concurred in.  
 (A.C.N.S. H., 1335A/6 to C. in C. Nore).

Thames  
Estuary.

One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 2115/5. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1500/6).  
 One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 2155/5. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1530/6).

/Operation ...



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - contd.

Operation My 1706A/5. Coastal Command aircraft are available  
Q.S. for escort east of 2° 45' E. Operation Q.S. one  
will be carried out in accordance with programme  
given.

(2) If Coastal Command aircraft are not available  
alternative operation Q.S. two is proposed. as follows. Details.

(3) As regards Q.S.2 it is pointed out that unless mines explode  
in the sweeps there is no reliable indication that mines have  
been encountered. Negative result therefore will not prove that  
the area swept is not mined. In view of above request decision  
whether this night sweep should be carried out in event of  
Coastal Command aircraft not being available.

(C. in C. Nore, 1630A/6 to Admty.)

Operation Sailed 1559A/6.  
"Tincture." (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2029A/6).

Spurn Point. Three mines detonated today by Sweepers. Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 2040A/6).

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait  
Dover. from 0900/5 to 0900/6. About 17 small craft in  
four groups eastbound from off Gris Nez between  
2000 and 2355. Probably E/R Boats and Trawlers.  
Track E.7.D. 2 small vessels from Calais at 0415  
westbound at 11 knots to Boulogne at 0615.  
Possibly Trawlers. (V.A.Dover, 0923A/6).

U-Boats.

Off Hebrides. By D/F at 2211Z/5. Position of U.Boat was 58°  
15' N. 8° 30' W.  
(D.I.C., 0043A/6).

S/M attacked. U.S. Destroyers attacked (?S/M) in position 059° N.  
025° 53' W. at 0530A/6. S/M possibly damaged but  
not destroyed. (A.C.I.C., 1631A/6).

Off U.Boat sighted on surface 069° 20' N. 035° 30' E.  
Teribersky by NIGER 1945A/5. Attack unsuccessful. Consider  
on 5/3. U.Boat patrol may be established off Teribersky  
for intercepting Coastal traffic between Murmansk  
and Iokanka. Several unreliable reports from Coast  
Watcher confirms presence of U.Boat. Request  
P.Q.13 may be routed through M.U Shipping Route.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1849A/6).



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

- Humber. 62 D Buoy. Light reported extinguished.  
(Hydrog. 0116A/6).
- Helwick Light Float. Fog signal on Helwick Light Float is out of action and cannot be repaired for some days.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1708A/6) ?Hydrog. 2007/6).

Technical.

- H/F Homing procedure. My 1536/23/2. The H/F Homing procedure carried out in accordance with your 0350/24/2 was most successful. A precise meet was effected punctually in visibility of about half a mile. This augurs well for the solution of similar problems in the future.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1807A/6 to U.S.C.N.O.)

Miscellaneous.

- ZETLAND. ZETLAND successfully launched at 1030 today.  
(Shipseer, Scotstoun, 1705/6).

Casualties & Defects.

- CAMROUX I. Motor vessel CAMROUX I ashore Whitburn Point. Coastguards report crew landed. Strong wind, very heavy seas, snowing.  
(N.C.S.O. Sunderland, 0950/6).
- CAMROUX I grounded one hour after highwater this morning. Ashore on sand in about 4 feet water abreast fishermens cottages on Whitburn Bank, Whitburn. Ballast tanks and peaks reported empty and hold dry. Loaded with 380 tons scrap for Middlesbrough. Scuttling whole tomorrow, arranging discharge cargo.  
(Smith, W. Hartlepool, 1825/6 to Admty.)
- GOLIATH. Rescue Tug GOLIATH out of action owing to fractured steam valve.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1020/6).
- WHITSHED (Mined 5/3). Provided weather conditions are suitable WHITSHED is to sail for Sheerness at 0600 tomorrow accompanied by Tug SUPERMAN.  
2. D 16 is to sail one Hunt Class Destroyer to Yarmouth to arrive before dark today Friday to form escort for WHITSHED. 3. Route one mile west of centre line of channel between No.5 and 54C Buoys thence direct to 54A Buoy.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1052A/6 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
- ST. MARYS. On leaving S.D.23 proceed direct to Scapa for docking for repairs to fuel tank.  
(R.A.M., 1224/6 to ST. MARYS).



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - contd.

- LEMNOS.** LEMNOS was in collision with H.M.Paddle (H.M.Drifter). minesweeper RYDE at 1415/5 in Methil Roads. No damage to other vessel, but H.M.Drifter only seaworthy in calm waters. (N.O.I.C.Methil, 1534/6).
- YEWKYLE.** Following received from Chief Salvage Officer. YEWKYLE during last two days has driven inshore and now lies across and on piles of groin for half her beam. Bottom and tank top badly set up about 4 feet right across. Both sides bulged out. Sandbank dries outside ship 70 ft. at low water. Position very serious if gale continues. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1656A/6).
- STANLAKE.** SEA GIANT sailed to assist STANLAKE in difficulties off Blyth. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1713/6). SEA GIANT returned harbour. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 2335/6).
- NELSON sabotage.** A.S. Rosyth's 1930/5. Investigation shows damage attributable to malicious mischief by person unknown. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1735/6).
- CEYLONITE.** Departure Tug KENIA to assist M/S Trawler CEYLONITE. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 2308A/6).
- Shipping & Convoys.
- W.S.17.** Following is proposed embarkation programme for convoy W.S.17. Details. (D. of S.T., 0228A/6).
- Russian Convoy Signals.** Relevant signals concerning movements of PQ and QP convoys are to be repeated to C. in C. Rosyth for co-ordination of air requirements with A.O.C. 18 Group. (D.O.D. H., 1343A/6).
- O.N.70.** Request you will comply with Opnav 1720/5. (C. in C. W.A., 1408Z/6 to C.T.G. 4.6.)
- LL Gear lost in Russian Convoys.** Your 1509C/5. The parts of 6 sets of LL sweep gear held by Russians appear to be 6 spare buoyant cable tails Nos. 609 - 614 intended for our own Halcyon Class minesweepers operating in Russian Waters. They were shipped in HARPALION and were consigned to Senior British Minesweeping Officer. Admiral Kharlamov has also raised this question and is being informed accordingly. (Ad. Hermon Hodge, 1454A/6 to Ad. Miles).

/LAMERTON ...



War Diary.

6.3.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

LAMERTON  
to sail with  
P.Q.13.

Your 1237A/6. Concur.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1547/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

See p.180

P.Q.13 and  
U.R.15.

PAYNTER is the only trawler available to escort  
P.Q.13. With the exception of STELLA CAPELLA  
remainder of 51st and 52nd A/S groups are either  
boiler cleaning or under repair.  
Owing to NOTTS COUNTY and ANGLE having been  
retained for P.Q.12 only two trawlers are available  
for U.R.15.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1657A/6 to Adnty.)

Movements of  
Russian  
Ships.

Serial No. 26.  
(D.T.D., 1852A/6 to Ad. Miles).



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

Communications D.S.D. 1540A/6, A.G.M. See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.Operation  
"Spotter"

Departure MALAYA, ARGUS, HERMIONE, EAGLE, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, BLANKNEY, EXMOOR, GROOME, WHITEHALL, ACTIVE, ANTHONY, WISHART for operation "Spotter". (F.O.C.N.A. 0420A/6 to Admty. etc.)

EMPIRE  
FOAM

Your 1031A/5. EMPIRE FOAM sailed P.M/5 for Huelva. British Consul Huelva has been requested to hasten despatch of vessel. (F.O.C.N.A. 1002A/6 to Admty.)

DUNCAN,  
O.G.80.

DUNCAN sailed as additional escort for O.G.80. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132A/6 to Escorts of O.G.80 (R) Admty. etc.)

LOCKA  
MONTENEGROSpanish Fishing <sup>\* not identified</sup> LOCKA MONTENEGRO was bombed and sunk by aircraft at 2100/2 about 47° N 20° W when returning from Grand Sol fishing grounds. 6 lives lost. This and another fishing boat were also machine-gunned. Aircraft not identified. (R.O.Vigo 1214/6, to S.O.I. Gib. (R) Admty. N.A. Madrid.)

ERGO

B.N.A. Lisbon 1624/28/2. Very desirable to intercept ERGO and send to Gibraltar if she should leave territorial waters off Lisbon. (D.E.W.D. 1310A/6 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon.)

SOBIESKI

Following embarked in SOBIESKI (numbers and details) (F.O.C.N.A. 1358Z/6 to Admty.)

4 French  
S/M's

Four French submarines escorted by surface vessels (?passing) Straits of Gibraltar eastbound 7/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1412A/6 to Ships and Authorities N.A. Station)

Atlantic  
Convoy  
Instructions

Your 1644A/2. I entirely concur with the introduction of A.C.I. and accept operational and general instructions now in force in W.A.C.I.



1540A/5th.March.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE

OUT.

Date. 6.3.42.

To. Admiralty General Message.  
South Atlantic. 295 AG  
East Indies. 100 AC.  
ABDA 147 AD.  
ANZAC 42 AE.

Repeated B.A.D. 858.

Naval Code (J)

WILLPRINT.

From Admiralty.

NITE.

As from 0012 March 15th shore to ship services in the East Indies, ABDA and ANZAC areas and South Atlantic area Q will be as follows. All times G.M.T.

2. A new W/T area V has been established limited as follows. On the south and east by a line drawn from Colombo thence to Addu Atoll and Cape Amber (Madagascar) thence along parallel of 12° south to East coast of Africa. At the entrance to the Red Sea, meridian of 45° East. At the entrance to the Persian Gulf, meridian of 56° East. North of Colombo by a line West coast of Ceylon - Adams Bridge - West coast of India.

3. In this area ships are to read Group "V" which is to be inserted in Section E I Table 4 (1) and is comprised of Bombay Fort, Aden and Colombo W/T Stations. Frequencies used will be. All Stations 130 kc/s day and night.

Bombay Fort - 6,530 kc/s }  
and 12,500 kc/s } day and night.

19,580 kc/s in addition from 0245 to 1415.

Aden - 12,500 kc/s from 0245 to 1415.  
6,530 kc/s from 1415 to 0245.

Series Numbers. V 001 to V 499

4. South Atlantic W/T area Q is to be extended into East Indies Station as follows : Northern boundary, from east coast of Africa in latitude 12° south to Cape Amber (Madagascar). Eastern boundary from Cape Amber down west coast of Madagascar to longitude 45° East and thence due south.

5. Group SL (Section AF Table 4 (1)) is cancelled and replaced by Broadcast SL from Simonstown W/T station on following frequencies. 190 kc/s and 8590 kc/s day and night. In addition 12831 kc/s from 0600 to 1800 and 4215 kc/s from 1800 to 0600. Series numbers SL 001 to SL 499. This broadcast is to be read by all ships in Area Q. Above details are to be inserted in Section AF Table 3 (1).

6. Ships in ANZAC area and when South of Australia between 130° East and 143° East read Groups "AZ" and/or "WS" vide Admiralty message 97AC, 39AF of 22nd February.

7. When South of Australia between 130° East and 120° East. ships read Group "AZ" from 0300 to 0400 and every four hours and remaining period on Group "NU". A three line ship maintains continuous watch on both Groups "AZ" and "NU" except when additional watch on reconnaissance frequency is required.

8. In the ...../



8. In the ABDA area and on remainder of East Indies Station (that is to the East of Areas "Q" and "V" and, when South of Australia to West of 120° East) ships read Group "NU" comprised of Colombo, Coonawarra Perth and Mauritius W/T. Stations. Frequencies Colombo, Coonawarra and Perth - 7,435 and 13,355 kcs. day and night. In addition Colombo will use 15,580 kcs. from 0100 to 1300. Mauritius - 13,355 kcs. from 0100 to 1100 and 7,435 kcs. from 1100 to 0100. Series numbers NU 001 to NU 499. Above details to be inserted in Section E I Table 4 (1)

9. Broadcasts "UL" and "NL" will continue as in C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 118X of 27th February.

10. "General" periods on broadcast SL and Groups V and NU commence 0030 and every four hours. They will not normally last more than an hour.

11. Half hour periods for ships (including R.F.A.'s) with one operator commence as follows. Broadcast SL and Group V 0400, 0800, 1330, 1730 also on SL at 2100 for ships west of 30° East. Groups NU at 0000, 0400, 0800, 1330. Group AZ at 0000, 0400, 0800, 2000.

12. Broadcast to submarines -

(a) For urgent operational traffic, Broadcast "SL" and Group "V" at 0330, 0530, 0730, 0930, 1200, 1400, 1800 and 2130 Group "NU" at 0130, 0330, 0730, 0930, 1025, 1400, 1730 and 2130 Group "AZ" at 0130, 0330, 0630, 0930, 1330, 1730, 2130, 2330. Only messages prefixed "IMMEDIATE" and above will be made at these routines. Submarines may cease watch if no message affecting them is heard to commence within ten minutes of time ordered.

(b) Normal routines. Broadcast "SL" and Group "V" at 0130, 1030, 1530, 1930 and 2330. Group "NU" 0530, 1130, 1530, 1930 and 2330. Group "AZ" at 0530, 1030, 1500, 1900 and 2330. Submarines may not cease watch until Operating Signal X860 is made.

Series Numbers NUS 500 to 999, VS 500 to 999 and SLS 500 to 999 will be used.

13. Groups NU and V will be conducted in accordance with present rules for Group N (Section E I para 1.)

154QA/6.  
D.S.D.(94)

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- D.S.D.(2)
- H.W.R.(2)
- D.S.O.
- W/T Rm.(2)
- A.E.(3)
- M.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- O.I.C.(3)
- D.S.D.9.
- I.P.(3)
- W.D.
- File X.



War Diary.

6.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Atlantic  
Convoy  
Instructions  
(Contd.)2. Practice (?agrees) with para 3 of N.S.H.Q.  
Ottawa 2223Z/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 1632A/6 to C. in C.  
W.A.)Vichy  
Convoy  
Incident

While a French Eastbound Convoy was passing between Gibraltar and Ceuta this forenoon GABRIEL GUIST'HAU apparently endeavoured to break away from Convoy. She was rounded up by French Armed Trawlers W 52 and W 53, and former put Armed Guard on board before our patrols could take action. Later SAYONARA, who had closed Convoy, observed commotion among the crew of PARAME, next astern of GABRIEL GUIST'HAU. One of crew of PARAME succeeded in jumping overboard and was picked up by SAYONARA's Boat and brought to Gibraltar. He professes strong Free French views. (F.O.C.N.A. 1732A/6 to Admty) Convoy details (D.O.R. 8/3)

South Atlantic.CITY OF  
EXETER

Overdue shipping, cancel my 1146/5 CITY OF EXETER arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0915/6 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. F.O.I.C. Simonstown (R) N.C.S.O. Durban.)

ESTRELLA

Overdue shipping, ESTRELLA due Capetown 2/3 from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1045B/6 to Admty, C. in C. S.A. F.O.I.C. Simonstown (R) N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

Atlantic  
Convoy  
Instructions

Your 1644A/2. 1..Consider this meets a long felt want.  
2. Agree to adoption of General Section, but suggest that information relevant to Home Waters only should be included in separate section, so that new General Section may apply equally to whole Atlantic.  
3. Agree to general adoption of Operations Section. Air Section will require local amendments on this station. In addition consider inclusion of corvettes in fast convoy escorts will necessitate modifications to instructions for these escorts on S.A. station. (C. in C. S.A. 1110Z/6 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

HYDRANGEA  
M.L. 244.HYDRANGEA with M.L. 244 expect to arrive 1700Z/7.  
(HYDRANGEA 1131Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst)

/BATORY...



War Diary.

6.3.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

BATORY CALIFORNIA → BULOLO	A.M. 2248A/2/3 and 1645A/13/2. Intend to sail BATORY escorted by CALIFORNIA and BULOLO p.m. 9/3 routed through. A. 9° 30' N 20° W. B. 15° 12' N 26° 50' W. C. 39° 45' N 32° 58' W. D. 49° 42' N 21° 50' W. S. of A 13½ knots. C. in C. W.A. is requested to issue onward routeing instructions from position D. (C. in C. S.A. 1537Z/6 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. etc.)
BARON NEWLANDS	Have you any news of BARON NEWLANDS due Takoradi 27/2 from Freetown? (D.T.D. 1649A/6 to N.C.S.O. Takoradi)
Movements	Departures 6/3 1230 EGRET, FLEETWOOD, BANFF, 1300 FISHGUARD, 1800 PHILANTE escorting merchant ship BUR. All for S L Convoy. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1803Z/6 to C. in C. S.A.)
BENMOHR torpedoed	BENMOHR torpedoed at 2110/5 in 006° 05' N 014° 15' W. Survivors are emphatic that 2 submarines were seen on the surface, 1 of which appears from its description to be Italian "Glauco" Class. No loss of life. This is probable position of second U.Boat referred to in A.M. 1424A/6, not 003° 05' N. (C. in C. S.A. 1927Z/6 to Admty.)
ALBATROSS	B.A.D. 1923Q/5. Request all personnel ex 710 Sqn. may be returned to ALBATROSS at most convenient opportunity. Suggest those at Falkland Is. proceed direct to Capetown and those at Trinidad to Freetown if ALBATROSS does not visit Trinidad. (C. in C. S.A. 2059Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands (Port Stanley) N.O.I.C. Trinidad (Port of Spain) (R) Admty, C. in C. A.W.I. ALBATROSS, B.A.D.)
Force T, W.S.16.	Departure 6/3 Force T. BRIDGEWATER, JASMINE, NIGELLA, BRILLIANT, WILD SWAN with W.S.16. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2311Z/6 to Admty.(?F.O.I.C.) Simonstown.)
→ BULOLO.	Arrival 6/3. (S.O.I. Freetown. 2323Z/6 to Admty.)



War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Convoy  
bombed"Bingo" bombed in 335° 32° N, 39° E 6 miles.  
(?No) (?damage) (SOUTHWOLD 0706/6 to Tobruk,  
Alexandria)

AURETTA

Your 1743/5 AURETTA arrived 6/3 (N.C.S.O. Aden  
0837Z/6)ADANA  
(torpedoed 3/3)My 1615B/5. ADANA Officer states attack was at  
1345/3 off Shile and 5 miles out. One torpedo  
fired and avoided; periscope later seen.  
Believe this account substantially correct.  
(Beyoglu 0958B/6 to Admty.)S/M refit  
programme127. My 1534/5 para C. A. Under present  
refitting programme OLYMPUS and CLYDE should  
leave Gibraltar about 5/5 and 20/6 respectively.  
This may seriously prejudice supply of storesby S/M to Malta especially as SEVERN is not likely to rejoin 8th  
Flotilla before end of August.B. Request C. in C. Med. and F.O.C. N.A. be informed of the  
proposals contained in para 2 of my remarks dated 26/2 on P.D.  
0794/1942 and that S.8. be instructed to report whether refits  
of CLYDE or OLYMPUS can be deferred until SEVERN rejoins 8th  
Flotilla. (F.O.S. 1016A/6 to Admty.)

THRASHER

Details amplifying 1959B/5 re attack on supply  
ships entering Suda Bay by THRASHER (S.I. 1347B/6)  
See Lion Copy.Shortage  
of A/S  
Vessels  
SHOREHAMYour 1135/5. (N.T.in W.D) Shortage of A/S vessels  
on Med. Station is also acute. I would point out  
that SHOREHAM is the only remaining ship of Red  
Sea Force that was handed over to me to work  
Red Sea when that area within my command. My  
intention had been that SHOREHAM should workfrom Aden as we must soon expect attack on the Focal Point for  
shipping presented by the Gulf of Aden. I will turn the ship  
over to you but I trust that the importance of guarding the area  
in question will be given earnest consideration. (C. in C. Med.  
1350B/6 to C. in C. E.I.)Sighting  
Reports  
by A/CMy 1229/3/2 para 3 agreement now reached with  
Air Min. that all first enemy sighting reports  
should be in S.E. Code or Naval Aircraft Code  
Plain i.e. unrecorded. (Admty 1721A/6 to C. in C.  
Med. (R) V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A.)Air Report  
Malta.C.S.R. 6/3. 5th. 2 alerts 1418 and 1604,  
20 Me. 109's and Ju. 88's. Hal Far, craters  
dispersal area. Luqa, 1 Maryland 2 Blenheims  
1 Wellington damaged, none serious. Cratersrunways and all dispersal areas. Damage to buildings.  
Night 5/6. Continuous intruder dusk to dawn. 18 raiders, target

/Luqa...



192 Filed  
15A

1347B/6 March.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN.

From S.ONE.

Date 7.3.42.

Recd. 0422.

NAVAL CYPIER (C) BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean  
Capt. S. Eight. F.O.S. Capt. S. Tenirad.

The following amplifies my 1959B/5/3/42. Attack took place in position 8 miles East of Suda Bay. Escort disposed Fairmile Type ahead, P.C.74 and M.A/S B. Types on portside, and two trawler types on starboard side of supply ship. THRESHIR attacked from port side and fired from quarter. Before firing P.C.74 Type passed nearly over Submarine but is not (repeated) not thought to have gained contact. This vessel's range on firing was about 600 yards and M.A/S B. was nearer. Customary immediate counter attack on firing position was not (repeated) not made. Intermittent depth charging commenced 11 minutes after firing or 8 minutes after torpedo hit. 10 minutes later first deliberate attack took place A/S vessel passing over submarine which was straddled by 10 depth charges. Submarine was then at 170 feet and went to 300 feet 5 minutes later second deliberate attack A/S vessel again passing over submarine which was straddled by depth charges. 5 minutes later four depth charges were heard when submarine was drawing clear. Two more depth charges were heard later. Only P.C.74 and 2 trawler types took part in hunting, two of these making attacks. Attacks were made at 12 knots with no (repeated) no increase of speed or reduction of transmission interval.

Intensity of impulses varied very little on obvious

SWCOPIER



192<sup>B</sup>

-2-

sweeping effect being apparent. It was thus extremely difficult to determine when attacks were commencing... Rustling noises heard after explosions suggest that all depth charges exploded above submarine. A/S vessels occasionally stopped during hunt. This is 1st Submarine Flotilla's first experience of deliberate and accurate attacks using echo detection by enemy. His hunting and our evasion tactics followed recognised Asdic lines with exceptions noted. Consider that the low frequency used by the enemy accounts for the absence of detection of sweeping effect in submarine.

1347B/6.

+ re H.M.S. THRACHER  
successfully attacked supply  
ship.

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

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F).  
A.C.N.S.(T).  
A.C.N.S.(W).  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.  
Ops.(3).  
O.D.(5).  
D.N.I.(4).  
D.S.D.9.  
O.I.C.(4).  
D. of P.(3).  
D.A/S.W.(2).  
I.P.(3).  
W.D.  
D.P.D.  
D.S.D.(2).  
M.(2).  
D.T.S.D.  
File X.



193

War Diary.6.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd.)Air Report  
Malta.  
(Contd.)

Luqa, 1 unserviceable Blenheim 1 petrol Bowser burnt out, 1 Wellington slight damage, numerous craters aerodrome runways dispersal areas. Work all day to repair. Ta Kali, craters aerodrome, elsewhere no damage or casualties, Hurricanes up but no luck. Ta Kali blocked 2300 hrs. aircraft flown to Luqa to continue operations.

6th. 2 alerts 0816 1310 hrs 43 Me. 109's and Ju. 88's Targets submarine base and aerodromes. Aerodromes no damage or casualties. Tigne Barracks damage not yet known. Submarine Base not serious damage, signalled later, elsewhere 2 civilians dead, 1 missing, 12 injured, more than 5 houses destroyed, other persons believed still buried. Hurricanes shot down 1 Me.109. Light A/A, damaged 1 Ju.88. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1730/6.) Contng. C.S.R.6/3 Night 5/6. 1 Special Albacore Tripoli-Zuara found nothing. 1 Wellington 1 C laid 2 mines East Tripoli Harbour a second returned mechanical trouble mines jettisoned. 2 Wellington 1 C successful diversion 3 2231 to 2310 hrs. Fires near Arab quarter and railway station. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1734/6)

Fast  
Ships for  
Malta.

Need for faster Merchant Ships for Malta run has been emphasised in C. in C's message GJP/68653 or (68453) of 4/3 to Chiefs of Staff. I should be glad to know what prospects there are of obtaining ships capable of maintaining at least 17 knots. I have in mind ships such as DENBIGHSHIRE and EMPIRE EGRET. Need for an equally fast oiler remains as great as ever. I understand EMPIRE SALVAGE has speed of 18 knots. If we managed one successful trip with a 10,000 ton oiler we would have some prospect of keeping Malta topped up thereafter by means of BRECONSHIRE. (C. in C. Med. 1746B/6 to Admty.)

M.W.11.

Your 1034/4. Only suitable ships available CLAN CAMPBELL, MELBOURNE STAR, DORSET, PAMPAS and WAIWERA. Further signal will be made but meanwhile these five ships should be held. (D. of S.T. 1912A/6 to P.S.T.O. Egypt. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Situation  
Report 198.(P.L.M. 20 sunk by  
UNBEATEN - 1744-50  
27-8-42)

Western Desert. HARBOE JENSEN refloated and will be towed to Alexandria.

(2) Submarines. UNBEATEN attacked northbound convoy of 1 tanker, 2 M/S and destroyers, at 1900/1 in 35° 26' N 11° 09' E. 1 torpedo hit followed by prolonged explosion. Oil and wreckage found in position following day. Tanker which may have been ALABAMA 6,700 tons, (probably French collier P.L.M. 18, see 2325B/9.) considered probably sunk. Request publicity C owing to possibility of Vichien nationality although ship was in prohibited area and between 3 and 3½ from coast.

(3) THRASHER successfully attacked supply ships entering Suda Bay at 1155/16. Subsequent A/S attack reported in S.I. 1959/5. 2 500 lb. bombs found in casing after attack were successfully disposed of. Request publicity C to avoid disclosing failure of A/S tactics. (C. in C. Med. 1954/6 to Admty. (R) V.A.M. F.O.H. S.B.N.O.C.A.)

/CLELIA...



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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

CLELIA  
CAMPANELLA

Arrange minimum amount of work to fit vessel for voyage South Africa. Consult Rant Anglo Iranian. (D.T.D. 2048A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aden)

TORBAY  
THORN

Proceed towards Gulf of Taranto THORN keeping N TORBAY S of line drawn  $304^{\circ}$  from  $038^{\circ} 11' 020^{\circ} 21'$ . Further orders follow. TORBAY be prepared to remain on patrol a further 5 days. (Capt. S.l. 2130B/6 to TORBAY, THORN.)

CAPO PINO  
MERANO

My 1015B/4. Ships entered Aegean Sea 12.30 hours G.M.T. T.O.O. 1641B/4. (S.O.I. Istanbul, Recd. in W.R. 0047/6 to S.O.I. Med. D.N.I.)



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

S.U.2. A. What action have you taken on A.C.N.B. 0430Z/5?  
 B. Desired that S.U.2 should be routed via Diego Garcia or Mauritius depending on draught thence to Sydney or Adelaide, failing that Fremantle. Delay must be accepted so as to enable you to arrange fuelling and watering facilities.  
 (1st S.L., 0147A/6 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.) Your 0147/6 see my 1510/5 which is being passed to you.  
 (2) Owing to severe congestion at Colombo which involves valuable ships being anchored outside breakwater and much delay in bunkering watering etc., it is essential to sail convoy S.U. 2. when ready p.m./6. (3) They have fuel water and food 18 days only. Replenishment particularly water and food at place suggested not practical proposal. (4) Intend therefore to route this convoy well to west and south to Fremantle escorted all way by HOBART. (5) I would stress that the very difficult and complicated question of working large numbers of (?supply) convoys through Indian Ocean under present conditions is having my continuous and earnest attention.  
 (C. in C. E.F., 0631Z/6 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.)

Capital Ships A.M. 2007A/4. The use of R Class battleships in Ceylon. the defence of Ceylon is at your discretion. Should the circumstances be such that it is reasonable to suppose that their use would appreciably interfere with an invasion of the Island even though it resulted in the loss of these ships then their use would be justified in view of the vital repercussions should the enemy obtain possession of Ceylon. On the other hand should the situation be such that the loss of these ships is probable without their being able materially to alter the situation they should not be used. In the meantime it appears that they are best based on Colombo unless you see any objection. Request your comments.  
 (1st S.L., 0150A/6 to C. in C. E.F.)

New C. in C. E.F. Will it be possible for you to fall in with proposal contained in para 3 of C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 1409Z/5.

(1st S.L., 0204A/6 to S.O. Force V.)  
 Your 0204A/6. I will do my best, see my 0618Z/6. Request your 0159A/5 referred to in C. in C. E.F. 1409Z/5 may be repeated to me.

(S.O. Force V., 0622Z/6 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.)  
 Personal. Can arrangements be made for me to fly Colombo either from Capetown or Durban?

(S.O. Force V., 0618Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

Your 0618/6th. Can almost certainly arrange air passage as far as Cairo. Request C. in C. E.F. will state whether onward journey from Cairo can be arranged. Alternatively could C. in C. E.F. send a Catalina to Durban. 2. Admty. pass to S.O. Force V. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1539Z/6 to S.O. Force V. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

Cancel my 1747A/5 in view of C. in C. E.F. 1409Z/5.

(1st S.L., 0209A/6 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F.)



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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

DEMIR HISAR. Mombasa left 6/3 0325 G.M.T. Turk Destroyer DEMIR HISAR. (N.O.I.C. E. Africa, 0331Z/6 to C. in C. E.I.)

DM.3 B. Arrived 0331Z, CORFU, FALMOUTH with D.M.3 B. 0415Z, HASHEMI with tow. (S.O. (I) Bombay, 0416Z/6 to Admty etc).

BURNIE, PERTH. Your 0016/6. (N.T. in W.R.) not to BURNIE. I have no information later than that contained in B.A.D. 1815/3. 2. BURNIE is requested to inform N.B. Melbourne latest information of PERTH when he considers he can break W/T silence. (C. in C. E.F., 0505Z/6 to A.C.N.B.)

Burma Report. Intelligence summary 66 up to 1800 hours 5/3/42. HINDUSTAN reported 7 enemy bombers seen 25 miles S.W. of Rangoon River mouth 1000 hours.

Standing patrol 2 Hurricanes maintained Rangoon area 0800-1400 hours for protection shipping off-loading in docks. Patrol discontinued 1400 hours to allow employment fighters in other tasks. 3 Hurricanes attacked 3 100 feet barges anchored and motor launch working to north shore at Dedaye in China Bakir River 1730 hours. Same target attacked later by 2 Blenheims IV. Bombs in over and on bank. Boats machine gunned. At request G.H.Q., G.R. Blenheim R/C despatched investigate report of enemy boats China Bakir River reported 1700 hours. 3 large boats moored opposite Dedaye village. R/C aircraft fired on and boats hoisted Jap Flag. Boats attacked later with fighters and bombers reported above. (Norgroup, 0531/6 to Air H.Q. India)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 0245Z/5 ENTERPRISE 0815Z, \*HOBART 1115Z, DANAE, SCOUT, TENEDOS. Departures 0900Z/5 NETRAVATI. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0546Z/6 to Admty etc).

Hurricanes. Your 1655Z/5 (N.T. in W.R.) Have referred this to A.O.C. in C. who informs me as follows. 36 Hurricanes forming numbers 30 and 261 Sqns. allocated to Ceylon. Remaining 24 Hurricanes most urgently required in Burma. These latter cannot be flown to Burma from Ceylon owing to short range. Most important these should be disembarked as in my 0705/5 (N.T. in W.R.) (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0605Z/6 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

/Your...



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Hurricanes Contd. Your 0605/6. I am not prepared to accept Air Officer C. in C's orders in opposition to those from Admty. especially in view of the very meagre cover at present provided for Battleships now at Trincomalee and Colombo.

2. If orders from Admty. that this risk to Battleships may be further increased and fighters released from Ceylon they can be flown, as long range tanks are available.

3. Majority of Hurricanes have already landed in Ceylon. (C. in C. E.F., 0907Z/6 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.I.) See Admty., 1228/6.

Burma. Cipher 5/3. Sitrep. Part A. (?1900) G.M.T.

(1) Gen. Sir H. Alexander assumed command of Army in Burma at 1300/5 Lt. Gen. Hutton assumes appointment C.G.S. Army in Burma. (3) Rangoon area. Subsequent to report yesterday of 8 river craft moving west from mouth of Salween, HINDUSTAN on patrol at mouth of Rangoon River established contact with hostile craft capturing one and losing remainder in shallow of China Bakir River. These were subsequently found and machine gunned by R.A.F. fighters but they had landed their contents on north bank of river at Dedaye some 35 miles south of Twante Canal. Captured boat contained one Jap Officer and 55 Burmans of Free Burma Army. Appears this is the first flight of a seaborne expedition of united Jap/Burman Force. Precautions being taken to intercept subsequent flights. Rangoon quiet. Numbers of people returning mostly Indian probably with intention of obtaining sea passage. ex Rangoon No further arson. (G.O.C. Burma, 0956/6).

Eastern Fleet Exercise in Company. (1) It is imperative if our fleet is to give a good account of itself against an expedition escorted by heavy Japanese units that they should form therefore subject to S.O. Force V's conveniences exercises in company as soon as possible. (2) I intend INDOMITABLE becoming available to concentrate fleet Addu Atoll to meet V.A.2 in command for exercises shortly after his arrival there about 20/3. (3) I am, however, very concerned at lack of air defence at that base and it is, therefore, my intention that during exercise period the fleet should remain in harbour for short essential period only. (4) Admty pass to S.O. Force V. (C. in C. E.F., 1009Z/6 to Admty (R) S.O. (A) E.F., S.O. Force V. F.O.2nd I.C. E.F.)

Eastern Fleet Disposal. Your 1230/5 to C. in C. E.F. only. If the Japanese decide to launch a seaborne expedition on Rangoon it is virtually certain that it will be escorted by a strong force consisting probably of capital ships, cruisers and aircraft carriers.

2. This force will furthermore be under the protection of shore based aircraft.

3. Until such time as I have available seaborne aircraft to operate in protection of my Fleet I am not prepared to take it inside Andaman Islands.



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Eastern  
Fleet  
Disposal.  
Contd.

4. The whole future of our cause must depend on the battlefleet and to risk it without air support in that area would be to court a disaster similar to Dec. 10 1941.

5. Furthermore the approach to Rangoon is 1000 miles away from my nearest base and the warning which I am likely to receive will not give me sufficient time to move a force to intercept. It would not be possible to keep the Fleet as sea waiting in anticipation of this Japanese move for more than a very short period.

6. As soon as I have submarines at my disposal I intend to establish a patrol in the north End of the Malacca Straits which may give me reasonable warning and provide some measure of offence, and in such case I should consider launching my very meagre light forces supported by cruisers into a night attack.

7. Admiralty pass to S.O. Force V.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1011Z/6 to ARMINDIA (R) Admty. S.O. Force V).

INDOMITABLE  
A/C.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. India 29 addressed C. in C. India repeated C. in C. E.F. in INDOMITABLE.

All Hurricanes ex INDOMITABLE are to remain in Ceylon. Explanation follows (See 2130/6)  
(1st S.L. 1228A/6 to C. in C. E.F., INDOMITABLE.)

Routeing  
of Troop  
Convoys.

A. During the reinforcement phase it has been necessary and justifiable to accept serious risks to troop convoys proceeding to the Abda area. This phase has now passed and the threat to troop convoys and independent M/T shipping to Australia

has become so serious that well diverted routeing and as much protection as your resources permit must be employed.

B. It appears to us that under present circumstances the routeing of troop convoys and M/T shipping to Australia should comply with the following principles:-

(1) All convoys and independent M/T shipping from Aden that need not call in Ceylon to be routed direct to Australia calling for fuel and water if necessary at Mauritius, Seychelles or Diego Garcia depending on draught.

(2) All troop convoys from Ceylon to be sailed by diverted routes well to the South and West, fuelling and watering at Diego Garcia or even Mauritius if necessary.

(3) Independent M/T shipping from Ceylon to be routed by diverted routes keeping well to the south and west.

(4) As many ships as possible to avoid Fremantle and be sailed direct to Sydney or failing that Adelaide.

C. Request your comments.

(1st S.L., 1327A/6 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.)

ENGADINE.

Arrival at 0840Z/6.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1350Z/6 to Admty etc).



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

- C. in C. Ceylon Staff. Following from Chiefs of Staff. Your 1418/5 should have been addressed to C. in C. India who with A.O.C. in C. will meet your army and air staff requirements as far as possible applying to us for balance.
2. Final composition of your staff will presumably depend on whether you ultimately assume command of all forces in Ceylon.  
(1st S.L., 1429A/6 to C. in C. E.F.)
- Portuguese JOAO BELO, GONCALVES ZARCO. My 1608/4. Both ships in 014° 45' S., 105° 47' E. 1200/4.  
(Admty., 1455A/6 to C. in C. E.I., (R) C. in C. E.F.)
- Movements. Arrivals Colombo 0800Z/6. JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK, 0915Z, GLASGOW. Departures 1100Z, \*HOBART, SHOREHAM, TULIP, KELANTAN, 1130Z RAMILLIES, FORTUNE, DECOY, 1230Z CHITRAL, SONNAVATI.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1621Z/6 to Admty).  
\* 22 Feb 196
- Routeing. Your 1134Z/16/1. Suggest all merchant ships sailing independently to and from Australia in the Indian Ocean should now be routed further to the South and West.
2. A line joining the following points is proposed as the northerly and easterly limit for all such ships (1) Colombo (2) Chagos Archipelago (3) 25° S., 80° E., (4) Fremantle.
3. Shipping to be widely dispersed to the south and west of this line and if endurance permits vessels to or from ports on south or east coasts Australia to proceed direct to destinations avoiding calling at Fremantle.
4. Subject to remarks of A.C.N.B. loaded tankers may be routed to Fremantle for orders, but in view of U-boat activity in this area it would be preferable for this call to be omitted ships being diverted as necessary at sea.
5. If you concur request you will issue the necessary instructions forthwith.  
(Admty. 1851A/6 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.)
- Tankers. Ref. 0750/19/2 from Abdafloat, to Admty.  
Reply as to allocations.  
(D.S.T., 1918/6 to C. in C. E.I.)
- Defence of Ceylon. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 31. Your 4788/G and 4792/C of 5/3. We agree that defence Ceylon is mainly naval and air problem but since sufficient naval and air forces cannot be got there in time, an increased garrison is the only immediate insurance that can be provided.



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Defence of  
Ceylon.  
Contd.

2. Accordingly one brigade of the 70th Division, the East African Brigade, and the 16th and 17th Australian Infantry Brigade Groups should be held in Ceylon in addition to the existing garrison. When sufficient naval and air reinforcements have arrived it should be possible to let the two Australian Infantry Brigade Groups proceed to Australia probably about mid-May. Since time is of first importance you should consult C. in C. E.I. and P.S.T.O. India as to quickest possible method of bringing brigade of 70th Div. to Ceylon. Either MAURETANIA might be used or NIEUW AMSTERDAM sailed direct to Colombo.

3. We have ordered all fighters ex INDOMITABLE to remain in Ceylon. Flying boats now in Ceylon and on the way there must not be transferred elsewhere without reference to Chiefs of Staff.

4. We are not unmindful that size of the Ceylon garrison is your responsibility, but we have thought it right to issue definite instructions on this point in view of the fact that essential interests outside your command are involved in the security of the island.

C. in C. India please pass A.O.C. in C. India as from Air Ministry.

(W.O. 2130/6 to C. in C. India (R) C. in C. Ceylon)

Addu Atoll.

A.M. 2113A/3/2. (a) Every possible effort and improvisation is to be employed to get Addu Atoll prepared as an operation base for Eastern Fleet as soon as possible. One aerodrome is particularly required by middle May if possible. (b) Request brief progress report on the lines of para 18 and a reply to para 20.

(c) Rear Adm. A.D. Read has been appointed F.O.I.C. and will fly out to Ceylon as soon as possible to assist you in the preparation of this base.

(1st S.L., 2155A/6 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

China.

Java Report.

Following received from C. in C. N.E.I. Army  
12 Noon 6/3/42. Begins.

Situation morning 6/3. Enemy occupied Lemahabang, Buitenzorg, Djokjakarta, Madioen, Kediri, Njandjoek, Kertosono and is at the outskirts of Djombang. They voluntarily evacuated Poewakarta. Enemy bombarded Tjilatjap, where harbour area, the newly arrived dive bombers and last flying boats were burnt. Enemy attacked Tjiati Pass (N. of Bandoeng) in afternoon of 5/3 with armoured cars, motorised infantry and planes. Attack was repulsed with the aid of our last planes. Our military air forces are now finished. The alert against air attack at Bandoeng is continuous. Collapse of the defence, also as a result of exhaustion, is inevitable.

(J.S.M. Washington, 1717Q/6 to C.O.S. London).



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- U/B Location of S/M within 50 miles 029° N. 074° 30' W. by D/F bearing at 2026Z/5. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0036Z/6 to Brit. Warships Area 7 A, Admty., etc.)
- COLLAMER H.X.178 (torpedoed 5/3) H.X.178. Western local escort report ( A P O ) (garbled) and COLLAMER lost touch during thick weather night 3rd/4th and did not rejoin. DRUMMONDSVILLE also not seen 3rd. Reported time 1425Z/5th. C.O.A.C. Halifax has confirmed sinking of COLLAMER by 2 torpedoes in 044° 19' N. 063° 09' W. at 0930Z/5. 31 survivors in WOODCOCK en route for Halifax. (U.S.C.N.O. 0131Z/6 to Admty. (R) C.T.U.24.13 etc)
- U/B At 2044Z/5 D/F placed U-boat at 029° 30' N. 075° 00' W. accuracy 50 miles. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0331Z/6 to Admty. etc.)
- O. A. KNUDSEN torpedoed. Addressed Admiralty London, C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C. Following received from U.S. Commercial radio from U.S. Tanker O. A. KNUDSEN at 2037Z/5. Distress, torpedoed, 26° 17' N. 75° 50' W. (Naval Ottawa, 0718/6 to Admty.)

Movements.

Summary at 1800 G.M.T./6

Ships	Position	Course	Speed
CAVINA	40½ N. 33 W	064	11
HILARY	39 N. 30 W.	043	11
MARON	40 N. 32 W.	057	11
MARSDALE	39 N. 31 W.	047	11
PRETORIA CASTLE } CANTON	04 N. 23 W.	Patrol	Blank
ASTURIAS	07½ S. 25 W.	037	16
S.S. QUEEN MARY	leaving Rio de Janeiro	106	25
CILICIA	35 S. 45 W.	Patrol	Blank
ILEX	02 N. 45½W	301	13
Convoy S.U.1 } CORNWALL	13 S. 90 E.	159	10
ASCANIA	32 S.105 E.	093	12
WARSPITE	Adelaide Area	Blank	Blank
Convoy C.T.11 } VANQUISHER	44½ N. 53½W.	255	9½
WITCH			
3 A/S Trawlers	50½ N. 38 W.	Standing by	tanker
		DIALA.	
PARTHIAN	leaving New London	141	12
(D.O.D.(F) 1025Z/6 to Opnav (R)		Spenavo)	



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - contd.

## AUSONIA

My 1603P/924th. C T F 2 has amended patrol area for AUSONIA to 020° N. to 030° N. 040° W. to 050° W.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 1043P/6 to Admty., (R) B.A.D. etc.)

## Boats.

My 2323P/5 (S/M Raider report, no ship mentioned) U.S.N.O.B. reports U.S. aircraft have sighted two boats in 29° 01' N. 064° 15' W. at 0626 GCT. Name of ship not known.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 1103P/6 to Admty., (R) Opnav, N.S.H.Q.)

## BAYOU

N.C.S.O. Georgetown B.G. reports one survivor from BAYOU (Pan) Rio de Janeiro to Trinidad picked up on raft in 007° 36' N. 058° 05' W. at noon 5/3. States ship torpedoed during night of 27/2 and sank in half a minute, probable position of sinking off Paramaribo.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 1112P/6 to Admty., Opnav, B.A.D. etc.)

## NIPIGON

My 1626Z/3/2. Completion date NIPIGON uncertain dependent on receipt of cylinder for steering engine.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1200Z/6 to N.S.H.Q.)

## CHARLOTTETOWN

My 1203Z/1. Completion date CHARLOTTETOWN uncertain depending on receipt of cylinder for windlass.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1201Z/6 to N.S.H.Q.)

A/S tactics  
by convoy  
escorts.

Following from C T F 4 begins - from C T F 4 addressed Task Group 4.2 repeated F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. C. in C. Lant, Opnav, C. in C. W.A., C T G 11.9 Admty. Recently a westbound convoy was attacked five times during one night, further attacks on

subsequent days and nights were frustrated by the following :-

- (1) Radical diversion of convoy by Opnav.
  - (2) Offensive tactics employed by Escort Commander. Escort ship assigned to patrol area distant about 15 miles on each flank throughout daylight. Escort ships used freely at night for sweeping to about 6 miles in direction of D.F. bearings. Though 5 submarine sight contacts on surface were made by escorts during the day and night subsequent to the subject mass attack there were no further attacks on convoy. 0605Z/6 (Ends)
- (F.O.N.F. 1201Z/6 to C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

/VERITY ...



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

VERITY. My 1415Z/3. Due to additional work, necessary to advance completion date of VERITY to 7/3. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1203Z/6 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty., B.A.D. F.O.N.F. etc.)

Task Force Titles. Following from C.T.F.24 (begins) C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Admty., C. in C. W.A., C.O. E.A.C., O.C.1 Group R.C.A.F., from C.T.F.24. Action, all mid-ocean and Western local escorts, effective at once. The titles of Task Force and Commander Task Force 4 have been changed to Task Force and Commander Task Force 24. Mid-ocean and Western local escorts units heretofore designated Task Unit 4. have now become Task Unit 24. Calls assigned in S.P.02378 shall until otherwise ordered continue to be used as if no change in Task Force number has taken place. Modify my Operation Plan 2-42 accordingly when received. F.O.N.F. pass to all addressees. Opnav, C. in C. Lant, and Task Force 24 informed by separate dispatch. 0631/6 (Ends) (F.O.N.F. 1225Z/6 to addressees named.)

DIALA Your 1735Z/5. FRISKY should arrive DIALA p.m./9/3. (A.C.I.C. 1226Z/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Tugs Trinidad. Admty. 1841A/27/12 ref B Y T tugs. B Y T 1 and 2 are proving absolutely indispensable here. Both have been employed at the same time (?bringing) in boat loads of (?survivors) reported by A/C. They are both fully employed on work for which I have no other suitable craft and I most earnestly hope it can be arranged for both to remain here. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1251Q/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty.)

ARCHER. Your 1923Q/5. ARCHER's movements. Concur. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1311A/6 to B.A.D.)

U/B. S/M sighted by aircraft at 1415Z in 044° 13' N. 057° 09' W. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1458Z/6 to Admty.) My 1458Z/6. Corrected position from A/C 044° 23' N. 057° 09' W. (C.O.A.C. 1912Z/6 to Admty.)

Shipping Control U.S.N. Co-operation. Ref. B.A.D.'s 1849R/7/2 Admty. are in complete agreement with proposals of Navy Dept. whose action is much appreciated. Agreed that permanent retention of C.S.A's and suitable staffs in ports in U.S. strategical zone is essential. When U.S. authorities have assumed full control of shipping, some reduction of staff should be possible.  
2. B.A.D. is requested to report in due course detailed arrangements.



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Shipping  
Control  
U.S.N.  
Co-operation  
contd.

3. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to say whether it is desired to make similar arrangements in Canadian ports.
4. With regard to other British and foreign ports in the Caribbean Area, B.A.D. is requested to inform C. in C. America and West Indies of U.S. proposals.
5. Arrangements will be made in U.K. for the accommodation of U.S. routing officers with British N.C.S. staffs when required by U.S. Navy Dept.
6. As regards ports in South American States outside Caribbean, see N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2238Z/26/11/41 and A.M.0146A/5/12/41. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1408A/6 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Destroyer  
escorts.

N.O.I.C. Esquimalt 2325Z/5 being passed. B.A.D. Washington please pass plain language copy to Opnav. Opnav is requested to confirm that these arrangements are suitable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1418Z/6 to B.A.D. Opnav, Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Esquimalt.)

EYEBRIGHT  
S.C.72

EYEBRIGHT sailed 1500Z/6 14 knots. Expect to overtake S.C.72 dawn 9/3. (C.C.N.F. 1517Z/6 to C.T.U. No.4.1.13)

MEROPE

My 1718/3. MEROPE probably three days late. Puerto Mexico reports master and officers strongly pro-Vichy. Enquiries made re source and grading of above. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1521R/6 to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington.)

CARDINA.

Panamanian CARDINA overdue at Balboa from Auckland N.Z. (S.T.O. Jamaica 1524R/6 to Admty. etc.)

NORDVANGEN.

My 1244/4 not to B.A.D. Part of lifeboat marked NORDVANGEN also green and white deck house scantlings washed ashore Trinidad. NORDVANGEN deck house was so painted. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1541R/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) C. in C. A.W.I., Admty., B.A.D.)



War Diary.

6.3.1942

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

North Reference C.O.S.(W) 101 and (W) 107.  
 Australia Dutch C. in C. Abda area is being informed through  
 Command. Dutch channels here that the combined Chiefs of  
 Staff have decided that that part of Northern  
 Australia not within the Abda area will revert  
 to Australian Command on the understanding that Dutch Head-  
 quarters will be allowed to operate aircraft and ships of the  
 Abdacom Command from Australia if they so desire. Australian  
 Chiefs of Staff have also been informed.  
 (J.S.M. 1635Q/6 to Chiefs of Staff, London.)

Java J.S.M.107.  
 Report. (J.S.M. 1717Q/6 to C.O.S.) See China.

CALDWELL Not met. My P.C. and S. 1500Z/6 051° 50' N.  
 convoy. (S.C. 72) 042° 30' W. 060° 7½ knots. In R/T communication  
 with ocean escort. SACKVILLE lost contact in  
 fog 36 hours ago. THUNDER proceed to St.  
 Johns N.F. to refuel. CALDWELL and H.M.S.  
 LAUDERDALE must leave 2100Z to refuel.  
 (CALDWELL 1730Z/6 to U.S. C.N.O., N.S.H.Q.  
 Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F., Admty.,  
 Task Unit 4.1.13.)

BRASTAGI. Venezuelan Govt. wireless report that Curacao  
 wireless station PJC at 1535/6 broadcasts S O S  
 message in morse that Dutch S.S. BRAGOSTI was  
 unsuccessfully attacked by submarine which  
 torpedoed her 14 hours 45 in position 014° 42' N.  
 and 072° 14' W. We think vessels name might  
 be BRASTAGI.  
 (N.A. Caracas 1815/6 to Fairmiss, Admty., (R)  
 S.O.I. Jamaica, F.O.I.C. Trinidad, N.C.S.O.  
 Curacao.)

→ THUNDER. Position 050° 55' N. 044° 59' W. course 237°  
 speed 9 knots. E.T.A. St. Johns, N.F. daylight  
 Sunday 8/3.  
 (THUNDER 1900Z/6 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F.  
 (R) N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

Tunis Tunis. 5/3. B.2. Departed Sfax for France 28/2,  
 intelligence. SAINT ODETTE, SAINT SIMONE, CHATEAU LATOUR and  
 P.L.M.20. Arrived Tunis 2/3. Italian LUPA,  
 5/3, SCHIAFFINO FRERES. Departed Tunis 2/3,  
 GALLIUM and GIMMA for Sousse. Departed Sousse  
 2/3, SAINT ALBERT.  
 (B.A.D. 1939Q/6 to Admty.)

/U.S. request ...



War Diary.6.3.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

U.S. request for Corvettes now building in Canada. We have received a formal request from Navy Dept. today asking that U.S. Navy should be allowed to acquire the following vessels now building in Canada - ten twin-screw Corvettes, 15 single screw Corvettes (revised type), 8 Fairmiles.

2. As these vessels have been built to satisfy British Defence requirements they cannot presumably be handed over without detriment to our future convoy escort plans and especially in view of the spread of the war to the east.

3. On the other hand the U.S. situation due to lack of small craft and especially after transferring the 50 destroyers must be balanced against our requirements.

4. If the transfer of these ships is acceptable or not I suggest it may be advisable, in order to know how we stand for the future, to review in reply our requirements for Corvettes and the U.K. and Canadian output so as to ascertain U.S. intentions regarding the escort vessels building in this country and especially the first 50 which are due for completion about middle of 1943. After that date rate of building should be about 200 escort vessels a year in this country.

5. The vessels asked for in para.1 above are part of the programme which is building to U.K. account. If the transfer of these ships is acceptable presumably Admiralty will communicate direct with Canadian Authorities.

6. Suggested that this request affords a good opportunity for effecting exchange of Destroyers for Corvettes on the basis of First Sea Lord's agreement with Adm. King recorded in F.S.L's letter of 14/1/42.  
(B.A.D. 1959Q/6 to Admty.)

ELLENOR. My 2251/5 ELLENOR arrived Boston 5/3.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2008Z/6 to Admty.)

U.S. Navy Time Zone suffixes. U.S. Navy now employ time zone suffixes identical to those given in G.S.1 Art. 155 in the subject matter of messages. G.M.T. continues to be used in all times of origin.  
(B.A.D. 2011Q/6 to Admty.)

Convoy Instructions. Para 5 of your 1545Z/2 (C. in C. W.A's 1545/2 intended) I am prepared to accept local instructions applicable to particular areas. However, since U.S. publication known as Lant Fleet 9 A is used by both U.S. Pacific and Atlantic Fleets I am not prepared to replace it.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2015/6 to Admty. (R)  
Cinlant, C.T.F.4.)

Routeing of shipping. B.A.D. 1935Q/6, in reply to Admty. 2017A/5  
(N.T.in W.D.) See Lion Copy.



MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1935Q/6th March. IN

From ~~B. A. D. Washington~~ Date 7.3.42. Recd. 0259.

NAVAL CYPHER D. BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. America & West Indies, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

IMPORTANT

(NT. <WRD)

387. Your 2017 A 5th para. (2). The U.S. naval authorities are routeing their ships on coast as close 5 fathom lines as safe navigation permits.

(2) The following message has been drafted in Navy department today and is being submitted to C. in C. U.S. Fleet for approval before despatch to Eastern Frontier Commanders Admiralty C. in C. America and West Indies, and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa :

"A single routeing policy for Atlantic sea frontier waters of U.S. is an essential and immediate requirement and further delay, to await world wide routeing agreement will be embarrassing.

An Atlantic U.S. Coastal Directive is being promulgated by navy department and it would be appreciated if this Directive, amended as necessary from time to time could be utilised by N.C.S.O.'s and other British routeing authorities as well as by U.S. authorities".

(3) Atlantic sea frontier waters of the U.S. include Caribbean Sea vide appendix B of world wide routeing agreement.

(4) I concur a single routeing policy in R area is an essential and immediate requirement and I hope the message from C. in C. U.S. Fleet may receive early Admiralty approval Navy Department had hoped promulgate these routeing instructions earlier if Admiralty concurrence to routeing agreement had been received.

(5) Reference para. (3) An appreciation both by Comdr. Eastern Sea Frontier and by Navy Department was prepared C. in C. U.S. Fleet and it has been decided to commence coastal convoys, including ultimate convoying from Cape Cod Canal to Halifax, as soon as sufficient escorts are available unless it is shown present close inshore routeing gives safe cover. It has been impressed on the Navy Department that inshore routeing may result in heavy mining by subs. and this danger is appreciated.

(6) The Navy Department has promised to give adequate advance information to Admiralty before commencing coastal convoys. The Atlantic U.S. Coastal Directive should reach you within next few days.

(7) There is no suitable convoy assembly port on the coast south of Norfolk and it is therefore probable the southern terminal port for coastal convoy would have to be Guantanamo Cuba.

1935Q/6

- 1st Lord. Advance copy Ops., O.D., Trade.
- 1st S.L. I.A. 1st S.L. Re routeing of shipping
- V.C.N.E. D.O.D.(H) D.T.D.(H) close to coast.
- A.C.N.S.(H) D.D.O.D.(H) D.M.S. Hd. of M. D.D.I.C.(2)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2) D.O.D.(F) D.M.S. Basement. E.P.S. D.C.(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T) D.D.O.D.(F) D.N. I. (4) D. of P. (2) I.P. (2)
- D.T.D.(2) D.T.D.(C) D.A./S.W.
- Ad. Bailey W.D.



War Diary.6.3.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Routeing of shipping - contd. A single routeing policy for the (corrupt group) sea frontier water of U.S. is an essential and immediate requirement and further delay to await the world wide routeing agreement will be embarrassing. An (corrupt group) U.S. Coastal Directive is being promulgated by Navy Dept. and it would be appreciated if this Directive amended as necessary from time to time could be utilized by N.C.S.Os and other British routeing authorities as well as by the U.S. Authorities. (Opnav 2006Z/6 to C.E.S.F., C.C.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.P.S.F., Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Anzac area. J.S.M.94 Reply from Chiefs of Staff, No.(W)108. (Admty. 2128A/6) See Lion Copy.

Troops for Bahamas. Ref. Admty. 1240/6/3 (Not circulated in Admty. Received from W.C.O. and contained telegram from Governor Bahamas for J.S.M. Washington.) 5 Officers and 129 other ranks require accommodation. 5. Probable date of arrival March 9th but will confirm. (J.S.M. 2131Q/6 to Govr. Bahamas)

MIMOSA. F.S. MIMOSA has been detached from N.E.F. for over three months, first as Flagship for Adm. Muse-  
St. Pierre. She is now engaged on the second of two trooping trips to Halifax. Request pressure be brought to bear on F.N.F.L. to ensure her return to escort work immediately on completion of this duty. She is particularly required under present circumstances because it is necessary for me to detail ships of N.E.F. to reinforce B. groups of new escort system until sufficient Corvettes can be supplied from U.K. (F.O.N.F. 2146Z/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Serial No.43. From C.W.R. 4/3.  
1. R.A.A.F. Aerodrome at Darwin machine gunned by 8 Zero Fighters at 0427Z/4. 1 Hudson destroyed on Ground no other damage or casualties reported.  
2. One enemy aircraft reported over Salamoia 0335Z/4 1 heavy bomber very high over aerodrome at Port Moresby at 1430Z/4 6 bombs dropped only one on runway.  
3. Sticks of bombs dropped near R.A.A.F. quarters Port Moresby by unknown number of aircraft at 1618Z/4. Slight damage no casualties.



**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE 2128A/6th March

MOST SECRET

OUT

Date 6/3/42

To: B.A.D. 869

NAVAL CYPHER (O.T.T.)

From Admiralty

IMMEDIATEFollowing for ~~Joint Staff Mission~~ from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 108.

Your J.S.M. 94.

1. Your paragraph 3 noted.

2. Your paragraph 4. We entirely agree with the extension.

3. Your paragraph 5. We have now seen views of Australian and New Zealand Governments on machinery for Governmental and strategic control and system of command in Anzac Area in the form of a personal telegram from Prime Minister to Prime Minister. Summary as follows.

4. Anzac Area should be whole of present area, but include Australia, New Zealand and their respective territories. In addition, Timor, Ambon, whole of New Guinea, and such sea area within agreed distance of the coast as may subsequently be determined. The sea area to the South of Australia.

Comment. We see no objection to this.5. Governmental Machinery. Australia and New Zealand propose establishment of Anzac Council in Washington under U.S. Chairmanship, with representatives of U.S., U.K., Australia and New Zealand. Other representatives, e.g. Canada, would be added if their countries sent forces to Anzac Area.

Anzac Council would not replace Pacific Council in London.

Comment. This is mainly a matter for U.S. authorities to decide. We think that London Council will in any case remain in being if only for Dutch and Chinese representatives.6. Strategical Control. To be vested in Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington to which would be added for purpose of Anzac strategy, one naval, one army and one air force officer from each of the two Dominions.Comment. This appears to us to constitute an unwieldy and unworkable body but we would offer no criticism if ~~Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington~~ favour the proposal.**MOST SECRET**



7. Supreme Commander. Council to appoint a Supreme Commander, preferably an American Officer. Australian Government would welcome immediate appointment of General Brett, in view of his experience as Deputy Supreme Commander ABDACOM, knowledge he has gathered of Australian and New Zealand requirements and the Government and Service contacts he has made.

Comment. We concur.

8. Under Supreme Commander, Naval Commander of all naval forces allocated to the area should be appointed and Army and Air Commanders for each of the following:-

- (i) Australia, its territories, and New Caledonia
- (ii) New Zealand, Fiji and all Island for which New Zealand responsible.

9. General Comment. Arrangements to be made on dissolution of ABDACOM have so far been discussed only on Staff level here and between us and U.S. Chiefs of Staff, Washington. Time has now come to get whole matter settled on high level but before doing so we should like to have views of U.S. Chiefs of staff so that we can advise Prime Minister. We should hope to have everything cut and dried for Pacific War Council next Tuesday but we recognise that arrangements for control in Anzac Area are mainly concern of U.S. authorities to whom the formal views of Pacific War Council will be communicated.

(Adm 2128A/6 K.B.A.)

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 E.P.S.  
 Hd. of M. (39)  
 I.P. (2)  
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)  
 W.D.  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 Admiral Bellairs  
 Admiral Bailey



War Diary.6.3.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Serial No.43 contd. 4. 5 Hudsons (?attacked) Gasmata night 3/3  
1 dropped bombs on target at 1420Z/3rd 5 hits  
observed 3 on buildings 2 near runway. Only  
light Anti-aircraft fire encountered, but 8  
large A.A. Guns observed at each end of runway. 2 enemy  
aircraft observed taking off. No shipping sighted. 2  
Hudsons failed to return.

5. Casualties of Broome raid 3rd March now reported as 13  
dead 24 wounded 25 missing.

6. U.S. R/C aircraft reported sighting enemy aircraft carrier  
with one destroyer escort in position 015° 06' S. 106° 47' E. at  
2153Z/3.

7. Enemy S/M sightings off West Australian Coast report by  
aircraft as follows :- 3rd 021° 11' S. 113° 05' E. 036° 54' S.  
114° E. 030° 40' S. 112° 43' E. 035° 39' S. 113° 28' E.  
4th 029° 43' S. 112° 57' E.

8. Jap. Seaplane Carrier KAMOI moved to Rabaul area 3rd March.

9. TATUTA MARU in Marshall Is. 3rd March.

Note:- C.L.G. Bandoeng is included amongst addressees of this  
and (?future) digest messages.  
(A.C.N.B. 0122Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

S.U.3.  
PHOENIX.

My 0430Z/5 and your 1510Z/5. Intend to send  
U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX to cover ships ex S.U.3.  
Request you will signal geographical positions  
through which dispersed ships will pass.  
(A.C.N.B. 0614Z/6 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

Recruiting  
for Free  
French.

Your 0718Z/28/2. C.A.F.O. 2499 of 2/12/41, foll-  
ows. Most important provisions (quoted).  
(Admty. 1006A/6 to A.C.N.B.)

Serial No.44

From C W R 5/3. (1) DELORAINÉ bombed by one  
type 97 Kawanisi Flying boat at 0437Z/5 in  
012° 10' S. 129° 55' E. and again at 0508Z/5.  
Anti-Submarine gear damaged no casualties.

(2) U.S. aircraft sighted unidentified cruiser in 017° 35' S.  
114° 10' E. at 0115Z/5 speed 20 knots course south.

(3) One Hudson completed photographic Recco. Rabaul harbour  
at 0310Z/5 and observed 3 large cruisers 5 destroyers steaming  
out to sea approximately 20 merchant ships at anchor and at  
wharves 12 flying boats. Only one enemy aircraft visible near  
Lakunai runway no fighters sighted or anti-aircraft fire  
encountered.

(4) No shipping observed Gasmata by Recco aircraft at 0422Z/5  
one fighter seen taking off but no attack developed. 5 enemy  
fighters observed off Arawe (West of Gasmata) at 0150/Z?/5  
but eluded.

(5) 5 twin engined aircraft attacked Bulolo between 0050Z/5  
and 0125Z/5 no details available.

(6) Enemy aircraft reported over Finschafen at 2300Z/4  
(4 aircraft course West) Salamoia 0009 5th (5 aircraft) Ioma  
at 0300Z/5 Port Moresby one aircraft heard over aerodrome at  
0402Z/5.  
(A.C.N.B. 1054Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

/HAVFRU ...



War Diary.

6.3.1942  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - contd.

HAVFRU.

HAVFRU due 12/3 to proceed Sydney N.S.W. for discharge.  
(D.T.D. 2036A/6 to N.C.S.O. Wellington.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/b positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1421A/6, 1424A/6.)



War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

At 1735A today Admty. informed S.B.N.O. Murmansk that the vessel sighted by SEAWOLF at 1801 yesterday off Fro Havet has now been identified as TIRPITZ accompanied by 3 Destroyers, and that an attempt to attack Convoy P.Q.12 is to be expected.

Convoy P.Q.12, escorted by KENYA, OFFA, ORIBI and GOSSAMER, and estimated to have been in 73° 10' N. 12° 20' E. at 1700 today, has been ordered to steer North at 7 knots as far as 74° N. and then to the eastward keeping as close to the ice-edge as possible. The returning Russian Convoy Q.P.8, some of whose ships are dispersed to the S.E. of Jan Mayen, is proceeding towards Iceland escorted by OXLIP and SWEETBRIAR.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V and V.A.2 in RENOWN being already at sea to cover these Convoys, Admty. at 1632A ordered all the available H.F. Cruisers and Destroyers to raise steam at immediate notice, and the following further dispositions have been made.

→ At 1714A BEDOUIN arrived at Skaalefiord, Faroes where she is to fuel and await orders.

At 1715A JAVELIN and INCONSTANT were ordered to leave Scapa at best speed for Seidisfiord, where they will join FAULKNOR and ESKIMO standing by C.S.18 in the damaged SHEFFIELD.

At 1943A LIVERPOOL and TRINIDAD left Scapa for position 69° N. 1° W. (S.E. of Jan Mayen) where they are expected to arrive at 2100 tomorrow.

→ At 2215A TARTAR, GROVE and LEDBURY were ordered to leave Scapa tonight to join BEDOUIN at Skaalefiord and await orders.

Meanwhile at 1820A the S/M SEALION left Lerwick to patrol off Gripholm in about 63° 22' N., 7° 30' E., and at 2324A the S/M's JUNON, SEAWOLF, and TRIDENT were ordered to maintain their respective patrol positions at the Northern end of Fro Havet, while MINERVE and UREDD are to proceed to Lerwick to prepare, if necessary, for further immediate patrols.

C.S.10 in NIGERIA is passing through 62° N. 4° W. at about 1900 today bound for Scapa, where EDINBURGH is to remain at two hours notice.

The Oiler KAIA KNUDSEN arrived tonight at Hvalfiord; and the Oiler ALDERSDALE, with 10,125 tons of fuel, escorted by SEALYHAM, left Hvalfiord at 2300A for Seidisfiord where she expects to arrive at 1500A/9.

The U.S. Battleship NEW YORK, the cruisers PHILADELPHIA and QUINCY, and 9 new and 5 old short-leg U.S. Destroyers are at Hvalfiord; and SOPA has offered to carry on the Denmark Strait Patrol with QUINCY and 2 U.S. Destroyers if desired.



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - contd.

A force of M.L's left Dartmouth at 1356 today to carry out a sweep off the Channel Islands and return to Start Point by 0730 tomorrow.

The ports of Aberdeen, Tees, Hartlepool, Peterhead and Blyth, which have been closed on account of weather, were all re-opened during today.

Enemy Air Activity.

2 A/C attacked Portland at 0930 with cannon-fire, holing the top of one Oil Tank and causing one slight casualty.

Mining.

3 Ground Mines were exploded by Sweepers off Harwich today, and 7 yesterday when the M/S Trawler STAUNCH was slightly damaged.

North Atlantic.

Italian DREPANUM left Ferrol early this morning for an unknown destination.

Motor vessels REGEJA and BANKA (ex-Dutch) which were alongside German ELSA ESSBERGER at Ferrol, also left there early this morning, destination unknown.



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Corvettes FREESIA and FRITILLARY are to join Eastern Fleet after providing protection during the arrival and departure of QUEEN MARY at Capetown.

B. D. V's BARCLOSE, BARFOAM and BARFORD are urgently required for boom work in Australia.

U/B. attacks. S.S. BODEGRAVEN made an "S" report at 1510 G.M.T. from 5.28 N., 12.02 W.

Mediterranean.

Malta. Intruder raids were continuous last night. 2 Hurricanes were slightly damaged at Hal Far without casualties.

Raiding continued today with 4 alerts before noon. In a further raid at 1316 a gun emplacement was hit and Army casualties caused.

Operation "Spotter." 15 Spitfires and 7 Blenheims arrived at Malta this evening.

S/M's. THORN and TORBAY were ordered to the vicinity of Trionto Point in anticipation of the return of enemy naval units to Taranto. UNA left Malta this evening to operate off Kerkenah until a.m. 10/3 and then in Area K.

Libya. 2 Wellingtons laid 3 mines E. of Tripoli Harbour last night, 2 others making a bombing diversion near the railway station and Benito gate.

S.S. CERION, after discharging 240 tons of M.T. spirit at Tobruk, was set on fire by dive bombers. Fore part was burnt out with the loss of 800 tons of petrol. One Z lighter was also burnt out.



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Addu Atoll.

C. in C. E.I. intends to return DERWENTDALE to Mediterranean as soon as she has off-loaded her landing craft at Addu Atoll, but wishes to retain 8 A.L.C's and 8 M.L.C's with their crews, otherwise work at this and other anchorages will be seriously delayed.

Rangoon.

It was decided today to evacuate Rangoon and to continue fighting in Upper Burma in conjunction with the Chinese. All available aircraft were employed in covering the withdrawal of our land and naval forces. Rangoon demolition scheme was put into effect at 1400/7.

America & West Indies.

At 0417 G.M.T. ONEIDA reported a U/B in 06.56 N., 57.55 W.

At 0905 G.M.T. CARDONIA reported being shelled by a U/B in Windward Passage.

At 1605 G.M.T. UNIWALECO was torpedoed in 13.23 N., 62.04 W.

A U.Boat was attacked by A/C in 37.30 N., 69.25 W. at 1606 G.M.T.

DEVONSHIRE, cruiser, is to be placed under orders of C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet for cruiser escort of Convoy A.S.2 from Charleston to Freetown and to be ready to sail from Charleston on 18/3.



War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

ADAMANT.

K.T. to W.D

 Your 2144/2. Proposal (b) approved or alternatively to burn diesel fuel. Cancel A.M. 1216A/1. (D.O.D. (H.) 1235A/7 to ADAMANT.)
Movements.

PAKENHAM.

Intend sailing Captain (D) 12 in PAKENHAM for Gibraltar passing Clyde Boom 1230A/8 routed as in C. in C. W.A.'s 1619A/6. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1134A/7)

SUFFOLK.

SUFFOLK take VIVIEN and VALOROUS under her orders for S.A. Escort and leave Rosyth at 0100/8. Proceed to Tyne so as to arrive at 0930/8. On arrival at Pier Heads detach destroyers who are to proceed to The Nore. (C. in C. Rosyth 1201/7)

NOTTS  
COUNTY etc.

NOTTS COUNTY, ANGLE, STELLA, CAPELLA, arrived Seidisfjord 0230A/7. (A.C.I.C. 1444A/7.)

VETERAN  
MONTGOMERY.

Sailed VETERAN, MONTGOMERY. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 1600A/9. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1505A/7.)

PENN.

Proceed passing Switha 0915 tomorrow for repairs by Messrs. Swan Hunters. Speed from 21 A buoy to destination is not to exceed 10 knots except in emergency. (R.A.D. 1508A/7 to PENN.)

ANTELOPE.

Admiralty's 1902Z/5. Propose sailing ANTELOPE with W S 17 to join Flag of S.O. Force 'H'. (C. in C. W.A. 1802A/7 to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

ILLUSTRIOUS arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1934A/7.)

CARNATION.

Intend sailing CARNATION for Tyne 1700A/8. E.T.A. 1200A/11. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2211A/7)

Operations.
 Sighting of  
TIRPITZ  
and cover  
for Convoys  
P Q 12 and  
Q P 8.

Proceed forthwith on surface by day at your discretion routed as previously ordered but omitting position 61° 45' N 01° W. Total bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.S. 0007A/7 to JUNON.)

Decypher my 2350A/6 HD 539. (D.S.O. 0045A/7 to Escorts P Q 12 and Q P 8.)

 Request you will bring SEALION to four hours notice forthwith. (F.O.S. 0128A/7 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick)  
Proceed as necessary to comply with C. in C. H.F. 1932A/2 para. 1 (R.A.D. 1007A/7 to TRINIDAD.)

/After...



War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Sighting of  
TIRPITZ  
and cover  
for Convoys  
P.Q.12 and  
Q.P.8. -  
Contd.After passing 63° 08' N. 04° 30' E., proceed to  
patrol vicinity of 63° 22' N. 07° 30' E.  
(F.O.S. 1142A/7 to JUNON).You will be required to remain on patrol until  
about 10th March. (F.O.S. 1143A/7 to TRIDENT).  
MINERVE should be ordered to leave patrol for  
Lerwick after dark tonight. (F.O.S. 1157A/7  
to S.9.)Leave patrol after dark tonight diving by day  
through position (a) 062° 14' N. 004° E. (b) 061° 30' N.  
000° 30' W. thence on surface at C.O.'s direction through  
position (c) 060° 25' N. 000° 30' W. Thence R/V with escort  
090° Barrhead 5 miles at 0700A/9. (Capt. S.9. 1453A/7 to  
MINERVE).Proceed with despatch on the surface at your discretion to  
064° 15' N. 008° E. (F.O.S. 1559A/7 to JUNON).Sail SEALION with utmost despatch on surface at C.O.'s  
discretion to patrol in vicinity 63° 22' N. 07° 30' E.  
(F.O.S. 1603A/7 to Capt. S.9).

Raise steam at immediate notice in all cruisers and destroyers.

2. Sail two destroyers now working up to Seidisfiord at best  
speed. (A.C.N.S. H. 1632A/7 to R.A.D., A.C.O.S.)Request you sail SEALION forthwith on the surface at C.O.'s  
discretion through position (A) 090°. Out Skerries 5 miles  
(B) 061° 45' N. 000° 30' W. (C) 062° 46' N. 003° 40' E, thence  
patrol in vicinity of 063° 22' N., 007° 30' E. (Capt. S.9.,  
1635A/7 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).TRINIDAD and LIVERPOOL are to proceed towards 69° N. 1° W. at  
24 knots. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1700A/7 to A.C.O.S., R.A.D.)

Your 1809/6. Arrived. BEDOUIN.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1714A/7 to C. in C.H.F.)

JAVELIN with INCONSTANT proceed as soon as ready to Seidis  
Fjord at best speed. On arrival complete and await further  
orders. TRINIDAD leaves Scapa at 2000 today for patrol "Black".  
(R.A.D. 1715A/7 to JAVELIN, INCONSTANT).

My 2350A/6. Vessel identified as TIRPITZ with three destroyers.

An attempt to attack convoy P.Q.12 is anticipated.

(A.C.N.S.(H.) 1735A/7 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk, Ad. Miles, H.Q.C.C.,  
H.Q.B.C.)Request you will sail an additional oiler for Seidisfiord as  
soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. H. 1742A/7 to A.C.I.C.)LIVERPOOL take TRINIDAD under her orders and proceed at 24 knots  
towards 69° N. 1° W. (R.A.D. 1759A/7).TRIDENT and SEAWOLF to keep well South in their respective  
areas after 0001/8. JUNON is expected to arrive on patrol  
during 8th and is to patrol vicinity 64° 22' N. 09° 44' E.  
(F.O.S. 1821A/7 to S/M's Area A.)

Capt. (S) 9's 1453A/7. Name of escort SEABREEZE.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1840A/7 to MINERVE).

SEALION left Lerwick unescorted 1820A/7 proceeding on surface  
routed as follows to patrol in vicinity of 063° 22' N. 7° 30' E.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1843A/7).Possibility that ship sighted by SEAWOLF was TIRPITZ cannot be  
ignored. Torpedoes are to be set to 24 feet, except C.C.R. pistols  
in TRIDENT which are to be set to 34 feet.

(F.O.S. 1847A/7 to S/M's Area A.)

Scapa departures LIVERPOOL and TRINIDAD. (A.C.O.S. 1943A/7).

*H.S. Note - movements of German destroyers sighting TIRPITZ  
on 7.3.42 are outlined in G.D. 377  
(TSA/FDS/X.329/50)*

/TARTAR.....



War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Sighting of  
TIRPITZ  
and cover  
for Convoys  
P.Q.12 and  
Q.P. 8. -  
Contd.

TARTAR with GROVE, LEDBURY proceed passing Switha as ordered by TARTAR for Skaale Fiord, Faeroes, at best speed. On arrival complete with fuel and await further orders. (R.A.D. 2115A/7). NIGERIA bound Scapa speed 18 knots passing through 062° N. 004° W. about 1900. TRINIDAD and LIVERPOOL left Scapa 1940 for 069° N. 001° W., speed 24 knots. TARTAR, LEDBURY, GROVE leave Scapa about 2200 for Faeroes, speed about 20 knots. (A.C.O.S. 2140A/7).

Request you sail TARTAR, LEDBURY, and GROVE when ready about 2300 tonight for Skaale Fiord, Faeroes, to refuel on arrival and await further orders.

2. EDINBURGH is to be at 2 hours notice for steam.  
3. FROBISHER and GAMBIA are to revert to normal notice. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 2217A/7 to R.A.D., A.C.O.S.)

(A) My 1821A/7. Amend JUNON's position to read 64° 22' N. 09° 38' E. (B) S/M's are to patrol as follows JUNON as in (A). SEAWOLF between 64° 21' N. 10° 01' E. and KYA Light. TRIDENT vicinity of 64° 14' N. 9° 40' E.

(C) In low visibility or if S/M's are uncertain of their position KYA can be used for check. JUNON should approach from North West and TRIDENT from West, mutual encounter being accepted. Under these conditions it is believed S/M's would not be far from track of returning enemy. (D) Normally S/M's should remain in areas as follows. SEAWOLF Zone E East of 10°. TRIDENT in Zone E West of 10°. JUNON in Zone W. (F.O.S. 2324A/7).

Your 1742A/7. Sailed ALDERSDALE with 10125 tons escorted by SEALYHAM at 2300A for Seidisfjord. E.T.A. 1500A/9.

2. Oiler KAKA KNUDSEN arrived Hvalfjord. (A.C.I.C. 2329A/7 to Admty.)

Sailed JAVELIN, INCONSTANT for Seidisfjord 1800/7 and TARTAR, GROVE, LEDBURY for Skaale Fiord 2330/7. (R.A.D. 2345/7).

(A) UREDD is to be sailed for Lerwick as soon as possible and prepared for patrol.

(B) MINERVE is to proceed into Lerwick and refuel, a report being made on her fitness for further patrol.

(F.O.S. 2354A/7 to Capt. S.9).

Operation J.Y. My 1137A/5. Operation J.Y. not yet completed (Cable laying). due to weather. In view of demands of secrecy and security it is proposed to postpone completion of job till next moon period commencing 25/5. Intend sailing ALERT 0700 tomorrow to lay inshore and from Brighton to position N.E. 2 miles from C.3. buoy, buoying outer end. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1037A/7 to Admty.)

M.L. sweep  
off Channel  
Islands.

Operation  
"Obstacle".

1. Weather permitting M.Ls are to carry out a sweep tonight from 360° Les Triagoz Light 5 miles to 049° 20' N. 002° 45' W.  
2. Sweep to start at 0100/8 and to be discontinued in time to reach vicinity of Start Point by 0730/8.  
3. Object. Destruction of any enemy vessels met.  
4. S.O. has discretion to abandon operation if required. (C. in C. Plymouth 1356A/7 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

/Your.....



3.  
7.5.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.

M.L. sweep off Channel Islands. Operation "Obstacle". - Contd. Your 1356/7. "Obstacle" sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1932/7 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Channel Patrol. 2 Chasseurs patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 returning to St. Helens at dawn. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1507A/7).

Operation V.J.2. My Memo. 0844A of 27/2/42, para. 6. Operation V.J.2. LEICESTER CITY detailed. (A.C.O.S., 1920A/7 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Denmark Strait Patrol. If required Patrol "White" can be carried out by U.S. Cruiser QUINCY and two U.S. Destroyers which have been offered by S.O.P.A. Following U.S. Force now in Hvalfjord Battleship NEW YORK, Cruisers PHILADELPHIA, QUINCY, 9 new and 5 old short leg destroyers. (A.C.I.C. 2236A/7 to Admty., (R) C. in C.H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

British Air activity.

Patrols. My 1757/6. Effectiveness 100%. Nothing sighted. (C. in C. Rosyth 0111/7 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2.) Patrol "Prowl" 50% effective last night. (C. in C. Rosyth 1225/7 to C. in C.H.F., V.A.2.) "Polar" and "Bear" will be flown tomorrow. (A.C.I.C. 2236A/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F.)

Priority of H.F. Air Protection. Cancel A.M. 2243A/5. (A.C.N.S. H. 1316A/7 to A.O.C. C.C.)

Bombing restrictions. Request surface bombing restrictions from 2000/7 to 0730/8 in English Channel south of 50° 13' N. between 02° 40' W. and 03° 40' W. (C. in C. Plymouth 1340A/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland bombed. Two Messerschmitt 109 A/C attacked Portland Oil Tanks at 0930/7 with cannon fire. One oil tank was holed on the top. One dockyard worker received slight injury. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1116A/7).



<sup>3</sup>  
7.5.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Harwich.  
STAUNCH  
damaged  
on 6/3.

S.A. and L.L. trawlers detonated 3 red mines in vicinity 54.B. buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0753A/7).  
Details (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1608A/7).  
At 1016/6 one Ground Mine detonated by Sweepers. Details. STAUNCH damaged. Details. Making water in magazine. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1417A/7).  
At 1221/6, 1245/6, 1308/6, 1452/6 (twice), and 1457/6, six Mines detonated by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1422A/7).

→ S.N.18A.

Arrival MANXMAN. (C. in C. Rosyth 0945/7).

Operation Q.S.

Operation Q.S. postponed a further 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 1004A/7).  
Your 1630A/6. Para. 2. Operation Q.S. two is approved. Coastal Command aircraft are not available. (A.C.N.S. H. 1304A/7 to C. in C. Nore)  
Operation Q.S.2. will be carried out on 9/3 weather permitting.  
Time Table and orders.  
(C. in C. Nore 2220A/7 to KELLET).

→ S.N.81.

Propose sailing for S.N.81 at 0930/14 with 1st M/L Squadron and MANXMAN and lay between 062° 18' 12" N. 007° 43' W. and 062° 39' 30" N. 008° 21' W. on 15/3. 3 of 17th Destroyer Division will be available. Request one additional destroyer may be provided if possible as I do not consider MANXMAN should be part of A/S screen when embarked with mines. It is not considered a cruiser escort is essential for this lay. (R.A.M. 1102/7 to Admty.)

→ MANXMAN..

Leave Rosyth at 0930/8 and proceed so as to pass Duncansby Head by 1930/8 and arrive Port Z.A. by 0730/9. Speed west of Elieness - Fidra not to exceed 9 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1203/7 to MANXMAN).

Dover  
Area.

Night 7th/8th. Trawlers WIGAN and LOIS sweeping between Dover and Dumpton, E.T.D. 1930, E.T.R. 0130/8. (V.A. Dover 1603A/7).

Dangerous  
Areas.

The following Channels through the Skerries Hjeltetfiord have been declared dangerous due to mines in the Norwegian Press. Details. (Hydrographer 1737A/7 and 1740A/7).

Liverpool.

One magnetic detonated by M.M./S 2 in 215° Formby Light Float 1 mile. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1830A/7).



3.  
7.5.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/6 to 0900/7. Track E14D, two small craft from Calais to Boulogne between 2020 and 2230 speed fourteen knots. Track E15D, five small vessels between Gris Nez and Boulogne at 11 knots from 2055 to 2245. Possibly minesweeping trawlers. (V.A. Dover 1007A/7).

Trondheim. Photographic R/C at Trondheim shows PRINZ EUGEN and SCHMER present, TIRPITZ not in usual berth. (D.D.I.C. 2150A/7).

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in position 57° 28' N. (longitude indecipherable). Have attacked enemy with Depth Charges and estimate no hits. (A/C 15 Group 1500/7).

Navigational.

Aberdeen. Port of Aberdeen open. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0830/7).

Tees. My 1745/4. Ports open, normal procedure resumed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0900/7).

Peterhead. Port of Peterhead open. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0940/7)

Rough Buoy. Nore area. Rough Buoy is 182° 3 cables from charted position. (WHADDON 1040A/7).

Scarweather Light Vessel. Position of Scarweather Light Vessel longitude to be amended to read 3° 56' 48" W. (Trinity House, Swansea 1103A/7).

Blyth. My 1401A/4. Blyth Port open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1405/7).

Otterard Rock Buoy. Otterard Rock Light Buoy. Light extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1625A/7) (Hydrog 1933A/7).

Dundee. Montrose. Ports of Dundee and Montrose will reopen daylight 8th. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1725/7).



War Diary.

7.<sup>3</sup>.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

WHITSHED  
(Mined 5/3).

Sailing of WHITSHED postponed owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0535A/7).  
Intend sailing WHITSHED, HAMBLEDON as close escort.  
Tug SUPERMAN in attendance at 0600A tomorrow.  
Route as laid down in C. in C. Nore's 1052A/6.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1615A/7).

SHELDON  
(M/S Trawler)  
beached.

SHELDON beached at Craighead 2 miles east Buckie  
having sprung leak. Crew landed. No casualties.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0930/7).

Shipping and Convoys.

R.N.R.  
Commodores  
for North  
Russian  
Convoys.

Request you will detail a Commodore R.N.R. from  
Liverpool pool for each future North Russian  
Convoy. Commodore of P.Q.12 should return with  
first possible Q.P. Convoy.  
N.C.S.O. Aultbea should draw particular attention  
to Mersigs Article 64 at convoy conferences.  
(D.T.D. 1640A/7 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Greenock)

M.H. and  
H.M.  
Convoys.

Your 2258A/5. (1) Concur that MM and HM convoys  
should continue for the present.  
(2) Request you will consider each case for dis-  
persing fast ships from incoming convoys on its  
merits having regard to weather conditions and  
traffic situation prevailing. (D.T.D. 2049A/7  
to C. in C.W.A.)

LONGBIRD.

Is anything known of whereabouts of S.S. LONGBIRD  
sailed Clyde 1619/3 for Swansea now two days over-  
due. (C. in C. W.A. 2107A/7).



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War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Task Force  
Numbers.

Following modifications of Task Force designation came into force on 2/3. Pacific Fleet employs Task Force numbers 1 to 19. Atlantic Fleet 21 to 39. South Pacific Force 41 to 59. Anzac Force 61 to 79 and for special assignment by Cominch 81 to 99. Hence Task Force 4 of Atlantic Fleet now becomes Task Force 24, Task Force 14 of Atlantic Fleet now becomes 34, etc.  
(Head of M., 2222A/7, "A" Message).

North Atlantic.French  
Shipping.

Passings 6/3. French, westbound, \*BRAXMOR, \*LETRAIT, in ballast, ST. MARTIN, \*LEGASSE, full, POITOU, eastbound, GABRIEL GUIST'HAU, CEVENNES, ROBAISIEN, PARAME, all full, TEMERAIRE.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 0905A/7 to Admty., for M.E.W.)

*\* not identified*ROMNEY,  
CROMARTY,  
WHITEHAVEN.

On completion fuelling proceed through position (E) 027° N., 024° W., (F) 020° N., 22° W. thence as ordered by C. in C. S.A.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0948A/7 to ROMNEY). See p. 223

Portuguese  
Troops.

Following steamers leaving Lisbon with troops; LOURENCO MARQUES 9th P.M. for Lourenco Marques, LIMA 10th, 1200, for Madeira and Azores.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1222/7 to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Gib.)

VASNA.

Hospital ship VASNA leaving shortly for Far East will require to call Azores for fuel. Request you make necessary arrangements.  
(Hd. of M., 1515A/7 to N.A. Lisbon).

My 1750/3 and N.O.I.C. Avonmouth's 1154/5 not to all addressees. Owing to reduced range of VASNA now notified she should call at Azores and Capetown as well as Freetown and Durban for bunkers.  
(D. of S.T., 2027A/7 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth).

DREPANUM  
(Italian).

Left Ferrol 7/3 early in morning, destination unknown. (Corunna, 1600/7 to Admty., (R) N.A. Madrid).

Coal Stocks,  
Funchal.

N.C.S.O. Funchal's 1501/4. Portugal has right to requisition fuel stocks and we should do nothing which might prejudice fuel facilities Azores. Suggest N.C.S.O. inform authorities that 1000 tons are property of M. of W.T. but that sufficient to reach Lisbon will be supplied to Portuguese Ships in cases of urgent necessity. (N.A. Lisbon, 1815/7 to Admty., (R) N.C.S.O. Funchal).

/REGEJA ...



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - contd.

REGEJA,  
BANKA.

Motor Vessels REGEJA and BAN (?BANKA) left Ferrol 7/3 early in morning, destination unknown. (Corunna, 2310/7 to Admty., (R) Gib., N.A.Madrid).

South Atlantic.

BEN MOHR.

Ops. Summary 6/3. Freetown one Sunderland 95 Sqn. A/S Patrol and search survivors BEN MOHR torpedoed 2010/5/3. At 1220 position 5.55 N., 14.15 W. ?A/C? landed and picked up 56 survivors from 3 lifeboats. (A.H.Q. W.A., 0700/7 to Air Min.)

Movements.

Capetown arrivals 7/3 CARTHAGE escorting DEMPO also BACHAQUERO. (F.O.I.C.Simonstown, 0943Z/7 to Admty., etc.)

REINE DES  
FLOTS.

Following for Admiralty, F.N.F.L., from F.N.F.L. Pointe Noire. (Begins). Your 3148. French A.P.V. REINE DES FLOTS arrived Pointe Noire 14/2, expected to sail Walvis Bay 9/3. (Ends). (B.N.L.O. W.Africa, 1142/7 to Admty.)

FREESIA,  
FRITILLARY.

To be sailed to join Eastern Fleet as required by C. in C. E.F. after providing protection during arrival and departure of QUEEN MARY at Capetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1224A/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

WIVERN.

Arrival 7/3 WIVERN. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1235Z/7 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi).

DIOMEDE.

Arrival 7/3 DIOMEDE 1200 G.M.T. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1241Z/7 to Admty.)

BODEGRAVEN,  
U/B.

Following has been read. SSSS 5° 28' N., 12° 02' W. BODEGRAVEN, submarine sighted. (Freetown, W/T, 1510 G.M.T/7.) Ref. Admty. message A.F., position 05.28 N. 12.02W at 1510 G.M.T. (C. in C. S.A., 1610/7 to Area 6A).

/ASTURIAS ...



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - contd.

- ASTURIAS. Your 1256Z/6. For approach to Freetown pass through 008° 30' N. 018° 00' W. thence to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1601Z/7 to R.A.S.A.D.)
- GENISTA,  
VIOLET. GENISTA and VIOLET will be required to proceed with O.S.S. convoy when O.S.20 splits. (C. in C. S.A., 1611Z/7 to BOREAS (R) Escort O.S.20).
- BUR. N.O.I.C. Bathurst's 1803Z/6 to C. in C. S.A. Request information if BUR is joining S.L.102, nature of cargo and sailing destination. (D.T.D. 1641A/7 to N.C.S.O. Freetown). Reply: 1450/10.
- ROMNEY.  
CROMARTY.  
WHITEHAVEN. F.O.C.N.A. 0948A/7. From position (F) pass through (G) 015° 00' N. 021° 30' W. and T 010° 00' N., 018° 00' W. thence to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1801Z/7 to ROMNEY).  
*See p. 221*
- W.S.16. Sailed 6/3. List and requirements. (S.S.T.O. Freetown, 1815Z/7 to F.S.T.O. Capetown, N.L.O. Durban). See Lion Copy.
- BARCLOSE,  
BARFOAM,  
BARFORD. Admty. 1916A/19/12/41. BARCLOSE, BARFOAM and BARFORD are urgently required at Sydney for Boom Work pending diversion to Hobart.  
2. Endurance 2400 miles at 8 knots with 220 tons coal. Additional coal to increase passage endurance can be embarked; (details).  
4. F.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to confirm these endurance figures and sail vessels to Mauritius.  
5. C. in C. E.I. is requested to arrange their onward passage to Australia if this is found to be practicable. (D.O.D.(F), 1908A/7 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown).
- SYDHAV  
torpedoed. ST. VINCENT recovered survivors from S.S. SYDHAV torpedoed at 0800/6 in 4° 47' N. 14° 57' W. (C. in C. S.A., 1916Z/7 to Admty.)



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN

1815Z/7 March.

From S.S.T.O. Freetown.

Date 8.3.42.

Recd. 0234

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T &amp; T/P

Addressed P.S.T.O. Capetown, N.L.O. Durban,  
repeated C. in C. East Indies,  
P.S.T.O. Egypt, D. of S.T., C. in C. South  
Atlantic.

Convoy W S 16 sailed 6th.

First 8 ships for Capetown remainder Durban.

Name of Ship.	Water taken.	Fuel taken.	Total fuel on board.	Estimated maximum draft sailing South Africa.
BERGENSFJORD	1100	1165	1865	27 feet.
NEA HELLIAS	1345	1613	2748	30 "
SIBAJAK	765	1100	1500	25 ft. 6 ins.
POTARO	65	500	830	25 ft.
BRISBANE STAR	Nil	1500	2264	29 ft.
PORT JACKSON	Nil	1200	1828	26 ft. 6 ins.
DENBIGHSHIRE	100	972	1545	25 ft. 6 ins.
DELFTDJK	50	671	1491	28 ft. 6 ins.
MOOLTAN	Nil	2007	2557	31 ft. 6 ins.
AWATEA	870	1109	2551	27 ft.
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	700	1789	2415	27 ft. 6 ins.
DUCHESS OF YORK	750	1619	2330	2LWG/
STRATHAIRD	400	1415	2502	29 ft. 2 ins.
STRATHEDEN	450	992	1792	29 ft.
CUBA	650	1033	1622	26 ft.
ORMONDE	600	1350	1840	28 ft. 8 ins.
MONARCH OF BERMUDA	500	1385	2610	28 ft. 6 ins.
VOLENDAM	1288	2536	3300	32 ft. 5 ins.
EMPIRE PRIDE	Nil	689	1145	25 ft. 6 ins.

Embarked at Freetown BERGENSFJORD all personnel ex LLANGIBBY CASTLE, also 11 officers 12 ratings for AFONAI. NEA HELLIAS Army 5 officers 6 other ranks. BRISBANE STAR Navy 1 officer Army 2 officers 3 Warrant officers R.A.F. 1 warrant officer. PORT JACKSON Admiral Sir Basil Brooks 1 Army officer wife and 2 daughters of Vice Admiral Willis, 12 civilians all for South Africa. ORMONDE requires 2 armatures 2½ H.P. and 23 H.P. rewinding and other electrical machinery for attention.

AWATEA/.....



- 2 -

AWATEA requests relieving master and officers waiting ship at Capetown be sent to Durban, ALLPK 1098 equipment ex LLANGIBBY CASTLE loaded into BERGENSFJORD except 2 Bofors guns loaded into PORT JACKSON together with 20 tons Naval stores for South Africa. CUBA may require drydocking see my 1511Z/7 not to all addressees.

1815Z/7

/ as received.

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 2nd S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 4th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 A.C.N.S. (T)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 Hq. of M. (13)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D. of S.T.  
 D.T.D.  
 L.T.D. (C)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 D.M.R.  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.C. (2)

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



War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.→ THORN,  
TORBAY.

Patrol in Areas. THORN N.W. and TORBAY S.E. of line 050° from Trionto Point. You have freedom of action in these areas but should concentrate when practicable near following positions: THORN 040° 00' 017° 17' TORBAY 039° 50' 017° 25' in anticipation of return of enemy naval units to Taranto shortly. (Capt. S.10, 0913B/7 to THORN, TORBAY (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

Air Report.

Bi. Weekly Opsum Number 1, up to 1200 hours 7/3. Night 4/5 Mar. 14 Wellington sorties Benghazi, of which 4 mining 10 bombing. One only reached objective owing bad weather. 2 mines laid. Night 5/6 Mar. 15 Wellington sorties Benghazi shipping and moles. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1059/7).

FOXHOUND.

My 1028/22. Anticipate FOXHOUND will arrive Aden 12/3. (C. in C. Med., 1141B/7 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., etc.)

Request you will sail FOXHOUND when ready for passage Aden with all convenient despatch and thence as ordered by C. in C. E.F. FOXHOUND may accompany SCIMITAR to Port Said if convenient. (C. in C. Med., 1145B/7 to R.A.D., Med.)

\* In Home Waters - W.A. Command - P List

→ TORBAY,  
THORN.

M A 2304 and 2306. Assume operational control of TORBAY and THORN. (C. in C. Med., 1201B/7 to Capt. S.10 (R) V.A. Malta, etc., as amended 1411B/7).

JERVIS,  
HAVOCK,  
HASTY.

Revert to usual notice for steam. (R.A.D., Med., 1326B/7 to JERVIS, HAVOCK, HASTY (R) Capt. (D) 22, LIVELY, HERO, R.A.15th C.S., C. in C. Med.)

Operation  
"Spotter."

1st Flight of 2 Blenheims and 8 Spitfires arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1540B/7 to S.O. Force H.)  
2nd Flight 2 Blenheims and 7 Spitfires landed. (V.A. Malta, 1740B/7 to S.O. Force H.)  
15 Spitfires and 7 Blenheims arrived safely. Very many thanks. (V.A. Malta, 1937B/7 to S.O. Force H.)

Black Sea.

Following received from N.L.O. Black Sea. (Begins).  
Addressed Admty., Ad. Miles.  
1. Russian offensive in Crimea started but not much progress made so far. On Kerch front, northern half of enemy line has been pushed back about ten k.m. to point due North of Feodocia.  
2. A few strategic heights retaken by Russians N.E. of Sevastopol.  
3. Recent heavy raid has produced a sea of ... (remainder of message undecypherable).  
(Adm. Miles, 1602C/7 to Admty.,)



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

UNIQUE.

UNIQUE grounded 18/2 when making Malta. Damage slight and dockyard repairs completed in few days. Proceedings of Board of Enquiry sent in THUNDERBOLT today. Forwarding minutes, Malta No. 125/96/2 of 6/3/42. Recommend disciplinary action Lieuts. Collett Fox and Silver. (V.A.Malta, 1643B/7 to Admty. (R) F.O.S., C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units.

One large enemy merchant ship, 2 destroyers 104° Cape Colonne 10 miles course 360° speed 8 knots at 1359B. (V.A.Malta, 1750B/7 to S/M's on Patrol).

Malta Air Report.

I.131 7.3.42. C.S.R.Malta. 6th. 3 alerts 1445, 1554, 1643 hours, ME.109's and JU.88's no damage or casualties. Hurricanes up, no engagements. A.A. destroyed 1 ME.109, 1 prisoner. Night 6/7.

Continuous intruder. Hal Far, 2 Hurricanes slight damage, elsewhere 1 house destroyed, no casualties. Hurricanes up. A.A. fired. 7th. 4 alerts 0540, 0830, 0917, 1152 hours, 44 ME.109's, intruder patrols. Hurricanes up to cover deliveries. A.A. fired. Night 6/7. 2 Wellingtons IC laid 3 mines East Tripoli Harbour. 2 Wellingtons IC diversion 2245 to 2355 hours. Bursts near railway station and Benito Gate. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1820/7).

→ UNA.

UNA left p.m./7 through 035° 00' 013° 10' to operate Kerkenah South of 035° 00' until 0600B/10 then in area K. Leave patrol through 035° 20' 012° 35' and 035° 40' 014° 08' to enter Marsamxett 0645B/11. Submarines will be diving at various buoys in Harbour and instructions will be passed by visual signalling. (Capt. S.10, 2050B/7 to P.31 (R) SOKOL, C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1)

← THUNDERBOLT.

THUNDERBOLT passes through 038° 10' 009° 00' about 0030B/10 thence as ordered by you. 4 torpedoes on board and ordered to proceed submerged by day making good about 140 miles per 24 hours. (V.A.Malta, 2131B/7 to F.O.C.N.A.) Arrival and departure 7/3 THUNDERBOLT, departure → UNA. (V.A.Malta, 2331B/7 to Admty.)

Malta Command transfer to M.E.

Your 0/69265 of 6/3. T.O.O. 1310/6. Agreed. (Govr. Malta, 2150/7 to C. in C. M.E.)

CERION bombed.

H.M.S.HERON discharged 164 tons. CERION discharged 240 tons motor transport spirit. CERION set on fire by dive bombers. HARBOE JENSEN sailed in tow at 0730/7. (S.T.O. Tobruk, 2341B/7 to D.S.T.)



War Diary.7.3.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

S.U.3. C. in C. Eastern Fleet 1510/5.  
(1) Ships of S.U.3 have been routed as follows.  
(2) Destination of all ships Adelaide.  
(C. in C. E.I. 0303Z/7 to A.C.N.B.)

Java Situation. Following received (begins) C. in C. E.F. from Acting C. in C. Netherlands E.I. Your 1154/4. Situation critical, no use sending war materials by ships, T.O.O.0206/6 (Ends) Presume this refers to your 1154/4. (C..in C. E.F. 0357Z/7 to A.C.N.B.)

STRONGHOLD Have you any information of STRONGHOLD? (C. in C. E.F. 0359Z/7 to A.C.N.B.)

B.P.36 Following transports with troops and stores for (?Vizagapatam) sailed as below:  
→ ROHNA 1230Z/(?6) due Rookafloat 1300Z/(?11th) routed through R 020° 16' 067° 20', S 025° (?15') 057° 10' thence PGW knots 13 16 18. EL MADINA 0200Z/7 due Rookafloat 0700Z/12 routed through E 020° 12' 067° 30', F 025° 10' 057° (?15') thence PGW knots 13 16 18, Ind.1. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0428Z/7 to Admty.)

SUBADAR. C.A.F.O. 292/40. For Shipping Casualty Section S.S. SUBADAR bombed and abandoned while on fire on 13/2 at Southern entrance to Banka Straits. 2. Casualties as follows. 3. Not known whether this information was passed from Batavia. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 0630Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

VAN CLOON. Your 1742/5. No report of VAN CLOOM (Dutch) since arrival Panang 13/1. (S.O.I. Colombo 0650/7 to Admty.)

Passage of new C. in C.E.F. Regret no Catalina is available.  
2. In view of uncertainties of passage via Cairo I suggest you continue your passage by sea, accelerating it where possible.  
3. N.O.I.C. Simonstown pass to S.O. Force V. (C. in C. E.F. 0657Z/7 to S.O. Force V. (R) Admty. etc.)

→ ROHNA. Transport ROHNA sails from Bombay 7/3 for Basra. E.T.A. 1300Z/11. Has on board (details) (P.S.T.O. India 1053Z/7 to D.S.T.O., P.G.)

India and Ceylon. J.S.M. 109 (1059Q/7)  
See America and West Indies.



War Diary.7.3.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Movements. Arrival NETRAVATI at 1000Z/7 RAMILLIES, DECOY, FORTUNE at 1140Z/7.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1144Z/7 to Admty. etc.)  
Departure ARROW.  
(S.O.I. Bombay 1236Z/7 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival INDUS. Request instructions.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1255Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Colombo arrival 7/3 0445Z DRAGON, TRUSTY, KEDAH. 1115Z, NAUTILUS. Departure 7/3, 1330Z, RANCHI. HOLLYHOCK.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 1401Z/7 to Admty. etc.)  
Mombasa arrived 7/3 1438 G.M.T. EMPIRE PEREGRINE.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1446Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Air Route. Proposed air route to Australia.  
(S. of S. for Colonies, 1300/7)  
See Lion Copy.

EXETER  
ENCOUNTER. Reported EXETER and ENCOUNTER may have been ordered to proceed to Australia via Torres Strait. (ii) Request any information you may have.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1325Z/7 to A.C.N.B., (R) Admty.)  
Reply: 0136Z/8.

C. in C.  
Ceylon Staff. My 1418/5. After consulting Gen. Pownall propose Major Gen. Playfair should be appointed as Chief of Staff to C. in C. Ceylon. G.S.O.1 appointment cannot be filled from Abdacom staff available. Propose Temp. Major I.R. Graeme as G.S.O.2. Further message follows regarding remainder of staff requirements.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1353Z/7 to Admty.)

DERWENTDALE  
Landing  
Craft. C. in C. Med. 1744/26/2.  
I intend to return DERWENTDALE to Mediterranean as soon as she has off loaded her landing craft at Addu Atoll.  
2. It is, however, clear that C. in C. Med. desired that the landing craft and their crews should also be returned at an early date.  
3. If this is done it will very seriously delay work at Addu Atoll and the other anchorages now being developed.  
4. It will be necessary to land very large quantities of stores and equipment at all these anchorages in the near future. At most of them there are no landing facilities whatever. At Addu Atoll, a harbour whose inside perimeter measures 27 miles it is impossible to land stores at any of the islands unless either A.L.Cs or M.L.Cs are used. At some points the approach is over shallow coral extending for 7 cables.  
5. I therefore request that DERWENTDALE's 8 A.L.cs and 8 M.L.Cs with their crews be turned over to me until this task has been completed.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1940Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.F.)



SECRET

MESSAGE

1300/7th March.

227A

From: Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 10/3/42

IN

CYPHER TELEGRAM

Addressed: Governors etc.:-	Kenya	No. 139
	Tanganyika	No. 136
No. 139+	Seychelles	No. 32
13862/42.	Mauritius	No. 136.
	Repeated to:-	
	Wagon Lagos	No. 153
	Ceylon	No. 257
	for Commander-in-Chief.	

My Telegram 18th February.

Not to Ceylon

In notes exchanged with United States Government His Majesty's Government have welcomed establishment of proposed air route to Australia via Pointe Noire, Leopoldville, Bukama or Elizabethville, Mbeya, Mombasa, Seychelles Islands, Chagos Archipelago and Cocos Islands for use during present war emergency for purposes wholly concerned with war and not for commercial purposes. It was added that should United States Government now or after the war desire to use the route for commercial purposes His Majesty's Government would expect to be consulted further. United States Government expressed desire to commence at once any necessary improvement of aerodromes in Africa and construction at United States expense of landing facilities at Islands in Indian Ocean and for this purpose to deal directly with local authorities in British territories concerned. His Majesty's Government have suggested that United States authorities should communicate direct with Governors of territories concerned

To Kenya & Tanganyika only

and that in case of Mbeya and Mombasa it may be possible for necessary improvements to existing aerodromes to be undertaken by Colonial authorities.

To all

Understood that survey of route between Pointe Noire and Mombasa is being surveyed by United States Ferry Command Liberator and that Indian Ocean route will be surveyed by Boeing flying boat referred to in my telegram 18th February.

To Ceylon Only

Understand latter will call Trincomali. Please show this telegram to Nightingale when he arrives en route to assume duty as District Officer Cocos Islands.

To all

Royal Air Force authorities informed.

1300/7.

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(T)  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A. 1 S.L.  
P.A.S.(S)  
D. of P.(3)

M.(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
O.D.(5)  
Ops.(3)  
O.I.C.(2)  
I.P.(3)

Received in War Registry at 1721/10.

+ Distributed as Most Secret.

D.N.A.D.  
Air Branch  
W.D.  
E.P.S.  
Ad. Bailey  
Ad. Bellairs



War Diary.

7.3.1942  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Colombo, Your 1506Z/2. Reliance for H.A.A. fire by  
Trincomalee, night is now placed on G.L. Extension of  
A/A defence. searchlight belt to seaward of ports is in any  
case insufficient to provide early enough  
illumination. Searchlights are required for use  
with L.A.A. and for dazzle of low flying aircraft.

2. For this purpose present approved scale of A.A. searchlights  
for Colombo and Trincomalee is six each. This was carefully  
considered and based on most recent experience of dealing with  
night attack by aircraft. If as a result of local R/C this  
number is considered insufficient for low flying defence,  
further representations should be made to C. in C. India for  
allocation of additional numbers.

3. War Office are expediting supply of searchlights to  
C. in C. India.

4. 11th R.M. Searchlight Regt. is not component of R.M. A/A  
Brigade. Regiment is at present deployed in essential defence  
function in Middle East under command C. in C. M.E.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2135A/7 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. Med.)



War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- U/B Following has been read. Submarine 6 miles  
1915 G.M.T. 13.40 N., 72. 14 W.  
(PJTR, No T.O.O., /7)
- BRASTAGI,  
U/B. Following has been read (begins) SSSS Dutch  
BRASTAGI unsuccessfully attacked by submarine  
torpedo at 1915 G.M.T. 14.42 N., 73. 14 W. (Ends).  
(Navycharge, Bermuda, 0010/7 to Admiracirc, Adty).
- U/B ONEIDA reports S/M 006° 56' N., 057° 55' W.,  
at 0417Z/7.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0102Q/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.  
(R) Admty. etc).
- Shipping. Re proposed world-wide routeing agreement.  
(Head of M. approved V.C.N.S. 0107A/7 to B.A.D.)  
See Lion Copy.
- U/B Indicated submarine within 50 miles 38.30 N.,  
71.30 W., by D/F bearings at 2319Z/6.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0424Z/7 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A Admty. etc).
- U/B Submarine within 50 miles of 28.30 N., 72° W.,  
by D/F Bearing at 0013Z/7.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0439Z/7 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.  
U.S.C.N.O.)
- CARDONIA,  
U/B. S.S. CARDONIA being shelled by submarine in  
Windward Passage 0905Z/7.  
(Bermuda W/T, 0745Q/7)
- AVENGER,  
FURIOUS,  
Air Sqdns.  
BITER. Your 1748Q/3. Para. A. Sqn. 816, for AVENGER.  
Propose (1) aircraft to fly to Norfolk  
(Virginia) on 22/3. Request route Miami to  
Norfolk (Virginia) be signalled and re-fuelling  
arrangements made (2) Personnel and stores and  
mobile equipment to be embarked for U.S.A. as near 22/3 as  
possible. (B) Sqn. 836, for FURIOUS. (1) 4 aircraft arrived  
in course of erection. Pending arrival of spares and if  
necessary propose depleting Sqn. 835 (for BITER,) of 2  
Swordfish to make up 6 for Sqn. 836. (2) Personnel not yet  
arrived. Unless 2 additional crews in Admty. 1647R/4 sailed  
direct route it is unlikely full flying personnel for Sqn. 836  
will assemble R.N.A.S. Kingston before early April. Request  
instructions.  
(R.N.A.S., Kingston, 0833R/7 to B.A.R.M. (R) C. in C. A.W.I. etc)  
Your 1738/5 not to BITER or R.A.N.A.S. As it is essential  
that FURIOUS should not be delayed, 835 Sqn. is to return to  
U.K. in FURIOUS with 4 aircraft, 836 Sqn. is to work up and return  
to U.K. in BITER with 4 aircraft and crews. Remaining two  
aircraft and crews are to be attached to 837 Sqn. who will  
shortly leave U.K.  
(D.N.A.D., 1530A/7 to B.A.R.M.)

/Tugs...



# MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 0107A/7th March.

MOST SECRET

OUT.

To: B.A.D. Washington 877. Date 7.3.42.  
 Repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 84.  
 A.C.N.B. 151.  
 N.Z.N.B. 206.

NAVAL CYPHER (XD).

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Your letter CL 38 dated 15th February enclosing copy of proposals for placing into effect provisions of Annex V of A B C One.

2. Proposals are concurred in generally subject to the following proposed amendments. References are to paragraphs of the agreement.

3. Section C(b). For 0001/1/5 read Mercantile Atlantic Routeing instructions (Short Title M.A.R.I.) in two places.

Section D(d). Agree generally but it is hoped that some reduction in the size of British staffs will be possible when U.S. staffs are fully established.

Section E(a). The eastern boundary of the Western Atlantic Area has yet to be finally settled.

4. Section E (a) and (b). Presume intention is for each authority to route ships through from port to port. Suggest therefore after "will route" insert "from port of departure to first port of arrival" in each-paragraph.

5. Section F. It is considered undesirable that once having handed over an ON convoy, Admiralty should resume control of the ships on dispersion. Convoys are frequently dispersed by weather and doubt would arise as to where responsibility lay. A scheme for informing the Navy Department of the routes of ships ex ON convoys is being worked out and will be signalled shortly. It is also considered desirable to include procedure for CHOP date.

Suggest therefore Section F line 3 insert full stop after "ship may be" delete remainder of sentence down to and including "first port of call". Add at end of para. The time and date at which it is estimated a ship or convoy will pass from one area of strategic control to another is to be included by the routeing authority in the route signal under the heading CHOP and responsibility will pass from one authority to another at this time on

/this .....



229<sup>B</sup>

TOP SECRET

-2-

this date irrespective of whether the ship or convoy is exactly in the position estimated or not.

0107A/7.

for Head of M. (244)  
Approved V.C.N.S.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
D.T.D. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.S.D.  
Hd. of M. 38 (M. 050709/42).  
D.O.D. (H)  
D.D.O.D. (H).

WD —

MG



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Tugs  
Trinidad.

N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1251Q/6. Propose both these Tugs should remain at Trinidad. Remark on Admiralty's 1122A/3 will follow shortly and will be based on above.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1052P/7 to Admty (R) B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

India,  
Ceylon.

Number 109. Please inform us most immediately of present strength and disposition of our land and Air Forces in India and Ceylon and any reinforcements envisaged in near future. Also possible weight and lines of attack overland against India and possibility of sea borne attack. President is anxious to have appreciation of our position in India in order to see what is necessary to make that position secure. He is working hard to see what is required for security of Australia and New Zealand.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1059Q/7 to C. of S. London).

St. Pierre.

Following from Free French N.O.I.C St. Pierre. In view of doubt that appears to exist attention is called to fact all navigation lights on the Islands St. Pierre and Miquelon are extinguished and that entering by night is forbidden.  
(F.S. ROSELYS, 1130Z/7 to F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, Admty, N.S.H.Q.)

DURBAN.

Re personnel to stand by ship on arrival U.S.A. 4. Ship will return to U.K. after refit.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1152A/7 to DURBAN (R) C. in C. E.F. etc).

U/B  
attacks.

My 1447/28. U.S. merchant ship casualties week ending March 7th.

Name.	Date.	Form of Attack.	Position.
J.N.PEW •	21/2	Torpedo	225 miles west of Aruba.
ESSO COPENHAGEN DON	22/2	Torpedo	11° N., 53° W.
ESTEBAN and SURIGAO	Feb.	Not known	East Indies.
OREGON	1/3	Torpedo	Off Cape Engano
COLLAMER	5/3	Torpedo	44° N., 63° W.

(B.A.D., 1155Q/7 to Admty).

/DEVONSHIRE...



War Diary.

7.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

DEVONSHIRE. DEVONSHIRE is to be placed under orders of Cinclant for cruiser escort of U.S. convoy A.S. 2 from Charleston to Freetown, and to be ready to sail from Charleston 18th March. Cinclant will provide destroyer escort Norfolk to Charleston. (D.O.D. (F), 1202A/7 to B.A.D.)

UNIWALECO. UNIWALECO torpedoed 013° 23' N., 062° 04' W., 1605Z/7. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1212Q/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.) (Navy com, Bermuda, 1433P/7 to Admty).

A/S Tactics by Convoy Escorts. F.O.N.F., 1201Z/6. Request your early remarks on these tactics. (A.C.N.S. (T), 1244A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.73 Sailed VANOC to overtake S.C.73. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1340Z/7 to Admty. etc).

A.M.Cs. and service personnel. B.A.D's 1546Q/6 your 1538A/5. Is it intended that limitations of service personnel to 250 for each service as stated in your 1948A/25/2 for independent ships be applied to A.M.Cs. or should numbers in A.M.C.s. be limited in accordance with your 2220A/2/12/41? Norfolk pass to CARNARVON CASTLE. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1356Z/7 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc).

EMPIRE HAIL, torpedoed 23/2. Commodore O.N.66 has reported following weak signal intercepted at 2000Z Monday 23/2 (Begins) EMPIRE HAIL torpedoed 044° 48' N., 040° 21' W. (ends) As far as is known this message was not cleared by any ship or station. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1401Z/7 to Admty. Opnav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.T.F. No.4).

Washops 72. Philippine Is. Luzon - no change. Mindoro - enemy have landed approx. 1500 troops with tanks at Kalapan. Mindanao - estimated enemy strength at Zamboanga 2000. Contact with this force is being maintained 3 miles north of city. (J.S.M. Washington 1413Q/7 to Admty. etc.)

Report. Your 1340Z/6. Your 0902Z/25/2 was received garbled and not understood. C.T.F.No.24 0249/26 received. Request restatement as to report desired and from whom. (Opnav 1415/7 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.7.3.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- U/B. D/F bearing at 0506Z, 0543Z and 0627Z place U-boat within 75 miles of 046° 30' N. 040° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1437Z/7 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)
- OREGON sunk. R.O. Ciudad Trujillo reports 26 survivors of U.S. Ship OREGON landed 3/3 near Puerto Plate stating ship sunk 3 days out of Aruba. U.S. Legation investigating. Incident not reported in press. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1458/7 to Admty. C. in C.A.W.I. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
- O. A. KNUDSEN. Following for Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission (begins) Vessel torpedoed Thursday morning, total loss. All crew saved except one deck hand. 3 injured seriously, few slightly. Leaving for Nassau tonight, instruct me care of Norwegian Consul Nassau Bringedal S.S. (O.A. KNUDSEN). (Ottawa 1500/7 to Admty.)
- C.L.6 My 1846Z/6 and 1205Z/7 (N.T. in W.D.) C.L.6 sailed 1400Z/8. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1759Z/7 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa etc.)
- Martinique jamming W/T. There is evidence that W/T in Martinique and Guadeloupe may be deliberately jamming distress traffic. Instruct C. and W. Ltd. Radio Station at your ports particularly to look out for this. Traffic may consist of Vs and dashes without any call sign. Report any observation to C. in C. A.W.I. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1827P/7 to R.O. Barbados, N.C.S.O. Georgetown, R.N.O. St. Lucia, (R) Admty., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D.)
- WILLIAM HANSEN (torpedoed 21/1) Your 1948Z/6. WILLIAM HANSEN (Nor.) torpedoed and sunk 2233/21 in 46.56 N. 52.47 W. while under local escort H.M.C.S. GEORGIAN. 5 survivors picked up by H.M.C.S. ALGOMA landed St. Johns 22/1 and sent to Halifax. (F.O.N.F. 1831Z/7 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty., Opanav, C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C.)
- T.F.81. U.S. South East Pacific Force has been designated as Task Force 81. (B.A.D. 1841Q/7 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)



War Diary.7.3.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Anzac Area. Chiefs of Staff No. (W)109.  
(Admty. 1902A/7 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

U/Bs. Submarine estimate 7/3, (list of sightings and attacks)  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1904/7) See Lion Copy.

ST. ZENO, CAPE WARWICK. Sailed for New York ST. ZENO, CAPE WARWICK.  
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 1913Z/7 to Admty etc).

War Situation. J.S.M.110.  
(J.S.M., 1929Q/7 to C.O.S. London)  
See Lion Copy.

PARTHIAN. This is Eastseafront 1456/7 to Opnav. PARTHIAN will leave Montauk for Gibraltar 0200Z/8 via 39.30 N., 70.00 W., 40.30 N. 55.00 W., 41.10 N., 40.00 W., 10.8 knots surface speed. Diving by day March 8 and 9, speed 1.8 knots.  
(Opnav, T.H.I., 2001/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C. Halifax, Admty).

U/B B.T.201. U-boat transmission in about 26.00 N., 69.30 W., at 1834Z/7 indicates you may have been sighted.  
(Opnav, 2047/7 to C.T.F.38, (R) C.E.S.F. C.G.S.F. etc).

O.N.71 Serial 7, pass to Cdre. Rerouteing instructions for ships for Gulf of Mexico. (details.)  
Warn all ships to expect diversion signals.  
Request time and position of actual dispersal when effective.  
(Opnav, 2128/7 to C.T.U.24.1. 18 (R) Admty etc).

MANCHESTER. B.A.R.M. Washington's 1714Q/16/2. Intend sailing 1300Q/8. E.T.A. Bermuda 1700P/9/3.  
(MANCHESTER, 2141Q/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

KIWI. Boston sailed 1558Z/7 H.M.N.Z.S. KIWI.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2143Z/7 to Admty).

ILEX. C. in C. S.A.'s 1805Z/23/2. Unless otherwise desired by U.S. Authorities, ILEX should proceed Charleston by most direct route via Mona Passage.  
B.A.D. Washington pass to Opnav.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2242P/7 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, (R) Admty etc).



MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

**MOST SECRET**

1962/7/11 March

To:- B.A.D. Washington.

Date. 7.3.42.

Naval Cypher O.T.T.

From:- Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Following for Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 109.

Following is draft received from Australia of proposed Directive to Supreme Commander ANZAC Area.

Begins.

The Governments concerned are the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and any other Government hereafter included. For the sake of convenience the above Governments are referred to in this directive as the A.N.Z.A.B. Governments.

## The Area.

1. The ANZAC Area should embrace -
  - (1) The present ANZAC Area
  - (2) The whole of Australia and its territories New Zealand and the islands within the boundaries of the present ANZAC Area to the extent not included in (1).
  - (3) An area to the west and north west of Australia including Timor, Ambon, the whole of New Guinea and the sea area within an agreed distance of the coast of the west of Australia or as may subsequently be determined.
  - (4) The sea area to the south of Australia.

## Forces.

2. You have been designated as the Supreme Commander of the ANZAC Area and all operationally trained armed forces afloat ashore and in the air of the A.N.Z.A.B. Governments which are or will be stationed in the area.
3. No Government will materially reduce its armed forces stationed in your area, nor any commitment made by it for reinforcing its forces in your area, except after giving to the other Governments and to you timely information pertaining thereto.

Strategic/...



### Strategic concept and policy.

4. The basic strategic concept for the conduct of the war in the ANZAC Area lies in an immediate change on the part of the United Nations to a positive offensive strategy and plans must be formulated to provide for the security of Australia, New Zealand and the advanced territories and to ensure freedom of action for offensive operations on the part of the United Nations against Japan. The piece-meal employment of forces should be minimised. Your operations should be so conducted as to further preparations for the offensive.

5. The general strategic policy should be related from the outset to future major offensive operations and with this in view should be directed to secure Australia and New Zealand not only to maintain their integrity but also to form bases for offensive action on the part of the United Nations to defeat Japan. The immediate problems that confront you are -

- (1) To secure the lines of communication from the United States to Australia and New Zealand by holding New Caledonia and Fiji.
- (2) To prevent the further southward movement of the enemy into Australia, either from New Britain via New Guinea or from Timor through Darwin or down the west coast.
- (3) To maintain essential communications within the area. When these have been secured it will be possible to plan offensive operations in the light of the situation then prevailing including that in the Western Pacific. In the event of failure to hold New Caledonia and Fiji it will be a primary necessity to ensure the integrity of the North Island of New Zealand.

The duties, responsibilities and authorities of the Supreme Commander.

6. You will co-ordinate in the ANZAC Area strategic operations of all armed forces of the A.N.Z.A.B. Government assign them strategic missions and objectives and where desirable arrange for the formation of task forces for the execution of specific operations, and appoint any officer irrespective of seniority or nationality to command such task forces.

7. You will allocate within the area the forces and equipment that are available or which may become available.

8. You are authorised to require from the Commanders of armed forces under your command such reports as you deem necessary in discharging your responsibilities as Supreme Commander.



2338  
ECC

# MOST SECRET

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9. You are authorised to control the issue of all communiques concerning the forces under your command.

10. Your channel of communication with the A.N.Z.A.B. Governments upon any matter relating to your mission is through the Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee in Washington.

11. The Commanders of all sea, land and air forces within your area will be immediately informed by their respective Governments that from a date to be notified all orders and instructions issued by you in conformity with the provisions of this directive will be considered by such Commanders as emanating from their respective Governments.

12. In the unlikely event that any of your immediate subordinates after making direct representation to you still consider that obedience to your orders would jeopardise national interests of his country to an extent unjustified by the general situation in the ANZAC Area he has the right subject to your being immediately notified of such intentions to appeal direct to his own Government before carrying out the orders. Such appeals will be made by the most expeditious methods and copies of appeals will be communicated simultaneously to you.

13. You are not authorised to transfer from territories of any of the A.N.Z.A.B. Governments land forces of that Government without the consent of the local commander of his Government.

14. Your authority and control with respect to the various operations of the ANZAC Area and to the forces assigned thereto will normally be exercised through the local commander. Interferences are to be avoided in administrative processes of the armed forces of any of the A.N.Z.A.B. Governments, including freedom of communication between them and their respective Governments. Alterations or revisions in the basic tactical organisation of any forces will not be made except in case of urgent necessity. Each national component of a task force will normally operate under its own commander and should normally be retained as a national component in the task force. You will give effect to the principle of delegation of the authority to local commanders and in accordance with this principle it is no part of your duty to control the details of actual operations.

On assumption of command and staff,

15. Your staff will include officers of the forces of the A.N.Z.A.B. Governments. You are empowered to communicate immediately with commanders of those forces with a view to obtaining staff officers essential to your earliest possible assumption of the command.



- 4 -

16. You will report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff Washington when you are in a position effectively to carry out the essential function of the Supreme Command so that your assumption of the command may be promulgated to all concerned.

Superior Authority.

17. As Supreme Commander of the ANZAC Area you will always be responsible to the A.N.Z.A.B. Council through the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington as specially constituted for the purpose of the ANZAC Area.

18. On all important matters outside the jurisdiction of the Supreme Commander of the ANZAC Area the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington as specially constituted for the purpose of the ANZAC Area will be the agency through which recommendations and communications may be submitted to the A.N.Z.A.B. Council for decision. Among the chief matters on which decisions will be required are -

- (a) Provision of reinforcements.
- (b) Major changes in policy.
- (c) Departure from the Supreme Commander's directive.

19. This directive is to be read with the agreement between the A.N.Z.A.B. Governments concerning the machinery for the higher direction of the war in the ANZAC Area. Ends.

Our comments, if any, follow.

1902A/7

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 N.L. 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.C.D. (F)  
 D.D.O. (F)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 E.F.S.  
 Hd. of M. (39)  
 I.P. (2)

N.I.D. 10  
~~W.D.~~  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 Adml. Bailey.



SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1904/7th March.

IN

From, C. in C. U.S. Fleet.

Date: 8.3.42.

Recd: 0240.

Naval Order M by Cable.

Addressed. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S) Repeated. Admiralty  
 S.O. Present Afloat Greenland, F.O.N.F.,  
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, Cdr. U.S.  
 S/M Divn. 101, U.S. Battleship TEXAS, All Task  
 Force. Cdrs. Atlantic, Convoy Escort Western  
 Atlantic, Cdrs. All Naval Coastal Frontiers. Comdrs.  
 Task Groups 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 7.4, 7.5 Atlantic.

IMMEDIATE.

7th March submarine estimate part one.

One aircraft sighting 44 13 north 57 09 west at 1455Z

6th. One sound contact off Cape Henry at 1530Z 6th.

Submarine sighted off Cape Hatteras today at 0129Z

another reported at 0842. One 44 north 60 30 west at

1030Z 6th. One D/F within 50 miles 41 40 north 48 20

west at 0457Z 7th. Possible 6 more in area north of

37 north and west of 45 west. 4 homeward bound within

150 miles of positions as follows 36 north 46 west,

39 30 north 35 30 west, 43 30 north 38 30 west, 36 north

67 west.

2 attack on M.V.: 14 42 north 73 14 west at 1915Z 6th.

One off St. Nickolas Mole in windward passage at 0905Z 7th.

Possible 3 more Pitcairn Island located Italian and  
 German submarines in Caribbean Sea. Possible one off  
 Providence Channel. One in Bermuda area. Possible 2 Freetown  
 area. 2 west of Gibraltar. 3 or 4 south or south west  
 Rockall. 3 on passage within 150 miles of 47 north 18 west.  
 3 homeward bound within 150 miles of position as follows  
 25 north 50 west, 30 north 22 west, 32 north 58 west.

One/.....



233<sup>F</sup>

-2-

One 06 56 north 57 55 west at 0417Z 7th. M V reported  
attacked 25 52 north 77 05 west early today.

1904/7.

Advance Copy. Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

Passed F.O.(S).

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(T)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim Admiralty Hse.  
Ops.(3)  
O.D.(5)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D.T.D.(4)  
B.T.D.(M)  
D.T.D.(C)  
O.I.C.(4)  
D. of P.(3)  
D.A/S.W.(2)  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.  
D.P.D.  
D.S.D.(2)  
M(2)  
A.E.(3)  
Cabinet War Room.  
Admiral Usborne.  
D.N.A.D.  
C.C.L.S.



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1929G/7th March

IN

From Joint Staff Mission Washington.

Date 8.3.42,  
Recd. 0358.

NAVAL C. in C. CYPHER 'X' BY CABLE

Addressed Chiefs of Staff London.

IMMEDIATE

J S M 110. Have just completed combined Chiefs of Staff meeting on Presidents reply to Prime Minister which speaks for itself. It is of course the President's reply not ours though we have been allowed to go through it with our opposite numbers and U.S. Chiefs of Staff have been at great pains to answer all points requiring answers.

2. You will note that U.S. contribution to shipping problem involves return of Monsters for our use in Atlantic and to Middle East and India with all risks and difficulties in handling of which you are aware.
3. The tentative dispositions of air forces are in no way the result of Joint consultation though their general principles are we think acceptable. Their main weaknesses are absence of provision for Middle East and the grouping together of all remaining air formations in a vague project for offensive against Germany based mainly we understand in U.K. We are endeavouring to obtain a more realistic programme as soon as possible particularly for the immediate future. There is, we are convinced, little hope of getting any U.S. air reinforcements for the Middle East before July.
4. U.S. Chiefs of Staff are extremely anxious that this highly dangerous document shall receive smallest possible circulation and worried lest extracts from it may be telegraphed by Dominion Ministers through diplomatic cyphers not of highest reliability.
5. We put points contained in your C.O.S. (W) 108 to American Chiefs of Staff and they have promised to discuss them with us as soon as possible but am doubtful if we shall get their views to you before Tuesday.
6. U.S. Chiefs of Staff have already had discussions among themselves on these questions, and have reached no agreement. They had seen at the White House similar ideas expressed in message from Australia and seemed (Admiral King in particular) to have got thoroughly mixed as to which Chiefs of Staff had given the Australian and New Zealand views or blessing. We explained that it was the Australian Chiefs of Staff not you.
7. We cannot tell what U.S. Chiefs of Staff will say finally but we think that Admiral King will be against anything that splits his unity of control in the Pacific. King shows every sign of being anxious for U.S. (i.e. him) to run the

Pacific/.....



Pacific without much if any C.O.S. control and to leave us to run the Indian Ocean. Half in jest it was stated by way of explaining the position that "East is East and West is West" etc., but we suggested that in this particular case the twain must meet.

1929Q/7.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) Hd. of M.

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 E.P.S.  
 Hd. of M. (39)  
 I.P. (2)  
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson)  
 W.D.  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 Duty Capt. (2)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 Admiral Bailey.



War Diary.7.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

WARSPITE.

On completion of fuelling proceed to R/V in accordance with C. in C. E.F.0747/2 passing through A. 038° 00' S., 120° 00' E.

B. 037° 15' S., 110° 00' E.

2. Report your E.T.A. at R/V before sailing.

3. Enemy submarine last reported in 033° 37' S., 113° 30' E. 0340Z/2nd.

(A.C.N.B., 0936Z/7 to WARSPITE (R) Admty etc).

Situation.

Serial number 45 from C.W. R. 6/3.

(1) One enemy twin-engined low wing monoplane over Port Moresby between 0150Z/6 and 0205Z/6.

(2) One Hudson completed photographic R/C Rabaul from 0045Z/6 to 0100Z/6. Observed from 5,000 feet, 3 cruisers 6 transports (2 unloading) one hospital ship 4 flying boats. Observed from 10,000 feet Vunakanau 24 twin engined bombers 5 fighters.

Interceptors eluded.

(3) Further R/C from 0325Z/6 to 0334Z/6 observed one cruiser proceeding Gasmata 5 miles to seaward, one large transport inside lagoon Lindenhaven, 7 medium sized transports at anchor off Gasmata. Fighter interception failed. (4) 2 Hudsons attacked runway Gasmata night 6th/7th. No shipping observed.

(5) One enemy fighter sighted 2330Z/5 patrolling between Arawe Island and Cape Pedder (New Britain)

(6) Enemy air R/C S.E. New Guinea area 6/3 including Samarai, Buna Salamoia, Ioma, Finschaven.

(7) Ref. unidentified cruiser sighted serial number 44 (further description) Vessel zigzagged violently on sighting aircraft. Cruiser observed through glasses distance 2 miles height 10,000 feet.

(8) 4 Hudsons bombed aerodrome Koepant 6/3 from 9500 feet. Straddled runway intersections, light A/A fire, no enemy aircraft observed.

(9) No definite evidence of more than one enemy submarine operating off Fremantle area.

(A.C.N.B., 1132Z/7 to Admty etc).

Anzac  
Area.Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 109.  
(Admty. 1902A/7 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions of U-boats.  
(D.D.I.C., 1447A/7, 1455A/7).



War Diary.8.3.1942  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Interception  
of TIRPITZ.

At 1841A today C. in C. H.F. reported to Adty. that at 1800A he was in  $68^{\circ} 15' N. 5^{\circ} 43' W.$  with KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, RENOWN, VICTORIOUS and BERWICK in company, steering  $55^{\circ}$  at 24 knots and intending to search for TIRPITZ south of Bear Island. He had no destroyers with his Force, and requested Admty. to operate cruisers and destroyers.

At 1632A last night C. in C. H.F. had intercepted a raider distress signal from the M/V IJORA in a doubtful position about  $72^{\circ} 35' N. 10^{\circ} 50' E.$  and at 0200 today Captain D.17 with 6 destroyers was ordered to search to the northward from  $68^{\circ} 50' N. 10^{\circ} 30' E.$  retiring at 0600 through  $70^{\circ} N. 0^{\circ} E.$  to Seidisfiord. This search however was cancelled tonight, and at 1829A Captain D.17 was ordered to R/V with KENT in  $70^{\circ} 0' E.$  to fuel. *(70° N 000° E)*

At 1401A BEDOUIN and TARTAR sailed from Skaalefiord, Faroes towards position  $69^{\circ} N. 1^{\circ} W.$  at 15 knots; and at 1345A FAULKNOR and ESKIMO left Seidisfiord at 15 knots for position  $70^{\circ} N. 00^{\circ}$  longitude.

At 1840A JAVELIN, INCONSTANT, LEDBURY and GROVE were ordered to R/V in  $66^{\circ} N. 5^{\circ} W.$  at 1400 tomorrow and to proceed thence to  $68^{\circ} N. 3^{\circ} W.$  to await further orders.

NIGERIA arrived at Scapa at 0940A and CURACOA and JASON at 1717A, while WOOLSTON and VERDUN from Rosyth are due there at daylight tomorrow.

The S/M UREDD is to leave Lerwick tomorrow forenoon to patrol in about  $63^{\circ} 14' N. 7^{\circ} 7' E;$  and the S/M MINERVE arrived at Lerwick from the Trondheim patrol at 1830A.

At 1630A the U.S. cruiser QUINCY with the U.S. destroyers LANSDALE and ROE sailed from Hvalfiord to carry out the Denmark Strait Patrol left vacant by the movements of KENT and LONDON; and at 2259A EDINBURGH sailed from Scapa for patrol in the Iceland - Faroes passage.



War Diary.

8.3.1942  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - contd.

5 Russian S/Ms are expected to arrive in patrol positions off the North Cape by dark tonight; and the Russian destroyer GREMYASHCHI has been detailed to join Convoy P.Q.12 off the Kola Inlet as additional escort on the 10th.

It is reported today that at 0145C/3 NIGERIA sighted a S/M on the surface within 27 miles of the position which had been given her at 1429A/2 as that of a Russian S/M on patrol. NIGERIA decided not to ram the S/M which may have been a U-Boat; and C.S.10 considers that the incident affords a further strong argument in favour of reversing the routes of Russian S/Ms.

The sailing of the homeward Russian Convoy Q.P.<sup>28</sup> is to be deferred pending further instructions.

The N.O.I.Cs concerned were informed today by C. in C. W.A. that the faster ships in Convoys for the Clyde and Liverpool may in future be detached from their Convoys when East of 10° W. in order to enable them to proceed independently to their ports of destination.

British Air Activity.

The air R/C of Trondheim failed today owing to fog.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 2258A Lowestoft was bombed by one A/C without damage or casualty.



War Diary.

8.3.1942  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Some 30 enemy A/C were operating tonight off the Yorkshire coast and at 2225A the Humber was closed on account of enemy minelaying.

One Red Mine was detonated by sweepers off Liverpool yesterday; and one today off Harwich and another off the Tyne.

The escort trawler NOTTS COUNTY was sunk, probably by a mine, at 2350A today in 63° 10' N. 13° 16' W.

North Atlantic.

Force H. returned to Gibraltar this evening from operation "Spotter". A report on the operation is contained in S.O. Force H's 2358A/8.

South Atlantic.

MONTE GORBEA. CANTON and PRETORIA CASTLE are to try and intercept Spanish MONTE GORBEA in about 10° N., 24° 30' W. and send her into Hampton Roads. The late German Ambassador to a South American State is on board, and possibly 2 German officers. (Ship was intercepted on 12/3)

CILICIA. On completing fuelling at Montevideo, CILICIA is to proceed to Falkland Islands to embark the personnel of 710 Sqdn., F.A.A., and then to proceed Capetown.



War Diary.

8.3.1942  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Malta. Continuous intruder raids last night caused slight damage at Luqa and further damage to aircraft and R.A.F. buildings was caused in today's raids. Hal Far aerodrome was also cratered.
- Libya. 1 Wellington laid 2 mines at Tripoli last night while 2 others were employed on a diversion.
- R.F.A. SLAVOL received superficial damage in an air raid on Tobruk.
- Aegean. 3 troop carrying caiques left Chios for Lemnos tonight. TURBULENT was informed.

East Indies.

- Dutch H.Q. V.A. Helfrich has established his H.Q. at Colombo as C. in C. Netherlands Forces in the East (short title B.S.O.)
- B.D.Vs. As BARLANE and BARRIER have insufficient endurance without refuelling, to reach Fremantle, to which Admty. suggested they should be diverted. C. in C. E.F. intends to retain them both on E.I. Station, where they are required.
- Nancowry. Fuel stock at Nancowry is to be destroyed or removed if this has not already been done.
- Colombo. To help in protecting increased shipping at Colombo, C. in C. E.I. intends to use GUARDIAN to lay 2 lines of small mesh indicator nets.
- Shipping. New instructions for the routeing of shipping in the Indian Ocean are contained in C. in C. E.I. 1834Z/8.



War Diary.

8.3.1942  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Force from  
Java.

C.C.C.F. furnishes further details of the dispersal of his force from the Java area. No further news of EXETER and ENCOUNTER since his signal directing them to sail from Sourabaya (28/2).

PERTH and U.S. cruiser HOUSTON left Batavia in company about 1230Z/28 to pass through Sunda Strait to Tjilatjap. At 1532Z PERTH reported an unknown destroyer near the Strait, amplified later to a cruiser. No further reports.

At 0230Z/1, PERTH and HOUSTON were ordered to avoid Tjilatjap and pass through 15° S, 113° E. en route to Fremantle.

STRONGHOLD left Tjilatjap p.m.1/3 escorting ZAANDAM to Fremantle. She parted company at 1830Z/1 but has not arrived Fremantle.

Further details are given regarding a number of auxiliary craft.

America and West Indies.

A world wide routeing agreement known as the British - U.S. Routeing Agreement (short title Busra) has been concluded at Washington.

A U-boat was attacked by a Catalina aircraft at 1755 G.M.T. in 43.48 N., 63.55 W., with unknown results.

Australia.

Port Moresby was raided by 10 type 96 heavy bombers at 0220 G.M.T. without damage or casualties.

An enemy landing was made early this morning at Salamoia on the mainland of New Guinea. It is believed this place and Lae\* are in enemy hands. Soon after the landing R.A.A.F. aircraft attacked the enemy ships and claim direct hits without loss to themselves.\*(15 miles N.W. of Salamoia) Both Salamoia and Lae were shelled from seaward prior to enemy landings.



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.General.Recognition Signals. D.S.D. 1859/8, A.G.M.  
See Lion Copy.Movements.SUFFOLK, Sailed SUFFOLK escorted by VIVIEN and VALOROUS.  
VIVIEN, (C. in C. Rosyth, 0159/8.)  
VALOROUS. SUFFOLK arrived. VIVIEN and VALOROUS proceeding,  
E.T.A. Flamborough Head 1700/8.  
(N.O.I.C. Newcastle, 1005/8.)H.43, H.33, My 1742A/6. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested  
H.50. to sail H.43 in company with H.33.  
(Capt. S.7, 1009A/8.)  
Your 1742A/6 and 1009A/8. Intend sailing H.33  
and H.43 escorted by LEAMINGTON from Lough Foyle at 2000A/9 to  
Rothesay. E.T.A. 0800A/10.  
LEAMINGTON to return to Lough Foyle with H.50 leaving Rothesay  
1900A/10.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1236A/8 and 1826A/9.)PAKENHAM. Admiralty pass to F.O. Force H. My 1134A/7.  
Sailed PAKENHAM. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200Z/11.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1244A/8.) *See also p 250*ILLUSTRIOUS. Arrived ILLUSTRIOUS, M.Ls. 444 and 163 in  
company.  
(N.O.I.C. Lamlash, 1930/8.)DIANTHUS. Your 1337Z/8. As DIANTHUS has already commenced  
boiler cleaning intend to sail her on completion  
direct for St. John's to enable her to arrive  
approximately the same date as her Task Unit.  
Circumstances are much regretted but in view of excessive  
boiler hours C. in C. W.A. concurs.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2153Z/8 to F.O.N.F.)Operations.TIRPITZ My 1804A/5. FAULKNER and ESKIMO now available.  
and Convoys Patrol has been taken over by A/S trawlers.  
P.Q.12, (C.S. 18, 0015A/8 to C. in C. H.F., (R) V.A. 2.)  
Q.P. 8. DRAUG is to be sailed for Scapa at daylight 8th.  
F.O.(S) 2354A/7. UREDD will be completed with  
fuel, provisions, and stores at Scapa and sailed  
escorted by DRAUG to arrive Lerwick at daylight 9th.  
(A.C.O.S., 0045A/8 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

/Situation ...



SECRET

1859A/8 March.

M E S S A G E

OUT.

TO. "A" Message Home &amp; Abroad. 328A

Date. 8.3.42.

Naval Code 'J' Secret

NOTPRINT.

From. Admiralty.

~~N I T E~~ BASEGRAM.

Admiralty 164A/3rd February. Ships are reminded that:-

1. For Anglo-United States Recognition refer Admiralty General Messages 37A/10th January, 191A/9 February, 306A/5th March and 310A/5th March.
2. For Anglo-Soviet Recognition in Arctic Ocean refer Admiralty General Messages 708AZ/15th January, 760AZ/19th February and 782AZ/3rd March.
3. ANNUSREC continues in force in ABDA Area until otherwise ordered by local authority.
4. S.P.02292M. T.S. Signal not yet in force.
5. S.P.02293M Page 9, column 10. Correct line 15 to read "R R R".
6. S.P.02294M French feux de melee lights not in force unless ordered locally.
7. S.P.02298(2) repeat (2) is in force, but not in use, on Home Station.
8. Ship to Shore Letter comes into force on 7th April vide Admiralty 303A/4.
9. Merchant Vessel recognition procedure. Refer Admiralty General Messages 942A/20th December and 970A/27th December or S.P.02220(2)N(2) in course of distribution.
10. Submarines and ships in dangerous areas carry Key Memoranda C, H, J and M repeat C, H, J and M.
11. Admiralty General Messages 232A/18th February, 237A/19th February 477AZ/13/8/41 and 762AZ/20th February are cancelled from 10th March.

1859A/8 for D.S.D. (284)

S.P.02292M-Key Memorandum 1M:S.P.02293M-Key Memorandum:

S.P.02294M-Key Memorandum 4M:S.P.02220(2)-Addendum to Recognition

V.C.N.S.	D.S.O.	M.Bks.	Manual No. 2.
A.C.N.S. (H)	W/T.Rm. (2)	D.T.D. (4)	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	A.C.R.	HYDROG.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	A.G.R.M.	D. OF V.	
O.D. (5)	N.I.D.10.	M. (10) & for W.O. (Capt. Jones, AA4A)	
OPS. (3)	O.I.C. (2).	A.M. (F.O. 6, & Sigs. 5). H.Q.F.C.	
A.E. (Cdr. Leppart) (3)	I.P. (3).	H.Q.C.C.H.Q.B.C.	
D.N.I. (4).	W.D.	D. OF S.	} Bath.
D.S.D. (2)	D.N.A.D.	D.A.S. (3)	
D. OF P. (2)	H.W.R. (2)	D.N.O. (4)	
		SUB W.R. )	



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. contd.

- TIRPITZ and Convoys P.Q.12, Q.P. 8. (Contd.)
- Situation at 0001/8.  
TIRPITZ sighted by SEAWOLF off Fro Havet at 1800/6 steering north. Attempts to attack convoy P.Q.12 anticipated.
2. Convoy P.Q.12 escorted by KENYA, OFFA, ORIBI and GOSSAMER estimated position at 1700/7 73° 10' N. 12° 20' E. ordered to steer course North, speed 7 knots, as far as 74° N., thence to the eastward as near ice edge as possible.
3. Some ships of Convoy Q.P.8 dispersed in 69° 25' N. 6° W. at about 2000/7, proceeding to Akureyri. Remainder escorted by OXLIP and SWEETBRIAR proceeding to Hvalfiord. HAZARD and SALAMANDER proceeding to Scapa.
4. Home Fleet covering passage of convoys.
5. KENT proceeding from patrol "White" to 70° N. 00° E.T.A. 2200/8. Ordered to be ready to fuel destroyers. *See p. 243*
- 6. C.S.1 in LONDON refuelling in Hvalfiord ordered to follow KENT.
7. LIVERPOOL and TRINIDAD left Scapa 2000/7 proceeding to 69° N. 1° W. E.T.A. 2100/8.
8. C.S.10 in NIGERIA returning to Scapa from northward, E.T.A. daylight 8th.
9. D.8 in FAULKNER with ESKIMO at Seidisfiord standing by C.S.18 in SHEFFIELD (damaged). A/S trawlers should arrive Seidisfiord 8th.
10. JAVELIN and INCONSTANT left Scapa 1800/7 proceeding to Seidisfiord at best speed to relieve or join D.8.
11. BEDOUIN proceeding to Skaale Fiord, Faeroes, to refuel, E.T.A. noon 8th.
12. TARTAR, LEDBURY, and GROVE proceeding from Scapa to Skaale Fiord, E.T.A. daylight 8th.
13. EDINBURGH at Scapa at 2 hours notice.
14. MANXMAN leaves Rosyth a.m. 8th to load at Port ZA. *See p. 245*
15. 3 S/Ms on patrol in Fro Havet area. One S/M left patrol p.m. 7th for Lerwick. One S/M left Lerwick 1830/7 for patrol off Gripholmen.
16. Russians requested to provide all possible assistance to P.Q.12.
17. Air. T/B striking forces of 10 Beauforts at Sumburgh 9 Beauforts at Wick by a.m. 8th. 12 heavy bombers at Lossiemouth. Long range R/C aircraft employed on patrol off approaches to Trondheim. (1st S.L., 0105A/8 to A.I.G., F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C., R.A.M.)
- LONDON sailed Hvalfiord 0225A/8. (A.C.I.C., 0240A/8.)
- Intercepted raider distress signal 1632A/7 from IJORA in 072° 35' N. 010° 50' E. Position doubtful. D/F bearings 1914A appeared to indicate enemy retiring south. Capt. (D) 17 and 6 destroyers search north from 068° 50' N. 010° 30' E. at 0200, retiring at 0600 through 070° N. 0° E. to Seidisfiord. My 0444A part 2 follows. (C. in C. H.F., 0442A/8.)
- E.T.A. Seidisfiord 1800. My P.C.S. 061° 50' N. 010° 50' W. 323°, 28 knots. (JAVELIN, 0700A/8.)

/Your ...



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. conts.

TIRPITZ and Convoys P.Q.12, Q.P. 8. (Contd.) Your 0045A/8. Sailed DRAUG. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 0700A/8 to A.C.O.S.) Scapa arrival NIGERIA. (A.C.O.S., 0940A/8.) TARTAR and BEDOUIN are to complete with fuel and proceed towards 69° N. 1° W. at 15 knots. (A.C.N.S. H., 1007A/8.)

→ FAULKNOR and ESKIMO are to proceed towards 70° N. long. 00° at 15 knots. (A.C.N.S. H., 1020A/8 to C.S.18, D.8.) Your 2345/7. Arrived TARTAR, GROVE, LEDBURY. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1055A/8 to R.A.D.)

→ Scapa arrivals - 0754 ST. MARYS, 0848 WILTON. (A.C.O.S., 1119A/8.)

Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic -

Area Iceland - KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, RENOWN, VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, KENT, LONDON, LIVERPOOL, TRINIDAD. 17 destroyers.

Area Scapa - NIGERIA.

Area Clyde - ILLUSTRIOUS.

Area North Russia - Escorting to N. Russia KENYA and 2 destroyers.

Area Gibraltar - MALAYA, ARGUS, EAGLE, HERMIONE. 5 destroyers.

(D.O.D. H., 1158A/8 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

(1) Soviet S/Ms proceeding patrol following areas.

A. Between 72° 35' N. and 73° 10' N. and 20° 10' and 22° 45' E.

B. Between 72° 24' and 71° 50' N. and 20° 40' and 23° 10' E.

C. Between 71° 36' and coast between 21° 50' and 24° 30' E.

D. Between 72° 40' and 72° 12' N. and 31° and 33° E.

E. Between 72° and 71° 30' N. and 31° and 33° E.

(2) All S/Ms expected to arrive in these areas by dark March 8th

(3) GREMYASHCHI, only destroyer available as additional escort P.Q.12, sails Kola Inlet to pass through 73° 25' N. 37° 30' E. at 1200C/10, thence on reciprocal course of convoy. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1201A/8.)

URED is to be sailed from Lerwick as soon as possible proceeding with despatch on surface at C.O.'s discretion to patrol in vicinity of 63° 14' N. 07° 07' E. (F.O.S., 1201A/8.)

→ LANCASTER, WELLS and ST. MARYS are to be brought to two hours notice for steam. They may be required to operate with Home Fleet. (D.D.O.D. (M.), 1259A/8 to R.A.M.) *See also next page*

E.T.A. Seidisfiord with ICARUS 1900. (INTREPID, 1320A/8.)

→ Your 1020A/8. Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNOR, and ESKIMO sailed at 1345A/8. (C.S.18, 1348A/8 to Admty.) BEDOUIN, TARTAR sailed to comply with your 1007A. (BEDOUIN, 1401A/8.)

F.O.S.'s 1201A/8. Request you sail UREDD tomorrow forenoon proceeding with despatch on surface at C.O.'s discretion through position - A. 090° Out Skerries 5 miles. B. 061° 30' N. 000° 02' W. C. 062° 46' N. 003° 40' E., thence patrol in vicinity of D. 063° 14' N. 007° 07' E. (Capt. S.9, 1429A/8 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

/Your ...



243

War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. Contd.

TIRPITZ and Convoys P.Q.12, Q.P. 8. (Contd.) Your 1259A/8. ST. MARYS has been docked at Scapa for repairs to oil fuel tanks. (R.A.D., 1457/8 to Admty.) Take VERDUN under your orders. Sail to pass May Island at 1930 today, adjusting speed to reach Scapa at daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1641/8 to WOOLSTON.)

Request you will sail two destroyers of good endurance to arrive Scapa at daylight 9th. They may be required for screening purposes. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1650A/8 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Scapa arrival CURACOA and JASON. (A.C.O.S., 1717A/8.) UREDD escorted by DRAUG sailed from Scapa. E.T.A. Lerwick 0800/9. (A.C.O.S., 1800/8 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.) R/V with KENT in 070° N. 000° GUYSBOROUGH and TRINIDAD and LIVERPOOL in 069° N. 001° W. and fuelling. (C. in C. H.F., 1829A/8 to Capt. D.17.) *See p.241* Capt. S.9's 1453A/7. Arrived MINERVE. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1830A/8.) Force withdrawn South last night by D/F bearings and carried out unsuccessful search. (II) Inform me if U-Boat or air threat increases. (C. in C. H.F., 1833A/8 to Admty.) Request you sail JAVELIN, INCONSTANT, LEDBURY and GROVE to R/V in 66° N. 5° W. at 1400/9, thence proceeding to 68° N. 3° W. to await further orders. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1840A/8 to N.O.I.C. Faroes, C.S.18.) My P.C.S. at 1800A/8 68° 15' N. 05° 43' W., 55°, 24 knots. All heavy ships and BERWICK in company. No destroyers. Intend to search south of Bear Island. Request Admiralty operate cruisers and destroyers. Admiralty recypher and broadcast. (C. in C. H.F., 1841A/8 to Admty.) INTREPID (group missing) 1342A/8. E.T.A. Seidisfiord 0001/9. Am delayed by over heated starboard bearings. Estimate repair will be made good by ships staff 8 hours after arrival. (ICARUS, 1845A/8.) Negative 0442A/8. (C. in C. H.F., T.O.R. 2032/8.) Request you sail LANCASTER and WELLS to arrive Scapa at daylight tomorrow. (A.C.N.S.(H), 2118A/8 to R.A.M.) *See previous page*

Operation J.Y. (Cable-laying) My 1037A/7 and 2150A/7. ALERT sailed at 0720. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0736A/8 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

Sweep by M.Ls. My 1932/7. "Obstacle" arrived. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0804/8.)

Denmark Strait Patrol. Your 2236A/7. Very many thanks. Please arrange accordingly. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1005A/8 to A.C.I.C.)

/Your 0047A/8 ...



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Denmark Strait Patrol. (Contd.) Your 0047A/8. Admiralty and C. in C. H.F. informed in my 2236A/7. U.S. Cruiser QUINCY and 2 destroyers are proceeding p.m. today. (A.C.I.C., 1241A/8 to C.S.1.) My 2236A/7. U.S. Cruiser QUINCY, U.S. Destroyers LANSDALE and ROE sailed for patrol "White" 1630A. (A.C.I.C., 1635A/8 to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. (Cable-laying) Admiralty 1831A/6.  
1. Request you will detail one escort vessel and sail her with M.L. MACKAY immediately weather is suitable.  
2. Escort is not to enter territorial waters.  
3. If endurance permits escort is to remain in vicinity throughout all operations and escort M.L. MACKAY to Milford Haven on completion.  
4. If weather necessitated sheltering escort is to return to Milford Haven and M.L. MACKAY is to be instructed to inform you when escort will be required again. (C. in C. W.A., 1210A/8 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Channel Patrol. 2 Chasseurs patrolling Q.Z.S.271, returning to St. Helens at dawn. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1517A/8.)

Iceland - Faroes Patrol. Request you sail EDINBURGH after dark today to patrol "Black". (A.C.N.S. H., 1844A/8 to R.A.D.) Scapa departure EDINBURGH. (A.C.O.S., 2259A/8.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. "Polar" and "Bear" in operation from 0830A. (A.C.I.C., 1024A/8.) "Polar" returned owing to fog. (A.C.I.C., 1547A/8.) Trondheim 8th March. R/C failed owing to weather. (D.D.I.C., 1800A/8.) "Bear" returned 2230A. Nil report. (A.C.I.C., 2244A/8.) Patrol "Prowler" between 1245 and 1615 100% effective. Patrol continuing shifting to "Prowl" at dark. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2245/8 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2.)

Bombing Operations. On days 4 to 7/3 inclusive no operations took place. On night 7/8, 14 A/C attacked the Docks at St. Nazaire. (H.Q.B.C., 2359/8.)



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Expected R/Cs. Attempted photographic R/C by enemy of Scapa and Rosyth must be expected today 8th. It is very important to deny this to the enemy. (A.C.N.S. H., 0651A/8.)

Lowestoft bombed. Lowestoft bombed by single enemy A/C at 2258A/8. A to D Nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 2354A/8.)

Mining.

MANXMAN. Carry out instructions as in my 1203/7. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0005/8 to MANXMAN.)  
Departure MANXMAN. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1009/8.)  
Proceed at 25 knots. (A.C.N.S. H., 1743A/8 to MANXMAN.)

Tyne. Detonated 1 blue magnetic ground mine 0755/8 in approx. 090° Tyne North Pier Light 2 cables. (N.O.I.C. North Shields, 0917/8 and 1758/8.)

Operation "Tincture". My 1559A/6. Operation complete. Negative result. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0935A/8.)

B.S. 68. Provisional date for B.S. 68 11/3. (C. in C. Nore, 1022A/8.)

Liverpool. At 1253/7 one red mine exploded by Sweeper. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1116/8.)

Dangerous Areas. The following Channels have been declared, in the Norwegian press, to be dangerous due to mines. Details. (Hydrog, 1229A/8 and 1233A/8.)

Operation Q.S. 2. My 2220A/7. The M.Ls. are also to accompany sweepers during nights operations. (C. in C. Nore, 1616A/8 to KELLET.)  
Departure KELLET, SALTASH, ALBURY, ROSS, LYDD, SELKIRK. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1830A/8.)

Harwich. At 1235/8 one magnetic mine exploded by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2153A/8.)



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Humber. Humber is closed to navigation on account of enemy minelaying.  
(F.O. Yarmouth, 2225A/8.)  
30 enemy A/C operating off the coast, mainly between Spurn and Flamborough.  
3 A/C over the river. 1 mine seen to fall inside the boom.  
Bombs reported inland.  
(F.O. Humber, 2250A/8.)

Enemy Intelligence.

PRINZ EUGEN. Trondheim March 1st. About 150 German naval personnel believed from PRINZ EUGEN were recently buried. Graded B.3.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1201/8 to D.N.I.)  
N.I.D. Comment. Air Recco of 24/2 showed the PRINZ EUGEN was damaged aft.

North Sea. 9 Merchant vessels bearing 090° distant 5 miles 180°, in 55° 10' N. 6° 59' E.  
(A/C 053 Sqdn., 1215/8 to Chatham.)  
4 merchant vessels bearing 090° distance 5 miles course 270°, in 54° 55' N. 6° 37' E.  
(A/C H. 53 Sqdn, 1227/8.)  
4 merchant vessels. Position 54° 55' N. 6° 35' E., course 270°, 7 knots.  
(A/G H. Sqdn, 1310/8 to 16 Group.)  
4 merchant vessels 4 flashes of guns bearing 090° distant 4 miles, course 180° in 54° 55' N. 6° 35' E.  
(A/C U/53 Sqdn, 1235/8 to Chatham.)

U-Boats.

Possible U-Boat spared on 3/3. NIGERIA. At 0145C/3 NIGERIA sighted S/M on surface. S/M was within 27 miles of position of Russian S/Ms given in your 1429A/2 and last moment decision was taken not to ram. If this was in fact a German U-Boat a wonderful opportunity was lost but under the circumstances I consider NIGERIA acted correctly. This provides another very strong argument in favour of reversing routes of Russian S/Ms.  
(C.S.10, 0557A/8 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Reliable report received to effect that enemy S/Ms operating where ice may be encountered may be painted white on decks and conning towers.  
(C.T.F.24, 2331/8.)



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

A/C on ice R/C report edge of brash in 067° 14' N. 027° 05' W. running 240° and 040° curved round to 090°. Brash edge ran thus for 10 miles then reverted 045°, broken by many small bays. Edge of pack ice ran from 67° 20' N. 27° 14' W. to 67° 35', 27° 37' to 67° 45', 27° 12'. Northward and westward of this point was fast ice to 068° 12' N. 026° 30' W. Pack ice recommenced 068° 04' N. 025° 20' W. with same brash and unfrozen water. Brash was seen at 068° 05' N. 24° 10' W., which gave to open sea at 068° 5' N. 23° 28' W. (A.C.I.C., 0007A/8.)

Casualties and Defects.WHITSHED  
(Mined 5/3)

Departure WHITSHED, HAMBLEDON and tug SUPERMAN in accordance with my 1615A/7. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0601A/8.) Sheerness for Chatham. Arrival WHITSHED accompanied by SUPERMAN at 1642. (C. in C. Nore, 1704A/8.)

HEROINE.

Owing to bad crack in cylinder of winch, vessel unable to sail today. (F.O.I.C. London, 1210/8.)

DEVON CITY.

Arrived DEVON CITY in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER. (WESTERN ISLES, 1354A/8.)

SHELDON.

Anticipate refloating SHELDON 1700/9. Damage reported as slight. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1713/8.)

THEO)  
(SKEPASTI.

Scrabster arrival at 1945 Greek S.S. THEOC SKEPASTI in tow of H.M. Tug ADEPT. (N.C.S.O. Thurso, 2000A/8.)

NOTTS COUNTY  
(Escort  
Trawler)  
sunk.

NOTTS COUNTY sunk by mine or torpedo in 63° 10' N. 13° 16' W. (ANGLE, 2350A/8.)

Shipping and Convoys.Detaching  
of Faster  
Ships.

Weather and other conditions permitting, Commodores of homeward bound convoys may be instructed by C. in C. W.A. to detach faster ships for Clyde and Liverpool at their discretion when east 010° West. These ships are then to proceed independently to their port of destination. (C. in C. W.A., 0923Z/8.)



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Atlantic Convoy Instructions. C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 2015/6. The proposals contained in my 1644A/2/3/42 have now been whole-heartedly agreed to by all addressees and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, the only dissident being C. in C. U.S. Fleet. I must most strongly urge the desirability of having common instructions for the conduct of Atlantic convoys and escorts, based as these will be on two and a half years of war experience. I am not acquainted with the contents of Lant Fleet 9A, but I can only presume that the instructions therein must differ materially from W.A.C.I.'s, otherwise no objection would have been raised. It would appear obvious however that only chaos can result if certain Atlantic escort groups are operated under entirely different instructions from the majority. I therefore request that no effort be spared to persuade C. in C. U.S. Fleet to conform in this respect.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1033A/8 to Admty.)  
My 1033A/8. I have now seen Lant Fleet 9A and find that it only deals with the convoy problem in general terms, and I can therefore see no reason for it being replaced even as U.S. escorts conform to proposed A.C.I. Lant Fleet 9A section (IV) would however need to be included in A.C.I.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1632A/8 to Admty.)

Night Sweeps by Convoy Escorts. Your 1244A/7. Night sweeps on D/F bearings are interesting but need high speed escorts if convoy is not to be left unprotected for too long. When most of escorts are R.D.F. fitted there are disadvantages in having escorts rejoining at night, as at present any R.D.F. contact outside the screen can be taken as enemy. Day tactics are similar to W.A.C.I. part 306 para. 5.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1045A/8 to Admty.)

P.Q.13. Request every effort be made to sail HOPEMOUNT with P.Q.13.  
HOPEMOUNT expected to be at Tail of the Bank at 1800/9 and requested she be sailed independently at best speed to R/V P.Q.13 outside Loch Ewe but convoy should not be delayed on this account.  
(D.T.D., 1123A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)  
P.Q.13. A.M. 1123A/8. To avoid ship calling Loch Ewe request convoy papers and instructions for HOPEMOUNT be handed to escort for transfer as convenient.  
N.C.S.O. Clyde should issue route to position U in A.M. 1823A/5. Propose HOPEMOUNT be ordered to return to Loch Ewe if convoy not met by daylight 11/3 and N.C.S.O. Clyde is requested to issue instructions for entry for use in this event.  
(D.T.D., 1958A/8.)

H.X.176. Heartiest congratulations on another successful convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1213A/8 to Vice-Ad. A.G. Mackworth.)



War Diary.

8.3.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- S.L. 100. Warmest congratulations on the success of your convoy all the ships of which have arrived. (C. in C. W.A., 1214A/8 to Rear-Ad. C.N. Reyne.)
- C.T. 12, C.T. 14. C.T.12 composed of 2 ships carrying 4300 to leave U.K. 27/3 with returning escort of N.A.5. C.T.14 composed of 2 ships carrying 3000 to leave U.K. 8/4 with returning escort of N.A.6. (D.O.D. (H), 1410A/8 to C. in C. Lant.)
- Q.P. B. Your 1705A/6. Q.P.(B) is not to be sailed pending further instructions. (A.C.N.S. (T), 2350A/8 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Destination of LLANGIBBY CASTLE is Southampton.  
2. In view of her lack of rudder she should be escorted.  
3. Request anticipated date of sailing.  
(D.O.D. (F), 0003A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.G. 80 Arrival STORK, DUNCAN, PELICAN, GARDENIA, SAMPHIRE, MAPLIN, cable layers EMILE BAUDOT, with convoy O.G. 80.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0858A/8 to Admty).

EMPIRE GALE, EMILE BAUDOT. O.G. (86?) Gibraltar section. EMPIRE GALE and EMILE BAUDOT arrived.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0919A/8 to Admty).

LAVENDER. LAVENDER left Ponta Delgada 1000 G.M.T./8.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0928/8 to S.O.(I) Gib).

PAKENHAM. From (C) pass through (D) 040° 00' N., 015° 00' W. (E) 036° 30' N., 010° 00' W., thence Gibraltar reporting E.T.A. gate on passing (D)  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1032A/8 to PAKENHAM) ~~5~~ p. 240

FARADAY. LADY HOGARTH, STELLA CARINA, LORD NUFFIELD escorting tug THAMES towing FARADAY 25° 44' 15° 45' through 25° 00' 16° 30' thence 207° 5½.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1320A/8 to A.I.G. 65).

LOCH OSKAIG defect. Joint of flange on boiler mounting to centrifugal pump blown out. Unable to effect repair without reducing boiler pressure, propose to do this after dark tonight.  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1340A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ALOUETTE Arrival.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1431A/8 to Admty).

Movements. ROMNEY, CRANARTY, WHITEHAVEN, arrived Ponta Delgada 1800 G.M.T./8.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1655/8 to S.O.(I) Gib)

F.W. A/C Two F.W. A/C known active from Bordeaux during day and thought they covered an area to W. but no information concerning their movements is available.  
(D.D.I.C., 1801A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- PANDORA. Intend to sail PANDORA for patrol south of Alboran Island p.m./9.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1810A/8 to C. in C. Med).
- THUNDERBOLT, Outward route through A. 039° 00' N., 005° 00' E.  
UNIQUE. At 0500/11 B. 038° 22' N., 001° 42' E. At 0800/  
12 C. 036° 33' N., 002° 10' W. At 0100/14  
D. 036° 20' N., 004° 42' W. At 1300/14 to  
arrive Gibraltar 1700/14.  
Report if unable to comply within 2 hours. Diving by day  
expected on 14/3. UNIQUE on same route passing through C at  
0800/13 to arrive 1500/14. All times "A".  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1836A/8 to THUNDERBOLT, UNIQUE, C. in C. Med., etc)
- T.L.C. No. EMPIRE CAMERON reports that the stern portion  
155. of T.L.C. No. 155 lost overboard owing to heavy  
rolling of ship in 43° 30' N., 020° 57' W.,  
on 2/3. When last seen was floating.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1900A/8 to Admty).
- Force H. Arrival 1440 MALAYA, 1840, ARGUS, EAGLE, HERMIONE,  
LAFOREY, EXMOOR, CROOME, ANTHONY, WISHART,  
WHITEHALL 2220, ACTIVE, 2300 BLANKNEY, LIGHTNING.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2348A/8 to Admty).
- Operation 1. At 1545 D.1. fire was opened on aircraft which  
"Spotter". were approaching Force "H" on bombing course.  
Aircraft turned away and was identified as  
probably French.
2. 3rd Due to fact that pilots were inexperienced in right  
flying and to weather had decided to postpone departure until  
after daylight. Fly off of A flight outboard was thus delayed  
until 1020. One Blenheim of second pair return to Gibraltar  
with engine trouble the other arrived half an hour later and  
B flight of Spitfires flew off 1146. Fly off position both  
flights 037° 30' N., 003° 20' E., 3rd and 4th pairs of Blenheims  
arrived together 15 minutes later and were sent on to Malta.
3. Force H was reported by enemy aircraft at 1025, 1100, 1310,  
1505 and 1550, all times zone minus 1, on D.2., reports being  
received on Rome rebroadcast. All these times are confirmed  
by F.O.C.N.A. and that at 1025 was reported by V.A. Malta as  
sighting report by German aircraft. Force H was probably  
shadowed between 0900 and 1600. Weather was unsuitable to  
operate fighters until 1400 when they were flown but no  
interceptions were made.
4. Numerous R.D.F. contacts of aircraft during D.2. some of  
which may have been French aircraft from Algiers.
5. Weather conditions for fly off Spitfires were wind West Force  
7 with moderating sea, fly off only just possible.



War Diary.

8.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation  
"Spotter".  
Contd.

6. On D.1. Spitfires were ranged on deck and cannons tested. Majority failed firing until adjustments made.

7. Though the object of the operation was successfully accomplished yet the very weak link in plan, namely connecting up Blenheims with Spitfires, was always giving cause for anxiety in spite of excellent conditions of visibility. Inability of Blenheims to take off from Gibraltar in dark, irregularity of their time keeping, unexpected direction from which they approached R/V, EAGLE's inability to communicate with them (?by V/S) and their small margin of endurance, created difficulties any of which might well have jeopardized the operation.

8. Ideal arrangements would be to carry leader with Spitfire to fly off position. Failing this I consider Hudson 3 with Coastal Command crew should be used instead of Blenheims. Their abilities to take off at night, greater reliable communications, larger range and better standard of navigation would simplify operations considerably.

9. With enemy inevitably aware where, when, and what we are doing success of future similar operations and security of Force H while carrying them out will be largely dependent on our ability to vary fly off position and to fly off as near dawn as possible. For reasons in above paragraph this could be arranged with experienced Hudson but it is not possible with inexperienced Blenheim.

10. A.O.C. concurs Hudsons would be suitable. F.O.C.N.A. concurs if R.A.F. Gibraltar are correspondingly re-inforced.

11. Summarizing position I would emphasize following points: (a) Special ships and escorts have to be provided from U.K. to transport aircraft to Gibraltar. (b) A capital ship, 2 aircraft-carriers, a cruiser, and flotilla of destroyers are employed to take them part way. (c) For final and most dangerous part of journey the leading of fighters is entrusted to inexperienced crew in aircraft not the most suitable.

12. I understand similar representations were made by my predecessor.

(S.O. Force H., 2358A/8 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

HYDRANGEA.  
M.L. 244.

Arrival p.m. 7/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0857Z/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

JASMINE,  
NIGELLA,  
W.S.16.

My 2356A/9 and my 1905Z/12. JASMINE and NIGELLA sailed with W.S.16, 6/3.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1001Z/8 to Admty).



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. Weekly statement 8/3. Freetown, VINDICTIVE, PHILOCTETES, BULOLO, CALIFORNIA 2 corvettes. Freetown area, NEWCASTLE, WILD SWAN, BRILLIANT BRIDGEWATER, WIVERN, 3 corvettes. Verde Area, EGRET, FLEETWOOD, PHILANTE, BANFF, BOREAS, ~~FISHGUARD~~, 4 corvettes. Simons town, JANUS, BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER CITY, MILFORD, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, *Southwest Africa* BACHAQUERO, EMPIRE FULMAR. Durban, CARTHAGE. Cape Area, CHESHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, 4 Corvettes. Home ports, VANSITTART WRESTLER, VELOX, ALCANTARA, 4 corvettes. Freetown to U.K. DERBYSHIRE, VIMY. U.K. to Freetown, 6 corvettes. Freetown to Cape, RESOLUTION. U.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, DEVONSHIRE, CARNARVON CASTLE, ALBATROSS. Gulf of Guinea, F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, ULSTER MONARCH. Bathurst, 1 corvette. Lagos (Nigeria), DESPATCH, 1 corvette. Takoradi, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, 1 corvette. L.31 L.32 patrol, CILICIA. H.34 of 026° W., patrol, PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON. Plate to Freetown ASTURIAS. (C. in C. S.A., 1015Z/8).

Force V. E.T.A. FORMIDABLE, PALADIN, PANTHER 0545B/10. Acknowledge. (S.O. Force V., 1130Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Capetown).

DIOMEDE Departure 8/3 1130 G.M.T. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1134Z/8 to Admty).

HOGGAR, ST. LOUIS, MORON. Following received from Milwestaff report graded A.2. HOGGAR and ST. LOUIS escorted by A/83 (as decoded) left Lome 7.3.42 westbound. No information regarding MORON previously reported in company with the above at Cotonou. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1143Z/8 to Admty).

Spanish and Vichy Ships. Aircraft on A/S and shipping R/C Gibraltar to Bathurst reports Spanish Tanker 6,000 tons 20.41 N., 17.13 W., 180° Spanish Cargo vessel 3,000 tons, same position 360°. Vichy Convoy 4 M/Vs. one escort 20.11N., 17. 16W., 360° 4 knots. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1203Z/8 to Admty).

<sup>T</sup>MONTE GORBEA (Spanish). My 2352Z/7 not to Admiralty. Estimated position MONTE GORBEA. 8/3 006° 30' S., 031° 30' W., approx. course 023° advancing 220 miles a day.

PRETORIA CASTLE and CANTON proceed to search and intercept ship in (?about) 010° 00' N., 024° 30' W.  
(ii) If intercepted guard is to be placed on board and ship sent to Bathurst, one of armed merchant cruisers accompanying.  
(iii) Passengers include late German Ambassador to (?Argentine or Peru). He is to be treated with courtesy but access to his baggage by him or any other person is to be prevented after guard has been placed on board.  
(iv) Interception is to be reported to Admiralty repeated  
C. in C. S.A. by immediate signal when further orders will be sent  
(C. in C. S.A., 1221Z/8 to CANTON, PRETORIA CASTLE, (R) Ships in Area P. Admty).

/DESPATCH...



War Diary.

8.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DESPATCH, SHROPSHIRE. A.M. 1335A/4 not to all addressees. Propose to retain DESPATCH at Freetown until arrival of SHROPSHIRE so that Capt. W.W.P. Shirley Rollison may relieve Captain C.E. Douglas Pennant. A.M./2033 (?23/2) (2023/23 intended) refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1551Z/8 to Admty) U.S. concur. See B.A.D., 1035Q/9.

SNAKEFLY. Arrival 8/3. (R.N.O. Lagos, 1701Z/8 to Admty).

BACHAQUERO, LA MOQUEUSE. Departures 8/3 (A) Capetown 0607Z BACHAQUERO for Durban by route R.1. S. of A. 6 knots. E.T.A. a.m. on Saturday 14/3. (b) False Bay 1450Z/15 French Sloop LA MOQUEUSE for Aden by route R.1., and in accordance with C. in C. E.I's 1110/18/4/1941. S.of A. 13½ knots. E.T.A. Sunday 22/3. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1709Z/8 to Admty etc).

R/C of Diego Suarez. Your 2252B/24/2 and my 1313A/25/2. Has R/C been carried out? (D.N.I., 1754A/8 to S.O.(I) Capetown).

ROSALIND, LORD GREY. ROSALIND and LORD GREY sailed 1300Z/7. Speed of advance 8 knots expect to arrive Capetown a.m./11/3. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1834Z/7 to Admty).

CILICIA. On completion of fuelling at Montevideo proceed to Falkland Is. embark F.A.A. personnel 710 Squadron then proceed to Capetown. My 2059Z/6 March not to CILICIA refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1929Z/8 to CILICIA (R) B.A.D. Admty. N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. ALBATROSS).

SYDHAV BODEGRAVEN. My 1916Z/7. SYDHAV sunk by 2 torpedoes. 12 missing. U-boat surfaced 20 minutes after attack and survivors state hoisted Italian Flag. My 1610/7. BODEGRAVEN now arrived Freetown sighted periscope only. (C. in C. S.A., 2202Z/8 to Admty).



War Diary.8.3.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements. Arrivals 7/3 KELVIN, JAGUAR, SOUTHERN ISLE.  
Departure 7/3 PROTEA, BRIGAND. Departure  
8/3, CUMBRAE A.100, A.114.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1620B/8 to Admty., C. in C.  
Med.)

Malta  
Air Report. C.S.R. 8/3. 7th, 1316 hrs., 27 ME.109s, JU.88s.  
Hit gun emplacement 8 soldiers killed 8 wounded.  
Hurricanes up. Strikes 1 ME.109. A.A. fired.  
Night 7/8, continuous intruder. Luqa, P.R.U.  
Beaufighter slight damage. Elsewhere, 2  
civilians killed, 3 wounded, several houses  
destroyed. Hurricanes up, no combats. A.A.  
fired. 8th. Continuous alert 0521 hours still  
on, 104 ME JU.88s, target Luqa. 3 Wellingtons,  
1 special Wellington slight damage, 9 airmen  
wounded, 4 houses destroyed, water main broken,  
Hurricanes up, no combats, A.A. fired.  
Night 7/8. Special Wellington Misurata Tripoli  
no sightings. 1 Wellington IC laid 2 mines  
Tripoli Harbour, 2 Wellingtons IC diversion  
2256 to 0010 hours.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/8)

Abandoned  
Tug. Intercept 1750 G.M.T. (Unread) tug abandoned and  
danger to navigation. Last sighted in 018°  
33' N. 039° 49' E.  
(Burnham on Sea Radio 1820B/8 to Admty.)

Caiques. 3 Troop carrying Caiques leaving Chios for Lemnos  
tonight.  
(Capt. S.1. 2041B/8 to TURBULENT).



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Nancowry. Ref. C. in C. S.W.P., P.X.02001 of 22/2. Agree fuel stock should be destroyed or removed if not already done. Air Min. agree.  
(W.O., 0200/8 to C. in C. India.)

Movements. Arrival CALEDON, ASTER, TEVIOT BANK, 0230Z.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0316Z/8 to Admty.)

C. in C. My 1353Z/7 has been passed to "Armindia."  
Ceylon Staff. (C. in C. E.F., 0349Z/8 to Admty.)

V. Adm]. V.A. Helfrich established H.Q. at Colombo as  
Helfrich H.Q. C. in C. Netherlands Forces in the East. Short  
Colombo. title B.S.O. Telegraphic address Nethnav Colombo.  
Colombo C.C.O. is automatically responsible to  
B.S.O. (C. in C. E.F., 0433Z/8 to Eastern Theatre  
124X, C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

INDOMITABLE, Request you will sail INDOMITABLE, DECOY and  
DECOY, FORTUNE for Aden p.m. March/9 there to embark A/C.  
FORTUNE. (2) On completion embarkation (?force) is to  
proceed Port T.  
(3) F.O.C. 1st A.C.S. is requested to signal  
intended programme before departure Trincomalee.  
(4) Para. 1 my 1201/16/2 (?1301 intended) is cancelled.  
(5) Admty. pass to S.O. Force "V."  
(C. in C. E.F., 0501Z/8 to C. in C. E.I., (R) R.A.(A), S.O.  
Force "V", N.O.I.C. Aden, Capt. (D) 2nd D/F., F.O. 2nd in Command  
E.F., Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Bombing N.E.I. S/M's may be encountered approaching Ceylon  
Restriction. from Java during next few weeks. They have been  
routed within 20 miles of a line, (details).  
2. Total bombing restriction is to be in force  
20 miles either side of position on the route until  
further orders. (C. in C. E.F., 0505Z/8 to  
Eastern Theatre 125X, etc.)

Situation. Appreciation from Genl. Wavell.  
(C. in C. India, 0535/8 to W.O.). See Lion Copy.

COLOMBO. Mombasa arrived 0600/8 G.M.T.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0621Z/8 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Situation ...



**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE 0535/8th March

MOST SECRET

IN

From C. in C. India

Date 8/3/42

Time 0525

CYTHER

Addressed The War Office

MOST IMMEDIATE037776. VVY/5084/C. cipher 7/3 MOST SECRET.

For C.O.S. From General Wavell. Following is my general appreciation of course of war in East on which I should be glad to have your views.

1. Immediate Japanese objectives after occupation Java likely to be (a) Rangoon - Andamans - Northern Sumatra for Naval (mainly submarine) and Air bases facing Bay of Bengal and (b) Upper Burma to cut communications between India and China and establish Air bases against India. I believe these objectives more probable than attack on Ceylon or Australia.
2. I have always considered Burma as most vital area in war against Japan (a) to maintain connection with China (b) to protect North Eastern India with its war industries. (c) As essential Air base from which Japanese Air bases can be attacked and aircraft passed through to China to attack Japan itself. For above reasons I have continually endeavoured to place Defence Burma on secure footing but I fear without success. When India became responsible for Burma after outbreak of war with Japan reinforcements of land and air troops earmarked by India for Burma were diverted to Malaya. Later efforts to put 7th Australian Division into Burma and to induce Americans to put bomber aircraft force there failed. As result fear Rangoon will have to be abandoned and it is doubtful whether hold on Upper Burma can be maintained since reinforcement and supply will become matter of extreme difficulty. Troops and aircraft required for Burma and N.E. India are now being diverted to Ceylon. With Rangoon in their possession Japanese can abandon long and difficult line of communication through Thailand and Tenasserim and supply and reinforce by sea. They can increase their forces up to 7 or 8 divisions if necessary while we shall be hard put to it to supply the comparatively small forces we have in Burma.
3. I anticipate therefore early attack on Upper Burma which it may be difficult to hold up indefinitely. How far the enemy will push his advance will depend on resistance we and Chinese can offer but I consider he will aim at Mandalay and possibly Lashio so as to definitely

/ out



out connection between India and China. He is also likely to raid Akyab and possible Chittagong.

4. If enemy succeeds in Burma he will probably attempt attack on N.E. India by land by sea borne forces and by air attack. Whether or not he attempts landings on large scale in Bay of Bengal will depend on situation at sea and I have at present little knowledge of composition or plans of our Eastern Fleet.

5. I will do everything possible to maintain hold on Burma and to organise defence of N.E. India but we are very thin on ground and in air and if troops and aircraft continue to be diverted elsewhere my difficulties are increased.

0535/8

Received from War Office 1103/8

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War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - contd.

Situation of Ships ex China Force. Following information is furnished in case it has not already been received from other sources.

(1) No further news of EXETER and ENCOUNTER since my signal directing them to sail from Sourabaya.

(2) PERTH see my 1134Z/7 not to Admiralty.

(3) HOBART, DRAGON, DANAE, SCOUT, and TENEDOS sailed Batavia P/M. 27 for a sweep to Northward thence to Colombo via Padang for evacuees and fuel. JUMNA, YARRA, WOOLONGONG, ANKING, WAR SIRDAR, FRANCOL, BRITISH JUDGE, SCOTT HARLEY, WO KWANG, GEMAS, M.M.S. 51, sailed Batavia for Tjilatjap about 1630Z/27. Were constantly bombed in Sunda Strait. WAR SIRDAR ran aground in Agenieten Island. Total loss. BRITISH JUDGE torpedoed. On 1/3 remainder were diverted, JUMNA to Colombo, others to Australian coast. GEMAS arrived Tjilatjap 2nd with serious engine defects and was sunk in deep water, crew transferred to BALLARAT.

(5) STRONGHOLD sailed from Tjilatjap P.M. 1/3 escorting ZAANDAM to Fremantle. Parted company 1830Z/1 not yet arrived Fremantle.

(6) SIN AIK LEE, M.L. 1063, and BAHMAN left Batavia 1st for Tjilatjap. BAHMAN unseaworthy, was ordered to be sunk outside Priok. Remainder diverted by signal to Australian coast. ✓

(7) My 0814Z/2. TOOWOMBA, BALLARAT, GOULBURN, WOOLONGONG, arrived Exmouth Gulf 0327Z/6. MARYBOROUGH escorting GENERAL VERSTYCK reported bombing 13° S. 107° E. 0853Z/4. BURNIE and BENDIGO at Fremantle.

(10) Reports from ZAANDAM indicate that CITY OF MANCHESTER, PROMINENT and TOMOHON were sunk by gunfire from surface ships South of Tjilatjap prior to 2/3.

(11) Further details will be signalled when known.

Written report follows.

(C.C.C.F., 0658Z/8 to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., Admty.)

(W.R. Note:- Part 3 of message not yet received). *See p. 257 A*

Following is a repetition of first part of my 1134Z/7 to C. in C. E.F. and A.C.N.B. (Begins). Your 0505Z/6. PERTH and HOUSTON left Batavia in company about 1230Z/28/2 to pass through Sunda Strait en route to Tjilatjap. At 1532Z/28/2 PERTH reported one unknown destroyer near Sunda Strait amplified later to one cruiser. No further reports received. As a result of telephone discussion between C.C.C.F. and C.Z.M., PERTH and HOUSTON were ordered at about 0230Z/1/3 by W/T from Bandung to avoid Tjilatjap and pass through position 15° S. 113° E. en route to Fremantle. (Ends).

(C.C.C.F., 0748Z/8 to Admty.)

BARRIER,  
BARLANE,  
(B.D.V's).

Your 1127/24. BARRIER and BARLANE have insufficient endurance to reach Fremantle without refuelling.

2. Intend therefore to retain both vessels on E.I. Station where both are required.

(C. in C. E.F., 0701Z/8 to Admty.)

/Colombo ...



MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

**MOST SECRET**

0654Z/8th March

FROM: C.C.C.F.

Date: 13.3.42.  
Recd: 1224.

Naval Cypher X by Cable.

ADDRESSED: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Australian Commonwealth  
Naval Board, Repeated Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

(Part 3 of my 0658/8/3).

*(Other parts on previous page)*

8. Report received just prior to sailing that Chebia Island visited by aircraft on 28th but Island found deserted and no sign of RAMYAD party.

9. Evacuation of Tjilatjap. C Z M ordered all British and Dutch ships to clear Tjilatjap during night 1st March, dispersing along coast as strong enemy forces were reported approaching the port. All British ships were sailed during night 1st except BURNIE vide my 1605Z/1. On night 2nd remaining Dutch ships were sailed including GENERAL VERSTYCK\* taken up and partially manned by British naval personnel to evacuate remaining British subjects and ELECTRA's survivors. Accommodation in newly arrived minesweepers of 21st Flotilla was made available for surplus British military and air personnel. Port was cleared of shipping by 1330Z/2.

0654Z/8.

Note: Parts 1, 2 and 4 have been circulated under T.O.O. 0658/8.

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) (2)

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (W)

Parl. Sec.

Fin. Sec.

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of M. (35)

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) &amp; 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.

Admiral Bailey

Admiral Bellairs.

E.P.S.

Hd. of N.

Hydrog.

C.W. (Mr. Allcock)

\*GENERAL VERSTYCK  
*intended*



War Diary.8. 3. 1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - contd.Colombo,  
defence for  
Shipping.

1. The present congestion of shipping in Colombo has necessitated a large number of ships having to anchor outside the harbour. I have insufficient local anti S/M forces to protect them and although I anticipate that this congestion will soon decrease it is possible that it may recur in future and I am anxious to provide some measure of defence.

2. I therefore intend to use GUARDIAN to lay 2 lines of small mesh indicator nets,.

4. Although this net will not be a physical obstruction it may well prove a deterrent and will undoubtedly have a moral value to the crew of merchant ships. This latter point cannot be too strongly stressed.

(C. in C. E.I., 0739Z/8 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

JUPITER  
(Torpedoed  
27/2.)

Narrative of JUPITER survivors indicates that ship was torpedoed in No.2 boiler room starboard side in 6° 45' 12" S. 112° 5' 30" E. at 1355Z/27/2. Ship sank 1800Z/27. My 0717Z/8/3 gives list of survivors. There is a possibility of further survivors having reached the shore but these had not arrived at Tjilatjap by 1300Z/2/3.

(C.C.C.F., 0811Z/8 to A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.)

ST. ANTHONY.

Departure ST. ANTHONY for Madras calling at Colombo. Has 4 Oerlikons on board and 1 bag of C.B's for Colombo and 1 for Madras. Keeping 2 operator watches in accordance with L.D.M. 525 para. (2). S. of A. 12½ knots. Requirements Colombo. (N.O.I.C. Cochin, 0845Z/8 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., etc.)

Intelligence  
Bureau.

Far Eastern Combined Intelligence Bureau. Intend this to be established in Ceylon under Capt. K.L.Harkness R.N. with Army and R.A.F. components reconstituted from personnel now available from Java Bureau, to be directly responsible to C. in C. Ceylon as regards organisation and operations but to be charged with the duty of providing C. in C. E.F., C. in C. India, A.O.C. India and C. in C. E.I. with such information as they may require.

(C. in C. E.F., 1051/8 to Admty., Arminia, C. in C. E.I.)

C. in C.  
Ceylon.

Colonial Office telegrams 2 and 3 to C. in C. Ceylon. Please indicate when announcement of appointment of C. in C. Ceylon may be made public.

(C. in C. E.F., 1251Z/8 to Admty.)

/Fate ...



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - contd.

- Fate of Singapore Auxiliary Fleet. The following vessels which were based on Singapore are now known to have arrived in Ceylon. (7 ships) PANGKOR, BULAN, KELANTAN, KEDAH, BARLANE, BARMILL. *BARRICADE (see corrected copy - 259A)*
2. The following arrived Batavia and have been reported as sailing for Australia. (11 ships) CIRCE, MEDUSA, GOULBURN, BURNIE, MARYBOROUGH, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, WOOLONGONG, TOOWOCMBA, BAN HONG LIONG, PING WO.
3. The following arrived Batavia but present whereabouts are not known. (18 ships) *BARRICADE*, TAPAH, \*RAHMAN, SCOTT HARLEY, FASTNET, SIN AIK LEE, M L 1063, M M S 51, WO KWANG, \*GEMAS, JERAM, FRANCOL. It is probable the majority of the foregoing have been lost. *\* See p. 257*
4. The following are definitely known to have been lost through enemy action or destroyed by ourselves to prevent them falling into enemy hands. (31 vessels) GRASSHOPPER, DRAGONFLY, RAUB, LIPIS, LARUT, KUNG WO, KUALA, ST. BREOCK, *BANKA*, SHUN AN, SYLVIA, DOWGATE, LUDGATE, KLIAS, PANGLIMA, RHODA, SIMIT, *5/5* KUDAT, JERANTUT, PANJI, M L 1096, M L 1097, PENINGAT, PENGHAMBAT, SUI WO, \*TENGGAROH, SIANG WO, KEPPEL, DYMAS, SOEDOE, HUA TONG, TIEN KWANG. \* *TENGGAROH*
5. The fate of the following is unknown but it must be assumed that they have been lost as they have not been reported as reaching Batavia. (23 vessels). FANLING, HUNGJAO, SOLAN, ST. JUST, LI WO, FUH WO, SHU KWANG, \**VYNER BROOKE*, CHANGTEH, MALACCA, TRANG, PAHLAWAN, PENGAIL, PENGAWAL, TANJONG, PINANG, M L 310, M L 311, M L 1062, M L 432, M L 433, MATA HARI, *see 28/2* JERAK, GIANG BEE, SCORPION. *corrected copy - p. 259A and p. 1012*
- (C. in C. E.F., 1327Z/8 to Admty.) See also/N.O.I.C. Fremantle 0958Z/9. *See Singapore Chronology.*
- Rangoon Withdrawal. Intelligence Summary No.69 at 0800 hours 8/3. All our available aircraft again employed to cover withdrawal land and naval forces from Rangoon. Enemy bombers and fighters reported to have attacked Adv. H.Q. of Army and troops on Prome Road during morning while bands of Jap troops attacked retreating columns at several points. Interception of enemy aircraft rendered impossible by heavy haze and smoke army support. 1 Blenheim IV convoy escort located our naval convoy ex Rangoon in expected position and reported all well 1200 hours. (Norgroup, 1500/8 to H.Q. India.)
- Addu Atoll, Landing Craft. Your 1940Z/7. If it is practicable to tow 2 lighters to Addu Atoll suggest they would meet most your requirements. (D. of L.D. 1651A/8 to C. in C. E.I., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F.)
- Passage of new C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.F. 0657Z/7th. Intend proceeding in FORMIDABLE leaving Capetown 12/3, arriving Mauritius 18th and Colombo 23rd. This cancels my 1215Z/2 not to C. in C. E.I. and N.O.I.C. Simonstown. (S.O. Force V., 1724Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)



259 A  
E T

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1327/8th March.

Date: 12.3.42.

From: C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Reod: 1559

Naval Cypher XJ by W/T & T/P

CORRECTION &  
RECIRCULATION

Addressed: Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

1. 660. The following vessels which were based in Singapore are now known to have arrived Ceylon. (Seven ships) PANGKOR, BULAN, KELANTAN, KEDAH, BARDANE, HARMILL, BARRICADE.
2. The following arrived Batavia and have been reported as sailing for Australia. (eleven ships) CIRCE, MEDUSA, GOULBURN, BURNIE, MARYBOROUGH, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, WOOLONGONG, TOOWOOMBA, BAN HONG LIONG, PING WO.
3. The following arrived Batavia but present whereabouts are not known. (eleven ships) TAPAH, RAHMAN, SCOTT HARLEY, FACTNET, SIN AIK LEE, M.L. 1063, M.M.S. 51, WO KWANG, GEMAS, JERAM, FRANCOL. It is probable the majority of the foregoing have been lost.
4. The following are definitely known to have been lost through enemy action or destroyed by ourselves to prevent them falling into enemy hands. (31 vessels) GRASSHOPPER, DRAGONFLY, RAUB, LIPIS, LARUT, KUNG WO, KUALA, ST. BROOK, BANKA, SHUN AN, SYLVIA DOWGATE, LUDGATE, KLIAS, PANGLIMA, RHODA, SIMIT, KUDAT, JERANTUT, PANJA, M.L. 1096, M.L. 1097, PENINGAT, PENGHAMBAT, SUI WO, TENGGAROH, SIANG WO, KEPPEL, DYMAS, SORDOE, HUA TONG, TIEN KWANG.
5. The fate of the following is unknown but it must be assumed that they have been lost as they have not been reported as reaching Batavia. (23 vessels).

FANLING



FANLING, HUNGJAO, SOLAN, ST. JUST, LI WO, FUH WO, SHU KWANG,  
 VYNER BROOKE, CHANGTH, MALANCCA, TRANG, FAHLAWN, PENGAIL,  
 PENGAWAL, TANJONG PINANG, M.L. 310, M.L. 311, M.L. 1062,  
 M.L. 432, M.L. 433, MATA HARI, JARAK, GIANG BEE, SCORPION.

1327Z/8.

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. and Trade.

Note. Previously circulated as 1337Z/8th.

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 4th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 A.C.N.S. (T)  
 PARLSEC.  
 SEC.  
 NAV. SEC.  
 FIN. SEC.  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 N.A. 2 S.L. (2)  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 Ops. (3)  
 O.D. (5)  
 O.I.C. (2)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 D of P. (3)  
 D.B.D. (2)  
 D of S.T. (2)  
 D.T.D. (4)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.D.O.D. (C) (2)  
 M. (2)  
 Cdr. Holbrook.  
 D.M.S.  
 D.M.S. Basement  
 D.S.V.P. (2)  
 D of S 2A.  
 Movts.  
 O.D. 8.  
 N.  
 D.P.S. (2)  
 C.W. (2)  
 I.P. (3)  
 C.C.R.T.  
 JA. W.D.



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - contd.

Eastern Fleet Exercises. C. in C. E.F. 1011Z/6 and 1009Z/6. I am in general agreement with C. in C. E.F.'s opinions and proposals. It is essential fleet should have intensive training to maximum extent that situation allows. Providing weather remains suitable I hope FORMIDABLE should be reasonably effective operationally when she reaches Colombo. (S.O. Force V., 1729Z/8 to Admty., (R) C. in C.E.F)

Ceylon and India. Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 110. Ref. Your No. 109.  
Land - Present strength. Reinforcements.  
Air Force - Present strength. Reinforcements.  
Scales of Attack. Land - Sea.  
(1st S.L. 1808A/8 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy. P. 264A  
B

Shipping Routes. For N.C.S.O's (1) Cancel my 2116/8/12/1941 (353C) my 1552/13/12/1941, my 1134/16/1 (437C) my 0937/22/1 and my 1355/9/2 and reference only in my 1234/15/2 and 1242/17/2.

(2) British and Allied Merchant ships sailing independently in Indian Ocean are to be routed as follows.

(3) Between African Ports, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, India and Ceylon, ships are to be routed as diversely as possible West of Madagascar and North of line joining the following positions. W. 011° 32' S., 042° 46' E., X. 004° S., 045° E., Y. 004° 30' N. 073° 10' E., Z. 005° 10' N., 081° E.

(4) Between Mauritius, Seychelles, East Africa, Red Sea, Persian Gulf and Australia, Ships are to be diversely routed West and South of line joining the following points: K, Karachi, P, 006° 15' S., 070° E., Q. 025° S. 080° E., 129° Fremantle.

(5) Between Australia and India or Ceylon ships are to be diversely routed West of line joining the following positions but not West of line K P Q. Z, 005° 10' N., 081° E., R. 010° S., 080° S, 027° S. 090° F, Fremantle.

(6) Ships to and from Mauritius and South Africa proceed direct.

(7) Between Australia and South Africa ships proceed direct, diversely routed.

(8) In the Bay of Bengal ships are to be routed within 50 miles of the coast of India and Ceylon. Attention is called to my 1234/15/2 and my 1242/17/2.

(9) Adjacent Stations are requested to conform.

(C. in C. E.I., 1834Z/8 to E.I.Stn., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., etc.)

Your 1851/6. (i) Concur as regards traffic between Persian Gulf, Red Sea and Australia but propose traffic between Australia and India keeps west and south of line as follows:

(Z) 005° 10' N., 081° E. (R) 010° S., 080° (S) 027° S. 090° (F) Fremantle.

(ii) This would result in saving of 800 miles but main reason is to avoid creating a focal point near Chagos where I have not yet got air or warship protection.

(C. in C. E.I., 1935Z/8 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., N.B. Melbourne, N.O. Wellington as amended 0448Z/10).

/C. in C. ...



War Diary.

8.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

C. in C.  
Ceylon,  
command of  
air forces.

For Chiefs of Staff from Genl. Wavell.  
1. Presume "Military Matters" in which C. in C. Ceylon is under C. in C. India include Air Forces. A.O.C. Ceylon should remain responsible to A.O.C. in C. India and (?through him to me).  
Please confirm.

2. Will send Senior Officer at early date to discuss with Layton and Pownall arrangements for exercise of command and defence of Ceylon generally.  
(C. in C. India, 1925/8 to W.O.)



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U-Boat. D/F bearing at 1834Z/7 indicate S/M within 100 miles of 30° N. 70° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0215Z/8 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Summary at 1800 G.M.T./8.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
PARTHIAN	40° N. 70½° W.	140°	8½
PRETORIA	} 02° N. 25° W.	Patrol	Blank
CASTLE			
CANTON			
<i>Ship 264</i> ILEX	08° N. 55° W.	301°	13
CILICIA	35½° S. 52° W.	266°	14
ASCANIA	Arriving Fremantle	093°	12
WARSPITE	36° S. 133° E.	260°	14
Convoy	} 44½° N. 62½° W.	302°	9½
C.T.11			

(D.O.D.(F), 0945Z/8 to Opnav, Spenavo.)

ROODE ZEE. Bermuda arrival 7/3 Rescue Tug ROODE ZEE. Is being taken in hand for mounting of gun.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0953P/8.)

U-Boat. D/F bearings at 0258Z/8 indicate S/M within 100 miles of 017° 30' N. 070° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1010Z/8 to Admty., etc.)

U-Boat. U.S. A/C reports sighting U-Boat in 30° 09' N. 065° 02' W. at 1207P/8. B.A.D. pass to Opnav.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1243P/8 to Admty.)

U-Boats. Following morse signals in English intercepted by private listener at Caracas a.m. 0330/8 (begins) Submarines positively sighted Windward Passage latitude 20° longitude 73° 37', 0115N/8. (Ends) Sender did not give his name or position from which he was relaying.  
(R.O. Caracas, 1300/8 to Admty.)

C.L. 6. My 1759Z/7. C.L. 6 delayed indefinitely due to weather conditions.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1301Z/8 to Admty.)  
My 1301Z/8, C.L.6 sailing 1200Z/9th.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1950Z/8 to Admty.)

U-Boat. Intercepted 1128 G.M.T. S/M warning. S/M positively sighted in Windward Passage lat. 20° long. 73° 37' 0115/8. Radio San Juan. (Portishead Radio, No T.O.O. to Admty., Received 1304/8.)

/CHAGRES ...



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- CHAGRES. S.C.73 CHAGRES returned with collision damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1322Z/8 to Admty.)
- Derelict. Sighted derelict tanker in approx. 048° 30' N. 049° 20' W. at 1000Z/8, ship floating well and appears salvable in good weather. Weather report. (WALKER, 1335Z/8 to C.O.A.C. Halifax)
- Dakar Intelligence. Dakar 5th and 7/3. A.1. Departures 4/3 THE HAUT, MONTAIGNE, DAHOMEY, OUERGHA, FORMAL and FORT DE DOUAMONT with AVISO escort, headed north. IPSIEMEN (should be SEMIEN 6942 tons) (Italian) being prepared for sailing. Convoy procedure Gulf of Guinea. At Cotonou the escort picks up first ship. At Lome the second joins Convoy, at Port Bouet the third, at Tabou the fourth. Coastal waters used except off British Colonies when 100 miles off shore. 7/3 for Kaolack CAP LE DIABAT, CM. ARMAND BLANC, ARCTURUS and SAINT HUBERT. Arrivals 6/3. Lot Casablanca, from north MONTESQUIEU, SAINTE MAXIME, GROIX, MITIDJA, BELLE ISLE. (B.A.D., 1337Q/8 to Admty.) *? FOMALHAUT. intended*
- DIANTHUS. Your 1516Z/7. Request DIANTHUS be sailed for Londonderry forthwith. Ships belonging to Task Unit 24.1.11 to escort O.N.74. ~~Boiler~~ Boiler cleaning will be carried out at St. Johns N.F. (F.O.N.F., 1337Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- ACONITH. Your 1823A/6. Unless defect to ACONITH directly affects seagoing and fighting efficiency request ship may be sailed to Londonderry to join proper T.U. 24.1.11, in time to escort O.N.74. If ship unable to arrive Londonderry to sail with O.N.74 she must sail to overtake. Essential ships adhere to their proper Task Units. Defects can be dealt with at St. Johns N.F. (F.O.N.F., 1339Z/8 to Capt. (D) Greenock.)
- R.C.N. Corvettes. C.T.F. 24's 2125Z/7. On dispersal (?) of O.N.71 R.C.N. corvettes addressed are if fuel permits to proceed to Halifax direct. ANEMONE and ABELIA are to call at St. Johns N.F. before proceeding to Argentia. (F.O.N.F., 1412Z/8 to C.T.U. 24.1.18, (R) C.T.F. 24, SUMMERSIDE, CHICOUTIMI, KENOGAMI, ARROWHEAD, ANEMONE, ABELIA.)
- A/C attack on S/M. A/C attacked S/M submerging 37° 30' N. 69° 25' W. 1606Z/7. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1459Z/8 to C. in C. Lant, Admty., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.N.F., U.S.S. GREENLING.)

/ILEX ...



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ILEX. Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1532Q/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

WAKEFIELD. WAKEFIELD carrying 172 British Naval and Merchant Officers and ratings including 87 Goanese but no Lascars departed Capetown 7/3 for New York S. of A. 19 knots. E.T.A. Point (F) 0900Z/14/3.  
(Opnav, 1615Z/8 to C.T.F. 23.)

UNIWALECO. Reported from St. Vincent (W.I.) that 33 out of 51 landed from UNIWALECO torpedoed in 013° 23' N. 062° 04' W. at 1605 G.M.T./7. 1 boat with 6 not yet accounted for.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1623P/8 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

U-Boat. B.T. 201 R.D.F. fix indicated U-Boat in Mona Passage at 0258Z/8.  
(Opnav, 1701/8 to C.T.F. No. (?38))

H.X.178 U/B. H.X. 178 serial number 5. U-Boat transmission near convoy at 1015Z/8th.  
(Opnav, 1728Z/8 to C.T.U. 24.1.3, (R) Admty. etc.)

S/M Situation 8/3. 10 in area north of 37° N. and W. of 50° W. of, which 3 sighted yesterday as follows. 37° 30' N. 69° 25' W. 1606Z. 39° 15' N. 74° 10' W. 1205Z. 41° N. 71° 50' W. 0545Z. 5 eastbound within 150 miles of following positions. 36° N. 67° W. (?38°) N. 42° W. 45° N. (?45°) W. 43° 30' N. 40° W. 46° N. 34° W. 1 in Cape Hatteras area. 1 within 200 miles of 55° N. 35° W. Part 2. 1 vicinity of 26° N. 69° W. probably heading for Windward Passage. 3 reported yesterday sighted as follows. 18° 10' N. 71° 02' W. 1140Z. 18° 47' N. 68° 20' W. 1440Z. 20° N. 73° 37' W. 2236Z. 1 Providence Channel. 1 Sombrero Channel. 1 between Paramaribo and Trinidad. 1 M.V. torpedoed and sunk 13 23° N. 62° 04' W. 1605Z/7. Possibly 2 west of Gibraltar. 2 or 3 within 350 miles south-west of Monrovia. 1 west and 3 south-west of Rockall. 2 eastbound vicinity of 28° N. 47° W. 34° N. 54° W. 1 sighted 30° 09' N. 65° 02' W. 1507Z/8.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1736/8 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.))  
(As amended by 1922/8.)

Ceylon & India. Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 110. Ref. your No. 109.  
Land and Air present strength and reinforcements.  
Scales of attack - land, sea.  
(1st S.L., 1808A/8 to B.A.D.)  
See Lion Copy.

/U-Boat ...



**MOST SECRET**

W E S S A C

OUT

MOST SECRET

1808A/8th March

Addressed B.A.D. Washington. 918. Date 8/3/42

Naval Cypher (One T.T.)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following for Joint Staff Mission from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 110.

Reference your No. 109.

1. Land Present Strength.

A. Ceylon. (Not including fixed defence troops). Divisional Headquarters, two Brigades Indian Infantry and Local Troops numerically equivalent to one Brigade. One Battery Field Artillery, one Heavy and one Light A.A. Regiment, two Heavy and one Light A.A. Batteries, Royal Marine A.A.

B. India. (Not including North-West Frontier Defence troops, Internal Security troops and Fixed Defence troops). One Indian Armoured Division less one Brigade Group (not complete in tanks before July). One Indian Heavy Armoured Brigade Group (tanks complete by July 1942). Two Indian Infantry Divisions (not including 14 Indian Division earmarked for Burma). One British Anti-Tank Regiment.

The above excludes new formations forming which will not be fit for service in 1942.

Two Light A.A. Regiments (Mobile). Three Heavy A.A. Regiments (Mobile). Eighty-eight Heavy and eighty-seven Light A.A. Equipments of which fifty Heavy and fifty-four Light A.A. Guns in position and manned in Eastern India.

2. Reinforcements .

A. Ceylon. One Brigade Group 70 Div. and one East African Brigade due mid-March. 6 Australian Division less one Brigade Group end of March. One Indian Armoured Car Regiment in April.

B. India. 70 British Infantry Division (less Brigade Group) due March. 5 British Infantry Division due early June. Five Heavy and seven Light A.A. Regiments (mobile) due April/May. Seventy-two Heavy and one hundred and eight Light A.A. equipments due April/May.

Crews/

**MOST SECRET**



2.

Crews to be provided in India:—

3. Air Force Present Strength.

A. Ceylon. 3 Fighter Squadrons Hurricanes. 1 Naval Torpedo Bomber Squadron Swordfish. 1 L.B. Squadron Blenheim IV's. 1 F.B. Squadron Catalinas. 1 G.R. Flight-Vildebeeste/Swordfish, converting to 1 Hudson Squadron.

B. India. 1 Fighter Squadron Mohawk. 3 Fighter Squadrons ex Burma. 2 L.B. Squadrons ex Burma. 4 Army Co-Operation Squadrons Audax/Lysander, all obsolete. 4 Coast Defence Flights Wapiti/Hart, all obsolete. 1 Transport Flight Valentia and Douglas.

4. Reinforcements.

A. Ceylon. 1 F.B. Squadron Catalinas, end of May (aircraft proceeding in advance). 2 F.A.A. Fighter Squadrons Fulmars due about 12 March.

B. India. 2 Fighter Squadrons now forming on Mohawk/Hurricane I. 3 Fighter Squadrons Hurricane II, arriving end May. 2 L.B. Squadrons Blenheim IV, arriving end May. 2 Medium Bomber Squadrons Wellingtons, arriving end May, aircraft may be later. 1 Army Co-operation Squadron Lysander, now forming. 2 L.B. Squadrons Blenheim IV ground parties available, awaiting aircraft. 1 C.D. Flight Wapiti/Audax now forming.

5. Scales of Attack.

A. Land. Attack can only come through Burma and will be limited to Imphal-Manipur Road and lesser tracks further north. Likelihood of attacks by land considered remote, but if Burma falls, infiltration by coastwise shipping movements towards Ganges delta and westward becomes probable. Much evidence to show that Japanese realise advantage of stirring up trouble in India.

B. Sea. (i) No firm evidence to show that Japanese intend a direct sea-borne attack. They have good intelligence of our naval dispositions and may know weakness of Ceylon defences so that Pearl Harbour type raid is to be expected.

(ii) In spite of their present commitments they have still sufficient forces and shipping for invasion

of/



MOST SECRET

3.

of Ceylon or East India by two Divisions. Shipping commitment for transport and subsequent maintenance could probably be lessened in attack on Eastern India by working troops in small craft along the coast, as was done in Malaya. Passage of convoy across Indian Ocean with fleet large enough to meet our own will be difficult and risky at present in view of distance away from their nearest available repair base.

(iii) Nevertheless strategic advantage of early attack would be great. We may get no warning other than by sea and air reconnaissance.

1808A/8.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1 S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D. of P. (2)
- E.P.S.
- Hd. of M. (39)
- I.P. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson
- W.D.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- Admiral Bailey
- Admiral Bellairs

Sec. to 1st Sea Lord.



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U-Boat. KTXS (Signal letters undecypherable in W.R.) reports submarine in 011° 49' N. 063° 09' W. at 2215Z/8.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1842Q/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
(N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 2153Q/8 to ? Admty.)

A/C attack on S/M. S/M attacked by A/C at 1755Z/8 in 43° 48' N. 63° 55' W.  
(Halifax, 1910Z/8 to Admty.)

Busra Routeing Agreement. A world-wide routeing agreement hereinafter called British - U.S. Routeing Agreement (Short title Busra) has been concluded.

2. Section C. sub-section (C) and (D) of Busra reads as follows:-

"C. (C) The Sea Frontier water of U.S. will not come within the scope of Atlantic Route directive, just as the U.K. Coastal waters are now outside its scope. The boundaries of U.S. Sea Frontier in the Atlantic Ocean are: Northern - the international boundary off West Queddy Head to Gannet Rock Light (044° 30' 35" N. 066° 47' W.) excluding territorial waters of Grand Manan Island, thence to Lurcher Shoal Lightship (044° 18' 17" N. 066° 31' 50" W.) Eastern - a line connecting following points: Lurcher Shoal Lightship - 044° 18' 17" N. 066° 31' 50" W., 043° N. 069° W., 040° N. 069° W., 039° N. 072° W., 034° N. 075° W., 025° N. 072° W., 025° N. 065° W., 002° N. 042° W. thence to a point on coastline of Brazil at approx. 002° 45' N. 050° 50' W.

(D) Routeing instructions in Atlantic all round Frontier of U.S. and Coastal waters U.K. will be promulgated by Navy Dept. and Admty. respectively to each other and to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa." This part of Busra will come into force as soon as U.S. Atlantic Coastal directive is promulgated to all concerned, vide Opnav 2006/6 and Admty. 1839/7.

3. Agreed, now that British Consular Shipping Advisers no longer to work in British Consulates, their title should be changed to British Routeing Officers. Similarly U.S. Officers will be designated U.S. Routeing Officers (Short title Usro.) (B.A.D., 1915Q/8 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q.) Your 0107A/7.

Navy Department is suggesting that the World-Wide routeing agreement should be known as British - United States Routeing Agreement (short title Busra.)

2. Navy Dept. concurs in proposed amendments which will be incorporated in the text of the agreement, except considered preferable for Admty. to divert O,N. and O.N.(S) convoys and ships dispersed therefrom until they reach their first port of call. Accordingly suggested to amend section F (proposal).

3. Navy Dept. is sending a signal suggesting dates on which the various parts of Busra should be implemented.  
(B.A.D., 1923Q/8 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/O.A. KNUDSEN ...



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

O.A. KNUDSEN 30 survivors from torpedoed tanker arrived from  
(torpedoed Abaco 8th. Particulars as follows.  
5/3.) O.A. KNUDSEN Norwegian shipping and trading  
mission. 0825/5, 026° 17' N. 075° 50' W.  
Submarine 2 torpedoes and at 1945 shelled on  
fire totally destroyed. Casualties. C.Bs destroyed  
remainder of documents in custody of R.O. Nassau.  
(Reporting Officer, Nassau, 2010/8 to Fairmiss, Admty.,  
(R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Movements. Bermuda arrival, U.S.S. WILSON, OWL. Bermuda  
departures, CLARKIA, U.S.S. HOGAN AND OSPREY  
with U.S.S. HARRY LEE and PASTORES (Transports)  
for Norfolk Va. S.S. MERRIMACK for Galveston.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2103P/8 to Admty.)

ASTREA My 11(90)3P/6. US.S. WILSON reports sighting  
(? sunk) oil slick at 1350Z/7 extending 8 miles S.W. from  
29.17 N. 064.29 W. Considerable wreckage  
including horseshoe life buoy with lettering  
ASTREA indicates Dutch vessel of that name probably sunk. No  
boats picked up. U.S. Authorities informed.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2123P/8 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., S.O.I. Jamaica)

O.N. 70. Western local Escort Task Unit 24.18.5 CALDWELL  
(S.O.) LAUDERDALE, SACKVILLE, THUNDER. Ready  
to proceed at 1430Z/9.  
(F.O.N.F., 2229Z/8 to Opanv.)

Derelict. Derelict tanker reported 048° 30' N. 049° 20' W.  
342° 1000Z/8.  
(F.O.N.F., 2256Z/8 to CALDWELL.)

Australia and New Zealand.

EXETER, Your 1325Z/7. No information EXETER or ENCOUNTER  
ENCOUNTER. other than that contained in S.O. China Force's  
0915Z/28/2 and B.A.D's 1815Q/3. Telephone  
message from Adm. Palliser and discussion with  
Capt. Creighton, U.S.N., now in America, confirms above. Capt.  
Creighton states that (? EXETER) which was in company made  
following signal about noon following day (begins) Shadowing  
plane over me. Am proceeding North-east. Assist if possible.  
(Ends). Nothing further heard.  
(A.C.N.B., 0136Z/8 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.)

/LE TRIOMPHANT ...



SECRET

MESSAGE

0741Z/8 March IN

From C.C.C.F.

Date 9.3.42.

Recd. 0743.

Naval Cypher (A 3) by Cable. Recirculation.

Addressed Admiralty, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board,  
C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

H.M.A.S. BENDIGO Fromantle with following on board  
named in My 0742Z/8th.

(A) C.C.C.F. Staff ex Batavia.

(B) M.R.N.V.R. ex Singapore, Names of H.M.S. JUPITER  
survivors being signalled separately.

0741Z/8.

0742Z/8 March IN

From C.C.F.

Date 29.3.42.

Recd. 2335.

Addressed Admiralty, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board,  
C. in C. Eastern Fleet,

(A) Acting Captain Heath Acting Commanders Humphery and  
Kennedy (R.A.N.) Paymaster Commander Pigott Lieut. (E)  
Cawthra Paymaster Lieutenant Garside Bosun A/S Goodwin  
Chargeman of fitters Rowe P.O. Gunn FX 75139 (B) Lieut.  
Lammert Sub.Lieuts. Gwym and Barnett-Smith.

0742/8.

2nd S.L.  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt, Pim, Admiralty Hsq.  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
O.D. 8.  
D.A/S W.  
O.I.C.  
D.P.S. (2)  
M. (2)  
Mails.  
Movts.  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.

N.L.O. Australia House.  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)  
N.  
C.W. (2)  
C.E.  
C.E. in C.  
D.N.A.  
C.E.  
C.E. in C. } Bath by courier.  
L.  
S.W.R.

Recd in W.D. 30/3/42.



War Diary.8.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

LE TRIUMPHANT, TRIENZA. Arrival Brisbane 1215Z/7. F.L.C. LE TRIUMPHANT escorting TRIENZA. (A.C.N.B., 0626Z/8 to Admty.)

Situation. Digest Serial No. 46 from C.W.R. (1) 10 type 96 heavy bombers raided Port Moresby 0220Z/7. Bombs dropped on barrack area and 7 miles (? around). No damage or casualties. (2) Enemy landing Salamos morning 8th March. Latest reports indicate Salamos and Lae in enemy hands. Capt. of Staff, East Fleet pass copy to C.Z.M. (A.C.N.B., 1148Z/8 to Admty., etc.)

Auckland. Preliminary plans for development of Auckland as an operating base. (N.O. Wellington, 2223/8 to Cdr. Anzac Force, (R) B.A.D., Cominch, C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.) Admty., A.C.N.B.) See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions. (D.D.I.C., 1356A/8, 1421A/8.)

Use of  
White  
Paint.

Report received to effect that enemy submarines operating where ice may be encountered may be painted white on decks and conning towers. (C.T.F.24, 2331/8 to All Escort Units at Sea, (R) C.T.G. No. 24.7, C.T.G. No. 24.6, C.T.G. No. 24.4.)



267A

MOST SECRET. **MOST SECRET** 2225/8th March. IN.

From : Navy ~~Wellington~~ 9.3.42.

Recd : 1532.

NAVAL CYPHER (3)(M) BY CABLE.

Addressed : Cdr. ANZAC Force. Repeated B.A.D. Washington, Cominch, C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.), Admiralty, Naval Board Melbourne.

334. Your 0516/19th repeated to Admiralty in Navy Office Wellington's 1208/22/ not to other addressees. The following preliminary plans for development of Auckland as an operating base are proposed. The plans are divided into three schemes :

- (i) To develop Auckland Inner Harbour.
- (ii) To develop the anchorage between Tiri Tiri and Rangitoto.
- (iii) To develop the whole of the Hauraki Gulf as an anchorage and exercising Area.

Scheme 1.  
 15 battleships can moor in Auckland Inner Harbour. To avoid mooring, buoys and ground tackle would be required, neither of which are available in New Zealand. 5 battleships could be secured alongside. This would entail the discontinuance of the use of Auckland by Merchant Shipping. There is ample room for smaller vessels to the west of the heavy ships berths but mooring buoys would be required here also. It is considered that pens made of steel wire wooden piles could easily be constructed for destroyers etc., on the Auckland side. Minimum depth in entrance at M (low water ordinary springs) 31½ft., Range of tide between 5½ and 12 ft.

(B) Vessels required. (i) 3 small tankers of which one is now available. (ii) 4 tugs of which 2 are now available. (iii) 12 L.L. Sweepers of which 3 are building in New Zealand and will shortly be available. S.A. Gear for these ships will be required. (iv) At least 4 of the 13 port minesweepers asked for through Dominion Secretary, in addition to those now available. (v) Patrol by 6 H.D.M.L.S. and by Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service. Delivery of former will commence in June from U.S.A. at rate of 2 or 3 each month and latter will shortly be in operation.

(C) Anti-boat obstructions now being completed at entrance. Boom Gear, nets, gate and gate vessels required for 700 yard gap between obstructions. 2 (auxiliary patrol) defence asdics have been asked for through Dominion Secretary.

/Scheme 2. ....



Scheme 2.

(A) Loop between Kawau Island and Tiri Tiri now being laid.

(B) Shallow mine-field between Tiri Tiri and Motuhthemrakia shortly to be laid by BUNGAREE.

(C) Loop between Tiri Tiri and Waiheke Island.

(D) Controlled mining station Tiri Tiri to Whangaparaoa. This has been allocated by Admiralty.

(E) 6 H.D.M.L's. See Scheme One (5).

(F) One loop mining vessel. A vessel can be found in New Zealand and Admiralty has been asked to supply fittings which are not available.

(G) One loop vessel not available in New Zealand. MERNOO has been borrowed from Australia for (A).

(H) Observation mine-field or net defence between Rangitoto and Motukoreho Island.

Gear required for (C). Cables - Pattern (?19)89 Indicator Loop Cable 45 miles, Pattern 13149 3 Core Tail Cable, 10 miles, Pattern 13135 7 Core Tail Cable, 6 miles, Pattern 660 7 Core Shore Cable, 2 miles.

Instruments - Pattern 5946

Integrators four in number.

Scheme 3.

(A) Loops, Rodney Point to Little Barrier Island to Great Barrier Island to Moehau Peninsula. Patrol craft for these Loops will be satisfactory when the Fairmile Motor Launches, now on order in New Zealand, are completed and a proportion of the 3 port A/S Vessels asked for through Dominion Secretary are received. Construction of the Fairmiles is about to commence.

(B) Controlled and observation mine-field to cover port Fitzroy anchorage and supplement defence of Great Barrier Island. These have been allocated by Admiralty.

(C) Controlled and independent mine-field to cover Russell Anchorage and Bay of Islands generally. These have been allocated by Admiralty.

Gear required for (A) - Cable - Pattern 1989 indicator Loop cable 130 miles, Pattern 13149 3 core tail Cable 32 miles, Pattern 13135 core tail cable, 36 miles, Pattern (?80 or 660) 7 core shore cable, 5 miles.

Instruments - Pattern 5946, 18

number.

/ Note,.....



~~3~~  
**MOST SECRET**

Note. Provision of preparation and advance base for the above mine-fields is in hand.

General requirements cover all (?schemes).

(A) System of R/D.F., for detection of surface craft with requisite communication. This is in hand.

(B) District combined headquarters Auckland - the building for this has been appropriated and will be shortly in operation.

(a) Air Defence which it is hoped will be completed in 4 months. R.N.Z. Air Force Station, Whenuapai.

2 Group Squadrons, each 12 initial equipment and 6 I.R.Hudsons.

(b) R.N.Z. Air Force Station, Mangere.

One fighter interceptor Squadron Kittyhawks, establishment : 12 I.E. and 6 I.R.

(c) Location not yet decided.

One long range fighter squadron Beaufighters consisting of 12 I.E. and 6 I.R.

Note: There are now 2 G.R.Squadrons at Whenuapai, one equipped with Hudsons, the other with Vincents. The additional Hudson Aircraft Kittyhawks and Beaufighters are on order.

(d) R D/F Sets 2 N.B.Z (High Flying) sets being installed at Waitakere (West Auckland) and on Coromandel Peninsula. One N.Z. (High Flying) Set in operation at Moko Hinau. Three C.O.L.(Low Flying) Sets to be installed in about 4 months time at Hokianga, North Cape and Whangaroa.

Note: (1) References to requests (of?) Dominion Secretary are contained in Wellington's Telegram Number 99 of 19/2 to Dominion Secretary.

(2) Addressed Washington pass to N.Z.Naval Attache, Cominch and C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.).

(3) Further details and plan will be forwarded by letter to Cdr..Anzac Force.

(4) A/A and Coastal Defence plans will be signalled later.

2223Z/8

re preparation of Suva as advance operating line.

- |                  |               |                     |                |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1st Lord.        | D.D.O.D.(F).  | N.I.D.10.           |                |
| 1st S.L.         | D.O.D.(H).    | D.D.O.D.(C).        |                |
| 2nd S.L.         | D.D.O.D.(H).  | D.D.O.D.(M).        |                |
| 3rd S.L.         | D.N.I.(4).    | Ad.Bellairs.        |                |
| Vice Controller. | Hd. of M.(2). | D.G.D.              |                |
| 4th S.L.         | (P.D.0126/41) | D.N.A.D.            |                |
| 5th S.L.         | D.B.D.        | N.A.to A.C.N.S.(T). |                |
| V.C.N.A.         | D.S.D.        | Hydrog.             |                |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2).  | D. of L.D.    | D.T.M.              |                |
| A.C.N.S.(T).     | D.A./S.W.     | D. of S.            | Dep.Cont. } B  |
| A.C.N.S.(H).     | D.M.S.        | D.A.M.              | D. of D. } A   |
| A.C.N.S.(W).     | I.P.(2).      | D.A.M.R.            | D. of S. } T   |
| Civil Lord.      | W.D.          | Hd. of Air.         | C.E.in C. } H  |
| Secretary.       | D.C.(2).      | C.C.R.T.            | Hd. S.W.R. } H |
| N.A.1st S.L.     | D.T.S.D.      | D.S.V.P.            |                |
| P.A.S.(S).       | D.D.I.C.(2).  | D. of S.T.          |                |
| D. of P.(2).     | E.P.S.        | D. of D.            |                |
| D.O.D.(F).       | D.T.D.(2).    |                     |                |

N.P.



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.TIRPITZ  
and Convoy  
P.Q.12.

At 0800A today TIRPITZ and 3 destroyers were sighted by BEDOUIN and A/C from VICTORIOUS steering South in 67° 30' N., 9° E. Under the ensuing attacks from our A/C TIRPITZ steered various courses until 0931A, when BEDOUIN intercepted a signal, presumably from our A/C, reporting that TIRPITZ had been attacked with torpedoes, estimating no hits, in 67° 30' N., 10° 10' E., 36 miles west of Rostoy at the entrance to Vest Fiord. TIRPITZ at that time was steering 110°, apparently for Bodo, at 26 knots, and when then last seen is reported by C. in C. H.F. to have been making much smoke.

At 1039A F.O.S. warned our S/Ms on patrol to expect TIRPITZ further south during this afternoon and at 1341A Admty. informed Opnav that TIRPITZ's destination was considered to be Narvik or Trondheim.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with RENOWN, DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, and BERWICK, continued to shadow TIRPITZ until 1630; and at 1929A he reported to Admty. that he was returning to Scapa with those forces and was to be met at 0800A/10 in 63° 35' N., 5° W., by JAVELIN, LANCASTER, and destroyers. He proposed that LONDON and KENT should proceed to Hvalfiord, and that LIVERPOOL, TRINIDAD and the remaining H.F. destroyers should return to Scapa.

Meanwhile at 1051A today it was confirmed by GOSSAMER with Convoy P.Q.12 that the Convoy had been sighted by some Enemy ship at 1632A/7 in 72° 35' N., 10° 50' E; and at 1053A today there were D/F indications that P.Q.12 had been sighted by a U-boat at 0752Z today in about 74° N., 25° E. off the North Cape.

At 0531 today a Sunderland A/C reported sighting two warships, either destroyers or larger, in 47° 10' N., 11° 28' W., steering 325° at 25 knots, and at 0547 an intercepted message in German reported the shooting down of a Sunderland in 46° 28' N., 11° 35' W., But it appeared later that the original A/C report may have referred to a fast M/V steering 315° in 46° 47' N, 11° 6' W. and PAKENHAM and BRADFORD have been so informed.

ADMIRAL SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN were both seen in their usual positions at Trondheim at 1030 today.

The port of Wick was re-opened this morning.



War Diary.

9.3.1942.  
Monday

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 2223 last night the British EMPIRE CRAG, 332 tons, was bombed without damage or casualty off Flamborough Head.

Mining.

The ports of Tees and Hartlepool were closed from 0004 until 1045 today owing to suspected mine-laying, and the Humber was re-opened at 1019A.

2 Parachute Mines were dropped on land near Yarmouth at 2250A last night; and one red Mine was detonated by sweepers off the Humber today.

North Atlantic.

PANDORA (S/M) left Gibraltar p.m. for patrol south of Alboran Island.

While MALAYA is in dock, other ships in Force H are to carry out repairs and boiler cleaning.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units.

At 1100 B 1 8-inch and 2-6 inch cruisers, with 5 destroyers, 4 merchant ships were in 32°46 N., 16.38 E., on course 50° at 12 knots. At 1851B TORBAY was ordered to patrol the vicinity of 37.47 N., 15.45 E., to intercept the cruisers returning to Messina. Force K swept north from 36.05 N., 11.50 E., between 0200 and 0300B/10, but sighted nothing.

/Torpedo...



War Diary.

9.3.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Torpedo Beauforts attacked the enemy convoy at 1630 about 170 miles N.E. Misurata on a N.E. course and claimed hits on 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer. 1 merchant ship of 10,000 tons was also set on fire.

At 1935 and 2110, Swordfish and Albacores scored probable hits on an 8,000 ton M/V 24 miles off Pantellaria.

15th C.S. and 9 destroyers were to leave Alexandria tonight "on Chance of pickings".

Malta.

The garrison of Malta comes under the Middle East Command from 0001 hours 11/3.

Intruder raids were kept up last night by some 25 aircraft.

In today's raids, casualties were caused at Luqa but none at Hal Far.

Malta  
Convoys.

Asked again if 14 knot ships can be accepted for M.W.11 C. in C. Med., has reaffirmed his former decision that ships must be able to maintain 15 knots. Slower ships would jeopardise the success of the whole operation.

Libya.

1 Swordfish bombed Derna harbour, and 1 Albacore objectives N.W. of Gazala, last night.

Greece.

8 Wellingtons bombed Piraeus harbour, 1 the naval workshops at Leros Island, and 1 the harbour on the S.E. corner of Rhodes Island last night.

China.

Java Area.

It is now known that the following ships were sunk in the Java area:- WAR SIRDAR (R.F.A.) GEMAS and RAHMAN (auxiliary minesweepers) No news has been received from the following and it must be presumed they are also lost:-

/Cruisers -...



War Diary.

9.3.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - Contd.

Java Area.  
Contd.

Cruisers - EXETER, PERTH, HOUSTON (U.S.)  
Destroyers - ENCOUNTER, STRONGHOLD, POPE (U.S.)  
Sloops - JUMNA, YARRA.  
Aux. M/S - ANKING, SCOTT, HARLEY, WO KWANG.  
(D.O.R., 9/3) \* Arrived Colombo - See p. 291 -

America & West Indies.

S/MS

Some successes of U.S. submarines were published today by the Navy Dept.

St. Lucia.  
U/B attack.

2 large merchant ships, UMTATA and LADY NELSON were torpedoed at 2240 alongside Visby Wharf at Castries Harbour St. Lucia. Enemy S/M approached to 1500 yards, fired her torpedoes, made off and submerged in 20 minutes. Not until after the attack was she engaged by machine guns from Vigie Point. R.N.O. St. Lucia states that "retaliatory action from ship was prevented by imperfect communications".

AUSONIA.

Cominch has agreed to release A.M.C. AUSONIA whenever she is required for conversion to a depot ship.

Australia.

Port Moresby was raided by a heavy bomber at 0100Z.



War Diary.9.3.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BUTTERCUP. When ready for sea BUTTERCUP should be sailed to Tobermory to work<sup>up</sup> on completion of which she should join W.A. Command.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1137A/9)

CONQUEROR. A.M.1858A/26. It is not expected that equipment trials in CONQUEROR will be completed before 21/3.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1737A/9)

Movements.

MANXMAN. Arrived MANXMAN.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0147/9) *See also p. 276*

IBIS. P.C.S. at 0700A/9 51° 57', 13° 21' 217°, 14½ knots.  
(IBIS 0810A/9)

BURAK REIS. Clyde arrivals BURAK REIS escorted by CUTTY SARK.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0908A/9)

DERBYSHIRE. Escort for DERBYSHIRE for Channel passage on night 11th/12th cannot be provided by Portsmouth and it is understood that C. in C. Plymouth can not provide escort either.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1053/9 to S.O.W.P.)

C. in C. Portsmouth 1053/9th. Propose sailing DERBYSHIRE at 1900A/10 for Plymouth to await onward escort Plymouth. Request confirm TYNWALD can R/V off Milford Haven at 1900A/11 for escort to Plymouth.

(S.O.W.P. 1556A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)  
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail TYNWALD to R/V with DERBYSHIRE at junction of Q Z S 297 and Q Z S 307 at 1900A/11 and provide onward escort to Plymouth. TYNWALD is subsequently to return to Milford Haven.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2203A/9)

ALHENA. Intend sailing U.S.S. ALHENA to arrive Clyde Boom 0900A/10.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1133A/9)

SUMBA.  
SILJA. N.O.I.C. Stornoway's 0944A/9. SUMBA and SILJA are to be sailed for Loch Ewe to fuel, thence to Seidisfiord for Murmansk.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1144A/9) *See p. 280*

/TUNA ...



War Diary.

9.3.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

TUNA (1) Intend sailing TUNA escorted by BULLDOG at 1830A today for Lerwick. E.T.A. 1700A/11. (Capt. S.3. 1215A/9)  
TUNA is to be sailed for Lerwick as soon as possible.  
(F.O.S. 1313A/9)  
Sailed TUNA escorted by BULLDOG at 2000A/9 for Lerwick. E.T.A. 1830A/11.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2014A/9) *See also p. 276*

DEPTFORD. Intend sailing DEPTFORD for Clyde 1330A/10 speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 0600A/11. Thence to Londonderry on completion.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1221A/9)

DAUNTLESS. Intend to sail DAUNTLESS leaving Plymouth 1400/10 for Gibraltar for onward routeing to Simonstown. Route.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1242A/9)

PRINCE ALBERT. Request PRINCE ALBERT be sailed from Dartmouth so as to arrive Portsmouth by 1400/14 and Southend 15/3.  
(C.C.O. 1304A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth)

H.33. H.33 and H.43 escorted by LEAMINGTON leaves  
H.43. Lough Foyle 2000A/9. E.T.A. Rothesay 0800A/10.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1615/9 to HAVELOCK, etc.)  
Sailed LEAMINGTON H.33, H.43.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955A/9)

NELSON. NELSON will undock 21/3 and complete ex trials and tilt test 4/4, except that air testing of compartment will continue whilst ship is in basin. Expected to complete ready for ship to sail 21/4.  
(A.S. Rosyth 1630/9)

Operations.

TIRPITZ and A.M.2118/8. Sailed LANCASTER and WELLS.  
Convoys E.T.A. Switha Gate 0800/9.  
P.Q.12 and (R.A.M. 0053/9)  
Q.P. 8 It is noticed that your 1841A/8 was not made on your special set. It is possible that you had some good reasons for doing so.  
(A.C.N.S.(H.) 0124A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

Steer 120° maximum speed.  
(D.C. 0137A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)  
C. in C. H.F. has cancelled his 0442A/8.  
(D.S.O. 0217A/9 to A.I.G.)



War Diary.9.3.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

TIRPITZ and  
Convoys  
P.Q.12 and  
Q.P.8.  
contd.

FAULKNER, ESKIMO, BEDOUIN and TARTAR R/V in  
67° N. on meridian of Greenwich at 1200/9.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 0218A/9 to A.I.G., JAVELIN, INCONSTANT,  
LEDBURY, GROVE.)  
JAVELIN, INCONSTANT, LEDBURY and GROVE R/V as  
ordered in 66° N. 05° W. at 1400/9 thence  
towards 67° N. meridian of Greenwich at 15 knots.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 0229A/9 to A.I.G. JAVELIN, etc.)

Your 1840/8. LEDBURY, GROVE sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 0415A/9)

My 1845A/8. Estimate repairs completed by 1430A/9. *See next page*  
(ICARUS 0800A/9 to INTREPID. Rept. C. in C. H.F.)  
1 Battleship, 3 destroyers bearing 160° distance 12 miles,  
course 180°. My position 098° 68° N. 8° E. 22 miles.  
(BEDOUIN 0800A/9)

Your 2347A/7. UREDD and escort arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 0815A/9 to Capt. S.9.)  
1 B.S. 1 Cr., 182° distance 9 miles, course 194°. (Position  
indecipherable)  
(BEDOUIN 0816A/9)

My 0800A. P.C.S. of enemy 118° 68° N. 8° E. 30 miles, 195°,  
26 knots.  
(BEDOUIN 0820A/9)

1 battleship bearing 210°, 25 miles, course 180°, position  
085° 68° N. 8° E. 44 miles.  
(BEDOUIN 0825A/9)

My 0816A. P.C.S. of enemy battlefleet 106° 68° N. 8° E. 44 miles,  
speed 25 knots.  
(BEDOUIN 0830A/9)

My 0800A. Enemy course and speed 040°, 28 knots.  
(BEDOUIN 0833/9)

My 0800A. P.C.S. of enemy battleship 120° 68° N. 8° E. 35 miles,  
040°, 28 knots.  
(BEDOUIN 0855/9)

My 0800A. P.C.S. of enemy battleship 101° 68° N. 8° E. 40  
miles, 040°, 28 knots.  
(BEDOUIN 0925A/9)

JAVELIN repeated Commodore (D) from GROVE. Cannot reach 1400  
R/V in time. Will join you in 066° 29' N. 2° 48' W. at 1800/9.  
(GROVE 0930A/9 to Commodore D.)

Following has been read. Have attacked with torpedoes Bismarck  
class battleship, estimate no hits. P.C.S. of battleship 124°  
68° N. 8° E. 55 miles, 110°, 26 knots.  
(BEDOUIN 0931A/9)

JAVELIN, INCONSTANT, LEDBURY and GROVE after making the R/V at  
1400/9 are to proceed to position 65° N. 3° W.  
(A.C.N.S.(H.) 0939A/9)

Having been unable to contact Cruiser and in view of deteriora-  
ting weather, am proceeding Seidisfiord for fuel. E.T.A.  
1000 tomorrow.  
(ECLIPSE 0951/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

HAVELOCK, PARTRIDGE, BLYSKAWICA, LEAMINGTON, LINCOLN, SARDONYX,  
SALADIN, SCIMITAR are to be brought to half an hours notice  
for steam.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0951A/9)

/Request ...



War Diary.9.3.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

TIRPITZ and Request you will sail the 2 destroyers of 17th  
Convoys Division and the 2 Rosyth destroyers at 18  
P.Q.12 and knots to be in position 63° N. 2° W. at 0300/10.  
Q.P. 8 (A.C.N.S. (H.) 1005A/9 and D.O.D. (H.) 1146A/9 to  
contd. R.A.D.)

F.O.S. 1201A/8. Sailed UREDD.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1007A/9)

MANXMAN is to be sailed for Scapa when ready. *See next page.*  
(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1016A/9 to R.A.M.)

→ UREDD left Lerwick 1000A/9 unescorted proceeding on the surface  
at C.O.'s discretion routed as follows:- (a) 090° Out Skerries  
5 miles. (b) 061° 30' N. 000° 02' W. (c) 062° 46' N. 003°  
40' E. thence to patrol in the vicinity of 063° 14' N. 007°  
07' E.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1019A/9)

Expect VON TIRPITZ this afternoon.

(F.O.S. 1039A/9 to S/Ms Area A.)

Admiralty 0444A/8, Part 1. Position confirmed correct.

Enemy along approach from S.W.

(GOSSAMER 1051A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

There are D/F indications that U-boat sighted P.Q.12 at 0752Z/9.

(D.D.I.C. 1053A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Weather conditions have prevented fuelling at sea. Am pro-  
ceeding Seidisfiord in company ASHANTI. My P.C.S. 69° 55' N.  
00° 05' W., 235°, 14 knots, 1000A. (2) KENT proceed eastwards.  
(Capt. D.17 1053A/9)

LANCASTER with WELLS, WOOLSTON, VERDUN proceeding forthwith  
at 18 knots to position 063° N. 2° W.

(R.A.D. 1130A/9)

ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ sighted in position 067° 44' N. 009° 10' E.  
at 0800/9 steering South, since when she has steered various  
courses being attacked by VICTORIOUS aircraft.

(F.O.S. 1147A/9 to S/Ms Area A.)

Sailed LANCASTER, WELLS, WOOLSTON, VERDUN in accordance with  
your 1005A/9. E.T.A. 0200A/10.

(R.A.D. 1210A/9 to Admty.)

My 0800A/9. Confirming ready for service 1430A/9. *See previous page.*  
(ICARUS 1215A/9 to INTREPID.)

→ UREDD is to be ordered to patrol on Eastern Edge of Sklindenbanken  
(Approx. 65° 15' N. 10° 28' E.)

(F.O.S. 1314A/9)

TIRPITZ located by A/C from Home Fleet at 0800/9 in position  
67° 30' N. 9° E. Enemy's probable destination Narvik or  
Trondheim.

(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1341A/9 to Opnav.)

TIRPITZ located by A/C from Home Fleet at 0800/9 in position 67°  
30' N. 9° E. Enemy's probable destination Narvik or Trondheim.

2. P.Q.12 possibly reported by enemy S/M a.m./9th in approx.  
74° N. 25° E.

(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1343A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

After fuelling any H.F. destroyers who have joined you, proceed  
with them to 68° N. 2° E. if you have no other orders from

C. in C. H.F.

(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1422A/9 to C.S.1., LIVERPOOL.)

/If ...



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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.TIRPITZ and  
Convoys  
P.Q.12 and  
Q.P.8  
contd.

If you have no other orders from C. in C. H.F. request you will sail H.F. Destroyers as they complete fuelling at Seidisfiord for 67° N. longitude 00°, reporting their departure. (A.C.N.S. H. 1423A/9 to C.S.18.)  
Your 0930A/9. R/V with JAVELIN in 65° N. 3° W. at 1900A/9.  
(R.A.D. 1450A/9 to GROVE.)

My 0951A/9. Ships detailed are to complete with fuel and revert to normal notice for steam, carrying out exercises and duties previously arranged.

(C. in C. W.A. 1457A/9)

Estimated position at 1800/9.

C.S.1 in LONDON with KENT in 69° 10' N. 01° E. LIVERPOOL and TRINIDAD in 68° 20' N. 01° E. All four cruisers proceeding to 68° N. 02° E. with approximately 75 per cent fuel remaining.  
2. D.8 in FAULKNER with BEDOUIN, TARTAR, and ESKIMO remaining in 67° N. meridian of Greenwich. JAVELIN, INCONSTANT, LEDBURY and GROVE remaining in 65° N. 3° W. LANCASTER, WELLS, WOOLSTON and VERDUN in position 60° 30' N. 3° W. proceeding to position 63° N. 2° W. All above destroyers approximately 80 per cent or more fuel remaining.

3. Any destroyers after fuelling at Seidisfiord to proceed to 67° N. longitude 00°.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1638A/9)

Admiralty's 1423A/9. Sailed INTREPID and ICARUS, speed of advance 15 knots at 1640A.

(C.S.18 1648A/9)

After passing through 062° 46' N. 003° 40' E. proceed to patrol Eastern Edge of Sklindenbanken 065° 15' N. 010° 28' E.

(Capt. S.9 1655A/9 to UREDD.)

Add my 1422A/9 TUNA, BULLDOG 055° 43', 005° to Lerwick via Minches ll. *See p 273*

(C. in C. W.A. 1714A/9 to A.I.G.)

A.M.1423A/9. Departure LOOKOUT 1740A. Maximum speed limited to 24 knots for next 12 hours owing to boiler room brick work defects.

(C.S.18 1751A/9 to Admty.)

Scapa arrival MANXMAN. *See previous page*

(A.C.O.S. 1830A/9)

I am waiting with KENT at destroyer oiling R/V. Have no information PUNJABI, FURY, ECLIPSE, ECHO. Intend to proceed to Hvalfjord with KENT at 2100A.

(C.S.1 1838A/9 to A.I.G.)

Am returning to Scapa with KING GEORGE V., RENOWN, DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS and BERWICK route through positions (A) 067° 43' N. 001° 15' W. (B) 63° 35' N. 5° W. Speed of advance 21 knots from position (B). 2. JAVELIN, LANCASTER and destroyers in company meeting me in position (B) at 0800A/10. 3. Request fighter escort. Code work "Cravat". 4. Propose LONDON and KENT proceed Hvalfjord. LIVERPOOL and TRINIDAD and remaining H.F. destroyers return to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F. 1929A/9 to Admty.)

/Request ...



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TIRPITZ and  
Convoys  
P.Q.12 and  
Q.P.8  
contd.

Request nearest destroyer be sent to search for white lights possibly boat sighted at 19?47)/7 in 068° 35' N. 004° 10' W.  
(C. in C. H.F. 2033A/9 to Admty., Reptd. KENT.)  
VICTORIOUS A/C torpedo attack apparently unsuccessful though VON TIRPITZ made much smoke. Contact pistols. Last seen at 0930 making for Bodo. My forces shadowed until 1630.  
(C. in C. H.F. 2107A/9 to Admty.)

Operation  
Q.S.

Your 1040A/9. (2) M.G.Bs 64 (SO) 60, 67, 58 detailed. E.T.D.1800.  
(BEEHIVE 1529A/9 to C. in C. Nore.)

Following is my 1040A/9/3/42. Begins:-  
Addressed F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, BEEHIVE, repeated F.O.I.C. Harwich. Weather permitting the following additional anti-E-boat covering patrols for operation Q.S. are to be carried out tonight.

1. One unit M.G.Bs of 7th Flotilla 5 miles direction 360° 180° from position 52° 20' N. 03° 50' E. Patrols to be approached direct from No.5 buoy.
2. One unit M.G.B. of 6th Flotilla 5 miles direction 090° 270° from position 52° 00' N. 03° 00' E. Patrol to be approached direct from Galloper. 1040A/9. Ends.  
(C. in C. Nore 2320A/9 to Admty.)

British Air Activity.

Am carrying out shadowing of (vessels unknown) destroyers or larger warships. P.C.S. of enemy battle fleet 47° 10' N. 11° 28' W., 325° 25 knots.  
(A/C R(?) Sqdn. 0533/9 to 19 Group)

Patrols.

Patrol "Polar" "Bear" and "Ice" R/C will be in operation from 0810A.  
(A.C.I.C. 0535A/9)

The following patrols are being flown

1. One Catalina on crossover patrol East and West on Lat. 66° 30' N. between 9° 50' E. and 11° 55' E. from 1015/9.
2. One Liberator on patrol coastwise to the Northward from Fro Havet from about 1100/9.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 0940A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrol "Prowl" between 1600/8 and 0400/9 100% effective.  
Patrols "Prowler" and "Prowl" continuing until further notice.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1147/9)

Patrol "Prowl" discontinued 1700, reporting visibility nil.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1751/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

"Polar" and "Bear" completed 2015A/9. Nil report.  
(A.C.I.C. 2129A/9)

"Polar" and "Bear" will not be flown tomorrow unless asked for.  
(A.C.I.C. 2246A/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Bombing  
operations.

On night 8/9, 13 A/C attacked the docks at Havre, and 4 bombed the docks at Ostend.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1630/9)



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET                      M E S S A G E                      12030/9th March                      IN ;

From 30 Mission Moscow.                      Date 10.3.42.

Recd. 1655.

MOSCOW (X) BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty, Air Ministry Repeated S.B.N.O. North Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, C. in C. Home Fleet.

IMMEDIATE

Number Air 3485 9/3 From Admiral Miles and A.V.M. Collier My 1525C/2 not to all addressees.

(1) Following organisation proposed in agreement with Russians. Russian long range fighters type P.E.2 B's will normally meet or leave convoys during daylight at range which will leave them sufficient fuel to escort convoys for approximately one hour and carry out attacks on any German aircraft raiding convoy. Distance at which convoys will be met not likely to exceed 200 miles from shore. Definite figures to be obtained when experienced Coastal Command Officers asked for in my 1525C/2 have reached Russia and have been able to gauge Russian operational and navigational abilities.

(2) Performance figures of P.E.2 B given by Russians as follows

- (A) Maximum speed 337 M.P.H. at 21000 feet
- (B) Maximum speed ground level 280 M.P.H.
- (C) Maximum range 750 miles at 200 M.P.H.
- (D) Maximum endurance four hours.

(3) Possibly Russian long range fighters having navigational facilities will be used to lead long range Hurricanes to convoys. Short range protection will be undertaken by Hurricanes.

(4) Russians have definitely agreed to employ experienced Coastal Command Officers as suggested. Recommend Officers with experience in convoy work on Western Approaches and not East Coast convoys be sent. Two will be required per station and Russians will be operating from two aerodromes making total of four Officers required.

(5) Vaanga Panoi and Yokango Russian W/T Stations to keep watch on frequencies in para 7 below for receipt of help messages from convoy escorts and to report despatch of aircraft to convoy escorts. This will enable

additional/.....



- 2 -

additional aircraft to be sent out if in the opinion of the Air Force Commander they are likely to reach convoy in time to intercept Germans. Russian long range fighters to keep watch on same frequencies while airborne.

(6) Polyarnoe British W/T to set watch simultaneously with Vaenga similarly Archangel will set watch with Panoi and Yokango Polyarnoe will normally work convoy escorts. Call signs will be communicated.

(7) Suitable North Russian day and night convoy H/F waves to be fixed by you. 6666 kcs and 3925 kcs would be suitable for Russians.

(8) Simple self evident signals to be used as in A.F.O S2/41 Article 45 with a few suitable amplifying phrases.

(9) When necessary after receipt of help messages Russian aircraft or ground station will request homing signals from convoy escorts by pre arranged operating signal. Escorts then to make call sigs as requisite on 500 kcs.

(10?) Hurricane aircraft cannot however communicate with British escorts but may be controlled by Russian surface escorts or long range aircraft and from base.

(11) Normal British restrictions as regard flying in vicinity of convoy to be enforced. Request present rules may be signalled.

\*

(12) Recognition in accordance with A.F.O. S.R.3 from 1st April single letter flashing signals with aircraft so be in force when working convoys.

(13) In view of remarks in para four of Air Ministry AX 478 6/3 do not consider that V.H.F. will meet Russian requirements. Reasons are briefly

- (A) Russian P.E.2 B aircraft not fitted with V.H.F.
- (B) Range at low heights less than T.R.9 D
- (C) Hurricanes using V.H.F. would not be able to communicate with Russian aircraft or with surface escort. Consider that T.R.9 D which Russian Hurricanes possess will meet requirements and recommend that V.H.F. ground stations and V.H.F. aircraft equipment should not repeat not be sent. Sub Paras (D) and (F) of para four Air Ministry's X.478 6/3 refer.

1203C/9

\* As decoded. Advance copy Duty Capt., D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.

Distribution over/.....



# MOST SECRET

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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).  
 Secretary  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S. (S).  
 D. of P. (2).  
 D.O.D. (F).  
 D.D.O.D. (H).  
 D.D.O.D. (F).  
 D.O.D. (H).  
 Duty Captain (2).  
 D.D.I.C. (2).  
 D.A/S.W.  
 D.N.A.D.  
 D. of L.D.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 Head of M (4).  
 D.M.S.  
 D.N.I. (4).  
 Head of Air  
 D.S.D.  
 I.P. (2).  
 W.D.  
 E.F.S.  
 D.T.D. (2).  
 D.T.D. (M).  
 C.C.L.S.  
 Admiral Hermon Hodge.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C from  
Tromso.

There are indications that Heinkel 115 from Tromso are active.  
(D.D.I.C. 1303A/9 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2.)

EMPIRE CRAG  
attacked .

British Merchant ship EMPIRE CRAG 332 tons, Wisbeck to Firth of Forth, reports being attacked by unidentified A/C in 54° 14' 30" N. 00° 09' 18" W. at 2223/8. 8 bombs, no damage or casualties. Sound of A/C only heard.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 2311/9)

Mining.

Tees  
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying.  
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0004/9)  
My 0004/9. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool now open.  
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1045/9)

NOTTS COUNTY  
(sunk 8/3)

My 2350A/8th. NOTTS COUNTY sank less than 1 minute. Her depth charges exploded. 1 survivor. 6 floating mines sighted during daylight. Proceeding.  
(ANGLE 0150A/9)

Yarmouth

Enemy A/C dropped 2 parachute mines (1 unexploded) at 2250A/8 outskirts Great Yarmouth. A to D Nil.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0935A/9)

Humber.

Humber is open to navigation.  
(F.O. Humber 1019A/9)  
One Red Mine detonated at 1003 today. Details.  
(F.O. Humber 2005A/9)

B.S.68

My 1943A/8 para 2 and my 1235A/8. M.Ls 293 and 140 are being retained for escort of PLOVER.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1043/9)  
My 1943A/8 sailed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1835A/9)

Q.L.7.

Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L.(7) tonight. Departure is to be taken from North Galloper buoy and unit is not to proceed North of 051° 50' N. until East of 003° E.  
(C. in C. Nore 1052A/9 to BEEHIVE.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Ostend.  
Dunkirk.

P.R.U. sortie A/393 shows in Ostend 4 'M' class minesweepers, new arrivals since 28/2, and 1 'M' class minesweeper new arrival in Dunkirk since 14/2.  
(C.I.U. Medmenham 0735/9)

Warships sighted.

Following has been read. Am carrying out observation duty of vessels type unknown destroyers or larger warships. P.C.S. of enemy battlefleet are 47° 10' N. 11° 28' W., 325°, 25 knots.  
(A.C.O.S. 0531/9 to Admty.)

At 0533/9 a Sunderland reported sighting 2 vessels either destroyers or larger warships in 47° 10' N. 11° 28' W. course 325°, 25 knots. At 0547/9 message intercepted in German P/L from unknown vessel reporting shooting down a Sunderland in 46° 28' N. 11° 35' W. Shortly after Sunderland reported still shadowing but lost touch at 0710/9.  
(D.D.I.C. 1006A/9)

Sunderland reports enemy ship type unknown in 047° 10' N. 011° 28' W. course 325°, 25 knots, at 0523/9.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1010A/9 to PAKENHAM.)

My 1010A/9. Corrected report. Ship sighted in 046° 47' N. 011° 06' W. at 0405A/9, apparently a merchant ship with funnel amidships steaming fast course 315°.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1304A/9 to PAKENHAM.)

A good look out is to be kept for an enemy ship sighted in 46° 47' N. 11° 06' W. at 0405A/9 by A/C. Apparently a merchant ship with funnel amidships steaming fast course 315.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1547A/9 to BRADFORD, Escorts O.S.21.)

Straits of Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/8 to 0900/9.

Track E 20 D. Four small vessels from 4 miles East of Calais at 0350 Westbound at 7 knots.

Entered Boulogne at 0800. Possibly minesweeping.

Track E 21 D. Two Layer vessels and 8 escorts from 8 miles South S West of Boulogne at 0514 speed 19 knots. Entered Boulogne at 0650.

(V.A. Dover 1019A/9)

Norwegian Coast.

Russians report 4 March Vardo one Minesweeper. In position 69° 47' N. 36° 8' E. at 2235 sighted one U-boat. 5 March. Ingoy Island one destroyer off Hjelmsøy, convoy escorted by one

destroyer, and one minesweeper. Varanger Fjord one minesweeper. Soroy Sand one minesweeper.

(Ad. Miles 1127C/9 to Admty.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER  
PRINZ EUGEN.

P.R.U. Trondheim 1030/9. Visual R/C shows SCHEER and EUGEN present as on 7/3.  
(D.D.I.C. 1502A/9)

/Boulogne ...



War Diary.

9.3.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - contd.

Boulogne. P.R.U. Sortie at 1510/9 shows Boulogne one M Class M/S and one E/R boat changed berths since this a.m. the latter probably from outer harbour. Six M Class M/S. and seven E/R boats seen to be present. No other change of note except tanker 415 ft. of Petit Port now emitting smoke with harbour craft alongside. (P.R.U. Benson 2020/9)

U-Boats.

U-Boats sighted. One S/M bearing 090° distance one mile course unknown. My position 62° 45' N. 13° 16' W. Estimates fix at 0100. (ANGLE 0210/9)  
A/C sighted S/M on the surface in 059° 19' N. 009° 27' W. at 1340. S/M dived on course 270° (C. in C. Rosyth 1646/9)

Navigational.

Wick. Wick Harbour opened at 0745/9. (R.N.O. Wick 0747/9)

C.3 Buoy. C.3 buoy reported 1.2 miles N.E. of charted position. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2025A/9 to PLOVER)

Casualties and Defects.

DEVON CITY. Sailed DEVON CITY and CAROLINE MOLLER. E.T.A. Oban 1500/9. (WESTERN ISLES 0805A/9)

ST. OLAVES is to be sailed from Campbeltown to Oban to take over towage of DEVON CITY to Liverpool from CAROLINE MOLLER. DEVON CITY is to be sailed as soon as possible after arrival of ST. OLAVES. On completion of bunkering CAROLINE MOLLER is to be sailed to overtake DEVON CITY and assist ST. OLAVES with tow to Liverpool. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1244A/9)

→ NARVIK. Proceed forthwith to assist NARVIK broken down in position Oversay 203° 8 miles at 0705A/9 and tow to Londonderry. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0859A/9 to ZWARTE ZEE.)

SUMBA  
SILJA. Defects of SUMBA and SILJA made good and both ships are ready for sea. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0944A/9) *See p. 272*

→ NARVIK. Your 0859A/9. Sailed ZWARTE ZEE. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1055A/9)  
/Arrived ...



War Diary.

9.3.1942.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

NARVIK  
contd. Arrived ZWARTE ZEE with NARVIK in tow.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1515A/9)

SHELDON. My 1713/8. Refloated. Now berthed in Buckie.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1610/9)

GAIZKA. Arrived GAIZKA on passage from Cardiff to Lisbon  
with engine trouble.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1758/9)

CAROLINA.  
THORDEN. Hulk CAROLINA THORDEN in tow of tugs EMPIRE LARCH  
and DANUBE VI. is to sail from Blyth at 2000/10  
and proceed by searched Channels to Scapa so  
as to arrive in daylight sheltering as necessary  
on passage. Speed of advance about 5 knots.  
2. Escort of two trawlers (one to be 12 pdr) is  
to be provided as follows. Details.  
3. F.O.I.C. Tyne is to postpone sailing if  
weather report is unfavourable. She has a  
crew of three Officers and thirteen men, no  
Signalman or W/T.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1951/9)

ORIBI. Have sustained ice damage which will entail  
docking.  
(ORIBI 2200A/9) See shipping.

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.13. Sail LAMERTON to arrive Loch Ewe a.m. tomorrow.  
LAMERTON is to escort P.Q.13 acting subsequently  
under the orders of R.A.D. H.F.  
? HOPECROWN (C. in C. W.A. 1234A/9 to Capt. D. Londonderry)  
When HOPETOWN has joined convoy, BLYSKAWICA is to provide  
additional escort and continue with convoy to Reykjavik.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1647A/9)

Convoy. Hearty congratulations on another successful  
convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1420A/9 to Commodore S.N. White,  
R.N.R.)

Movements  
of Russian  
Ships. Serial No.27.  
(D.T.D. 1702A/9 to Ad. Miles.)



War Diary.

9.3.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

P.Q.12  
and  
Q.P.8.

Have sustained ice damage to co-ordinating stem which will entail docking. Was detached to avoid further damage when P.Q.12 encountered further ice at 2000A/8 in 073° 48' N. 018° 04' E on course 154°, speed of convoy 7½ knots. Convoy escorted by KENYA and OFFA is intact except stragglers KIEV, EL OCCIDENTE, GOSSAMER, SHERA, STEFA, SVEGA not met. KENYA's RD/F out of action.

Q.P.8 passed in 072° 10' N. 010° 20' E. at 1200A/7. My P.C.S. are 072° 46' N. 033° 10' E. 144°, 14 knots. E.T.A. 2000A/10. Course and speed to M Z, 270°, 14 knots. Have passenger(s) and mail. My gyro compass and asdics out of action. Message T.O.O. 1201A/8 not decypherable. S.P.02389 series not held by KENYA and destroyers.  
(ORIBI 2200A/9 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

Q.P.B.

My 2350A/8. In view of U-boat activity it is undesirable that ships should reach open water until A/S escort can be provided either to escort them to Murmansk or to join Q.P. convoys. Subject to the above provisos Q.P.(B) may now be sailed.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2352A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)



War Diary.9.5.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

VIDETTE. Arrival. (F.O.C.N.A. 0002A/9 to C. in C.S.A.)

Enemy A/C, Gibraltar. Your 1801A/8 one J.J. 88 with German markings in the vicinity of and over Gibraltar from 1230A to 1304A/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102A/9 to Admty.)

Situation. 2006A/9.

→ (i) AIREDALE, PETUNIA escorting one merchant ship one tug 42° 58' 15" 00' through 42° 00' 20' 00' thence 136° 9.

(ii) LOCH OSKAIG patrolling off Cape Roca.

(iii) SCOTTISH sails 0900/10 coastwise to patrol off Cape Roca.

(iv) PAKENHAM 046° 39' 015° 00' 180° 22. (F.O.C.N.A. 1300A/9 to Area X of N.A. Station.)

For Area Y. Situation 2006A/9.

1. COREOPSIS, GERANIUM escorting tanker HOEGH HOOD 030° 49' 021° 23' 269° 9½ COREOPSIS, GERANIUM part at 2200/9 returning to Gibraltar.

→ 2. ROMNEY, CROMARTY, WHITEHAVEN estimated 035° 20' 025° 15' 173° 12.

→ 3. AIREDALE, PETUNIA escorting one merchant ship one tug 42° 58' 15" 00' through 42° 00' 20' 00' thence 136° 9. (F.O.C.N.A. 1320A/9 to N.A. Station).

For Area Z 2006A/9.

(i) S.L. 102. 017° 51' 020° 35' 004° 7 S.O. EGRET.

(ii) LADY HOGARTH, STELLA CARINA, LORD NUFFIELD escorting tug THAMES towing FARADAY 023° 55' 017° 08' 207° 5½. (F.O.C.N.A. 1348A/9 to N.A. Station).

Movements.

Departure LEYLAND escorting TINTERN ABBEY to Almeria. (V.A.C.N.A., 1417A/9 to Admty.)

→ ROMNEY, CROMARTY, WHITEHAVEN left Ponta Delgada 1730 G.M.T./9.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1545/9 to S.O. (I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

Group "A" sailed from Azores 1800/9 speed of advance 9.5 knots. (ROMNEY, 1845Z/9 to CROMER).

LIGHTNING Refit.

Ref. to A.L. D.O. 20281/41 29/11/41 after relief of WHITEHALL by LOOKOUT and on completion of WESTCOTT about end of March, propose LIGHTNING returns to U.K. for refit. Exact date will be signalled as soon as estimate can be made. (S.O. Force H 1604A/9 to Admty.) Approved. (D.O.D. (F) 1939A/10).

PANDORA.

My 1810/8 sailed PANDORA. (F.O.C.N.A. 1816A/9 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

/French.....



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

French Shipping. Gibraltar 1055 French Patrol Vessel LA SERVANNAISE, French ships, all full KILISSI deck cargo believed lorries, AUVERGNE deck cargo baskets, PROVIDENCE many civilian passengers several French Naval Officers, Trawlers JOSEPH ELISEV, TATIANA, both full, eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1847A/9 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Hunt class Destroyers. Your 1902/5 para. (D). Propose BLANKNEY be transferred instead of EXMOOR as apart from awning fitting now in force is fitted for hot weather whereas BLANKNEY is only 25 per cent fitted for hot weather. (S.O. Force H., 1907A/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F., F.O.C.N.A.). Approved. (D.O.D. (H) 1320A/10).

F.W. A/C. Two F.W. aircraft were active from Bordeaux over an unknown area. (D.D.I.C. 1908A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force H, repairs. Advantage is being taken during MALAYA's docking period to carry out repairs and boiler cleaning in Force H. Notice is as follows:  
(a) MALAYA at 24 hours notice. Estimated date of undocking p.m. 13/3.  
(b) EAGLE repairs after lift. Completes 13/3.  
(c) HERMIONE boiler cleaning, at 12 hours notice until 0800/15.  
(d) LAFOREY, ANTHONY, CROOME, boiler cleaning, completion date 16/3.  
(e) LIGHTNING fitting new dynamo, completes 13/3.  
(F.O. Force H, 2018A/9 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC. (French). Reported (B, 2) Arrived Oran from Casablanca 7/3 with 40 tons rubber, and will shortly leave for France. (D.D.I.C. 2350A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

BENMOHR (torpedoed 5/3.) Ref. N.C.S.I. 296. (A) BENMOHR. (B) 5/3/1942, 2010, 5° 10' N., 13° 15' W. (C) Thrown overboard (D) as (C) (E) yes, 2,500 fathoms (F) No. (G) Chief Officer. Proceeding singly. Sunk by two torpedoes. 56 crew all landed Freetown. Three cot cases. Sighted two submarines probably Glauco Class. (C. in C. S.A. 0840Z/9 to Admty.)

-BRITISH.....



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.

- BRITISH VALOUR, S.L. 102. Your 1151A/1. BRITISH VALOUR sailed on 5/3 with 5846 tons furnace oil fuel. (N.O.I.C. Freetown 0956Z/9 to Admty.)
- BOREAS. Arrival 1830, departure 2358/8. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1001Z/9 to C. in C.S.A.)
- AURICULA. On completion of docking sail AURICULA for Simonstown. (C. in C.S.A. 1059Z/9 to N.O.I.C. Lagos).
- BENGALI. BENGALI and FANDANGO leave Freetown 9/3 to FANDANGO. R/V with you in 016° 30' N. 019° 00' W. at 1000Z/13. (C. in C.S.A. 1149Z/9 to LADY HOGARTH, LORD NUFFIELD, STELLA CARINA, (R) Captain Aux. Patrols, BENGALI, FANDANGO, F.O.C.N.A.) (As amended 1408Z/9). *Sailed - See next page*
- CILICIA. Arrival Montevideo 1300Z/9. E.T.D. 1300Z/11. (CILICIA, 1228Z/9 to R. A.S.A.D., Admty.)
- BHIMA (torpedoed 20/2) CHIOS arrived today with entire crew of 68 and all passengers ex BHIMA sunk by S/M in 07° 47' N. 73° 31' E. at 1420/20/2. Master states all C.B.s and those in W/T office placed in wooden weighted holed box and thrown overboard and seen to sink. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1344Z/9 to Admty., as amended 1628B/9).  
Following received from N.L.O. Durban (begins) CHIOS arrived this morning with 70 survivors including 2 passengers from BHIMA sunk by S/M 20/2 007° 47' N. 073° 31' E. T.O.O. 1456/9 (Ends). (S.O.(I) Capetown 1612B/9 to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A. Admty.)
- Vichy Convoy. EEMLAND (Dutch) reported at 1005/8 as follows: Sighted three Vichy Merchant vessels escort COMMANDANT DELAGE at 1200/7/3 in 5° 15' N. 1° 25' E. course 133°. Ships name asked for by escort. (S.O.I. Freetown 1351Z/9 to Admty.)
- ULSTER MONARCH. Arrival 9th. Departure. E.T.A. Lagos 1100/10. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1529Z/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- CARTHAGE. Admty. 1513/21/11. £2,000,000 in (297 cases) shipped to U.K. 9/3 in CARTHAGE. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1553Z/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

/MANCHESTER.....



War Diary.

9.3.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

MANCHESTER  
CITY.

Have you any news of MANCHESTER CITY due Capetown 2/3 from Freetown. (D.T.D. 1713A/9 to S.O.(I) Capetown). Reply: 1241/10.

*at Simonstown See p. 253*

Brazilian  
Port  
Facilities.

Following has been received from B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro - "Chief of Naval Staff informs me that should you wish to attach any further ships to U.S. Squadron patrol these waters, though they need not actually operate with them, they could have same facilities for entering Brazilian ports as 2 British ships attached to U.S. Squadron". F.O.I.C. Freetown to inform DESPATCH and DIOMEDE. 1831Z/25. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1757A/9 to C. in C.S.A. F.O.I.C. Freetown, N.A. Buenos Aires, S.O.I. Montevideo).

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Arrival p.m. 9/3. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1850Z/9 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.)

RUMBA.

Arrival 9/3 RUMBA escorting PINZON? (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1837Z/9 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.)

Movements.

Arrivals 9/3 BRILLIANT, WILD SWAN. Departures H.M.T. BENGALI, FANDANGO R/V with FARADAY. etc: (S.O.I. Freetown 2231Z/9 to Admty.) *See previous page*

Mediterranean.

M.W.11.  
14-knot  
ships.

Your 0924/7, composition of M.W.10. noted.  
2. As regards M.W.11. request information (a) whether ships of 14 knots can be accepted. (b) Latest date acceptable for commencement of loading.

3. P.S.T.O. India has been requested to state what ships of 14 knots and over could be sailed from India to arrive before end of March.

4. Inclusion of refrigerated ships must be avoided if possible.

5. Further signal will be made on receipt of replies to para. 2. and 3. (D.S.T. 0117A/9 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Your 0117/9th. As stated in my 1215/17/1, 1646/20/1, 1221/27/1 under present circumstances a ship must be able to maintain a speed of 15 knots (? if) (? she) is to be included in a Malta (? convoy). Slower ships would jeopardize the success of the whole operation. My 1746/6 to Admty. only, also refers. Last date for (?) commencing loading 1/4. (C. in C. Med. 1147B/9 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Egypt., Admty.)

/ARABIA.....



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.

ARABIA II. S.T.O. Massawa's 0950Z/27/2, 1000Z/27/2 intended  
adrift ARABIA II broke adrift from HARESFIELD during gale  
ST. SAMPSON 3/3. PAULINE MOLLER sent from Aden to assist  
abandoned. but hulk could not be located.  
(2) ARABIA II now reported by A/C aground in 16°  
51' N. and 41° 50' E.  
(3) RECORDER with GEORGIC in tow also experienced heavy  
weather. Tug SAINT SAMPSON which was assisting astern of  
GEORGIC has been reported abandoned in sinking condition.  
(4) HARESFIELD and PAULINE MOLLER have proceeded to assist  
RECORDER who requires their services until well passed Perim.  
(5) Further signal will be made. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 0139B/9 to  
D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.,) *See also p. 290*

Indians Request reply to my 1332/12/2 regarding employment  
in L.C's. of Indian (?natives) in landing craft. S.B.N.O.  
Suez Canal Area passto SAUNDERS. (C. in C.  
Med., 1129B/9 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. Suez Canal  
Area, FOAM, C. in C.M.E., SAUNDERS).

COCKER. Port Said departure 1505B/8.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 0927B/9 to Admty.)

ALBARO. Source 1225/5. (circulated in Admty. as 1310/5).  
PRODROMOS. A. Both vessels still here. B. Visibility  
conditions unchanged. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1015B/9  
to S.O.I. Med. N.L.O. Black Sea (R) D.N.I.)

UNIQUE V.A. Malta's 1643/7. I have not yet received  
damaged. Malta submission quoted but I trust their  
Lordships will not take any action until I  
have had an opportunity to communicate my  
recommendations or taken action myself.  
(C. in C. Med. 1115B/9 to Admty. (R) F.O.S.,  
V.A. Malta.)

DERWENTDALE. Your 1940Z/7. I have no objection to lighters  
being retained until work is completed. I  
would be grateful if you could arrange to  
relieve the crews who have been trained in  
combined operations and can ill be spared for  
the lighter work for which you require them.  
(C. in C. Med. 1211B/9 to C. in C. E.I. (R)  
Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

Movements. Arrival 8/3 ERICA. Departures FARNDALE, AVON  
VALE, FOXHOUND, SNAPDRAGON, HILMI, KHEIR EL DINE.  
Arrivals 9/3 PROTEA, HENRIETTA MOLLER. "A" 115.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 1241B/9 to Admty.,  
C. in C. Med.)

/U-Boat ...



War Diary.9.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- U-Boat. (? Service) Wellington reports one submarine surfacing in  $037^{\circ} 20' N.$   $004^{\circ} 05' E.$  at 1742B/8.  
(V.A. Malta 1243B/9 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- CLEOPATRA. Your 1817B/12/2. Is CLEOPATRA fit for service?  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1246A/9 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Med.) *See next page.*
- Enemy Units. One 8-inch, 2 6-inch Cruisers, 5 destroyers, 4 merchant ships,  $032^{\circ} 46' 016^{\circ} 38'$  course  $050^{\circ} 12$  knots at 1100B/9.  
(Capt. S. 10 1247B/9 to THORN, TORBAY.)  
Proceed forthwith through  $039^{\circ} 00' 017^{\circ} 35'$  and  $037^{\circ} 47' 016^{\circ} 17'$  to patrol vicinity of  $037^{\circ} 47' 015^{\circ} 45'$  to intercept cruisers returning to Messina.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1851B/9 to TORBAY (R) THORN, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)
- Malta. Malta comes under Command Mideast 0001 hrs. 11/3/42.  
(C. in C. M.E. 1300/9 to Govr. Malta.)
- Movements. Arrived DEMIR HISAR 0952Z/9. Sailed CERES.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1312Z/9 to S.O.(I) Ismailia etc.)
- ROMEO. Departure 9th.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 1555B/9 to Admty. etc.)
- Force K. Force K. will sweep north from  $036^{\circ} 05' 011^{\circ} 50'$  between 0200 and 0300B/10.  
Sweep. (V.A. Malta 1745B/9 to P.31, UNA, SOKOL.)  
Orders to My 1745B/9. P.31 patrol  $035^{\circ} 27' 012^{\circ} 23'$  from  
S/MS. 0400/10 to intercept 14 knot ship on approximate course  $140^{\circ}$  then return to arrive Grand Harbour  
0645/12. SOKOL keep west of  $011^{\circ} 40'$  until 0400/10 then return to Northern route. UNA remain on that route south of  $035^{\circ} 30'$   
Ref. memo. U.3., following ships expected to pass G. on 10th for Pantellaria at 0500, 14 knots direct, at 0800 11 knots via number 2 buoy, at 1800 8 knots via H. All times zone - 2.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1810B/9 to P.31, UNA, SOKOL, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) I, Force K.

/Malta ...



War Diary.9.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. Malta 9/3/1942. I.138. My I.133, alert finished 1702 hours another 11 ME.109s, JU.88s Luqa, one unserviceable Wellington burnt out, H.Q. and Squadron Offices, Officers' blocks and many other buildings destroyed, underground cable cut, enormous craters Aerodrome and taxi tracks. Hal Far, craters aerodrome. Hurricanes up no combat. A.A. probably destroyed one JU.88. Night 8th/9th, continuous intruder, 25 raiders, 4 civilians killed, 3 wounded. Beaufighter destroyed one JU.88 and hit one HE.111, Hurricane probably destroyed another JU.88. 9th 5 alerts 0525, 0613 (0758 or 0858 corrupt) 0945 1021 hrs. 109 ME 109s JU.88s. Luqa, 3 soldiers wounded, 4 Wellingtons burnt out, one special Wellington damaged, numerous craters and U.X.Bs aerodrome runways taxi tracks. Hal Far, no damage or casualties. Elsewhere one civilian wounded. Hurricanes destroyed one JU.88, 2 ME.109s prob. destroyed, others damaged or attacked.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1918/9)

German Barges Dardanelles. Following is a repetition of my 1925B/9/3 addressed to N.A. Ankara (R) S.O.(I) Istanbul Admty. S.O.(I) Istanbul's letter 2504/469 of 18/2 concerning passage of German motor barges through Dardanelles. These craft appear to be of a type suitable for landing operations and as such are potential menace to Turkey. There appears to be no ground for protesting against their use on the argument that they are warships but it is suggested that their own interests the Turks might be prepared to put the maximum of obstacles in the way of their passage through Turkish waters. Moreover, careful examination might reveal false declarations. Request you will consider what action can be taken and inform me in due course.  
(C. in C. Med., 1929/9 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival PORPOISE. Departure URGE\*, CLEOPATRA, PENELOPE, KINGSTON.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 2313B/9 to Admty., C. in C. Med., Capt. 1 S.F.)

*\* See Medicine page*

Situation Report No.199. Northbound and Southbound enemy convoys with cruiser and destroyer escort sighted today 9/3 about 200 miles East of Tripoli. Hit claimed on unknown target at 1630/9 and hit claimed on cruiser at 1745/9 both by Beaufort torpedo striking force. Beauforts shot down one JU.88. 15th C.S. and 9 destroyers sailing from Alexandria tonight on chance of pickings.  
2. Western Desert. During air raids on Tobruk 7/3 12 JU.87 concentrated on petrol carrier CERION. Fore part burnt out with loss 800 tons petrol. Ship undamaged abaft bridge but still smouldering. One Z lighter burnt out. A.A. shot down one JU.87. During evening 8/3 11 JU.87 concentrated on R.F.A. SLAVOL but superficial damage only. A.A. shot down one JU.87, fighters shot down two JU.87 and 7 Macchis without loss. Three more JU.87 damaged. HARBOE JENSEN arrived Alexandria in tow.



War Diary.

9.3.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation  
Report  
No.199 -  
contd.

*Tambour*  
Submarines. UPHOLDER sank westbound\* 5,500 ton ship with two hits at 1905/27 in 32.55 N. 12.42 E. publicity B. UPHOLDER was hunted on previous day by two Spica class destroyers apparently asdic fitted. \*TEMBIEN. (Torp. Attack Register)  
4. My 1954/6 para 2. Ship considered probably French collier P.L.M.13 with engines aft as reported by Vichy broadcast torpedoed. Para.3. Ship entering Suda Bay was 3,000 ton merchant ship considered sunk. (No)  
5. Red Sea. Hulk ARABIA in tow HARESFIELD broke adrift in gale and grounded in 16.31 N. 41.50 E. Ship being looted by natives but guard arranged. Tug ST. SAMPSON assisting with tow of GEORGIC abandoned due to bad weather and probably foundered.  
(C. in C. Med. 2325B/9 to Admty. (R) V.A.M. etc.)

*See p. 287*



War Diary.9.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Ships for  
Suez.

Request you will report immediately earliest dates following ships could arrive at Suez if ordered there immediately on completion of discharge - AJAX, ELISABETH BAKKE, PARDO, AAGTEKERK, SILVER TEAK, AUTOLYCUS, EMPIRE EGRET, EMPIRE FULMAR, CITY OF PRETORIA, MALANCHA. (D.S.T. 0119A/9 to P.S.T.O. India.)

Rangoon  
Evacuation.

Situation report. Part A. 1530. G.M.T. Southern front and Rangoon. 1. During 6/3 situation on Pegu front deteriorated. 48 Bde. in Pegu were cut off and an attempt by them to break out night of 6/7 failed. At the same time enemy landings occurred on north shore of Cgina Bakir River and on west bank of the Rangoon River. As a result of complete civil evacuation of Bassein area control ceased in Delta area generally. 2. Consequently the decision was made to evacuate Rangoon (?withdrawing) forces from Rangoon (?and) 17 Div. towards Prome and to continue fighting in Upper Burma in conjunction with our Chinese allies. 3. Rangoon demolition scheme was put into effect at 1400/7. (Advanced Burmarmy 0241/9 to C. in C. India, W.O. etc.)

Movements.

Colombo arrivals 8th, 0245Z JUMNA, 0350Z MARGUERITE, 1000Z TRUANT, Colombo departures 8th 0530Z CLIVE, 1120Z NAUTILUS. (S.O.(I) Colombo 0326Z/9 to Admty.) Colombo arrivals 9/3, 0530Z SPETSAL, 0615Z WILLEAM VAN DER ZAAN, 0630Z ARROW, 1145Z ST. ANTHONY. Departures 9/3, 1145Z TENEDOS. (S.O.I. Colombo 1354Z/9 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 0501Z/8. Intend to sail INDOMITABLE 0100Z/10 passing through positions (a) 005° 40' N. 080° 00' (b) 006° 30' N. 076° 00' and thence direct through (?8° Channel). Arrives Aden 16/3 leaves Aden a.m. 17/3 arrives Addu Atoll p.m. 21/3. (S.O. Aircraft Carriers, 0357Z/9 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Med., S.O. Force V.)

Movements.

Mombasa left 9th 0335 G.M.T., EMPIRE PEREGRINE, arrived 9th, (?04)28 G.M.T. AJAX. *See next page* (N.O.I.C. E. Africa and Zanzibar, 0442Z/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Java ...



War Diary.

9.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Java Sea  
Operations.

My 1322/8. I have seen Helfrich again and he is now preparing a full report on operations in the Java sea up to the time he himself left Java which may fill in some of the gaps. (C. in C. E.F. 0524Z/9 to Admty.)

ABDIEL.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1439/5. Request you will sail ABDIEL for Durban as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.F. 0903Z/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

Situation.

Following is summary of events since despatch of A.T. 1010/3.

1. Following additional ships are missing and feared sunk after being in action with Japanese naval forces:- EXETER, ENCOUNTER, U.S.S. HOUSTON, PERTH, STRONGHOLD, U.S.S. POPE. Two sloops and three Bathursts are still missing but may be on passage. No further information yet received regarding casualties inflicted on Japanese.

2. HEEMSKERCK and ISAAC SWEERS returned to Colombo and up to seven Dutch submarines believed to be proceeding there. Adm. Helfrich has arrived there but with only one P.B.Y. and will take command of Dutch forces under C. in C. E.F.

3. Organised resistance in Java believed ceasing. Japanese reported to have 3 battle cruisers and 4 carriers in Japanese waters. Threat of a raid in force into Indian Ocean or assault of Ceylon is acute.

4. \*WARSPITE diverted back from Fremantle owing to U-boat threat there, has now oiled near Adelaide and is expected to reach Ceylon direct about 20/3. INDOMITABLE should arrive there with her own aircraft same day. *See previous page # 301*

5. Two Hurricane squadrons of 24 I.E. aircraft and 10 I.R. each are now in Ceylon and 2 Fulmar squadrons arrive shortly.

*Incorrect:  
see  
Admty  
1307  
16/3.*

6. Vice-Adm. Arbuthnot has assumed temporary command of Eastern Fleet consequent on Adm. Layton being appointed C. in C. Ceylon. Adm. Layton has been given over-riding authority over all naval, military, air and civil authorities in Ceylon and entrusted with the immediate task of co-ordinating all military and civil measures for the defence of the island. (Admty. 0938A/9 to S.O. Force V. S.O. Force T.)

AJAX.

Mombasa left 9th 1050 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C.E. Africa and Zanzibar 1115Z/9 to C. in C. E.I.) *See previous page.*

Air Forces,  
Ceylon.

Following is repeat of required portion of our 5126/C 8/3. "A.O.C., Ceylon should remain responsible to A.O.C. in C. India and thus to me. Please confirm". (C. in C. India 1320/9 to W.O.)

ALAUNIA.

Mombasa arrived 9th 1650 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C.E. Africa and Zanzibar 1655Z/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Ceylon ...



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1700/9th March.

IN.

From : C. in C. Ceylon.

Date : 14.3.42.

Recd : 1314.

INT. GEN X BY W/T.

Addressed : Armindia, repeated Admiralty, for Chiefs of Staff.

674. Representations have been made to Admiralty and other Authorities concerning the lack of A.A. S/L's in Ceylon.

G.L. not infallible against high flying targets and incapable of dealing with low flying bombers, torpedo bombers and Minelayers.

2. Latest recco shows very few suitable G.L.II Sites. G.L.III might solve the high flying problem but only S/L's can compete with low flying attack G.L.III problem requires confirmation by experts.

3. S.L.C. Controlled S/L's appear to be the best solution. Some S/L's are also required for defence of Aerodrome used at night.

4. I therefore recommend (a) the immediate recco., by G.L.III expert and early issue of 15 G.L.III Sets if suitable. (b) That at least one battery of A.A. S/L's is absolutely essential for each of the two Naval Bases and one additional Mobile Battery for Aerodromes.

5. This recommendation will cover all commitments and will cancel previous demand for G.L.II's.

1700/9

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(W).  
 A.C.N.S.(F)(2).  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S.(S).  
 D.O.D.(F).  
 D.D.O.D.(F).  
 D. of P.(2).  
 E.P.S.  
 Hd. of M.(39).  
 I.P.(2).  
 N.I.D.O.  
 W.D.  
 D.N.I.(4).  
 D.C.(2).  
 D.D.I.C.(2).

N.P.



War Diary.9.3.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Ceylon, H.Q. In view of formation of army command Ceylon in addition to my H.Q it is certain that practically all army personnel now here ex Abdacom will be required. Intend reporting in detail shortly meanwhile request you issue no disposal instructions.  
(C. in C. Ceylon 1750/9 to Admty. for Troopers, (R) Arminia.)

RESOLUTION. Intended programme. 10/3 arrives Capetown, embarks stores and provisions; 11/3 leaves Capetown; 13th or 14/3 calls Durban for fuel; 19th or 20/3 Mauritius for fuel; 23rd or 24/3 arrives Port T.  
(R.A.3. 1800Z/9 to C. in C. E.F. (R) S.O. Force V. etc.)

Burman "Free Army" Consider it essential if publicity cannot be avoided not to use title Burman Free Army for Burmese traitor forces assisting Japanese. Suggest they be referred to as Burmese Traitors or Burman Traitor Forces. Warn all concerned.  
(C. in C. India 1930/9 to W.O.)

I.F.F. A.M.1523A/30/1 addressed FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS. Sets for A/C. These I.F.F. sets are to be used in Far East R.A.F. aircraft as desired by you. Inform Admty. of intended distribution of sets. Similar sets for F.A.A. aircraft of HERMES and INDOMITABLE have been shipped.  
(D.S.D. 2040A/9 to S.O. Force V. (R) FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS.)

C. in C. My telegram No.243. Following for C. in C. Ceylon. Not desired that any general announcement should be made. No objection to announcement being made in Ceylon provided all possible steps are taken to ensure that it is not sent out of Ceylon. Suggested text agreed with Chiefs of Staff. (Begins) In the present emergency H.M.G. have decided that Ceylon should be placed under the supreme control of a Service Officer with the title of C. in C. Ceylon. Adm.Layton has been selected for this appointment and all naval, military, air and civil authorities in the area will be subject to his directions. He will be responsible for ensuring that all measures necessary for the defence of Ceylon are taken and that military and civil measures are fully co-ordinated. (Ends)  
(S. of S. for Colonies 2245/9 to Govr. (Sir A. Caldecott))



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Japanese  
Losses.

Navy Dept. communique 9/3 announces following successes of U.S. submarines during week ending Friday 6/3. Sunk. - 1 Flotilla lead, 1 large tanker. Damaged and definitely put out of action. 1 aircraft carrier, with 2 torpedo hits; 2 cruisers, each hit by 1 torpedo; 1 cruiser, hit by 2 torpedoes. These vessels have not been mentioned previously in any other communique. (Press, 10/3).

MANCHESTER.

Norfolk sailed 1714Z/8 for Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q., 0142Z/9 to Admty., Opanav, 0717/9 to N.S.H.Q., etc.)

Bermuda arrival MANCHESTER. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2103P/9 to Admty.)  
Leave Bermuda P.M. 10/3 and proceed Portsmouth passing through following positions. A. 034° 40' N., 055° 00' W.,  
B. 039° 10' N., 040° 00' W., C. 046° 20' N., 30° 00' W.  
Report to me on leaving Bermuda, estimated S. of A. and E.T.A. at position C.

(ii) C. in C. W.A. is requested to communicate onward route from position C. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2202P/9 to MANCHESTER (R) Admty., B.A.D., Opanav, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., C.S.18, C. in C. Portsmouth).

Convoy  
Escorts.

St. John's N.F., 8/3/42. Arrivals THUNDER, LAUDERDALE ex S.C.72. Departures KINGCUP, DIANELLA LOOSESTRIFE to Argentia for H.X.179. HURRICANE, MONKSHOOD, SNOWFLAKE, ANCHUSA, DAHLIA to Argentia for S.C.74. (F.O.N.F., 0239Z/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Air Report.

A. 73 9/3. Operations 8/3, all times Greenwich. Catalina aircraft OAS for convoy S.C.68 time on patrol 1234, time off 2120, convoy not met, no enemy units sighted. Ship INDEPENDENCE HALL reported broken in half and going to pieces on Sable Island, crew being rescued by Naval Craft. Catalina 9739 5 BR Squadron while on harbour entrance patrol attacked submarine in 43.45 N., 63.55 W. at 1745. Oil appeared on surface no wreckage seen. (A.O.C., E.A.C., 0259/9 to Air Min.)

PARTHIAN.

This is C.E.S.F.'s 2015/8 addressed Cominch and Opanav (begins): PARTHIAN departed Montauk 2015Z/8 for Gibraltar via 39.30N., 70.00 W., 40.30 N., 55.00 W., 41.10 N., 40.00W., 10.8 knots surface speed, submerged speed 1.8 knots. (Opanav, 0716/9 to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C., Admty.)

C.E.S.F.0716/9th. Total R.C.A.F. bombing restriction arranged 20 miles either side of route and 100 miles ahead and astern of estimated position. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2135Z/9 to PARTHIAN).

U/B.

D/F bearings at 0130Z placed U-Boat within 100 miles of 008° 30' N., 052° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q., 0840Z/9 to Admiralty, etc.)

/Movements ...



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Movements. Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 9/3.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
PARTHIAN	40° N. 66° W.	085°	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
MANCHESTER	33° N. 66° W.	128°	23
CANTON	}	Patrol	Blank
PRETORIA CASTLE		04° N. 21° W.	
WARSPITE	37° S. 128° E.	258°	14
BUNGAREE	38° S. 165° E.	085°	12 $\frac{1}{2}$

(D.O.D. (F) 0935Z/9 to Opnav, (R) Spenavo)

DESPATCH,  
SHROPSHIRE.

C. in C. S.A's 1551/8. U.S. authorities agree to retention of DESPATCH assuming SHROPSHIRE will be arriving Freetown about 3rd or 4/4.  
(B.A.D., 1035Q/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C.S.A., etc)

HOEGH  
SILVERCLOUD  
U/B.

Received 2005Z/9 SSS 37.47 N., 72.10 W. HOEGH SILVERCLOUD sighted submarine.  
(Ottawa, T.H.I., 1036P/9 to Admty.)

FURIOUS.

Ref. Admty. 1530/7 and my 1748/3 request early information of arrangements made for shipment of personnel, stores equipment etc. of Squadron 835 to Norfolk (Virg.) for FURIOUS and date they are expected to arrive.  
(B.A.R.M., 1100Q/9 to R.N.A.S. Kingston)

Bermuda  
Harbour Gap.

Admty., 1122A/3 and my 1052P/7. With provision of a dumb water lighter next year and assuming that ST. BLAZEY, SANDBOY, FREEBOOTER (Due June 1942) and ROODE ZEE as Rescue Tug are then available at Bermuda, position will be satisfactory.

(2) Request information whether FREEBOOTER will be manned by Naval Crew and whether fitted for target towing.  
(3) In view of retention of ROODE ZEE, Tug BARWICK will not now be required at Bermuda. Suggest she should proceed to her eventual destination which is understood to be Middle East.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1102P/9 to Admty., (R) Cdre. i/c Bermuda).

Anzac Area  
Command.

No. 111. Ref. W.108 and W.109. We are in difficulty regarding Australia and New Zealand proposal that Naval Commanders in Anzac Area should come under Supreme Commander and not under

Cominch. Please see also D. of B.A.D. Washington 1947Q/26th.

(ii) We appreciate that by thus gaining unity of Command in Anzac Area this proposal loses unity of Naval Command in Pacific area generally. Our efforts up to the present have been directed towards establishing this unity of Naval Command and therefore consider Australia and New Zealand proposal would be a retrograde one. Such proposal entails apportioning additional Naval unit(s) permanently to area and as previously remarked, Cominch will firstly be opposed to this and secondly will lose interest in new Command if established.

(iii) Would you confirm your comment to para. 4 of W.108. We observe you make no comment regarding para. 8 which also deals with Naval Commander being subordinated to Supreme Commander.  
(J.S.M., 1109Q/9 to Chiefs of Staff).

/UNIWALECO ...



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

UNIWALECO.

UNIWALECO sunk by submarine noon 7th in position true course East bearing off North Point of St. Vincent 93° about 20 miles distance. Master's books and books in wireless office thrown overboard in weighted bags and sunk beyond recovery. Information from Master.  
(Treasurer (St. Vincent), 1145/9 to Admty.)

CARADOC.

My 1332/26 and your 1814/27. As Plymouth is destination and in view of recent report of ice conditions in vicinity of Halifax and Newfoundland propose following programme for CARADOC. Leave Norfolk (Virginia) p.m. 21/3 Bermuda, a.m. 23/3 - a.m. 24/3 Ponta Delgada a.m. 29/3 - p.m. 29/3 Plymouth arrive approx. 1/4.  
This will involve refuelling at Ponta Delgada with about 600 tons on Sunday 29/3.  
(B.A.R.M., 1210Q/9 to Admty.)

EDINBURGH.

Admty. 1158A/8. Area Iceland (C) add EDINBURGH. Remainder no change.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1211A/9 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet)

U/B.

D/F Bearings at 0020Z/9 and 0052Z/9 indicate S/M within 60 miles 44° N., 63° 30' W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1355Z/9 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)

Fishing  
Vessels.

Your 1151A/3. All Japanese fishing boats are going back to fishing operated by Canadians. Understand Ministry of Food view with great concern reduction of present fleet as all fish is destined for U.K. However, about 20 vessels of 38 feet by 8 feet could be made available for shipment as freight to destination accepting subsequent loss of food production. These vessels are those referred to in Canad 1205 from B.A.T.M.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1448Z/9 to C.C.C.S., (R) Admty.)

MEROPE.

My 1521R/6 graded B. Ship still delayed. Will be escorted by Mexican gunboat, DURANGO as far as Puerto Mexico in order ensure delivery crude oil cargo.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1541R/9 to C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

U/B  
Situation.

9/3 S/M estimates. Part 1. 1 S/M sighted 43.48 N. 63.55 W. 1755Z/8 5 within 150 miles of 36° N. 64° W. 36° N. 51° W. 40° N. 38° W. 46° N. 45° W. 52° N. 39° W. 3 along Coast from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod. About 8 in Area North of 38° N. from 50° to 70° W.



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.U/B.  
Situation.  
(contd.)

Part 2. 1 Sighted 11.49 N. 63.09 W. 2215Z/8.  
1 South of Santo Domingo or in Mona Passage.  
1 other in Carribean Sea unlocated. Possibly 1  
in Florida Straits Area. 1 by D/F within 100  
miles of 07° N. 53.30 W. 0129Z/9. 3 within 150  
miles of 25° N. 65° W. 22.30 N. 61.30 W. 31° N.  
45° W. 3 or 4 Rockall Area. 1 S.E. of Iceland.  
Possibly 2 West of Gibraltar. 1 Canary Islands-  
Madeira Area. 2 probably Italians within 400 miles  
S.W. Monrovia. 1 South of Cape Palmas.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1548/9 to C. in C. A.F.  
(U.S.) (R) Various).

INDEPENDENCE  
HALL,  
(torpedoed).

Survivors from S.S. INDEPENDENCE HALL arrived  
Halifax in WITCH. 10 lost including master and  
1st and 2nd Officers. Ship aground and broken  
in two on west bar of Sable Island. Rescue  
effected by WITCH and NIAGARA, CHEDABUCTO and  
LUNENBURG assisted by A/C from Eastern Air  
Command. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1556Z/9 to N.S.H.Q.  
Ottawa, Opanav, Admty., (R) F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24.)

Guatemala.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 111.  
Ref. No. 47 from Guatemala to F.O. (R)  
Washington. Local situation disclosed is most  
disquieting if report reliable. Suggest you  
discuss with American Authorities.  
(1st Sea Lord, 1630A/9 to B.A.D.)

EMPIRE IBEX  
Acoustic  
Warning.

Pass to D.E.M.S. New York. Understood U.S. Naval  
Authorities interested in Acoustic Warning  
Device. This has been fitted to S.S. EMPIRE IBEX  
(British) proceeding to New York.  
(D.T.D., 1647A/9 to B.A.D.)

Movements.

Arrival QUINTE, NIAGARA, LUNENBURG, CHEDABUCTO,  
WITCH from St. Johns.  
Departure VERITY, ST. CLAIR, HALIFAX, CLAYOQUOT,  
CHARLOTTETOWN, CALGARY, Western local escort,  
H.X.179. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1703Z/9 to Admty.,  
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.,  
A.C.I.C.)

U/B.

O.N.71 serial 11. U-Boat transmission indicates  
you are still being followed.  
(Opanav, 1712/9 to C.T.U. 24.1.18 (R) C.O.A.C.  
Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty., C.T.F.24,  
C.C.N.F., C. in C. A.F., C. in C. A.W.I.)

NORSEMAN.

Arrival 9/3 cable ship NORSEMAN.  
(R.N.O. St. Thomas, 1714/9 to Admty.)



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.MAMURA,  
EUREKA.

Have you any news of Dutch MAMURA due Halifax 4/3 from Houston, and Panamanian EUREKA due Norfolk, Va. 5/3 from Bermuda.  
(D.T.D., 1714A/9 to D.N.I., Ottawa)  
Reply: 2127/11.

ILEX.

Sailed ILEX through position (A) 011° 30' N., 061° 50' W. (B) 015° 00' N., 065° 35' W. (C) 017° 30' N., 067° 45' W. (0800Z/11) thence Charleston by direct route via Mona passage. E.T.A. No.2 C Buoy 1200Z/14.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1732Q/9 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., etc.)

AUSONIA.

Your 1032/3. Cominch has agreed to release AUSONIA whenever she is required for conversion.  
(B.A.D., 1841Q/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I.)

ORION.

This is C.W.S.F. 1920/2 passed for Info to Cinclant, C. in C. Pacific, Comd. R.N. all sea frontiers, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. A.W.I., Admty., by Cominch. Opanv and B.A.D. informed.  
(Begins). Following routeing for ORION to Panama. Point Line 205° 307 miles from W. (2) Point Hawser 259° 195 miles from W.11. Point Spring, 047° 385 miles from X.29. Point Fender, 20° 103 miles from W.21, thence through 08° N. 79° 30' W. on course N. to Balboa. Inform vessel that submarine patrol is maintained in 93° W. between latitudes 3 and sea 7 N. (Ends).  
This is Com 11's 2359/7 sent to same addressees for Info by Cominch (Begins). ORION departs San Diego 1900T/7/3. E.T.A. Balboa 1900Z/15/3. (Ends). *Perk List-station see L) 11/3 -*  
(Opanv, 1850/9 to Adty.)

War Direction. No. 112.  
Pacific War Council.  
Anzac Area.

Your (W) 108 para. 9.  
U.S. Chiefs of Staff have just informed us that question of co-ordination of strategic direction of war by U.K. and the U.S. has been considered by President who is communicating his views to Prime Minister, and that pending further instructions from President of the U.S. Chiefs of Staff are unable to give any definite reply on Australia and New Zealand proposals for Anzac Area contained in your Chiefs of Staff (W) 108.  
(2) It is clear to us that great divergence of views exist between members of U.S. Chiefs of Staff on this subject. For this reason they cannot yet give us a clear answer and therefore prefer to give no answer at all.  
(3) Perhaps owing to fact that U.S.A. is not represented on Pacific War Council we find an ill concealed impatience exhibited by U.S. Chiefs of Staff to any of its opinions or activities.  
(J.S.M., 1855Q/9 to Chiefs of Staff).

J.S.M. No. 113. (i) Adm.King, when discussing future of Anzac Area, suggested he was being asked to "sign on dotted line" because British Chiefs of Staff had already agreed that mainland of Australia would be included in Anzac are. He apparently got this from a message addressed by Mr. Curtin to Prime Minister,

/which ...



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. contd.-

- War Direction. which President had communicated to U.S. Chiefs of Pacific War Staff, but we have not seen.  
Council. (ii) We understood from your W.99 that you were in Anzac Area. general agreement with proposals to include whole (contd.) of Australia in modified Abda Area. We presume from para. 4 of your W.108 that, the Abda Area having largely disappeared, you are now in favour of Australia being included in Anzac area which will take over remains of old Abda Area. What we should like to know is whether, as suggested by King, you have already recommended this directly to Australia and New Zealand Govt. (J.S.M., 1901Q/9 to Chiefs of Staff).
- SOMME. My 1316P/20/2. SOMME has not arrived Bermuda and must be presumed lost. Lieut. Roberts has therefore been sent Paramaribo via Trinidad and Jamaica. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1856P/9 to Admty.)
- Washops 73. Bataan. on 8/3 U.S. forward artillery surprised an infantry detachment of 2500 men and destroyed 29 out of 90 trucks in which they were being transported.
- Mindanao. Several sharp clashes at Digoson, the West Coast, Davao Gulf.  
Gen. Yoki Yamashita former C. in C. in Malaya has now assumed command. (J.S.M., 1905Q/9 to Admty., etc.)
- C.A.M. Ships. Your 2046A/6. Request information whether list of C.A.M. vessels dated 9/12/1941 received in N.S.H.Q. from Trade Div. (D.E.M.S.) is complete to date and whether this list is to form the basis for embarking aircraft in ships sailing in O.N. convoy after 14/3. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1928Z/9 to Admty.,) Reply 1445/11
- Busra  
Routeing  
Agreement. Your 1923Q/8. Para. 1 Concur.  
Para. 2 Concur as an immediate measure. It will be appreciated however that time lag in receipt of intelligence makes it difficult for Admiralty to initiate successful diversion of ships dispersed from O.N. Convoys. Some method of overcoming the signalling difficulty is still therefore required and proposals for this will be forwarded shortly. (A.C.N.S.(T), 2020A/9 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- Movements. DIOMEDE left Recife 8th through 08° 40' S., 06° 40' W., 22° S., 035° W., 40° S. 50° W. arrive Montevideo 16th. U.S. Cr. CINCINNATI and U.S. Dr. DAVIS position 11° 34' N., 59° 09' W. 0400Z/9th (?Jamaica) thence Trinidad. U.S. Dr. SOMERS with Oiler PATOKA from San Juan 8th arrives Trinidad 11th. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 2110/9 to Admty., etc.)

/Caribbean ...



War Diary.

9.3.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Caribbean  
Shipping  
protection.

Direct routing officer in sending ships to exposed (corrupt group) ports in Caribbean Sea area to arrange their arrival when possible so that minimum time at anchoring off these ports will be required. Arrange for anchorage in more protected harbour when available for ships whilst waiting. San Pedro de Macoris and Bergantin are examples of the type of Port referred to. (Opnav, 2130/9 to C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.P.S.F., C.C.S.F.)

British  
Guiana.

Re provision of white company for protection Bauxite plant. (W.O., 2230/9 to J.S.M. Washington).

MARORE  
(torpedoed  
26/2.)

MARORE (U.S.) torpedoed and sunk 1600Z/26/2 in 35.36 N., 75.15 W. en route to Colon to Baltimore. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2312Z/9 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I. Opnav, C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Ships  
torpedoed at  
St. Lucia.

LADY NELSON and UMTATA torpedoed Visby Wharf 1040, ships upright alongside wharf. (R.N.O., S.O.I. St. Lucia, 2339Q/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.I.C. Trinidad, Govr. Grenada). My 2230Q/9. Time ship torpedoed 2240. (R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1035Q/11).

DIALA,  
EMPIRE CELT.

My 1507Z/6 (N.T. in W.D.) ST. LOMAN was delayed by defect and is proceeding on 10th to assist and provide escort for FRISKY and DIALA. FOUNDATION FRANKLIN now in H.K.179 has orders to detach to Salvage EMPIRE CELT vide A.M.1345A/5. FOUNDATION FRANKLIN will then proceed to assistance DIALA and FRISKY. Assume PRUDENT must now return St. Johns for fuel. Request confirmation no objection to this employment of ST. LOMAN. (F.O.N.F., 2345Z/9 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

MELPOMENE

All the crew of 49 from British M/V MELPOMENE (Torpedoed 6/3) landed here today by U.S. ship IDAHO.  
2. Ship torpedoed in 023° 39' N., 063° 35' W. at 0110 G.M.T. 6/3.  
3. Capt. Henney declares all C.B. and documents thrown overboard by second radio officer in weighted box. Depth of water over 1000 fathoms.  
4. Capt. request British Tanker Co. be informed. (R.O. San Juan, P.R., 2358/9 to Admty.)



War Diary.9.3.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

- WARSPITE. My 0936/7. WARSPITE arrives 004° 40' S., 082° 25' E. at 0200Z/19. Requirements on arrival Trincomalee 2700 tons oil fuel. (A.C.N.B., 0142Z/9 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. E.I., WARSPITE). *See p. 292.*
- Nandi A/S Defences. My 1438Z/3 part 3 and 2318Z/4. Following A/S defences recommended at Nandi (Admty. Chart No. 845) (Details). (A.C.N.B., 0930Z/9 to B.A.D. (R) N.Z.N.B., Admty., N.O.I.C. Fiji). See Lion Copy.
- Fate of Singapore Auxiliary Fleet. The following analysis shows the fate of Auxiliary Warships which are known to have left Singapore on and after 10/2/1942. (A) Arrived Batavia. PANGKOR, PING WO, BULAN, FRANCOL, SCOTT HARLEY, JERAM, SIN AIK LEE, M.L.1063 WO KWANG, M.M.S.51. GEMAS and RAHMAN subsequently scuttled and WAR SIRDAR lost on reef N.W. of Batavia on 1/3. (B) From accounts of survivors and other evidence it appears that the following were destroyed as a result of enemy action KUALA, DRAGONFLY, GRASSHOPPER, PANGLIMA, ST. JUST, ST. BREOCK, JERANTUT, KLIAS, TAPAH, MALACCA, HUA TONG, SCORPION, VYNER BROOKE, 1 M.M.S., M.L.1096 and 1097, 3 72 foot M.L.'s, 1 Fairmile. (C) No definite information yet available regarding PINANG, SOEGI, SHU KWANG, TIEN KWANG, LI WO, MIANG WO, \*MATA HARI, GIANG BEE, JERAK, TRANG, CHANGTEH. (N.O.I.C. Fremantle, 0958Z/9 to C. in C. E.F., (R) A.C.N.B., Admty.)  
*\* See 28/2 - p. 1012 -*
- Situation. Serial number 47 from C.W.R. 8/3. (i) Air R/C 8/3 reveals (a) Rabaul Harbour, no warships, 3 transports moving, one large transport entering harbour. (b) Gasmata, no shipping in harbour. 4 cruisers 2 large and 2 small transports in 006° 35' S. 150° 55' E. at 0225Z/8 course (? 060°) speed 15 knots. (c) Lae, 11 ships reported in harbour at 2300Z/7, enemy landings being effected. (d) Salamoia, 4 destroyers, 3 large and 2 small transports in harbour between 0135Z/8 and 0505Z/8 with indication transports were arriving and departing during period. Enemy fighter encountered over Rabaul and near Gasmata. (ii) Lae and Salamoia both shelled from seaward prior to enemy landings 8/3. (iii) Air attack. (a) One Hudson dropped 4 bombs on enemy transports at Salamoia at 0135Z/8, no hits, light A/A fire encountered. (b) One Hudson dropped 8 bombs on 8000 ton transport Salamoia at 0425Z/8. Hits scored on fore-castle. Tracer bullets from shore encountered one float plane attempted interception. Air raid reported on Tulagi 2320Z/7 to 0051Z/8, no damage reported. (iv) Ref. air raid Port Moresby 7/3 white balloons released before bombs fell. (v) Freighter SIANTAR shelled and sunk en route Java Fremantle in position 021° 20' S. 108° 45' E. at 2130Z/2. Crew machine gunned survivors rescue vessel VAN SPILBERGEN. (vi) Master of SIANTAR reports vessel MODJOKERTO sunk in

/position ...



**MOST SECRET**

0950Z/9th March.

**MOST SECRET****MESSAGE**

IN

From A.C.N.B.

Date 10.3.41.  
Recd. 0010Naval Cypher C. by Cable.Addressed B.A.D. Washington, Rept. N.Z.N.B., Admiralty,  
N.O.I.C. Fiji.AIDAC.

329 My 1438Z/3 Part 3 and 2318Z/4.

Following A/S defences recommended at Nandi  
(Admy. Chart Number 845) Part One.

To be implemented as early as practicable

- (a) Indicator loops. Numbers one to three in sequence from South East to North West on line Yako village to reef South Eastwards of Malolo Lailai. Western end of number 3 loop to pass southward Rock shown on chart. Number 6. Lovuka Island to Tivoa Island. Number 7. Pasco Cay to bay Westward Oundru Village.
- (b) Mine field in passages between Malolo Lailai and Lovuka Island approximate total length  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles S. mines at periscope depth density 304 repetition 304 per mile. Mine field now being laid in Malolo Passage and southward of Malolo Island should be strengthened to this figure. Antenna mines recommended if available.
- (c) Harbour defences asdic. A. 1 mile South Turtle Rock. B. Two miles E.S.E. Vatu Mbulo Island. E.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles South from Tivoa Island. (d) Control Station. Number one main station controlling loops 4 to 7 and H.D.A's C. to E inclusive. On Western slope of hill in north Ndreketi river latter would be land site for cable. Number 2 auxiliary station controlling loops one to three and H.D.A's A. and B. on western slope of double hill. Both stations to be fitted with R/T communication to A/S patrol vessels and direct telephone link. (e) A/S patrol vessels. 10 motor A/S boats for patrol and striking force duty. (f) Radar suitable for detecting small surface target on Malolo Island.

Part Two. To be implemented at a later stage.

- (g) Indicator loops. Number 4. Vatu Mbulo Island to Navini Island. Number 5. Navini Island to Lovuka Island.

(h) Additional minefields Number 10 in passage to seaward Number 6 loop length 4.2 miles. Number 20 half mile to seaward Numbers 2 and 3 loop.

- (i) 5 additional motor A/S boats. (j) Harbour defence Asdic. C. One mile S.S.W. Mala Mala Island. E. One mile West from Vuni Vandra. (k) If additional protection is considered necessary propose either (l) Anti-Torpedo net in two sections 240 degrees for



- 2 -

3.5 miles from Vunda Point and 360 degrees from Iakuilau Island for 2.5 miles, or (2) Anti-Torpedo close protection. Latter is preferred in view of danger of Air borne torpedo attacks.

0930Z/9.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

Vice Controller

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (W)

Civil Lord

Sec.

Civil Lord

N.A. 1st S.L.

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

P.A.S. (S)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of L.D. (3)

(P.D. 0762/42)

D.A/S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

E.P.

D.C. (2)

D. of P. (2)

Hydrog.

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.B.D.

Admiral Bellairs

D.T.D. (2)

N.I.D. 10

D.D.O.D. (M)

D.G.D.

E. in C.

Dep. Contr. )

E. in C. (FMB) ) Bath

D.A/S.W. )

.d.



War Diary.

9.3.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation.  
(contd.)

position 012° 30' S., 106° E. on 1/3.  
(vii) Enemy reported to have erected fortifications on Watom Island and Massikonotuka Island (off entrance to Rabaul.  
(A.C.N.B., 1144Z/9 to Admty., etc.)

SIANTAR  
(torpedoed  
2/3).

Dutch Motor Vessel SIANTAR (8667 G.T.) sank 2130Z/2 in 21° 20' S., 108° 45' E. after having been shelled and torpedoed by enemy submarine. Crew were machine gunned when getting into boats. 21 killed. Survivors rescued by VAN SPILBERGEN, which arrived Geraldton 8/3.  
(A.C.N.B., 2358Z/9 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1435A/9, 1437A/9).



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.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, with DUKE OF YORK RENOWN, VICTORIOUS, BERWICK and 10 Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 2334A today from the operations against TIRPITZ.

→ F.O.S. considers that TIRPITZ may now enter the approaches to Trondheim at any time, though most probably about dawn; and he has accordingly ordered S/M's on patrol there to keep as closely as possible in their respective patrol positions this afternoon and, if forced to withdraw, to try to regain them by 0400 tomorrow.

At dusk last night 2 M.L's were sent from Dover to lay Mines in the inner shipping route off Gravelines, while 6 M.T.B's, 3 M.G.B's, and some flare-dropping A/C were held in readiness to attack a large enemy M/V expected to be about to leave Boulogne to the eastward. At 2020, when R.D.F. plotted a movement from Boulogne, the striking forces were despatched from Dover. 4 enemy small craft about 6 miles S.E. of Dungeness were fired at by our Coastal Batteries at about 2200; and at 0200 this morning M.T.B's 219 and 44 were sent from Dover to attack a large enemy Convoy of some 20 vessels leaving Boulogne with one large M/V. The M.T.B's however were only able to sight the escorting vessels and they finally withdrew.

At 1015A today <sup>ADMIRAL</sup> SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN were seen in Lofjord off Trondheim, and TIRPITZ was not → then in Aasfiord.

A force of M.L's left Dartmouth at 2014 this evening to carry out a sweep in the Western Channel area.

It is reported today that the British HENGIST, 984 tons, was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat in 59° 34' N., 10° 8' W. at 1730/8. 2 of her crew were killed, one died in the boat, and 26 survivors picked up by the S.S. GROENLAND at 1800/9 were brought by her into Loch Ewe at 1440A today.

A U-Boat sighted on the surface at 1207A today in 65° 18' N., 13° 10' W. off Seidisfiord is being searched for by a/c and 4 Destroyers.

No weather report has been received from Jan Mayen since 27th February and it is thought that this may be the result of enemy action. Admt'y. has therefore today asked H.Q.C.C. to arrange for a very early R/C of the island with a view to its subsequent investigation by a Patrol Vessel from Iceland.



10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

A mine-laying operation by M.L's last night off the Hook could not be carried out, the M.L's having been sighted and challenged and not being sure of their positions.

One Magnetic Mine was exploded by Sweepers today off the Tyne and 2 more off Harwich; and enemy A/C suspected to be minelaying were engaged by ships in the Thames Estuary between 1950 and 2015 last night.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Air  
Activity.

LOCH OSKAIG was bombed by enemy A/C (presumed Focke Wulf) at 1930A in 41.07 N., 8.46 W. apparently no damage.

Portuguese Trawler CABO SAN VICENTE was sunk by A/C about 20 miles N.W. of Cape Roca at about the same time, presumably in mistake for a patrol vessel.

At 1300 a Heinkel 111 flew over Gibraltar at 26,000 ft. and was engaged by A/A guns, departing N.N.E. over Spain.

South Atlantic.

Vichy  
Convoy.

A Vichy convoy of (?6) ships and 1 escort vessel bound for the Ivory Coast, was spoken by LONDONDERRY at 0230 G.M.T. in 13.37 N., 17.40 W. and observed again by aircraft on A/S patrol at 1618 in 12.01 N., 18.6 W. A/C approached to within 300 yards of escort vessel, which took no hostile action.



War Diary.

10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. 4 enemy M/V's and 5 destroyers were reported at 1700B in 38.42 N., 18.14 E. steering 350° at 12 knots.

A large ship was reported being towed between Pantellaria and Trapani and estimated to arrive at the latter about 2300B. URGE was informed it was well worth compromising route if encountered.

Malta. Intruder raids continued last night by 20 aircraft. At Luqa delayed action bombs damaged 2 Beaufighters.

In today's raids, by about 39 aircraft Hal Far was again the chief target. A naval officer and 2 soldiers were wounded, officers' mess and quarters damaged. No damage or casualties at Luqa. Numerous craters were reported at both aerodromes.

Attacks on Enemy Shipping. During last night, 2 A.S.V. Wellingtons shadowed and illuminated the enemy convoy reported yesterday for 16 bomber and 3 torpedo Wellingtons. 2 bomber and 1 torpedo Wellingtons only located the convoy, about 200 miles N.N.W. of Benghazi, and 1 possible hit was scored by the former, the torpedo Wellington not attacking owing to bad visibility.

3 Naval Albacores obtained a probable hit on an M/V of 8,000 tons, with destroyer escort, N.N.W. of Pantellaria.

Libya. 7 Wellingtons bombed their alternative target at Benghazi and obtained 1 possible hit on a ship.

Alexandria. Last night about 10 aircraft operated over Daba Area, east of Fuka and 1 dropped bombs between Alexandria and Amiriya. (15 miles S.S.W. of Alexandria).



War Diary.

10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

C. in C. E.F. states he is completely in the dark in regard to American movements and intentions in the Pacific and Anzac Areas. As the Americans have no intelligence officers at their air stations there is no organised interrogation of pilots. It is vital that this situation should be improved as one day concerted action will be required.

Minefields.

On the completion of the controlled minefield at Grand Port, Mauritius, MANCHESTER CITY and JAY are to sail for New Zealand.

→ EXETER,  
PERTH.

From further investigation by C. in C. E.F., it appears that EXETER at 0235Z/1 reported 3 cruisers in 05.00 S., 111° E. Since it is known that EXETER's speed was limited to 16 knots it is feared she must have been overwhelmed by this force.

PERTH at 1541Z/28 in 05.45 S., 106.13 E. reported sighting 1 cruiser, and other signals indicate more than one. Dutch destroyer EVERTSEN reports seeing an engagement off Nicholas Point at 1555Z/28. It is feared PERTH and possibly other ships may have been sunk in this action.

China.

Java Sea  
Action.

C.C.C.F. forwards a brief account of the action in East Java Sea on 27/2, based on a report from PERTH and accounts of survivors from JUPITER.

→ The Allied Eastern Striking Force (formed at Sourabaya on 26/2) under Adm. Doorman in DE RUYTER, included 5 cruisers, DE RUYTER and JAVA (Dutch), EXETER and PERTH (British), and HOUSTON (U.S.A.) screened by destroyers ELECTRA, JUPITER and ENCOUNTER and followed by 2 Dutch and 4 U.S. Destroyers.

The enemy force included 2 Nachi Class cruisers (8"), preceded by 2 Sendai Class (5.5") and 13 destroyers in 2 groups.



10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

MANCHESTER left Bermuda for U.K., (after refit in U.S.A.)

St. Lucia.

Both LADY NELSON and UMTATA are completely immobilised as a result of the torpedo attack on them alongside Visby Wharf, Castries Harbour, yesterday.

C. in C. A.W.I. suggests some form of boom defence.

Floating Dock. Admty. concur in allocating to U.S. Navy the 3,000 ton floating dock originally intended for Freetown. A wooden dock is to be adapted for service at Freetown instead.

Australia.

All A/S and M/S auxiliary craft, including those from Singapore, are to be formed into A/S hunting groups, each not less than 4 ships.

Port Moresby aerodrome was raided by 7 heavy bombers at 0200Z and 20 bombs dropped on the runway 3 enemy aircraft bombed and machine gunned Lorenjan, Manus Island, at 0130Z without casualties or damage.

Enemy shipping in Salamoia Harbour was attacked by 8 U.S. flying fortresses at 0155Z. 6 transports were claimed hit, 4 observed burning, 1 beached and 1 sinking.

One Hudson attacked a destroyer and transport in Hanisch Harbour and obtained 2 near misses, shortly before midnight last night.

Another Hudson bombed Salamoia Aerodrome at 0720Z this morning.



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

C.S.18 My 1027A/6. On assumption that EDINBURGH will return to Scapa on completion of patrol intend to proceed with staff to Scapa in ONSLOW and accompanying destroyer leaving Seidisfiord about 1500A today.  
(F.O.18th C.S., 1127A/10)

Jan Mayen. No meteorological report has been received from Jan Mayen since 27th February. It is possible this may be as a result of enemy action. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange for air R/C with particular regard to ice conditions at Jan Mayen at a very early date and if result of air R/C is favourable A.C.I.C. is requested to arrange for NAMSOS or some similar vessel to proceed to Jan Mayen to land and investigate.  
(V.C.N.S., 1931A/10 to A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Movements.

H.33.,  
H.43. Your 1236A/8. Arrived <sup>Rothsay</sup> H.33., H.43, and LEAMINGTON.  
(Capt. S.7., 0829A/10 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

RUBIS. Expect to arrive (?Buddon) 1529.  
(RUBIS, 1010A/10 to Capt. S.9)

DERBYSHIRE. Cancel my 1556A/9 and my 0954A/10. <sup>MT. in N.2</sup> Intend sailing DERBYSHIRE for Milford Haven to await onward escort for Portsmouth, pass Clyde Boom at 1900/10. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1630/11.  
(ii) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail DERBYSHIRE for Portsmouth with escorts provided by C. in C. Plymouth to arrive end of Q.Z.S. 169 at 0700/14.  
(iii) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation.  
(S.O.W.P., 1210A/10).  
Sailed DERBYSHIRE in accordance with S.O.W.P. 1210A/10.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1938A/10).

SHROPSHIRE. A.M.1615A/3. Request SHROPSHIRE be sailed to arrive Clyde a.m.20th March to embark passengers.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1225A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

DAUNTLESS. Sailed 1435 DAUNTLESS for onward routeing to Simonstown. E.T.A. 0630A/14.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1524A/10).

P.211.  
H.50. P.211 escorted by CUTTY SARK sailed Liverpool 1430A/10 for Holy Loch. H.50 escorted by LEAMINGTON sailed Rothsay 1900A/10 for Londonderry  
(C. in C. W.A., 1544A/10)  
My 1742A/6. Sailed H.50 escorted by LEAMINGTON.  
(Capt. S.7., 1906A/10)



10.3.1942  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

20th and 28th M.L. Flotillas. A.M.1336A/28/2. Request you order M.Ls. of 20th and 28th Flotillas to assemble at Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1855A/10 to R.A. C.F.)

HARTLAND. My P.C.S. 044° 54' N., 21° 57' W, 220° 6 knots. (HARTLAND, 2001Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

ILLUSTRIOUS, SHERWOOD. C. in C. W.A. 1714/10. Join me soon as possible after 0800 between Lamdash and Ailsa Craig. (ILLUSTRIOUS, 2320A/10 to SHERWOOD).

Operations.

TIRPITZ and Convoy P.Q.12 JAVELIN, INCONSTANT, LEDBURY, GROVE, WOOLSTON, VERDUN, WELLS and LANCASTER are to R/V with C. in C. H.F. in 63° 35' N., 05° W. at 0800A/10th C. in C. will be steering 198° in approaching this position. (A.C.N.S. (H.), 0030A/10).

- Take KENT under your orders and return to Hvalfiord at 20 knots. (D.O.D. (H.), 0309A/10 to C.S.1)
- Take TRINIDAD and any H.F. destroyers in company under your orders and return to Scapa at 20 knots passing through 63° 35' N., 5° W. Destroyers not addressed in my 0030A/10 proceed independently through position B to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H.), 0310A/10 to LIVERPOOL)
- Arrived Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW, and ASHANTI 0845A. Arrived ECHO and ECLIPSE 0945A. (Sind...)
- (C.S.18., 0955A/10)
- F.O.C. 1st C.S. in LONDON with KENT passing through Denmark Straits. E.T.A. Hvalfiord 1300A/11. (A.C.I.C., 1055A/10 to QUINCY).
- SAN ZOTICO oil remaining 7,000 tons. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1115A/10).
- Dive by day when north of 063° 30' N., (F.O.S., 1117A/10 to UREDD)
- TIRPITZ may enter approaches to Trondheim at any time but it is appreciated that she is most likely to do so about dawn. If forced to withdraw by A/S measures submarines should endeavour to regain their patrol positions by 0400. (F.O.S., 1126A/10 to S/Ms Area A).
- Expect to arrive in LONDON at 1215Z/11. KENT in company. Intend to fly off aircraft, Walrus alighting Hvalfiord about 1300Z. (C.S.1., 1126A/10 to A.C.I.C.)
- Admiralty 0310A/10. Destroyer proceed at best speed. (C. in C. H.F., 1209/10).
- Be as close as possible to your patrol position p.m. today. (F.O.S., 1246A/10 to S/Ms Area A).

/Following...



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.TIRPITZ  
and  
Convoy  
P.Q.12  
Contd.

Following information obtained from Norwegian authorities. Probable track of TIRPITZ from Narvik to Trondheim. Down Vestfiorden and into leads just north of Landegode (67° 25' N., 14° 20' E). She may come out at Kversteinfiord (65° 28' N., 11° 40' E). but if not must come out at Hortensfiord.

(65° 12' N., 11° 37' E) and can pass east and south of Sklinden (65° 13' N., 11° E), thence outside keeping close to the coast inside Kya (64° 28' N., 10° 13' E) Lighthouse. Thence to Fro Havet.

(A.C.N.S.(H.), 1255A/10 to F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C.)

In order that it may be ascertained whether the co-operation between Admiralty and C. in C. H.F. was as complete as possible in the recent operation for the protection of the P.Q. convoy request you will forward the following information as early as possible.

(a) Tracing showing track of K.G.V. and also of other heavy units and VICTORIOUS if not in company with K.G.V.

(b) Reasons for the various movements in (a)

(c) Copies of all signals received from the Admiralty and what action if any was taken as the result of each signal.

(d) Copies of any signals from sources other than the Admiralty and whether they affected your movements.

(e) Visibility and weather conditions to be marked as necessary on the track in (a) above.

(f) Copies of all outgoing signals made by C. in C. H.F. during the operation and the wavelength they were made on.

(1st S.L., 1733A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

E.T.A. 0900A/11. Request Hoxa gate for LIVERPOOL and TRINIDAD at 0930 and Switha gate for PUNJABI and FURY at same time.

My P.C.S. at 1900A/10 were 062° 58' N., 005° 13' W., 171° 19 kts. (LIVERPOOL, 1943A/10 to A.C.O.S.)

Scapa arrivals C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, RENOWN, VICTORIOUS, BERWICK, INTREPID, TARTAR, JAVELIN, INCONSTANT, GROVE, LEDBURY, ESKIMO, ICARUS, BEDOUIN, FAULKOR.  
(A.C.O.S., 2334A/10 and 0727/11)

Operations in Air R/C of Boulogne yesterday showed a new Straits of Dover. arrival from the westward of one large merchant vessel together with four M class sweepers and nine armed trawlers which with 6 E/R boats present provided a potential escorting force of great strength.

Expecting the vessel to sail eastwards during the night the six M.T.Bs. and three M.G.Bs. available were held in readiness and planes included use of flare-dropping aircraft. In addition M.Ls. 102 and 103 were despatched at dusk to lay mines in inner route off Gravelines.

At 2020 R.D.F. plotted a movement from Boulogne and striking forces were despatched in two parts to wait at light buoys in mid strait. This movement was later considered to be by minesweepers only but in expectation that other vessels would follow striking forces were not recalled until 2320. They returned with M.T.Bs. 30, 70 and 220 having engine defects. Meanwhile about four small craft were plotted at 2045 passing Blanc Nez westwards at 45 knots to a position six miles southeast of Dungeness where they remained stopped for 1½ hours before returning northeastwards at 12 knots in mid channel.

/Coastal...



10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operations in Straits of Dover. Contd. Coastal batteries fired 18 rounds at them during their retirement and M.G.Bs. 322, 324, and 330 were despatched at 0124 to hasten their withdrawal but no contact was made. At 0200 R.D.F. reported a large convoy leaving Boulogne northeastwards at 9 knots and consisting of some twenty vessels the great majority being minesweepers or escorts. Available M.T.Bs. 219 and 44 were sent to attack the large vessel so formidably escorted and were supported by the M.G.Bs. already at sea. They were unable to sight other than escorting vessels and finally withdrew at 0530. Weather conditions did not permit aircraft assistance with flares nor has the enemy convoy been located from the air this morning. The plot showed that convoy used inner route, would have passed over the minefield laid some eight hours earlier, and been off Dunkirk at 0730.  
(V.A. Dover, 1123A/10).

Western Channel sweep. Intention. To carry out sweep in channel by available M.Ls. assisted weather permitting by A/C from 19 Group.  
(ii) Object. Destruction of any enemy vessel sighted. (iii) Execution. M.Ls. are to sail so as to pass Start Point not earlier than (?20)00/10 and proceed patrol near 154° Start Point 22 miles.  
(iv) If weather is suitable for flying M.Ls. are to remain in this vicinity until an enemy report is received from aircraft or an enemy is sighted. (v) If weather is not suitable for flying M.Ls. will be ordered to sweep to vicinity of Roches Duvres. (vi) M.Ls. are to return so as to pass through 090° Start Point 6 miles at 07(?10)/11.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1526A/10 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).  
Your 1526A/10. "Obstacle" sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2014/10 to C. in C. Plymouth).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 1751/9. A/C on patrol "Prowl" and "Prowler" from 2319/8th to 1742/9th reports visibility good except snow showers. Nothing sighted.  
Both patrols discontinued.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0015/10 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Patrol "Brass Monkey" 100% effective. Machine left patrol at 0240.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1003/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Escort...



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. - Contd.

Escort for H.F. Request maximum fighter escort for C. in C. H.F., in KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, RENOWN, and VICTORIOUS in company, passing through 63° 35' N. 05° W., at 0800A/10, course 198° S. of A 21 knots. (A.C.N.S. H., 0050A/10 to H.Q.C.C.)  
Your 1929/9. Expect fighter escort either Blenheims and/or Beaufighters from 0800. Sorties of 6 A/C in 2 sections of 3 each will be maintained till last light if possible. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0229/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

Air Protection of North Russian Convoys. My 1525C/2. Following organisation proposed in agreement with Russians. Details. (30 Mission, Moscow 1203C/9)  
See Lion Copy.

Bombing restrictions. Request surface bombing restrictions from 2000/10 to 0730/11 20 miles either side of line joining Start Point and 49° N., 3° W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1333A/10 to H.Q.C.C.)

Bombing operations. On night 9/10, 5 A/C attacked the docks at Boulogne and Ostend Docks and Den Helder were also attacked. (H.Q.B.C., 1700/10)

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C sighted. 1 UN AP in 59° 17' N., 4° 9' W. (C. in C. H.F., 2102A/10 to Scapa W/T)

Mining.

Tyne. Detonated one red ground magnetic mine 0805/10 in approx. 160° Tyne north pier light one cable. (N.O.I.C. North Shields 0911/10 and 1733/10)

Harwich. At 0029/10 one Red Mine and one Green Mine exploded by sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0914A/10 and 1142A/10).

Q.L.7. Q.L.7 not carried out. (1) Force unable to locate position owing to no buoys being lit and under estimate of tide. (2) Force was challenged twice off The Hook by white followed by one green flares. (3) Whilst approaching the coast shore searchlights were tipped in their direction. (4) An aircraft dropped a flare over them 3 miles off The Hook at 0200A/10. (5) Surface gunfire was observed to the N.E. at 1245A/9. (6) Heavy explosions were observed from Rotterdam, Dunkirk, Ostend.



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- Q.L.7. (7) Floating ice was encountered in 11 fathoms off  
Contd. the Dutch coast.  
(8) M.L. 106 was hampered through the night by  
faulty steering and her compass being out of  
adjustment.  
(9) It is considered that all the lighted buoys are controlled  
from the shore as buoy was relit when force was retiring.  
(BEEHIVE, 1121A/10 to Admty)  
(C. in C. Nore 1226A/10).
- N.L.51 A. Intend to carry out operation N.L.51 A tonight.  
(V.A. Dover, 1218A/10).
- PLOVER. Arrival PLOVER.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1529A/10).
- Thames Estuary. There was some enemy air activity over the  
estuaries during the early part of the night 9/10.  
March. Ships in Barrow Deep sighted and engaged  
planes flying at 5,000 - 6,000 ft. between 1950  
and 2015. Heavy explosion and flash reported at 2020 in East  
Swin area and at 2105 mid Black Deep area.  
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 1604/10).
- North Rona C. in C. H.F., 1842/3. (1) Request my 0935 of  
- Faeroes 3rd March 1941 proposing to surface mine whole  
Minefield. of this area be reconsidered.  
(2) It is not thought that such small minefields  
as can be laid by fast minelayer would have any  
value in this area though they would have effect of fouling  
the water for our ships for intermittent period even if fitted  
with flooders. Besides this it is considered the only suitable  
Anti-S/M material for the purpose is Mark (XXII) one star unit.  
(3) With reference to Admty. letter M.050644/24 of 28th Feb.  
1942 para. two. As area in question cannot be continuously and  
adequately patrolled it is not thought that deep mining is of  
much value.  
(R.A.M., 1619/10 to Admty).
- Operation (1) Intend sailing RUBIS escorted by LOCH MONT-  
F.D.37 EITH passing Bell Rock 1900A/12 inside East  
(RUBIS) coast mine barrier and routed as follows for F.D.  
37.  
(Capt. S.9., 1755A/10).
- Q.S. 2 Operation Q.S.2 carried out 9/10 March.  
Satisfactory search slightly to Southward of  
centre line. KELLETT lost one sweep possibly  
due to a static cutter. ALBURY'S starboard sweep fouled an  
unidentified Mine in approx. 52° 14' N., 3° 05½' E. which was  
dragged outside the area where sweep was cut.  
(KELLETT, 1907/10).



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/9 to 0900/10. From 2020 to 0300 between Boulogne and Gravelines several small vessels probably minesweeping.

Track E.6 D from off Calais at 2030 to position 6 miles S.E. of Dungeness thence returning to northeastward, and fading off Calais at 0330 speeds up to 45 knots. Probably E-boats, Track E.16 D convoy of one or two large vessels with about 15 minesweepers or escorts from Boulogne northeastwards at 0200 speed 9 knots. Faded off Gravelines at 0615. Probably included 420 foot M/V reported by P.R.U. in Boulogne during the day. M.T.Bs. sent to attack were only able to sight escorting craft. (V.A. Dover, 1122A/10).

ADMIRAL SCHEER, PRINZ EUGEN, TIRPITZ. Visual reconnaissance 1015A/10 shows SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN still in Lofjord. TIRPITZ not in Aasfiord. (D.D.I.C., 1536A/10).

U-Boats.

HENGIST (British, 984 tons) sunk on 8/3. GROENLAND returning to Loch Ewe with 26 survivors of HENGIST attacked by 2 S/Ms in 059° 34' N., 010° 08' W. 3 misses. (A.C.O.S., 0745/10). Your 0845A/10. GROENLAND with 26 survivors from HENGIST arrived. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1440A/10 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway). My 1440A/10. Master of HENGIST reports ship struck by two torpedoes at 1730/8 in 59° 34' N., 10° 8' W. Estimate one submarine. Ship sank in 10 minutes. 2 men killed and one died in boat. 26 survivors picked up by GROENLAND at 1800/9. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1532A/10 to Admty).

Off Iceland. Am over enemy S/M in 65° N., 13° 10' W. (A/C D. Sqdn. 1100A/10). Enemy previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C D. Sqn. Recd. 1251/10). S/M sighted on surface and seen to dive by A/C at 1207A in 065° 18' N., 013° 10' W. ASHANTI, ONSLOW, ECHO, ECLIPSE, and A/C now carrying out search. (Capt. C.18., 1407A/10).

North Russian waters. Admiralty appreciation is that U/B sighted 2235/8 may be patrolling with 1 or 2 others within 100 miles radius of Kola Inlet. (D.D.I.C., 1306A/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Dubh Artach  
Fog Signal.Greenock Area. Fog signal at Dubh Artach light-  
house is out of action.  
(N.L.B., Edinburgh, 1600/10. (Hydrog 1857A/10)No. 27  
Buoy  
(Aberdeen).N.L.B. Vessel reports No. 27 buoy extinguished.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1712/10 and Hydrog. 1830A/10)

Mew Light.

Q.Z.H.336: Mew Light Buoy damaged and  
extinguished.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1725A/10) (Hydrog, 2210A/10)Casualties & Defects.

NIGERIA.

Approved for NIGERIA to go to 12 hours notice  
to make good defects.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 0737A/10 to C.S.10).SHEFFIELD  
(Damaged  
4/3).Ship will be made seaworthy by securing a timber  
shield over hole and by internal shoring and  
staying. Tug RESTIVE has been returned to base  
but (?assistant) fleet salvage officer remains  
to advise and direct work. Tentative expected  
date of completion if weather is reasonable 17th March. Ship  
should then be able to steam about 10 knots. "Y" turret will be  
immobilized during passage.  
(SHEFFIELD, 1501A/10)

DEVON CITY.

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1244A/9. Intend sailing  
at 0700A/11 DEVON CITY in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER  
and ST. OLAVES routed via Sound of Islay and  
Swept Channels to Liverpool. E.T.A. a.m./13.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1704A/10).<sup>D</sup>  
DANUBE VIYour 1951/9. Tug DANUBE VI has developed defect.  
Estimated time for repairs several days.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1725/10).

COTTESMORE.

Tugs KENIA and CHAMPION proceeded to assist  
COTTESMORE at 1000, returned to Harwich at 1942.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1952A/10)

PAYNTER.

Arrived PAYNTER with defects.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 2158A/10)



War Diary.10. 3. 1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

Sailing of Admiralty 2352A/9. The sailing of convoys under  
Q.P. Convoys. present jeopardized conditions occupies about  
Q.P.B. 10 days as ships have to be extracted from various  
berths and put temporarily into an assembly  
position clear of the mouths of the river, thence  
proceeding ice edge. Q.P. B. is now about half extracted and  
under present conditions will not be assembled for another 5  
days. Propose subject your approval to continue break out of  
Q.P.B. Arrival date in open waters will be signalled as soon  
as it can be forecast under any degree of certainty.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0805A/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Q.P.8 and Admty. pass to all addressees. Q.P.8 dispersed in  
P.Q.12. 069° N., 006° 40' W., at 0800A. Ships remaining  
in convoy escorted by OXLIP, and SWEETBRIAR.  
*\*? LARANGA intended see p. 356* HAZARD and SALAMANDER proceeding to Scapa, E.T.A.  
11/3. IJORA and *\* LARANGUS* not seen since convoy became scattered  
in gale p.m./4th. IJORA heard making raider distress signal  
at 1629A/7 giving position 072° 34' N., 010° 50' E. P.Q.12 met  
at 1200A/7, course 57° escorted by KENYA, ORIBI, and OFFA.  
GOSSAMER not seen. KENYA gave her position as 072° 09' N., 010°  
39' E., and reported having encountered ice 100 miles 237° from  
this position and that ORIBI had been damaged. *\* Not identified*  
(HAZARD, 0811A/9 to Admty).  
My 1110A/9. Amend E.T.A. of P.Q.12 at M.Z. to 0600/12.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1911A/10 to KENYA, NIGER, M/S 6).  
GOSSAMER reports speaking to IJORA at 1420Z/7 and later receiving  
raider distress signal from IJORA at 1524Z when that ship  
reported being gunned in 072° 35' N., 010° 50' E. GOSSAMER  
failed to find P.Q.12. Is there any later report of S.S. IJORA.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1942A/10).  
Arrival Kola Inlet, GOSSAMER, ORIBI. At anchor at Iokanga, KIEV,  
EL OCCIDENTE.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2131A/10)

P.Q. 13. Arrived LAMERTON.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0941A/10)  
Sail SARDONYX in addition to NEWPORT to R/V with  
P.Q.13 and escort to Reykjavik in accordance with my 1803A/9.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1014A/10 to Commodore, Londonderry).  
After refuelling at Moville proceed at best speed consistent with  
weather to join P.Q.13 estimated P.C.S. at 1200A/11 058° 21' N.,  
008° 55' W. routed through positions (x) 058° N., 012° W.  
(y) 60° N., 18° W. (w) 63° N., 20° W. to Reykjavik. S.O. of  
escort BLYSKAWICA.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1817A/10 to SALADIN).

/Q.P....



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- Q.P. 9. On relief by GOSSAMER intend sailing SHARPSHOOTER to Scapa with .Q.P. 9.  
(S.O. 6 M/S 1050A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)
- Convoy S.C. 71. Hearty congratulations on the safe arrival of your convoy in the U.K.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1710A/10 to Commodore F.J.L. Butler, R.N.R.)
- Warm congratulations on bringing home another successful convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1736A/10 to Commodore A.J. Baxter, R.N.R.)
- TOMSK. Your 1451A/10. Intend to sail TOMSK escorted by SHIANT at 1900 tomorrow to Kirkwall for onward routing to Methil. There after (?leave)s to proceed Scapa. Route.  
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1814A/10).
- C.T.12. My 0229/6. Convoy C.T.12 is now to be known as T.A.12. C.T.12 will in future refer to convoy in late March.  
(D.S.T., 2329A/10).
- D.S.25. ORDUNA will be used for D.S.25. Sailing Clyde 1/4. She will be used to capacity which is being increased to 2850.  
(D.S.T., 2330A/10).
- O.S.21, It is unlikely that ships for West Indies and Gulf of Mexico will be dispersed before convoy reaches 025° N. Ships are to establish new positions ZZ 140° 360 miles from NN. Gulf of Mexico ships are to establish new positions (X) 180° 420 miles from (N). Y 180° 120 miles from O. Warn all ships to expect diversion signals after dispersal.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2333A/10 to Escorts O.S.21)



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 1901A/3.  
 (1) No indication of location Raider E.  
 (2) German Tanker GERMANIA (9851 G.R.T.) left Tenerife 0300/5/3 carrying 900 tons fuel oil only. German Tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN (7747 G.R.T.) left Las Palmas 23/2 carrying about 9000 tons Diesel oil. Maximum speed of both these ships about 12 knots.  
 (D.D.I.C., 1938A/10 to A.I.G. 13, etc.)

North Atlantic.

COREOPSIS. My P.C. and S. 030° 51' N. 020° 08' W., 072°, 11½ knots. E.T.A. Gate 0700A/13.  
 (COREOPSIS, 0400A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See next page*

French Shipping. Passings 9/3. French eastward KILISSI, AUVERGNE, PROVIDENCE, JOSEPH-ELISE, TATIANA all full.  
 (V.A.C.N.A., 0905A/10 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

SCOTTISH. Departure to Y.1.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 0957A/10 to Admty.) *See also next page*

U/B. Faint U-Boat homing signal on 465 Kc. per sec. bearing approx. 115°. My P.C. and S. 042° 20' N. 014° 30' W., 153°, 22 knots.  
 PAKENHAM. Request onward route.  
 (PAKENHAM, 1000/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

It is possible that homing signal by A/C or U-Boat was made in your vicinity on 465 Kc/s at 1000A today Tuesday.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1253A/10 to S.E.C.O.S. 21, S.E.C. S.L.101, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

→ OLYMPUS. Intend sailing OLYMPUS p.m. 12th for Malta with Stores for Malta. stores. V.A. Malta 1741/9/1 held. OLYMPUS will pass 038° 009' E. at about 0800A/17. V.A. Malta is requested to signal onward route.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1136A/10 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., V.A. Malta, etc.)

→ OLYMPUS, PANDORA. OLYMPUS diving by day passing K. 036° 07' 002° 00' W. at 1200A/13, thence L. 038° 00' 004° 00' E. PANDORA on patrol south of Alboran.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1138A/10 to THUNDERBOLT, UNIQUE, PANDORA.)

/Situation ...



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War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Situation For Area X, 2000A/10.  
Report. PAKENHAM 038° 52' 013° 23' through 36° 30' 10° 00' to Gibraltar 22.  
(2) 1 merchant ship, 1 tug, AIREDALE, PETUNIA 040° 10' 017° 38' 136° 9.  
(3) SCOTTISH 036° 30' 007° 40' to patrol off Lisbon. *See p. 318*  
(4) LOCH OSKAIG off Oporto to R/V merchant ship and escort coastwise to Gibraltar 8.  
(5) Ships\* COREOPSIS, GERANIUM (e) 31° 46' 16° 50' through 32° 00' 16° 00' thence 065° 11½. *\* See previous page*  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/10 to N.A. Station.)

BLANKNEY. Your 1907A/9 not to R.A.D. (Home Fleet)  
Approved to transfer BLANKNEY instead of EXMOOR to Home Fleet.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1320A/10 to S.O. Force H, (R) C. in C. H.F., R.A.D.(H.F.), F.O.C.N.A.)

PARTHIAN. From position steer to adjust speed to pass through D. 036° 028° W. at 2200A/16. E. 036° 007° at 0430A/21 to R/V escort in F. 350° Spartel 5 miles at 0930A/21.  
Bombing restrictions arranged 20 miles either side of this route. Report if unable to comply within 2 hours.  
At 0500A/14 shift normal W/T watch to broadcast B.N. shift to read G.S. routine and at 1300A/18 shift normal watch to broadcast G shift to read G.S. routine.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1338A/10 to PARTHIAN, (R) Admty., F.O.S., etc.)

Spanish 2 Spanish C Class subs. exercising between  
S/Ms. Aguilas and Santa Pola between 11th and 13th proceeding from and returning to Cartagena.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1510A/10 to UNIQUE, THUNDERBOLT.)

MONTE Spanish MONTE GORBEA from Rio de Janeiro 2/3  
GORBEA. possibly calling Las Palmas may have Helmut Giesmann 3rd Officer TACOMA and another German Officer on board. If ship is encountered they should be removed.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1525A/10 to Ships & Authorities N.A.)

CAUDEBEC Departure 10/3 CAUDEBEC Oporto 11/3.  
(French) (Lisbon, 1911/10 to Min. of W.T.)

Rescue C. in C. W.A. 1231A/5/2. These rescue ships  
Ships. have been specially selected and fitted out for their work and have (a) minimum speed of 11 knots which enables them to maintain convoy speed and overtake convoys after rescues (b) accommodation for about 100 survivors, spare sets of clothing, hospital and medical officers adequate galleys and stores (c) Motor boats and boarding nets to facilitate rescue work. Six vessels only are suitable for and allotted to H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys during winter months,

/and ...



War Diary.

10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Rescue  
Ships.  
(Contd.)

remaining six to Gibraltar convoys. Ships are small and may suffer weather damage, repair of which should be carried out with minimum delay. British Sailors' Society are establishing reserve stocks of clothing for survivors at Halifax and Gibraltar.  
(D.T.D., 1926A/10 to F.O.C.N.A., C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

LIGHTNING.

Your 1604A/9. Approved. Refitting port will be signalled when date is known.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1939A/10 to F.O. Force H, (R) F.O.C.N.A., Capt. D.19.)

LOCH OSKAIG  
bombed.

Enemy bombing in 41.07 N., 8.46 W.  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1930A/10 to Gibraltar W/T.)

Enemy A/C.

Enemy A/C presumed F.W. course South at 1930 041° 10' N. 008° 47' W.  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1940A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French  
S/Ms.

French submarines LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE, ATLANTE, ARETHUSE and one escort vessel reported in position 036° 40' N. 000° 38' W. at 1815/10 course 002° speed 7 knots.  
(S.O.I. Gib., 1959A/10 to Admty., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

South Atlantic.

U-Boat.

D/F bearings indicate German U-Boat within 75 miles of 005° N. 015° W. at 2027Z/9.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0007Z/10 to S.A. Station Sqdn.)

DESPATCH,  
SHROPSHIRE.

In view of B.A.D. 1035/9 your 1551/8 approved.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 0220A/10 to C. in C. S.A., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

Vichy  
Convoy.

Vichy convoy of (? 6 ships) and 1 escort bound for Ivory Coast spoke in position 013° 37' N. 017° 40' W.  
(LONDONDERRY, 0230Z/10 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.)



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Ice Reports. Your 2131Z/5. Ice reports are not required by C. in C. S.A. (C. in C. S.A., 1042Z/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
- MONTE GORBEA. My 1221Z/8. 2 German officers one of whom is Helmut Giesman 3rd Officer German ship TACOMA reported ? as possibly being board MONTE GORBEA. (C. in C. S.A., 1155Z/10 to PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON, (R) Admty.)
- MANCHESTER CITY. Your 1713(?9th) MANCHESTER CITY arrived Capetown 2nd. Reported F.O. Simonstown 1507/2. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1241B/10 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Simonstown.) *See p 328.*
- S.T. 16. Departures 10th ROCKROSE, BERGAMOT (? escorting) S.T. 16. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1331Z/10 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
- Movements. Departure 10th. BULOLO, CALIFORNIA, BRILLIANT, WILD SWAN escort BATORY. *See pp 322 & 323* (S.O.I. Freetown, 1403Z/10 to Admty.)
- Arrival 9/3 WALLFLOWER. Arrival 10/3 ASTURIAS. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1415Z/10 to Admty.)
- Arrival 10/3. ULSTER MONARCH. Departure DESPATCH. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1423Z/10 to Admty.)
- Departure 1500/10 HYDRANGEA and M.Ls. 209 and 244 routed through Cape Corse 011° 16' N. 017° 37' W. (B) 009° 37' N. 015° 56' W. thence to X.A. Freetown 1100/12. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1617Z/10 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.)
- Arrival 10/3 LONDONDERRY, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, HASTINGS and NEW COLUMBIA, INGERTOFT. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1621Z/10 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.)
- BHIMA. Overdue shipping BHIMA due Durban 8th from Colombo not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1421/10 to Admty., C. in C. E.I. F.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R) N.C.S.O. Durban.)
- BUR. Your 1641A/7. Bathurst advise that BUR sailed 6/2 for London. Cargo ground nuts. Escort PHILANTE. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1450Z/10 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- Movements. Capetown departure 1545Z/9 BARCLOSE, BARFOAM, BARFORD for East London. S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. 0600 G.M.T./13. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1503Z/10 to Admty., etc.) As amended by 0733Z/11.
- Arrival 10/3 Capetown FORMIDABLE, RESOLUTION, Simonstown PALADIN, PANTHER. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1507Z/10 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) S.O. Force V., F.O. 3 B.S.)/BIRMINGHAM.



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- BIRMINGHAM. My 1431/7. Is at 7 days notice for sea until 25/3 decreasing daily thereafter until completion. (Nav. Supt. H.M.S.A. Dockyard, Simonstown 1621Z/10 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)
- BULOLO. (?B) X. Alter course immediately for new position X. 008° N. 019° W. thence to rejoin original route at (B) omitting (A). (C. in C. S.A., 1725/10 to BULOLO, (R) CALIFORNIA F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)  
*See pp 321 & 323*
- R/C of Diego Suarez. Your 1754/8. Photographs were developed in Nairobi and in accordance with instructions from London, not passed through me. Negatives were sent by air to M.E. Cairo. One print received by me from C.G.S. today is being carefully examined but does not at present appear to include unusual shipping. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1740/10 to Admty. for D.N.I.)
- Rio Lights. All lights on buoys and beacons in Rio de Janeiro Harbour except those at entrance have been extinguished. Ships should be warned that difficulties may be experienced when entering after dark. Brazilian Authorities have not yet issued official intimation. Similar precautions may be taken at other Brazilian ports without previous notice. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1748Z/10 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., etc.)
- PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON. PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON patrol area 010° 00' N. 024° 30' W. and 006° 30' N. 026° 30' W. speed 14.5 knots. Fuel remaining PRETORIA CASTLE 58%, CANTON 61% oil fuel, request an A/S Vessel may be detailed to meet PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON in 010° 00' N. 024° 30' W. at 0700Z/13. (PRETORIA CASTLE, 1800Z/10 to C. in C. S.A.)  
*See also next page.*
- Troop Transport. In order to avoid congestion at Durban and Capetown and to ensure troopships sail for United Kingdom with only maximum unescorted numbers propose following programme (details.) (D. of S.T., 1811A/10 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown, S.T.O. Durban, (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., P.S.T.O. India.)

/Movements ...



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Movements  
Summary.

2000Z/10.

Area P. BOREAS with O.S.20 010° 38' N. 018° 22' W., 089°, 8½ knots. ABBEYDALE off St. Helena. \*PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON patrolling about 010° N. 016° 22' W. to the North 8 knots. COMMANDANT DROGOU, COMMANDANT DETROYAT about 009° 30' N. 017° W. to Freetown 11 knots. BELLWORT from 009° 40' N. 017° 40' W. to 009° 54' N. 021° 40' W. F.S. SAVORANAN DE BRAZZA on passage from Duala to Lagos (Nigeria). \*CALIFORNIA, BULOLO, BRILLIANT, WILD SWAN escorting BATORY 008° 50' N. 016° 08' W., 254°, 13½ knots. NEWCASTLE with W.S.16 006° 18' S. 001° 50' W., 144°, 11 knots. HYDRANGEA with M.Ls. 244 and 209 sailed Bathurst 10th for Freetown.

Area Q. CHESHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE patrolling about 041° S. 021° E. LORD GREY, ROSALIND 031° (?22') S. 015° 18' E. to the South 8 knots. BACHAQUERO 034° 50' S. 024° 20' E. 077° 6 knots. F.S. LA MOQUEUSE 032° 22' S. 029° (?16') E. 043° 13½ knots. CARTHAGE escorting DEMPO Cape area bound for Freetown 15 knots.

(C. in C. S.A., 1901Z/10 to S.A. Sqdn., (R) Admty.)

\* See pp 321 &amp; 322

R.A.S.A.D. Flag of R.A. Pegram as R.A.S.A.D. has been struck. Correspondence from ships and authorities previously under administration of R.A.S.A.D. is to be addressed C. in C. S.A. at Simonstown. Naval, victualling and N.A.S. at Falkland Isles are to be retained for use of any visiting ships. S.A.D. records are being transferred to DESPATCH. S.O.(I) Montevideo to inform Ambassador and Naval Attaches.

(C. in C. S.A., 1916Z/10 to S.A. Stn., (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. My 1859Z/10 (N.T. in W.D.) Amend as follows:  
→ PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON patrolling about 010° N. 024° 30' W. SARABANDE off Robertsport, BENGALI, FANDANGO about 010° N. 016° 22' W. to the N. 8 knots.

(C. in C. S.A., 1929Z/10 to S.A. Squadron,  
(R) Admty.)Shipping  
Diversion.

When a diversion of a ship is made, care must be taken that it is repeated to all diverting authorities through whose areas ship will pass, otherwise such authorities have insufficient data and knowledge of ship's position to initiate further necessary diversions. B.A.D. pass to Opnav.

(D.T.D., 2258A/10 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.I.C. Simonstown, F.O.C.N.A., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica, S.O.(I) Freetown, B.A.D. Washington.

/S.O. Force V ...



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

S.O. Your 1058A/9 (Originated by W.R. requesting  
Force V. repetition of 1644/26.)  
Following is a repetition of my number 9 begins:  
Addressed Admiralty 9 repeated C. in C. South  
Atlantic, from S.O. Force V.  
C. in C. South Atlantic's 1015Z/25th. It is desirable that I  
should meet F.O. if possible. C. in C. South Atlantic  
acknowledge time 1644Z 26th February. Ends.  
(S.O. Force V., 2331B/10 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

DEMIR Sailed.  
HISAR. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0252Z/10 to S.O.(I) Ismailia, etc.)

CAIRO CITY. My 1345B/6 (N.T. in W.D.) Military now advise  
personnel and guns required to be sent E.I.  
Station today. Intend using CAIRO CITY ex Suez  
about 22/3.

(II) C. in C. E.I. requested to advise if escort will be  
available.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1013B/10 to D.S.T., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

Free French, Transfer of F.N.F.L. East Africa. Following is  
East Africa. with agreement of British Authorities.  
(1) Zone detachment procedure Aden 13/3 in  
transit to Beirut.  
(2) F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINÉ proceeding Mediterranean about 15/3.  
(3) Mission 'A' will proceed to Pointe Noire when everything is  
settled.  
(4) Surg. Lieut. Boyer left for Beirut 5/3.  
(F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINÉ, 1020Z/10 to F.N.F.L. London.)

CLEOPATRA. Your 1246/9 (CLEOPATRA being fit for service.)  
Yes.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1111B/10 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 9th SOUTHWOLD, BEAUFORT, ST. MONANCE,  
HARROW, COCKER, SOUTHERN MAID, PROTEUS, KHEIR  
EL DINE. Departures 9th APHIS, ERICA,  
departures 10th SIKH, JERVIS, ZULU, ~~HERO~~ HERO, HASTY, NAIAD, DIDO,  
EURYALUS, KIPLING, KELVIN, HAVOCK, LIVELY, PROTEA, HYACINTH,  
SOUTHERN ISLES, DULVERTON, MOY, VULCAN.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1137B/10 to Admty., C. in C. Med.,  
V.A. Malta.)



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Attack on Enemy Convoy. Operations night 9/10. My 1647B/9. F.A.A. aircraft consisting of 2 A.S.V. and 3 torpedo aircraft claim 2 hits on large southbound merchant ship north of Pantellaria.

(II) Force K swept north from 36.06 N. 11.50 E. for same target until 0300B/10 moderating speed down to 7 knots from position of last air attack. Nothing sighted. Entered harbour 0845B/10 without being attacked and possibly not sighted. Enemy (? slightly) exhausted after yesterday's effort.

(V.A. Malta, 1230B/10 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)

→ TURBULENT intelligence. Reported that 4000 ton ship leaves Salonika each evening for vicinity of Kassandra Point, loaded with petrol and mines, and may also be employed laying minefields in Gulf of Salonika. (Capt. S.1, 1515B/10 to TURBULENT.)

Enemy Convoy. Northbound enemy convoy presumed to be in 038° 40' N. 018° 10' E. at 2000B/10 speed 12½ knots.

(V.A. Malta, 1609B/10 to THORN, TORBAY.)

A/C report 4 enemy merchant ships 5 destroyers in 038° 42' N. 018° 14' E. course 350° speed 12 knots at 1700B/10.

(V.A. Malta, 1809B/10 to TORBAY, THORN.)

Libya Report. Cositrep No. 291. 3. Air. Night 8/9 March. Wellington bombed Piraeus harbour and naval workshops Leros Island. Torpedo Beauforts attacked enemy convoy 4 merchant ships with naval escort about 170 miles N.E. Misurata on N.E. course. One cruiser, one destroyer hit, one merchant ship set on fire, second. Also shot down one escorting aircraft damaging R/C reported three ships in Benghazi. (C. in C. M.E., 1615/10.)

*no hits or damage*

Enemy ship. URGE. Large ship being towed Pantellaria Trapani E.T.A. latter about 2300B and well worth compromising route if encountered. (Capt. S.10, 1859B/10 to URGE, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

→ TURBULENT. Return to Alexandria through 036° 00' 025° 30' 035° 16' 026° 45', 032° 11' 029° 23' crossing latitude 035° about 0300B/15 and arriving end of searched channel 0500B/17. (Capt. S.1, 1941B/10 to TURBULENT, (R) THORN, C. in C. Med., etc.)

/Malta ...



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. C.S.R. 10/3.  
 9th. 1 alert 1413 hours 38 (Me. 109's?) Ju.88's.  
 Hal Far. no damage. Unexploded bombs. 1  
 Hurricane burnt out, 1 damaged. Luqa, 1  
 Wellington burnt out. Unexploded bombs. Numerous craters  
 aerodrome dispersals. Heavy A.A. destroyed Ju.88, 2 prisoners,  
 damaged 1 Me.109.  
 Night 9/10. Continuous intruder. 20 raiders, 3 civilians  
 wounded, several houses destroyed. Luqa, delayed action  
 bombs damaged 2 Beaufighters. Hurricanes up, no interceptions,  
 A.A. fired.  
 10th. 6 alerts 0603, 0832, 1021, 1240, 1400 hours, 45 Me.109's  
 Ju.88's, target Hal Far. 1 Naval Officer 2 soldiers wounded.  
 Officers' Mess and quarters damaged. Luqa, no damage or  
 casualties. Spitfires destroyed 1 Me.109, probably destroyed  
 2 Me.109's, damaged 1 Me.109. Hurricanes damaged 1 Me.109,  
 attacked a second, and forced Ju.88 to jettison over sea.  
 1 Hurricane crashed, pilot killed, another damaged, pilot safe.  
 Light A.A. destroyed 1 Me.109.  
 Part 2. Night 9/10. 3 Swordfish (corrupt group) shipping  
 sweep. 1 returned engine trouble. 1935 hours single torpedo  
 attack M/V 8000 tons escorted 3 D/Rs., 340°, Pantellaria 24  
 miles, course 180°, 15 knots. Unable to see results for  
 smoke screen. 3 Albacores attacked same M/V 2110 hours  
 scoring 1 probable hit. D/R was seen to turn back towards  
 M/V.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2130/10.)

KINGSTON, 10/3, arrival and departure KINGSTON, arrival  
 PENELOPE. PENELOPE.  
 (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2145B/10 to Admty.)

ARABIA II My 0139B/9 endeavouring to arrange to refloat  
 adrift. ARABIA II and proceed with towage to Colombo.  
 (11) HARESFIELD reported made fast astern of  
 GEORGIC and PAULINE MOLLER ahead of RECORDER  
 8th.

ST. SAMPSON (iii) Search being made for ST. SAMPSON.  
 abandoned. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 2201B/10 to D. of S.T.,  
 (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

GEORGES Your 0954/27/2 (N.T. in W.D.) GEORGES MABRO  
 MABRO. overdue since 21/9/40.  
 (D.S.T., 2228A/10 to S.B.N.O. S.C.A.)

*[Handwritten signature]*



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ALAUNIA, Mombasa left 10/3 0530 G.M.T. ALAUNIA.  
Convoy. (N.O.I.C. E.Africa, 0534Z/10 to C. in C.E.I.)  
1. K.R.(?42). 2. 0515Z/10. 4. 11 Knots.  
6. ALAUNIA.

Items 9 - 12, EMPIRE EGRET M.T. Colombo, SHIRALA Military Colombo  
LLANDAFF CASTLE Military, Colombo, NARKUNDA Military, Bombay,  
→ EMPIRE FULMAR, M.T. Colombo, ELIZABETHVILLE Military, Colombo,  
KHEDIVE ISMAIL Military Colombo, PULASKI Military Colombo.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0521Z/10 to Admty.)

MALDA. A.M. 2018/8. (Re substitution of B.I Vessel  
M.N.B.D.O. for CLAN FORBES, for M.N.B.D.O. work).  
Base Ship. (1) Considerations fully appreciated and I am  
arranging with P.S.T.O. India for MALDA to be  
taken up to replace CLAN FORBES as soon as possible  
(2) Certain important modifications necessary before MALDA  
can be put into use as M.N.B.D.O. Accommodation and Base Ship.  
(3) Meantime it is essential that work of M.N.B.D.O. at  
Indian Ocean anchorage should not be interrupted and I am  
therefore obliged to retain CLAN FORBES for this purpose until  
she is relieved by MALDA. (C. in C.E.I., 0433Z/10 to Admty.)

Shipping My 1935/8 position Z should read 005° 10' N.  
Routes. 081° E. (C. in C.E.I. 0448Z/10 to Admty. (R)  
C. in C.E.F., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.) (Correction  
made in W.D.)

C. in C. Please pass to S. of S. for Colonies. No. 3.  
Ceylon. Your No. 266. Announcement on lines proposed  
is being circulated to all Crown Depts. in  
Ceylon but is not being communicated to press.  
(?Banning) publicity must be serious handicap to my activities  
particularly at opening stages. I communicated to Ministers  
yesterday terms of my appointment and explained that Governor,  
Ministers and State Council would continue to function. This  
was well received but continued secrecy is liable to be mis-  
understood and may become cause of suspicion. So long as  
secrecy policy exists I can issue nothing to public over my  
own signature, the disadvantage which must be obvious.  
Please inform Chiefs of Staff. (C. in C.E.F. 0525Z/10 to Admty.)

→ EMPIRE Mombasa left 10th 0718 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. E.Africa  
FULMAR. and Zanzibar, 0721Z/10 to C. in C. E.I.)

VAN CLOON. Your 1742/5. Add to my 0650/8 (? 1650/7  
intended). Local Dutch Naval Office reports  
ship was sunk by enemy action in Java sea.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 1218Z/10 to Admty.)

/U.S.....



War Diary.

10.5.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.-Contd.

U.S. Movements and Intelligence. We are today completely in dark in regard to our allies' movements and intentions in Pacific and Anzac Areas.

2. Experience of Abda Area has shown extreme difficulty we have in obtaining essential information about movements, R/C, enemy reports and casualties from our American allies even when their forces were operating under orders of a C. in C. with British Chief of Staff.

3. Repeated personal requests by signals and letter failed to produce intelligence which we urgently required from S/M patrols and air R/C.

4. Americans have, for example, no Intelligence Officers at their air stations with result there is no organized interrogation of pilots.

5. It is vital that this situation should be improved particularly as one day (?) concerted action will be required.

6. I strongly recommend therefore that as a first step U.S.A. authorities shall be approached with proposal for appointment of experienced Liaison Officer with all U.S.A. forces in Anzac and Pacific theatres of war. (C. in C. E.F. 1255Z/10 to Admty., (R) S.O. Force V.)

CITY OF  
PRETORIA.

Your 0119/9. May I utilize CITY OF PRETORIA for locomotives and stores to Basra? (P.S.T.O. India 1501Z/10 to D.S.T.)

\*  
MANCHESTER  
CITY.  
JAY.

\* See p. 321

My 1701A/17/2 not to A.C.N.B. or N.Z.N.B.

2. On completion of Controlled Minefield at Grand Port, Mauritius, request you will sail MANCHESTER CITY and JAY to New Zealand to work as N.Z.N.B. may direct.

3. JAY's endurance is estimated to be 2,500 miles. Special arrangements will therefore be necessary for trip to Fremantle. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1311A/10 to C. in C.E.I.(R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C. Mauritius, C. in C.E.F.)

Movements.

Colombo departures 10/3 0415Z ENTERPRISE, 0545Z EXPRESS, 0610Z ABDIEL, 0700Z ALSEY, 1035Z JUMNA, 1245Z NORMAN, 1245Z ATREUS. (S.O.I. Colombo 1434Z/10 to Admty. (R) S.O.I's Aden, Bombay).

Portuguese  
Ships.

My 1913A/1. GONCALVES ZARCO and JOAO BELO will arrive Colombo on or about 15/3 requiring bunkers and water. (Head of M. 1513A/10 to C. in C.E.I. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

/EXETER,.....



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.EXETER,  
PERTH  
(loss).

Further investigation of ships now arrived in Colombo shows that DANAE and JUMNA intercepted emergency signal from EXETER 0253Z/1 reporting 3 cruisers bearing West steering eastward at distance of 14 miles. At that time position of EXETER was 005° 00' S. 111° 00' E. Since it is known EXETER's speed was limited to 16 knots it is feared she must have been overwhelmed by this force.

(2) DRAGON reports she intercepted signal of PERTH 1541Z/28 when in position 005° 45' S. 106° 15' E. indicating she had sighted one cruiser to Westward steering 070° at range of 5 miles. From other signals since examined it seems probable there was more than one cruiser concerned, and Netherlands destroyer EVERTSEN reports seeing engagement off Nicholas Point at 1555Z/28 of (? same) day. It is feared PERTH and possibly other ships may have been sunk in this action.  
(C. in C.E.F., 1755Z/10 to Admty.)

China.Java  
Sea  
Action  
27/2.

1. Following brief account of action in East Java Sea on 27/2 is based only on a report from PERTH and account of survivors of JUPITER.
2. Eastern Striking Force was formed at Sourabaya on 26/2 under command of Admiral Doorman in DE RUYTER Order of battle was DE RUYTER, EXETER, HOUSTON, PERTH, JAVA screened by ELECTRA, JUPITER and ENCOUNTER was followed by KORTENAER plus one Dutch Destroyer and four U.S. Destroyers.
3. Contact was made at 1614GH/27 in approximate position 06° 28' S. 112° 26' E. as result of enemy report received at 1427GH. Enemy force consisted of two Nachi Class preceded by two Sendai Class and thirteen destroyers in two groups.
4. Fire opened at 30,000 yards parallel courses. First Japanese destroyer attack soon after action commenced was driven off by gunfire one destroyer hit by PERTH. Second Japanese destroyer attack at 1707GH. Arrival of torpedoes synchronised with eight inch hit on EXETER which forced her out of line. KORTENAER struck by torpedo and sank. Allied line thrown into confusion.
5. 1725GH line reformed ex EXETER. British destroyers ordered to counter attack. ELECTRA disappeared in smoke screen not seen again. JUPITER saw only two destroyers and engaged them.
6. 1745GH allied cruisers clear of smoke and engaging enemy at about 21,000 yards. 1812GH enemy cruisers returned under cover of smoke rear cruiser hit aft and heavily on fire.



War Diary.10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Java Sea  
Action 27/2  
- Contd.

7. Night action DE RUYTER led to N.E. until 1927GH when four ships were sighted to port and engaged at 9,000 yards. Failing to work round these ships and get at convoy it appears that DE RUYTER reversed course and steered for north coast of Java. At about 2100GH when four miles from coast in very shallow water DE RUYTER turned to westward and proceeded along coast. Shortly afterwards JUPITER was blown up by underwater explosion abreast forward E.R. bulkhead in position 06° 45.2 S. 112° 05.5 E. and sank four hours later. Probable that nearly all of her crew reached Java coast.
8. From 2150GH onwards aircraft shadowed our force dropping flares.
9. At 2330GH contact was made with two cruisers on port beam hits were scored on enemy and one shell hit DE RUYTER. DE RUYTER turned 90° away remaining ships were following when JAVA and DE RUYTER blew up almost simultaneously and sank.
10. No allied destroyers were then in company. PERTH and HOUSTON withdrew to Tanjong Priok.
11. The following signal is of interest begins:- To C.C.C.F. Comsow Estpac. All Naval Radio Stations from C.Z.M. Mines will be laid this night 27th off Rembang in 20 metres. T.O.O. 1257/27, Ends.
12. Written report follows.  
(C.C.C.F. 0123Z/10 to Admty., A.C.N.B., C. in C.E.F., Com. S.W.Pacific.)

Mines  
Compromised,  
Singapore.

Preliminary investigations reveal that although usual (?precautionary measures taken) to render the stock of A Mark 1 mines at Singapore inoperative it must be considered that a large number are now in Japanese hands.

(2) Special steps were taken to remove period delay mechanisms but all other components are probably compromised.

(3) Some of these mines were probably filled with ninol.

(4) A further report will be made when more evidence has been found. (C. in C.E.F., 0841Z/10 to Admty.)



War Diary.10.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.CHARLES  
RACINE  
(Norwegian)Torpedoed twice at 0316 G.M.T. 23° 10' N. 60°  
28' W.  
(Navycom Bermuda 0053/10 to Admty.) *Friz*ACONITTE  
BRANDON  
DIANTHUS.Your 1405/8. 1. Request \*ACONITTE be sailed to  
overtake O.N.74 vide my 1339Z/8. 2. BRANDON to  
overtake either O.N.74 or O.N.75. 3. DIANTHUS  
in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 2153Z/8  
unless she can overtake 1 of the above convoys  
en route in which case she should escort to  
prudent limit detaching to St. Johns.  
(F.O.N.F. 0054Z/10 to C.T.G. 24.7 (R) C.T.F.24  
C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, F.O.I.C.  
Greenock.) \* *p. 338*

THUNDER.

THUNDER returned St. Johns, N.F. engine trouble.  
Sailing 2030Z/10 to rejoin O.N.70 at 2130Z/11 in  
044° 22' N. 049° 39' W.  
(F.O.N.F. 0152Z/10 to C.T.U.24.1.17, C.T.U.24.18.5  
(R) C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C. Halifax, THUNDER.)A.M.Cs and  
service  
personnel.Your 1356Z/7. A.M. 2220A/2/12/41 is being amended.  
Meanwhile 250 of each service may be carried in  
CARNARVON CASTLE.  
(D.O.D.(F) 0222A/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

PARTHIAN.

Submarines notice. PARTHIAN has returned New  
London material defects.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0322/10 to C.T. Force 22 etc.)  
*also p. 338*

MANCHESTER.

Following is Com. E.S.F. 2045/9. "My 2010/8  
MANCHESTER sailed from Norfolk 1715Z/8 routed  
via swept channel to point X then direct to  
Bermuda. Speed advance 17".  
(Opnav 0505Z/10 to Admty.)MANCHESTER \* sailed in accordance with my 2202P/9. E.T.A.  
position C 1930Z/14. S. of A. 23 knots until 1830P/11 then  
19 knots. Latest Q.Z. messages held F.44, H.338, S.334,  
X.640, Y.314. MANCHESTER is to shift from A.W.I. to Home  
Station W/T organization at 0500Z/14.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2143Q/10 to Admty. (R) MANCHESTER, B.A.D.  
Washington, C.S.18, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C.  
Home Fleet, Opnav.)*\*Bermuda*

U.Boat.

Submarine placed by D/F bearing within 100 miles  
41° N. 60° 30' W. at 0016Z/10.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0708Z/10 to British Warships in  
Area 7A, Admty. etc.)



War Diary.10.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

C.T.14 This is C. in C. Lant's 1647/9 to Opanav, with  
N.A.6 C. in C. U.S. Fleet, and C.T.F. 24 for  
information. Passed to Admty. for action,  
N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A. for  
information. Admty's 1401A/8 (?1410/8 intended re C.T.  
Convoys) Revised proposal for C.T. Convoys not acceptable for  
C.T.14 escorted by returning escort of N.A.6, in view of  
layover CHESTERFIELD, CHURCHILL for one month in U.K. Request  
these ships return this side after normal time in port  
augmenting Trade Convoy Escort. Refer my 2315/26.  
(Opanav 0715/10 to Admty.) *See p. 337*

VETERAN, E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1600/14.  
MONTGOMERY. (VETERAN 0817Z/10 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.etc.)

LADY NELSON My 2339Q/9. Both ships completely immobilised,  
UMTATA casualties approx. 30, no Naval personnel  
torpedoed, involved, am supervising discharge cargo.  
9/3. Submarine fired torpedo from harbour mouth.  
(R.N.O. St. Lucia 0845Q/10 to Admty. (R) C. in  
C. A.W.I. S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,  
F.O.I.C. Trinidad)

LADY NELSON badly holed Port Quarter. (Details and casualties)  
UMTATA struck amidships in bunkers engine probably severely  
damaged superficial damage to cabins and superstructure.  
(Details and casualties) Am of opinion salvage possible but  
cannot be undertaken locally. Should arrangement be initiated  
by Admty. or Local Government?  
(St. Lucia 1235Q/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Your 0845Q/10th. Is there sufficient evidence to prove beyond  
all reasonable doubt that U-boat fired from harbour mouth?  
If so what was estimated position? This information most  
necessary for decision as to most suitable form of obstruction.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1802P/10 to R.N.O. St. Lucia (R) Admty.)

Movements.

Summary at 1800 G.M.T.10th.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
PARTHIAN	40° N.60° W.	085°	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
CANTON	} 04° N.23° W.	Patrol	Blank
PRETORIA CASTLE			
WARSPITE	38° S.120° E.	275°	14
BUNGAREE	Approaching Auckland from W.12 $\frac{1}{2}$		
HONOLULU (U.S)	} 28° S.161° E.	040°	12
ATHENE			
with convoy Z.K.7)			
(D.O.D.(F) 0930Z/10 to Opanav (R) Spenavo.)			

Convoy.

O.N.S.J.74 composed of 10 merchant ships escort  
units 24.6.4 sailed 0800Z/10th. Your 1631Z/9  
passed to escort.  
(C.T. Group No.24.6 1028/10 to C. in C. W.A.  
(R) A.C.I.C.)



War Diary.10.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- U-Boats. Submarines placed by D/F bearings as follows  
(a) within 50 miles of 36° 30' N. 73° W. at 0237Z/10, 0252Z/10 and 0433Z/10 (b) within 50 miles of 24° 30' N. 74° 30' W. at 0419Z/10. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1030Z/10 to British Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)
- Shipping, St. Lucia, St. Thomas. In view of (a) present lack of protection for shipping at St. Lucia vide R.N.O. St. Lucia's 2330Q/9 and (b) congestion at St. Thomas vide my 1131P/28/2 and R.N.O. St. Thomas' 1636/9th (being passed to Admiralty and B.A.D. Washington) propose calling of coal burning ship at these two ports for bunkers should be suspended forthwith except in urgent cases and that coal burning ships be instructed to bunker at Brazilian ports and/or Hampton Roads and not in West Indies. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1112P/10 to Admty., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica R.N.O. St. Lucia, R.N.O. St. Thomas.)
- DIALA. Your 2345Z/9. No objection providing U.S. authorities agree. (D.O.D.(H) 1127A/10 to F.O.N.F.)
- BURNHAM. 24 hours (corrupt group) late on my 2359/8. *N.T. n. w. d.* Acknowledge. F.O.N.F. pass to C.E.S.F. (BURNHAM 1145Z/10 to B.A.R.M. (R) Admty. etc.)
- U.S. Plans for use of Shipping Tonnage. J.S.M.114. Following is elaboration of J.S.M.110 as regards shipping.  
(ii) 41st (? U.S) Div. is now preparing to sail 18/3 for Australia. Does this Div. count as one of two mentioned in Prime Minister's telegram number 37 para 5? (Reply see Admty.1159A/12)  
(iii) Cargo shipping bill for these movements is  
(a) if 2 Divisions in addition to 41st Div. move to S.W. Pacific, 25 cargo ships for S.W. Pacific move plus further 11 for 2 British Divisions U.K. to Indian Ocean.  
(b) If only one U.S. Div. moves in addition to 41st Div., 15 cargo ships for S.W. Pacific move, plus 11 for British move.  
(iv) All above cargo ships must be found from tonnage which would otherwise be allocated to services from U.S. to Red Sea, Persian Gulf and India areas but not from tonnage allocated to Russia.  
(v) Personnel shipping bill in both cases (a) Cancellation of "Indigo" "Gymmast" and limitation of "Magnet" to capacity for one voyage of whatever ship(s) sail(s) from U.S.A. for moving 2 British Divisions to M.E. (b) Use of QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA in Atlantic with attendant risks and complications.  
(vi) Forecast programme would be first convoy of U.S. ships and possibly AQUITANIA departing for repeat for U.K. about 26/4. Remainder departing for U.K. about 6/5. (vii) This signal seen by Salter.  
(J.S.M. 1229Q/10 to Chiefs of Staff, London.)

/St. Lucia ...



War Diary.10.3.1942  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- St. Lucia defences. Question of constructing boom defences for Castries Harbour, St. Lucia, recently under investigation by R.N.O. St. Lucia and contacts made with U.S. officers in charge of net St. Thomas. Commandant U.S. 10th Naval District has stated he cannot supply defence and regarded it as our commitment, with which I agree. Even if use of stocks of oil fuel as bunker port is restricted as proposed in my 1112P/10, it is considered there will still be sufficient shipping to justify erection of some form of obstructions, but this need not be elaborate. Request Admty. view as to form obstruction recommended, observing that gear would be required from U.K. or U.S.A. on account of lack of station resources. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1232P/10 to Admty. (R) R.N.O. St. Lucia, B.A.D.)
- HANSEAT Cdr. C.S.F. reports HANSEAT torpedoed at 1130Z/9 10 miles N. of Cape Maysi (20° 10' N. 74° 10' W) Crew saved. (B.A.D. 1233Q/10 to N.S.H.Q.) HANSEAT reported torpedoed 1130Z/9 ten miles north of Cape Maysi 020° 10' N. 074° 10' W. Crew saved. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2157Z/10 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.O.A.C.) *See next page*
- Ice. Your 1210Q/9. It is not desirable that fuel should be taken from Ponta Delgada unless absolutely necessary. Reports of ice conditions available in Admty. do not appear to necessitate revised routing. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1249A/10 to B.A.R.M.)
- PRINCE HENRY. Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1432Q/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- U-boats. 3 S/Ms in 011° 32' N. 068° 25' W. at 1000QR/10 reported by commercial A/C. Report not confirmed by later air R/C. (Willemstad 1435QR/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- N.A.8. My 1610Z/3. Owing to work in EMPRESS OF CANADA not being completed embarkation in this ship must be delayed to 13/3. Movement Control is delaying movement of troops. Now anticipate sailing a.m. 14/3 but C.O.A.C. will make necessary signal Admty. 1856A/6 refers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1436Z/10 to Admty. Opanav.)
- U-Boat D/F places U-Boat at 018° N. 062° 30' W. accuracy 100 miles at 0836Z. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1451Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

/LUCERNA ...



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10.3.1942  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

LUCERNA Admty. 1812/9/2. LUCERNA not arrived Aruba. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1534R/10 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

SKANE Following is summary on recent sub. attacks.  
 ARABUTAN Swedish SKANE sunk by shellfire of 2 subs. 22°  
 CARDONIA 50' N. 60° 10' W. 6/3, 34 survivors including  
 GULF TRADE 2 women. Brazilian ARABUTAN sunk by one torpedo  
 HANSEAT 35° 15' N. 73° 55' W. 1910Z/7, 54 survivors  
 (U/B attacks) out of 55 crew. American CARDONIA missed by 4  
 torpedoes then sunk by 40 to 50 shells off St.  
 Nicolas Mole Windward Passage 0905/7. 38  
 survivors picked up. American tanker GULF TRADE torpedoed  
 39° 45' N. 73° 51' W. 0445Z/10. Crew being taken off. Fate  
 of vessel unknown. Panamanian tanker HANSEAT torpedoed and  
 sank 20° 25' N. 74° 07' W. 1130Z/9, all hands rescued.  
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1537/10 to Admty.) \* See *please see page*

Ship Immediate received 0445Z/10 SSS 39° 40' N. 74° W.  
 torpedoed. unknown ship torpedoed and sunk DEFOBA (as  
 received.)  
 (N.C.S.O. Montreal 1559Z/10 to Admty.)

O.N.S.74 1. K.1730Z/10. 2. 1400Z/15. 3. ASSINIBOINE,  
 AMHERST, CELANDINE, HEPATICA, FENNEL. No rescue  
 ship.  
 (D.T.D. 1620Z/10 to Opnav (R) C.in C. W.A. etc.)  
*See p. 338*

R/T It is requested that ships fitted with R/T set  
 T.B.Y.I. be indicated in Part II of Convoy  
 Sailing Telegrams.  
 (D.T.D. 1649A/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Sealers. My 1917A/4. When can sealers be expected to  
 arrive U.K?  
 (D.O.D.(H) 1722A/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Shipping Direct routeing officers, avoid routeing shipping  
 Caribbean through Windward Passage Mona Passage Virgin and  
 Anegada Passages. When imperative to do so  
 instruct master run these Passages during daylight  
 hours under protection of established air patrol. Employ  
 diversified routeing in Caribbean Sea avoiding eastern area.  
 Route ships between northern Atlantic ports and Trinidad well to  
 seaward and outside lesser Antilles.  
 (C.N.O. Washington 1810/10 to Cdr. East Sea Frontier etc.)

O.N.72 O.N.72 serial 2, U-boat transmission indicates  
 U/B you may have been sighted at 1220Z/10.  
 (Opnav 1815/10 to C.T.U. No.24.1.19 (R) Admty.  
 etc.)

/AGAPENOR ...



10.3.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

AGAPENOR. Re serious position on board AGAPENOR, New Zealand to Halifax for convoy, owing to general fight between whites and Chinese. Will try get U.S. Navy provide armed guard Kingston if they can be replaced there with British armed guard to Halifax. Request covering approval. (C.S.A. Colon, 1818R/10 to Capt. i/c Jamaica, C. in C. A.W.I. Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

RED DEER. My 1202Z/6. <sup>N.T.W.D.</sup> H.M.C.S. RED DEER completed. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1823Z/10 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., B.A.D., C.C.H.)

ST. ZENO. Boston arrived 0058Z/10. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1835Z/10 to Admty., etc.)

U-Boats. 10/3 S/M situation. Part 1. 1 M/V torpedoed 39° 45' N., 73° 51' W., 0445Z/10. 1 by D/F within 100 miles of 37° 30' N. 73° W. 0433Z/10. 8 or 9 in area N. of 37° N. between 50° and 70° W. including 1 within 100 miles of 40° N. 62° W. 1 westbound 47° N. 33° W. eastbound 45° N. 40° W. 1 course S.W. 49° 30' N. 42° 30' W. Part 2. 2 M/Vs torpedoed Castries Harbour St. Lucia 0240Z/10. 1 M/V sunk 20° 25' N. 74° 07' W. 1130Z/9. Probably 1 S/M in Mona Passage. Possibly 2 or 3 others in Caribbean Sea unlocated 1 within 400 miles of Paramaribo. Possibly 1 in Bahamas area. 1 M/V torpedoed 23° 10' N. 60° 28' W. 0316Z/10. 3 S/Ms within 250 miles of 27° N. 62° W. 1 sighted 34° 47' N. 72° 10' W. 2005Z/9. 2 singles eastbound within 150 miles of following 33° 30' N. 41° 30' W., 41° 30' N. 32° 30' W., 45° 30' N. 29° 30' W. 2 eastbound within 150 miles of 46° 30' N. 23° W. 2 or 3 E. or S.E. of Iceland. 2 North West of Hebrides. 2 German and 1 Italian within 350 miles S.W. of Monrovia. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1835/10 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.)

American Troop Convoys. Number 115. Ref. J.S.M. 54, para. 4. 1. Convoy left East Coast on 4/4 for Australia. Due to arrive 8/4. 2. Convoy also contains 72nd F.A.Reg. for New Caledonia. 3. Grand total of troops on convoy 13,530 dropping 496 at Panama. 4. Ref. J.S.M.99, para. 2. 164th Infantry Reg. and 97th F.A.Bn. (75 MM pack Howitzer) leave West Coast 18/3 for New Caledonia via Australia. (J.S.M. Washington, 1845Q/10 to Chiefs of Staff.)

SEVERN. My 1847Z/7. Intend sailing SEVERN escorted by CHARLOTTETOWN and CALGARY at 1730Z/12 to Philadelphia routed through position (P) 40.00 N. 68.00 W. S. of A. 10½ knots. E.T.A. Overfalls light vessel 1100 G.M.T./16/3. Since S/M has no red identification grenades SEVERN will on all occasions when red is in force by day, both for surface and aircraft recognition, use a combination of blue and yellow fired as nearly simultaneously as possible. Request T.B.R. be arranged. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1846Z/10 to B.A.R.M. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) As amended 2015Z/11.

/Windward ...



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War Diary.10.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Windward  
A/S Patrol. Present Windward Passage A/S patrol includes  
(corrupt group) EMMONS, STRINGHAM, Yacht OPAL,  
6 aircraft.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1901/10 to N.O.I.C.  
Trinidad, Admty. etc.)

U-Boat. D/F indicate enemy submarine within 60 miles  
013° 30' N. 063° W. at 1219Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1903Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

S.C.73 Your 1645Z/10 (No trace in W.D.) S.C.73 position  
046° 45' N. 051° 38' W. speed 7.3 knots. Task  
Unit 24.1.14 in company. ANNAPOLIS parts  
company 1600/11 for fuel at St. Johns N.F.  
ASKILD and ROYALIST never rejoined convoy after  
night of 6th.  
(VANOC 2000Z/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Pacific  
Bases. My 2005Q/5 crossed A.M.2126A/5 and brief  
appreciation with general statement regarding  
bases will be discussed with U.S. C.O.S.  
2. Admty. requirements for naval base facilities  
are now clear. U.S. plans for bases for Pacific area will be  
communicated when available.  
3. Hobart is not in U.S. Plans and we require brief for  
strategical necessity.  
4. Situation as regards F.A.A. projects not clearly understood.  
Priorities may easily clash with naval projects particularly  
as regards accommodation and local labour. Supply of F.A.A.  
aircraft will flow steadily by September and manufacturers will  
want to be told method of delivery, i.e. assembled or crated.  
Unless base and storage facilities are put in hand we shall  
be unable to accept deliveries with obvious results. A signal  
on lines of my 2007Q/28/2 and your reply 2126A/5 would be of  
great assistance.  
5. Could we have a description of F.A.A. bases under the four  
headings of para.5 of my 2007Q/28/2 including priorities.  
(B.A.D. 2013Q/10 to Admty.)

S.C.73 S.C.73, Serial 3. Commodore's company S.S.  
EMPIRE BUNTING. 31 ships.  
(Opnav 2024/10 to C.T.U. 24.1.14)

N.A.6. Refer to this as C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2030/10.  
C.T.14. Your 1647/9. N.A.6 sails 20/3 should arrive  
about 1/4. C.T.14 sail 8/4, layover, CHURCHILL  
and CHESTERFIELD thus one week which should be  
satisfactory.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2050/10 to Action C. in C.  
Lant, (R) Admty., C.T.F.24, Opnav.) *See p.332*

/Fishing ...



War Diary.10.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Fishing Vessels. Your 1448Z/9. Request 20 vessels referred to in C.A.N.A.D. 1205 from B.A.T.M. speed not less than 8 knots, are made available forthwith. Arrangements will be made to ship them as required. Request they are (slipped) and spare parts provided in the interval. Are they at Vancouver and by what approximate date can they be ready for shipment?  
(D.S.V.P. 2056A/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

INDEPENDENCE HALL. N.S.H.Q. views with appreciation the gallant rescue of crew of S.S. INDEPENDENCE HALL. Officers and Ratings whom took part are to be congratulated.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2057Z/10 to WITCH, NIAGARA, CHEDABUCTO, LUNENBURG (R) Admty., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

Convoy Escorts. <sup>London diary</sup> TRAIL and DUNVEGAN arrived from S.C.71. Task Unit C.2 composed of RESTIGOUCHE, ST.FRANCIS, COBALT, NAPANEE, TRAIL, BUCTOUCHE, DUNVEGAN, designated escort O.N.76. \*ASSINIBOINE and \*AMHERST sailed O.N.74. \*CELANDINE and \*HEPATICA sailing when fuelled. \*FENNEL expected 12th to overtake. N.O.I.C. Greenock advises \*ACONITE cannot sail, to overtake. DIANTHUS delayed until 13th and will sail in accordance with F.O.N.F. 0054Z/10. (C.T.G. 24.7, 2145/10 to C. in C. W.A., C.T.F.24., Admty., Opnav, F.O.N.F., N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, Comdre Londonderry.) \* See p. 331 \* See p. 335

Floating Dock. Your 2015/5. Concur in allocation to U.S. Navy of 3000 ton dock originally intended for Freetown. 2. Particulars of essential requirements to adapt wooden dock for service at Freetown will be communicated.  
(Admty. 2201A/10 to B.A.D.)

PARTHIAN. PARTHIAN has returned to New London with defects. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2202P/10 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) Admty. F.O. Subs. B.A.D.) See p. 331

Movements. Bermuda arrival CLARKIA, KIWI. Departure MANCHESTER for U.K.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2213P/10 to Admty.) See p. 331

ORARI U/B. 13 R 27 N - 56 R 26 W. Sighted submarine. (ORARI, 2355Z/10)  
Intercept De VRY (Demerara Radio) ORARI 13° 25' N. 56° 26' W. sighted submarine.  
(Valentia Radio 2355/10 to Admty.)



War Diary.10.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. ACHILLES and LEANDER escorting MATSONIA, MORMACSEA and MONTEREY arrived Brisbane 9th. GEELONG left Brisbane 1150Z/8 for Noumea. Departure Fremantle 6th\* ADELAIDE for Melbourne escorting ship MOUNT VERNON (for ~~Adelaide~~) U.S. Destroyers BULMER and BARKER for Albany Area. WARSPITE left Aldinga Bay (St. Vincent's Gulf) 0200Z/8 for Calais. Arrival Fremantle 0200Z/8 BURNIE, BENDIGO. ASCANIA 0900Z/8. U.S. Seaplane tender CHILDS arrived Geraldton 0600Z/7. (A.C.N.B. 0028Z/10 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet, (U.S.) Admty etc.) as amended 0556Z/11 \* See p. 341

PERTH Have no information other than that which has  
YARRA. already been passed to you concerning British warships from Malaya area. It is assumed PERTH and YARRA have been lost. Do you concur? (A.C.N.B. 0206Z/10 to Admty. C. in C. E.F.) Concur. (C. in C. E.F. 0851Z/12.)

Movements. BALLARAT, GOULBURN arrived Fremantle 0700Z/9. U.S. Transport MOUNT VERNON arrived Port Adelaide 0945Z/9. U.S. Cruiser NEW ORLEANS and U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD departed Brisbane 0030Z/9 for R/V with convoy Z.K.7. MILDURA left Sydney 0744Z/8 for R/V with Z.K.7 thence Noumea. Arrival Fremantle 1000Z/7, U.S. S/M SPEARFISH. Departure Fremantle, U.S. S/M SNAPPER 1100Z/6. WESTRALIA escorting U.S.A. Transport JOHN ERICSSON departed Port Melbourne 0431Z/9 for Noumea. (A.C.N.B. 0536Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

A/S All A/S auxiliary craft including A.M.S. from  
Auxiliary Singapore are to be formed into A/S hunting  
Craft. groups. Each group to be not less than 4 ships. For the present these groups are to be known as 26th and 27th M.S.F. Report group ship of S.O. group and when ready to operate. (A.C.N.B. 0710Z/10 to D.N.O. Western Australia (R) Admty. etc.)

Minefields. My 1311A/10, anticipated that MANCHESTER CITY and JAY will arrive in New Zealand waters at end of April, with sufficient stores for two controlled minefields. 2. N.Z.N.B. are requested to instruct MANCHESTER CITY to lay field as desired. Arrangements being made to ship four additional control stations with other stores to N.Z. A further four stations and stores will be sent. 3. MANCHESTER CITY will have no watchkeeping personnel. Most desirable to press on with local craft to complete programmes and also for care and maintenance. Following points are specially emphasized. (D. of L.D. 1343A/10 to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F.)

/Mining ...



War Diary.10.3.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - contd.Mining  
Programme.Your 2229/18 and 0120/27 and my 1045/1.  
Following steps taken to implement extensive  
mining programme now regarded as urgent  
requirement. (N.Z.N.B. 1440M/10 to Admty.)

Situation.

Serial number 48 from C.W.R. 9/3. (1) 9th Air  
raid Port Moresby by 11 T 97 heavy bombers at  
0100Z/9. Aerodrome attacked slight damage S.E.  
end of runway. 1 anti A/C battery bombed by 1 A/C no damage  
or casualties. (2) Air R/C by 1 Hudson 9/3 reveals (a) Rabaul  
6 transports in harbour 1 moving out. One cruiser S.E. end of  
harbour with 1 tanker in vicinity. 18 twin-engined bombers on  
Vunakanau aerodrome near runway. 4 fighters attempted to  
intercept but were evaded. (b) Gasmata no shipping sighted 2  
fighters attempt intercept but were evaded. (3) No further  
intelligence regarding enemy forces at Salamoia and Lae. 1  
destroyer reported at 2200Z/8 off Salamoia proceeding S.E.  
along coast and 1 ship stationed off Hanisch harbour (N.E. of  
Salamoia). (4) Enemy submarine reported 029° 49' S. 155° 03' E.  
at 0010Z/6 (graded B.2) (5) Unidentified A/C reported south  
of Nauru travelling S.W. at 0001Z/8. (6) Jap Sea Carrier KAMOI  
still in Rabaul area probably slightly east of Rabaul and is  
in company. C. in C. 4th Fleet F.O. Mandated Air Force.  
C.O. 17th Air Squadron and 2 other Air Units.  
(A.C.N.B. 1702Z/10 to C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Minesweepers.

Your 1034A/3/2. Request 10 additional Flotilla  
numbers be allocated so A.M.S. vessels can be  
organised into numbered M/S Flotillas for A/S  
or M/S duties in Australian waters.  
(A.C.N.B. 1722Z/10 to Admty.)  
Reply: 1646/12.

MANGANUI.

Arrival Sydney (N.S.W) 2033/9 hospital ship  
MANGANUI.  
(A.C.N.B. 2212Z/10 to Admty., N.Z.N.B. etc.)Tongatabu  
base.To S. of S. for Dominion Affairs. (R) High  
Commissioner for Western Pacific. We are  
advised by Naval Board that U.S. naval  
authorities contemplate developing Tongatabu as an  
advanced operational base and that a survey of the harbour with  
this in view has already started. Not possible for R.N.Z.N.  
to provide naval measures required. Suggested all naval services  
should be provided by U.S. Navy, including N.O. in charge and  
staff. We will render any assistance possible and it is  
suggested that High Commissioner for Western Pacific should be  
requested to do the same.  
(New Zealand Govt. 2220/10)



# MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1440M/10 March.  
IN.

FROM. New Zealand Navy Board. DATE. 12.3.42.

RECD. 1849.

NAVAL CYpher (X) BY W/T.

CORRECTION.

Addressed. Admiralty.

354. Your 2229/18th your 0120/27th and my 1045/1. The following steps have been taken to implement extensive mining programme now regarded as urgent requirement.

2. Mine depot to complete with Mark XIV mines, under construction. Storage accommodation for 600 mines in bulk already completed and work proceeding rapidly. Provision is being made to utilise this establishment temporarily as controlled mine base pending completion of latter, work on which has just been put in hand. Outlying advance bases are in hand in bay of islands area and at Wellington. Further advance bases in the South island will be constructed.

3. Suitable ship for conversion to loop layer has been selected and will be taken up as soon as the drawings and specifications mentioned in your 2101/23th Feb. are received. Smaller vessels for laying observation mines are available when required.

4. Personnel requirements being met as far as possible from station resources, but no men having extensive previous experience are available. A suitable surveyor has been found. Mining party, etc., is being formed from torpedo ratings withdrawn from cruisers under provision of A.F.O. 2670/40 and from wiremen with submarine cable jointing experience. Control station personnel are earmarked and will be entered as requisite as soon as the attack teacher and first consignment of mining material arrives.

5. If any experienced officers or ratings are available anywhere who could assist in training mining and maintenance personnel their services would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime training will proceed and material can be received as indicated in your 2229/18/2.

1440M/10.

Note By W.R. This message was received in 2 parts but the second part was circulated in error with the first part of another message. The message is now complete.

- 1st Lord.            + Re employment of Auckland, Fiji and Tongatabu
- 1st S.L.            W.D. as advanced bases.
- 2nd. S.L.           N.A. 2nd. S.L.       Admiral Bailey.
- 4th S.L.            P.A.S. (WP)         Admiral Bellairs.
- V.C.N.S.            D.P.S.             D.T.M.
- A.C.N.S. (H)        Hd. of N.           D.A/S.W.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)    Hd. of C.W.         D.D.O.D. (M)
- A.C.N.S. (T)        D.O.D. (H)         C.E. in C.
- Sec.                D.D.O.D. (H)       Hd. of S.W.R.
- Nav. Sec.           D.T.S.D.           D.A.S.
- N.A. 1st S.L.       D.O.D. (F)         D. of L.D.
- P.A.S. (S)          D.D.O.D. (F)       I.P. (3)
- D.N.I. (4)          D.D.I.C. (2)       A.E. (3)
- M. (35)            D.T.D. (2)         N.L.O. Australia. House.
- D. of P. ( 3)       D.T.D. (M)



War Diary.

10.3.1942  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

LE TRIOMPHANT Arrival Sydney 0402Z/10 F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT.  
ADELAIDE. Arrival Melbourne 0755Z/10 ADELAIDE. *See p.339*  
(A.C.N.B. 2242Z/10 to A.I.G.115)

—Movements.

Departure Brisbane 0503Z/9 F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT  
for Sydney.  
(A.C.N.B. 2246Z/10 to F.O. Australian Sqdn.  
Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1431A/10, 1435/10)



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Photographs of Trondheim at 1030A today show that TIRPITZ was not then in Aasfiord, but that ADMIRAL SCHEER, PRINZ EUGEN, a cargo liner, and a tanker were still in Lo Fiord, and that the stern of PRINZ EUGEN has been cut down to water level for a length of about 25 feet giving her the appearance of having a square stern.

At 1026A F.O.S. informed the S/M Patrol off Fro Havet that he considered the chances of TIRPITZ passing them to be still very good and that, though she may try the inner leads, she would have to come out near the Sklinden Channel in 65° 7' N. 10° 45' E.

At 0125 MACKAY on Patrol "D" reported 2 E-Boats near 56A Buoy off Yarmouth and chased them to the N.E.-ward but soon lost contact; and, at 0220 M.G.B. 331 on patrol sighted them again in 52° 55' N. 2° 43' E. In view of this C. in C. Nore considers that the British HORSEFERRY, 951 tons, reported mined in Convoy F.S. 46 at 0010 near 56A buoy may possibly have been torpedoed and not mined. 6 survivors from HORSEFERRY were landed at Yarmouth at 0414A, but one D.E.M.S. rating was killed and 10 more of her crew are missing.

It is reported today that the M/S Whaler SHERA capsized at 0630/9 in 71° 25' N. 38° E. while on passage to Murmansk to be turned over to the Russians, there being only 3 survivors.

A force of M.Ls. left Dartmouth at 1534 to conduct an offensive sweep for enemy vessels off the Channel Islands during the night, and was to return to Start Point by 0730 tomorrow.

Convoy C.W. 71 was shelled by the enemy coastal batteries while passing Dover at 2045 last night, ten rounds being fired without result.

British Air Activity.

Special patrols of the Trondheim and Narvik areas were flown during today; and, as there will be no cruisers on patrol in the Denmark Strait after midnight 11/12, A.C.I.C. has been requested to

/arrange ...



War Diary.

11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity - Contd.

arrange for a special air R/C of that area from midnight until dusk tomorrow. The photographic R/C of Narvik failed today owing to the weather.

Enemy Air Activity.

Between 2011 and 2200 yesterday the aerodrome at Sumburgh was attacked by A/C which dropped several bombs without effect.

At 2006 today the M/S Trawler CRAFTSMAN was attacked by one A/C 2 miles South of Girdleness and suffered some damage without casualty.

Mining.

2 magnetic mines were exploded today by Sweepers off Harwich, one in the Thames Estuary, one off the Humber, and 2 off Yarmouth where one acoustic mine was also swept.

North Atlantic.

Enemy  
Air  
Activity.

SCOTTISH (armed boarding vessel) reported a Focke Wulf A/C (which did not attack) at 1815A 320° from Cape Espichel.

S.S. LEADGATE reported an air attack (by F.W.) 10 miles E. Cape Santa Maria at 1800 G.M.T. On 13/3 F.O.C.N.A. gave the position as 37° 02' N. 07° 39' 20" W. just inside territorial waters. No damage or casualties.



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War Diary.

11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

West  
African  
Command.

Rear-Adm. F.H. Pegram, late R.A.S.A.D., hoisted his flag in EDINBRUGH CASTLE at Freetown today. As it is intended he shall administer all ports in W. Africa north of and including the Congo. C. in C. South Atlantic asks that he may be appointed as F.O.I.C. West Africa, (short title R.A.W.Af.) Admty. approved this on 13/3.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Enemy raids appeared to be less intense last night and today, and no bombs were reported on land.

NAIAD  
sunk.  
by U.565.  
(G.3.443)

NAIAD (5.25 in. cruiser) was torpedoed by U/B at 2031B in 32.00 N., 26.19 E. and sunk. KIPLING, LIVELY and JERVIS picked up survivors (about 34 officers and 548 ratings, among the former being Rear-Adm. Vian, R.A. 15 C.S.) Casualties were 2 officers and 80 ratings.

Libya.

Wellingtons attacked the harbour at Benghazi last night.

East Indies.

Madagascar.

C. in C. E.F., referring to a Press report that some of the French Fleet may have been turned over to Germany and that 3 light warships left Dakar for Madagascar 3 weeks ago, says that a hostile force would have the most profound effect on the whole outlook in this theatre, and he would be grateful for information whether the Admty. consider the threat real or not. Admty., however, consider the report of no particular importance.

/Addu Atoll ...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies - Contd.Addu  
Atoll.

C. in C. E.I. points out landing difficulties at Addu Atoll until substantial piers have been constructed.  
Arrival of RESOLUTION (Flag V.A.3) at Addu Atoll is to be accelerated as much as possible.

Aircraft  
Control,  
Ceylon.

Chiefs of Staff have decided that in matters concerning co-ordination of defence and operational policy the A.O.C. Ceylon, should be responsible to the C. in C. Ceylon, through whom he will communicate with higher authority on these 2 subjects. On matters of administration, discipline, organisation, maintenance and training, he should be directly responsible to A.O.C. in C. India, and through him to C. in C. India. A.O.C. Ceylon, will nevertheless operate his long range G.R. squadron in accordance with a directive from C. in C. E.F.

Air Forces  
Ceylon.

C. in C. Ceylon is disturbed at the paucity of his air striking forces and asks for the despatch of torpedo bomber units of the Beaufort or similar type with trained crews and maintenance equipment, but Admty. regret that his needs cannot be met in the immediate future, and suggest he should approach Middle East for technical assistance.

BIRMINGHAM,  
FOXHOUND.

BIRMINGHAM and FOXHOUND become part of the Eastern Fleet today.

America and West Indies.

A U-Boat was attacked by Catalina A/C at 1950 in 43.26 N. 65.13 W. south of Cape Sable. No definite results.



War Diary.

11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

Port Moresby was raided by 12 heavy bombers from 0230 to 0240 G.M.T. No casualties, and the Aerodrome is still serviceable.

Salamoa and Lae were attacked by 5 B.17 aircraft today. Near misses were obtained on a ship in Lae Harbour.



War Diary.

11.3.1942.

Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

5th and 6th M.T.B. Flotillas. In view of there being only 3 boats in 5th M.T.B. Flotilla and of the similarity of design and performance with boats of 6th M.T.B. Flotilla it is suggested that 5th and 6th Flotillas should be amalgamated to form one Flotilla. (V.A.Dover, 1257A/11).

AMARANTHUS. When ready for sea at the end of March AMARANTHUS should be sailed as required by C. in C. W.A. for onward routing to S.A.Command. (D.O.D. (H.), 1807A/11).

Movements.

27th M.L. Flotilla. Intend to sail 27th M.L. Flotilla at 0700A tomorrow for Holyhead and onward routing to Milford Haven. E.T.A. Holyhead 1500A/12. (N.O.I.C.Larne, 0001A/11).

1. 27th M.L. Flotilla will be ready to leave Milford Haven for Gibraltar on 15/3.
2. Anticipated speed on passage 11 knots.
3. Escort to Gibraltar will be provided by WRESTLER.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail flotilla when weather forecast is suitable and to arrange route South of Ireland. (D.O.D. (H.), 1330A/11).

DERBYSHIRE. Plotting indicates your position at 1146A/11 295° Strumbles Head 13½ miles. (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 1213A/11 to DERBYSHIRE).

LOOKOUT. Proceed to pass Switha 1800 today to Clyde. (R.A.D., 1350A/11 to LOOKOUT).

WALPOLE. Return to Sule Skerry by 1800. (C. in C. Nore, 1534A/11 to WALPOLE). My 1534/11. Proceed all despatch. (C. in C. Nore, 1600A/11 to WALPOLE).

*See p 350*

RIPLEY. Intend to sail RIPLEY for Greenock 1800/12. E.T.A. 2200/13. Request fighter protection during passage. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough, 1625/11).

MATCHLESS. My 1830A/3. Intend to sail MATCHLESS to Scapa a.m. 16th. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1814A/11).

LONDON, KENT. Arrived LONDON and KENT 1330A. (A.C.I.C., 1815A/11).

/Destroyers ...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

Destroyers. Scapa departure FAULKNER, FURY, INTREPID, ICARUS, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, ESKIMO, TARTAR.  
(A.C.O.S., 1915/11).

TUNA. Your 2014/9. Arrived. Escort proceeded.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1932A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

Western Channel Sweeps by M.L's. My 2014/10. "Obstacle" returned to harbour owing to low visibility.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0122/11).  
Your 0630/11. "Obstacle" arrived.  
(R.N.O. Penzance, 1930/11).  
Intend sailing "Obstacle" at 0730/12 to Falmouth.  
E.T.A. 1030/12.  
(R.N.O. Penzance, 1945/11).

Intention to take advantage of present foggy weather to carry out sweep in channel.

2. Object destruction of any enemy vessels sighted.  
3. Execution available M.L's are to sail so as to reach 005°. Les Hanois Light 13 miles by 2000/11 and thence sweep towards 302°. Les Sept Ile 7 miles, sweep being discontinued in time to make Start Point by 0730/12.

4. S.O. has full discretion to abandon operation if weather clears during daylight or if other circumstances require.

Code word "Skipper."

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1334/11 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Your 1334/11. Sailed "Skipper."

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1534/11 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Exercise L.9. My 2317/7 para. 4. SOBIESKI is required for SOBIESKI. exercise L.9., loading for which commences 11.3.  
2. Request report when SOBIESKI will be available to load for this exercise.  
(D.S.T., 0245A/11).

E-Boats off Cromer. At 0125 MACKAY on "D" Patrol reported 2 E-Boats near 56A Buoy. These Boats were chased to N.E-ward and contact was soon lost; but 2 E-Boats were again reported at 0220 in 52° 55' N. 2° 43' E. by M.G.B. 331 on patrol. Probably these were the same Boats.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0820/11).  
See Casualties.

My 0820A/11. M.G.B's 331 and 332 sighted 2 E-Boats steering to S.E. at high speed at close range in 52° 55' N., 02° 42' E. at 0223A/11. M.G.B's were on opposite course and lost touch immediately. No hits claimed.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1606A/11 to Admty.)

Cable laying. My 1603A/10. Sailed cable ship <sup>MARIE LOUISE</sup> M.L. MACKAY escorted by KIRKELLA.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1659A/11).

/Convoy ...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - contd.Convoy  
C.W. 71  
shelled.Enemy coastal batteries fired ten rounds at C.W. 71 when off Dover at 2045. No casualties or damage have been reported.  
(V.A. Dover, 0916A/11).→ East Coast  
Patrols.Patrol C. WALPOLE, SOUTHDOWN, CATTISTOCK, VIVACIOUS.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0932A/11).  
Proceed on patrol as in my 0932A/11.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1350A/11 to Destroyers).  
Proceed on Patrol D.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1729A/11 to SOUTHDOWN).Search for  
Light.Your 2033A/9. No action taken by Admiralty.  
(D.O.D.H., 1003A/11 to C. in C. H.F.,  
(R) KENT).Trondheim  
S/M Patrol.  
TIRPITZ.I know how trying this waiting is, but chances of TIRPITZ passing are still very good. He may try inner leads, but would have to come out in vicinity of Sklinden Channel 065° 07' N., 010° 45' E. approximately. Stick it.  
(F.O.S., 1026A/11 to S/M's area A.)Destroyer  
Patrol off  
Dover.R/V South Fall buoy at 1530.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1232A/11 to D.21, D.16).  
Departures. MACKAY (D.16), WALPOLE, HAMBLEDON, SOUTHDOWN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1315A/11).  
→ Operation cancelled. Destroyers return to base.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1344A/11 to D.16, D.21).

Following destroyers are being placed under orders of V.A. Dover tonight. CAMPBELL (D.21) VESPER, VIVACIOUS, CATTISTOCK, MACKAY, (D.16) WALPOLE, HAMBLEDON.

Destroyers proceeding to arrive Dumpton Buoy before dark if possible, thence as ordered by V.A. Dover.

(C. in C. Nore, 1640A/11).

C. in C. Nore's 1640A. D. 21 has been instructed by telephone to patrol with available destroyers between C One Buoy and Beachy Head in readiness to act on information regarding enemy vessels proceeding westwards passed to him from Dover Plot and to attack between Q.Z.X. 613 and 607. Unless otherwise ordered he will return to harbour passing Dumpton Buoy at daylight.  
(V.A. Dover, 1752A/11).Night 11/12. CAMPBELL, VESPER, VIVACIOUS, CATTISTOCK, MACKAY, WALPOLE, and HAMBLEDON, patrolling between C One buoy and Beachy Head, leaving patrol to pass Dumpton Buoy at 0700/12. Trawlers WATERFLY and LOIS sweeping between Dover and Dumpton and M.L's 450 - 339 patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit Buoy sailing after passage of above.  
(V.A. Dover, 1829A/11).If no enemy report has been received by 0400 CAMPBELL, VESPER, VIVACIOUS and CATTISTOCK are to proceed to Portsmouth, MACKAY WALPOLE and HAMBLEDON to Harwich passing Dumpton Buoy at 0630. 21st Flotilla will be required for similar operation tomorrow  
(V.A. Dover, 2242A/11 to D.21, D.16).

/My ...



War Diary.

11.3.1942.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Destroyer  
Patrol off  
Dover.  
(contd.)

My 2242. Return route is to be through positions  
169° Dungeness 4.6, 088° Dungeness 9.7,  
188° South Foreland 7.4, thence No.4 buoy.  
(F.O.C. Dover, 2300A/11 to D.14).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol "Stutter" returned 0830. Patrol value nil.  
Patrol "Standex" (previously known as "Northern  
Stand") returned 0545. Patrol value nil.

Patrol "Slips in operation.

Special patrol by Catalina vicinity 066° N. 011° E. in  
operation till further notice.

P R U of Trondheim in operation.

P R U of Narvik should take off before noon.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1001/11 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

My 1001/11. A further "Standex" patrol took off 0457, landed  
0836, patrol value 100%.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1137/11 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Bombing  
Operation.

On Night 10/11 2 A/C attacked the Docks at  
Boulogne.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1254/11).

Bombing  
Restrictions.

Request surface bombing restrictions from  
1500/11 until 0730/12 South of 50° 13' N.  
between 02° 30' and 03° 45' W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1338/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

Denmark  
Strait.

As there are no cruisers on patrol after  
midnight request special air R/C until dusk  
tomorrow.  
(F.O.C. 1st, C.S., 1856A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

Narvik.

Narvik 11th March. R/C failed owing to weather.  
(D.D.I.C., 1930A/11).

Enemy Air Activity.

Shetlands  
bombed.

Enemy A/C activity occurred in vicinity of  
Shetlands between 2011 and 2200/10. Machine-gun  
fire was directed at Sumburgh aerodrome and  
several bombs were dropped in the area. No damage  
or casualties reported.  
Sumburgh A/A guns engaged in two rounds.  
(S.O.I. Lerwick, 0941A/11).

SCOTTISH

Help. My position 320° from P C L distant  
35 miles. (SCOTTISH, 1820/11).  
2 Aircraft F.W. bearing 170° distant 7 miles,  
course 180°. My position 320° P C L 35.  
(SCOTTISH, 1826/11).

/CRAFTSMAN ...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - contd.CRAFTSMAN  
(M/S Trawler)  
damaged.

At 2006/11. CRAFTSMAN was attacked 2 miles South of Girdleness. 1 Plate damaged. Donkey pump broken. Several pipes fractured. No casualties.  
1 A/C approached from South of Girdleness, dropped 4 bombs near misses. Ship opened fire with 12 pdr., 2 P.A.C.'s, .5, and Hotchkiss. Hit A/C with .5.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2220/11).

Mining.

Harwich.

1 red mine detonated by "LL" Trawlers at 2300 in 52° 01.5' N., 01° 45.2' E.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0036A/11).  
At 2302/10 one red mine exploded by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1146A/11).

Q.L. 7.

Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L. 7 tonight, alternative position Q.L. 6.  
Covering force one unit of M.G.B's in 52° 7' N., 3° 55' E. retiring to Q.P. 25 when M.L's are clear. M.L's and M.G.B's are to proceed and return via Aldeburgh Buoy and Gap E.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1050A/11 to BEEHIVE).

S.N. 81.

Your 1102/7. Concur but MANXMAN must remain at Scapa for the present.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1137/11 to R.A.M.)

My 1102/7. In view of Admiralty's 1137/11. Request cruiser escort may be provided during daylight 15/3 only while in vicinity of Faeroes. (R.A.M., 1524/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

B.S. 68.  
B.S. 69.

B.S. 69 amended orders for B.S. 68 as follows.  
Para. 1, 051° 56' 15" N., 002° 27' 15" E.  
Para. 5. After 54B Buoy insert keep clear B.S. 60.  
Para. 6. Night 12/13 or night following B.S. 68.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1254A/11 to N.O.I.C. Harwich, PLOVER).

Q.S. 3.

Available ships of 4th M.S.F. are to carry out operation Q.S. 3 in continuation of Q.S. 2 tomorrow night weather permitting.

2. Method of execution. Sail so as to leave Aldeburgh L.F. at 1900. Get sweeps out in 2° 45' E., sweep to 3° 20' E. and back to 2° 45' E. Then get sweeps in and return to Harwich via Aldeburgh L.F.
3. Sweepers are to search on a front of 4 miles unless low visibility makes narrower front necessary.
4. Balloons are not to be flown.
5. If mines are found operation is to be abandoned.
6. Except in emergency W/T silence is to be kept when east of Aldeburgh L.F.
7. Sweepers will be covered by M.G.B's to eastward of them.
8. Fighter protection will be arranged during daylight both days.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1448P/11).

/Thames ...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - contd.

Thames Estuary. 1 ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 1314/11. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1744/11).

Humber. One Red mine detonated at 1002A/11 by Sweepers. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1905A/11).

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1310 in 52° 49' N., 2° 11' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1518A/11). LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1645. SA Trawlers detonated Acoustic mine at 1710. Details. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1920A/11).

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/10 to 0900/11. Nil. (V.A.Dover, 0901A/11).

GNEISENAU damage. Enemy Coastal Traffic. (1) Kiel. Last air attack caused following damage. (a) GNEISENAU hit on fore part which has now submerged. (b) Large Depot ship was hit and sunk. Graded B4. (2) Convoys continue along Jutland coast to Norway. Independently routed ships may not pass west of 8° E. Graded A2. (3) Vessels routed along Frisian coast sail singly to ports adjacent Bremen and Emden. Proceeding westward they sail in Convoy of 6 to 8 ships protected by 4 to 6 armed trawlers. Use is made of barrage balloon with 2 to 3 hundred metres of wire. Graded A2. (4) The transports LEVANTE and ASKARI have been conveying troops lorries 10.5 centimetre guns together with transports from Copenhagen to Oslo Fjord since February. LEVANTE was set on fire marked damage being considerable. Graded A2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1241/11). O.I.C. Comment. Para. 1 (a) Last bombing attack on Kiel was 27/28 Feb. Photograph on 2nd March showed repair work to forecastle of GNEISENAU which was in Floating Dock, but it is believed the damage was caused at Brest. Para. 1 (b) This report may be correct. Para. 2, Para.3 and Para.4. Probably correct.

ADMIRAL SCHEER, PRINZ EUGEN, TIRPITZ.

Visual R/C Trondjeim 1030A/11 shows SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN in Lo Fiord. TIRPITZ not present in Aasfiord. (D.D.I.C., 1509A/11). Photographs taken at 1030/11 show:- Aasfiord. No shipping present but boom and rafts still present.

Lo fiord. The SCHEER, PRINZ EUGEN, the cargo liner, and PARGE tanker seen in same positions as on 28/2. Two lighters and the floating crane remain attending to cruiser stern, and boom surrounding her is again closed. Her damaged stern has apparently been cut to water level thus shortening her by approx. 25 ft. and giving her stern square appearance. (P R U Wick, 1630/11).

/My ...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - contd.ADMIRAL  
SCHEER,  
PRINZ EUGEN,  
TIRPITZ.  
(contd.)My 1509A/11. Photographs confirm.  
(D.D.I.C., 2101A/11).U-Boats.

Seidisfiord. My 1931A/10. In view of exposed nature of Seidisfiord anchorage and possibility that enemy submarines will continue to operate outside, I feel that 2 destroyers should be retained to supplement trawler A/S patrols and to provide hunt group when circumstances require it.

If nothing transpires from destroyer search today propose that 2 of the present destroyer force leave Seidisfiord a.m. tomorrow for Scapa, and that I and my staff go with them; the other 2 remaining here until further orders.

(C.S.18, 1151A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 1151A/11. Approved.

(C. in C. H.F., 2337A/11 to C.S.18).

U-Boat  
sighted off  
Hebrides.  
(P.Q.13).LAMERTON sighted S/M on the surface in 058° 04' N.  
010° 36' W. bearing 250° distance 3 miles, at  
1930Z. LAMERTON and NEWPORT attacking.  
(BLYSKAWICA, 2005Z/11).Navigational.Off Cromer. Wreckage danger to navigation in 052° 52' N.  
002° 10' E.

(Capt. D.16, 0250A/11 to C. in C. Nore).

My 0250A/11. Wreckage probably floating. Locate at dawn and try and sink clear of channel.

(Capt. D.16, 0453A/11 to HAMBLEDON).

Your 0453A/11. No dangerous wreckage observed. Large quantity of small wreckage 1 mile North West 54 D buoy.

Am returning to Harbour. E.T.A. 1115.

(HAMBLEDON, 0745A/11 to Capt. D.16).

Clyde Area.

Fog signal Dubh Artach out of action. Greenock Area New light buoy damaged and light extinguished.

(C. in C. W.A., 1019Z/11 to U.S. Destroyer GLEAVES).

South Falls  
Buoy.

South Falls buoy extinguished.

(C. in C. Nore, 1829A/11 to Capt. D.16).

(Hydrog, 2154A/11).

Off Yarmouth.

Light on wreck buoy in 052° 35' N. 001° 59' E. reported extinguished. Request Q.Z.H. and that buoy may be relit at earliest opportunity.

(C. in C. Nore, 2219A/11).



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

Convoys F.S.746. HORSEFERRY mined and sunk position 052° 52' N. HORSEFERRY 002° 10' E. Am standing by to pick up (British 951 survivors. (SHEARWATER, 0045/11). tons) sunk. My 0045A. Seven survivors transferred to Motor Launch 191 for passage to Yarmouth. 10 missing. (SHEARWATER, 0119A/11).

Arrival M.L.191 with 6 survivors and 1 body of D.E.M.S. rating from HORSEFERRY at 0345A. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0414A/11).

At 0010 today M.L.191 with F.S.746 reported HORSEFERRY mined near 56 buoy. Shortly after this SHEARWATER reported that HORSEFERRY had sunk in approx. 52° 52' N. 02° 10' E. At 0125 D 16 in MACKAY on "D" patrol reported 2 E-Boats near 56A Buoy. These boats were chased to N.E' ward and contact was soon lost but 2 E-Boats were again reported at 0220 in 52° 55' N. 02° 43' E. by M.G.B. 331 on patrol. Probably these were the same boats. Pending further reports the possibility exists that HORSEFERRY might have been torpedoed and not mined. (C. in C. Nore, 0820A/11).

DEVON CITY. My 1704A/10. Sailed, code word 'Branch'. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 0845A/11).

H.44. H.44 has serious defect on starboard main motor which necessitates docking. Estimated time required 8 days. (Capt. S.7, 1001A/11 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

ENSIGNE MARIE SAINT-GERMAIN Expect salvage repairs complete by 15/3. Request 2 tugs for that date. Estimate vessel will make about 4 knots. Fair weather essential for passage. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1430A/11).

YEWKYLE. Following received from Salvage Officer. Position and condition unchanged. Weather permitting will attempt re float next high tide. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1445A/11).

SHERA (M/S Whaler) sunk. SVEGA arrived 1000C/11 and reports SHERA capsized in 71° 25' N., 38° E. at 0630 G.M.T./9th in heavy swell and pack ice. Only 3 survivors. Names. All now at Polyarno suffering from exposure and severe frost bite. SVEGA has minor damage due to heavy weather. SVEGA, SHERA, STEFA did not join convoy P.Q.12. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1916A/11).

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.13. P.Q.13 sailed Loch Ewe 10th March for Reykjavik. 16 Ships. Names. (D.T.D., 1140Z/11 to Opnav).

/Convoy ...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - contd.Convoy  
H.X.177.

Hearty congratulations on bringing home your  
convoy successfully.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1447A/11 to Commodore, R.Spencer,  
R.N.R.)

Positions  
"Icomp."

Commencing with O.N.78 and S.C.75 the R/V  
positions for O.N.J. and S.C.L. portions will  
be known as "Icomp."  
(C. in C. W.A., 1540Z/11).

→ Q.P.8.

Q.P.8. 7 Merchant Ships arrived Akureyri 10th  
and 6 at Reykjavik 1600A/11th. Also OXLIP and  
SWEETBRIAR. IJORA and LARRANGA not arrived.  
(A.C.I.C., 1631A/11).

Q.P.B.

Your 0805A/10. Approved. Anti/Sub escort ready  
sail any day from 14th March onward.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1701A/11 to S.B.N.O.  
Archangel).

P.Q.13 and  
Q.P.8.

(1) Is it your intention that all present  
escorts P.Q.13 should continue as local escort  
from Reykjavik. If not propose STELLA CAPELLA be  
retained, leaving OXLIP and SWEETBRIAR to escort

4 or 5 ships of Q.P.8 to Loch Ewe.

(2) Two additional trawlers Iceland probably available Q.13.

(3) Request onward route Q.P.8.

(A.C.I.C., 1738A/11 to Admty.)

Your 1738A/11. (1) After fuelling Iceland request you will  
sail NEWPORT, BLYSKAWICA, SARDONYX and SALADIN to U.K.

(2) STELLA CAPELLA may be retained for onward escort of P.Q.13.

→ (3) Confirm that OXLIP and SWEETBRIAR should escort ships from  
Q.P.8 to Loch Ewe, subsequently proceeding base.

(C. in C. W.A., 2335A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

A.C.I.C.'s 1738A/11. Request confirmation that my responsibility  
to provide escorts for P.Q. and Q.P. convoys is only between  
Loch Ewe and Seidisfiord or Reykjavik.

Advance information regarding sailing of Q.P. convoys from  
Iceland would be much appreciated.

(C. in C. W.A., 2337A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

TOMSK.

My 1814A/10. Sailed. SHIANT's W/T defective can  
receive but not transmit. E.T.A. 1900/12.  
(N.O.I.C.Faroes, 1815A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

D.S.24.

My 1528A/9. Sailed. E.T.A. Reykjavik 1500A/14.  
Secret positions.  
APRICOT, 56° N., 12° W.  
TURTLE, 61° N., 10° W.  
SKUNK, 62° N. 25° W.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2036A/11).



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- A/C. Large unidentified aircraft without lights located by R.D.F. but been seen flying 210° in 32° 14', 15° 55' at 0010A/11. Green Rocket or flare observed in approx: same position at 2350A/10. Area searched nothing found. (GERANIUM, 0130A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- DAUNTLESS. From 045° 30' N., 015° 00' W. proceed through C. 40.00, 15.00 D. 36.30, 10.00. thence Gibraltar. Report E.T.A. Gate on passing (C). (F.O.C.N.A., 1032A/11 to DAUNTLESS).
- FUNCHALENSE, GORGULHO. C.C.S.O. letter No.22 of 12/2. Desirable to board FUNCHALENSE and GORGULHO on their next departure from and arrival of Lisbon to remove all mails. Also look for illegal mail and any un-validated cargo. (D.E.W.D., 1043A/11 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C.C.S.O. Gibraltar).
- ERGO (Finnish). My 1624/28/2. ERGO loaded and in stream may sail tomorrow. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1136/11 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty).
- LOCH OSKAIG, A/C attack. At 1815/10 2 German A/C attacked without success LOCH OSKAIG escort vessel for EMPIRE SNIPE waiting approx. 2½ miles west of Leixoes Bar. EMPIRE SNIPE sailed to meet her at 1920 and both seen to proceed south. Reported other A/C seen in vicinity at the time but this is not certain. (R.O. Oporto, 1206/11 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty).  
*See also next page*
- A/C over Gibraltar. At 1300/10/3 single A/C flew over The Rock at 26,000 feet and was engaged by fortress A/A Guns. Identified as Heinkel 111 with German markings. It approached from eastwards and departed N.N.E. direction over Spain. (V.A.C.N.A., 1224A/11 to Admty).
- ROMNEY, CROMARTY, WHITEHAVEN. My 0948/7 vessels left Ponta Delgada 1730 G.M.T. /9th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1228A/11 to C. in C. S.A.)  
*See p. 283*
- French S/Ms sighted. My 1959A/10. (~~N.T. in W.D. French submarines LAVESTALE, LA SULTANE, ATANTE, ARETHUSE and 1 escort vessel sighted~~) Report was from Hudson A/C. Trawler escorts opened fire after A/C had made several close approaches. No hits. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1234A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).
- ROMNEY. Position at 1300/11 031° 38' N., 024° 31' W. speed 13 knots. (ROMNEY, 1330Z/11 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.) /LEYLAND...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.LEYLAND. Arrival LEYLAND escorting TINTERN ABBEY.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1421A/11 to Admty).→ PAKENHAM. Arrival.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1426A/11 to Admty).Sunderlands, Gibraltar. Ref. A.M. Signal AX 359 4/3. Please confirm if  
Sunderlands belonging to 95 Sqdn. or 204 Sqdn.  
on detachment to you were despatched to their  
respective units on receipt of above signal. Give  
date of departure. If still detached to you they must proceed  
to West Coast immediately.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1445/11 to R.A.F. Gibraltar).Spanish and French Ships. Spanish Naval transport CONTRAMAESTRE CASADO  
left Ceuta 0825 Westbound. Gibraltar 1150  
F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE French Submarine Westbound.  
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1757A/11 to Admty C. in C.  
Med., C. in C. S.A. Station).VASNA. Your 1515A/7. No objection to visit of Hospital  
Ship VASNA to Azores. Please repeat to other  
authorities concerned.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1814/11 to Admty).SCOTTISH. Following received from Burnham. "Help. My  
Position 320° from PCL distant 35 miles".  
(SCOTTISH, 1815/11 to Gibraltar W/T)  
My 1815 and My 1820. F.W. did not attack.  
(SCOTTISH, 1840A/11 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) LOCH OSKAIG)\* LOCH OSKAIG British warship attacked by A/C off Oporto 1830/  
bombed, 10. Portuguese trawler CABO SAN VICENTE sunk by  
CABO SAN VICENTE A/C about 20 miles N.W. Cape Roca 1830/10.  
sunk. Request confirmation of this aircraft not  
British or allied.  
\* *See previous page*  
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 1832/11 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R)  
Admty).Following from Air Attache Lisbon. At 1830/10 German A/C attacked  
British Man of War off Oporto. At same time Portuguese trawler  
CABO SAN VICENTE, 400 tons, attacked by unidentified A/C 20 miles  
N.W. Cape Roca, ship sunk by bombs also machine gunned. No  
casualties. Presume this was mistaken for patrol vessel.  
(Air Attache Lisbon, 1955/11 to Air Min).LEADGATE A/C. Following has been read A/C attack 10 miles East  
Cape Santa Maria 1800 G.M.T.  
(LEADGATE, 1908/11)→ PAKENHAM. Departure PAKENHAM routed through (A) 037° 00' N.,  
010° (900') W. (B) 43.00, 15.00 thence by reverse  
route given in C. in C. W.A. 1619/6 unless other-  
wise ordered. S. of A. 22 knots.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2216A/11 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty  
etc).



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Whalers. Your 1202/22/12/41. Request information whether in view of your 2204/3 'LL' whale catchers ALBERT HULETT and SIDNEY SMITH now renamed LANGLAAGTE and PARKTOWN should still proceed to Med. Ships are expected to be ready for sea by 15/3.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0747Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)  
Your 0747Z/11 'LL' Whalers LANGLAAGTE (Late ALBERT HULETT) and PARKTOWN (late SIDNEY SMITH) should proceed Med., joining Group 167.  
(D.M.S., 1922A/11 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Med).
- Movements. BULOLO, CALIFORNIA escorting BATORY sailed from Freetown 0700/10 March routed in my 1537/6.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0937Z/11 to Admty)  
Departure 11/3, CANNA.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1755Z/11 to Admty). *See p. 361*
- ESTRELLA. Overdue shipping, cancel my 1045/6, ESTRELLA arrived Capetown.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1006B/11 to Admty, C. in C. S.A. etc).
- R.A. Pegram Flag hoisted in EDINBURGH CASTLE. Flag of R.Adm. F.H. Pegram D.S.O., hoisted in EDINBURGH CASTLE 11/3. As it is intended that he shall administer under C. in C. S.A. all ports in West Africa North of and including the Congo, it is requested that he may be appointed as Rear-Adm. in Charge West Africa, short title R.A.W.A.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1033Z/11 to Admty. as amended 1821Z/11)
- W/T Traffic. It is not considered that any material reduction in signal traffic can be obtained by combined situation reports particularly as there is no Combined H.Q. in West Africa. Many signals are purely administrative and could be sent by air mail if a regular service every week could be introduced. Meantime local services W/T Board have noted necessity of rigid control of all traffic.  
(A.M. 1723/25/2).  
(C. in C. S.A., 1041Z/11 to Admty).
- Communications Re pooling of Anglo-U.S. communication resources.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1129Z/11 to Admty (R) F.O.I.C. Freetown) See Lion Copy.

/AJAX...



1129Z/11th March

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 12/3/42

Recd. 0648

Naval Cypher (XD) by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty Repeated F.O.i/c Freetown.

198. My 1501Z/20/1 and A.M. 1431A/17 2143A/23 and 237 AG.

(1) I consider that the early pooling of Anglo-United States communication resources in the South Atlantic an urgent necessity for the following reasons. (A) Any anti raider operations in the South Atlantic is likely to affect forces of both nations and the most likely area for such an operation is on the dividing line between the two areas, where the existence of dual W/T organisation would prove most dangerous. (B) Exchange of information and intelligence between myself and the Senior Officer United States Forces in the South Atlantic and between authorities afloat, particularly in the event of raider activity is an obvious necessity. Experience has already proved that the present arrangement whereby the route for this exchange is by Whitehall and Washington is too cumbersome to be efficient. (C) The method of promulgating enemy reports, vide A.M. 287 AG, is not considered a satisfactory arrangement in the event of an Anglo-United States operation. (D) No fleet organisation for an Anglo-United States operation is allowed for in the present organisation. (E) If the U.S. Navy are to have the use of the Falkland Islands W/T Station it would appear that British ships operating in the area to the South of Area G would have to conform to the United States W/T Organisation. (F) Unless our resources are pooled we shall not be obtaining maximum efficiency from Allied South Atlantic W/T resources.

(2) The following proposals are put forward for an Anglo-United States South Atlantic W/T Organisation. (A) A common fleet organisation to include - (I) Admirals wave (II) alternative Admirals wave (III) reconnaissance wave

(IV)/



359<sup>B</sup>

- (IV) auxiliary wave. (B) A fixed service between Freetown and Pernambuco. (C) Common ship/shore frequencies.
- (D) When facilities are available, a linking up of broadcasts and or I method services. An I method group consisting of Freetown, Pernambuco and Ascension is envisaged.
- (3) In view of the fact that we have established a W/T organisation in the South Atlantic it is strongly recommended that United States ships should conform to this as far as possible.

1129Z/11.

- 1st Lord O.D.(5)
- 1st S.L. Ops.(3)
- V.C.N.S. M.(2) for action
- A.C.N.S.(H) D. of P.(3)
- A.C.N.S.(F) O.I.C.(2)
- Sec. I.P.(3)
- Nav. Sec. W.D.
- N.A. 1st S.L. D.S.D.(2)
- P.A.S.(S) Ad. Bellairs
- D.N.I.(4) Ad. Bailey



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

AJAX

C. in C. Med., 1251B/25/2.

2. To conserve fuel stocks at Ponta Delgada AJAX should be routed from Freetown to U.K. direct or, if endurance insufficient via Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1131A/11 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

BALUCHISTAN.

Following received. Begins: "C. in C. S.A. from LETITIA. Following broken message was received by W/T at 1110 G.M.T./8th S S S 3° 59' N., 8° 18' W.

BARUC torpedoed. The latitude was also received as 5° 59'. 1040" Ends. Ship referred to is possibly S.S. BALUCHISTAN due Freetown 10/3. Ship has not arrived.

(C. in C. S.A., 1152Z/11 to Admty).

British Consul Monrovia reports BALUCHISTAN was sunk by torpedo and gunfire in position given. Three Asiatic casualties.

Remainder of passengers and crew landed. My 1152Z/11 refers.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1849Z/11 to Admty).Vichy  
Convoy.

Following received from Aircraft on A/S patrol. 1618/10 in position 12° 01' N., 18° 6' W., 197° 11 knots, 5 merchant vessels, one escort vessel, tricolour, painted on topside. No camouflage.

Escort vessel mainly grey with red patches, A.74 in red. A/C approached to within 300 yards of escort vessel who flashed T. No hostile action taken by E/V who identified merchant vessels CARIMARE, ROUENNAIS, GROIX, VILLE DUE HAVRE, FORT DE VAUX, all photographed.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1209Z/11 to D.N.I. Admty).

Lights,  
W. Africa.

Information urgently requested on positions characteristics and power of any coastal lights or lighthouses on West Africa Portuguese and French coast. Bathurst to Bordeaux Area.  
(44 Group, 1307/11 to Admty)

DURBAN.

My 1419/10, DURBAN sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1449Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown  
(R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I.)

p. 420

RESOLUTION.

Capetown departure 0550Z/11 RESOLUTION for Durban.  
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1637Z/11 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I. N.L.O. Durban).

/Movements...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Movements  
Summary.

2000Z/11.

Area P. BOREAS with O.S.20 009° 40' N., 015° 17' W. 122° 8½ knots.

ROCKROSE with S.T.16 005° 45' N., 015° 35' W., 207° 7½ knots. ABBEYDALE off St. Helena. PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON, patrol about 010° N., 024° 30' W. SARABANDE off Robertsport. FANDANGO, BENGALI 012° 05' N., 018° 12' W., 342° 8 knots. → BELLWORT with SVEVE about 009° 35' N., 020° 20' W., 101° 10 knts. GENISTA, VIOLET with O.S.S. 20 009° 18' N., 016° 08' W (?188°) 8½ knots. CALIFORNIAN, BULOLO with BATORY 009° 40' N., 020° 50' W., 313° 13½ knots. NEWCASTLE with W.S.16 009° 50' S., 009° 10' W. 144° 11 knots. HYDRANGEA about 010° 30' N., 020° 00' W. proceeding 009° 00' N., 020° 35' W. M.Ls. 244, 209 off Freetown from N. E.T.A. 1100Z/12. DESPATCH 003° 45' N., 005° 36' W. 265° 16½ knots. FARADAY in tow of THAMES escorted by (?LADY HOGARTH) (?LORD NUFFIELD) (?STELLA CARINA) about 019° 50' N., 019° 00' W., 180° 5½ knots. ROYAL ULSTERMAN off Freetown to Bathurst. BRILLIANT, WILD SWAN about 019° 25' N., 020° 00' W., to Freetown. Area Q.

CHESHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE patrol about 41° S., 21° E.

BACHAQUERO 33° 50' S., 27° 20' E. 061° 6 knots.

CARTHAGE with DEMPO 22° 10' S., 8° 10' E., 323° 15 knots.

Area S. CILICIA Plate Area P proceeding Falkland Is. *See next page.*  
(C. in C. S.A., 1815Z/11 to S.A. Station Sqdn. (R) Admty).

Movements.

Arrival 11/3 COMMANDANT DROGOU, DETROYAT.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1939Z/11 to Admty).

→ BELLWORT.

Your (?1301)Z/9 not (corrupt group) Propose putting about for Freetown at 0900Z/12 which is estimated safe limit of endurance. My P.C. and S. are 010° 05' N., 022° 42' W., 280° 10. Have been on this course since 0800.  
(C. in C. S.A., 2000Z/11 <sup>from</sup> to BELLWORT).

U.S. Ships,  
Montevideo.

U.S. Naval Attache informs me has Ambassador has cabled Washington suggesting that Admiral Task Force 3 in U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS should visit Montevideo to discuss facilities required for operating his ships from Montevideo. Possibility of using Cerrito W/T Station for communicating with his ships will also be raised. Presume there is no objection to this, providing it does not interfere with our Falkland Islands-Cerrito traffic.  
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2034Z/11 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Shipping  
Routes.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. Masters of ships routed through Mona passage Windward passage, Onegada and Virgin passages are to be instructed to pass through these passages during daylight.  
(D.T.D., 2133A/11 to C. in C. S.A. etc).

/CILICIA...



War Diary.

11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CILICIA sabotage. Attempted sabotage was discovered prior to departure CILICIA from Montevideo today 11th when sand was found in five of tail shaft bearings. In addition to enquiry which is being held aboard CILICIA an independent enquiry will be held in Montevideo in conjunction with H.M. consul and Consular Security Officer. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2206Z/11 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

M.W.11 Your 1147/9. P.S.T.O. India states that the following 15 knot ships can be available at Suez on the dates indicated: ELISABETH BAKKE 25/3, AJAX, 30/3, AAGTEKERK 30/3.  
2. Request confirmation that these ships can be accepted for M.W.11 and that the three refrigerated ships mentioned in P.S.T.O. Egypt's 0924/7 need not be held for this purpose. (D.S.T., 0307A/11 to C. in C. Med).  
Your 0307/11. Ships are acceptable providing they can maintain 15 knots. This however only provides for 3 ships whereas 6 ships are necessary if Admty. 1617/27/2 para. 4 (b) to C. in C. Med., only is to be complied with. I agree most undesirable to use refrigerator ships.  
(C. in C. Med., 1111B/11 to D. of S.T. as amended 0351B/12).

ALBARO, My 1015B/9 (N.T. in W.D.) A. Vessels still here.  
PRODROMUS. B. Weather and visibility improving, with surface (?group omitted) early morning and late evening.  
C. One Turkish Walrus A/C does a flight daily from Buyukdere to Black Sea of one to two hours duration, mostly during forenoon, not clear whether this is Turkish A/S patrol or merely training.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 0930/11 to S.O.(I) Med., N.L.O. Black Sea).  
My 0930B/11. Vessels expected to sail for Black Sea 3 hours G.M.T. 12/3. B.3.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1835B/11 to S.O.(I) Med., N.L.O. Black Sea).

German Ref. C. in C. Med., 1927B/9. (Re passage of  
Barges, German motor barges through Dardanelles, ?1929/9/3  
Dardanelles. intended). Two exactly similar craft passed Istanbul 830 hours G.M.T. 11/3 for Aegean. N.A.  
Angora advised.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1058B/11 to S.O.(I) Med., S.1)

/S/Ms...



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

S/Ms. Following is repetition of my 2335B/8 addressed Capt. (S) 1. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8 from Capt. (S) 10 begins,  
My 2005B/5 to C. in C. Med., not to Capt. (S) 8 project C cancelled owing to non arrival essential gear. URGE will carry out following programme leaving places p.m. on date given Malta 9th Marittimo 11th, Naples 15th, Policastro 17th, Vaticano 18th, Stromboli 19th Gallo 20th Vito 21st arriving Malta a.m./24th. This will leave UPHOLDER, UNBEATEN, UNA P.34, P.35 and P.36 available from 14th. Ends.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1310B/11 to Capt. (S) 1 (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8).

TORBAY, Leave patrol forthwith and return to Alexandria  
THORN. through following position.  
TORBAY 037° 47' 015° 35', 034° 24', 020° 58',  
031° 56', 028° 38',  
THORN 040° 00' 017° 16', 034° 34', 022° 18' 033° 24', 025° 30'  
032° 24' 029° 00'. thence both to arrive end of search channel  
0500B/18. Cross latitude 035° about 2200B TORBAY on 13th,  
THORN 14th. TORBAY decypher my 1941B/10 M.S.759.  
(Capt. S.1., 1405B/11 to TORBAY, THORN).

PORPOISE. Proceed through 034° 55' 020° 24' 034° 11' 026°  
09' 032° 12' 028° 44'. Keep west of longitude  
020° 00' until 0001B/15 and adjust speed to arrive  
Alexandria searched channel 0500B/19.  
(Capt. S.1., 1515B/11 to PORPOISE).

Malta Air C.S.R. Malta 11/3. 10th 1432 hours 39 Me. 109s.  
Report. Ju. 88s. Luqa numerous craters D.A. bombs. Hal Far  
numerous craters D.A. bombs, no casualties or other  
damage. Hurricanes destroyed one Ju. 88, attacked  
two Ju. 88s. 3 Me. (109's?). No claims. Spitfires damaged  
2 Ju. 88s. 1 Spitfire shot down, another damaged, both pilots  
injured, one seriously, A.A. fired. Night 10/11th. 5 raiders  
1803, 1837, 1915, 2016, 0116 hours, 1 civilian wounded. A.A.  
fired. 11th. 4 alerts 0702, 0935, 1155, 1236 hours, 20 Me. 109s.  
Ju. 88s. Spitfires probably destroyed 1 Me. 109 attacked 3 more.  
Hurricane strikes 3 Me. 109s. Ju. 88s., turned back, no bombs land,  
A.A. fired.  
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1700/11)

Air Report. A.651 11/3 Bi-weekly. Opsum No.2. Night 6/7. 12  
Wellingtons Benghazi, 2 laid 4 mines, 10 bombed  
shipping. 1 small vessel destroyed. 1 near miss  
on 2nd ship. Night 8/9. 8 Wellingtons bombed Piraeus Harbour.  
Near miss 1 large ship. 1 Wellington on Naval workshops Leros  
Island. 1 Wellington on harbour southeast corner Rhodes Island.  
1 Swordfish bombed Derna Harbour. 1 Albacore bombed objectives N.W.  
Gazala. 9/3, following operations against north-bound convoy. 1  
fortress damaged at 20,000 feet over ships by Me. 110 and returned  
8 torpedo Beauforts attacked 170 miles N.E. Misurata, 1 cruiser,  
1 destroyer, hit 1 merchant ship 10,000 set on fire.

/Night...



11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air Report Night 9/10. 2 A.S.V. Wellingtons shadowed and  
Contd. illuminated convoy for 16 bomber 3 torpedo  
Wellingtons, 2 Bomber 1 torpedo Wellingtons  
only located convoy. 1 possible hit on ship.  
Torpedo Wellington did not attack owing bad visibility. 7  
Wellingtons bombed alternative target Benghazi. 1 possible  
hit on ship?  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1703/11).  
7/3, enemy aircraft active against forward troops Tobruk and  
Fuka-Matruh area. 1000 gallons petrol destroyed Tobruk. 8/3.  
enemy machine-gunned Gambut and bombed Tobruk. Night 8/9 March  
6 enemy aircraft bombed and machine-gunned Daba area. 9/3  
Me. 109s bombed Gambut also active in small formations forward  
area. Night 9/10 March about 10 aircraft operated over  
Daba area 1 dropped bombs between Alexandria and Amiriya.  
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1709/11)

PROTEUS. PROTEUS sails 1000B/12 and after carrying out  
exercise leaves vicinity of Alexandria about 1900B  
routed through 032° 18' 028° 51' 035° 13' 022°  
48', 037° 50' 020° 00' and thence through 039° 26' 018° 58' to  
Adriatic or as ordered by Captain (S) 10 in accordance with my  
1405B/6.  
(Capt. (S) 1., 1721B/11 to C. in C. Med).

NAIAD NAIAD has been torpedoed in 032° 00' N., 026° 19'  
torpedoed E., JERVIS, and LIVELY standing by. 2031B/11.  
and sunk. (DIDO, 2051B/11 to C. in C. Med).  
by U.565. NAIAD sunk, KIPLING, LIVELY, JERVIS picking up  
(G.3.443) survivors.  
(DIDO, 2051B/11 to C. in C. Med., Fleet).  
My 2031/11th. Torpedoed by submarine.  
(DIDO, 2045B/11 to C. in C. Med).

~~ALBARO, My 1015B/9. A. Vessels still here. B. Weather~~  
~~PRODRUMUS. and visibility improving with surface (?group~~  
~~omitted) early morning and late evening.~~  
~~C. 1 Turkish Walrus A/C does a flight daily~~  
~~from Buyukdere to Black Sea of 1 to 2 hours duration, mostly~~  
~~during forenoon. Not clear whether this is Turkish A/S patrol~~  
~~or merely training.~~  
~~(S.O.(I) Istanbul, No T.O.O. to S.O.(I) Med., N.L.O. Black Sea)~~

P.34 Departure 11/3.  
(V.A. Malta, 2031/11 to Admty).



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Addu Ref. Admty. 2155/6.  
Atoll. As metal track for flightways unlikely to arrive before mid-summer improvisation is essential to consolidate subsoil and surface. Immediate buildings and accommodation to be improvised as practicable. Following hangars ordered. Complement eventually about 1350 F.A.A. Officers and men. Orders for hutments beyond local resources to be placed India or Ceylon.  
(Civil E. in C. Admty., 0312A/11 to C. in C. E.I., (R)  
C. in C. E.F.)

Movements. Departure ROYAL SOVEREIGN and TENEDOS at 0100Z/11  
VERBENA and Greek Destroyer AETOS at 0215Z/11.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0350Z/11 to Admty.)

French Fleet Press report indicates that some of the French  
Madagascar. Fleet may have been turned over to Germany and Reuter from Washington reports that 3 light French warships left Dakar for Madagascar 3

weeks ago.

2. Force in Madagascar may be up to 1 cruiser, 7 submarines, 3 sloops, 2 A.M.Cs.  
3. A hostile force in Australian Islands (sic) would have the most profound effect on the whole outlook in this theatre. I should be grateful therefore for any information and whether Admty. consider this threat to be real or not.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0415Z/11 to Admty., (R) S.O. Force V.)  
Reply: 0053/12.

BHIMA Ref. my 1319/24\* (516 C) para. 1.  
(torpedoed Ship identified as GSGM (BHIMA). Survivors  
21/2.) landed Durban.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0630Z/11 to E.I. Stan.)  
\* Re submarine incident No.58.

Ceylon Your 0159/5 para. 4.  
Command. 1. Do not intend in normal circumstances to exercise supreme command of all fighting services, as appropriate commands already exist for each service and to exercise such command would involve C. in C. Ceylon, in maintenance and administration. An Army Command H.Q. to deal with two divisions plus corps etc. troops is now being created and is essential. Most undesirable either to duplicate this or transfer its functions to my H.Q.  
2. I regard myself responsible for laying down policy and ensuring co-ordination among the fighting services and with civil services. In operational matters I intend confining myself as far as possible to issue of directives, but if complete tactical co-operation is not being achieved between services I shall intervene with direct orders to one or more of them.



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Ceylon Command.  
(Contd.)

3. To avoid delay and over centralisation I propose to authorise service heads to communicate direct on their own service matters with Delhi and Whitehall as appropriate. Request that signals to service heads on matters which may require reference to me shall be repeated to my H.Q. Signals on questions of defence policy should of course be addressed to me.  
(C. in C. Ceylon, 0521Z/11 to Admty. for Chiefs of Staff, (R) Armindia.)

Durban, suggested independent F.O.I.C.

Your 1347/2 ref. Durban. I concur that appointment of F.O. is essential.  
2. Difficulties which arise if Union Govt. is required to deal with two separate Naval Authorities appear to outweigh any advantages to be gained by creating separate commands. The transfer of C. in C. S.A. to Simonstown should enable him to make personal representation to Union Govt. on any matter concerning Durban. Incidentally Tait has family connections with a member of the Government.  
(S.O. Force V., 0754Z/11 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. E.I.)

C. in C.E.F.  
C. in C.E.I.

Re division of duties.  
(Dominion Office 0830/11 to Canada, Australia, N.Z., S. Africa.)  
See Lion Copy.

Tankers.

Your 1918/6 para. 1. Confirm ALETTA allocated for carrying water to Addu Atoll. Further allocations.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0942Z/11 to D. of S.T., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

BIRMINGHAM,  
FOXHOUND.

BIRMINGHAM and FOXHOUND are to form part of Eastern Fleet as from T.O.O. of this signal.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1015Z/11 to Eastern Theatre 127X,  
(R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A.)

C.C.,  
Burma.

Arrival HINDUSTAN and HEINRICH JESSEN with C.C. Burma Coast on board.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 1045Z/11 to Admty., etc.)

ALMORA.

My 1016/3. Have you any information of ALMORA due yours 9/3, (? ceased) (? to be) in tow of BHADRAVATI 6th.  
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 1121Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Bahrein, (R) F.O.C. R.I.N.)

/Movements ...



SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

0830/11th March

FROM:- Dominions Office

DATE:- 11.3.42.

CIPHER

ADDRESSED:- Canada Govt. Australia Govt. New Zealand Govt. South Africa Govt.

D No. 138 Secret.

My telegram 31st January D No. 51. Division of Duties between Commander in Chief, Eastern Fleet, and Commander in Chief East Indies, both of whom now have headquarters at Colombo, has been approved, as follows.

1. Commander in Chief Eastern Fleet is in command of all H.M. Ships and Vessels of the Eastern Fleet and is responsible for the conduct of naval strategy in the area covered by the East Indies Station. He will provide the naval forces for all operations on that station including convoy escorts except those provided from local defence forces.

2. The Commander in Chief East Indies remains in command of the East Indies Station, and is responsible for all routine duties on the station, for the command and administration of all local defence forces and shore establishments, including Fleet bases, and for the routing of convoys and shipping. He is also Deputy Commander in Chief Eastern Fleet and will act for the Commander in Chief Eastern Fleet when the latter proceeds to sea.

3. Commander in Chief East Indies is responsible for naval advice to and co-operation with the Governments of India and Burma and Colonial Governments and other authorities on the station, but he will refer any matters of major strategical importance to the Commander in Chief Eastern Fleet.

0830/11

Received from Dominions Office at 1949/11

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

EG/21



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Movements. Arrival 1105 ABDIEL, departure 1215 CLIVE.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1217Z/11 to Admty.)

Addu Atoll Admty. 1651/8.  
Landing (1) Evident that landing difficulties at Addu  
Craft. Atoll are not fully understood.  
(2) These difficulties lie not only in the fact  
that all islands are surrounded by shallow coral  
reefs but also because of long distances involved and lack of  
towing craft. It would be extremely difficult if not impossible  
to find towing craft capable for towing lighters over reefs.  
Certainly I have none at my disposal.  
(3) Problem of Addu Atoll developments hinges chiefly on over-  
coming landing difficulties. I am positive that, until  
substantial piers have been constructed, the only solution  
lies in provision of 8 M.L.C. craft and 8 A.L.Cs. asked for  
in my 1940/7.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1220Z/11 to Admty., as amended 0720Z/12.)  
A.M. 2155/6. The joint R/C of Addu Atoll has been completed.  
Proposals.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1241Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)  
See Lion Copy.

RESOLUTION. V.A.3, 1800Z/9.  
Arrival of RESOLUTION at Addu Atoll is to be  
accelerated as much as possible.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1300A/11 to C. in C. E.F., (R)  
C. in C. E.I., S.O. Force V, V.A.3.)

Ceylon Am disturbed as regards air striking Forces  
Air Forces. Ceylon which are at present limited to No.11  
Blenheim Sqdn., a composite T.B. Sqdn. of 7  
Swordfish and A.F. unit being formed consisting  
of Naval reserve Albacores manned by R.A.F. personnel. Both  
latter are part of reserve for F.A.A. No. 11 Sqdn. flying  
crews have little operational experience and are untrained in  
sea navigation, ship recognition and bombing of moving targets.  
T/B personnel also inexperienced and will be of little  
operational value until they have been trained in torpedo work.  
Thus we have virtually no means of striking at an enemy seaborne  
attack. Request consideration immediate despatch T/B units  
of Beaufort or similar type with trained crews together with  
torpedoes and torpedo maintenance equipment. This will enable  
existing torpedo aircraft to revert to correct role of Fleet  
Reserve.  
(C. in C. Ceylon, 1315Z/11 to Admty. for Chiefs of Staff,  
(R) Arminia, A.O.C. in C. India, C. in C. E.F.)

Shipping. Your 1935Z/8 (Re merchant ships sailing  
independently to and from Australia.) Concur.  
(D.T.D., 1507A/11 to C. in C. E.I.)



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1241Z/11 March. IN.

Date: 11.3.42.

From: C. in C. East Indies.

Recd: 2243

Naval Cypher KF by W/T

Addressed: Admiralty repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

IMPORTANT

673. AM. 2155/6.

(1) The Joint Reconnaissance of Addu Atoll has just been completed and the reports together with my comments on it, is now being considered by C. in C. India. I

(2) It is intended to signal our combined recommendations shortly.

(3) My views and proposals are as follows but it must be appreciated that C. in C. India does not necessarily agree. I

(a) S.C.B. considers that (having regard to the physical difficulties and lack of facilities generally) the project as a whole will take two to three years to complete. The reconnaissance report which is being flown to U.S. gives full details as to how this conclusion has been reached.

(b) The problem must therefore be considered in two parts - as a long term policy and as a short term policy.

(c) It is intended to undertake the short term policy forthwith using the MNBDO assisted by S.C.E. and reinforced by Indian labour. It is hoped to obtain the required stores and equipment from India.

(d) The short term policy will comprise the installation of the coast and infantry defences, erection of tubular jetties, construction of the strategical road and causeways, progressing the defence communications and generally improving the accommodation, storage and medical conditions. Preparations are already in hand and it is anticipated that the work will be completed in 4 to 6 months providing all stores equipment ...



equipment and labour can be obtained from India.

(e) The preparation of Gan Island aerodrome will also form part of the short term policy but will be undertaken by the S.C.E.'s department and not by the MNBDO.

(4) The programme for the long term policy is now being prepared.

12412/11

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 4th S.L.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F)(2)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 Nav. Sec.  
 Civil Lord  
 Fin. Sec.  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.N.A.D.  
 D. of L.D.  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 D.C. (2)  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.S.I.C. (2)  
 E.P.S.  
 D.G.D. (2)  
 D. of S.  
 D. of D.  
 M.D.G.  
 C.E. in C.  
 A.S. (C.L.)  
 W.G.F.  
 D.C.L.  
 Deputy Controller (3)  
 D. of D.  
 C.E. in C.  
 L.  
 D.C.L.  
 S.W.R.

/MC

Bath



War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Portuguese Ships with Timor Garrison. Your 1913A/1. JOAO BELO and Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO expected to arrive Colombo about 14/3. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1649/11 to Admty.)

Movements. Colombo arrival 11/3. 0645Z Greek Destroyer IERAX. 0730Z HOLLYHOCK. Colombo departure 11/3 0820Z SAINT ANTHONY. (S.O.I. Colombo, 1720Z/11 to Admty.)

Aircraft Control, Ceylon. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 33. Your 5126/C of 8/3. 1. In matters concerning co-ordination of defence and operational policy the A.O.C. Ceylon should be responsible to the C. in C. Ceylon through whom he will communicate with higher authority on these two subjects as may be necessary. 2. On matters of administration, discipline, organization, maintenance and training of the R.A.F. in Ceylon, A.O.C. Ceylon should be directly responsible to A.O.C. in C. India and through him to you. The A.O.C. Ceylon will nevertheless operate his long range G.R. Squadrons in accordance with a directive from C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 3. Your 2nd para. Officer might also discuss naval liaison arrangements between you, Layton and Somerville. 4. Pass A.O.C. in C. as from Air Ministry. (W.O., 1935/11 to C. in C. India.)

Ceylon, Dutch Forces. From Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 34. Proposals and arrangements. (W.O., 2130/11 to C. in C. India.) See Lion Copy. (368A)



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

2130/11 March.

IN

From. The War Office.

DATE. 11.3.42.

CIPHER.

ADDRESSED. C. in C., India.IMMEDIATE.

75616 cipher (M.O.12.a) 11/3.

From Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 34.

One. Dutch determined carry on war against Japanese. Admiralty making arrangements for C. in C. Eastern Fleet to operate Dutch naval forces under Helfrich based on Ceylon.

Two. Dutch land forces to continue guerilla warfare in Sumatra object containing as many Japanese as possible as long as possible. Necessary support guerillas with drafts equipment supplies W/T sets and other means inter-communication.

Three. Following Dutch troops intended as drafts for Netherlands East Indies now in Ceylon 19 officers 134 O.Rs. with high proportion N.C.Os. All have personal equipment plus nine brens, ten tommy guns, six three-inch mortars six No. 8 W/T sets. Intended to add to above any personnel who have succeeded or may subsequently succeed escaping from Java and elsewhere Netherlands East Indies

Four. Dutch object is to organise and train these forces for future operations. Suggestion is that training be given in Ceylon with object (a) to provide reinforcements for guerillas in Sumatra, (b) increase number of guerilla bands, (c) subsequently to fit Dutch forces to assist in future Allied offensive operations against Japanese. This will require organisation into units probably of Commando type for which training jungle warfare would form special feature.

Five Request your views.:

- (a) On conception as a whole.
- (b) Whether Ceylon suitable base for training and preparation. In this connection desirable all Dutch forces concerned be under command of Helfrich who will be stationed Ceylon.
- (c) Extent to which you are prepared to assist with training and equipping Dutch forces envisaged.

Six. In meantime Dutch have offered the use of such forces as are in Ceylon to assist in defence of island.

2130/11.

Received in War Registry at 0645/11



## War Office circulation:

S. of S.  
 C.I.G.S.  
 V.C.I.G.S.  
 D.M.O. & F.  
 D.D.M.O. (O)  
 D.P. (2)  
 M.O. 1.10.12a (8)  
 D.M.I.  
 D.D.M.I. (1)  
 M.I. 2, 2c, M.I.L.  
 D.S.D.  
 D.S.D. (W)  
 D. Sigs.  
 C.N.S. Admiralty  
 D. of Plans (Admiralty)  
 D. of Plans Air Ministry  
 H.W.R. Admiralty.  
 C.A.S. Air Ministry.  
 India Office (Col. McCay)  
 Colonial Office (Col. Rolleston(4))  
 Foreign Office (Mr. Makins)  
 =Colonel Jacob.

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. (M)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 Naval Sec.  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.N.A.D.  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.O.D. (H)  
 D.D.O.D. (H)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 Duty Captain. (2)  
 D.N.I. (7) & for A.E. & 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.  
 Admiral Bailey.  
 Admiral Bellairs.  
 E.P.S.



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War Diary.11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- U/B. D/F Bearings indicate submarine within 30 miles (A)  $36^{\circ}$  N.  $56^{\circ}$  W. at 2145Z/10. (B)  $36^{\circ}$  N.  $55^{\circ}$  30' W. at 2220Z/10. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0239Z/11 to Br. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)
- S.C.73. St. Johns, N.F. 10/3. Departures READING, PRIMROSE  
DIALA. DAUPHIN, SHAWINIGAN, LETHBRIDGE to S.C.73, MINAS  
O.N.70. to W.S.C.73, ST. LOMAN to stand by and screen  
DIALA, NANAIMO to Halifax, THUNDER to O.N. 70.  
(F.O.N.F., 0302Z/11 to Admty.)
- Martinique. Refer to this as Naval Attache, Martinique, 2400/9  
?passed to following for information C. in C.  
Atlantic Fleet, C.T.F. 23, C. in C.A.W.I., Admty.  
S.O.(I) Kingston, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.C.M.F.,  
C.O.A.C., Halifax, Com. C.S.F., from C. in C.  
U.S. Fleet. Robert highly displeased over our  
coercion; cancel BERTIN ? departure. BERG will  
cruise in Martinique territorial waters during  
11th with Sheehan invited aboard by Rear-Adm.  
Battet. (Opnav, 0310/11 to Admty.)
- PARISMINA. Received 0555 G.M.T. SSSS 39.12 N., 74.31  
W. PARISMINA de WSG. (Ottawa 0325/11 to Admty.)  
(Valentia Radio, 0639/11, Freetown W/T, T.O.R.,  
0702/11).
- U/B. D/F bearings indicate submarine within 50 miles  
 $40^{\circ}$  N.  $71^{\circ}$  W. at 2341Z/10 and 2400Z/10.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0421Z/11 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A Admty., etc.)
- U/B. D/F. at 0218Z/11 indicated S/M within 100 miles  
 $40.30$  N.  $50^{\circ}$  W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0614Z/11 to  
Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty. etc.)
- U/B. D/F bearing indicates S/M within 60 miles  $40^{\circ}$  N.  
 $70^{\circ}$  W. at 0442Z/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0855Z/11 to  
Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)
- DIALA. Admty. 1127/10 (ST. LOMAN to escort FRISKY and  
DIALA) U.S. Authorities agree. (B.A.D.  
0913Q/11 to C.C.N.F., Admty.)
- My 2345Z/9. PRUDENT reports position DIALA at 1500Z/9 was  $51^{\circ}$  -  
00 N.  $35^{\circ}$  - 50' W. PRUDENT left FRISKY standing by at 1300Z/10  
unable to board due to weather conditions. Reports situation  
almost impossible with 1 tug unaided present weather conditions.  
ST. LOMAN should arrive DIALA a.m./13. (F.O.N.F. 1121Z/11  
to Admty., etc.)

/Unknown.....



War Diary.11.5.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

Unknown Ship, U/B. Received 0925Z/11 SSSS 54.22 N. 76.20 W. unknown ship De Nam 0747Q/11. (Naval, Ottawa, T.H.I. 0924/11 to Admty.)

MANCHESTER. A.M. 2217/3/10/1941. State of manning of MANCHESTER on sailing from U.S. after working up at Norfolk. (B.A.R.M. 1000Q/11 to Admty.)

LUCERNA. Cancel my 1534R/10. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1014R/11 to Admty. etc.)

CARDINA. My 1524/6. Ship arrived 10/3. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1034R/11 to Admty. etc.)

Ships torpedoed at St. Lucia, 9/3. My 2230Q/9.\* Time ship torpedoed 2240. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 1035Q/11 to Admty.) \* (2339Q intended ?) Your 1235Q/10. Information is not to be released (C. in C.A.W.I., 1052\*/11 to R.N.O. St. Lucia). Your 1802P/10. Submarine observed from signal Station on surface during attack. Torpedoes released at 2255Q from position 304° 1500 yards from West end of North Wharf. Approaching silently, manoeuvred into position, fired, made off and submerged, time 20 minutes, engaged by machine guns after attack from Vigie Point. Retaliatory action from ship prevented by imperfect communications. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 1815Q/11 to C. in C.A.W.I. (R) Admty.) See also 1720/11.

AGAPENOR crew trouble. C.S.A. Colon 1818R/10. Action proposed by C.S.A. Colon approved. N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica, report whether possible to arrange for armed guard to take ship from Jamaica to Halifax. Perhaps military would be willing to co-operate. Important that ship gets away from Colon as soon as possible. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1103\*/11 to C.S.A. Colon, Capt. I/C Jamaica (R) Admty. etc.)

CARDONIA. R.O. Port au Prince reports crew safe from U.S. ship CARDONIA sunk 7/3 off Mole St. Nicholas. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1151R/11 to Admty. etc.)

U.S. Forces. My 1636A/17/12. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Atlantic. Battleships NEW YORK at Iceland. TEXAS arrived Newport 10/3. WASHINGTON arrived Casco 10/3. Aircraft carriers RANGER at Bermuda. HORNET due Manamu 11/3. 8" Cruisers WICHITA at Casco. AUGUSTA at Bermuda. VINCHENNES due Canal 11/3. TUSCALOOSA at New York. Ready 12/3. 6" Cruisers CINCINNATI due Trinidad 12/3. OMAHA at Miami. MEMPHIS on patrol. SAVANNAH at Bermuda. NASHVILLE due Panama 11/3. PHILADELPHIA at Iceland. BROOKLYN at Norfolk. MILWAUKEE at Guantanamo. (D.O.D. (F) 1317A/11 to C. in C.H.F., C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)

/BARBARA.....



War Diary.11.5.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

- BARBARA.  
ESSO BOLIVAR  
(torpedoed). Submarine attack summary. American S.S. BARBARA torpedoed and sunk off coast Cuba in 75° - 56' W. 7/3. 21 rescued out of 100. Pan tanker ESSO BOLIVAR damaged by gunfire and torpedoed time and place unknown but in Caribbean. Ship now Guantanamo. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1336Z/11 to Admty.)
- BRANDON. On arrival Menville fuel to capacity from EMPIRE DOLPHIN whose C.O. has an envelope for you. Then sail to overtake O.N. 74. Acknowledge receipt of envelope and advise time of departures by V/S. (C.T.G. 24.7, 1345A/11 to BRANDON).  
*Sailed - See p. 373*
- EMPIRE HAIL.  
CARPERBY. Request any particulars available re torpedoing EMPIRE HAIL and CARPERBY. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1352Z/11 to Admty., (R) C.O.A.C.) Reply 1201/12.
- Plan 1 - 42. This is Cinclant 2108/10 to all Holders of Subject Plan. U.S. Atlantic Fleet Operation Plan 1 - 42 effective 1200Z/11/3. Continue operations under existing directives pending receipt of plan. Admty. pass to Spenavo, C. in C. H.F. C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. pass to Alusna Ottawa. C.O.A.C. pass to Comeastaircom. (Opnav, 1357/11 to Admty. etc.)
- MAMURA. MAMURA Dutch, due Halifax 4/5 from Houston has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1429Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
- CARADOC. Your 1259/10 to B.A.R.M. only and my 1210/9 CARADOC will proceed Plymouth via Halifax see my 1332/26/2 and your 1814/27/2. (B.A.R.M. 1432Q/11 to Admty.).
- C.A.M. ships. Your 1928Z/9. EMPIRE SUN and EMPIRE SPRING should be deleted. It is not anticipated that more than 20 C.A.M. ships will be operating in O.N. convoys. (D.T.D. 1445A/11 to N.S.H.Q.)
- SERPA PINTO. Letters intercepted by Censorship state. SERPA PINTO (Port) is to be specially chartered to take Spanish Refugees from France to Mexico via Casablanca.  
2. SERPA PINTO due to sail Lisbon mid-March for Brazil and Argentine returning via Rio De Janeiro or Santos to Portugal about mid-April when freight space will be available unless Portuguese Govt. should commandeer entire vessel for Argentine goods. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1506P/11 to Admty.)

/U.B.....



11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

U/B. Venezuelan Govt. wireless advises:-  
Curacao wireless coastal station P and C broadcast in morse at 1150 a.m. in English following message (begins) Enemy submarine sighted off Guantanamo Bay warning all ships to keep clear of this area. (Caracas, Ven., 1610/11 to Admty.)

U/B. Transmission at 1201Z placed U.boat at 042° N. 052° 30' W. accuracy 100 miles. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1645Z/11 to Brit. Warships in Area 7, Admty. etc.)

LADY NELSON, UMTATA proposal to use guns for defence of Harbours. It is proposed to use 4 inch Guns LADY NELSON, 3 inch Guns high angle UMTATA, for defence Port Castries and Vieux Fort Harbour. Request covering approval to have these removed from ships immediately for this purpose. Meantime work is proceeding on instructions of Com 10. (R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1720Q/11 to C. in C.A.W.I. (R) Admty., etc.) No Admty. objection. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2013A/12).

U/B. O.N.70 serial 6. U-boat transmission indicates sighted you 1713Z/11 approx. position 44° - 00' N. 49° - 00' W. This is your first serial. (Opnav. 1815/11 to C.T.U. 24.18.5).

Common Convoy Instructions. Cominch's 2015/6 (not to C. in C.W.A.) This question of having common convoy instructions is being further pursued with the Navy Department and it is hoped to be able to report progress later. (B.A.D. 1821Q/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Harbour defences, M.T.B's Trinidad. A. Ref. C. in C. A.W.I. 1321P/10 (N.T. in W.D. but 1232P/10 refers). We have unofficially consulted Navy Dept. on possibilities of supplying A/T baffles for Port Castries and Bridgetown, Barbados, and St. Johns, Antigua, and believe they would (?agree) to this but have many similar projects of their own to execute first. Request quantities required and at which anchorages and date supply could be made from U.K?

B. Ref. B.A.D. 1847Q/5. For consideration whether the 12 M.T.B's now fitting out at Greenwich, Connecticut, should be allocated to Trinidad for West Indies instead of to Mediterranean observing that these can be brought into service in March and April fitted with D/C rails instead of torpedo tubes and Y guns sent later to fit at Trinidad. Latest date for delivery of M.L.s. or Fairmiles for West Indies is June. (B.A.D. 1851Q/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C.A.W.I). Concur in para. B. (Admty. 1943/13).



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War Diary.11.5.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.S.S.  
QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

My 1650Z/4 and 18554/9 (N.T. in W.R.) Due to time taken to fuel in Vancouver vessel did not pass William Head outbound until 0054 D.S.T. 11/3. Vessel now proceeding 20 knots zigzagging, S. of A. 18 knots. E.T.A. 0800 D.S.T. 13/3. Cdt. 13th Naval District will inform Cdt., 12th Naval District. (C.O.P.C. 1933Z/11 to N.S.H.Q.)

SEVERN.

My 1846Z/10. For 12/3 read Monday 16/3. (E.T.A. Overfalls L/V). (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2015Z/11 to B.A.R.M.) (Correction made in W.D. 10/3).

? QUEEN OF  
BERMUDA.

My 1613Z/28 (N.T. in W.D.) U.S. Tug expected to arrive Halifax 17/3. Proposed sailing date 18/3. Request escort may be arranged accordingly. (C.O.A.C. 2024Z/11 to B.A.D. Washington (R) Opnav., Cinclant, Admty., C.T.F. 24, N.S.H.Q., C. in C.A.W.I. QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

ANNAPOLIS.  
MAHONE.

E.T.A. St. John's N.F. 0900Z/12. MAHONE in company. (ANNAPOLIS 2100Z/11 to F.O.N.F.)

GULFTRADE.  
U/B.

GULFTRADE (U.S.) reported torpedoed 2 miles off Barnegat Gas Buoy. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2109Z/11 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I., Opnav, C.O.A.C.)

U/Bs.

War warning. Two submarines sighted off entrance Guantanamo, Cuba. (Opnav, 2120/11 to Admty.)

MAMURA.  
EUREKA.

Your 1714A/9. MAMURA (Dutch) Overdue ref. my 1429Z/11. EUREKA (Pan) arrived Norfolk 8/3. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2127Z/11 to Admty.)

U/B.

Submarine placed within 100 miles 41° N. 37° W. by D/F bearings at 1619Z/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2127Z/11 to Admty.)

PIORUN.  
NARCISSUS.  
LOBELIA.  
HEATHER.

PIORUN. Your 1711Z/10 my 1216Z/11. BEDOUIN's ?2218Z/10 only just received. PIORUN, LOBELIA and NARCISSUS have R.D.F. defects and are now proceeding St. Johns N.F. HEATHER going Argentina. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. PIORUN and NARCISSUS 0900Z/12, LOBELIA 1200Z/12. (C.T.U. 24.1.17, 2144Z/11 to C.T.F. 24 (R) F.O.N.F. etc.)

BRANDON.  
FENNEL.

\* BRANDON and FENNEL sailed to overtake O.N.S. 74. (C.T.G. 24.7, 2333A/11 to C.T.F. 24, C. in C.W.A.)

\* See p. 371

ORION.

San Diego departure 7/3, ORION. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2346Z/11 to Admty.)

*Push last station sailed 11/3.*

/ARCHER.....



11.5.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

ARCHER. ARCHER expected to depart Charleston 15/3 for Freetown. (Cominch 2354/11 to Com. E.S.F).

TEXAN torpedoed. Received from TEXAN 0040Z/12 torpedoed 21° 32' N. 76° 24' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2357Q/11 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Auckland. Plans for defence. Further to my 2223/8. (N.Z.N.B., 0101Z/11 to Cdr., Anzac Force (R) B.A.D., Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.

GENERAL <sup>not identified</sup> VERSPYCK U/B attack 2/3. At 2300 2/3 a torpedo fired by Japanese S/M passed without exploding directly under Dutch S.S. GENERAL VERSPYCK who is not degaussed. It seems clear that magnetic pistol was not employed. (Cdre., W. Australia, 0341Z/11 to Navy Office, Melbourne (R) Admty., C. in C.E.F.)

MANCHESTER CITY. JAY. Admty. 1511/10 para. (2). Ships should proceed Auckland. (N.Z.N.B., 0431Z/11 to C. in C.E.I.)

Movements. Arrival Fremantle 0300Z/10 WOL<sup>8</sup>LONGONG and TOOWOOMBA. <sup>PINE</sup> PINGWOTOW, VENDETTA, left Fremantle 0200Z/10 for Melbourne. Arrival Adelaide 1010Z/10 WHYALLA. (A.C.N.B., 0748Z/11 to Admty.)

Tankers Routeing. Admty. 1851A/6. Para. 4. Request tankers requiring orders be routed to Melbourne. When port of discharge is known request they be routed direct. Suggest routeing instructions include reference position and letter for fuel required Adelaide Melbourne Sydney (N.S.W.) Brisbane and Hobart to simplify diversion. (A.C.N.B., 0804Z/11 to C. in C.E.I. (R) Admty. etc.)

/Situation....



MCST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE 0101Z/11 March

IN

Date 11. 3. 42.  
Recd. 1729From New Zealand Naval Board  
Wellington

Naval Cypher (M) by cable

Addressed Cdr. Anzac Force repeated B.A.D. Washington,  
C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.) Admiralty,  
Cominch, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board  
Melbourne.

363. Further to my 2223 8th Note four.

## (1) Present Defence

- (A) Three - six inch Motutapu
- (B) Two - six inch Whangaparaoa
- (C) Two - six inch Castor Bay
- (D) Two - four inch two twelve pounders four six pounders North Head
- (E) Two - four inch Narrow Neck
- (F) Two - twelve pounder Fort Bastion

## (2) Defences on order

- (A) 3 - 9.2 inch
- (B) 3 A M T B Fire Units
- (C) 20 Heavy Anti-Aircraft
- (D) 24 Light Anti-Aircraft
- (E) 24 Anti-Aircraft Searchlights
- (F) R.D.F. Sets required for above.

Note: Anti-aircraft guns and equipment for Whenuapai and Hobsonville Aerodromes not included in above.

## (3) Additional Defences required for Whangaparaoa - Rangitoo Fleet Anchorage not yet on order

- (A) 3 - 9.2 inch. This Battery and 2.(A) above would be placed at Kawau and Cape Colville.
- (B) 3 - 6 inch to cover Dead Water of existing guns
- (C) 72 Heavy Anti-Aircraft
- (D) 36 Light Anti-Aircraft
- (E) 96 Anti-Aircraft Searchlights
- (F) 7 C D. R D/F sets
- (G) 18 G L R D/F sets.

B.A.D. Washington pass to C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.) and Cominch.

0101Z/11.

Development of Auckland as operating base.

P.T.C./

**MOST SECRET**



374<sup>B</sup>

MOST SECRET

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Contr.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Civil Lord
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.N.I. (4)
- Hd. of M. (2)
- (P.D. 0126/41)
- D.S.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A/S.W.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.C. (2)
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- N.I.D. 10.
- Ad. Bellairs
- D.C.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)
- D.T.M.
- D. of S.
- Hd. of Air
- D. of D.
- D.N.C.

- D.T.M.
- D.N.O.
- D.S.D.
- Dep. Contr.)
- D. of D. ) Bath
- D. of S. )
- Hd. S.W.R. )

MW

MOST SECRET



War Diary.

11.5.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand-Contd.

Situation. Serial number 49. From C.W.R. 10/5.

(1) Enemy reported landed Finschafen at 0406Z/10.  
 (2) 10th air raid Port Moresby by 7T.97 heavy bombers in 2 V formations at 0200Z/10. Aerodrome attacked 20 bombs dropped on S.E. end of runway.  
 (3) 6 single-engine monoplanes reconnoitred Darwin area at 0155Z/10. Aircraft force to 25,000 feet by our A/A fire. No attack developed.  
 (4) 3 enemy monoplanes bombed and machine gunned Lorengau (Manus Is.) at 0130Z/10. No casualties or damage. Island thoroughly reconnoitred.  
 (5) One Hudson machine gunned one T.97 4 engined flying boat on the water off Gasmata at 2250Z/9 fire started.  
 (6) 8 U.S. Flying Fortress aircraft dropped 66 bombs enemy shipping Salamoia Harbour at 0155Z/10. Preliminary reports reveal 6 transports (including one very large) were hit 4 observed burning, one beached, one sinking.  
 (7) One Hudson bombed transport entrance to Salamoia Harbour at 0725Z/10 scored one near miss.  
 (8) One Hudson dropped 8 bombs on centre of runway Salamoia Aerodrome at 0720Z/10.  
 (9) One Hudson attacked destroyer and transport Hanisch Harbour at 2345Z/9 scored 2 near misses.  
 (10) R/C A/C reported 2 cruisers 3 destroyers 2 large transports entering Lae at 2050Z/9, also one transport at anchor.  
 (11) All aircraft returned.  
 (12) Single engine float plane machine gunned Buna at 0001Z/10. (A.C.N.B. 0836Z/11 to Admty.)

Prohibited Areas, N.Z. W.M. 29. All ships and boats are prohibited from anchoring in area bounded by following lines.

A. Jauananga point in direction 120° for 5 miles.  
 B. Thence 175° to Gardiners Gap.  
 C. Home Bay point alongside harbour limit to Waiheke Island.  
 D. From Thumb point 326° to Flat Rock.  
 E. Thence 300° to Kawan Island.  
 F. Momona point to Fish point. Passage is prohibited to all ships and boats through area bounded by following lines.  
 A. Bollons Rock (West side Tiri Tiri) 175° to Gardiners Gap.  
 B. Home Bay point alongside harbour limit to Waiheke Island.  
 C. Thumb point 326° to 036° 33' S. 175° 01' E.  
 D. Thence 270° to 174° 55' E.  
 E. Thence to Bollons Rock.  
 (S.O.I. Wellington, 1112M/11 to all W.M. addressees).

Nandi, A/S defences. Your 0930/9 paras. (E) and (I). Five or 15 motor A/S boats required are allowed for from H.D. M.L.S. asked for from U.K. and U.S.A. Remaining ten will have to be provided from overseas in addition to the local defence craft enumerated in previous signals. Para. (B). Request confirmation that mine density will be 304 per mile. A.C.N.B. pass to Comanzac. (N.Z.N.B. 1241M/11 to A.C.N.B., (R) B.A.D., Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrival Suva MONOWAI, escorting H.35. RANGATIRA. (N.Z.N.B., 1859Z/11 to Admty.)

\* Not S/M.



War Diary.

11.3.1942.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1400A/11, 1416A/11.)



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

N.A. Stockholm reports today that TIRPITZ left Trondheim on 6/3 intending to proceed towards Bear Island to intercept Convoy P.Q.12 and returned to the Norwegian coast on becoming aware of the presence of 25 A/C Carriers. Stockholm also reports that our torpedo-bomber attack is described by the Germans as having been made by 25 A/C with great determination and as having straddled TIRPITZ and fired some torpedoes under her. These reports are considered by Admty. to be substantially accurate.

Two attempts to R/C Trondheim from the air today have both failed.

S.B.N.O. North Russia reports today that the S/M sighted on the surface at 0145C/3 by NIGERIA in North Russian waters and not rammed by her was in fact a Russian some 30 miles to the eastward of her route.

An air R/C of Jan Mayen yesterday showed that all is well there, although W/T signals are not getting through and it would at present be impossible for a Patrol Vessel to approach, the island owing to ice.

A Coastal Command A/C attacked a U-Boat at 1106 today off Rockall with depth charges.

The Destroyers VESPER and CAMPBELL collided at 0300 today off Dungeness. VESPER, whose engine room and boiler room are flooded, is in tow for Portsmouth; and CAMPBELL, whose bows are damaged, is proceeding there also at 8 knots under her own power.

The Russian S/M 402 was reported at 1040C today damaged by depth charges and with insufficient fuel to reach harbour in 71° 28' N. 29° 18' E, S.B.N.O. North Russia is sending a minesweeper to take her in tow, and C. in C. H.F. has requested him to use OFFA and more minesweepers to assist her as soon as Convoy P.Q.12 is safe.



War Diary.

12.3.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

RUBIS passes the Bell Rock at 1900A today on her way to carry out a mine-laying operation off Jutland.

One magnetic mine was exploded by Sweepers off Yarmouth at 1157A.

North Atlantic.

Portugal  
and French  
Tankers.

An agreement has been reached between the Portuguese and French Governments and approved by H.M.G. for the charter of the French tankers FRIMAIRE (Toulon) and ARAGAZ (Oran), which are proceeding at once to Lisbon.

South Atlantic.

At 0134 G.M.T. R.M.M.V. GASCONY in 05.40 S. 30.30 W. heard part of a raider signal from 00.27 N. 40.24 W. S.O.I. Freetown is unable to associate this with any other information.

Rio.

A patrol service has been established at the entrance of Rio de Janeiro harbour.

MONTE  
GORBEA.

Spanish S.S. MONTE GORBEA was intercepted by PRETORIA CASTLE at 1542 G.M.T. in 08.52 N. 26.00 W. An armed guard was placed on board and PRETORIA CASTLE is escorting to Bathurst, with CANTON in support. CANTON is to return to patrol in Area H.34 C. and D, keeping E. of 26° W. Among the MONTE GORBEA's passengers was the returning German Ambassador to Argentina.



War Diary.

12.3.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

CARLISLE,  
COVENTRY.

The A/A cruisers CARLISLE and COVENTRY are to return to U.K. when they can be spared to be fitted with modern equipment and give leave.

PHOEBE,  
SIRIUS.

The cruisers PHOEBE (refitting in U.S.A.) and SIRIUS (new), which should both be ready for service in July are intended for Mediterranean Fleet.

Malta.

Last night and again today enemy air attacks continued on Malta. Slight damage was done at Ta Kali.

East Indies.

Dutch  
Forces.

The Dutch Govt. have asked that their surface forces now concentrating in Ceylon should operate as a unit as far as possible.

America and West Indies.

Further attacks on shipping in the Western Atlantic and Caribbean were reported today.

Operations by U.S. naval and air forces at Wake Island on 24/2, at Marcus Island on 4/3, and on Midway Island (date not mentioned) were reported by Washington today.

Australia.

Port  
Moresby.

During an attack by 5 enemy fighters on Port Moresby aerodrome, 1 was probably shot down.



War Diary.12.3.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Jan Mayen. Your 1931A/10th. Air R/C of Jan Mayen showed all well. Visual signals exchanged elicited that W/T was in operation but signals not getting through. Observation showed NAMSOS would be unable to approach owing to ice conditions.  
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0028A/12 to Admt.)

13th and 21st. M.T.B. Flotillas. A.M. 1258/17/12/41. In view of delay in completion of the 13th M.T.B. Flotilla, this flotilla is now allocated to Harwich instead of the 21st Flotilla which is re-allocated to the Dover command.  
(D.D.O.D.(C), 1225A/12 to R.A.C.F.)

NELSON. A.S. Rosyth's 1630/9. Request further consideration be given to NELSON's programme. The period of 17 days between completion in dockyard and ship being ready to sail is not acceptable.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1711A/12 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

A.M. 1711/12. On the receipt of A.S.'s 1630/9 I ordered NELSON to forward proposed programme, as I was not satisfied with the long period after completion and before sailing.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 2231/12 to Admt.)

Movements.

TRINIDAD. Scapa departure TRINIDAD.  
(A.C.O.S. 0904A/12)

DANEMAN. Has DANEMAN arrived?  
(C. in C. W.A. 0920A/12 to A.C.I.C.)

NORTHMAN. Admiralty's 1748A/11. Intend sailing NORTHMAN a.m./13 escorted by MINUET or QUADRILLE to Belfast for onward routeing to Birkenhead. Speed of advance NORTHMAN 4 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1015A/12)

P.43. My 1748/8. P.43 completed and proceeded from Ardrossan 11/3.  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1104/12.)

DERBYSHIRE S.O.W.P's 1210A/10 and 1253A/11. Intend sailing at 0845/13 DERBYSHIRE, destination Southampton, escorted by BROCKLESBY.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1107A/12)

VASNA. Intend to sail VASNA for Breaksea 0200A/15. Route to (A) 55° 15' N. 10° W. Then direct to Ponta Delgada. E D A 21/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1109A/12)

/ILLUSTRIOUS ...



War Diary.12.3.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Sailed ILLUSTRIOUS escorted by SHERWOOD at 0815 for exercises South of Chicken Rock returning Clyde area a.m.13th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1134A/12.)

My 1728A/10. Instructed you to report details of your movements 24 hours in advance so fighter co-operation could be arranged. Your 0127A/12 states trial would be carried out in North Channel and Irish Sea North of 053° 30' N. between noon 12th and noon 13th. Your position cannot be kept plotted without more detailed information. Until this is received you cannot be given adequate fighter co-operation.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1216A/12 to ILLUSTRIOUS.)

Your 1216A/12. I went to look for area where visibility permits flying but found none so returned to Lamlash. When weather clears will report estimated position 3 hours in advance.  
(ILLUSTRIOUS 1519A/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

ONSLOW  
ASHANTI. Departure Seidisfjord Capt.(D)17 in (?ONSLOW) and ASHANTI 1200A. C.S.18 in ONSLOW. E.T.A. Scapa 1800A/13.  
(SHEFFIELD 1203A/12)

27th M.L.  
Flotilla. A.M.1330A/11. Route for 27th M.L. Flotilla via Q.Z. Message F.18 thence (A) 180° Fastnet 10 miles (B) 049° N. 015° W. (C) 042° N. 015° W. F.O.C.N.A. requested to issue onward route. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven requested to sail Flotilla when weather forecast is suitable.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1454A/12.)

Intend sailing 27th M.L. Flotilla at 0730 tomorrow for Milford Haven. E.T.A. 1800/13.  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 2101A/12)

DIANTHUS. Intend sailing DIANTHUS for Lough Foyle to complete with fuel 1730A/13. E.T.A. daylight/14.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1731A/12)

MANCHESTER. C. in C. A.W.I. 2143P/10. Route to Needles. Adjust so as to arrive position (d) 49° N. 12° W. at 0630/17. Fighter escort will be ordered from 0700/17.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 2312A/12 to MANCHESTER.)

SULLA. Arrival Seidisfjord SULLA 2210Z/12.  
(SHEFFIELD 2330A/12.)



War Diary.12.3.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

TUNA. Come to four hours notice.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 0805A/12 to TUNA.)

M.L.Sweep. My 1534/11. SKIPPER arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1026/12.)

S/M spared by NIGERIA. Your 0557A/8. Submarine was Russian. On arrival she reported having sighted NIGERIA. She was 30 miles to Eastward of her route.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1116A/12 to C.S.10)

Destroyer Patrol in Channel. Leave Harwich as requisite to pass Sand Head Buoy at 2000 today proceeding by Q.Z.S. 285 and 159.  
(C. in C. Nore 1315A/12 to WALPOLE, WINDSOR.)  
Intend proceeding at 1515. Speed of advance 21 knots.  
(WALPOLE 1430/12)

My 1315A/12. After passing Dumpton Buoy act as ordered by V.A. Dover.  
(C. in C. Nore 1522A/12 to WALPOLE.)  
Departure WALPOLE and WINDSOR.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1530A/12)  
Request BLENCATHRA, FERNIE and CALPE may be sailed to R/v with WALPOLE and WINDSOR at C two buoy at 2200 tonight, and that BLENCATHRA may be instructed to take all destroyers under his orders and patrol and act as in my 1752A/11 unless otherwise ordered. Patrol to be left at 0400 to return to Portsmouth.  
(V.A. Dover 1607A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1803A/12 to V.A. Dover.)  
Arrive R/V as soon as possible.  
(V.A. Dover 1852A/12 to BLENCATHRA, WALPOLE.)

Norway S/M Patrol. When it is certain TIRPITZ has passed you, either through having sighted her or through receipt of definite information from me, and that you can do no more against her submarines are to withdraw to vicinity of following positions without further orders:- (a) SEAWOLF and TRIDENT to 064° 40' N. 007° E. and 064° 20' N. 7° E. for return to Lerwick and Holy Loch respectively as ordered by Captain (S) 9. (b) JUNON to patrol vicinity of 065° 25' N. 008° 40' E. (c) SEALION to patrol between 063° 8' N. 006° 14' E. and 062° 50' N. 005° 35' E.  
(F.O.S.1322A/12.)

Denmark Strait Patrol. Hvalfjord departure KENT for patrol "White" 0930A.  
(A.C.I.C. 1411A/12.)

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. My 1603A/10. Cable ship sheltering Valencia. Intend sailing 0950?A/13 to commence operation.  
(Cable-laying) (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1805A/12)

/Iceland ...



War Diary.12.3.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

Iceland - EDINBURGH is to leave patrol at 0800A/13 and  
Faroes return Scapa.  
Patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 1914A/12.)

British Air Activity.

Escort for Expect escort by 4 Blenheim fighters at 0700/12.  
FAULKNER. Subsequent sorties which will continue until  
about 1600/12 will be by Blenheim and/or  
Beaufighters. Fighters will stand by on 13th  
to take off on receipt of Shad or help message  
if you are within 300 miles of Sumburgh. \*  
My 0021/12. Sorties being extended by two Blenheims followed  
by two Beaufighters. \*(C. in C. Rosyth 0021/12 to Capt.D.8.)  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1609/12 to Capt. D.8.)  
Expect fighter escort of Beaufighters or Blenheims in sorties  
of 3 or 4 from 1400 onward.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1125/12 to Capt. D.8.)

R/C of Your 1856A/11. Will be arranged dawn to dusk.  
Denmark (A.C.I.C. 0032A/12 to C.S.1)  
Straits. My 0032A/12. Patrol withdrawn 1130A due to  
bad weather.  
(A.C.I.C. 1250A/12)

Trondheim P.R.U. Trondheim, 12th March. First sortie  
R/C. unsuccessful. Second due back 1900 hours.  
(D.D.I.C. 1540A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Second R/C of Trondheim, March 12, also  
unsuccessful.  
(D.D.I.C. 1911A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Mining.

B.S.68. Operation B.S.68 completed.  
(PLOVER 0730A/12.)  
Arrival PLOVER.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0838A/12)

S.N.81. R.A.(M) 1102/7. Concur. R.A.(D) H.F. is  
requested to detail one destroyer. (ii) R.A.(M)  
1524/11. Cover will be provided.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1007A/12.)  
Your 1007A/12. LEDBURY detailed.  
(R.A.D. 1255A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Intend to carry out S.N.81 as follows. Details.  
(R.A.M.1516/12) See Lion Copy.

Q.S.3. My 1448P/11 and 1446A/11. Operation Q.S.3  
postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore 1122A/12.)

/SCOTT ...



From : R.A. (M).

Date : 13.3.42.

Recd : 0228

NAVAL CYPHER A.1. BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed : Admiralty, C. in C. Home Fleet, R.A. (D) Home Fleet, C. in C. Rosyth, H.M.S. ST. MARYS, H.M.S. LEDBURY, Repeated A.O.O.S., C. in C. Western Approaches, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., Air Ministry, Group 14, Group 18.

Intend carry out operation S.N.81 as follows :-

- (a) Surface mine fields laid from South to North.
- (d) (i) H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRINCE, H.M.S. FORT QUEBEC, H.M.S. AGAMEMNON, H.M.S. MENESTHEUS, H.M.S. LANCASTER, H.M.S. WELLS, H.M.S. ST. MARYS, H.M.S. SCOTT.
- (d) (ii) H.M.S. LEDBURY.
- (e) Air A/S escort is requested during day light hours from 1500 March 14th till arrival in North Minch on return. Repetition R/V on March 14th 110 degs Butt of Lewis 17 miles at 1500
- (f) From 62 degs 18' 12" North, 7 degs 42' 48" West, to 62 degs 37' 42", 8 degs 13' 12".
- (g) 0911 March 14th.
- (h) R/V with H.M.S. LEDBURY and H.M.S. ST. MARY'S at 1500 March 14th in position 110 degs Butt of Lewis 17 miles.
- (i) R/V with Cruiser escort 0700 March 15th in position 61 degs 35' North, 7 degs 38' West.
- (j) Through position (i) 59 degs 45' North, 5 degs 30' West (ii) 60 degs 30' 7 degs 00'. (iii) 270 degs Mygganaes 2 miles.
- (k) 13 knots .
- (l) 1010 March 15th.
- (n) Through position (i) 060 degs 30' N, 007 degs 00' W. (ii) 059 degs 20' 004 degs 10' (iii) 058 degs 53' 004 degs 23'
- (c) Port ZA 1930 March 16th.
- (d) 17th Division to Port ZA with Minelayers. H.M.S. LEDBURY to Scapa 1600 March 16th.
- (r) 0800 March 13th.
- (t) outward passage as for Minelayers.
- (u) Beacon (a) 062 degs 24' North 007 degs 57' 12" West Beacon (b) 062 degs 32' North 008 degs 12' West
- (v) Faroe Islands for survey of North Faroe Islands Gap.
- (w) 25.6 miles. 14 knots.
- (x) Mark XXII (One) Star/17, 3 Star Set to 20 feet.
- (y) full outfit laid at 30 units per mile.
- (z) as for 2 line ships in Area 2 throughout. Remarks. Right angle practice at sleeve target will take place Eastward of Sule Skerry between 0800 and 1000 March 16th. Anti-submarine air escort is requested to keep about 8 miles ahead of minelayers during practices.

1516/12

1st Lt. Col.  
 1st Lt. Col.  
 5th Lt. Col.  
 V.C. N.S.  
 A.C. N.S.  
 A.C. N.S.  
 A.C. N.S.  
 A.C. N.S.  
 D.D. O.D.  
 D.C. (2)

Advanced Copy D.C., D.O.D. (H), D.O.D. (A)

D.A./S.W.  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 I.P. (2)  
 W. D.  
 K.I.D. 10 Pay Gen. Wilson.

D.S. (2)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.C. (2)

H.P.



War Diary.12.3.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.

SCOTT. My letter No.109/ML. 0100 Of 4/3/42. Intend SCOTT to carry out survey of area on completion of operation S.N.81. When results of this survey are known I will make further recommendations as to the suitability of different materials for S.N.50.  
(R.A.M. 1127/12 to Admty. and 1522/12 to A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Dummy  
Minefield  
off Tay.

Ref. A.L.M. 08129/41 of 18/2/42. Intend laying dummy minefield in 056° 28' N. 002° W. on 17/3.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1147/12.)

Yarmouth.

L L sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1157A/12 in 52° 56' 36" N. 1° 59' 12" E.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1245A/12 and 1444A/12)

Q.L. 5.  
Q.L. 6.

My 1114A/7/11/41 and 1016A/13/12/41. Amend positions of Q.L.5 and Q.L.6 as follows. Prepare to carry out Operation Q.L.6 on first night weather is suitable.  
(C. in C. Nore 1720A/12 to BEEHIVE.)

Dangerous  
Areas off  
Norway.

Minefields Norway. Following details of danger areas appeared in Norwegian press of 10th March. Areas enclosed by lines joining following points are declared dangerous. Details.  
(N.A. Stockholm 1721/12)

B.S.70  
B.S.68

B.S.70 amend orders for B.S.68 as follows.  
(C. in C. Nore 1722AX/12)

F.D.37

RUBIS escorted by LOCH MONTEITH passing Bell Rock 1900A/12 inside East Coast mine barrage to position (A) 061° 30' N. 000° 02' W, thence unescorted dive by day through (B) 061° 50' N. 002° E. (C) 058° 20' N. 005° 12' E., thence (D) 056° 33' N. 006° 10' E. for operation F.D.37.  
(Capt. S.9 1735A/12.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits  
of Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/11 to 0900/12. Track E.12 D, three or four small vessels from off Cape Gris Nez at 1830 to 3 miles N.E. of Calais at 1950, speed 15 knots, probably R boats minesweeping.  
(V.A. Dover 0948A/12.)

/TIRPITZ ...



War Diary.12.3.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - contd.

TIRPITZ. Reported that TIRPITZ originally proceeded from Trondheim towards Bear Island to intercept 17 vessels under escort of British cruiser.

2. She then received intelligence of 2 aircraft carriers which caused her to return to Norwegian coast.

3. Germans describe British torpedo bomber attack to have been made in a most determined manner and with great gallantry by 25 aircraft attacking simultaneously. TIRPITZ straddled from (?astern) and some passed under but no hits.

4. TIRPITZ retired West Fjord under smoke and arrived Trondheim yesterday March 11th. Graded A.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm 1124/12 to Admty.)

O.I.C. Comment. Paras 1,2 and 3 are considered to be substantially correct. Para.4. Air reconnaissance at 1030/11 showed TIRPITZ not present at her usual anchorage in Foelten Fiord.

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked off Rockall. Am over enemy S/M in 58° 24' N. 13° 10' W. Have attacked with bombs (dive).  
(A/C H.N.5 E. 1104/12)  
Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. Estimate one hit.  
(A/C 1106/12)  
Searching area of attack for results.  
(H.Q.15 Group 1250/12)  
By D/F at 1316Z/12 a U-boat in approx. 58° 30' N. 14° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 1522A/12 to Escorts P.Q.13)

Navigational.

Yarmouth. Light on buoy marking wreck in approx. 52° 35' N. 1° 59' E. reported extinguished.  
(Hydrog. 0030A/12.)

Bridlington. Bridlington Bay South Smithie Buoy reported missing.  
(D.O. Humber 1046A/12.)

Technical.

Iceland Loops. Your 1310A/11. Boom gate in operation except in strong winds. Loop repaired. Loop and minefield at Halsnes in full working order. Grotta Akranes loops Number 3 relaid will be working shortly. Two Northern loops still out of action with lassoo working on them. Seidisfiord loops and minefield out of action and awaiting repair.  
(A.C.I.C. 1307A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)



War Diary.

12.3.1942  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

VESPER  
CAMPBELL  
collision.

My 2242A/11. CAMPBELL reports having collided with VESPER at 0300. VESPER has engine room flooded and is in tow of CATTISTOCK for Portsmouth with HAMBLEDON standing by. CAMPBELL bows damage proceeding Portsmouth at 8 knots. LADY BRASSEY with M.Ls 143 and 142 sent to assist.

(V.A. Dover 0519A/12 to Admty.)

Request repair yards may be allocated for CAMPBELL and VESPER. Bows of CAMPBELL damaged and engine room and after boiler room of VESPER holed and flooded. VESPER is due for refit at end of March.

(C. in C. Nore 1140A/12)

LADY BRASSY sailed from Dover at 0446 today to tow VESPER damaged in collision off Dungeness to Portsmouth.

(V.A. Dover 2039A/12.)

DEVON CITY.

DEVON CITY proceeding to Belfast Lough for shelter.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0909A/12.)

Arrived for shelter DEVON CITY in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER and ST. OLAVES.

(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1225A/1)

Russian S/M  
402  
damaged.

Soviet S/M 402 damaged by depth charges and with insufficient fuel to reach harbour reported in 71° 28' N. 29° 18' E. at 1040C/12, course 90°, speed 4 knots. Soviet K.21 proceeding to her vicinity but Russians have no ship capable of towing. Have offered subject to Admiralty approval to send minesweeper to take in tow. Risk of air and surface attack fully realised but no Russian destroyer immediately available. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Home Fleet, F.O.(S).

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1429A/12.)

Your 1429A/12. Approved.

(A.C.N.S. 1838A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Your 1429/12. When P.Q.12 is safe request you will use OFFA and Minesweepers as necessary to render assistance.

(C. in C. H.F. 2255A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

SHEFFIELD.

SHEFFIELD's 1501A/10. SHEFFIELD can be taken in hand in Tyne for damage repairs. 2. Request you will inform F.O.I.C. Tyne of the probable

date of arrival as early as possible.

3. Special escort, both surface and air, will be necessary, as SHEFFIELD is capable of only 10 knots and may be unhandy also.

(V.C.N.S. 1528A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)



War Diary.12.3.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

COLLINGDOC. Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV sailed to assistance of COLLINGDOC off Aberdeen.  
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1843/12.)  
My 1843/12. Returned to Peterhead.  
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1947/12.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.13. P.Q.13. From position (Y) proceed Reykjavik.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1234A/12 to Escort P.Q.13.)  
Your 1738A/11. LAMERTON will not be available as local escort for P.Q.13 from Reykjavik.  
(2) Request you will sail LAMERTON for Seidisfiord after arrival of Convoy at Reykjavik.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1903A/12 to A.C.I.C.)

P.Q.14. Admiralty's 1932A/10. Request latest date  
HOPEMOUNT. HOPEMOUNT should arrive Aultbea for P.Q.14.  
CHILTERN. Present earliest date of completion is 23/3.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1626A/12.)  
Your 0829A/12. Expect CHILTERN ready to sail with P.Q.14.  
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1848A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

SANDHILL. Motor Vessel SANDHILL carrying ammunition for the Orkneys and Shetlands was routed to Lerwick in the first instance. I consider that an unnecessary risk was taken with this valuable cargo and request that instructions may be given that ships serving Orkneys and Shetlands should be routed so as to discharge at Orkney first.  
(A.C.O.S. 1632A/12 to Admty.)



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

→ PAKENHAM.

My 2216A/11 E.T.A. Clyde 0700A/15.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1022A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My position 039° 56' N., 012° 24' W.  
(PAKENHAM, 1901A/12 to Admty.)

→ LOCH OSKAIG  
bombed.  
CABO ST.  
VICENTE sunk  
(10/3).

Your 1832/11th to S.O. (I) Gibraltar. Aircraft was neither British nor Allied. No British or Allied aircraft in the vicinity at that time.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0758A/12 to B.N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty.)

Enemy A/C's  
SCOTTISH,  
LEADGATE.

At 1815A/11. SCOTTISH position 320° Cape Espichel 35 miles reported sighted 2 F.W. steering 180°. No attack made.  
At 1900A/11. LEADGATE reported attacked by A/C 10 miles east of Cape Santa Maria. *See next page*  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1026A/12 to Admty.)

2 M.L's.

2 M.L's from Gibraltar routed through 180° Cape De Gata 20 at 1200A/13 thence 077° 11½ knots, have been warned of your movements.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1136A/12 to UNIQUE, THUNDERBOLT).

FRIMAIRE,  
ARAGAZ.

Agreement reached Monday between Portuguese and French Governments approved by H.M.G. for charter of French tankers FRIMAIRE now at Toulon and ARAGAZ at Oran which are proceeding at once to Lisbon. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1142/12 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

Lights  
Africa.

Your A152/11/3. 1307/11. Some of the coastal lights in French Morocco and Senegal may be found to be showing with reduced visibility. Lights in Portuguese Guinea have been extinguished.  
(Admty., 1224A/12 to No.44 Group, R.A.F.)

Situation  
Report.

Area "X" at 2001A/12.  
→ 1. PAKENHAM approx. 40° 14' 12° 39' through 43° 00' 15° 00' thence 000° 22.  
2. COREOPSIS, GERANIUM 35° 32' 07° 00' to

Gibraltar 11½.

3. DAUNTLESS 39° 28' 14° 15' through 36° 30' 10° 00' to Gibraltar 17.

4. PETUNIA, AIRDALE 1 M.V. 1 Tug 35° 33' 11° 12' to Gibraltar 9.

→ 5. SCOTTISH patrolling off Cape Roca.  
→ 6. LOCH OSKAIG escorting 1 M.V. approx. 36° 40' 06° 40' to Gibraltar 8.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/12 to N.A. Station Area X.)

Situation.

20001A/12. 1. O.S.21, 39° 45' 23° 06' 175° 8.  
S.O. IBIS, THYME, BOSTON detached for Ponta Delgada.

/2. ...



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation. 2. CROMER, POOLE, SEAHAM, 42° 30' 23° 20' 204° 9.  
(contd.) 3. S.L.102, 26° 12' 20° 20' ( 350° Alternatives  
099° 135° 153°) 7 S.O. EGRET.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1318A/12 to N.A.Station Area Y).

Situation Report No.3. Situation 2001A/12. (1) ROMNEY, CROMARTY,  
WHITEHAVEN, 25° 14' 23° 30' 165° 13.  
(11) S.L.102, 26° 12' 20° 20' 350° 7 S.O. EGRET.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1320A/12 to N.A.Station).

OLYMPUS. My 1136/10. OLYMPUS sailed.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1734A/12 to C. in C. Med.,  
(R) Admty., etc.)

Sunderlands, Your A 90 11/3 (1445/11). Sunderlands L 5803  
Gibraltar. 95 Squadron despatched to Bathurst 3/3.  
L 5800 204 Squadron despatched to Bathurst 8/3.  
Delay owing weather. No Sunderlands now remain.  
(Gibraltar, 1735/12 to H.Q.C.C.)

LEADGATE. Ops. 356 12/3. Resume for 12/3. 1 Fulmar search  
for LEADGATE 1248 - 1405.  
(Gibraltar C.H.Q. 1810/12). *See previous page.*

VASNA. Your 1154A/5. B.N.A.Lisbon reports no objection  
to visit of Hospital ship VASNA to Azores.  
(Head of M. 1843A/12 to N.O.I.C.Avonmouth).

STAD HAARLEM, When will STAD HAARLEM and TOMBOUCTOU be  
TOMBOUCTOU. ready to sail?  
(D.T.D., 1917A/12 to Consul Ponta Delgada)  
(Reply; see 1604/14).

SCOTTISH. Your 1201A/11+. As there appears no reason for  
vessel leave territorial waters propose (corrupt  
group) G W O 35 after dark if necessary.  
(SCOTTISH, 1945A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
+(No trace in War Reg, but may refer to EMPIRE  
SNIPE, see R.O. Oporto, 1206/11).

M.L's. My 1722/11 (Hush distribution, N.T. in W.D.)  
departure M.L's 126 and 130.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2234A/12 to V.A.Malta, C. in C. Med.  
(R) Admty.)



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Rio de Janeiro R.O. Rio de Janeiro reports patrol service has  
harbour patrol been established at entrance of Rio de Janeiro  
service harbour and ships arriving should be warned to  
established. look out for patrol boats by day and by night and  
to obey any instructions that may be given.  
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0041Z/12 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. S.A., etc.)

C. in C. S.A. C. in C. S.A., will be afloat from p.m.16th in  
ASTURIAS. F.O.I.C.Freetown will carry out the  
administration of the station until the C. in C.  
is established ashore in South Africa. Signals of  
immediate import requiring C. in C's attention  
should be passed to ASTURIAS.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1137Z/12 to Admty., etc.)

CHINA MAIL Overdue shipping U.S.A. CHINA MAIL due Capetown  
overdue. 7th from Philadelphia not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1145B/12 to Admty., etc.)

W.R.KEEVER. Overdue shipping W.R. KEEVER due Lourenco Marques  
7th from Kilindini not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1147B/12 to Admty., etc.)

F.A.A. My 0011Z/27/2 para. 5. Request information if  
Aircraft. No.710 Sqn. is to be replaced at Hastings.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1203Z/12 to Admty.)

B.D.V's. Arrivals 1205 G.M.T. 12th BARCLOSE, BARFOAM,  
BARFORD. (N.O:I.C.East London, 1205Z/12 to  
Admty., C. in C. S.A., etc.)

REINE DES Your 1200A/4. F.F.S. REINE DES FLOTS expected to  
FLOTS. reach Pointe Noire 11th or 12/3 for Walvis Bay.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1213Z/12 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C.  
Simonstown).

Air R/C of My 1740/10 and A.M., 1756/17/2. Examination of  
Diego Suarez. photographs shows following ships which were  
expected to be there. Sloop D'IBERVILLE, 3 S/M's  
(1 in dry dock), Tanker ELORN, German Ship  
WARTENFELS, Italian ships DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI and SOMALIA and  
1 other, probably A.M.C. BOUGAINVILLE.  
2. 1 other ship cannot be identified secured bows on to jetty  
near Graving Dock with gangway over forecastle, approx. 6,000  
tons, funnel just abaft bridge and equal distant between two  
masts, raked stem and cruiser stern. Appears to have hatches open.  
3. This ship may have arrived from Vibuti 27/2 with D'IBERVILLE  
and ELORN.  
4. Am seeking elucidation from source of original report  
contained in my 0032/17.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1230B/12 to Admty., for D.N.I. etc.)

/Vichy ...



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Vichy M/V's. Aircraft reported 1600/11, two Vichy merchant ships about 3000 tons anchored off Kasamanze River, 12° 34' N., 16° 45' W. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1231Z/12 to Admty.)
- MONTE GORBEA intercepted. Ref. C. in C. S.A. 1221Z/8. Have intercepted MONTE GORBEA in 08° 52' N. 26° 00' W. Armed guard on board. Master states he has full navicert for 52 40 tons general cargo. 43 passengers 46 crew; also has 2 bags diplomatic mail. PRETORIA CASTLE escorting to Bathurst CANTON supporting. (PRETORIA CASTLE, 1542Z/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- Your 1542Z/12. CANTON returns to Patrol in H.34 C and D keeping E. of 26° W. (C. in C. S.A., 1835Z/12 to PRETORIA CASTLE (R) CANTON, Admty.) My P.C. & S. 009° 09' N., 025° 34' W., 062° 9 knots. PRETORIA CASTLE in company with MONTE GORBEA. Fuel remaining PRETORIA CASTLE 52% CANTON 49%. CANTON proceeding in accordance with your 1835Z/12. (PRETORIA CASTLE, 2000Z/12 to C. in C. S.A.)
- Suspicious Lights. U.S. CHARLES CARROLL at 2300/24/2. in 04° 40' S. 34° 25' W. sighted cluster of white lights which showed for 15 minutes and then suddenly extinguished.
2. At 2000/26/2 in 13° 00' S., 36° 15' W, vessel overtook another vessel burning navigation and deck lights. At 2300 all lights were extinguished and vessel appeared to be using spot light with beam that dipped. Simultaneously similar spot light appeared from another vessel hitherto unseen. First ship then fired a blue Very's light, Master and U.S. Naval Armament Officer of opinion that supply ship made R/V with U-Boat or surface raider. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1617Z/12 to Admty., etc.)
- NEWCASTLE. Cancel my 0946/5 and substitute. Request instructions as to disposal of 60 tons of spare parts for tanks taken on board NEWCASTLE at Greenock in accordance with Admty. 2055A/14/2. (S.O. Force T., 1621Z/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- "R" Report. At 0134 G.M.T. R.M.M.V. GASCONY in 05° 40' S., 30° 30' W. heard following signal: RRR 00° 27' N., 40° 24' W. Remainder unintelligible. Unable to associate here with any other information. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1749Z/12 to Admty.) W.D. Note. C. in C. S.A., in his 1003Z/14 gives time of "R" report as 0134 G.M.T./28/2.

/Force V. ...



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

- Force V. Departure 12/3 Capetown FORMIDABLE, Simonstown PALADIN and PANTHER, to R/V 270° Cape of Good Hope 15 miles at 1630Z/12 and thence to Mauritius arriving Wednesday 18/3.  
(N.O.I.C.Simonstown, 1853Z/12 to Admty., C. in C.S.A. C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., etc.)
- Movements. Arrival 12/3. WILD SWAN, BRILLIANT.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1945Z/12 to Admty.)  
Arrival 12/3. M.L's 244, 209.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2045Z/12).  
Arrival 12/3. BOREAS, SNOWDROP, AUBRETIA with O.S. 20.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2047Z/12 to Admty.)
- Lagos Cables. A.M. 1434/11. Lagos-Kotonu cable must be cut as well as Libreville-Kotonu Bardia in order to connect Libreville to Lagos vide my 2027 28th Dec. 1941.  
(C. in C. S.A., 2021Z/12 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C.Lagos)

Mediterranean.

- ALBARO, My 1835B/11. 0500 G.M.T. 12/3.  
PRODROMOS. (Istanbul, 0929B/12 to S.O.I.Med., N.L.O.Black Sea).  
*See next page*
- ERICA. 11th Port Said departure 1700B.  
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 0946B/12 to Admty.)
- NAIAD Regret to report NAIAD torpedoed by submarine and  
torpedoed and sunk in 032° 00' N., 026° 19' E. at 2030/11.  
sunk, 11/3. R.A. (?Vian) and about 33 Officers and 548 ratings  
by U.565. picked up.  
(C.3.443) (C. in C. Med., 1024B/12 to Admty.)
- KIPLING and LIVELY expect to arrive  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour early. Have following hospital cases.  
(KIPLING, 0540B/12 to Alexandria C.C.O.)
- U-Boat. P.31 suspects U-Boat patrolling South of Lampion.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1047B/12 to SOKOL, UNA.)

S/M sighted by A submarine was sighted by enemy unit in your area  
enemy unit. at 0320B/12.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1105B/12 to TURBULENT). *See also next page.*



War Diary.

12.3.1942.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

- P.39. Capt. (S) 10's 1939B/9 (N.T. in W.D.) being passed to you. Intend sailing P.39 as soon as ready. Request refitting port. Admty. pass to F.O.S. (C. in C. Med., 1140B/12 to Admty., (R) Capt. S.1, etc.)
- M.W.11. Your 0307/11 and C. in C. Med. 1111B/11. Request immediate decision whether WAIWERA is to be released.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1402B/12 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med.) Reply: 0411/14.
- U-Boat. At 0800B/12 a S/M was sighted close to N.E. of Tinos.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1445B/12 to TURBULENT). *See previous page*
- Movements. Arrived FOXHOUND 0529Z/12. Sailed 1057Z/12 F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1510Z/12).
- Libya Report. Cositrep No. 293. 2. Air. Night 10/11. Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour. Tomahawks on shipping protection off Sidi Barrani destroyed one enemy A/C, probably destroying one, damaged two.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1520/12 to W.O. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- ALBARO, PRODROMOS, KAVALLA, TARABYA. A. My 929 B/12. ALBARO and PRODROMOS re-entered Bosphorus 1330 G.M.T/12. Investigating. *See previous page.*  
B. My (1 Gr. Mut. 58B/11 (1058B/11 intended). The 2 craft \*KAVALLA and \*TARABYA, entered Aegean 01 hours G.M.T. March 12th.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1625B/12 to S.O.I. Med. for N.L.O. Black Sea and S.1). *\*not identified*
- Malta Air Report. C.S.R. 12/3. 11/3. Alert 1451 hrs. 6 ME.109's fighter sweep, fighters up, no interceptions. Night 11/12. Two raiders 2128, 0239 hrs. 3 civilians killed, four injured, several houses destroyed. Fighters up, no interceptions. A/A fired. 12/3. Four alerts, 0650, 0902, 1024, 1403 hrs. 58 ME.109's JU.88's Takali. 4 airmen wounded, 1 seriously, slight damage to aircraft. Barrack block M/T and refueller damaged, slight damage to other buildings, watermain burst, numerous craters aerodrome. D.A. bombs runway, A/A fired.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/12).
- Movements. Arrival Suez 12th DEMIR HISAR. Departure 12th ISLAY at 0630B.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 1815B/12 to Admty.)

/PROTEUS ...



War Diary.

12.3.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

PROTEUS.

Capt. (S) 10, 2106B/11. Proceed from 037° 50' 020° 00' to position D. 039° 45' 017° 32'. Estimate you will arrive in position dawn 19th. (Capt. (S) 1, 1901B/12 to PROTEUS (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

CARLISLE,  
COVENTRY,  
PHOEBE,  
SIRIUS.

It is desired that CARLISLE and COVENTRY should return to U.K. when they can be spared to be fitted with modern equipment and give leave.  
2. It is intended that PHOEBE and SIRIUS who should both be ready for service in July should join Med. fleet.  
3. Request your proposals.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1909A/12 to C. in C. Med.)

E-Boat.

Enemy E-Boat suspected 5 miles N. of Gozo. (V.A. Malta, 2001B/12 to PORPOISE).



394.

War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

French Fleet Madagascar. Your 0415/11. Press report concerning French ships handed over to Germany refers only to warships in occupied ports not completed at time of Armistice. These are mainly destroyers and other small craft on which progress is slow if not held up owing to lack of raw material. Report is considered of no particular importance. Report concerning three light French warships probably refers to A.M.C. QUERCY arrived Tamatave 12/2 and Sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX and S/M BEVEZIERS reported (A.2) due to leave Dakar 11/2 for Madagascar. Present Force at Madagascar if two latter vessels have arrived believed consists of 2 sloops, 2 A.M.C's and seven S/M's, one fleet oiler, of which one S/M may be at Djibouti. (Admty., 0052A/12 to C. in C.E.F., (R) S.O. Force V).

Movements. Arrival NORMAN, ATREUS 0300Z/12. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0350Z/12). Arrival ALSEY 0645Z/12. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0656Z/12). M/L 1098 and 1086, TEAL and B.D.V. B.S. GRAAF VAN VLAANDEREN arrived. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0703Z/12).

Durban Resources. Your 0030Z/5 (repetition of C. in C.E.F. 0336Z/4th circulated in Admiralty under T.O.O. 0337Z/3). I have seen Minister of Ports and Railways who assured me that available skilled labour in Union is to intents and purposes conscripted and is allocated as necessary. 2. There is however, a definite shortage and this accounts for delay in dealing with Whalecatchers and REVENGE concurrently. Remarks on plans for improvement of labour supply. (S.O. Force V., 0837Z/12 to C. in C.E.F; (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

PERTH. Your 0206Z/10th. Concur. (Assumed lost).  
YARRA. (C. in C.E.F. 0851Z/12 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty.)

Japanese Treatment of Australians. Local press published statement attributed to Gen. Gordon Bennett in which he expressed confidence that Australians (?captured) by Japanese will receive fair treatment and that throughout the Malayan campaign Japanese were not bitter toward Australians and Australia, (?having) in fact, dropped pamphlets (?which) urged Australians to surrender and promised them a safe passage to Australia. 2. This would appear to conflict with H.M.G.'s policy of reporting Japanese atrocities. 3. I feel most strongly that such statements as are attributed to Gen. Gordon Bennett can only have ill effect on morale of troops. (C. in C. Ceylon, 0921Z/12 to Admty. for C.O.S.)

/Ammunition.....



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.

- Ammunition. Storage and dispersal. Reply to Admty. 1330/28/2. (C. in C.E.F., 1347Z/12 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
- RESOLUTION. Ref. Admty. 1300A/11. I am hustling RESOLUTION along to the limit of prudence but it is not practicable to improve on the earlier date given in my 1800Z/9 because of A. Adverse currents. B. Limited endurance and distilling capacity and time out of dock, 6 months. C. Necessity for cleaning some boilers during part of the passage so as to arrive operationally fit in view of your 1009Z/6 para. 3. (R.A.3., 1435Z/12 to C. in C.E.F., (R) S.O. Force V., Admty.)
- N.E.I. Forces. Netherlands Govt. have asked that their surface forces which are now concentrating in Ceylon should operate as a unit as far as possible. They have been informed that the extent to which this will be possible will depend on the nature of the operation but that their desire would be conveyed to you. (1st. S.L. 1508A/12 to C. in C.E.F. (R) S.O. Force V.)
- Burma. Appreciation for C.A.S. from Peirse. (Air H.Q. India, 1730/12 to Air Min.) See Lion Copy.
- Ceylon Air Forces. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (Ceylon) 1 to C. in C. Ceylon, (R) Arminia, A.O.C. in C. India and M.E., C. in C. E.F. Ref. your 1315Z/11 (not sent to Middle East). Regret your needs for air striking force for Ceylon cannot be met in immediate future. Beauforts could only be supplied after considerable delay and at expense of Middle East where aircraft of this type are fully employed and still inadequate for essential needs. Until we can build up strength in Middle East you must do all you can to extract maximum value from aircraft and personnel available in Ceylon. Suggest you approach Middle East for such assistance in air crew and technical personnel for instruction and torpedoes and torpedo maintenance equipment as they can spare. (1st. S.L. 1922A/12 to C. in C. Ceylon, C. in C.E.F.)
- Aden. C.O.S. No. (M.E.) 245 re defence requirements Aden. (Admty. 2301A/12 to C. in C.E.I., (R) C. in C.E.F.) See Lion Copy.



**MOST SECRET**

395A

1347Z/12th March

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date 13.3.42.

Recd. 2315.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T & T/P

Addressed Admiralty Repeated C. in C. East Indies C. in C.  
South Atlantic F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy.

IMPORTANT

705.

Signals referred to not to all addressees. Your 1330/28/2 was received after my 0908/5 was made.

2. The situation as it appears to me is as follows -
  - A. Total approved reserve of ammunition for Eastern Fleet amounts to about 40,000 tons.
  - B. Of this total, about 13,000 tons will be in Australia (vide A.M. 2155 23/2) leaving 27,000 tons to be stored ashore or afloat in Trincomalee and to the Westward of Ceylon.
  - C. Of this 27,000 tons about 17,000 tons can eventually be carried in the eleven A.S.I.S's, named in para. 5 below, which will shortly be available.
  - D. It is undesirable that more than 3,000 tons should remain ashore repetition ashore at Trincomalee until the situation clarified.
  - B. Thus 7,000 tons must remain ashore in other ports on the West coast of India or East coast of Africa.

3. Action has already been initiated by Admiralty to provide more than sufficient storage for the quantity in para 2. (E) and on a long term basis the intended arrangements for the handling of the reserves for the Eastern Fleet should prove satisfactory.

4. The position at the present moment is not so good and considerably more than 3,000 tons is already ashore at Trincomalee. Immediate removal of the surplus to a place of greater safety is much complicated by shortage of fighters and towage and the limited handling capacity of the depot. The fact that A.S.I.S.'s HERON and COLON have had to be loaded merely as bulk storage without regard to individual types of ammunition and are not fully operational units complicates the issue.

5. A.S.I.S's are at present disposed as follows:-
  - A. KHETI, PHILOMEL, PACHECO are in the Cape Area where they will be adjusted as far as possible to standard loading. My 0843/7/2 refers.
  - B. PALESTINIAN PRINCE is at Port T loading operationally.
  - C. CARPIO is at Colombo with ready use supplies for ships at that port.

D./.....



- D. BAMORA is at Trincomalee loading to standard load.
- E. KWAISANG is now at Colombo fitting out she will go to Trincomalee when ready and will be loaded after BAMORA.
- F. HERON and COLON are at Trincomalee at present loaded to capacity and cannot be adjusted until (D) and (E) are completed.
- G. CHURRUCA still in the Mediterranean will arrive in the Eastern theatre fully loaded, and not as an operational unit.
- H. HUPEH is now on passage from Calcutta to Bombay for fitting out.

6. It is not necessary to stop all further supplies to Ceylon except for certain specified items which may be notified by C. in C. Eastern Fleet from time to time while at the same time building up the full reserve in the theatre to implement this. It is requested that the Admiralty will arrange forthwith to load shipping so that all or part of the Naval Armament stores may be unloaded in Africa without delaying unduly the remainder of the cargo. C. in C. South Atlantic is requested to unload at the Cape or at Durban all items for Eastern Fleet reserve in all ships unless contrary instructions are received from C. in C. Eastern Fleet. After receipt of details of the shipment from the Admiralty.

7. Ships with naval Armament stores which have already passed the Cape will if possible be sent to Bombay or Cochin at the latter Port arrangements are being made to open an improvised Sub Depot. Congestion in Colombo and Trincomalee would delay their unloading for up to four weeks.

8. My immediate intentions to achieve maximum dispersal while at the same time adjusting cargoes of A.S.I.S's are as follows

- A. S.S. TINGSANG which was taken up to carry ammunition to Java still be retained and used to carry stores from Trincomalee or Colombo to Cochin or Bombay. She will not be available for this duty until WARSPITE's outfit has been changed.
- B. C. in C. Mediterranean will be requested to sail CHURRUCA only as far as Aden there to await instructions.
- C. As soon as loaded BAMORA and KWAISANG will be sailed to the Westward to a Port to be decided on later.
- D. HERON and COLON will be loaded to standard load when opportunity offers and are in the meantime at 12 hours notice for sailing.
- E. As soon as the present congestion at Trincomalee is eased consideration will be given to the necessity of taking up one or more ships as A.S. Carriers. No purpose would be served by doing this now as the depot would be unable to undertake loading.

F./.....



# MOST SECRET

- 3 -

F. As a first action spare guns will be dealt with as follows -

(1) The only 8" and all eight 4" sixteen star will be sent to Simonstown for Cornwall if not to be mounted locally.

2. Five out of the seven 6" twentythree the only two 4.7" eight and two out of the four 4" nine or nine two star will be sent to Bombay. 9 Depth charges mines and torpedoes will be dealt with on a separate signal.

1347Z/12.

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 Contr.  
 Vice Contr.  
 4th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 Civil Lord  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.C.D. (F)  
 Duty Capt. (2)  
 D. of S.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.G.D.  
 Hd. of M. (4) (GDO 166/42)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 Admiral Bailey  
 E.P.S.  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 D. of L.D.  
 N.I.D. 10 Pay.Cdr. Wilson  
 C.E. in C.  
 D.N.O.  
 D.A.S. (L)  
 D.T.M.  
 D.S.V.P.  
 D. of D.  
 Admiral Read.  
 Dep. Contr.  
 D. of S.  
 C.E. in C. ) Bath.  
 D.N.O.  
 D.A.S.  
 D.T.M.  
 Hd. of S.W.R. )

rs

EML.



MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE IN

**MOST SECRET**

1730/12.March.

395D

E

From: Air H.Q. India.

Date: 12.3.42.  
Recd: 2041.

cipher.

Addressed Air Ministry Whitehall.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

WX.2217. A.O.C. 13 12/3. PERSONAL <sup>fr</sup> from C.A.S. from Peirse.

I returned from Burma p.m. yesterday. In view of precarious military situation and loss of L. of C. to all aerodromes in Burma have arranged following re-organisation of Stevenson's Group. Formation of mobile wing at Magwe comprising 1 light bomber at 16 i.e. 1 Fighter at 16 i.e. half A.BRM Squadron at 8 i.e. for action against enemy Air Force and Army support. This wing is maximum force which can be maintained by Air together with existing stocks and supplies in country. Actually all serviceable bombers and fighters will not yet bring wing up to strength.

Para.2. In addition formation at Akyab of second wing of one recce. AT 16 i.e. 1 light bomber at 16 i.e. and 1 and 1 half fighter squadrons at 24 i.e. This force to operate offensively against enemy SWA communications and other targets but essentially to hold Akyab which is key position. Loss of Akyab will make aerodromes eastward untenable and give control of sea and air on Burma coast to enemy. It will also open Calcutta area to attack on a scale dependant upon number of aerodromes in Aurmap from which enemy chooses to operate. Wavell agrees to put a brigade at Akyab and Navy are collecting a flotilla of armed vessels of sorts to assist in seaward defence.

Para.3. Akyab is not prima facie a defensible position against resolute attack but its retention in force likely to delay enemy advance and to give opportunity to an air striking force to dispute if not stop such an advance in view of its importance both to maintenance of Air Force in Burma and in defence of Calcutta.

Essential to develop Akyab Wing without delay i.e. acceleration of reinforcement to 221 Grp.

Para.4. Additionally have ordered a formation of Stevenson's headquarters in Calcutta area to develop defence of this area and formation of flexible organisations for the defence and I hope intensification of operations in Burma. With all these arrangements Wavell agrees.

/Para.5.....



Para. 5. Burma has not yet had to face serious air opposition since enemy has not yet used his most modern equipment in this area. Whilst not detracting from success of Norgroup it would be unwise to regard the past as insurance against future. Stevenson's forces are now reduced and operating under great difficulties and without adequate warning system.

Para. 6. I am by no means confident that army situation in Burma will permit us to maintain present Akyab Magwe line of aerodromes. Withdrawal from these aerodromes opens up direct air attack on Bengal and vital industrial area of Calcutta. In addition there are no seaforces to dispute sea approaches to NE Coast of India and this responsibility therefore falls to the air.

Para 7. I cannot therefore stress too strongly the urgency and need of developing defensive and offensive forces in N B India. To avoid a calamity we must be in a position almost immediately to meet and beat enemy in air and at sea. The effects on India of being too late in doing this cannot be measured. As an initial measure acceleration of all planned reinforcements is required. I estimate time factor in terms of 2 or 3 weeks. Inability of R.A.F. to stop attacks on Calcutta or environment would immediately encourage hostile elements in India and lower morale generally with dire results. On the other hand successful defence would be greatest single factor for improvement of badly shaken confidence in British (arms?).

Para. 8. Shall shortly submit appreciation of full Indian requirements in offence and defence. They will be heavy. Message ends.

1730/12

Copies circulated by Air Ministry to:-

S. of S.	
C.A.S. (Action)	
V.C.A.S.	D.W.O.
D.C.A.S.	C.N.S. (Admiralty) (2)
A.C.A.S. (I)	C.I.G.S. (War Office) (2)
D/Plans.	Minister of Defence (10)
Plans 3.	A.M.S.O.
D.O.O.	

1st Lord.

Recd. in War Reg. at 0857/13

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (T)

N.A. to 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.D.I.C.

D.N.I. (4)

D.C. (2)

D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M.

D. of L.D.

D.A/S.W.

E.P.S.

D.N.A.D.

D.T.D. (2)

Admiral Bellairs.

I.P. (2)

W.D.



P

SECRET

MESSAGE

0226A/18th. March

345<sup>F</sup>  
OUT

To C. in C. East Indies, 253  
Repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet 930

Date 18.3.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (One Time)

From Admiralty,

IMPORTANT

My 2501/12, para. 4.

For "one T.R.U." read

"two T.R.U."

0226A/18

Asst. Secretary to First Sea Lord.

1st. Lord.  
1st. S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
N.A. 1st. S.L.  
P.A.S (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D. of P. (3)  
E.P.S.  
Ops (3)

\* Treated as Most Secret

M (39)  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
D.N.I. (4)  
O.I.C. (3)  
Adml. Bellairs.  
D. of L.D. (3)

...



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2301A/12th March

CUT

Date 12.3.42

To C. in C. East Indies 152.  
 Repeated C. in C. E.F. 854.

NAVAL CYPHER (ONE TIME)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Following from C.O.S. No. M.E.245 addressed  
 C. in C. Middle East, C. in C. East Indies, repeated  
 A.O.C., Aden, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, A.O.C., in C. Mideast

1. Following conclusions made regarding defence requirements Aden.
2. Functions. Denial for security our positions India and Mideast. Operational base cruisers light craft. Docking repair maintenance facilities. Very important oil fuel storage. Important convoy and commercial port. Naval section and reserve aircraft KHORMAKSAR. Important cable station and land aerodromes.
3. Scale of attack. Raids 30 T.S.R. from carrier. Brief bombardment cruiser with 12 inch guns or lesser guns and smaller craft. Smash burn raids small landing forces.  
*(as amended 6126A/18)*
4. Air Raid intelligence <sup>to</sup> one T.R.U./ two C.O.Ls., one G.C.I.
5. Air base facilities one day fighter, one torpedo bomber, one G.R. squadron.
6. A.A. gun defences 16 heavy, 16 light plus additional 4 heavy, 4 light if Little Aden aerodrome used.
7. A.A. Searchlights Six.
8. Naval defences. A/B A/T boom.
9. Coast artillery. Three 9.2 inch (35 degs.) three 6 inch (45 degs.) two 6 inch (15 degs.) two 6 pdrs.
10. Operational Control facilities Sector operations room with filtering facilities and for initiating air raid warnings. Full V.H.F. R/T and fixer facilities required. G.C.R. with arrangements for co-ordination ships guns with shore defences.

/11. Anti-...



395<sup>H</sup>

2.

11. Anti-invasion garrison. Responsibility C. in C.  
Mideast.

23011/12  
Secretary to 1st Sea Lord

1st Lord

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (W)

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

D.O.D. (F)

D. of P. (2)

E.P.S.

Hd. of M. (39)

I.P. (2)

N.I.D. 10. (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

W.D.

D.N.I. (4)

D.C. (2)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.D.O.D. (F)

NMB



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

R.N.A.S. Courses. Due to failure of Taurus II engine, shortage of maintenance ratings, and operational commitments the latter involving reduction of 5 aircraft on each training programme. There are at present only sufficient aircraft for training 2 courses. With 3 courses here it is doubtful if pupils will obtain more than 100 hours in 23 weeks. Suggest that with 51 course a larger proportion of pupils are sent to R.N.A.S. Arbroath. Lack of facilities at that station for training a larger number on the ground is appreciated but the lack of facilities here for training the full number in the air is a greater disadvantage. Situation can be appreciated before 52 course are due to sail. (R.N.A.S. Piarco Savannah, 0034/12 to F.O.N.A.S., Admty).

Movements. 11/3 arrivals:- OTTAWA ex Halifax. ANEMONE, ABELIA ex O.N.71, MINAS ex W.S.C. 73, MATABEDIA ex O.N.70. Departures STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY to escort C.L.7 to Halifax. (F.O.N.F., 0154Z/12 to Admty).

TEXAN. Following has been read by Freetown W/T. Distress from S.S. TEXAN, Position 21° 32' N., 76° 23' W. Torpedoed. T.O.R. 0050/12. (Haileah Florida Radio, No T.O.O./12 Recd. 0232/12) *See p. 402*

U/B U-boat within 30 miles 037° 30' N., 067° 30' W., indicated by D/F at 2339 and 2359Z/11 and 0027Z/12 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0431Z/12 to British Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc).

U/B O.N.72 serial number 4 and O.N.73 serial number 2. D/F bearings indicate submarine within 100 miles of 049° 30' N., 037° 00' W., at 05(732)Z/12. Submarine may have sighted either O.N.72 or O.N.73. (Opnav, 0659/12 to C.T.U., 24.1.19, C.T.U.24.1.4).

MARJORY, AFOUNDRIA, U/B Received (1) 0635Z/12 SSSS 35° 00' N., 75° 00' W. S.S. MARJORY. (2) 0813Z/12, SSSS 21° 15' N., 83° 15' W., S.S. AFOUNDRIA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0701Q/12 to Admty). Intercepted 0657, 36 metre band. De VPU6 (Freetown W/T) Following has been read. SSSS MARJORY 5 miles S.E. Acropoke Lighthouse, Cape Hatteras, (Tunkerton New Jersey Radio) T.O.R. 0640. Controlling Station Sierra Leone. (Portishead Radio, T.H.I. 0757/12 to Admty). (Tuckerton Radio, T.O.R. 0813/12) Following from Kingston Radio. SSSS AFOUNDRIA chased by S/M 2020 G.M.T./11 in 20.20 N., 82.48 W. (Cdre. I/C Bermuda, 0807P/12 to Admty). *See p. 402*

/U/B...



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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- U/B D/F places U-boats as follows, at 0218Z within 100 miles of 042° N., 054° W., at 0225Z within 60 miles of 038° N., 067° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0719Z/12 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty etc).
- U/B At 0329Z U-boat placed within 60 miles of 043° 30' N., 053° W., by D/F.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0805Z/12 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty. etc).
- FURIOUS. Your 1100Q/9th. 835 Squadron personnel, stores and 10 torpedoes with warheads embarking Jamaica ALLISTER about 18/3 arriving Jacksonville about 22/3. Request transport arrangements be made for personnel (2 officers 28 ratings) stores and explosives (16 tons) to Norfolk, Virginia.  
Air party leaving Jamaica 19/3 arriving Miami p.m./19 leaving a.m./20. Request routing instructions maps and fuelling arrangements Miami to Norfolk (Virginia) be forwarded by air mail. B.A.R.M. pass to FURIOUS.  
(R.N.A.S. Kingston, 0940R/12, B.A.R.M. (R) C. in C. A.W.I., Admty. FURIOUS) *See also p 400*
- NORSEMAN. NORSEMAN completed cable repair near St. Thomas. Next repair near Bermuda.  
(R.N.O. St. Thomas, 0946/12 to Admty).
- Unknown ship sunk, U/B Following received from Nassau (begins) - Commissioner San Salvador reports ship sunk by gunfire submarine 1940 E.S.T., off Crabeay, Eastern Shore San Salvador. (Ends)  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1003P/12 to Admty).
- LADY NELSON, UMTATA, guns for harbour defence. Your 1720Q/11 being passed to Admiralty and B.A.D. Approved as a temporary measure. Those guns will probably have to be remounted in ship before latter leaves St. Lucia.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1052P/12 to R.N.O. St. Lucia (R) Admty etc). *See also 2013A/12, page 402*
- S.C.70 Average speed 6.2 knots. Strong Easterly winds and gales from 24/2 which caused difficulty in keeping Convoy together. Three stragglers, all ships now accounted for.  
(D.T.D., 1101A/12 to Opnav, N.S.H.Q.)

/Curacao...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Curacao, Present Lake tanker situation as follows:-  
tankers, Lago Company Aruba strike settled and Lake tanker  
protection. convoys running regularly under escort.  
C.P.I.M. Curacao, Chinese strike, no settlement  
in sight. Chinese removed from ships and placed  
in a camp. Steps being taken to secure new crews. No Lake  
tanker convoys likely for another month. Oil position Curacao  
very little crude left in stock but approx. 1,000,000 tons  
various finished products. Only likelihood congestion here  
due to impossibility of loading hundred octane except from  
Bullen Bay and slow loading of other while oil in SCHOTBITTEGAT.  
First netting to arrive will be (?utilized) to protect at least  
one berth at Bullen Bay. Understand possibility of some from  
Puerto Rico.  
(Willemstadd West Indies, 1101QR/12 to C. in C: A.W.I. (R) Admty)

PHOEBE. B.A.R.M. is requested to arrange for PHOEBE,  
manned in accordance with A.M.2217A/3/10 to carry  
out one week's work up in U.S.A. waters and then  
to be sailed for U.K. 2. B.A.R.M. is requested to report  
outstanding work requiring completion in U.K. 4. After  
completing to full complement ship will work up fully in U.K.  
before proceeding to Mediterranean station.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1111A/12 to B.A.R.M., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Movements.

Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 12/3.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
MANCHESTER	37° N., 48° W.	069°	19
CALIFORNIA	13° N., 24° W.	310°	13½
BULOLO			
S.S. BATORY			
PRETORIA			
CASTLE.	10° N., 25° W	Patrol	Blank
CANTON	07° N., 26° W.	Patrol	Blank
ILEX	25° N., 72° W.	320°	15
CILICIA	41° S., 55° W.	187°	14
WARSPITE	35° S., 108° E.	322°	14
WESTRALIA	28° S., 161° E.	040°	13.
escorting			
U.S. Transport			
<i>JOHN</i> S. ERICSON			

(D.O.D. (F), 1135Z/12 to Opanav (R) Spenavo).

U.S. Plans  
for Shipping  
Tonnage.

C.O.S. (W) 114.  
Ref. J.S.M.114 para.2. Confirmed that 3 Divisions  
in all are involved, i.e. 2 additional to 41st  
Div.  
(Admty. 1159A/12 to B.A.D.)



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- EMPIRE HAIL, CARPERBY. Your 1352Z/11. EMPIRE HAIL, only information available is given in C.O.A.C. Halifax 1401Z/7, repeated to you. CARPERBY no further information to your signal 1/3.  
(D.T.D., 1201A/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- ZORROZA. My 1833R/18/2 (not to Admty) Spanish tanker ZORROZA which recently has been lying off Paraguana Peninsula is being removed from safe anchorage off Aruba, W/T to be dismantled.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1208R/12 to Admty. etc).
- ACONIT# F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1901A/10 states ACONIT# will be available p.m./15. Request she be sailed with next O.N. convoy or to overtake a convoy if one has just sailed.  
(C.C.N.F., 1238Z/12 to C.T.G. 24.7).
- Puerto La Cruz U.S. destroyer BAINBRIDGE, U.S.A. Transport U.S. Troops. ACADIA. Disembarking 300 U.S. troops. Equipment but no guns.  
(Puerto La Cruz, 1320/12 to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I. etc).
- Washops 74. (1) Wake Island. A. U.S. Naval Task Force attacked Wake Island on 24/2. 3 large enemy seaplanes and a patrol boat were destroyed. Shore installations and landing field were also bombed while cruisers and destroyers shelled island. One U.S. aircraft missing.  
(2) Marcus Island. Dive bombers from a U.S. Naval Task Force attacked Marcus Island on 4/3. No enemy ships or aircraft present. Bombs were dropped on runways of aerodrome and on tanks and buildings. One U.S. aircraft shot down.  
(3) Midway Island. 4 U.S. fighters intercepted and shot down Japanese 4 engined seaplane 45 miles from Midway Island. One U.S. fighter was damaged by (?but) reached its base.  
(J.S.M., 1331Q/12 to Admty etc).
- CHARLOTTE-TOWN, CALGARY, P.512, P.514. My 1846Z/10 and B.A.Ds. 1153Q/11. Amended time departure SEVER# escorted by CHARLOTTETOWN and CALGARY 1100Z/13. E.T.A. Overfalls Light Vessel 1100Z/16 unchanged. CBT. CHARLOTTETOWN and CALGARY will be available for escort of P.512 and P.514 and will be instructed to proceed from Overfalls Light Vessel to New London. Conn. unless otherwise ordered.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1331Z/12 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. (R) B.A.R.M. C.E.S.F., C. in C. A.W.I. Opanv, F.O.S.)
- Trawlers. New York arrivals A.M. Trawlers LE TIGER, SAINT CATHAN, SENATEUR, DUHAMEL, WASTWATER, B#TTERMERE, CAPE WARWICK, LADY ROSEMARY, WELLARD.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1350Z/12 to Admty etc).



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

FURIOUS, AVENGER, aircraft. Your 0833/7 and Admty 1530/7. 4 aircraft 816 and 4 aircraft 835 Sqn. should leave Palisadoes a.m.22/3 calling at Camaguey to refuel. Aircraft will be routed onward from Miami on 23/3, probably via Jacksonville and Charleston to Norfolk. Palisadoes is to inform British Minister, Havana Cuba of E.T.A. and approx. requirements. (B.A.R.M., 1402Q/12 to R.N.A.S. Kingston, (Jam). (R) R.N.A.S. Lee-on-Solent, C. in C. A.W.I., Admty.\*FURIOUS, AVENGER).

\* See p 397

Submarine Attack Summary. Brazilian S.S. CAYRU torpedoed and sunk 39.10 N. 72.02 W., 2330Z/8. All crew and passengers got off. 32 survivors plus one body picked up. American cargo S.S.\*TEXAS reported torpedoed 21.32 N., 76.25 W., 0040Z/12. No further details. Norwegian cargo S.S. HVOGLEF torpedoed and sunk 38.27 N., 74.54 W., 0005Z/11. 14 out of crew of 20 rescued. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1423/12 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.) \*TEXAS intended

Operations "Gymnast" "Super Gymnast" Following for J.S.M. No. C.O.S. (W) 115. To U.S. Chiefs of Staff from British Chiefs of Staff. Consider operations "Gymnast" or "Super Gymnast" unlikely before autumn under present conditions, C.O.S. (W) 105 dated 5/3 refers. If you agree above propose planning these operations by Joint Planning Staffs U.K. and U.S.A. continue but detailed planning cease until further instructions issued. (1st S.L., 1428A/12 to B.A.D.)

Caribbean Shipping protection. Your 1052/6. Opanav's 2130/9 refers. U.S. Authorities are also asking Government of San Domingo to help patrols off these anchorages with any small craft available and security co-ordination are taking up question of Nazi Doctor George. (B.A.D., 1533Q/12 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Opanav 1810/10 and my 2252P/11. Intend to issue following detailed instructions to N.C.S.Os.  
(a) Routeing of ships through Windward, Mona, Virgin and Anegada passages is to be restricted to vessels on Inter-Island or short passages when avoidance of these channels would unduly lengthen voyage. In these cases passage of channels is to be made in daylight in order to take advantage of air protection.  
(b) Routes in Caribbean Sea are to be spread as much as possible.  
(c) (1) Ships proceeding from Canadian ports and Bermuda to ports inside Caribbean east of 68° W., and vice versa are to be routed well to eastward of Lesser Antilles. (2) Ships proceeding from Canadian ports and Bermuda to ports inside Caribbean west of 68° W., and vice versa, and all ships from U.S. Atlantic ports to all ports inside Caribbean and vice versa, are to be routed via Florida Strait.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1602P/12 to Admty (R) B.A.D. Opanav, N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica).

/Carribean...



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Carribbean Shipping protection. Opnav 2130/9 being passed to you. Request you will consult with Minister Ciudad Trujillo and other authorities concerned and report whether sugar ships could be effectively controlled if vessels bound for sugar loading ports called first at Jamaica for orders thence proceeding to load as required or whether any other form of control is recommended. The main consideration is that ships should not have to lie in an open anchorage whilst awaiting their turn to load.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1632P/12 to S.O.(I) Jamaica (R) Admty. B.A.D. Opnav).

AGAPENOR, crew trouble. Your 1103P/11 and my 1140R/12. Now learned SARPEDON is due about 16th homeward and should be able to accommodate the 77 Chinese if considered preferable.  
(C.S.A. Colon, 1650R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CYGNET torpedoed. R.O. Nassau reports (Pan) CYGNET torpedoed five miles from San Salvador today Thursday. 30 survivors proceeding Nassau.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1706R/12 to Admty C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

U/Bs. 12/3 submarine situation. M.V. (?sunk) 38.27 N., 74.54 W., 0005Z/11. Two submarines sighted. One 38.38 N., 74.33 W. 1720/11 one 35.03 N., 75.54 W. 0635Z/12. May be 2 or 3 others along coast between Cape Hatteras and Cape Cod. About 8 in area North of (35° or 39°) N., and between 50° 70' W., of which 4 are located within 100 miles of following positions:- 38° N., 67° W., 0225Z/12, 42° N., 55° W., 1200Z/12.  
2 Virgin Rock, one within 100 miles 46.30 N., 41° W., 0427Z/12.  
2 eastbound within 200 miles of 40.30 N., 46.30 W and 41° N., 40° W. One M/V torpedoed 21.32 N., 76.25 W. 0040Z/12. One M/V reported sunk by gunfire vicinity 24.05 N., 74.20 W. 0040Z/12.  
One submarine sighted 21.14 N., 83.05 W., 0813Z/12.  
2 sighted off Guantanamo p.m. 11/3. One in St. Lucia area. One within 100 miles 10° N., 53° W., 0112Z/12. 2 eastbound within 400 miles of 30° N., 65° W., and 29° N., 60° W. No change east of 30° W., but some activity North of Rockall.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1710/12 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) Admty etc).

U/B Refer to this message as C.E.S.F.'s 121426. Eastern Air Command reports sighting S/M 1950Z/11 position 43.26 N., 65.13 W. Corvette dropped 1 depth charge, no result.  
(Washington, 1717/12 to C. in C. U.S. A.F.)



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.TEXAN,  
AFOUNDRIA  
torpedoed.TEXAN torpedoed 021° 32' N., 076° 24' W., night  
11th AFOUNDRIA chased by submarine 15 miles south  
Cape Pepe 0813 today. No further details.  
(N.C.S.O. Havana, 1751/12 to Admty).  
*See p. 396*Common Convoy Your 1821Q/11. Common Convoy Instructions are  
Instructions. most desirable and it would appear that best way  
of achieving this would be for book to be issued  
as a joint Admiralty-Navy Department publication.2. As it is intended instructions should be used in all  
British Commands affected it is preferable that these should be  
issued by Admty. rather than by C. in C. W.A.3. Draft copy is being produced by C. in C. W.A. and could be  
submitted to Navy Dept. for comment and any amendment desired.  
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1832A/12 to B.A.D.)

NORVANA.

Please confirm arrival in U.K. of NORVANA (U.S.)  
from H.X.175.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2012Z/12 to Admty) Reply:1806/14

St. Lucia.

Your 1720Q/11 (re guns from LADY NELSON and  
UMTATA to assist in defence). No Admiralty  
objection.  
(D. of L.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (T) 2013A/12,  
to R.N.O. St. Lucia).

U/B

D/F bearings at 1737Z/12 indicate S/M within 60  
miles of 42.30 N., 55.30 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2046Z/12 to Brit. Warships in  
Area 7A. Admty etc).LADY NELSON  
UMTATA  
(torpedoed  
9/3).Your 1053P/11. Salvage Association Surveyors from  
New York are on their way to St. Lucia and  
American Salvage Vessel is also proceeding for  
salvage of LADY NELSON and UMTATA.  
(Director of Salvage, Admty. 2138A/12 to C. in C.  
A.W.I.) *See p. 397*HELENE  
KULUKUNDISHELENE KULUKUNDIS (Greek) due New York 3/3 from  
Lisbon has not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2203Z/12 to Admty etc).

BURNHAM.

Charleston Navy Yard arrived 1600 G.M.T./12  
BURNHAM.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2210Z/12 to Admty).St. Lucia  
U/B Attack.Consider following statement only should be rel-  
eased.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2212P/12 to Govr. Windward Is.  
etc).



War Diary.12.3.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

EMPIRE HUDSON My 1817Z/20/2. Canadian Consul Greenland has no  
BARON information. Governor of Greenland offers  
PENTLAND. to make further investigation if information as  
to region on coast in which ships were seen can be  
obtained.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2227Z/12 to Admty (R) C.O.A.C.,  
F.O.N.F.)

WEST GRAMA. WEST GRAMA (U.S.) due Colon 8/3 from New York  
not arrived.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2356R/12 to Admty, etc).

Australia & New Zealand.

Presumed Your 0206Z/10. PERTH made a sighting report at  
loss of 1541Z/28 when in 005° 45' S., 106° 13' E. of 1  
PERTH, cruiser to the westward steering 070° range 5'.  
HOUSTON, From other reports more than one cruiser is thought  
YARRA. to have been present and Netherlands destroyer  
EVERTSEN reported an engagement in that area at  
1555Z/28. Regret that PERTH and also HOUSTON  
who was in company with her must be presumed to have been sunk in  
this action. C.C.C.Fs. 0658Z/8 is our latest information of  
YARRA. Japanese have not claimed her. It is just possible she  
is damaged and still making towards Fremantle at low speed or  
has put into one of the Bays on the West Coast of Australia.  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 0056A/12 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F.)  
Presumed loss PERTH, YARRA being released for press publication  
and overseas press messages 1500Z/13 and for broadcasting 2045Z  
/13. Statement by Australian Prime Minister on following lines  
(a) Ships overdue presumed lost (b) Enemy claim regarding PERTH  
made some days ago not previously substantiated and release  
withheld until ships known overdue. (c) Last message from  
PERTH (?ex) Java advised personal observation Japanese losses  
one 8 inch cruiser, one destroyer sunk, one Japanese 8 inch  
cruiser damaged Java sea battle. (d) No news of PERTH, YARRA,  
survivors but conceivable such exist. Request you conform as  
to release time especially broadcasting.  
(A.C.N.B., 0058Z/12 to Admty).  
Your 0058Z/12. Communique dealing with whole battle is being  
prepared in Admiralty and will be signalled to A.C.N.B., US.A.  
and Dutch naval authorities for concurrence before issue.  
In view of losses by Allied Forces as a whole, suggested that it  
would be preferable for simultaneous release, especially in  
relation to problem of notification of next of kin not yet  
completed.  
(Admty., 1320A/12 to A.C.N.B.)

/Your...



War Diary.12.3.1042.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Presumed loss Your 1320A/12. Owing to fact some next of kin of PERTH, HOUSTON, YARRA. Japanese claims which are widely known here Contd. further delay in issuing official statement of Australian losses i.e. PERTH and YARRA, is not now practicable. Announcement is therefore being made as stated in A.C.N.B. 0058Z/12 which it will be observed does not refer to other than Australian losses. (A.C.N.B., 2332Z/12 to Admty).

Java Enemy reports on 28/2. A careful scrutiny of Signals received by me in Batavia confirms no enemy reports were received of Ship(s) West of Tan Jong Priok on 28/2. Nearest report was of 2 large Cruisers, 3 destroyers in position 005° 30' S., 107° 16' E. course 090° 20 knots at 1540 G.H. 28th. This was communicated to PERTH by me and to EXETER by Sourabaya. Other reports were mainly of transports steaming 090° or 180° culminating in landing operation near Muara longitude 107° 30' E., and other points to eastward at 2200 G.H. 28th onwards. PERTH and HOUSTON left Priok Roads at 2120 G.H. 28/2 to proceed through Sunda. Netherlands destroyer EVERTSEN ordered to proceed in company refused to do so. Subsequently EVERTSEN left Priok. At 2302 G.H. 28/2 PERTH reported unidentified destroyer in 005° 53' S., 106° 13' E. This was corrected to Cruiser at 2311 G.H. 28/2. At 0111 G.H./1 EVERTSEN reported in P/L a sea battle in progress off Nicholas Point 50 miles from Tanjong Priok. PERTH and HOUSTON would have been in this vicinity at that time. Message received from EVERTSEN at 0436Z/ reported having fought with 2 Cruisers and that EVERTSEN had been hit and was being grounded off Sebuku longitude 105° 30' E. Perhaps some further light on this action may be thrown by C.Z.M. Staff understood to be in Colombo. (Cdre. Western Australia, 0241Z/12 to C. in C. E.F. (R) A.C.N.B. Admty) (See also 0237Z/16) (p. 514)

WESTRALIA. On 11/3 a fire occurred in Nos. 1, 2 and 3 holds of motor vessel WESTRALIA lying at Victoria Dock, Melbourne. (A.C.N.B., 0600Z/12 to Admty).

Situation. Serial No. 50 from C.W.R. 11/3.  
(1) 11th Air Raid on Port Moresby by 12 heavy bombers from 0230Z/11 to 0240Z/11. 18 bombs including some delayed action dropped on runway. Aerodrome still serviceable. No casualties. Extensive R/C carried out in Port Moresby area between 2120Z/10, and 2200Z/10.  
(2) Enemy float plane machine-gunned and bombed mission ship and radio station at Buna at 2300Z/10. No casualties.  
(3) Enemy R/C one aircraft Tulagi at 0030Z/11.  
(4) Air R/C reported unidentified submarine in 009° 10' S., 143° 51' E., at 0305Z/11.



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Situation  
Contd.

(5) Unidentified twin-engined monoplane reconnoitred Port Keats, West Australia, for 40 minutes from 2100Z/10.

(6) 4 engined flying boat reconnoitre Nauru

0800/10.

(7) 5 B.17s. attacked Lae and Salamoa 11/3 20 500 pound bombs dropped on buildings and runway at Salamoa buildings and hangars destroyed. 20 500 pound bombs dropped on Lae aerodrome near misses on ship in harbour. One enemy aircraft shot down all our A/C returned.

(8) R/C at 0303Z/11 reported buildings and runways Lae appeared normal and number of A/C seen to take off. No enemy activity Salamoa. Total enemy shipping observed in Huon Gulf area 11/3 comprising 2 cruisers 2 destroyers, 4 transports, including one beached and submerged one small steam vessel.

(9) Coast watched Kessa Buka reported 8 warships including two 3 funnelled cruisers two 2 funnelled cruisers two 1 funnelled cruisers and 2 destroyers were anchored Kessa harbour from 9/3 until the evening of 10/3 when departed. Vague indication of A/C carrier there also. Cruiser may be Jap. TATSUTA. Jap. TENRYU, TIKUMA, KASHIMA and two units of cruisers division 6.

Ref. A/C carrier may indicate Jap. KAMOI and possibly Jap. HOSHO as former unit with C.in C. 4th Jap. Fleet and F.O. Mandated Air, and other units is known to have been in the area during the past few days.

(10) Interrogation of prisoners reasonably reliable revealed that Japanese maintain standing patrols of one T.96 S.S.F. over Rabaul from 0400 to 1800 local time daily height 3000 to 5000 metres.

(A.C.N.B., 1118Z/12).

Advanced Bases N.Z.N.B., 1144M/12 to Admty.  
Pacific. See Lion Copy.

Minesweepers. Your 1722/10. 40th to 49th M/S Flotillas allocated (D.M.S., 1646A/12 to A.C.N.B.)



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE . 1144M/12th March

IN

From New Zealand Naval Board.

Date 12.3.42

Time 2006

NAVAL CYPHER X BY CABLE. RECIRCULATION.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated Australian Commonwealth  
 Naval Board. C. in C. Eastern Fleet. C. in C.  
 East Indies. N.Z.N.A. Washington.

371. The decision to employ Auckland Fiji (Suva and Nandai) and Tongatabu as advanced bases from which U.S. Pacific Fleet and ANZAC Forces can operate involves considerable expansion of Naval Base staff. It has been proposed to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs that as there are none at present at Tongatabu the Naval Services at this Base might be provided in Toto by the U.S. except possibly for one Lieut. Commander as B.N.L.O. on the staff of the Naval Officer in Charge.

(2) On the assumption that Base staffs at Auckland and Fiji will continue to be British which it is recommended they should be we shall have to provide an increase in officers and ratings which though not quite on the same scale as shown in Admiralty signal 2135A/21/2 will nevertheless be substantial. We shall of course utilise local resources to the limit but it is inevitable that we must ask for a number of officers and ratings some of whom it is hoped may be immediately available from the late ABDA Area.

(3) After the local sources have been fully explored it will be necessary to ask for further officers and ratings to make good shortages. Meanwhile the following who are not available locally and on which training of local personnel will largely depend are required as soon as possible.

Fiji - Ashore - 1 Captain (as Commodore in Charge).  
 1 Commander (as Extended Defence Officer Nandi). 1 Lieut. Commander or Lieutenant (as S.O.I.). 7 Lieut. Commanders or Lieutenants (Extended Defence and Port Duties).  
 1 Engineer Officer. Afloat - 1 Specialist A/S S Officer.  
 Tongatabu 1 Lieut. Commander (Liaison Officer).

Auckland - Ashore - 5 Lieut. Commanders or Lieutenants.  
 (3 Watchkeepers attach 1 Port Duties 1 Drafting Officer).  
 2 Lieutenants or Commissioned Gunners (T), 2 Petty Officers, 2 Electrical Artificers and 10 Able Seamen

experienced/

**MOST SECRET**



MOST SECRET

-2-

experienced in controlled mining, 2 Electrical Officers (A/S), 2 Fixed A/S Defence Officers, 1 S.D.1, 2 H.S.Ds. Auckland Afloat - 1 Lieut. Commander or Lieutenant (for command of Loop Minelayer), 2 Lieutenants, 1 Gunner (T), 1 Lieutenant (A/S), 1 Sub Lieutenant and 1 Petty Officer Coxswain experienced in motor launches.  
Number to N.Z.N.A. 119.

1144M/12

Note by W.R. Part one of this signal was erroneously circulated as part one of 1440/10 from New Zealand Naval Board. Request it may be deleted from 1440/10, complete version of which will be circulated in due course. Part one of this signal ends with paragraph (3) inclusive

1st Lord.	D.T.D. (M).	
1st S.L.	D.T.M.	
2nd S.L.	D.A/S.W.	
Controller.	D.D.O.D. (M).	
Vice Controller.	N.A.2. S.L.	
4th S.L.	Hd. of C.W.	
V.C.N.S.	Hd. of N.	
A.C.N.S. (H).	D.P.S.	
A.C.N.S. (F). (2).	Admiral Bailey.	
A.C.N.S. (T).	Admiral Bellairs.	
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T).	A.E. (3).	
Secretary.	N.L.O. Australia House.	
Nav. Sec.	I.P. (2).	
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.	
P.A.S. (S).	Deputy Controller.	) Bath
D.N.I. (4).	C.E. in C.	) by
D.C. (2).	Hd. of S.W.R.	) Courier.
D.O.D. (F).		
D.D.C.D. (F).		
D.O.D. (H).		
D.D.O.D. (H).		
Hd. of M. (35).		
D. of P. (2).		
D.D.I.C. (2).		
D.T.D. (2).		

MOST SECRET



War Diary.

12.3.1942.  
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1405A/12, 1424A/12).



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

It is proposed today to examine the possibility of producing a smoke-screen at Scapa sufficiently thick to prevent enemy P.R.U. observations of the Fleet Anchorage.

A patrol of five Destroyers was carried out from 2130 tonight between Cl Buoy and Beachy Head.

An A/C of 15 Group, Coastal Command, attacked a U-Boat at 1930 today North of Rockall with depth charges and estimates one hit.

Enemy Air Activity.

Capt. D.8 in FAULKNER who, with 7 other Destroyers, has been operating in the North Sea, was attacked by A/C at 0932A today without result on his return passage to Scapa.

2 A/C made a R/C of Newhaven Harbour at 1030 today, approaching from inland and leaving in a southerly direction; and between 1930 and 2100 tonight about 20 A/C were off the coast between Flamborough Head and Spurn Point presumably to attack shipping which was not there.

Mining.

At 1400 yesterday the British ST. BRIAC in Convoy S.N.18A. struck one mine about 40 miles East of Arbroath and another at 1420 which sunk her at once. The Captain and 21 survivors were landed at Aberdeen at noon today, but it is feared that of 17 men in a second ship's boat 13 have been drowned.

At 1338A today the mooring-lighter SPARSHOLT was mined and sunk off Sheerness with a loss of 7 killed and 4 injured.

/One ...



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. - contd.

One Magnetic Mine was exploded by Sweepers at 1304 today off the Humber.

South Atlantic.

Ascension.

A suggested working agreement as to terms and conditions under which U.S. takes over the defence of Ascension Island, pending a formal agreement between the U.K. and U.S. Govts., is contained in J.S.M. 120 (2111Q/13) (page 433)

Mediterranean.

Libya.

1 Wellington attacked Tripoli last night.

15 enemy dive bombers, escorted by 9 Italian fighters attacked Tobruk and shipping off Daba.

Piraeus,  
Crete.

4 Wellingtons last night attacked shipping at the Piraeus, when a large fire was started. Another Wellington bombed Tymbaki Aerodrome, Crete.

Malta.

In 3 alerts last night, some damage was caused to R.A.F. at Kalafrana.

Serious damage was caused to R.A.F. administrative buildings at Takali in this morning's raids.

Alexandria.

ZUODOCOS

ZUODOCHIS PIGI, auxiliary schooner, Western Desert Service, under refit at Alexandria, was destroyed at 1230/13 by enemy action. No details so far reported.



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

BACCHUS, R.F.A., is expected to leave U.K. in May for service as naval store issuing ship and distilling ship, East Indies.

America & West Indies.

M.T.B's.

Admty. have approved proposal of C. in C. A.W.I. that 12 M.T.B's now fitting out at Greenwich, Connecticut, should be allocated to Trinidad for West Indies instead of to Mediterranean, and fitted with depth charge rails instead of torpedo tubes. Torpedoes and tubes are to be stored in U.S.A. in case it is desired to re-arm the boats at some future date.

U/B  
attacked.

H.M.C.S. TIMMINS made 2 attacks on a suspected U/B in Juan de Fuca Strait (Cape Flattery) about 1400 D.S.T. and at 1515 D.S.T. an aircraft reported an oil slick in 48.16 N., 124.04 W. e/

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived at San Francisco today.

Australia.

Survivors landed at Fremantle today from Dutch S.S. TJIMANOEK report that - YARRA, sloop, ANKING, late baseship, Batavia, FRANCOL, R.F.A., and M.M.S.51, motor minesweeper, were sunk by gunfire approx. 11.30 S., 109.03 E., at 2315Z/3 by 3 Japanese cruisers and 2 destroyers. Survivors were picked up after 4 days in the water.

Dutch S/M's.

K.8 arrived in Australia yesterday and K.9 today from Netherlands East Indies. U.S. S/M S.38 also arrived today.

Port  
Moresby.

5 zero fighters raided Port Moresby at 2234Z last night with M/G and cannon fire and destroyed 1 civil aircraft.



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia. - contd.

KOOLAMA  
sunk.

Western Australia Govt's. M/V KOOLAMA, which was attacked by enemy A/C on passage Derby (W.A.) to Darwin on 20/2, beached and refloated, capsized alongside the jetty at Wyndham on 3/3. Salvage is considered impracticable.



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.27th  
M/L  
Flotilla.

My 2101A/12. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0728A/13)  
 My 1330A/11. Owing to delay in completion of  
 WRESTLER escort will be provided by DEPTFORD.  
 C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail  
 DEPTFORD to Milford Haven accordingly and to  
 issue further instructions for DEPTFORD on her  
 arrival at Gibraltar in due course. (D.O.D. (H.)  
 1317A/13). *See next page*  
 Your 0728A/13. Arrived 27th M/L Flotilla.  
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2333A/13)

→ H.34.

My 1204A/5. Sailed BREDA and H.34.  
 (Capt. S.7 0801A/13).

DIANTHUS.

Request you will sail DIANTHUS independently  
 from Londonderry to St. Johns by Great Circle if  
 you do not require her to join a convoy.  
 (C. in C.W.A. 0905Z/13 to C.T.G. 24.7).  
 On completion of fuelling at Moville and when  
 ready for sea proceed independently via Great  
 Circle to St. Johns N.F. arriving by 25/3.  
 (? Originator 1818A/13 to DIANTHUS).

→ H.34.

H.34. leave vicinity of Lizard Head at 2000/15  
 diving by day through (a) 049° 43' N. 005° 05' W.  
 (b) 050° 12' N. 001° 18' W. to R/V 0700/17 in (c)  
 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. (Capt. S.7 0958A/13).

MANCHESTER.

My 2312/12. Speed to be adjusted to arrive  
 position E at 0630/17th not position D.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1002A/13 to MANCHESTER).

STURGEON.  
O.23.

(1) Intend sailing STURGEON and O.23 with escort  
 detailed by C. in C.W.A. from Holyloch at 1000A/16  
 for 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles. E.T.A. 0130A/18.  
 (2) Thence STURGEON escorted as above to Plymouth.  
 E.T.A. 0930A/18th. (3) Thence O.23 dive by day  
 through 048° 36' N. 008° W. to 043° N. 012° 05'.  
 E.T.A. 0100A/21. (4) Thence O.23 proceed to  
 Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.  
 (Capt.S.3. 1543A/13).

HILDASAY.  
PLADDA.  
SLUNA.  
SHAPINSAY.

HILDASAY, PLADDA, SLUNA, SHAPINSAY expect to  
 arrive 21/3. (Commodore, Londonderry 1611A/13  
 to N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada).

PRINCE  
CHARLES.

C.C.O's 1846A/12. Intend sailing PRINCE CHARLES  
 independently to Methil for fuel and water and  
 onward sailing to Sheerness and London. Ship  
 passes Clyde boom 1600A/14. E.T.A. 0800A/16.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1644A/13).



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

SUMBA. Seidisfjord arrival 1700 SUMBA and SILJA.  
SILJA. (SHEFFIELD 1701A/13).

PAKENHAM. My position 049° 03' N. 014° 28' W. Intend  
proceeding northabout in view of weather.  
(PAKENHAM 1901A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)  
12 hours early on F.O.C.N.A. 1022A/12.  
(PAKENHAM 2202A/13 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

DEPTFORD. DEPTFORD is required for special escort duty  
to Gibraltar and is to arrive Milford Haven  
A.M./15. (C. in C.W.A. 2129A/13). *See previous page.*

Operations.

FAULKNER. Regret no luck, nothing sighted. My, P.C.S.  
PUNJABI. at 0900A, 65° 55' N. 040° (sic) 44' E., 210°  
(Patrol). 25 knots.  
Have been shadowed since 0645A. PUNJABI with  
steering defects and steering by main engines  
parted company 2120A/12.  
PUNJABI reports P.C.S. (Capt. D.8. 0833A/13 to  
C. in C.H.F., PUNJABI).  
My P.C.S. are 063° 56' N. 000° 28' W., 190°, 20 knots, reducing  
to 14 knots at 1900A. Temporary repairs to steering effected.  
(PUNJABI 1101A/13 to Capt. D.8).  
(Group missing) 0932A. Noon P.C.S. 65° 03' N., 03° 02' E.,  
210°, 20 knots. Shadower returned to base. Weather deteriorated  
Fighters support unnecessary. (Capt. D.8. 1130A/13 to C. in C.  
H.F.) *See pp 413 & 414*

Norway Leave patrol dark tonight through 064° 20' N.  
S/M 7° E. thence Lerwick as ordered by Capt. (S) 9.  
Patrol. Make brief report of A/S activity tonight when  
well clear. (F.O.S. 1127A/13 to TRIDENT).  
→ Proceed forthwith diving by day to patrol  
vicinity position number 07, 64° 30' N. 09° 53' E. My 1131A/13.  
JUNON may be met. (F.O.S. 1128A/13 to SEALION).  
If A/S activity in vicinity of your present positions makes  
successful attack on TIRPITZ unlikely, you may shift to the  
following alternative positions at your individual discretion.  
SEAWOLF to vicinity position Number 04, 64° 34' N. 10° 11.5' E.  
JUNON to vicinity position number 05, 64° 48' N. 10° 11' E.  
TRIDENT is being recalled after dark tonight through 64° 20' N.  
07° E. My 1322A/12. Para. B. for 62° 25' read 65° 25'.  
(F.O.S. 1131A/13).  
→ F.O.S. 1127A/13. Leave patrol after dark tonight. Route  
to rendezvous escort 090° Bar Head 5 miles at 1000A/16,  
proceeding into Lerwick for recognition signal.  
(Capt. S.9. 1507A/13 to TRIDENT, and 1509A/13 to S/M's Area A).  
→ One main motor permanently out of action. Propose to comply  
with your 1128A/13. (SEALION 2044A/13 to F.O.S.) *3 p. 417*

/Channel.....



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

Channel Patrol. Request BLENCATHRA, FERNIE, CALPE, WINDSOR and WALPOLE may be sailed to carry out a patrol similar to that of last night between 2130/13 to 0400/14. (V.A. Dover 1249A/13 to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
BLENCATHRA is to sail with FERNIE, CALPE, WINDSOR, WALPOLE to patrol between Cl Buoy and Beachy Head from 2130/13 to 0400/14 under orders of V.A. Dover. Return to Portsmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1407A/13).

Denmark Strait Patrol. KENT on patrol "White". (A.C.I.C. 1357A/13).

MARIE  
N. LOUISE  
MACKAY  
(Cable laying)  
My 1805A/12. A/C report cable ship not sighted. Assumed still sheltering. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1803A/13).

Iceland-Faroes Patrol. Hove to in 062° N. 015° W. (EDINBURGH 1905A/13).

Exercise L.9. Exercise L.9 is cancelled. Ships are to return to the Clyde forthwith. (C.C.O. 2200/13 to V.A. C.T.C.)

British Air Activity.

2 Enemy Vessels attacked. Two Auxiliary vessels bearing 270°, distant 1 mile, Course 180°. My position 55° 4' N. 6° 44' E. (A/C of A. Sqdn. 0800A/13 to 16 Group). My 0800. C.S. of Auxiliary Vessels 180°, 16 knots. Have attacked enemy with bombs level and estimate no hits. (A/C of A Sqdn. 0810/13).

→ Escort for FAULKNOR. My 1125. 1st Sortie returned owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1205/13 to Capt. D.8).

Bombing operations. Days 11/3 and 12/3 no operations. On Night 12/13, 68 A/C bombed Shipbuilding Yards at Kiel, and 20 A/C attacked Emden. (H.Q.B.C. 1230/13).

Enemy Air Activity.

→ FAULKNOR attacked. Two A/C shadowing distance 3 miles Convoy "Encore". My position 65° 55' N. longitude indecipherable, course 210°, speed 25 knots. (Capt. D.8. 0901A/13). *See previous page*

/My.....



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.FAULKNER  
attacked.  
- Contd.

My 0855A. My Speed 30 knots to fighter support area. J.U. 88 tense bombing. (Capt. D.8. 0952A/13 to C. in C.H.F.) See pp 412 7413

R/C of  
Newhaven.Following received from N.O.I.C. Newhaven begins:-  
Two hostile aircraft (M.E's) made R/C Newhaven Harbour at 1050/13 at height of 300 ft. approaching from inland, leaving in a southerly direction. No red warning at time and no information of hostile plots received. Ends.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1547A/13).Yorkshire  
Coast.

Between 1930 and 2100 tonight about 20 enemy A/C operated off coast between Flamboro and Spurn aircraft movements suggest attack designed for shipping which was not in area. A few bombs reported on the coast. Minelaying not suspected. (F.O. Humber 2200A/13).

Mining.

F.D.57.

RUBIS sailed for patrol 1900A/12.  
(Capt. S.9. 0715A/13).

SCOTT.

Sailed SCOTT. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0815/13).

Q.S.5.

Operation Q.S.5. postponed a further 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore 1044A/13).

S.N.81.

ST. MARYS with LEDBURY proceeding to pass Switha 0900 tomorrow to R/V with R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE in 110° Butt of Lewis 17 at 1500/14.

2. When met provide escort for S.N. 81 in accordance with R.A.M's 1516A/12. When released LEDBURY return to Scapa.  
(R.A.D. 1045A/13).

Proceed to R/V with R.A. (M) in 061° 36' N. 007° 38' W. at 0700A/15 and provide escort to S.N. 81. Return to Scapa on completion. (C. in C.H.F. 1857A/13 to CHARYBDIS).

Convoy S.N.  
ST. BRIAC  
(British,  
2512 Tons)  
sunk  
on 12/3.Captain and 21 survivors from ST. BRIAC picked up in lifeboat off Aberdeen by Tug EMPIRE LARCH and landed 1200/13.  
Second lifeboat with believed originally 17 capsized off Old Slains Collieston Aberdeenshire. 4 saved but fear remainder drowned.  
Ship struck mine at 1400/12 causing damage to engine room. Struck second mine 1420 and sank at once. Believed only 2 lifeboats got away.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1258/13).



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Convoy S.N.  
ST. BRIAC  
(British,  
2312 Tons)  
sunk on  
12/3 -  
Contd.

F.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 1258/13. Survivors from ST. BRIAC not yet well enough to state position in which ship was mined, but reports from A/C sighting wreckage and boats make it probable that she was in S.N. 17 or S.N. 18A probably the latter, at the time. (C. in C. Rosyth 1617/13). My 1617/13. Captain now in Kingsseat Hospital estimates ship was 090° Arbroath 40 miles at time. (C. in C. Rosyth 1659/13).

SPARSHOLT  
(Mooring  
Lighter)  
sunk.

My 1338A/13. SPARSHOLT mined and sunk approx. 066° 3 cables from Roman Catholic Church Marine Parade Sheerness. Seven missing presumed killed, four injured. (Commodore, Sheerness 1832A/13).

Humber.

One Red mine detonated at 1304 today by Sweepers. Details. (F.O. Humber 2151A/13).

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits  
of Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/12 to 0900/13. Track E24D. Three small vessels from 3 miles West of Calais at 2255 to 1 mile south of C. Gris Nez at 2345, speed 14 knots. Possibly R. boats. (V.A. Dover 1002A/13).

Off North  
Foreland.

By D/F at 1837/13 G.M.T., unknown enemy surface craft was in approx. 51° 25' N. 3° 10' E. (D.D.I.C. 2103A/13).

U-Boats.

North of  
Rockall.

Am over enemy S/M in 59° 22' N. 13° 45' W. Enemy previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 360°, speed 5 knots. (A.O.C. 15 Group 1115/13).

? have attacked ? submarine with Depth Charges. Estimate 1 hit. (A.O.C. 15 Group 1155/13).

Aircraft sighted S/M on surface in position 59° 22' N. 13° 45' W. at 1115/13. S/M dived on course 360°.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1214/13 and 1312/13).

Following has been received from A/C of 15 Group C.C.

Am over enemy S/M in 60° 25' N. 14° W. Enemy S/M previous reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 200°, estimated speed 6 knots. (Liverpool W/T 1920/13).

Have attacked enemy S/M submerged with depth charges, estimate one hit. (A.O.C. 15 Group 1930/13).



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Thames  
Estuary.South Edinburgh No. 4 Buoy Light extinguished.  
Request it may be relit.  
(C. in C. Nore 1241A/13).

Blyth.

Port closed owing to weather conditions. Request  
ships may be diverted to Tyne.  
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 2020/13).Technical.Scapa  
Smoke  
Screen.It is proposed to consider smoke screening Fleet  
Anchorage. Engineer-Admiral Dight and Major  
Durst, arriving Inverness A.M. tomorrow.  
2. Object is to examine possibility of producing  
sufficient "murk" over heavy ship anchorage to  
make enemy observations by P.R.U. impracticable.  
3. Request all facilities may be afforded and  
that local Air Defence Authorities may be  
informed of intention. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 1218A/13 to  
A.C.O.S.)H/F Homing  
procedure.My 1807/6. Request procedure authorized in  
your 0350/24/2 may be carried out by U.S.  
Escort meeting Convoy T.A. 12.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1407Z/13 to U.S. C.N.O.)Casualties and Defects.VESPER  
(Damaged  
12/3).Arrived Spithead 2340/12 CATTISTOCK, VESPER,  
Tugs LADY BRASSEY, RESOLVE and SWARTHY. VESPER  
in tow proceeding to Southampton. (C. in C.  
Portsmouth 0017A/13).  
My 0017A/13. VESPER anchored Spithead.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0107A/13).

YORKWOOD.

Following received from YORKWOOD. Position 052°  
16' N. 005° 23' W. Disabled through collision.  
May require assistance. (C. in C. Plymouth  
0330/13 to Adty.)TOLTEN.  
YORKWOOD.Following received from TOLTEN. Position 052°  
08' N. 005° 30' W. at (? 0430) G.M.T. Collision  
damage, may require assistance and possibly  
necessary we call Milford Haven. Is passage  
between Smalls and mainland (? clear of mines).  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0435/13).Your 1030/13. Escort YORKWOOD to Holyhead. Report damage.  
Fighter protection arranged. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1147/13  
to SPHENE).Following received from County Police Inverness. Steam  
Drifter CRAIGHEEN is badly ashore off Mallaig Harbour.  
C. in C. Rosyth informed. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1325/13).*\*not identified.*

/Dinghy.....



War Diary.15.5.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects-Contd.

- Dinghy. Addressed Following has been read.  
S.O.S. Dinghy, 4 crew 090° Redcar 20, bearing  
from GCC 135°. (A/C L72 M. 1604 G.M.T./13).
- GOLIATH. Rescue Tug GOLIATH out of action with leaking  
boiler tubes until 1800 tomorrow.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1707/13).
- SEALION. One main motor permanently out of action.  
(SEALION 2044A/13). See p. 412

Shipping and Convoys.

- Russian Convoy Escorts. 4. Your 2337A/11 para. (1). Concur that your  
responsibility for providing escorts is only  
between Loch Ewe and Iceland. I am grateful  
for your further assistance with P.Q.13.  
(C. in C.H.F. 1104A/13).
- C. in C.W.A. 2337A/11. When P.Q. Convoys were to sail from  
Loch Ewe instead of Reykjavik the 41st and 42nd Escort Groups  
were returned to C. in C.W.A. Two of 10th Escort Group have  
left for U.S. and two of 73rd are refitting in U.K. Only  
two Escort Trawlers can now be provided from here for outward  
P.Q. Convoys. (A.C.I.C. 1135A/13 to Admty.)
- P.Q.12. IJORA not yet arrived. Mutilated S.O.S.  
IJORA. which may have been broadcast by IJORA was  
picked up at 2145/12 and is being investigated.  
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1116A/13 to S.B.N.O. North  
Russia).
- W.S.17. Ships and Escorts. Details. (C. in C.W.A.  
1357A/13). See Lion Copy.
- HELENCREST. S.S. HELENCREST now at Newport is urgently  
P.Q.15. required as C.A.M. ship for P.Q.15. She will  
not be ready to leave Newport until 16/3 and  
will therefore miss O.N.M. 77. Request you  
will say if escort can be provided from Newport  
to Clyde leaving Newport 16/3. (D.T.D. 1802A/13  
to C. in C.W.A.)
- P.Q.12. Report situation of P.Q.12 and overdue whalers.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1920A/13 to S.B.N.O., North Russia).



MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

M E S S A G E

1357A/13. March

OUT.

417A

To: C. in C. Western Approaches, Date: 13.3.42.  
215.

- Repeated F.O.I.C. Greenock.
- F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
- F.O.I.C. Cardiff.
- F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.
- F.O.I.C. Belfast.
- N.C.S.O. Clyde.
- N.C.S.O. Mersey.
- N.C.S.O. Swansea.
- N.C.S.O. Newport.
- N.C.S.O. Avonmouth.
- N.C.S.O. Londonderry.
- F.O.C.N.A. 853.
- C. in C. South Atlantic, 952.
- C. in C. East Indies, 155.
- C. in C. Eastern Fleet, 865.
- C. in C. Mediterranean 393.
- S.O. Force H, 666.
- C. in C. Home Fleet, 549.
- R.A.(D) Home Fleet, 61.
- C. in C. Plymouth 646.
- O.P.N.A.V.
- COMINCH.
- Capt. D. Greenock.
- S.O.W.P.
- H.Q.C.C.
- H.Q.F.C.
- ILLUSTRICUS
- SHROPSHIRE.
- ALCANTARA.
- PAKENHAM
- INCONSTANT
- JAVELIN
- GROVE
- ALDENHAM
- LOOKOUT
- ANTELOPE.

NAVAL CYPHER (A.C.O.) NAVAL CYPHER (XD) & U.S.(X)

From Admiralty.

Convoy W.S. 17 carrying military personnel and stores for the East will be ready to leave U.K. for Freetown on 21st March:

2. Ships will sail from the following ports:-

/ Avonmouth .....



417B

- 2 -

Avonmouth.	Personnel	TAMAROA
	Stores	CLAN MACDONALD
Newport.	Stores	KINA II
Swansea.	Stores	PORT WYNDHAM
		DUNEDIN STAR
Mersey.	Personnel	DOMINION MONARCH
		EMRESS OF RUSSIA
		SAMARIA
		DUCHESS OF ATHOLL
		ORONSAY
		ARUNDEL CASTLE
		ABOSSO
		NIEUW HOLLAND
		LEOPOLDVILLE
	Stores	JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNVELT
		GLAUCUS
		CITY OF LINCOLN
Clyde.	Personnel	ALMANZORA
		FRANCONIA
		MATAROA
		WINDSOR CASTLE
		ORION
		CAMERONIA
	Stores	LARGS BAY
		REMBRANDT
		BRUTAN
		CITY OF EDINBURGH
	H.M.S/M Depot Ship	ADAMANT

3. All ships have a speed of 15 knots except TAMAROA, ABOSSO, ALMANZORA and LEOPOLDVILLE 14½ knots; GLAUCUS, MATAROA and LARGS BAY 14 knots who should be placed as leaders of columns.

4. Ships loading at Bristol Channel Ports will be ready to leave 20th March.

5. Ocean Escort. H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE and ALCANTARA from Clyde.

6. Destroyer Escort.

(a) GROVE and ALDENHAM will provide through escort to Freetown being detached as necessary to fuel at Ponta Delgada.

(b) LOOKOUT and ANTELOPE will remain with convoy till GROVE and ALDENHAM rejoin and then proceed to Gibraltar. Separate orders for their fuelling will be issued.

/ (c) .....



# MOST SECRET

47 C

(c) In addition to the above C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to provide 3 destroyers who will return to U.K. after reaching prudent limit of endurance.

7. Admiralty will promulgate route.

8. Main Convoy Conference will be held at Greenock a.m. 21st March.

9. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail Clyde Liverpool and Bristol Channel portions with escorts as requisite to R/V off Oversay.

10. If repairs are completed in time H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS and destroyers PAKENHAM INCONSTANT and JAVELIN will sail with the convoy as additional escort to the vicinity of the Azores.

1357A/13.

D.O.D. (H)

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

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (H)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.C.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

Hd. of M. (13)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D. of P. (2)

D. of S.T.

D.T.D.

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.N.I. (4)

Duty Capt. (2)



War Diary.

13.3.1942  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Movements.

Arrival COREOPSIS, GERANIUM.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0502A/13)  
Arrival AIREDALE, PETUNIA, tug SALVONIA, QUEEN VICTORIA.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2020A/13 to Admty.)  
THYME, BOSTON arrived Ponta Delgada 1630 G.M.T. 13/3.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1440/13 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

CAUDEBEC.

Arrival Laixoes 12/3 CAUDEBEC.  
(N.C.S.O. Oporto 1040/13 to M. of W.T.)

CASTILLO  
MONCADA.

Is there a CASTILLO MONCADA registered Cadiz about 2000 tons machinery aft. States Cartagena to Bilbao metal ore. Unable to board.  
(SCOTTISH 1050A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LEADGATE  
attacked  
by A/C 11/3.

My 1026A/12/3, para 2. LEADGATE attacked in approx. 37° 02' N. 07° 39' 20" W. just inside Territorial waters. No damage or casualties.  
(V.A.C.N.A. 1154A/13 to Admty.)  
My 1154A/13. Aircraft was F.W. B.N.A. Lisbon informed.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1734A/13 to Admty.)

BELLWORT.

S.O.(I) Freetown 1939Z/11 (Arrival of COMMANDANTE DROGOU, DETROYAT). Request information of BELLWORT. My 1148A/5/3 to C. in C. S.A. refers.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1330A/13 to N.O.I.C. Freetown (R) Admty. etc.) *See p 420 - (Movement Summary)*  
Reply: 0918/14.

ROMNEY

Position 1300/13 022° 11' N. 022° 45' W.  
(ROMNEY 1400Z/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CROMER.

On completion of fuelling proceed through positions (e) 27° 00' N. 24° 00' W. (f) 20° 00' N. 23° 00' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. S.A.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1450A/13 to CROMER)

ICIAR  
(Spanish)

ICIAR in Ballast Cadiz to San Pedro Pinatur sent in by patrol on information from British Vice Consul Huelva that she had been sold to Germans.  
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 1530/13 to M.E.W.)

/Axis ...



War Diary.13.3.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Axis Shipping. DREPANUM and EUGENIO C at anchor Bilbao Harbour fully loaded ready for sea. JOAO PESSOA expected to complete loading at Castro 16th. (Bilbao 1740/13 to Admty. (R) M. E.W.)

MONTE GORBEA (intercepted) My 1525A/10th. Possibly Ulrich Primas, Wireless Operator, is the other. (F.O.C.N.A. 1845A/13 to Ships and Authorities N.A.) See also South Atlantic. Corrected see 1243A/17. *See next page.*

JOAO BELO (Portuguese) My 1327/1. Ministry of Marine enquired whether JOAO BELO whose bottom is very foul could be docked Bombay on or after 24/3. Troops previously disembarked at Murmagoa. (N.A. Lisbon 1916/13 to Admty.)

French Shipping. Passing Gib. 13/3. (D.O.R. 15/3)

South Atlantic.

MANCHESTER CITY. Capetown departures 12/3 for Durban. MANCHESTER CITY 0640 G.M.T. S.of A. 11 knots. E.T.A. 0800 G.M.T.16/3. JAY 1635 G.M.T. S. of A. 8 knots. E.T.A. p.m./17/3. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0815Z/13 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.)

JAY.

AJAX. AJAX arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0823Z/13 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I., N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

W.R.KEEVER Overdue shipping cancel my 1147/12, W.R. KEEVER arrived Lourenco Marques. (S.O.I. Capetown 0908B/13 to Admty. etc.)

Rio de Janeiro, harbour patrol. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Ships proceeding to Rio de Janeiro should be warned to look out for patrol boats at entrance to harbour by day and night and to obey any instructions that may be given by them. (D,T.D.1155A/13 to F.O.I.Cs.)

/MONTE ...



War Diary.13.3.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- MONTE GORBEA Repeat your 1155/10 to N.O.I/c Bathurst for information of Governor. Possibly Giesman may be the person referred to in para 1 of my 2155/9.  
(D.E.W.D. 1240A/13 to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst.) *See previous page*
- "S" Report. Following has been read - DE - Z R Y S S S S - (message incompletely received) - (Bearing of unknown station transmitting on) - 500 Kc/s, was 330° - class 2 - at 1015.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1245Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.)
- JASMINE. Arrival St. Helena 0700, departure 1300/13 Simonstown. S. of A. 14 knots.  
(General St. Helena, 1435Z/13 to Admty. etc.)
- DURBAN. Repetition my 1419Z/10 - <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> DURBAN will sail 1400 G.M.T. tomorrow? Wednesday, E.T.A. 0500 G.M.T. Saturday (14/3) Route R.2. S. of A. 13½ knots.  
(N.L.O. Durban 1518Z/13 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., Admty., DURBAN)  
*Sailed 11/3 - See p. 360.*
- DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. E.T.A. Capetown (703)30Z (?15th) Your 1029/7\* has not been received. \*(No trace in War Registry)  
(DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 1540Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)  
*See also next page.*
- V.A.3. Durban arrival V.A.C. 3rd B.S. in RESOLUTION.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1605Z/13 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. etc.)
- Movement Summary. 2000/13/3. Area P.  
LAERTES escorting tanker 008° 55' N. 019° 00' W. 098° 8 knots.  
ROCKROSE with S.T.16 000° 10' N. 016° 40' W. 072° 8½ knots.
- HOSANNA off St. Helena, NIGELLA, JASMINE off St. Helena.
- PRETORIA CASTLE escorting S.S. MONTE GORBEA 011° 40' N. 020° 50' W. 066° 10 knots.  
CANTON 008° 15' N. 025° 30' W. to patrol H.34 C and D. keeping E. of 026° W. 14 knots. *See next page.*  
BENGALI and FANDANGO escorting THAMES and FARADAY 015° 40' N. 018° 50' W. 180° 5½ knots.  
BELLWORT 009° 25' N. 018° 20' W. 098° 12 knots. *See p. 418*  
GENISTA and VIOLET 003° 20' (? S.) 016° 50' W. 029° 12 knots.  
CALIFORNIA, BULOLO with BATORY 017° 45' N. 027° 22' W. 347 13½ knots.  
SNOWDROP 008° 52' N. 015° 52' W. (?058°) 12 knots.  
SARABANDE off Moravia.F.S. REINE DES FLOTS 009° S. 011° E. to the S. 8 knots.



War Diary.

13.3.1942  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movement Summary - contd. Area Q. CHESHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 037° 30' S. 020° E. to Simonstown, 14 knots. CARTHAGE with DEMPO probably 013° 35' S. 002° 10' E. 323° 15 knots. NEWCASTLE with W.S.16 019° 24' S. 000° 20' W. (?133° or 198°) 13 knots. Area O. CILICIA about 046° 22' S. 058° (?W.) 188° 13 knots. (C. in C. S.A. 1744Z/13 to S.A. Station Sqdn.)

DESPATCH Arrival 13/3 DESPATCH. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1903Z/13 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Gold Coast)

Raider Report. Your 1749A/12. On what date was the raider report heard and what authorities have been informed. (D.D.I.C. 1916A/13 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

Bunkers S.America. Pass to N.C.S.Os. In view of desirability of avoiding West Indies ports for coal bunkering, ships proceeding to U.S.A. or Canada and requiring coal bunkers at intermediate port should bunker at following ports in order of preference (1) Pernambuco (2) Rio de Janeiro (3) Bahia. (D.T.D. 1940A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

CANTON. (?Fuel) remaining (?43)% My P.C. and S. are 005° 45' N. 021° 05' W. 130° 14½ knots. Intend to pass through following position  
A 004° 50' N. 020° 00' W.  
B 004° 50' N. 026° 00' W.  
C 004° 00' N. 020° 00' W. Weather report.  
(?CANTON 2000Z/13 to ? C. in C. S.A.)

*See previous page*

Movements. Departure 13/3 AURICULA, ULSTER MONARCH. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 2051Z/13 to Admty.) Arrival St. Helena 0800/13 NIGELLA. *See previous page* (General St. Helena 2248Z/13 to Admty.)

Ascension Island. J.S.M.120. (J.S.M. 2111Q/13 to Chiefs of Staff.) See America and West Indies.

R.A.W.Af. Your 1033/11 and 1821/11. Rear Adm. Pegram will be appointed F.O.I.C. West Africa - short title R.A.W.Af. (Admty. 2114A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)



War Diary.13.3.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

→ P.31  
M/V sunk  
6/3.  
MARIN SANUDO  
5081 tons.  
Sunk 5/3.  
(Torpedo Attack  
Register.)

C.A.F.O. 1278/41. (A) 6/3/42. (B) In 35° 27' N. 12° 12' E. 7000 tons Southbound merchant ship escorted by 2 destroyers zigzagging broadly speed of enemy 15 knots range 800 yards. (C) P.31. (G) 4 Mark (8) 2 star A W 561 A A 15 99 A A 16 34 A A 17 03. (J) All torpedoes hit ship sank 20 minutes later. Fairly accurate counter attack caused minor damage. (Capt. (S) 10 0111B/13 to Admty. (R) F.O.S.etc.)

Movements. Sailed BARNET 1900Z/12. Arrived ENDEAVOUR 0554Z/12, FARNDALE 0558Z/12, KIMBERLEY. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0752Z/13 to Admty.) Departures Suez 13/3, BULLFINCH at 0554, DEMIR HISAR at 0620, LYDIARD at 1754. (N.O.I.C. Suez 1824B/13 to Admty.) \* See next page.

→ S/Ms. Arrival 12/3 P.31. Departure UNBEATEN, PORPOISE. (V.A. Malta 0855B/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

URGE  
→ UNA. E-boat activity suspected between Gozo and Grand Harbour during night 12/13/3 until dawn. URGE to arrive by S.E. searched channel and expected off Marsamxett 0645B/14. (Capt. (S) 10 1029B/13 to URGE, UNA.)

Movements. Arrival 12/3 ZULU, JERVIS. Departure 12/3, PROTEUS, ST. MONANCE, FALK, Motor Launch 1046, M.L. 1069. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1030B/13 to Admty. etc.)

→ SOKOL  
→ UNA  
→ UNBEATEN. Leave patrol as follows: SOKOL through 035° 40' 012° 15' keeping W. of 013° 16' until 1200B/15 to 035° 42' 014° 10' to arrive Grand Harbour 0645B/16. UNA through 035° 20' 012° 35' at 2000B/14 to 036° 06' 014° 03' thence as previously ordered to patrol 037° 43' 015° 33' from dawn 17th from when UNBEATEN will patrol 037° 47' 015° 45'. If forced to retire UNA to keep S.W. and UNBEATEN N.E. of 150° through 037° 47' 015° 37'. (Capt. (S) 10 1051B/13 to SOKOL, UNA, (R) UNBEATEN, etc.)

ALBARO  
PRODROMUS. My 1625B/12, para A. Vessels expected to sail again 16 G.M.T. 13/3. Will be escorted by Roumanian Destroyers. B.3. When proceeding to Varna yesterday vessels received warning from Constanza and orders to return Istanbul. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1116B/13 to S.O.I. Med., for N.L.O. Black Sea.)

/Libya ...



War Diary.

13.3.1942  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Libya  
Report  
(Air)

Cositrep No.294. 2. Air. Night 11/12. Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. Following day sighters carried out offensive sweeps over forward area. No enemy aircraft sighted. M.E.109s bombed Tobruk and Coastal shipping. No damage. Single J.U.88 bombed Matruh, bombs falling in sea. R/C reports four ships Benghazi. Photographs Palermo show third ship 2000 tons sunk following Malta raid night 2/3. (C. in C. M.E. 1440/13 to W.O. (R) C. in C. Med.)

M.W.11

C. in C. Med. 1111B/11. In order to release refrigerated ship could 3 of the following return to Egypt by date required CITY OF CALCUTTA, EMPIRE ORIOLE, EMPIRE PINTAIL, EMPIRE FULMAR and EMPIRE EGRET. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1614B/13 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. India (Bombay)) My 1614B/13 P.S.T.O. India reports CITY OF PRETORIA sails ex Bombay for Suez 17/3 presume she can be used if speed satisfactory. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 2030B/13 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. India.)

Malta  
Air Report.

C.S.R. Malta 13/3. Part 1. Night 12/13. 3 alerts 1839, 2150, 2339 hrs 9 raiders Kalafrana Air Marshal Drummond's Sunderland previously severely damaged by bombs now written off. Dinghy destroyed also damage to hangar and one H.S.L. Beaufighter severely damaged JU.88. A.A. fired. 13th. Alert 0905 hrs, 25 ME.109s, JU.88s. Takali 1 Hurricane 1 petrol bowser burnt out, serious damage administrative buildings and stores, U.E.Bs. Fighters intercepted, no claims. H.A.A. damaged 1 JU.88. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1750/13.)

Movements.

13/3 Port Said arrivals\* R.F.A. CALDERON, DELPHINIUM,\*DEMIR HISAR. Departures 0615B COCKER. 1500B SNAPDRAGON, 1510B\*DEMIR HISAR. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1902B/13 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

\*Not in Navy list R.F.A.'s

\* See previous page.

/Situation ...



War Diary.13.3.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

no hub

Situation report 200 My 2325/9 para 1. Result of attacks by Beauforts, (one cruiser definitely hit and on fire, one destroyer hit apparently sinking, one merchant ship possibly damaged. Cruiser not again sighted. CLEOPATRA and KINGSTON sailed from Malta p.m./10 and joined C.S.15 a.m./11. Whole force proceeded to Alexandria and was shadowed and attacked by enemy aircraft throughout the day. Beaufighters provided protection and did excellent work shooting down at least two JU.88s. 2 Beaufighters lost while returning to base, no damage to H.M. ships. NAIAD torpedoed and sunk with one torpedo amidships at 2030/11 in 52° (732°) 00' N. 26° 19'. U-Boat sighted and attacked by ZULU, result uncertain. Casualties two Officers and 80 ratings. Remainder of Force arrived Alexandria 12th. Sunk by U.565. (6.3.443)

2. Western Desert. 4 M.T.Bs operating from Tobruk.

3. Levant. Operation in progress to relieve one Indian Brigade Group Cyprus. Destroyers have left Alexandria for A/S sweeps on Levant Coast shipping routes. Corvettes and A/S Craft continue escorting duties.

4. Submarines. P.31 reports four hits on southbound 7,000 ton Merchant Ship at 1323/5 in 35° 27' N. 12° 12' E. Ship sank and was similar to 101 in Br.115, 15 knots.

5. Aircraft. 9 Albacores and two Swordfish reinforcements for 828 and 830 Squadrons flown into Malta from Tobruk during last month. 1 Albacore and two Swordfish missing on passage to Malta.

6. Tow for GEORGIC proceeding with HARESFIELD astern and RECORDER and PATRICIA MOLLER ahead. No further news of ~~SAMPSON~~ SAMPSON. PAULINE

(C. in C. Med. 2013B/13 to Admty.)

KIMBERLEY. N.O.I.C. Aden 1358Z/13 (No trace in W.D.) not to D. of S.T. if MULBERA still at Aden request your arranged for her to tow KIMBERLEY to Bombay (2) D. of S.T. requested to signal owners agreement.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 2310B/13 to S.T.O. Aden.)



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Routing of Troop Convoys. Your 1327/6 and C. in C. E.F.'s 0337/9?. Your Para. B. (1) Concur in omitting Ceylon, as is already done when endurance permits, observing not practicable at present to water Convoys at any of the places mentioned. (2) See above. (3) This is being done. (4) This is being arranged when endurance permits. (C. in C. E.I., 0081Z/13 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F. A.C.N.B.)

Movements. Colombo departure 12/3 0600Z. LISMORE, 1010Z, SUTLEJ, 1130Z, SPETSAI. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0138Z/13 to Admty etc).  
 Arrival TULIP at 0400 zone time 13/3. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0420Z/13 to Admty).  
 Departure ENGADINE at 0700Z/13 and TULIP at 0845Z/13. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0910Z/13 to Admty).

Avoiding A/C Attacks. Precis of C.A.F.O. 133/42 on avoiding action in low level bombing attacks and A/C torpedo attacks. (C. in C. E.F., 0227Z/13 to Eastern Theatre) See Lion Copy.

M.T.B.s. F.O.C.R.I.N. 0613/3. It is my present intention to allocate 2 and a half of 1st 4 flotillas of M.T.Bs. to F.O.C.R.I.N. 2. The 1st 8 boats (?will) go to F.O.C.R.I.N. 3. The order in which the remainder are allocated must depend on circumstances. (C. in C. E.F., 0247Z/13 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Addu Atoll. 038888. 5491/G cipher 12/3. Your 69825 (M.O.12) 10/2. Have recommendations regarding Command Addu Atoll been approved Chief of Staffs? Clarify position C. in C. India in light of paras. 1A and 2 of your 73134 (M.O.12a) 26/2. (C. in C. India, 0600/13 to W.O.)

Burma, River Patrol. O/A/58 cipher 12/3. Situation report. 1530 G.M.T. River patrol of marines ex Rangoon not yet contacted but boats answering to their description reported by Tac/R today at Tombo 32 miles south of Prome. (Ad. H.Q. Burma, 0920/13 to C. in C. India etc).

EMPIRE WOODLARK. N.O.I.C. Mauritius requests that a Westbound transport calls at Mauritius to embark 175 volunteers for (?Africa) and U.K. as no commercial ships are available. Suggest EMPIRE WOODLARK might call en route to embark these personnel, ship is due to sail from Karachi about 22nd March. Do you agree.? (P.S.T.O. India, 0925Z/13 to D.S.T.)

/BARRICADE...



CONFIDENTIAL

M E S S A G E

IN

FROM:- C. in C. Eastern Fleet

0227Z/13th March

DATE:- 16.3.42.

RECD:- 1934

NAVAL CODE J BY T/P

ADDRESSED:- Eastern Theatre 129 X

Following is precis of C.A.F.O. 133/42 on avoiding action in low level bombing attacks and aircraft torpedo attacks supplementary to part 2 of C.A.F.O. 123/42 and confidential book No. 04032.

(2) Very low level bombing attacks and torpedo attacks using low approach:- very similar method of approach. Correct avoiding action differs. Very rapid estimate of type of attack about to be made is therefore necessary. First action in both cases, if sufficient warning received, is to manoeuvre to bring maximum number of guns to bear. Then as below dependant on type of attack.

(3) Torpedo attack:- turn towards bow attack, away from quarter attack.

(4) Low level bombing attacks. Aircraft's best direction of attack is about 030 degs. to fore and aft line of ship. Manoeuvre with this fact and need for keeping maximum number of guns bearing in mind. Large amount of udder should not repetition not be used.

(5) Menace of bombs to swinging target is less than that of torpedoes to broadside targets. If, in doubt, therefore, act as in paragraph three.

(6) Avoid alteration of course as long as possible in interests of accurate gunfire, but in cruisers and above the likelihood of torpedoes hitting is increased if avoiding action is not taken before repetition before release.

(7) At night take torpedoavoiding action at appropriate range by R D F or on sight.

0227Z/13

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Naval Sec.  
D. of P. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D.G.D. (2)  
D.T.S.D.  
D.T.M.  
D.N.A.D.  
M. (4)  
Air Branch  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

BARRICADE. My 1327Z/8 para. 3. BARRICADE has arrived at Colombo.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1040Z/13 to Admty).

Aircraft Control, Ceylon. For C.O.S. From Gen. Wavell. Your 75614 (M.O.12) 11/3. (1935/11)  
Para.1. Presume I am higher authority referred to  
Para.3. This will be arranged. Hartley has gone Ceylon today for discussions with Layton and Pownall.  
(C. in C. India, 1130/13 to W.O.) Reply W.O. 1840/15.

Movements. Colombo 13/3 arrivals 0245Z VERBENA, 0300Z Greek destroyer AETOS, 0320Z, \*Dutch S/M K.11. 0415Z ROYAL SOVEREIGN, 0400Z. Dutch S/M K.15. 0420Z EXPRESS, 0430Z, TENEDOS, 0600Z, GRIFFIN.  
Departures 0850 Z Greek destroyer IERAX, 1015Z HOLLYHOCK.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1235/13 to Admty etc).  
*\* Arrived to K.14 - See p. 529 17/3*

Ceylon. Ceylon Army Command will be operative as from 12 noon G.M.T. 14/3 H.Q. 34 Ind. Div. then assumes normal functions of divisional command.  
Telegraphic address of Army Command will be Gencom Colombo.  
(O.C. Troops, Ceylon, 1535/13 to C. in C. Ceylon, etc).

Ceylon, defence priority. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 35. to C. in C. India repeated C. in C. Ceylon.  
Reference you VVY/5084/C of 7/3, 5471/11 of 11/3 and C. in C. Ceylon's 1315Z of 11/3.  
1. We agree with your conception of forming a bastion in N.E. India but the problem is to decide what portion of our slender resources it is right to allot to this area, vis-a vis Ceylon, of the importance of which you are fully aware.  
2. In our view the security of our Indian Empire depends in the last resort on our ability to control sea communications in Indian Ocean. For this we must have secure Naval Bases and the only ones in sight for some time to come are in Ceylon. Both Colombo and Trincomalee are necessary owing to limited capacity of each, and it will be necessary to operate air striking and R/C forces from the Island. Addu Atoll not yet adequately developed.  
3. For these reasons we consider that defence requirements of Ceylon must be given priority, although we agree that N.E. India is very important and also appreciate potential internal security problems with which you may be faced in Bengal and Eastern India. Estimated scale of attack on Ceylon given in 65405 of 20/1 under review in light of recent developments and you will be informed of result.  
(1st S.L., 1749A/13 to C. in C. E.F.)



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Cont d.

BACCHUS.

R.F.A. BACCHUS expected leave U.K. for F.E. May 1942 for service as Naval Store Issuing Ship and Distilling ship. Vessel will carry stock general Naval Stores equivalent six months expenditure 20 destroyers or corvettes. Distilling capacity 250 tons daily.  
(D. of Stores. 2119A/13 to C. in C. E.F., (R)  
C. in C. E.I.)



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns Newfoundland, 12/3. Arrivals ANNAPOLIS, MAHONE ex S.C.73, PIORUN, NARCISSUS, LOBELIA ex O.N.72, tug FOUNDATION FRANKLIN ex H.X.179. Departures WITHERINGTON, WALKER, OAKVILLE, DRUMMONDVILLE to O.N.73, LOUISBURG and MATAPEDIA to Halifax with C.L.8, COWICHAN and tug FOUNDATION FRANKLIN to EMPIRE CELT. (F.O.N.F., 0213Z/13 to Admty.)

MEROPE. My 1521R/6. R.O. Puerto Mexico reports impression formed by American Vice Consul following personal contact. Further evidence from harbour pilot who informed R.O. they are bitterly anti British. B.2. (S.O(I) Jamaica, ?0214/13 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Unknown ship Following has been read from MERCURY SUN. U/B report. SSSS 33° 35' N. 73° 36' W., vessel exploded aft unread miles north 0312 G.M.T. (Amagansett W/T, T.O.R. 0342/13.)

CARADOC. Please refer to this as Com. E.S.F. 1935/12 action C. in C. U.S. Fleet, I.N.F.O., Cinclant. Com. Five Navy Yard New York, Com. Four, Com. Three. CARADOC departs Ambrose Light position New York 2100Z/14 for Norfolk. S. of A. 20 knots. Routed 30 miles off shore all the way. Navy Yard New York passed to CARADOC (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0500/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Shipping My 2252P/11 (N.T. in W.D.) Diversions. Judging by diversion signals now being received, it appears to be Admty. intention that N.C.S.Os. should now follow U.S. Coastal directive. I have therefore ordered them to follow instructions contained in my 1602P/12 without waiting for Admiralty order vide A.M. 1839Z/7. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1041P/13 to Admty.)

HOEGH SCOUT HOEGH SCOUT aground 21° 30' N. 73° 00' W. and (Norwegian) requested salvage vessel arrange for tug if possible. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1202P/13 to Capt. i/c. Jamaica.) Your 1202P/13 no tug available Jamaica. Merritt Chapman have been asked to send salvage vessel from Key West if available and inform you. (Capt. i/c. Jamaica, 1446R/13 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SEVERN. Departure SEVERN escorted by CALGARY, CHARLOTTETOWN to Philadelphia. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1243Z/13 to Admty.)

/Shipping ...



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Shipping  
Oban.                   Routeing instructions issued to ships in H.X.  
and S.C. Convoys page 4 Directions for approach-  
ing Oban. Position of D. Buoy should read  
56° 26'00" N., 5° 32'30" W. (approx.)  
(D.T.D., 1250A/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, (R)  
N.C.S.O. Oban.)

Trinidad.               Fixed defences satisfactorily.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1332Q/13 to Admty. for  
D.A/S.W.)

CARIBSEA,  
OLGA,  
CHARLES  
RACINE.                 Sub. attack summary. American CARIBSEA sunk  
by 2 torpedoes 10 miles off Cape Lookout Light  
0701Z/11. 7 survivors. Search made for  
TEXAN no further trace. 32 survivors American  
OLGA picked up 12/3 North of Puerto Padre, Cuba.  
Ship had been torpedoed and sunk probably  
A.M. 12/3. 34 survivors of Norwegian CHARLES  
RACINE picked up 12/3 21° 29' N. 62° 57' W.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1356Z/13 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

St. Lawrence         Present Atlantic escort of convoy arrangements  
Escorts.               make no provision for escort of shipping in  
Gulf and River St. Lawrence. 2. It is  
considered that with present trend of U-Boat  
situation this additional commitment must be faced before the  
opening of navigation which will be about the last week in  
April. 3. Weather encountered in the Gulf might necessitate  
escort by Bangor class minesweepers or above of which none are  
immediately available from Canadian Navy. 4. Request your  
comments.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1409Z/13 to Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

MORDEN.               C.T.F. No. 24's 0517Z/13. <sup>N.T. W.D</sup>  
MORDEN continue to 053° W. if fuel permits then  
detach to St. Johns N.F.  
(F.O.N.F., 1441Z/13 to C.T.U. 24.1.4, (R)  
MORDEN, C.T.F. 24.)

St. Lucia,  
U/B attack.            Your 2212P/12. Administrator and I consider  
sentence "Two ships damaged but not sunk" might  
invite further action.  
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1444Q/13 to C. in C. A.W.I.,  
(R) Admty., etc.)

Pass to Governors addressed. Governor of Windward Island's  
telegram of 12/3 addressed to Governor Barbados and repeated  
to S. of S. for Colonies. Consider following statement only  
should be released. U-Boat attack was made on Castries Harbour  
at St. Lucia during the night 9-10/3. 2 ships damaged but  
(groups missing.)  
(C. in C. A.W.I., No T.O.O./13 to Governors Windward Is.,  
Leeward Is., etc.)

/Your 1444Q/13. ...



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. contd.St. Lucia,  
U/B Attack.  
(Contd.)

Your 1444Q/13th. Sentence referred to is the only possible truthful statement and I am not prepared to agree to any amendment. Only alternative is to issue no statement at all.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2222P/13 to R.N.O. St. Lucia,  
(R) Admty.)

LEIF  
(sunk 28/2)

Admty. 1320/2/4/1940.  
(A) LEIF  
(B) 28/2 0600 G.M.T. 034° 45' N. 069° 20' W.  
(C) (D) Thrown overboard in weighted canvas

bag.

(E) 3000 fathoms.  
(F) None.  
(G) Master H. Brynildsen.

My 2201Z/12th with list of survivors landed Key West 6/3 now in New York follows. 15 still missing last seen in one lifeboat 1500Z/28 240 miles 310° from Bermuda steering S.E.  
(C.S.A. New York, 1503Z/13, 1530Z/13 to Admty.)

EGDA  
(torpedoed  
21/2.)

Your 1157Z/12 (N.T. in W.D.) EGDA attacked at 0900Z/21 in 41.12 N. 52.55 W., struck by one torpedo on port side between No. 3 and 4 wing tanks. Expect to complete temporary repairs early next week at (1 group missing) New York for permanent repairs.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1512Z/13 to Admty.)

Operation  
"Gymnast",  
"Supergymnast".

J.S.M. 119. Your W. 115.  
(i) After receipt of telegram referred to in your W. 105 and consideration of report by Combined Planners on shipping implications C.C. O.S. provisionally agreed on 3/3 that in present circumstances "Gymnast" and "Supergymnast" should not be taken into account when considering the general disposition of shipping for military purposes. Planning it was felt had become academic and consequently though U.S.A. and British Commanders should continue their plans as far as possible, no forces, material or shipping should be held in readiness for operation. U.S. Chiefs of Staff wish to examine Combined Planners report more fully before formally reporting this to President.

(ii) At meeting on 10/3 when item came up for consideration again, it was felt that terms of President's reply to Prime Minister (vide J.S.M.110) by implication confirmed above conclusions. We understand that accordingly U.S. Chiefs of Staff do not propose to make any further reference to President on matter. Your proposal in W.115 has not therefore been formally referred U.S. Chiefs of Staff as it has in fact been already accepted by them.

(J.S.M. 1525Q/13 to Chiefs of Staff.)



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N.S. 72. Ref. Opanv 1235/12. O.N.S. 72 will be 33 hours late at Westomp approaching course 253° 5. CHURCHILL, CHESTERFIELD must leave convoy by 1500Z/14 to fuel. (CHURCHILL, 1530Z/13 to Opanv, C.T.F. 24.1.19.)

CAPETOWN CASTLE. Request you instruct CAPETOWN CASTLE to arrive Halifax if possible before dark 18/3. (2) S.C.75 sails Halifax a.m./18 and should be well clear of Harbour before dark. (3) Entrance into Harbour of CAPETOWN CASTLE will not be delayed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1546Z/13 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DAYTONIAN (? ) U/B. SSSS GFMQ believed to be GFKQ, DAYTONIAN, torpedoed 1635 G.M.T./13, 26.33 N. 74.43 W. (Bermuda, 1553P/13 to Admty.)

LA CARRIERE (torpedoed 25/2.) Report I.D. Form S.A. 1. LA CARRIERE. 2. Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. 3. First 2320Z/24/2 017° 10' N. 067° W. Second 0310Z/25/2 017° 35' N. 067° W. Third 0600Z/25/2 18 miles 120° from Port Guamica, Puerto Rico. 4. 5. 017° 35' N. 067° W. 0312Z/25/2 course 90°. 6. On the surface, second attack. 7. Ship sunk. 8. See my 2015Z/12. 9. Only seen indistinctly. 10. Torpedo. 11. See my 1545Z/13 (N.T. in W.D.) (C.S.A. New York, 1555Z/13 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

ALCYONE. 13th arrived U.S. Naval <sup>Cargo Ship</sup> Transport ALCYONE. (Antigua, 1605/13 to Admty.)

FENJA, U/B. FENJA Norwegian reports submarine sighted, fired on and forced to dive at 0632 G.M.T., 18.20 N. 74.50 W. 1003P/13/3/42. (Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1632/13 to Admty.)

AUSONIA. B.A.D. 1841Q/9. Can anticipated date for AUSONIA to be taken in hand be given? AUSONIA arrived Bermuda today 13/3 from patrol. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1702P/13 to Admty., (R) B.A.R.M.)

U/B Situation. 13/3 Submarine Situation. 3 submarines between Cape Hatteras and New York of which one was in 37.15 N. 74.32 W. 1100Z/13 by sound contact. About 7 in area N. of 38° N. between 50° and 70° W. of which one near 42° N. 52° W. 1737Z/12. 2 eastbound within 150 miles 41° N. 40° W.



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B Situation. (Contd.) 2 M/Vs. torpedoed, 33.43 N. 77.36 W. 0312Z/13, 22.10 N. 77.35 W. 0314Z/13. 2 Windward Passage area. One vicinity San Salvador, Bahamas. One within 100 miles 19° N. 78° W. 0538Z/13. Possibly 3 more in Caribbean Sea unlocated. One off the coast between Georgetown and Cayenne. 2 eastbound within 150 miles 23.30 N. 54.30 W. 3 homeward bound within 250 miles 33° N. 58° W. 3 between Monrovia and Takoradi. No other change east of 30° W. except continued activity North of Rockall. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1704/13 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.)

SKANE (torpedoed 6/3.) I have been requested to take charge of 34 survivors landed here 9/3 from Swedish ship SKANE, torpedoed 6/3. Telegraph if I should assume charge, and what are charterers' wishes. (R.O. San Juan, 1712/13 to Admty.)

Dakar Intelligence, Vichy Convoy. Dakar. 10/3. A.2. \*SAINT HERBERT has returned to Dakar. Recent convoys have brought large quantities of motor trucks some of which have been reshipped to the South. Following departures for the South under escort 9/3, VILLE DU HAVRE, GROIX, CARIMARE, ROUENNAIS and FORT DE VAUX. (B.A.D., 1741Q/13 to Admty.)

O.I.C. Comments:- This convoy was sighted by aircraft at 1618/10/3 in 12° 01' N. 18° 6' W. 197° 11 knots. (S.O.(I) Freetown's 1209/11/3.) \* *Not identified*

Bunkers. Your 1112P/10 Concur. B.A.D. is requested to pass following to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and M.W.T.R. at New York and Montreal. British and Allied coal burning vessels bound for South Africa should be bunkered to reach Capetown with safe margin whenever possible without prejudicing cargo liftings. If intermediate bunkers required Pernambuco should be used. Those bound for E. Coast of S. America to bunker for destination and back to Pernambuco. Present stock at Pernambuco is 8000 tons and collier SAGANAGA which was due St. Lucia 18/3 has been diverted to Pernambuco with 7000 tons coal. There are ample stocks at Rio de Janeiro and limited stock at Bahia. Ships from Caribbean should bunker at Hampton Roads or Halifax except Greek ships which should avoid U.S.A. ports. 2. B.A.D. is requested to pass above to Opnav for consideration with a view to U.S. and U.S. controlled shipping conforming. (D.T.D., 1821A/13 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

EGLANTINE. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 2000Z/14 with EMPIRE SHEARWATER. (EGLANTINE, 1900Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Newfoundland.)

/M.T.Bs. ...



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

M.T.B.s. Your 1851Q/11, para. B, concur in your proposal  
Trinidad. to equip these 12 M.T.Bs. with depth charges  
instead of torpedo tubes and to ship boats and  
spares to Trinidad for allocation as required  
by C. in C. A.W.I. Crews will be sent to Trinidad as soon as  
possible to meet boats there. Torpedo tubes and torpedoes for  
these boats should be stored in U.S.A. in state of preservation  
in case it is desired to re-arm them with torpedoes at some  
future date.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1943A/13.)

LUMINETTA. LUMINETTA due Gulf Port 10/3 from Bermuda has  
not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2004Z/13 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Bermuda arrival AUSONIA. Bermuda departures  
U.S.S. RANGER, AUGUSTA, SAVANNAH, WAINWRIGHT,  
WILSON, LANG for patrol.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2035P/13 to Admty., (R) B.A.D,  
N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Ascension J.S.M. 120. Ref. Chiefs of Staff W. 98.  
Island. Pending formal agreement between U.K. and U.S.  
Governments as to terms and conditions under  
which U.S. takes over military defence of  
Ascension Island, U.S. War Dept. recommend that Combined Chiefs  
of Staff approve following working agreement. "For the period  
of the war and for six months thereafter the terms and  
conditions under which the U.S. Forces occupy Ascension Island  
shall be substantially the same as those now in operation for  
the leased bases, as set forth in the "Agreement for the use  
and operation of U.S. Bases" signed in London, 27/3/1941 with  
particular reference to Art. 11 thereof, with the proviso that  
certain modifications will be necessary to suit local conditions  
on the island, and with the further proviso that ... (A) Govt.  
of U.K. shall be granted the right to use the facilities of  
the U.S. Army Air Base, Ascension Island, as necessary for the  
combatant operations of U.K. Air Units subject to determination  
by U.S. Army that such use will not interfere unduly with the  
primary purpose of the Station. (B) Govt. of the U.K. shall  
be given the right to instal such equipment and storage  
facilities on Ascension Island as it may require for the  
operation of British Forces from time to time, provided that the  
location of said installations shall be such as to avoid inter-  
ference with installations and operations of the U.S. Air Base  
(Army) and of the U.S. Army Forces charged with defence of  
Ascension Island".  
2. This wording has been put forward on Staff level only and  
no objection would probably be raised to some rephrasing within  
the general sense. Request comments.  
(J.S.M., 2111Q/13 to Chiefs of Staff.) Reply: 1748A/17.

/TIMMINS ...



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

TIMMINS. H.M.C.S. TIMMINS carried out two attacks on suspected submarine, Slip Point, Juan de Fuca Strait, bearing 220° 2 miles about 1400 D.S.T. Hudson bomber reports 1515 D.S.T. oil slick 048° 16' N. 124° 04' W. TIMMINS, EDMUNDSTON, hunting and being joined by SANS PEUR and BELLECHASSE. (C.O.P.C., 2241Z/13 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I., Opanav, C.P.N.N.C.F., A.O.C.W.A.C., (R) G.O.C. in C.P.C.)

ESSO SSSS ESSO BAYONNE in position 21.00 N. 73.52 W. at 2115/13. BAYONNE. (Bermuda, 2353P/13 to Admty.) U/B.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. MARYBOROUGH arrived Fremantle 1100Z/10. ASCANIA left Fremantle 0230Z/11 for Melbourne. (A.C.N.B., 0054Z/13 to Admty.)

ANKING, Report from Master TJIMANOEK just received M.M.S. 51, giving list of 16 survivors from ANKING and sunk by M.M.S. 51 indicates that these vessels have been gunfire. sunk. Survivors were picked up in position 011° 39' S. 109° 01' east at 0730Z/7. ANKING was carrying surplus ratings from Batavia.

List of survivors and list of officers and ratings on board ANKING follows.

(Cdre. W. Australia, 0729Z/13 to A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

My 0729Z/13. 14 survivors from M.M.S. 51 and 2 native survivors from ANKING landed at Fremantle 0600Z/13 from Dutch TJIMANOEK. Survivors report YARRA, ANKING, FRANCOL and M.M.S. 51 sunk by gunfire in approx. 11° 30' S. 109° 03' E. at 2315Z/3 by 3 Japanese cruisers and 2 destroyers. 2 of cruisers Nachi class, 1 similar size but unclassified. Destroyers probably Hibiki class. Survivors picked up after 4 days in water. (Cdre. Fremantle, 0921Z/13 to A.C.N.B.)

Movements. Arrivals Geraldton 9th and 10/3 respectively MEDUSA, CIRCE. Arrival Fremantle 2345Z/10 STRATHALLAN. Departure Fremantle 0959Z/11 ANDES for Adelaide. Departure Brisbane 0630Z/12 LEANDER and ACHILLES for Noumea. Convoy Z.K.7 arrived Noumea 0145Z/12. COLAC and CNESSNOCK departed Townsville 1425Z/11 for Port Moresby. (A.C.N.B., 0906Z/13 to Admty., etc.)

/Serial ...



War Diary.13.3.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Serial number 51. From C.W.R. 12/3.  
 1. Air R/C 1 Hudson 12/3 revealed - (A) Lae, 1 destroyer, 1 partially sunk transport, at 0145Z/12. Fighters operating from aerodrome.  
 (B) Salamoia, 2 7000 ton transports, 1 smaller transport, at 0155Z/12.  
 2. Cruiser reported off Salamoia at 2315Z/11.  
 3. Single engined float plane reconnoitred Tufi (N.E. Coast Papua) at 0106Z/12.  
 (A.C.N.B., 1152Z/13 to Admty., etc.)

KOOLAMA  
 (4068 tons)  
 attacked  
 20/2 by  
 enemy A/C.

Western Australia Governmant's Motor Vessel  
 KOOLAMA was attacked by enemy A/C 20/2 when  
 on passage Derby (W.A.) to Darwin. Vessel  
 was beached, refloated and later she proceeded  
 Wyndham arriving 2/3. On 3/3 when alongside  
 Wyndham jetty vessel capsized. Salvage  
 considered impracticable.  
 (A.C.N.B., 1352Z/13 to Admty.)

Pacific  
 Bases.

Navy Office Wellington 1144M/12.  
 Proposal and recommendation are in accordance  
 with desire of Navy Dept. who are undertaking  
 whole project for Nukualofa including provision  
 of base staff. This equipment is expected to sail early  
 April from west coast.  
 (N.Z.N.A. Washington, 1529Q/13 to Admty., (R) N.O. Wellington,  
 etc.)



War Diary.

13.3.1942.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimates of U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1410A/13, 1430A/13.)

Independent  
Ships.  
Zigzagging.

Pass to N.C.S.Os.

With a view to making attack by U-Boat more difficult, Masters of Independent ships should be recommended, when zigzagging, to use Zigzag diagrams Nos. 9, 22, 28, 37, 41 or 42 in preference to those diagrams which entail less frequent, although larger, alterations of course.

These instructions apply to all ships of 10 knots and above regardless of the annotation on the Zigzag diagrams that they are "suitable for ships of 16 knots and over".

(D.T.D., 1918A/13 to A.I.G.19, A.I.G.26.)



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Soon after 0200 this morning 6 M.T.Bs. and 3 M.G.Bs. were sent from Dover to intercept a large armed enemy M/V of 5,000 to 8,000 tons escorted by 3 Torpedo Boats or Destroyers and several E-boats passing S.W.wards through the Straits of Dover. Our force was met by a heavy barrage from the shore batteries and escorting craft, was unable to penetrate the screen, and retired with no casualties but some damage to 3 of the M.T.Bs. At 0553 however BLENCATHRA, FERNIE, CALPE, WINDSOR and WALPOLE who had been on patrol to the E. of Beach Head made contact with the enemy in 50° 29' N., 1° 14' E., passed through the E-boat screen astern of the destroyers, and fired 6 torpedoes at the M.V. at a range of 2,000 to 2,500 yards. One torpedo appeared to hit the M/V, one enemy destroyer may have been hit by gun-fire, and 2 E-boats were probably sunk by gun-fire. The action lasted only a few minutes, and our forces suffered no casualties and only minor damage to FERNIE and WINDSOR.

M/V was  
SCHIFF 28  
(MICHEL)

Capt. D.8. in FAULKNOR with 6 Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 1414A from operations in the North Sea; and at 1944A EDINBURGH returned to Scapa from the Iceland-Faeroes patrol.

WALLACE, escorting convoy F.N.455, reported at 2356 A tonight having engaged 3 E-boats and damaged one.

C. in C. Nore has today suggested to Admty. that a bombing attack on the Boulogne-Gris Nez area whenever a Channel Convoy is passing between the North Goodwin and Dungeness might effectively impair the accuracy of fire of the enemy Coastal Batteries. He proposes that 2 A/C should drop bombs at 20 minute intervals during the passage of each Convoy.

Photographic R/C. <sup>1225/13</sup> today shows SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and NURNBERG all still at Kiel, KÖLN in dry dock at Wilhelmshaven, and HIPPER at Hamburg. ~~See~~ p. 445.

A U-boat was sighted at 1450 today by A/C in 62° 50' N., 20° 50' W., just South of Reykjavik.

Blyth and Peterhead were re-opened today; and Harwich, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft, though closed this morning on account of fog, were re-opened at 1300A, 1511A and 1510A respectively.

/The...



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

The S.S. BRABO having grounded today just inside the entrance of the Tyne, the port will now be closed until further orders during the dark hours, only slow traffic being allowed in daylight when the weather is favourable.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.655 was bombed at 2015 tonight off Orfordness; and the Convoy P.W.125 was attacked at dusk off Bude by 3 A/C and later by fresh waves of 2 A/C, several bombs being dropped without result and one Junkers 88 A/C being seen to crash.

Mining.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE left Port Z.A. at 0920 with Ships of the 1st M.L. Squadron for Operation S.N.81.

North Atlantic.

At 0235 an unknown ship made SSSS Report from 20.00 N., 34.10 W.



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

- V.A. 3                    RESOLUTION (Flag of V.A. 3) left Durban at 0030 G.M.T. for Mauritius.
- Ascension.                Relief of the British garrison at Ascension by U.S. forces is confirmed today by War Office. Ascension Volunteer Defence Force will remain as sole British force under operational control of U.S. Commander.
- QUEEN MARY.                QUEEN MARY arrived at Capetown at 0600 and will probably sail p.m./15 for Fremantle
- Congo.                    C. in C. S.A. advocates half a flotilla of M.Ls. reinforced by motor minesweepers when available should be employed off Belgian Congo both for A/S purposes and control of shipping.

Mediterranean.

- Malta.                    Raiding continued last night with bombs on land and sea.
- In today's raids, further damage was caused at Hal Far.
- Libya.                    1 Wellington IV attacked shipping in Tripoli Harbour last night. Bursts were seen on the main quay and Spanish Fort Mole.
- Jibuti.                    H.M.G. have decided that negotiations should not be opened with Vichy over Jibuti.

East Indies.

- WARSPITE.                GRIFFIN and ARROW are to be sailed to R/V with WARSPITE in 06.10 S., 79.24 E. at 0200Z/19 after fuelling at Addu Atoll.

/MAURITIUS...



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. - Contd.

MAURITIUS. When ready for service about 10/5, MAURITIUS will leave U.K. to rejoin Eastern Fleet.

EXPRESS. EXPRESS is to form part of 2nd D.F. (instead of 7th D.F.) from today.

Christmas Island. Nothing has been heard from Christmas Island since 3/3, and the fate of the garrison is unknown.

"Q" Reports. S.S. SHWEDAGON made a "Q" report at 0324Z in 07.22 N., 75.54 E., and S.S. JALARATNA at 0514Z in 06.50 N., 77.28 E. Cancellations received at 0346Z and 0610Z respectively are considered genuine.

America & West Indies.

Attacks on Shipping. U.S. merchant ship casualties for the week ending 14/3 involved 8 vessels, compared with 6 in the week ending 7/3 and 10 in the week ending 28/2.

Australia.

Port Moresby. 9 heavy bombers raided Port Moresby at 0142Z/14 and caused slight damage to the aerodrome runway.

Horn Island. 8 bombers and 9 Zero fighters raided Horn Island at 0120Z/14 without damage to the aerodrome, but 1 R.A.A.F. Hudson was destroyed on the ground.



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- ATHERSTONE. On relief at D. Buoy proceed independently to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0955A/14 to ATHERSTONE).
- STURGEON. My 1205A/13. VIMY is to escort STURGEON and O.23  
O.23. as specified in S.3 1543A/13. *N.T. & N.D.*  
VIMY. (C. in C. W.A., 1021A/14). *Ref see p. 411-*
- CAIRO. Intend to sail CAIRO for Belfast at 1000A tomorrow carrying out H A shoot on passage. E.T.A. 1600A/15.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1038A/14).
- HILDASAY, Commodore <sup>London derry</sup> ~~London derry~~'s 1611A/13. Ships concerned  
PLADDA, should be warned only 3 may be in harbour at the  
SLUNA, same time.  
SHAPINSAY. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1155/14 to Admty.)
- H. 34. H. 34 escorted by BREDA south bound in Bristol Channel tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1446A/14 to VISCOUNT).
- PRINCE My 1644A/13. Sailed.  
CHARLES. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1554A/14).
- MURAT REIS, Your 1235A/11. MURAT REIS and ORUC REIS are to be  
ORUC REIS. sailed for Mediterranean when ready.  
(F.O.S. 1734A/14).  
Your 1734A/14. Subject to satisfactory trials with modified high pressure compressor gearing ORUC REIS and MURAT REIS expected to sail about 22/3.  
(Capt. S.3, 2305A/14 to F.O.S.)
- Nore Destroyers. Destroyers detached from Nore are to rejoin that command at earliest convenient date, being used for escort duty on passage as convenient.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1837A/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
- DIANTHUS. DIANTHUS sailed for St. John's Newfoundland independent on great circle course.  
(C.T.G. 24.7, 2145/14).



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Attack on Enemy Convoy off Le Touquet. Plotting faded. (V.A.Dover, 0525A/14 to BLENCATHRA). At 0200/14 R.D.F. plotted a number of vessels close seaward of the Outer Ruytingen Bank steering a south westerly course at 12 to 14 knots. Composition of force thought to be one or two large vessels escorted by torpedo boats and E-boats with six 'M' class sweepers, these vessels having been reported in Flushing by P.R.U. on previous afternoon. Six M.T.B's and three M.G.B's were despatched but were unable to penetrate the screen which with the shore batteries put up a heavy barrage and star shell. Three M.B.T's incurred some damage but there were no casualties. Positions and probably composition of enemy force were passed to BLENCATHRA and destroyers on patrol to eastward of Beachy Head. Destroyers shaped course to intercept the enemy and successfully made contact about 0600 in vicinity of Vergoyer Bank. Torpedoes were fired. WALPOLE reports one E-boat heavily hit and left on fire. Destroyers are returning to Portsmouth having reached the coastal searched channel off Hastings at 0715. (V.A.Dover, 0727A/14). Attack made 0553 in 050° 29' N., 001° 14' E. Results difficult to assess as melee occurred. Large explosion made torpedo hits on M/V possible. 1 E-boat appeared to blow up and another was probably heavily damaged. Enemy force appeared to consist of 1 M/V roughly 5,000 tons, 3 destroyers, 4 torpedo boats, and unknown number of E-boats. Attack delivered from 2,000 yards. Damage to M/V by gunfire probable. Superficial damage to BLENCATHRA not affecting seagoing efficiency, provisional damage to FERNIE which does affect seagoing efficiency. Heavy coast batteries also engaged us. In view of torpedoes being expended and your 0502 did not consider that a renewal of (corrupt group) justified. (BLENCATHRA, 0815A/14 to V.A.Dover.) BLENCATHRA, FERNIE, CALPE, WINDSOR, WALPOLE arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1127A/14 to V.A.Dover). BLENCATHRA's 0815/14. Enemy appeared to consist of one armed M/V variously estimated as from 5 to 8 thousand tons, one funnel, 2 masts, cruiser stern, escorted by 3 torpedo boats or destroyers and number of E-boats. Estimated speed 14 to 16 knots. Flotilla engaged and passed through E-boat screen passing astern of destroyers, and fired 6 torpedoes at M/V at estimated range of 2,000 to 2500 yards. One torpedo appeared to hit. 2 E-boats probably sunk by gunfire one of which was ablaze and crew within jumped overboard. Enemy destroyer may also have been hit by gunfire. Action only lasted few minutes and flotilla retired after expending all torpedoes. Enemy fire very heavy and star shells ineffective but only minor damage to FERNIE, WINDSOR, BLENCATHRA. Our casualties nil. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/14).

Fro Havet S/M Patrol. My 1057A/13th March. Your escort is SEA-BREEZE. (Capt. S.9, 0951A/14 and 1741A/14 to TRIDENT). Proceed forthwith patrol vicinity 065° 05' N., 10° 25' E. (F.O.S., 1016A/14 to UREDD).

/Proceed ...



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Fro Havet S/M Patrol. (contd.) Proceed forthwith to Patrol vicinity position No.03 064° 14' N., 009° 40' E. passing east of JUNON position. My 1131A/13. Your alternative position is No.07.  
(F.O.S., 1027A/14 to SEALION).

Following movements are to take place:-

- (1) TUNA to relieve UREDD on patrol p.m./18. UREDD to Dundee.
- (2) MINERVE to relieve JUNON on patrol p.m./21 JUNON to Dundee.
- (3) O.14 to Scapa for A/S as soon as practicable and to Lerwick not later than a.m.24th.
- (4) P.37 to Lerwick on completion of defects.  
(F.O.S., 1637A/14 to Capt. S.9.)

FAULKNER, etc. Scapa arrival FAULKNER, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, TARTAR, FURY, INTREPID, ICARUS.  
(A.C.O.S., 1414A/14).

S/M Operations. I am hard pressed to provide 2 S/M's for patrol on Norwegian coast as two have defects and one is required for operations in Bay of Biscay. Consequently I regret that no S/M is available for A/S training at Scapa except O.14 who may be available for 4 days about 19th.  
(F.O.S., 1636A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

Iceland - Faroes Patrol. Scapa arrival EDINBURGH.  
(A.C.O.S., 1944A/14).

Convoy 1 E-Boat damaged. My 2250. 3 E-boats engaged, 1 damaged. No damage observed to convoy.  
(WALLACE, 2356A/14).

British Air Activity.

Bombing Restrictions. Total bombing restrictions now in force between 064° 30' N., and 066° N. East of 008° E. from forthwith until further notice.  
(Capt. S.9, 1133A/14).

Plymouth Balloon Barrage. Instructions have been received from Plymouth balloons that from 1800/15 they will not fly above 1500 feet unless hostile A/C are reported in the area. Past experiences indicate risk from mine-laying will be largely increased as will danger of low level bombing from a lone raider. Request these instructions may be re-considered.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1159A/14).

Bombing Operations. On Night 13/14, 8 A/C bombed Dunkirk, 5 attacked and photographed Boulogne, and photographs were taken of Kiel.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1245/14).

/Proposed ...



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - Contd.Proposed  
bombing  
of Enemy  
Coastal  
Batteries.

It has been frequently represented by escorts and others sailing with Channel convoys that shelling from enemy coastal batteries still continues to be very accurate and it is only a matter of time before a direct hit is registered.

2. It has been suggested that a bombing attack in Boulogne - Gris Nez area on each occasion that a Channel convoy (? passes through) would be effective in reducing accuracy of the shelling on the supposition that enemy guns are mounted on rails and withdraw into tunnels when not in use.

3. The suggested scale of bombing is 2 A/C dropping bombs at 20 minute intervals for the period the convoy is on passage between North Goodwin and Dungeness which occupies 3 to 4 hours.

4. Request consideration may be given to this proposal.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2210A/14 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy  
F.N.655  
bombed.

1 A/C shadowing Convoy "Attempt".  
(WALLACE, 1955/14.)  
Enemy A/C bombing "Attempt" in 52° 8' N. 1° 57' E.  
(Nore W/T, 2015/14.)

Convoy  
P.W.125  
attacked.  
One A/C  
crashed.

P.W. 125 shadowed and attacked at dusk by 3 A/C and in darkness by fresh waves of 2 A/C. Several bombs dropped, no damage observed. 1 Junkers 88 with starboard engine on fire observed to crash in 050° 49' 30" N. 004° 48' W. at 2009.  
(KUJAWIAK, 2158A/14.)

Mining.

S.N. 81.

Sailed ST. MARYS, LEDBURY to comply with your 1516/12th.  
(R.A.D., 0903A/14 to R.A.M.)

Sailed R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, LANCASTER and WELLS.  
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 0920/14.)

SCOTT.

Your 1522/12. C. in C. Rosyth has been requested to provide A/S air protection. Request SCOTT may be instructed to inform C. in C. Rosyth repeated N.O.I.C. Faroes, A.C.O.S. intended times of operating daily and by immediate signals of any cancellations or amendments.  
(A.C.O.S., 1118/14 to R.A.M.)

/SPARSHOLT ...



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

SPARSHOLT At 1250/13 SPARSHOLT mined and sunk. Details.  
(Sunk 13/3) (Cdre. Sheerness, 1551A/14.)

ST. BRIAC Reference mining of ST. BRIAC it would appear  
(Sunk 13/3) from preliminary enquiries that ship was not in  
possession of Q.Z.F. 43 and Q.Z.Xs 604 and 641,  
and that this was due to the fact that the  
operating authority, R.N.A.S. Arbroath, is not supplied with  
these messages. It is thought possible that similar conditions  
may obtain in the case of other vessels allocated for flying  
training, and it is for this reason that this signal has been  
made.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1703/14 to Admt.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Kiel. Photographic R/C 1225/13.  
Wilhelmshaven. Kiel - SCHARNHORST position unchanged.  
GNEISENAU now alongside at South Yard Quay.  
NÜRNBERG in dry dock No. 6.  
Wilhelmshaven - KÖLN in dry dock.  
(D.D.I.C., 0003A/14.)

Off Fro Your 1127A/13. Area patrolled p.m./9th by 3  
Havet. E-Boats and all day 13th by 2 N.S. Sleipner class  
some depth charges but contact definitely not  
established. Aircraft nil.  
(TRIDENT, 0003A/14 to F.O.S.)

HIPPER. Photographic R/C 1300/13 shows that HIPPER has  
arrived at Hamburg.  
(D.D.I.C., 1101A/14.)

1 M/V bearing 240°, 10 miles, course 230°.  
My position 49° 56' N. 0° 45' E.  
(A/C N. Sqdn. 1105/14 to 19 Group.)  
Enemy previously reported (1 merchant vessel) is  
accompanied by 2 enemy war motor boats.  
(A/C N. Sqdn., 1112/14.)

Straits Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait  
of Dover. from 0900/13 to 0900/14. Tracks E.5D and E.7D.  
Three small vessels between Boulogne and Calais  
from 2005 to 0005. Probably minesweepers.  
Tracks E.8D and E.9D. A number of vessels believed to be one  
large vessel escorted by torpedo boats, M. class minesweepers,  
and E-Boats from 13 miles N.E. of Calais at 0208 eastbound at  
13 knots to nine miles S.W. of Boulogne at 0516.  
(V.A. Dover, 1245A/14.)

/Northern ...



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Northern Waters. Russians report 12/3 Arnoy Island two destroyers. Lopkhavet one M/S. In 71° 07' N. 19° 43' E., unidentified ship. Off Nordkyn convoy escorted by two M/S. Mageroy Sound one destroyer. (Ad. Miles, 1519C/13 to Admty.)

E-Boats off Southwold. Enemy E-Boats. 210° STA ? Position 52° 19' N. 2° E. (WALLACE, 2250/14.) Suspected E-Boat activity. (Immingham, 2250A/14.)

U-Boats.

Off S.W. Iceland. An over enemy S/M in 63° 1' N. 21° 18' W. S/M was on surface, then observed to submerge. Course 318, speed 10 knots. (A/C G. Sqdn., 1450/14.) S/M position 62° 50' N. 20° 50' W. checked by landfall. (A/C Duty G, 1715/14.)

Navigational.

Wreck Buoy. Wreck light buoy in 053° 15'24" N. 001° 03'30" E. extinguished. (QUORN, 0649/14.)

Blyth. Port open both ways. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 0720/14.)

Peterhead. Peterhead harbour open. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0835/14.)

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0856A/14.) Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1300A/14.)

Yarmouth. Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0916A/14.) My 0916A/14. Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1511A/14.)

Lowestoft. Lowestoft closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1016A/14.) My 1016A/14. Lowestoft now open. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1510A/14.)

/Jan ...



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational - Contd.

Jan Mayen. Your 0028A/12. To what approximate distance does ice extend from Jan Mayen.  
(D.O.D. H., 1431A/14 to A.C.I.C.)

Tyne. Port of Tyne will be closed until further orders during the hours of darkness on account of a wreck in position 233° 540 yards from North Pier Light. Traffic during daylight at slow speed will be permitted in favourable weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1800A/14.)

Casualties and Defects.

YORKWOOD. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1137A/13. Code word "Saxhorn" diverted to Liverpool. Amend paras. (b) and (d).  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0933/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

TOLTEN. Following received from TOLTEN begins:-  
N.C.S.O. Swansea. Please send tug to meet ship Mumbles Head.  
(Burnham Radio, 1018/14.)

FERRY KING. Regret to report FERRY KING on passage from Padstowe to Appledore overdue.  
Air search is being carried out.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1144A/14.)

→ BRABO. S.S. BRABO, damaged in collision, entering Tyne in tow of tugs at 0943 today has grounded just inside entrance 233° 540 yards from North Pier Light. Traffic during daylight should be possible at slow speed in fair weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1445/14.)

→ POZNAN. S.S. POZNAN in collision with S.S. BRABO entering Tyne at 0955 today. Stem damaged, bulkhead holding. Berthed at river moorings.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1730/14.)

IRISH PLANE (British, 4670 tons.) Following received at 2147 G.M.T. de IRISH PLANE. Send tugs immediately. Ship on rocks southerly end Mull of Kintyre. S O S and alter position 2 miles Storrhead.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 2254/14.)



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- Straits of Dover. A.M. 1143/13. Shipping should now be routed through Dover Strait by the searched channels. (V.A. Dover, 0807A/14.)
- Q.P. B. Q.P.(B). Severe ice and weather conditions have brought breaking out operations to a standstill. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0846A/14.)
- P.Q. 12. All P.Q.12 now here and being berthed except EL OCCIDENTE expected shortly and SEVZAPLES no news.  
(2) STONE STREET damaged. STEPAN KHALTOURIN amidships above waterline, STONE STREET apparently not damaged.  
(3) On arrival of P.Q.12 balance of cargo not cleared from port area under 1500 tons.  
(Cormack, 0906A/14 to Admty.)  
H.M. Trawler STEFA and Russian SEVZAPLES arrived Kola Inlet. P.Q.12 complete. EL OCCIDENTE remaining Iokanka until ice conditions improve.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1649A/14.)
- HALLAREN. Following is substance of my 1022A/14. Red Cross Ship HALLAREN now due Faeroes 15/3 from Gothenburg.  
(F.O.S., 1024A/14 to TRIDENT.)
- S.C. 71. S.C.71. Average speed 6.77 knots. Heavy easterly gale and fog off Newfoundland Bank, otherwise good weather. One straggler 1st March. All ships now arrived.  
(D.T.D., 1226A/14 to Opnav.)
- Q.P. 8. My 1924A/13. Q.P.8 sailing postponed 14 hours  
R.U.15. owing to weather.  
(A.C.I.C., 1306A/14.)  
R.U.15 and Q.P. 8. To strengthen A/S escort suggest that convoys combine. If you concur request you will issue necessary orders to escorts. In this case the route taken by Q.P. 8 is to be followed.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1916A/14 to A.C.I.C.)
- Q.P. 16. Cancel A.M. 1802A/13. HELENCREST now required  
HELENCREST. for P.Q. 16.  
(D.T.D., 1805A/14.)



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- "S" Report. Following has been received on 500 kc/s.  
SSSS X 331. 20° 00' N., 34° 10' W. gave X 331  
T.O.R. 0235 De Z.B.1.  
(? 0412/14) X 331 - Part of message missed.
- Movements. \*CROMER, \*POOLE, \*SEAHAM arrived Ponta Delgada 1030  
G.M.T./14. THYME and BOSTON left 0900 G.M.T.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0907/14 to S.O.(I)  
Gibraltar). *See also p. 451*
- BELLWORT. Your 1330A/13 BELLWORT was detached for escort  
duty. \*E.T.A. Freetown 14/3.  
(F.O.I.C. West Africa 0918Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A.  
C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty). \* *arrived - See p. 452*
- Ships in Portuguese waters. Commodore Londonderry's 1611A/13 (N.T. in W.D.)  
Ships concerned should be warned only 3 may  
be in harbour at the same time.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1155/14 to Admty) W.R. Note:  
H.M. Trawlers HILDASAY, PLADDA, SLUNA, SHAPINSAY.  
*See p. 441*
- BULOLO, CALIFORNIA, BATTERY. Sit. 2002A/14 BULOLO, CALIFORNIA, escorting  
BATTERY 024° 10' 028° 56' 348° 14½.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1328A/14 to A.I.G.65).
- S.B.R. Ops/839 14/3, serial No. G68. Institute submer-  
ged bombing restrictions (1) Area 51, S. of 050°  
N., and E. of 005° 40' W., from 1800/15 until  
0100/16. (2) Area 53, N., of 049° 20' N., from  
1900/15 until 1700/16. (3) Area 41 from 0600/16  
until 1000/17.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1450A/14 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, (R)  
F.O.C.N.A., S.8).
- STAD HAARLEM, TOMBOUCTOU. Your 1917A/12. STAD HAARLEM will be ready for sea  
about 7/4 and TOMBOUCTOU about one week later.  
(Brit. Con. Ponta Delgada, 1604/14 to Admty).
- UNIQUE, THUNDERBOLT. Arrival 1514 UNIQUE, 1627, THUNDERBOLT.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1652A/14 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med.  
N.O.I.C. Malta etc).
- H. G. 80 Sailed H.G.80 escorted by STORK, PELICAN,  
SAMPHIRE, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, GARDENIA, ASPHODEL,  
MAPLIN. Local, WISHART, WHITEHALL, CAMPION,  
MALLOW.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1750A/14 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

H.G.80  
Contd.

(1) H.G.80. (2) 1800A/14. (4) Speed of slowest ship, 8 knots. (5) (1) 036° 30' N., 010° 00' W. (m) 40.00, 21.00. (n) 50.30, 21.00. (o) 55.15, 12.00 thence split in position (z) 55.30, 08.00. (F.O.C.N.A., 1958A/14 to Admty).

Pointe Noire.

Report number gallons distilled water which can be made available monthly. 400 gallons monthly may be required.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1831A/14 to N.O.I.C. Pointe Noire, C. in C. S.A., F.O.S.)

South Atlantic.

CONTE GRANDE  
(Italian).

Rio de Janeiro broadcast 12/3 stated American crew had arrived by air to take over CONTE GRANDE, 1 of the vessels commandeered by U.S. Govt. CONTE GRANDE left Santa 26/2 for St. Croix Virgin Islands.  
(D.S. 921, 14/3).

RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION sailed E.T.A. Grand Port 0400Z/19 S. of A 13½ knots routed through 027° 20' S., 046° 10' E.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0030Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius, Admty. C. in C. E.F. etc).

Ascension  
garrison.

No. 76125 Cipher (M.O.4) 13/3/42.  
1. Relief British garrison Ascension by U.S. confirmed.  
2. Personnel (1 officer 42 O.Rs) will not be withdrawn until relieved by Coast Defence element of U.S. force.  
3. Coast Defence guns all spare parts accessories and ammunition will be handed over. 4. Not yet known whether Coast Defence element is included in U.S. advanced detachment arriving Ascension approx. 25/3. 5. Confirmation para. 4 and instructions for transport British garrison and financial instructions regarding handover will follow.  
6. Ascension Volunteer Defence Force will remain as sole British force under operational control U.S. Commander.  
(W.O. 0130/14 to O.C. Troops, St.Helena).

/CHINA...



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CHINA MAIL. Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1145/12. CHINA MAIL arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0958B/14)

GASCONY "R" report. At 0134 G.M.T. 28/2. GASCONY in 5° 40' S., 30° 30' W., heard following signal on 500 kc/s. RRR 00. 27 N., 40.24 W. Remainder unintelligible. Unable associate here with any other information. (C. in C. S.A., 1003Z/14 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) B.A.D. Washington) W.D. Note. S.O.(I) Freetown's 1749Z/12 appeared to indicate this "R" report was timed 0134 G.M.T./12/3.

QUEEN MARY. Capetown arrival 0600Z/14. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1010Z/14 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. etc).

QUEEN MARY arrived Capetown today and will probably sail p.m./15 for Fremantle. Fuelling and watering ex DALFONN proceeding satisfactorily. Passages have been arranged for Gen. Blamey who has arrived from Egypt and all officers accompanying him.etc. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1109Z/14 to D. of S.T.)

CROMER, POOLE, SEAHAM. F.O.C.N.A., 1450A/13. From position (F) passing through (G) 015° 00' N., 021° 30' W., (T) 010° 00' N., 018° 00' W., thence to Freetown. (R.A. W. Africa, 1237Z/14 to CROMER).

CARTHAGE, ROCKROSE, BERGAMOT, S.T.16. CARTHAGE with DEMPO from position 005° 20' S., 005° 00' E., is to pass through the following positions. (a) 000° 30' N., 008° 00' W. (b) 002° 00' N., 011° 20' W. (c) 007° (?40') N., (?015°) 20' W. thence to Freetown, omitting positions (m) and (n).

2. S.T.16 is to disperse at dusk 16/3 ROCKROSE and BERGAMOT then to R/V with CARTHAGE and escort to Freetown. Estimate CARTHAGE will pass through position (a) at 1200Z/17. ROCKROSE pass to Cmdre. (R.A. W. Africa, 1241/14 to CARTHAGE, ROCKROSE, BERGAMOT, (R) Admty).

Argentine Ships, purchase. I am reliably informed that Argentine Government have completed purchase of following 5 Argentine vessels:- COMODORO RIVADVIA, MADRYN, SANTA FE ex German ANATOLIA, BELGRANO ex German NIENBURG, SAN MARTIN ex German LAHN. All these vessels are statutory Lloyds. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1302Z/14 to Proximo).

/DESPATCH...



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DESPATCH. DESPATCH has one fan engine in B Boiler Room out of action, cannot be repaired at Freetown. Full speed reduced to 20 knots. Ship is due for refit end of March. 2. Propose to sail DESPATCH forthwith for Bermuda to refit, Capt. Douglas Pennant to turn over Command to Cdr. Appleton on arrival and proceed U.K. by Air. 3. Capt. Shirley Rollison could then proceed as convenient to Bermuda to take up appointment in Command. A.M's 2033/23/2 refer. 4. Cdr., Feint R.N.R. will be embarked in DESPATCH my 1303/11/3 refers.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1305Z/14 to Admty).

Congo Lt. Col. Mackenzie who is returning to U.K. in  
Patrol. CALIFORNIA on completion of his attachment to Gen. Ermens in Belgian Congo points out increasing importance of Congo traffic both inward and outward and necessity of some unison of seaward patrols both for A/S marine purposes and control of shipping. I fully concur and suggest half a flotilla of 110 foot M/Launches would be required and that these should be reinforced by motor minesweepers when available. Lt. Col. Mackenzie has full details of requirements. Request he may be consulted.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1310Z/14 to Admty).

CILICIA. Falkland Island arrival 14/3 CILICIA.  
(N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1413Z/14 to Admty).

Lagos Your 2021/12. Diversion Libreville-Kotonou into  
cables. Lagos is to be carried out direct for which LADY DENISON PENDER picked up 60 miles of Dakar-Fernando Noronha cable.  
Your 2027/28/12/1941 contains no proposal to utilise Lagos-Kotonou for this purpose which is considered undesirable. Request ship be instructed to restore Lagos-Kotonou and carry out diversion as originally planned. Master has full instructions from Cable and Wireless Ltd. where and how to effect diversion.  
(D.S.D., 1505A/14 to C. in C. S.A.)

C. in C. S.A. Intend to sail from Freetown at 1600Z/16 in AST-  
move from URIAS passing through 007° 30' N., 016° 00' W.  
Freetown. thence to Ascension. E.T.A. 1300Z/19 sailing same evening direct for Simonstown, E.T.A. 1200Z/26.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1700Z/14 to Admty. (R) R.A. W.A. ASTURIAS, N.O.I.C. Simonstown, Magistrate Ascension).

Movements. Arrival 13/3 HYDRANGEA, Departure 14/3 WIVERN,  
AUBRETIA, TAMARISK, BURDOCK, WALLFLOWER with S.L. 103. Arrival 14/3\*BELLWORT, GENISTA, VIOLET.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1850Z/14 to Admty F.O.C.N.A.  
C. in C. W.A. S.O.W.P.)  
WALLFLOWER and BURDOCK sailed with S.L. 103 for U.K. Request C. in C. W.A. will detach as necessary and give destinations.  
(R.A.W. Africa 2130Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.) \* Sum p 469



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.GEORGIC  
towing.My 2201/10 para 2. N.O.I.C. Aden reports tow  
proceeding at 3 knots due off Aden a.m./15.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 0046B/14 to D.S.T.)M.W.11.,  
WAIWERA.Your 1402/12. WAIWERA may be released forthwith  
as CITY OF PRETORIA can be made available at  
Suez by 31/3.  
(D. of S.T., 0411A/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

Movements.

Departures 13/3 KELVIN, JERVIS, DIDO, KIPLING,  
HASTY, EURYALUS, KINGSTON, HERO.  
Arrivals 14/3 DULVERTON, HYACINTH, SOUTHERN ISLES,  
PROTEA. Departures 14/3 SIKH, ZULU, ~~ALIVELY~~  
~~PHAVOCK~~. (confirmed by ~~Task~~ ~~List~~)  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1043B/14 to Admt. C. in C.  
Med).

Enemy Units.

1 merchant ship, 1 destroyer 165° Lampion 36  
miles 350° 6 knots at 0954B.  
(Capt. S.10., 1047B/14 to SOKOL,UNA) See also  
1711/14. *See also next page*

Air Report.

A.655, 14/3. B.1 - Weekly Opsum No.3.  
(a) Night 10/11 March. 11 Wellingtons Benghazi  
Harbour, 1 Wellington anti-submarine patrol Western  
Desert Coast, nil sighting. Night 11/12. 15 Wellingtons  
Benghazi of which 12 returned owing to bad weather, 2 Wellingtons  
anti-submarine patrol Matruh area nil sighting. Night 12/13.  
4 Wellington Piraeus Docks 1 Wellington alternative target  
Tymbaki aerodrome Crete. 2 Wellingtons anti-submarine patrol  
Western Desert Coast, nil sighting.  
(d) 11/3 enemy aircraft active against shipping off Western  
Desert Coast. 12/3 enemy aircraft active against Tobruk Coastal  
shipping and Matruh. Single S.79 attacked Taizerbo area N.W.  
Kufra. 13/3 enemy aircraft attacked Tobruk and shipping off  
Daba.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1052/14).ALBARO  
(Italian)  
PRODROMUS  
(German  
ex-Greek).My 1116B/13. Vessels still here, no indication  
at present when they will sail. Following report  
graded A.2. Turkish Patrol Vessel sighted two  
Russian submarines on surface A.M. 11/3. 3 miles  
off Bosphorus entrance. Two submarine conning  
towers sighted again A.M.12/3. Patrol Vessel both  
occasions immediately returned and has not since  
been out, presumably in order to avoid possible  
incidents. Am seeking further details.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1258B/14 to S.O.(I) Med., for  
N.L.O. Black Sea (R) D.N.I.)

/Enemy...



War Diary.

14.3.1942  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 medium merchant ship 1 destroyer 2 A/C position 344° 31 miles from Lampion course 350° speed 8 knots. Torpedo A/C attack during the night.  
(V.A. Malta, 1711B/14 to SOKOL) *See previous page.*

Malta Air Report. CSR 14/3 13/3. Alert 1451 hrs. 7 Me. 10's Ju. 88 fighters up, no combat. Night 13/14. 3 alerts 1741, 1955, 0520 hrs. 7 raiders, bombs land sea, Beaufighter up, no interceptions, A.A. fired.  
14th. 4 alerts 0626, 0735, 0835, 1117, 58 Me. 109 Ju. 88 most activity rescue work. Hal Far, 1 Hurricane write off, other aircraft slight damage, M/T damaged, numerous craters Aerodrome U.X.Bs. Spitfires probably destroyed one Me. 109 and damaged 2 others, other Me. 109s. hit. H.A.A. destroyed 1 Me. 109 and probably 1 Ju. 88. Night 13/14, one Wellington IV attacked shipping Tripoli Harbour 0000 to 0025 hrs. Bursts seen main quay Spanish Fort, Mole.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1730/14).

Jibuti. 76243 cipher (M.O.5) 14/3.  
Ref. Mideast's 57987 of 5/2 to F.O. from Minister of State.  
1. Following is text of first para. of F.O. telegram 351 of 11/3 to Minister of State's Office. (Begins). H.M.G. have decided that negotiations should not be opened with Vichy over Jibuti. In reaching this decision they have been influenced by following considerations:- (a) Land forces are not effective in preventing Jibuti from obtaining its essential supplies, and their withdrawal would enable one brigade group to go into the reserve for East Africa, where it is badly needed. (b) No reason to believe that acceptable terms could be obtained from Vichy French who are well aware of the weakening of the sea Blockade. (c) Undesirable to tie our hands by the conclusion of any agreement with Vichy French over Jibuti (Ends)  
2. In these circumstances military forces on land frontiers of French Somaliland, including Free French forces, should be withdrawn leaving only normal frontier posts, subject to arrangements being made to ensure that Ethiopia - Jibuti railway remains closed.  
3. Position is being explained to Free French National Committee.  
(W.O. 1740/14 to G.O.C. in C. East Africa (R) C. in C. M.E.)

Shipping, crew trouble. Ref. Consul General, Alexandria, Mast 14, 13/3  
Am convinced from my own experience when addressing men that deadlock has been reached. If their attitude is allowed to continue unrest may spread to other British and Allied seamen which would seriously affect turn round of shipping. I strongly support Consul General appeal for immediate introduction of compulsory powers. (P.S.T.O. Egypt. 1750B/14 to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. Med).  
Consul General has made final appeal to M.W.T. London for powers of compulsion over crews ex SHUNTIEN who persist in demands for repatriation to U.K. under alleged terms of U.K. agreement. (2) Request this appeal may have immediate support of Admty. it being intolerable that this blatant evasion of national service should be possible when all man power is conscripted. (3) Circumstances were reported in my 1120/20/1 to D. of S.T. (C. in C. Med., 2028B/14 to Admty) /M.W.11...



War Diary14. 3. 1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.W.11. Your 1614/13. EMPIRE ORIOLE and EMPIRE PINTAIL are bound for Australia. EMPIRE EGRET and EMPIRE FULMAR are not expected empty at Colombo before about 25/3. 2. It appears unlikely that CITY OF CALCUTTA can be available in Egypt by the end of March but P.S.T.O. India is requested to confirm. 3. Regretted that MELBOURNE STAR and DORSET cannot be made available for M.W.11 which can therefore comprise only AJAX, AAGTEKERK, ELISABETH BAKKE, CITY OF PRETORIA and possibly CITY OF CALCUTTA. (D.S.T., 2112A/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

DORSET,  
MELBOURNE  
STAR,  
BURMA.

P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1835/11.  
Confirmed DORSET and MELBOURNE STAR are to be used for "Stepsister 3".  
2. No objection to use of BURMA for Balance of personnel provided C. in C. E.I. and C. in C. E.F. agree from escort point of view.

3. If Cs. in C. do not agree propose personnel be transhipped at Bombay or Colombo to a faster ship for the onward passage to Australia. P.S.T.O. India should advise what arrangements could be made.

(D.S.T., 2113A/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt. P.S.T.O. India).



Ext. 705.

Historical Section.

Record Office.

14th December, 9.

Can a copy be supplied, please, of a signal from S.O. Force V, 1751, 12/3/42, on the subject of Eastern Fleet policy. This is referred to in C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 1005Z of 14/3/42 to the Admiralty.

*e.H.H.*

for HEAD OF HISTORICAL SECTION.

R.O. Hayes telephoned to say that the signal 1005Z of 14/3/42 is noted that signal 1751 of 12/3/42 - 'No trace in W.R., action being taken to obtain signal' They will look through the HUSH for that date. M.O.A. 15/12/59.

*RO phoned 16/12 - no trace in HUSH, and no trace that copy of 1751/12/3/42 was obtained.*



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Christmas Island. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 36. No communication through here with Christmas Island since 3/3 and fate of garrison unknown. Have you any information as to situation on Island, e.g. whether demolitions complete? If not can you obtain it?

2. Do you consider maintenance of garrison desirable? If so, can you control and maintain either direct or through O.C. Troops, Cocos?

3. G.O.C. Ceylon please pass C. in C. E.F. (W.O., 0100/14 to C. in C. India, G.O.C. Ceylon.)

CORNWALL. My 0401/26 para. 4. Request CORNWALL be sailed for Colombo. (C. in C. E.F., 0320Z/14 to A.C.N.B.)

"Q" Report. SHWEDAGON. Q Q Q Q received from SHWEDAGON in position 007° 22' N. 075° 54' at 0324Z/14th. (2) Several merchant ships but no H.M. Ships in vicinity. (C. in C. E.I., 0421Z/14 to E.I. Sqdn., (R) Admty.) "Q" cancelled see 0256/15.

"Q" Report. JALARATNA. Q Q Q Q received at 0514Z/14 from JALARATNA in position 006° 50' N. 077° 28' E. (C. in C. E.I., 0611Z/14 to E. Indies Sqdn. (R) Admty.) "Q" cancelled see 0256/15.

Eastern Fleet, policy. S.O. Force V 1751/12th. I fully concur with S.O. Force V's appreciation. 2. So often in this war we have expended our resources on operations in the face of superior enemy air or surface forces, and the operations have not brought compensating successes. 3. It would be folly to repeat these mistakes and risk our fleet in action with superior enemy forces in the defence of Ceylon, or other, until they have had some time for training together. 4. The whole of our cause in the Indian Ocean must depend on Eastern Fleet being kept in being. The crippling of this Fleet would of course make the loss of Ceylon almost a certainty but far more important it will open our vital supply lines both oil and to the Middle East to any enemy raiding force which cared to move to the westward. 5. I have already referred to the necessity of closer co-operation between Eastern Fleet and our defensive amenities of Allies, and no further emphasis by me is required on this matter. (C. in C. E.F., 1005Z/14 to Admty., (R) S.O. Force V, C. in C. E.I., F.O. 2 in C. E.F.)

/WARSPITE ...



# MOST SECRET

456A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0547Z/14th March IN

From: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Date 26.3.42.  
Time 1359.

Naval Cypher (Old) (C) by W/T and T/P CORRECTION

Addressed: S.O. Force T. H.M.S. GLASGOW Repeated C. in C.  
East Indies. S.O. Force 'V' F.C. 2nd i/c E.F. N.O.I.C.  
Durban N.O.I.C. Simonstown C. in C. South Atlantic.  
Admiralty

IMPORTANT.

720

H.M.S. GLASGOW is to leave Colombo A.M. March 15th and arrive Durban A.M. March 24th for escort of W.S.16 as far as Mombasa.

2. S.O. Force 'T' is requested to sail H.M.S. NEWCASTLE to arrive Colombo as soon as possible after arrival of W.S.16 at Durban.

0547Z/14

Advance Copy D.C. D.T.D.,

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

*Recd 1-4-1942*



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

WARSPITE,  
GRIFFIN,  
ARROW.

Cancel my 1305/12 (N.T. in W.R.) GRIFFIN and ARROW are to be sailed to R/V with WARSPITE in 006° 10' S. 079° 24' E. at 0200Z/19 after refuelling at Addu Atoll. 2. Capt. (D) 2 is to arrange departure direct with Capic and report intended programme. (C. in C. E.F., 1159Z/14 to Capt. D.2, (R) C. in C. E.I., R.A.3, WARSPITE, etc.)

MAURITIUS.

When ready for service about 10/5 MAURITIUS will leave U.K. to rejoin Eastern Fleet. (D.O.D.(H), 1339A/14 to C. in C. E.F.)

East  
Africa.

Conclusion re defence requirements, E. African bases. (1st S.L., 1442A/14 to C. in C. E.I., (R) C. in C. E.F.) See Lion Copy.

COLOMBO.

A.M. 1708A/26/1. COLOMBO will be taken in hand at Devonport. Request proposed programme. (D.O.D.(F), 1540A/14 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., COLOMBO.)



**MOST SECRET**MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E 1442A/14th March.  
OUT.Addressed : C. in C. East Indies, 173.  
Repeated : C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 876.

Date : 14.3.42.

NAVAL CYPHER O.T.T.

From : Admiralty.

Following from Chiefs of Staff addressed G.O.C.  
in C. East Africa, C. in C. East Indies, repeated  
A.O.C. in C. Mideast, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, A.O.C.  
207 Group, East Africa.1. Following conclusions made regarding defence  
requirements East African Bases.2. Mombasa.(a) Functions. Dockyard and repair facilities  
Capital ship floating dock may be berthed Kilindini  
if so port will become vital. Important ammunition  
storage and oil fuel depot. Important Convoy  
assembly and commercial port. Naval Section and  
reserve aircraft storage Port Reitz. Important  
Cable Station and land Aerodromes. Flying boat  
Base up to one Squadron.(b) Scale of attack. Raids about 30 T.S.R.  
from carrier. Brief bombardment cruiser with 12  
inch guns or lesser guns and smaller vessels.  
Smash burn raids small landing forces.(c) Air raid Intelligence. One T.R.U two C.O.L  
one G.C.I.(d) Air Base Facilities. One fighter Squadron  
increased to two if floating dock installed. One  
Squadron flying boats. G/R or T/B Aircraft.  
Facilities at Tanga and Zanzibar to operate up one  
flight G/R or T/B Aircraft based on Mombasa.(e) A.A. Gun Defences. 16 heavy, 12 light.(f) A.A. Searchlights. Six.(g) Naval Defences. A/B Boom A/T Baffle.(h) Coast Artillery. Three 6 inch (45 degree)  
two A.M.T.B. Fire Units.(i) Operational Control Facilities. Sector  
Operations room with filtering facilities for  
initiating air raid warnings. Full V.H.F. R/T  
and Fixer Facilities. Operations Room to be  
linked with Dar-Es-Salaam. G.O.R.

/Dar-El-Salaam.....

**MOST SECRET**



3. Dar-El-Salaam.
- (a) Functions. Bunkering and commercial Port. May be used occasionally by Cruisers and light craft. Cable Station. Aerodrome and flying boat operational base up to 3 Aircraft.
- (b) Scale of attack. As for Mombasa.
- (c) Air Raid Intelligence. One T.R.U. one C.O.L., one G.C.I.
- (d) Air Base Facilities. One Squadron Fighters. G/R or T/B Aircraft. Up to 3 flying boats.
- (e) A.A. Gun Defences. 8 Heavy, 8 light.
- (f) Naval Defences. A/S Patrols.
- (g) Coast Artillery. Two 6 inch Naval.
- (h) Operational Control Facilities. G.O.R. and Fighter Operations Room combined. Full V.H.F. R/T and fixer facilities.
4. Mandi.
- (a) Functions. Aerodrome and flying boat operational base up to 3 Aircraft.
- (b) Scale of Attack. As for Mombasa.
- (c) Air Raid Intelligence. One T.R.U. one C.O.L.
- (d) Air Base Facilities. G/R or T/B aircraft and up to 3 flying boats.
- (e) A.A. Gun Defences. 4 light for Aerodrome.
- (f) Information centre to provide early warning required.
5. Scales A.A. Artillery for Mombasa and Dar-El-Salaam includes requirements protection aerodromes.
6. Anti-invasion garrisons. Responsibility G.O.C. in C. East Africa.
7. War Office informing other addressees.

1442A/14

Sec. to 1st S.I.

1st Lord.  
 1st S.I.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 N.A. 1st S.I.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 E.P.S.  
 Hd. of M. (39).  
 I.P. (2)  
 N.I.D. 10.

W.D.  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 D. of L.D. (2)  
 Adm. Bellairs.

N.P.

SECRET



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S.C. 74,  
O.N.S. 70.  
U/B. S.C. 74 serial 3, this is first serial to you.  
O.N.S. 70 serial 8, bearings of submarine  
transmission indicate you may have been sighted.  
Approx. position 041° 00' N., 060° 30' W.  
(Opnav, 0029Z/14 to C.T.U. No. 24.18.5 and 24.18.2.  
(R) C.T.F. No. 24, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax,  
F.O.N.F., Admty., C.T.U. No. 24.1.15).

O.N.S. 70 serial 9, S.C. 74 serial 4, submarines contact reported  
in approx. 043° 30' N., 060° 00' W. indicate you have been  
sighted. (Opnav, 0219Z/14 to C.T.U. No. 24.18.5, C.T.U. No.  
24.18.2., (R) C.T.F. No. 24., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F.,  
C.O.A.C. Halifax, Admty., C.T.U. No. 24.(?1).15).

S.S.  
QUEEN Arrived San Francisco 13th.  
ELIZABETH. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0050Z/14 to D.S.T., B.A.D.,  
C.O.P.C.)

Movements. St. John's N.F. 13/3. Arrivals VANOC, SASKATOON  
ex S.C. 73. PRUDENT ex standing by DIALA.  
Departures\* UNTAWA to Halifax. MAHONE to join  
O.N. 72. (F.O.N.F., 0235Z/14 to Admty.)

\* Not identified

CAPETOWN You should arrive destination before dark 18/3 if  
CASTLE. possible. Your entrance into harbour will not be  
delayed. (Navycom, Bermuda, 0253 G.M.T/14, to  
CAPETOWN CASTLE).

U/B. D/F bearings indicate submarine within 60 miles  
39.30 N., 73.30 W. at 0022/14 and 0419Z/14.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0856Z/14 to Admty.)

U/B. Following intercepted. S.S. ATENAS sighted  
submarine 0545, position 25.15 (?N) 79.40 (?W).  
(Navycom, Bermuda, 1028P/14 to Admty.)

ARCHER. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2354/11 not to C. in C. S.A.  
Please inform me of route issued to ARCHER. B.A.D.  
pass to Com. E.S.F. and C. in C. U.S. Fleet.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1042P/14 to Com. E.S.F., (R)  
C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., B.A.D., C. in C. S.A.)

SARPEDON, Your 1650R/12. Request you endeavour to arrange  
accommodation on these lines. No further action will be taken  
for Chinese. about guard from Jamaica pending further report  
from you. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1052P/14 to  
C.S.A. Colon, (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Captain  
in Charge, Jamaica, Ministry of War Transport,  
New York.)

Your 1103P/11 C.S.A. Colon's 1818R/10 and 1650R/12. After  
consultation with owners action proposed in C.S.A. Colon's  
1818R/10 is preferred. It is not desired to accommodate  
recalcitrant Chinese in SARPEDON.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1340A/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/ U/B. ...



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

- U/B. D/F bearing indicating submarine within 60 miles 38.30 N., 75° W. at 0349Z and 0410Z/14. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1103Z/14 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)
- U.S. Ships torpedoed. My 1155/7 and your 1246/12. U.S. Merchant ship casualties week ending 14/3.
- | Name  | Date | Form of attack | Position.                                 |
|---|------|----------------|---|
| REPUBLIC  | 22/2 | Torpedo        | 10' N., of Jupiter Light Florida.         |
| CARDONIA  | 7/3  | Torpedo        | Off St. Nicholas' Mole, Windward passage. |
| BARBARA   | 7/3  | Torpedo        | 20° N., 76° W.                            |
| INDEPENDENCE HALL                               | 8/3  | Shelled        | West Bar, Sable Island.                   |
| GULF TRADE                                      | 10/3 | Torpedo        | Off New Jersey Coast.                     |
| CARIBSEA  | 11/3 | Torpedo        | 10' E. of Cape Lookout Lt. Virginia.      |
| <i>Norwegian</i> CHARLES RACINE <i>ref. 461</i> | 11/3 | Torpedo        | 2° N. 63° W.                              |
| OLGA <i>not identified</i>                      | 12/3 | Torpedo        | N. of Puerto Padre, Cuba.                 |
- (B.A.D., 1131Q/14 to Admty.)
- U/B. D/F bearings indicate S/M within 100 miles 14.30 N. 64.30 W. at 0437Z/14. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1150Z/14 to Admty., etc.)
- O.N. 75. No ships for North American ports. Western Local Escort not required. 2. Recommend omit position L. Convoy continue course from J through K and disperse at escorts prudent limit of endurance. (D.T.D., 1220A/14 to Opnav, C.T.F. 24).
- Bunkers, Colon, Balboa. Your 1359A/20/2. In view of persistence of U-Boat situation, propose bunkering of ships at Colon and Balboa should continue. C.S.A. Colon reports stock of diesel and furnace oil now approx. equal at both ends of canal. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1222P/14 to Admty.)
- Grounding of HOEGH SCOUT. My 1202P/13. Merritt Chapman Scott U.S. Naval Salvage Service have offered to send salvage vessel from Key West. Lloyds form of Salvage agreement, no cure, no pay. I have accepted and asked for vessel to be sent immediately. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1243P/14 to Admty.)
- M.A.R.I. Amendment No.1. (D.T.D., 1257A/14 to C. in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., etc.) See Lion Copy.



SECRET

MESSAGE

CUT

A+W.T. I

1257A/14 March

ADDRESSED. C. in C. America and West Indies 855  
Date 14.3.42

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 240  
 C.O.A.C. Halifax  
 F.O.C.N.A. 870  
 C. in C. South Atlantic 977  
 F.O.I.C. Simonstown 316  
 S.O. (1) Jamaica  
 B.A.D. Washington 52  
 A.C. I.C. 900

Naval Code (N one) & (N two) Secret.

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FROM Admiralty.

NOTE

Pass to F.O.'s i/c and N.C.S.O.'s.  
 Mercantile Atlantic Routing Instructions (M.A.R.I) -  
 Amendment No. 1.

Section 1 para. 4. First sentence for "stragglers from  
 convoy" read "stragglers from Atlantic convoys". Delete  
 words "laid down - Article 78".

In "for S.C. and H.X. convoys in 15 degrees West" substitute  
 "10 degrees West".

Section 1 para 5. For "Homeward bound" substitute "U.K.  
 bound" in two places.

Section 1 para. 7 Cancel whole present paragraph.

Section 1 para. 12 Delete "If routed north of Rockall -  
 17 degrees West".

Section 1 para. 13 Amend to read:- "addressees. If routed  
 through Minches, signals should also be repeated to S.O.N.P.  
 Trawlers, Kirkwall".

Section 1 para. 15 First sentence after "U.K" insert words  
 "or U.S.A." and delete word "abroad". Second sentence  
 after "Admiralty" insert words "or Navy Department (whichever  
 is appropriate)".

Section 1 para. 16 Second sentence for "ships arriving  
 in the U.K." read "ships sailed independently to U.K."

Section 1 para. 17 Cancel whole paragraph.

Section 2 para. 3 Cancel whole paragraph.

Section 2 para. 5 (i b) For "homeward" read "U.K. bound".

Section 2 para. 7 For "inward" read "U.K. bound".

Section 2 para 11 Transfer to Section 1 and renumber  
 "Paragraph 7". Delete sub-paras. (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v)  
 and substitute:-

"(ii) Reference positions should be selected so that as  
 many latitudes and longitudes are given to cover a wide



area without duplication either of Reference or Route latitudes or longitudes, observing that the only limit to diversions is the respective coast lines. If double letters have to be used, they should be the same letters i.e. AA.

(iii) Officers issuing routing instructions should try to envisage difficulties of diversion Officers in Admiralty and Navy Department when large diversions have to be made and fit in their reference positions accordingly. On the other hand, it is not desired to make too large a number of reference positions owing to the need for brevity in signals.

Renumber sub-paras. (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x) - (iv, (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii).

Section 3 para. 12 For "homeward bound" substitute "U.K. bound" three times. Delete "(h) Now that no - Route signal".

Section 2 para. 13 First sentence insert "British managed" before word "ships".

Section 4 paras 2, 3 and 7 Cancel whole paragraphs.

Section 4 para. 12 (a) First sentence after word "All." insert "British managed".

1257A/14

for D.T.D. (983)

- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1 S.L.
- Ops. (3)
- C.I.C. (2)
- D. of S. 2A
- D.T.D. (25)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D. of S.T. (2)
- I.P. (3)
- D.A/S.V.
- W.D.
- C.D. (5)
- A.E. (3)



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- N.A.5. EMPRESS OF CANADA and ORBITA escorted by NICHOLSON and SWANSON sailed 1100Z/14. (U.S.N.O.B. Halifax, 1410Z/14 to C.T.F.24).
- Pacific Convoy. Following U.S. ships sailed Los Angeles 11/3 in Convoy for Honolulu 20/3. W.F.BURDELL, TYDOLGAS, SHENANDOAH, DURANGO, L.L.ABSHIRE, R.D.LEONARD, PONCA CITY (Corrupt Group) A. GULF QUEEN, TOPIA, CAMDEN. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1417Z/14 to D.N.I. Wellington).
- LILY. Admty. 2348A/21/2. LILY (Greek) overdue Halifax since 9/3. (N.S.H.Q. 1458Z/14 to Admty., etc.)
- S.C.73, H.X.179. In view of 2002Z/13 from Comtask Unit 24.1.16 Admty. estimates S.C.73 and H.X.179 may meet tonight. (D.T.D., 1610Z/14 to Opnav).
- OREMAR. Your 2306Z/26/2. Lloyds Agents, New York, report OREMAR now at New Orleans. Have you any news? (D.T.D., 1613A/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)  
Reply: 1922/16.
- Opnav Reports. Following from Opnav addressed C. in C. W.A. (Begins). My 0200/1/3. Request C. in C. U.S. Fleet also be made information addressee 1614Z/12 (ends) 2. This conflicts with second para. of your 1215Q/5 in which you state Opnav and Cominch consider themselves automatically responsible for each other.  
3. Request clarification.  
(D.T.D., 1615A/14 to B.A.D.)
- S/M. Situation. 14/3. 2 M/V's sunk possibly by same submarine 39.21 N. 74.13 W. 0600Z/14, off Barnegat 0630Z/13. Probably 1 other submarine between Cape Henry and New York. Torpedo sighted 36.32 N. 74.44 W. 0915Z/14.  
About 8 submarines in area North of 35° N. and between 50° and 70° W. of which 3 located by D.F. within 50 miles 44° N. 53° W. 0206Z/14., within 100 miles 40° N. 57.30 W. 0008Z/14, within 100 miles 44° N. 64° W. 2306Z/13. 2 Homeward bound within 150 miles of 37° N. 49° W. and 43.30 N. 38.30 W. 1 between Charlestown and Cape Hatteras. 1 26.33 N. 74.43 W. 1635Z/13. 1 sighted 25.15 N. 79.40 W. 0945Z/14, 1 in windward passage. 1 homeward bound N.E. Crooked Island. 1 South of Haiti. 3 by D/F as follows. Within 25 miles 20° N. 65° W. 0545Z/14. Within 100 miles 15° N. 63.30 W. 0437Z/14. Within 100 miles 12° N. 67° W. 0230Z/14. 1 off Guiana position not definite. 4 Eastbound within 150 miles following positions 34° N. 59° W. 21° N. 33° W. 29° N. 52° W. 26.30 N. 51.30 W. No change East of 30° W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1704/14, to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) Various).

/CHARLES ...



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

CHARLES RACINE. Master and 33 other survivors from CHARLES RACINE arrived here yesterday Friday.  
2. Ship was torpedoed at 0300 G.M.T. on 10/3 in 023° 33' N., 060° 10' W.  
3. Master declares all C.B. were thrown overboard in a weighted box.  
4. Master requests instructions regarding pay and disposal of crew, also transfer of funds necessary British Consul. (R.O. San Juan, Porto Rico, 1712/14 to Admty.)

U.S.N. Your 2147/23. Proposals for Reciprocal Exchange exchange of information. Navy Dept. C. in C. U.S.Fleet considers details should be arranged direct between Comtask Force 23 and F.O.I.C.Freetown with ref. to Cinclant and C. in C. S.A. for approval. This procedure in accordance with Agreement reported in my 2021/21/1 to C. in C. S.A. (B.A.D., 1741Q/14 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Freetown).

NORVANA. H.X.175. Your 2012Z/12. NORVANA (U.S.) not in convoy, NORWALK (U.S.) arrived Reykjavik direct 25/2. (D.T.D., 1806A/14 to N.S.H.Q.)

SAVOIE. Censor reveals French S.S. SAVOIE due to sail from Marseilles 27/2 for Oran Casablanca and Dakar, vessel due Dakar 17/3. (C.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1808/14 to S.O.(I) Kingston (Jam.) (R) Admty.)

Ships Attacked by U/B's. Submarine attack Summary. Corrected position BARBARA sinking 8 miles N.W. of Tortuga Island Light 0630Z/7. 34 missing ESSO BOLIVAR attacked Windward Passage 0715Z/8. OLGA sunk 0430Z/12. American COLABEE originally thought to be HELEN torpedoed 22° 10' N. 77° 35' W. 0140Z/13. 11 missing. Salvage being attempted. Chilean TOLTEN reported torpedoed and sunk off Barneget 0630Z/13. One survivor. American JOHN D.GILL sunk by one torpedo 33° 43' N. 77° 36' W. 0312Z/13. TEXAN sunk by one torpedo, two shells. 47 survivors 9 missing. American LEMUEL BURROWS reported sunk 39° 21' N. 74° 13' W. 0600Z/14. Manner of sinking unknown. Concerning Norwegian HVOSLEF survivors state ship sunk by two torpedoes. In future enemy submarine sightings or contacts considered baseless by C. in C. U.S.Fleet will be so indicated in this despatch. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 1835/14 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

/U.S. Forces ...



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

U.S. Forces, Adm. Hoover has 6 destroyers, 1 of which is Dutch, Caribbean. remainder all last war destroyers, (2?) operating with VAN KINSBERGEN and are permanently to work on convoy duties under Adm. Oldendorf at Curacao, as also will 6 new speed boats, Dutch, which are also to protect shuttle service of tankers from Maracaibo to pass Piedras and weather permitting, Convoy as far as Aruba and Curacao. Remaining 3 destroyers are convoying and operating as far as New Orleans. When any of Adm. Ingram's Force are in San Juan, of which 1 cruiser and destroyer leader are here at present, they are under Adm. Hoover's orders and may be utilized by him for operation purposes. 1 new Patrol Vessel 20 knots with asdics arrived today but officers and crew have no experience and need training. For remainder he has to rely entirely on air patrol but is expecting further supply of new patrol vessels and M. T. Bs.

Wishes me to see Adm. Hodges, Trinidad, regarding training of Asdic ratings and is to send submarine to Trinidad for that purpose, which I propose to do tomorrow 15th.

Wish to know if and when ships are torpedoed and break W/T silence by (corrupt group) Senior Officer. They could as well send rough position which should be most helpful to him.

(N.A. Venezuela, 1910/14 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., as repeated 1220Q/16).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

My 2024Z/11. Completion of <sup>Halifax</sup> BALIFAX tug delayed until p.m./18. Probable sailing date 20/3. Every endeavour is being made to avoid further delay. (C.O.A.C., 1911Z/14 to B.A.D., (R) Opnav etc., QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Request you make every effort to utilise accommodation subject to limits set by Admiralty for independent sailings. Ship due to sail from Norfolk 24/3.

(Brit. Army Staff, Washington, 1911Q/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) Admty., D. of S.T., B.A.D.)

S.160, ILEX.

Charleston arrived 1400 G.M.T. 14th S.160, ILEX. (N.S.H.Q., 2018Z/14 to Admty.)

KIWI.

Leave Bermuda A.M/16 and proceed to Kingston Jamaica by direct route through Turks Island and Windward Passage. After fuelling proceed by direct route to Colon for transit of canal. Opnav is requested to direct U.S. Authorities concerned to sail KIWI from Balboa to Auckland N.Z. via San Diego Honolulu and Suva or as desired and to arrange for oil fuel at above mentioned ports. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2033P/14 to KIWI (R) Admty., etc.)

"S" Report.

Following received at 1927 G.M.T. (Begins). SSSS. 36.01 N. 65.49 W. BR. <sup>Resource</sup> (ends). U.S. Plane from Bermuda reported at 0001 G.M.T. 15/3 (begins). A fire believed torpedoed Sub. in vicinity 35.58 N. 66.01 W. (ends). CLARKIA is being sent from Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2153P/14 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., B.A.D., Opnav, S.O.I. Jamaica).



War Diary.14.3.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

U/B. Report received from Nassau, Submarine sighted 3 to 4 miles off S.W. point, San Salvador at 1839 E.S.T. 13/3.  
(Bermuda, 2307P/14 to Admty.)

Convoy Re transmission and distribution.  
Messages. C.T.F. 24 2351Z/14 to Opnav) See Lion Copy.

Australia & New Zealand.

WANGANELLA. Hospital Ship WANGANELLA departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 0605Z/13 for Colombo, E.T.A. 31/3.  
(A.C.N.B., 0042Z/14 to C. in C. E.I., Admty.)

Situation. Digest. Serial No.52 from C.W.R. 13/3.  
(1) Enemy air R/C Melville Is. and Dripstone Cave 7 miles East of Darwin approx. 0400Z/13 by 1 A/C.  
(2) 1 B.17 attacked Vunakanau Aerodrome, Rabaul, at 2035Z/12. Direct hit one aircraft, 2 more probably destroyed on ground, some damage to runway. New Buildings observed West side of runway, 1 large transport at Wharf. 3 large vessels (probably cruisers) 10 small vessels (some probably destroyers) in harbour. 1 destroyer entering harbour. 10 aircraft near runway Vunakanau. Small number of aircraft Lakunai.  
(3) 1 Hudson attacked Gasmata aerodrome 2100Z/12, no aircraft on aerodrome. Dispersal bay off runway bombed. Results not observed. Very heavy A/A fire encountered.  
(4) 1 destroyer, 1 large transport, observed 65 miles S. of Gasmata at 2300Z/12, course E.N.E.  
(5) 5 zero fighters attacked aerodrome Port Moresby at 2234Z/12 with M.G. and cannon fire. 1 civil aircraft destroyed. 1 enemy A/C probably destroyed.  
(6) No shipping observed Gasmata at 2300Z/12.  
(7) Unknown Japanese naval unit moving Rabaul area to position north of Buka Island 12/3.  
(A.C.N.B., 1250Z/14 to Admty., etc.)

S/M's. U.S. Submarine S. 38 and Dutch submarine K.9 arrived after daylight 13/3. Dutch submarine K.8 arrived 0935Z/12. C. in C. E.I. inform C. in C. N.E. Indies of arrival of K.8 and K.9.  
(A.C.N.B., 1856Z/14 to F.O.C. Australian Sqd. C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.) N.O.I.C. Sydney, Cominch, Admty., N.O. Wellington, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., C.O.I.S. Colombo).



SECRET

M E S S A G E

III

From Com Task Force 24

2351Z/14/March.

Date 15.3.42.

U.S.X by Cable

Time 1742.

Addressed OPNAV, repeated C.in C. Lant, C.in C. Western  
Approaches Admiralty F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.

This has been passed to American addressees

C.in C. Western Approaches 1502Z/10 not to all addressees. Considered necessary that following receive despatches (other than those of local and limited interest) originated by escorts during escort of convoy operations: OPNAV C.in C. Lant N.S.H.Q. Com Task Force 24 F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Concur that number addressees necessitates responsibility for distribution subject despatches be assigned to other than escort. Limited communication facilities prevents Com Task For 24 rerouting subject despatches. Recommend following

(1) Assignment indicating groups with following meanings  
(A) (Action OPNAV) Action OPNAV (R) C.in C. Western Approaches Com Task For 24 (B) Action Com Task For 24 (R) OPNAV, C.in C. Western Approaches (C) Action C.in C. Western Approaches (R) Com Task For 24

(2) OPNAV to pass subject messages as appropriate to authorities Western Atlantic as previously listed and C. in C. Western Approaches to pass same to similar authorities Eastern Atlantic. In foregoing recommendations have assumed that despatches west of Chop will be addressed OPNAV for action matters pertaining convoy and to Com Task Force 24 for action matters pertaining escorts operations; East of Chop C. in C. Western Approaches to be action addressee under both categories.

2351Z/14.

/ Presumably 1513Z/10.

1st Lord.	Ops. (3)	D.T.D. (C)
1st S.L.	O.D. (5)	D. A/S W.
V.C.N.S.	O.I.C. (2)	D.S.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of P. (3)	M. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.N.I. (4)	N.I.D. 10. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	A.E. (3)	H.W.R. (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.T.D. (4)	I.P. (3)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (M)	W.D.

/GJ.



War Diary.

14.3.1942.  
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimates of U/B. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1402A/14, 1428A/14).



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 0157 this morning the Destroyer VORTIGERN, escorting 3 ships of Convoy F.S.49, was torpedoed twice by E-Boats off Cromer and sank in 53° 5' 44" N. 1° 22' 20" E. 3 officers and 7 ratings being picked up at 0730 by GUILLEMOT.

It is thought that three groups of E-Boats were operating on the East Coast last night. One of these groups was engaged at about 2245/14 between 54 E. and 54 F Buoys by HOLDERNESS on Patrol M and WALLACE with Convoy F.N.655, each of whom claims one E-Boat damaged.

Two E-Boats of another group were engaged by GUILLEMOT at about 0250, when one was hit with a 4-inch star shell and certainly damaged near 57 D Buoy. The third group was heard off Yarmouth between 2140 and 0050, but was not met by our forces.

At 0625 M.G.B's 87, 88 and 91, which had been shifted to Q.P.14, engaged with gunfire and depth-charges the E-Boat S.III of the Ymuiden Flotilla about 10 miles West of Ymuiden, forced her to surrender, took 10 prisoners from her, and took her in tow. At about 0930 however, when 4 other E-Boats approached from the eastward, S.III was slipped and left sinking. An action ensued in which M.G.B.91 claims to have severely damaged one further E-Boat, and our force all suffered considerable above-water damage, M.G.B.91 having 6 men wounded. Fighter A/C of 12 Group sent out to assist found 3 of these E-Boats escorting one badly damaged and claim to have left one of them burning and the remaining three badly damaged.

During all these operations therefore it seems that 2 E-Boats were probably sunk and 6 badly damaged.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 2005 yesterday the A/P Vessel MONIQUE was bombed and slightly damaged by near misses off St. Anne's Head; and at 2015 yesterday the S.S. BALMORAL shot down a Heinkels III A/C off Harwich.

3 A/C were plotted over the Thames Estuary last night.



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

2 Magnetic Mines were exploded by Sweepers off Harwich today, 2 off the Humber, one in the Thames Estuary, and one in the Bristol Channel.

Sweeps to the eastward of Gap E have shown that a Minefield exists in that area round longitude 3° 20' E., and C. in C. Nore considers that the consequent risk to our own projected operations there should be estimated as at least 20%.

R.A.M. reported at 1510A today that the laying of operation S.N.81 had then been completed.

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH reported a F.W. aircraft operating in 320 P.C.L. 18 between 1837A and 1925A. 2 other aircraft are believed to have operated in Bordeaux area but nothing is known of their activity.

British S.S. DAGO was sunk by air attack off Peniche at 1800. Press reports state that the attack was in full view of the Portuguese coast. The ship's gun was in action, but 6 bombs hit the ship, the last sinking her within 3 minutes.

Later another attack was made on an unknown ship off the Coast S.W. of the position. (This may have been SCOTTISH, above).

South Atlantic.

DESPATCH is to be detached from Task Force 3 to arrive Chatham in time to begin refit on 1/4.

MONTE GORBEA, Spanish, intercepted by PRETORIA CASTLE on 12/3, arrived at Bathurst today for examination.



15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Rhodes  
Attacked.

Last night, light naval forces co-operated with R.A.F. in attacks on port installations and shipping at Rhodes. Bomber aircraft operated at Maritza and Calato. The Italian official report claimed that no military objectives were hit, but that slight damage was caused to some buildings, including the Orthodox Cathedral.

Malta.

Air attacks were maintained by 5 enemy A/C last night.

Raids were resumed this morning in very low cloud and bad visibility, the Submarine Base and Luqa being the chief targets, but no damage or casualties are reported. Elsewhere there were some Service casualties and much damage to property.

In the afternoon, Hal Far was attacked without damage or casualties.

East Indies.

Enemy  
Offensive.

C. in C. Ceylon asks for an appreciation of the scope of Germany's spring offensive, her requirements from Japan in co-operation with this, and the direction in which Allied offensive action is contemplated. Chiefs of Staff in reply have referred him to C. in C. India.

DANAE.

DANAE is to operate under the orders of C. in C. E.I. in the Persian Gulf and approaches thereto. She was last reported at Colombo.

Portuguese  
Garrison.

GONCALVES ZARCO and JOAO BELO which were sent with a Portuguese garrison for Timor but diverted after the Japanese landing there, arrived at Colombo today. Owing to congestion C. in C. E.I. asks if they could move to Marmagao as soon as possible.



467

15.3.1942.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

ORION, returning after refit on the Pacific Coast, passed through Panama Canal today.

Several more U/B attacks on shipping were reported today.

Survivors from DAYTONIAN (torpedoed 13/3) landed today at Nassau state that U/B flew the Italian flag and was identified as Enrico Tazzoli class.

Australia.

Convoy.

S.O.I. (Suez-Australia, returning ex W.S. troopers) arrived at Fremantle today, after detaching certain ships for Adelaide.

M.T.B's.

A.C.N.B. ask if one flotilla of M.T.B's can be based at Townsville, with Cairns as advanced fuelling base. Area Combined H.Q., N.E. Area, is at Townsville, and Americans intend greatly increased use of the port.

Mine.

A floating mine is reported in 33° 56' S., 151° 20' E.

Dockyard Work.

A.C.N.B. state that work to increase troop ship accommodation will be done if it does not delay more urgent work, but at present all available resources are employed on making good damage to warships and M/V's.



War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Flag of  
C.S.18.The Flag of C.S.18 was transferred to EDINBURGH  
at 0900/15.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1156A/15).Movements.

CAIRO.

Sailed CAIRO. E.T.A. 1600.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1014A/15).  
Arrived CAIRO.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1651A/15).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

3 more days working up lost due to fog, therefore  
must fly on 18th if weather suitable. Could  
(Corrupt group) be 12 hours' notice for replace-  
ment from 0100/18.  
(ILLUSTRIOUS, 1018A/15).  
Your 1018/15. This will be arranged. Your  
1016A/15 will be attended to. *N.T. on W.D.*  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1629/15 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

WHEATLAND.

Intend to sail WHEATLAND for Scapa E.T.D. Needles  
1930/15. Route. Speed 20 knots. E.T.A. Scapa  
1700/17.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1113A/15).BERWICK,  
KENT.BERWICK is to proceed passing Hoxa Boom at  
1500A/18 to Hvalfjord. Route through 059° N.,  
007° W., and Reykjanes Passage.  
2. C.S.1. is requested to sail KENT for Scapa  
after arrival of BERWICK.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1211A/15).

NELSON.

A.S. Rosyth's 1630/9 and Admiralty's 1711A/12.  
I have now received ship's proposed programme of  
completion. Every endeavour will be made to  
advance the date of sailing but at the best it  
appears that this advance might be four days.  
Reasons.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1303/15 to Admty).PRETORIA  
CASTLE.On completion present duty intend returning to  
Freetown for fuel (corrupt group)  
(PRETORIA CASTLE, 1411Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

SHROPSHIRE.

A.M.1615A/3 and A.M.2243A/15. SHROPSHIRE need  
not arrive Clyde before a.m./22.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2245A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)



468<sup>A</sup>15.3.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Convoy  
F.S.749,  
VORTIGERN  
sunk.  
2 E-boats  
believed sunk  
and 4 badly  
damaged.

Following received from GUILLEMOT. Begins.  
One E-boat hit amidships with star shell but  
was able to exceed my speed to the eastwards.  
Other E-boat driven off to the eastwards. End.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0311A/15 to Admty).  
Have instructed 2 trawlers to pick up survivors  
at 57 D Buoy. Am searching area around 57 E  
Buoy for my E-boat.  
(GUILLEMOT, 0339A/15 to C. in C. Nore).  
Am picking up VORTIGERN's survivors in 053° 05'

30" N., 001° 22' 30" E.

(GUILLEMOT, 0507A/15)

Owing to poor visibility consider M.L. would be of assistance  
in searching for ship and area for VORTIGERN survivors.

(GUILLEMOT, 0603A/15 to C. in C. Nore).

VORTIGERN survivor reports 1 M/V in your convoy was also sunk.

(GUILLEMOT, 0622/15 to LIDDESDALE).

Following received from M.G.B.88. One E-boat. My position  
092°, 93 miles from Lowestoft.

(Nore W/T, 0625/15).

Do you require assistance?

(C. in C. Nore, 0635A/15 to GUILLEMOT).

Your 0635A/15. No assistance required except as in my 0622A/15.

Have only recovered 2 survivors from VORTIGERN.

(GUILLEMOT, 0656A/15 to C. in C. Nore).

(1) Preliminary report of E-boat operations last night.

(2) Three groups of E-boats thought to be out.

(a) About 2245 HOLDERNESS on patrol M and WALLACE with F.N.455  
engaged E-boats between 54 E and 54 F Buoys. Each ship claims  
one E-boat damaged. (b) Between 2140 and 0050 one group heard off  
Yarmouth only bearing obtained indicated vicinity of 5 buoy. No  
contact by our forces. (c) At 0200 M/S trawler at 57 C buoy  
reported underwater explosion. At 0250 GUILLEMOT some miles  
astern of F.S.749 stalked an E-boat near 57 D Buoy to within 100  
yards and engaged with all guns scoring a hit with 4 inch  
starshell. Second E-boat also engaged. On return to original  
position first E-boat not located but she was certainly damaged.  
GUILLEMOT sustained one casualty from cannon fire.

(3) After this GUILLEMOT appears to have found men in the water.  
These proved to be survivors from VORTIGERN who reported one  
M/V of F.S.749 sunk at same time as VORTIGERN.\* Search was made  
assisted by trawlers and later by H.S.L's lifeboats and aircraft.  
M/V not identified. GUILLEMOT now returning to Harwich with  
survivors of VORTIGERN. (4) WALLACE and M.Ls. on Q.E. 7A also  
reported E-boats off Cromer and vicinity of Q.E. 7A at 0430 and  
0450 respectively.

(5) At 0635 M.G.Bs. 88, 91, and 87 which had been shifted to  
Q.P.14 made contact with an E-boat which at 0700 was reported  
as being in tow. This may be an E-boat of Group A. Damaged by  
either HOLDERNESS or WALLACE. Reinforcements sent from  
Lowestoft and Harwich.

(C. in C. Nore, 1304A/15 to Admt).

\* Not confirmed, 2320A/15.

/Summary...



War Diary15.3.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Convoy F.S.749, VORTIGERN sunk. 2 E-boats believed sunk and 4 badly damaged. Contd.

Summary of report from M.G.B. 88 Lt. Horne R.N. M.G.B. 87 Lt. Bennett R.N.V.R. and M.G.B.91 Sub-Lt. Thompson R.C.N.V.R. Action commenced with Ymuiden E-boat S.111 coming from westward at 0625 fought at high speed. At 0700 enemy surrendered, was boarded, and taken in tow. About 0930 four E-boats approached from eastward. Tow was slipped and prize believed sunk. Action at long range started. Engine of 91 failed. 88 and 87 made smoke cover in which contact lost with 91. 88 and 87 lost contact with enemy about 1110A and lacked fuel. 91 was engaged on both quarters by three enemy and after receiving damage escaped in fog bank. Considerable above water damage to all three vessels. Casualties 6 wounded in 91. Prisoners landed 5 wounded, 4 unhurt, 1 dead. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1714A/15 to C. in C. Nore). Reference VORTIGERN. Evidence Acting Gunner (T) Watson Senior surviving Officer and O.O.W. at time of sinking. Convoy F.S.749 anchored owing fog under way 1800/14 VORTIGERN had three ships only, LIDDESDALE being ahead with 15. Crew closed up for A.A. action 1930. Nothing seen or heard. Fell out 2030. Watson turned in till 2400 when he relieved O.O.W. Very dark, only ship visible large tanker on starboard quarter 3 cables distant, one H.M. Trawler occasionally seen GUILLEMOT believed 1 mile astern. Tide adverse, making good  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Signal received (time not known) two groups E-boats W and G positions. At 0150 star shells visible distant on port bow. Captain called. 0157 Watson experienced a dull flash and thud and severe shock and found himself in water. After one hour picked up Carley float, joined another Carley float with two officers and seven ratings and picked up by GUILLEMOT at 0730. While in water saw tracer but survivors not fired on. Apart from star shells and echoes nothing seen or heard. Midshipman D'Albiac was thrown from his hammock by first explosion and while trying to put on life belt second explosion apparently amidships on port hand caused VORTIGERN to roll over to port and swept him into water. GUILLEMOT estimates time of sinking at two minutes. She heard but did not see explosions. Engineer Officer not yet interviewed. Both Watson and D'Albiac in Shotley Hospital with leg injuries. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1940A/15 to C. in C. Nore) In continuation of my 1304A/15. M.G.Bs. 88, 87, and 91 engaged eastbound E-boat about 10 miles West of Ymuiden. E-boat was stopped and surrendered as the result of gunfire and depth charge attack. E-boat, which was S.III of Ymuiden Flotilla, was taken in tow by M.G.B.88 until about 0930 when 4 E-boats approached from eastward sweeping at visibility distance apart. S.III was slipped and last seen sinking by the head as the result of further gunfire. (2) M.G.Bs. 88 and 87 endeavoured to cover 91, who had engine failure, with smoke, but lost contact. E-boats located 91, and three attacked from <sup>quarters</sup> and astern. M.G.Bs. 91 fired all ammunition and claims damaging one E-boat severely. She finally escaped in a fog bank and returned on one engine. M.G.Bs. 88 and 87 lost contact with E-boats at about 1110 and returned independently very short of fuel.

*(Admiral's computations. p. 559)*



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Convoy (3) All M.G.Bs. suffered considerable abovewater  
F.S.749, damage, 91 had 6 men wounded, remainder nil.  
VORTIGERN Prisoners landed were 5 wounded, 4 unhurt 1 dead.  
sunk. (4) M.G.Bs. 21.14, 18, 17 were despatched at about  
2 E-boats 0800 to the assistance of M.G.B.88 but failed to  
believed sunk make any contacts. Subsequently M.G.Bs. 64, 60  
and 4 badly 67, and 58 were sailed from Harwich but also  
damaged. reported nothing.  
Contd. (5) 12 Group were kept informed of the situation  
and sent out fighters to assist M.G.Bs. and  
attack E-boats. 12 Cannon Spitfires found 3  
E-boats escorting one badly damaged. Result of attack one  
E-boat left burning and remainder badly damaged.  
Whirlwinds sent out to carry on attack found no E-boats but  
much wreckage and many bodies in the same approximate position.  
(6) As far as can be ascertained S.III had not been damaged  
before contact with M.G.Bs. and was proceeding at 40 knots.  
Torpedoes had been fired.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1942A/15 to Admty).  
Wreck of VORTIGERN reported in 53° 05' 44" N., 1° 22' 20" E.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2208A/15).  
My 1304/15 para 3. As far as can be ascertained at present  
no M/V was sunk.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2320A/15 to Admty).

Norway S/M F.O.(S) 1637A/14. Request you will sail TUNA  
Patrol. from Lerwick 0700A/16 routed as follows.  
TUNA. On surface at C.O's discretion through position  
(a) 090° Out Skerries 5 miles (b) 061° 30' N.,  
000° 02' W., thence diving by day through (c)  
062° 46' N., 003° 40' E. (D) 065° N. 009° 30' E.  
thence to patrol in vicinity of position (e) 065°  
05' N., 010° 25' E.  
(Capt. S.9., 1135A/15 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

MARIE L. KIRKELLA has been told she may return to base  
MACKAY. in view of unfavourable weather report.  
KIRKELLA. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1355/15 to M.L. MACKAY)  
(cable laying).

Dover Patrols. M.Ls. 138 - 293 on O.D.6 and 7 combined.  
M.Ls. 450 - 220 from Ramsgate patrolling between  
Dumpton and North East Spit buoy. E.T.D.1958.  
E.T.R., 0652/16.  
(V.A. Dover, 1603A/15).

Destroyer Their Lordships congratulate you and all forces  
attack on that took part in the engagement off the North  
Enemy Convoy French coast on the night of the 13th/14th. The  
off manner in which all forces got into close range  
Boulogne. in spite of heavy opposition reflects great credit  
on those taking part in the operation.  
(1st S.L., 2356A/15).



470<sup>A</sup>15.3.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity..

Norwegian Coast. A/C will search along Coast Straumness to North Cape this morning.  
(A.C.I.C., 0124A/15 to KENT).

S.N.81 My 0501/15. Unless weather improves air escort cannot be provided, today.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0747/15 to R.A.M.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MONIQUE attacked. A/P Vessel MONIQUE attacked by E/A. at 2005/14 off St. Annes Head. No casualties, minor damage to engine through near misses.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1106A/15).

A/C Shot down on 14/3. BALMORAL. BALMORAL anchored Platters claims to have hit several times Heinkel III at 2015/14 (approx.) At 2015/14 Commander Languard and two spotters reported Heinkel III fell into sea with red glow in 155° 6000 yards Landguard Point.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1118A/15).

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen received 2105/14, begins. A/C seen 1135 course east/west over station returning north east. Flying too high for identification. 1255/10 ends.  
(A.C.I.C., 1122A/15).

Thames Estuary. During night 14/15 plots were obtained of 3 enemy planes in Thames Estuary one of which crossed Barrow Deep in vicinity of B.4. and after being engaged by Coastal Batteries, returned over Barrow Deep in vicinity of B.3 Thence over Knob Buoy and out North of Edinburgh Channel Buoy. No direct evidence of mine laying.  
(S.O. T.L.D.F., 1730/15).

A/C shot down on 13/3. STEFA. H.M. Trawler STEFA reports having shot down Junkers 88 into ice on 13/3 in 68° 33' N., 38° 50' E. when plane was bombing Russian steamship SEVZAPLES. Plane was burnt out. Confirmed by Russian shore station. This good shooting after voyage of 11 days in severe weather and ice reflects great credit on gun crew.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1731A/15).

GRACE OF GOD. (Belgian Trawler). St. Govans Light Vessel reported boat in distress off St. Govans Head at 2050.  
(ALYNBANK, 2100A/15).  
Sailed rescue tug CHERBOURGEOIS<sup>III</sup> to assist vessel reported in distress vicinity St. Govans Light Vessel.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2215/15).



15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

- Q.S.3. Operation Q.S.3 carried out. At least 7 sweeps parted in approx. 052° 15' N., 003° 20' E. KELLET picked up a mine, almost certainly in this area which exploded in sweep later before it could be identified. SUTTON lost contact to northwards and exploded one mine estimated 003° 22' E. Nothing suspicious to westwards of area quoted. (KELLET. 0815A/15).
- B.S.69 Arrival PLOVER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0841A/15). Operation B.S.69 completed. (PLOVER 0900A/15).
- Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 0450/15. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1055/15).
- B.S.70. Carry out B.S.70 tonight in accordance with Nore 0528A/16 of 7/3 amended by my 1722A/12. (C. in C. Nore, 1156A/15).
- Harwich. One red mine detonated by L.L. trawlers at 1110 in approx. 52° 05.9' N., 01° 50.2' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1202A/15 and 1634A/15). One magnetic mine detonated by L.L. Drifters at 1442. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1756A/15 and 1832A/15).
- Q.L.6. Carry out operation Q.L. 6 tonight weather permitting, with alternative Q.L.5. (C. in C. Nore, 1206A/15 to BEEHIVE).
- North Sea. Your P.120/497. Two night sweeps have been carried out to the eastward of Cap E. In both cases mines were found and a total of nine sweeps have been parted. Sweep extended to 03° 22' E. 2. It is evident that a minefield exists in vicinity of long. 03° 20' E. Risk to projected operation is difficult to assess but consider it should be regarded as at least 20 per cent. Reasons. (C. in C. Nore, 1250A/15 to C.C.O.)
- S.N.81 Laying completed. (R.A.M., 1510A/15).
- N.L.58 M.Ls. 102, 103, 104, carrying out N.L.58. E.T.D. 2000. E.T.R. 0130/16. (V.A. Dover, 1603A/15).



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15.3.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

- Bristol Channel. At 1220/15 one Red Mine by Sweepers. Details. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1651A/15).
- Yarmouth. Mines exploded by Sweepers at 1310/11, 1645/11, 1710/11, and 1157/12. Details. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1851A/15).  
Add to my 1921A/15. In 045° Sunk 2 miles a German type contact mine with 4 horns almost submerged sighted by M.G.B.60. Very dangerous to shipping. (BEEHIVE, 1948A/15).
- Humber. One Red mine detonated by sweepers at 0930/15. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2015A/15).  
A second mine was detonated by Sweeper at 1530/15. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2225A/15).
- Enemy Intelligence.
- E-boats. 4 E-boats bearing 087° from Lowestoft, 75 miles. (7th M.G.B. Flot. 1005/15).
- Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/14 to 0900/15. Track E.3D Four small vessels from off Calais at 2125 faded 2½ miles north of Boulogne at 0140. Possibly minesweepers. (V.A. Dover, 1007A/15).
- Navigational.
- Rosyth. Port of Rosyth closed due to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0844/15).  
Cancel my 0844/15. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1120/15)
- Tyne. Blackmiddens buoy ashore. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0920/15) (Hydrog, 1046A/15)
- Ice at Jan Mayen. Your ?1431A/14. Channels of clear water came to within two miles, but ice extended for more than six miles to the S.E. Low cloud prevented observation further to southeastward. (A.C.I.C., 1125A/15 to Admty).
- Dangerous Mine off the Sunk? See Mining.



15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

PERELLE Collision with Steamer PERELLE five miles south  
(British, 659 tons) sunk. of Mull of Kintyre and she requires assistance.  
Am standing by.  
(BARNETT, 0006Z/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).  
PERELLE has sunk. Crew uninjured and transferred  
to HAVELOCK. Am proceeding.  
(BARNETT, 0020Z/15).  
PERELLE sunk in collision with U.S.S. BARNETT. Entire crew of  
14 are on board HAVELOCK uninjured. BARNETT is undamaged and  
convoy is proceeding. Intend to transfer survivors to one of  
escorts returning to U.K.  
(HAVELOCK, 0640A/15).  
Survivors from PERELLE have been transferred to LEITH.  
(KEPPEL, 1038/15 to F.O.I.C Greenock).

VASNA. Hospital ship VASNA sailed for Ponta Delgada from  
Barry Roads.  
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 0215A/15).  
Following from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2115 G.M.T. from  
VASNA. In collision approx. 7 miles south Chicken Rocks  
unknown ship.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2216/15 to Admty).  
My 2224A/15. Assistance not required. Proceed in execution  
of previous orders.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2319A/15 to LARGS).  
VASNA does not require assistance.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2355A/15 to ARMERIA).  
VASNA in collision with unknown vessel. Stem and starboard  
propellor damaged but vessel tight. Ship is proceeding to  
Liverpool.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2357A/15)

PRESTO LLANOVER reports having been in collision at  
(British, 971 tons) sunk. 0152 with S.S. PRESTO. LLANOVER received  
superficial damage and is proceeding with convoy.  
LLANOVER PRESTO sunk in 120° 19 C Buoy two.3 miles.  
damaged. LLANOVER has on board master and all members of  
crew of PRESTO  
(WINCHESTER, 0654/15) (C. in C. Nore, 1122/15 and  
1500/15).

VIMY. E.T.A. 0930A/15. Condenser leaking.  
(VIMY, 0900A/15 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Russian S/M My 1429A/12 Soviet S/M returned 14/3 under own  
402. power after receiving fuel from K.21.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0935A/15 to Admty).

/Convoy...



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15.3.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

Convoy  
O.N.S.M. 76.  
BRYNYMOR,  
sunk.  
EMPIRE  
HAWKSBILL,  
damaged.

Cancel BRYNYMOR from O.N.S.M. 76, sunk in collision with EMPIRE HAWKSBILL off Smalls. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0944/15). Arrived AQUAMARINE with crew of S.S. BRYNYMOR. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0953/15). Following received from ULSTER QUEEN begins:- My 2245A/14. EMPIRE HAWKSBILL proceeding Liverpool to make good (collision?) damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1301/15).

IRISH PLANE. 0910 commenced to tow. IRISH PLANE able to use own engine. Holes in fore peak and number one. Lying head on to Rock North side Cushendun Bay. 1055 suspend operation for this tide. Master requests Salvage Officer. (ADEPT 1205A/15 to N.O.I.C. Greenock). Is tug DUNPAR to return to base. (ADEPT, 1207A/15 to N.O.I.C. Larne.)

TANAFIORD  
(Norwegian)

Intercepted at 1432 G.M.T. De TANAFIORD. S O S. We are ashore on South of Ailsa Craig. (Port Patrick Radio, 1532/15). Request you sail rescue tug ST. OLAVES with all despatch to assist TANAFIORD. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1555A/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast). Proceed with despatch. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1558A/15 to ST. OLAVES). My 1602. A/C reports no ship near Ailsa Craig. D/F Bearings suggest Sanda Island or Mull of Kintyre. (ILLUSTRIOUS, 1654A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). My 1555A. Proceed with despatch to vicinity of Boiler Reef West Coast of Sanda Island where TANAFIORD is now reported ashore, not Ailsa Craig. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1919A/15 to ST. OLAVES). Following from TANAFIORD correcting message 15th March. Please read Sanda Island. (Port Patrick Radio ? 1929/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Am connecting to TANAFIORD. Vessel has slight leak in forepeak and stand good chance of re-floating this tide. (ST. OLAVES, 2400A/15). Following from TANAFIORD. Arrive destination weather permitting 1830/15 G.M.T. (sic) (Port Patrick Radio, No T.O.O./15, Recd. 1431/15).

SHEFFIELD. C. in C. H.F. 1229A/15. Depending on weather report and completion of temporary repairs you are to sail for Scapa Flow as soon as practicable after arrival of Hunts, passing West of minefield. Report route. (C.S. 18, 1724A/15 to SHEFFIELD).

YEWKYLE. Following from Salvage Officer Gt. Yarmouth "Two tow ropes laid out to YEWKYLE today. Towing will proceed over present spring tides. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1848A/15).



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War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

HYDERABAD  
(corvette).

My 1916/15. HYDERABAD grounded in navigation channel when leaving Aberdeen at 1820 and bumped heavily on falling tide. Refloated and reberthed by tugs at 2115. Sailing delayed pending docking for examination.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2122/15).

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X.178  
S.C.B.72.

H.X.178. Report P.C.S. forthwith.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0725Z/15 to T.U.24.1.3)  
Request you sail NARVIK to meet H.X.B.178 in 055° 35' N., 7° W. at 0700A/16 and BODO to meet S.C.B.72 at 1100A/16.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2054A/15 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

P.Q.13

Your 1104A/13. Request you detail a second M/S for ocean escort. Intend sail HEBE to overtake P.Q.13.

(C. in C. H.F., 1214A/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Cdre. of P.Q.13 informs me that aircraft in S.S. EMPIRE COWPER are badly damaged and will require securing before ship can proceed further.

(BLYSKAWICA, 1310A/15 to N.C.S.O. Reykjavik).

C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail four A/S trawlers as soon as possible as extra escort for P.Q.13 to Murmansk, arranging with C. in C. H.F. and A.C.I.C. for these vessels to either:  
(a) Proceed to Reykjavik and sail with the convoy from that port, or  
(b) Proceed to Seidisfiord and join convoy at position "X" depending on fuel requirements and date of sailing of convoy from Reykjavik.

2. C. in C. H.F.1900A/12 and 1350A/14, refer.  
(A.C.N.S. (H.), 2205A/15).

W.S.17

Admty 1357A/13. Sailing date is postponed until 23/3.

2. SOBIESKI and WINCHESTER CASTLE will be included in this convoy.  
(A.C.N.S. (H.), 2243A/15).



474<sup>A</sup>15.3.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CASTILLO BELLVER. Spanish CASTILLO BELLVER abandoned, and derelict lighter, in position 039° 03' N. 010° 10' W. at 1112 G.M.T./14 this presents a danger to navigation..  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0127A/15 to Ships & Authorities N.A. Station.)  
(Burnham on Sea Radio, No T.O.O./15 to C. in C. W.A.)  
(Lands End Radio, 0024/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DAUNTLESS, AIREDALE. Sailed 2300/14 DAUNTLESS, 0445/15 AIREDALE to overtake. Routed through (a) 035° 50' N. 006° 30' W. (b) 33.20 09.30. (c) 28.00 13.30. (d) 25.00 16.30. (e) 20.30 19.00. (f) 14.30 19.00. S. of A. 20½ knots completes Bathurst 0800Z/19 where 550 tons oil fuel will be required by DAUNTLESS. (F.O.C.N.A., 0516A/15 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty., etc.)

*See also next page*

CROMER, POOLE, SEAHAM. CROMER, POOLE, SEAHAM left Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./15. E.T.A. Freetown 25/3 speed of advance 9 knots.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1030/15 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)  
N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada's 1030/15 passed to you for information. (V.A.C.N.A., 2051A/15 to R.A.W.A.)

*See also next page*

→ EGRET, FISHGUARD. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1400/16 and will require 90 tons oil fuel each.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1001A/15 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada for British Consul, (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

Your 1840Z/14. Unless conditions improve proceed Ponta Delgada fuel has been arranged.

(C. in C., W.A., 1017A/15 to EGRET, (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

*See also next page*

PANDORA. Leave patrol 2000A/16 and return to Gibraltar by reverse of outward route. Pass position (b) at 0800A/17 and arrive 1000A/17. Do not cross 005° W. before 0800A/17.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/15 to PANDORA, (R) S.O. Force H.)

→ S.L. 102. STAD HAARLEM, TOMBOUCTOU. S.L.102. My 1017A/15 anticipates that STAD HAARLEM, TOMBOUCTOU lying at Ponta Delgada will be ready for sea by time EGRET and FISHGUARD call for fuel. If ships are ready FISHGUARD on completion of fuelling is to meet them outside harbour and escort to S.L.102.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1115A/15 to EGRET, (R) Admty. etc.)

/THUNDERBOLT ...



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

THUNDERBOLT. Intend sailing THUNDERBOLT painted dark blue for U.K. p.m./17 diving by day. THUNDERBOLT crossing 043° N. in 011° 30' W. at 2330A/21 shifting W/T watch at that time. F.O.(S) is requested to arrange onward route and bombing restriction. (F.O.C.N.A., 1206A/15 to Admty., (R) F.O.S. etc.) Route by F.O.S., see 1036/16.

Situation. 2004A/15.  
(i) S.L.102 (e) 33° 28' 21° 32' through 37° 00' 22° 30' thence 000° 6½. EGRET, FISHGUARD 34° 08' 22° 26' to Ponta Delgada 15. *See previous page*  
(ii) O.S.21, 31° 25' 22° 10' through 29° 00', 22° 00', thence 183°, 7½. S.O. IBIS.  
(iii) CROMER, POOLE, SEAHAM estimated 35° 58' 25° 20' 172°, 9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1230A/15 to Area Y, N.A. Station.) *See previous page*  
Area X. 20004A/15.  
(i) H.G.80, 200° Cape St. Vincent 39 through 36° 30' 10° 00' thence 291° 7½, S.O. STORK.  
(ii) DAUNTLESS 32° 44' 10° 07' through 28° 00' 13° 30' thence 221°, 15½. *See previous page*  
(iii) AIREDALE 33° 07' 09° 33' to overtake DAUNTLESS 18½. *See previous page*  
(iv) SCOTTISH on patrol off Cape Roca. *See previous page*  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/15 to N.A. Station.)  
Report for Area Z 2004A/15.  
BULOLO, CALIFORNIA escorting BATTERY 29° 43' 30° 18' through 34° 30' 31° 25' thence 014° 14½. *See p. 476A*  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1324A/15 to N.A. Station.)

Ships in Portuguese Waters. Your 1155/14. Sailing authority was warned that no more than three ships are to enter Portuguese territorial waters at the same time. (D.M.S., 1258A/15.)

Bombing Restrictions. Request submerged bombing restrictions in area.

Area	From	Until
G.14	0445/18	0345/19
G.15	2345/18	0900/19
G.16	0445/19	2030/20
G.27	1800/20	0200/22

(F.O.C.N.A., 1306A/15 to Admty., H.Q.C.C. (R) F.O.S.)

Oilers for fuelling escorts, S.L. & O.S.Convoys. C. in C. W.A. 1553A/14. Approved to form 45th Escort Group and that escorts should proceed through to Freetown. 2. PELICAN is to be instructed to leave H.G.80 and return to Gibraltar, fuel and reach Freetown by 31/3. *See next page*  
3. Further signal will be made in regard to LOWESTOFT.  
(Admty., 1804A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)



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War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

SCOTTISH, Help. My position 321 PCL 30.  
A/C attack. (SCOTTISH, 1837/15 to Admty.)  
1 A/C F.W. bearing 180° distant 5 miles course  
180°. My position 330 PCL 18.  
(SCOTTISH, 1843/15 to Admty.)  
1 A/C F.W. bearing 270° distant 5 miles course 180°. My  
position 330 PCL 30.  
(SCOTTISH, 1849/15 to Admty.)  
My 1843. My 1847. Correct position should have been 320  
PCL 18.  
(SCOTTISH, 1925A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
As on 11/3, 2 F.W. southwards day after British ship left  
(? Lisbon).  
(SCOTTISH, 1940A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.W. A/C. Apart from that reported by SCOTTISH, 2 F.W.  
aircraft are believed to have operated in the  
Bordeaux area but nothing is known of their  
activity.  
(D.D.I.C., 2122A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PELICAN. PELICAN to leave convoy at 0800A/16 and return  
to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2302A/15 to Escort Group 36,  
(R) PELICAN, etc.) *See previous page.*

DAGO (British) DAGO sunk by air attack off Peniche 1800/15.  
Later another attack made on unknown ship off  
coast south-west of first position.  
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 2315A/15 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

South Atlantic.

CILICIA. Falkland Is. departure 0135 G.M.T. 15/3 CILICIA  
for Capetown due 27/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 0448Z/15 to Admty.)

F.O.I.C. My 1411/14. Appointment of R.A. Pegram is  
West Africa. F.O. I/C. West Africa, alternative title  
R.A.Waf.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0723Z/15 to S.A. Station,  
S.O.I. Montevideo.)

/MAURETANIA ...



476<sup>A</sup>War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

MAURETANIA, Your 1248/12. It is intended to tranship 4180  
NEWCASTLE. personnel from ?ATHELLAIRD to MAURETANIA and sail  
latter for Suez when ready increasing accommoda-  
tion as far as possible in time available in  
accordance with your 0222/14. Your 1725/12. Tank spares  
ex NEWCASTLE will be discharged at Capetown and sent by  
train to Durban to be loaded in MAURETANIA which will be first  
ship to reach Suez.  
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0913Z/15 to D. of S.T.)

DUNNOTTAR Capetown arrivals 0500Z/15, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE  
CASTLE, and CHESHIRE.  
CHESHIRE. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1018Z/15 to Admty.,  
C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., NL.O.Durban.)

Russian Sailing U.S.S.R. Icebreaker A. MIKOJAN for  
Icebreaker. Capetown by route R.2, S. of A. 10 knots,  
E.T.A. p.m./18/3.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1054Z/15 to Admty., etc.)

SAVORGNAN Departure 15/3.  
DE BRAZZA. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1120Z/15 to Admty.)

PRETORIA PRETORIA CASTLE after bunkering from MONTE  
CASTLE, GORBEA has been relieved, is to proceed to patrol  
CANTON. H.34 (c) and (d) keeping E. of 026° W. reporting  
her departure.  
CANTON is to leave patrol as necessary passing  
through 006° N. 019° W. to arrive Freetown 1600Z/18.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1227Z/15 to PRETORIA CASTLE, CANTON.)

DESPATCH Your 1305Z/14. In order that DESPATCH may be  
refit. fitted R.D.F. and give leave arrangements have  
been made for refit to be undertaken in U.K.  
2. She can be taken in hand at Chatham on 1/4  
and should be sailed accordingly via Gibraltar and Clyde.  
3. B.A.D. Washington is requested to explain to U.S. N.A.  
circumstances which necessitate her detachment from Task  
Force 3.  
(Admty., 1341/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

Situation. Weekly state 14/3.  
Freetown. EDINBURGH CASTLE, VINDICTIVE,  
PHILOCTETES, ASTURIAS, DESPATCH, BOREAS,  
BRILLIANT, SHEBA, 6 corvettes.  
Freetown Area. PRETORIA CASTLE, WIVERN, 5 corvettes.  
U.K. to Freetown. 2 corvettes.  
Freetown to U.K. BULOLO, CALIFORNIA, VIMY and 3 corvettes.

/Bathurst ...



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War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Situation. Bathurst. ROYAL ULSTERMAN, HASTINGS,  
(Contd.) LONDONDERRY, LULWORTH, LANDGUARD.  
Gulf of Guinea. ULSTER MONARCH 2 corvettes.  
Lagos (Nigeria). F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. *See previous page*

H. 34 C and D, E. of 026° W. CANTON.

Freetown to Cape. NEWCASTLE, BRIDGEWATER and 3 corvettes.  
Cape to Freetown. CARTHAGE.

Simonstown. JANUS, BIRMINGHAM, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, MILFORD,  
CHESHIRE, EMPIRE FULMAR.

Durban. AJAX,\*DURBAN, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, RESOLUTION, *(left 14/3)*  
BACHAQUERO,\*ENGADINE, U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD.\* *Arrived: Colombo 14/3 - See p. 480*

Cape Area. MANCHESTER CITY, JAY.

Falkland Is. Area. CILICIA.

Home Ports. ALCANTARA, VANSITTART, VELOX, WRESTLER 4 corvettes.  
U.S.A. DEVONSHIRE, CARNARVON CASTLE, ALBATROSS, QUEEN OF  
BERMUDA.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1800Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, etc.)  
*\* Arrived: Simonstown 14/3 - Pink List - 7200 13/3 P. 420*

Movement 2000Z/15.

Summary. Area P. SNOWDROP about 009° 30' N. 019° W. to  
Freetown 12½ knots.  
LAERTES about 008° 50' N. 019° 10' W. to  
Freetown 9 knots.

ROCKROSE, BERGAMOT with S.T.16 001° 40' N. 010° W. 075° 8 knots.  
CARTHAGE with DEMPO 003° 10' S. 000° 05' E. 294° 13.3. knots.  
FANDANGO, BENGALI about 009° 30' N. 015° 30' W. to Freetown  
9 knots. WIVERN, 4 corvettes, with S.L. 103, 009° 08' N. 016°  
32' W. 281° 7½ knots. ROMNEY, CROMARTY, WHITEHAVEN 010° 58' N.  
018° 40' W. 146° 13 knots.  
TURCOMAN off Robertsport.

M.Ls. 277, 279 with CARELIA, 008° 40' N. 016° 20' W. to Freetown  
9 knots.  
ULSTER MONARCH 004° 42' N. 008° 44' W. 302° 15 knots.  
ABBEYDALE 007° 40' S. 009° 45' W. 334° 10.3 knots.  
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA escorting NEW NORTHLAND 005° 30' N. 001°  
20' E. to Takoradi 12 knots.  
SARABANDE off Freetown from south-east <sup>with</sup> ARRAN 008° 52' N. 018°  
20' W., 275°, 8 knots.  
LADY HOGARTH with FARADAY in tow of THAMES 009° 20' N. 015° W.  
to Freetown 6½ knots.  
COPINSAY to Freetown from S.E.  
AURICULA 002° 10' S. 009° 16' E. to S. 11 knots.

Area Q. NEWCASTLE, BRIDGEWATER with W.S.16, 25° 42' S. 07°  
E., 133°, 12 knots.  
JASMINE 24° 42' S. 05° 48' E., 133°, 14½ knots.  
NIGELLA 20° S. 00° 20' E., 133°, 10.4 knots.  
JAY about 33° S. 28° 48' E. to Durban 8 knots.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1815Z/15 to S.A. Station Sqdn.)



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War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

O.S. 21. R.A.W.A. 0957Z/15.  
 O.S.21, P.C. and S. at 2000A/15 031° 38' N. 022°  
 20' W. (A) 175° 7½. E.T.A. 019° N. 1800A/19  
 All ships in C. in C. W.A. 1820A/14, 1304A/15 and 1634A/(?15)  
 were detached at dusk 15/3. Request Admiralty inform ATHEL  
 PRINCE direct intermediate fuelling (? Port) in case of  
 necessity.  
 (IBIS, 2145Z/15 to Admty., etc.)

Mediterranean.

P. 34. P.34 returning to Malta passing through 37° 13'  
 N. 16° 45' E. arrives Malta 0645/16.  
 (S. 10, 0145B/16 to P.36, UPHOLDER.)

VICTORIAN. Arrived VICTORIAN in tow LOCH MELFORT.  
 (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0345Z/15 to Admty., C. in C.  
 Med., F.O.C.R.S.F.)

Movements. Malta departure 14/3 UPHOLDER, P.36.  
 (V.A. Malta, 0915B/15 to Admty.)  
 Departure 15/3. HEYTHROP, HURWORTH.  
 (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1817B/15 to Admty.)  
 Arrivals 14th DEMIR HISAR, SNAPDRAGON, AVON VALE.  
 Departures 14th MALINES, WOLBOROUGH.  
 (S.O.I.Alex.1010B/15 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

OLYMPUS. Proceed by previous route and through 036° 10'  
 014° 00' adjusting speed to proceed up S.E.  
 searched channel submerged and surfacing in 035°  
 46' 014° 37' at 1915B/20 and enter Marsaxlokk to discharge  
 benzine during night. Constant air activity necessitates extra  
 vigilance while on surface in vicinity of Malta and if black  
 flag is flying from Ta Silc P.W.S.S. you are not to surface  
 until it is hauled down or after dark.  
 (V.A. Malta, 1119B/15 to OLYMPUS.)

DERWENTDALE. Your 1639B/14 (Re arrival and departure Suez  
 9/3 FARNDALE.) Confirm movement of R.F.A.  
 DERWENTDALE in view of your 1619/3 and C. in C.  
 Med. 1758B/26/2.  
 (D.O.D.(F), 1131A/15 to N.O.I.C. Suez.)  
 A.M. 1131/15.

Movements of DERWENTDALE confirmed. Ship<sup>s</sup>  
 sailed from Suez on 3/3 and returned on 11/3 vide my 0905/12  
 Sailed again on 14/3.  
 (N.O.I.C. Suez, 1742B/15 to Admty.)

/ALBARO ...



478<sup>A</sup>

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ALBARO,  
PRODROMOS.

A. My 1258/14. Both vessels still here: ALBARO now short of bunkers and Turks will not supply ships in transit.  
B. Weather now fine and clear.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1140B/15 to S.O.I. Med., for N.L.O. Black Sea, (R) D.N.I.)

CARLISLE,  
COVENTRY.

Your 1909/12. I agree that CARLISLE and COVENTRY should return to U.K. but can only spare one of these ships at a time until 15th C.S. is reinforced. Propose (A) sail CARLISLE via the Cape Agulhas about mid-May by which time COVENTRY should be back in Mediterranean. (B) Sail COVENTRY via the Agulhas on return of CARLISLE.  
2. Regarding leave, it should be noted that only 44 of CARLISLE's ship's company left U.K. with the ship.  
(C. in C. Med., 1215B/15 to Admty.)

ZWODOCOS  
ZUODOCHIS  
PIGI  
(Greek)

Auxiliary Schooner, total loss by enemy action effected 1230/13 details air mail.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1159B/15 to D. of S.T.)

Malta Air  
Report.

C.S.R. Malta 15/3.  
14th 3 alerts, 1351, 1559, 1653 hours. 25 Me. 109's fighters up no combats.  
Night 14/15th. 3 alerts 1845, 2042, 0037 hours.  
5 raiders, bombs land sea, Beaufighters up, no interception, A/A fired.  
15th. Very low cloud bad visibility. 9 alerts 0513, 0618, 0723, 0820, (1005 or 1004 corrupt), 1120, 1220, 1319, 1410 hours. (102 or 202 corrupt) Me. 109's, Ju.88's. Targets Submarine Base, Luqa. No damage or casualties. Elsewhere known casualties 5 civilians 1 airmen 1 soldier killed 2 army officers 5 soldiers 17 civilians wounded. 3 civilians buried under debris, others suspected. Several buildings demolished and much damage property. Spitfires seriously damaged Ju.88, damaged Me.109. Hurricanes damaged Me.109. 4 Ju.88's, 3 Me.109's also attacked. Heavy A/A damaged Ju.88  
(H.Q. Malta, 1741/15.)

PROTEUS.

Your 1901B/12 E.T.A. position (D) dawn 18th.  
(PROTEUS, 1930Z/15 to Capt. (S) 1 Sub. Flot.)

THORN.

E.T.A. Sanctuary 0459B/17.  
(THORN, 2123/15 to Capt. (S) 1.)



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

P. 39.  
UPRIGHT.

Your 1737A/14. Following is repetition of  
Capt. (S) 10's 1939B/9. (Begins.)  
(1) Following serious damage to Sub. P.39  
(details.)  
(2) following steps being taken (details.)  
One battery section will be completed with  
Exide plate groups from UPRIGHT.  
(3) UPRIGHT will be sailed to U.K. Devonport  
possibly, probably Saturday 14th with one  
good Exide section and other batteries  
ballasted. (Ends)  
(C. in C. Med., 2325B/15 to Admty.)



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Oil Installation, Bahrein. Your O/70404 (1435/9).  
1. No official information available here of extent of work proposed. New York Bahrein Petroleum Co. report scheme of magnitude costing between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 dollars taking at least a year to complete.  
2. Petroleum Dept. feel such scheme would make disproportionate demands on materials, shipping and staff. Is it not sufficient to protect plant and tanks only as at Abadan?  
3. Agree any essential work should proceed but require outline of work and expenditure involved.  
(W.O., 0020/15 to C. in C. M.E. as amended 1905/16).

Q Reports. (14/3). My 0422/14 and 0611/14. Cancellation received from SHADAGON and JALARATNA at 0346Z/14 and 0610Z/14 respectively. Both considered genuine. (C. in C. E.I., 0256Z/15 to E.I. Station (R) Admty.)

EXPRESS. My 87 X (1132/10/2) is cancelled. EXPRESS is to form part of 2nd destroyer flotilla from 14/3. (C. in C. E.F., 0356Z/15 to Eastern Theatre 134X)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 14/3 1000Z HECTOR, 1245Z ASTER, 1200Z ENGADINE, TULIP. Departures 14/3 0230Z Greek Destroyer AETOS. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0433Z/15 to Admty.)  
Arrival HAIDERI escorting paddle steamer TAJIK. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0612Z/15 to Admty.)  
Departure Greek Destroyer IERAX at 0600Z/15. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0628/15 to Admty.)  
Mombasa arrived 0455 G.M.T. 15/3 CERES. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0630/15 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Arrival HOLLYHOCK, departure CALEDON at 0730Z. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1010Z/15 to Admty.)  
Colombo arrival 15/3 0245Z LISMORE, 0310Z Netherlands Sloop SOEMBA, 0700Z Portuguese Sloop\* GONCALVES ZARCO, 0700Z BATHURST.  
→ Departure 15/3 0210Z GLASGOW, 0300Z TULIP, ENGADINE, 1000Z BATHURST. (S.O.I) Colombo, 1323Z/15 to Admty. etc.) \* See next page

COLOMBO. Your 1708/26/1. In view of escort commitment and shortage of cruisers on the station propose to retain COLOMBO until arrival of another cruiser to relieve her.. (C. in C. E.I., 0537Z/15 to Admty.)

Enemy Spring Offensive. Request telegraphic appreciation on following.  
1. Scope of Germany's Spring offensive.  
2. Germany's requirements from Japan in co-operation with Spring offensive.  
3. In what direction is allied offensive action contemplated.  
(C. in C. Ceylon, 0618Z/15 to Admty. for Chiefs of Staff).

/DANAE ...



15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

DANAE. A.M. 1149/11. Request you will take under your orders and operate DANAE as necessary in the Persian Gulf and the approaches thereto. 2. Ship should be depermed and sailed as soon as convenient on completion. (C. in C. E.F., 0649Z/15 to ?C. in C. E.I., (R) DANAE, Admty.)

Air T/B Sqn. Another ?composite torpedo bomber squadron is being formed in Ceylon in addition to 288 Sqn., using Naval reserve aircraft. Request early arrangements be made to increase stock of aircraft torpedoes and torpedo stores. (C. in C. E.I., 0755Z/15 to Admty.)

Oiler for Trincomalee. My 0942/11 para. 2. As FRANCOL has been sunk a harbour attendant oiler for Trincomalee is required. Request ARMILLA be allocated for this duty and SINGU retained as water carrier. (C. in C. E.I., 0759/15 to D. of S.T.)

KOTA GEDE. Sailed for Karachi A.M. 14/3 personnel carried, (1) R.A.F. 20 Officers and 455 other ranks. (2) Indian Troops 25. Fuel and water endurance 25 days. (S.T.O. Colombo, 0837Z/15 to S.T.O. Karachi, (R) D. of S.T.)

GONCALVES ZARCO, JOAO BELO. A.M. 1513/10 Portuguese GONCALVES ZARCO and Transport JOAO BELO arrived Colombo 15/3. C.O. has no orders as to his next destination. Colombo Harbour is very congested and I would be grateful if Portuguese N. Authorities would agree to ships sailing for Marmagao as soon as they have embarked bunker and water enough for passage. (C. in C. E.I., 1511Z/15 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon) Reply from N.A. Lisbon, see 1849A/16.

Ceylon. Re appointments of captains, Ceylon. (C. in C. E.I., 1749Z/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Aircraft Control, Ceylon. 76309. Cipher (M.O. 12.a) 14/3. Following from Chiefs of Staff for Gen. Wavell, No. (India) 37. Ref. para. 1 your 5574/C cipher 12/3, (1130/13). Authority referred to is yourself or Peirse as you may decide. (W.O., 1840/15, to C. in C. India).

India and Ceylon. Defence. Appreciation. (C. in C. India, 1845/15 to W.O. (R) C. in C. Ceylon). See Lion Copy.

*Handwritten:* Handwritten:

*Handwritten:* C. in C. E.F., 2230Z/15 to Admty. See 23.3.42



E.J.  
4802<sup>B</sup>

SECRET.

MESSAGE

1749Z/15th March IN

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 18/3/42.

Time 1258.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty.

735. My 0842/28 (0842/28) February. Commodore Elliott has arrived and after discussion with him and in view of the great amount of work involved in setting up the Naval Air Organisation in Ceylon I feel compelled to amend my views. Commodore Elliott will therefore be appointed LANKA for charge of Naval Air Stations in the Eastern Theatre only.

2. As combined duties of Captain-in-Charge Ceylon Maintenance Captain and Naval Superintendent now carried out by Captain Merriman are much too onerous for one man I propose as follows

(A) Direct responsibility for local Naval Defence of Ceylon to be assumed by myself except that Naval Officer-in-Charge Trincomalee will operate Naval Defences of that port under my general direction only.

(B) Captain Merriman to become Commanding Officer H.M.S. LANKA and maintenance Captain Colombo.

(C) An Officer to be appointed as Naval Superintendent Ceylon.

3. H.M.S. HECTOR has arrived in Colombo to destore prior to reversion to trade. Her Commanding Officer Captain F. Howard D.S.C. is being considered for Command of H.M.S. COLOMBO vide A.M. 1359/25 (1359/25) February. He has recently sustained a fractured fibula and has his leg in plaster. He is still in command of his A.M.C. but I doubt his physical fitness to command a small cruiser until his leg is quite healed which may not be for some time.

4. In view of this and to meet a very urgent need it is proposed that Captain Howard should be appointed H.M.S. LANKA additional as Naval Superintendent Ceylon. If approved recommend payment of command money and entertaining allowance at the higher rate allowed by K.R and A.I. APP 1 (APP 1) No. 13 (No 13) (D).

5. This .....



480<sup>c</sup>

5. This proposal is not in the least meant to reflect on Captain Merriman. The increased importance of Ceylon makes a division of duties imperative.

1749Z/15.

\* Intention to appoint Elliott Cdr. in Charge Ceylon.

1st. Lord.  
 1st. S.L.  
 2nd. S.L.  
 3rd. S.L.  
 Vice Controller.  
 4th S.L.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(F)  
 Civil Lord.  
 Sec.  
 Nav Sec, for action.  
 M(2)  
 C.W.(2)  
 O.D.(5)  
 Ops.(3)  
 D. of E.  
 D.N.I.(4)  
 N.A. 2nd S.L.(2)

D.N.A.D.  
 Air Br.  
 D.S.D.(2)  
 I.P.(3)  
 W.D.  
 N.A. to A.C.N.S.(T)  
 D.B.D.(2)  
 D. of L.D.(3)  
 D.570B.  
 Dept. Contr.(3) }  
 D.(4) } Bath by  
 D.N.A. } courier.  
 S.W.R.

DEM



MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

**MOST SECRET**

From C.in C. India.

1345/15/March.  
Date 15.3.42.

CYPHER

Time 1830.

Addressed The War Office, repeated C.in C. Ceylon

MOST IMMEDIATE

VVY/5853/G cipher 15/3. First of two parts 039171

For C.O.S.

Your 76116/M.O.12A) 13/3. C.O.S.(India No.35 (repeat 35)

1. Agreed that present resources are utterly inadequate for defence of India therefore more reason that we should consider their distribution with greatest care and on best policy which should be as offensive as resources allow.

Present policy seems to be to crowd unduly large proportion of slender resources land and air into Ceylon where their purpose is purely defensive to protect fleet which will certainly be unable to venture far into Bay of Bengal if we lose command of air in Burma and N.E.India.

2. Agreed that naval bases in Ceylon are of vital importance and must be protected but we cannot afford to over-insure. My reasoning is that if we lose command of sea and air round Ceylon to such extent that Japanese can bring sea borne (?Air Force) to Island no number of troops are likely to save bases. Without even landing Japanese can destroy bases by air attack as American base at Manila was destroyed.

3. Whole history of Japanese advance so far is that they do not move their warships and transports outside protection of land based air forces nor (?until) they have destroyed or greatly reduced enemy air forces covering their objective. To attack Ceylon they must depend on carrier borne aircraft against land borne aircraft and must risk fleet action within range of hostile land based air forces. This seems most unlikely.

4. If their objective is India they will surely attack where they will have cover of land based aircraft both for their land forces and ships. This they can do by working up Burmese mainland and West Coast and establishing successive airbases at Rangoon Akyab Upper Burma and perhaps Chittagong. With these in Japanese possession our fleet will be unable to venture near N.E.India and will be powerless to prevent sea borne invasion of Bengal. Food supply as I see it is India's chief danger.

5. Though I am responsible for defence of India I have so far been given no indication of naval appreciation or naval intentions. I am unaware of proposed strength of Eastern Fleet date of its assembly or its strategy when assembled. Nor have I any idea how far its action will be combined with that of American Pacific Fleet. It appears to me however that if the two Fleets work on some combined plan it should be made difficult and dangerous for Japanese to detach sufficiently strong.....



strong fleet to risk fleet action in Bay of Bengal or Indian Ocean and that without such action invasion Ceylon is unlikely.

6. Conclusion is that Japanese attack on India will be made via Burma Burmese Coast and water close to Burma under cover always of shore based air superiority which will make it dangerous for our warships to interfere. Ceylon will be threatened or raided but not attacked.

#### Last Part

7. From above reasoning following are conclusions.

(a) Ceylon should have sufficient defence to prevent raid of Pearl Harbour or Port Darwin type from aircraft carriers and to protect ports and aerodromes against possible smash and run landing parties.

(b) Our main Air Forces must be concentrated on securing air superiority in Upper Burma and N.E. India.

(c) As large land forces as possible should be made available for defence of N.E. India where our main war industries are concentrated. If sufficient troops are provided there is good prospect of defeating Japanese forces even if they succeed in landing or in penetrating through Burma. Forces at present available are unlikely to be sufficient. Appreciation of forces required will be sent shortly.

8. Establishment of air superiority in N.E. India will have following results

(a) It may enable us to maintain hold on Upper Burma and connection with Chinese.

(b) It will protect Calcutta and our war industries.

(c) It will prevent large seaborne landings in Bengal and Orissa.

(d) It will enable Navy to operate in Bay of Bengal.

(e) It will allow us to strike blow against Japanese Air Force which is their weakest point. Nowhere else can we do this effectively

9. Immediate steps necessary are in my opinion as follows.

(a) Release brigade 70 (repeat 70) Division from Ceylon for India. I consider Ceylon with two Indian brigades two Australian brigades one British brigade one (?African) brigade and local troops will be ?ver insured compared with remainder of India. On arrival second African Brigade should like also to consider withdrawal one Indian brigade from Ceylon

(b) Provide Ceylon with Beaufort Squadron asked for by C. in C. This is far more effective defence than infantry Brigades.

(c) Ask Americans to place at India's disposal all fighter  
and.....



**MOST <sup>-3-</sup> SECRET**

bomber forces as they become operationally ready. In particular ~~bomber force~~ ~~Bangal~~ ~~area~~ would contribute to defence of Ceylon.

(b) Concentrate with utmost urgency largest possible Air Force in N.E. India. This is vital for security of India and is only form offensive action we can take at present.

(e) Provide me with naval appreciation especially as regards defence of India. Destroyers and other small craft are urgently required for N.E. India.

1845/15

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.  
Read from 1350/16/March.

is 0100/14 - circulated in Admiralty's 1749/13.

1st Lord	
1st S.L.	
2nd S.L.	
3rd S.L.	
Vice Controller	
4th S.L.	
5th S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	
A.C.N.S. (W)	
A.C.N.S. (T)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	
P.A.S. (S)	
D.O.D. (F)	
D.D.O.D. (F)	
D.N.I. (7) & for A.E. & D.N.L.C.	
Naval Asst to A.C.N.S. (T)	
D. of P. (2)	
D.C. (2)	
D.D.I.C. (2)	
E.P.S.	
Hd. of M.	
I.P. (2)	
W.D.	
N.I.D. 10	
D.N.A.D.	
D.T.S.D.	
D. of L.D.	
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D.T.D. (M)	
Ad. Bellairs	
D.S.D.	
D.A/S.W.	
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	C.I.G.S.
	V.C.I.G.S.
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	D.P. (2)
	M.O. 1, 12(a) 12(b)
	D.M.I.
	D.D.M.I. (I)
	M.I. 2.
	D.S.D.
	C.N.S. Admiralty
	Hd. of W.R. Admiralty
	C.A.S. Air Ministry
	A.M.C.S. (Air Min)
	Colonial Office (Lt Col Rolleston) (4)
	Indian Office (Col. McCay)
	Colonel Jacob



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15.3.1942  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

**Movements** St. John's N.F. 14/3. Arrivals VERITY, ST. CLAIR, HALIFAX, CLAYOQUOT ex HX 179. MONTGOMERY, VETERAN ex Iceland. MALPESQUE ex Halifax. COWICHAN and tug FOUNDATION FRANKLIN ex search for S.S. EMPIRE CELT. Departures - VANOC, MONTGOMERY, SASKATOON to O.N. 72. ANNAPOLIS to Halifax. (F.O. Newfoundland 0121Z/15 to Admty.)  
New York arrivals 12th H.M. Trawlers NORWICH CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1825Z/15 to Admty.)

**ARIO** torpedoes Received 0527Z/15 torpedoed 34° 37' N 76° 20' W. ARIO. In my 0127Q/15 (N.T. in W.D) latitude should have read 34° 22' N (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa T.H.I. 0549/15 to Admty.)

**Castries Harbour St. Lucia defences** Your 1232P/10. There is a quantity of material at Cable Depot considered by Lt. Com. Roberts R.N.V.R. to be suitable for making nets for centre parts of obstruction. Request approval to have this made forthwith. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 0630Q/15 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. B.A.D.)  
*Reply: C. A.W.I. 1052P/16.*

**U-Boat** At 2248Z/14 D/F places U-boat within 100 miles of 044° 30' N 044° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0712Z/15 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A Admty. etc.)

**ACACIA** attacked by S/M ACACIA reports being shelled and machine gunned by S/M in 016° 17' N 063° 44' W at 0942Z/15 Abandoned ship. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0747P/15 to Admty.)  
Received 0944Z/15 Submarine attack being shelled and machine gunned abandoning ship 16° 17' N 63° 44' W Coast Guard Cutter ACACIA (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa No. T.O.O./15 to Admty.)

**Navigation Lights** Your telegram No. 8 of 11/3 repeated to S. of S. Colonies number 179. Important that movements of our own shipping should be hampered as little as possible. Consider that important navigational lights should only be extinguished if the presence of an enemy in the immediate vicinity is confirmed. Presume lights can be extinguished at short notice. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002P/15 to Gov. of Windward Is. (R) Admty.)

**CLEAN** Received 0411Z/15 torpedoed 34° 37' N 76° 31' W CLEAN. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1047/15 to Admty.)

**CARNARVON CASTLE** British Army Staff's 1911/14. Accommodation should read approx. 40 officers and 900 men as in my 1546/6. Balance of accommodation already taken by naval draft. (B.A.R.M. 1130Q/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) Admty. D. of S.T.)

/Suggested...



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Suggested removal of N.C.S. to San Nicholas.

In view of U.S. producing American officers to work in co-operation with Naval Control Service, Adm. Aldendorf and I went to Aruba yesterday to examine the possibility of moving N.C.S. to San Nicholas. Both he and I consider this is very essential to efficient work. Suitable officers available when ready in about one month or six weeks. (S.N.O. Curacao 1135QR/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ORION

Arrival Balboa ORION commenced transit of Canal 0900R/15. (C.S.A. Panama 1146R/15 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Movement Summary.

1800 G.M.T. 15/3.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
MANCHESTER	47½° 22° W	078°	14
Convoy N.A.5.	45° N 54½° W	052°	13½
CALIFORNIA)			
A BULOLO	30° N 30° W	348°	14¼
S.S.BATORY)			
CANTON	02½° N 23° W	Patrol	Blank
(D.O.D.(F) 1148Z/15 to Opnav.)			

*See p. 476*

U-Boat

N.A.5. D/F bearings indicate S/M within 100 miles of 44° 30' N 61° 00' W at 0348Z/15. (U.S.C.N.O. 1159/15 to C.T.U. No. 21.6.1. etc.)

AUSONIA

Your 1702P/13. Conversion of AUSONIA is still under discussion. (D.O.D. (F) 1250A/15 to C. in C A.W.I. (R) B.A.R.M.

O.N.75.

O.N.75. in view of A.M. 1220A/14 will order convoy be dispersed at (K) (C.N.O. 1330/15 to Admty.)

OTTAWA

Arrived from St. John's N.F. (S.O.I. Halifax 1335Z/15 to Admty.)

\*? BERWINDGLEN intended

\* BERWENGLLEN TACHIRA attacked by S/M.

\*BERWENGLLEN attacked by S/M in 39° 05' N 74° 35' W at 1434Z/15. From Baltimore MD Radio TACHIRA attacked by S/M in 39° 03' N 74° 38' W at 1437Z/15. Baltimore Maryland Radio Naval Ottawa. (Ottawa T.H.I. 1558/15 to Admty.)

BERWENGLLEN ½ mile inside Tivalon Shoals Buoy 39° 05' N 74° 35' W at 1434. Second by TACHIRA 39° 03' N 74° 38' W at 1437. All times Z. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1728Z/15 to Admty.)

*See next page*

Tug for QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

My 1911Z/14 anticipate being able to provide an escort of 4 A/S trawlers by 20/3. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1601Z/15 to B.A.D.)



War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.French  
Shipping

French ship ERIDAN and WYOMING on approved voyage schedule sailing about 15/3 FORT DE FRANCE to Caripito for fuelling thence to Casablanca. (C.T. Force 23. 1656/15 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet etc.)

EMPIRE  
PEACOCK,  
AGHIOI  
VICTORES.

Diverted Pernambuco. (D.T.D. 1729A/15 to British Consul Pernambuco (R) R.N.O. St. Lucia.

Dakar  
Intelligence

Dakar. 13/3. B.1.  
To conserve fuel oil ARGYLL now ~~Saint Henri~~ <sup>Saint Henri</sup> berth alongside RICHELIEU to supply steam. ULRIKHOLM (Brit. Reg) ex Danish will provide service for cruisers. Master and Chief Engineer to remain aboard. Foreman and coal provided by French. Master desires instructions from Owners. Souther Newcastle. (B.A.D. 1731Q/15 to Admty.)

U-Boat  
Situation

15/3. M.V. sunk 36° 01' N 65° 49' W at 1927Z (?14) Attack on M.V. 39° 05' N 74° 35' W at 1434Z/15. Another attack reported 39° 03' N 74° 38' W at 1437Z/15. 1 S/M off Cape Hatteras.

Possibly 1 250 miles east of Hampton Roads. 2 sound contacts as follows 40° 13' N 72° 10' W at 1752Z/14, 41° 48' N 69° 52' W at 2315Z/14. 1 aircraft sighted 38° 40' N 75° 20' W at 1230Z/14. Possibly 6 in area N of 38° N and 50° to 70° W. 2 eastbound within 150° 35' 30' N 54° 30' W 38° 30' N 44° 30' W. 2 westbound within 150 miles 45° N 35 W. One surface ship shelled and sunk 16 (?17) N 63° 44' W at 0944Z/15. 1 attack 15 miles S Cape Lookout at 0411Z/15. 1 attack 10 miles E of Cape Lookout at 0530Z/15. 1 S of Haiti or San Domingo. 3 in Bahamas Area. 1 indicated by D/F within 50 miles of 23° N 51° 45' W at 0254Z/15. 3 homeward bound as follows 25° N 69° W, 29° N 51° W 23° N 29° 30' W. 2 eastbound within 150 miles: 31° N 48° W 44° 30' N 32° 30' W. No alteration E of 30° W. (Cominch 1801/15 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) Admty. etc.)

S.C.73

C. in C. W.A. 1112Z/15. S.C.73 READING (S.O) PRIMROSE, DAUPHIN, LETHBRIDGE, SHAWINIGAN. (C.C.N.F. 1831Z/15 to C.T.U. 24.6.3. (R) C.T.G. 24.6. C.T.F. 24, C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat  
attack  
summary.

American OLEAN torpedoed 15 miles South Cape Lookout at 0411Z/15. American ARIO torpedoed 10 miles East Cape Lookout. ACACIA shelled and sunk 16° 17' N 63° 44' W at 0944Z/15. American \*BERWENGLER attacked by S/M on surface 39° 05' N 74° 35' W at 1434Z/15. Possibly same S/M attacked American TACHIRA 39° 03' N 74° 38' W at 1437Z/15. British RESOURCE\* believed torpedoed and sunk 36° 01' N 65° 49' W at 1927Z/14. No further details on these attacks. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1847/15 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) *See previous page.*

\* ? BERWINDGLER intended.

/S S S ...

\*not identified



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War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.S S S  
Report  
ATHELQUEEN

Following from Kingston Radio "Following received from Nassau " SSS ATHELQUEEN torpedoed and gunned 26° 50' N 75° 40' W at 2010 G.M.T. (Navycom Bermuda T.H.I. 1901/15 to Admiracire ) C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2301/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movements

Arrived COWICHAN, MATAPEDIA from St. John's N.F. CALDWELL, LAUDERDALE, THUNDER from O.N.70. Sailed VANQUISHER, SUDBURY, SUMMERSIDE, LUNENBURG, UNGAVA Western local escort H X 180. (S.O.I. Halifax 1946Z/15 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A. B.A.D. Washington, A.C.I.C)

Military  
Guard  
for M/V  
AGAPENOR

Your 2223P/14 (N.T. in W.D) If U.S. guard is unobtainable, request you arrange for Military guard to proceed from Kingston to Colon by air. (D.T.D. 2030A/15 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) C.S.A. Colon etc.)  
Admiralty's 2030A/16 (2030/15 intended) Request you will arrange for military guard to proceed by air to Colon. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2302P/15 to Capt. I.C. Jamaica (R) C.S.A. Colon, Admty, M.O.W.T. New York.)

DAYTONIAN  
(Torpedoed  
13/3 Italian  
U/B.

58 British survivors landed Nassau 15th. Particulars follow. DAYTONIAN Harrison Line, Mobile to Liverpool?, 0320 G.M.T. 026° 33' N 074° 43' W, submarine, 2 torpedoes and shelled, totally destroyed and sunk. S/M flew Italian flag identified as Italian ENRICO TAZZOLI class. Books and documents destroyed overboard. (R.O. Nassau, 2110/15 to Fairmiss, London (R) Admty. S.O.I. Jamaica.)

MIMOSA

MIMOSA sailed for St. Pierre. F.O. N.F. advise St. Pierre. (S.O.I. Halifax 2110Z/15 to Admty.)

LORD KELVIN  
MIMOSA

Cable ship LORD KELVIN sailed to cable ground off St. Pierre escorted by MIMOSA. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2122Z/15 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa F.O. N.F.)

U-Boat

O.N.73 Serial 4 and H X 180 Serial 1. R.D.F. Fix of U Boat obtained night of 14/3 in 044° 30 N 061° 00 W and 044° 00 N 060° 00 W. (U.S. C.N.O. 2201/15 to C.T.U. 24.18.6.)

U.S. Forces  
Carribean

Grateful if N.A. Venezuela would let me have a copy of his report on his visit to Adm. Hoover. (ii) Please tell him that I am unable to understand last para of his 1910/14 addressed to Admty. Distress messages from ships invariably contain positions. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2242P/15 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad (R) Admty.)



War Diary.15.3.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements Arrival Auckland MONOWAI escorting hired transport RANGATIRA. (N.Z.N.B. 0215Z/15 to Admty.)  
U.S. Transport \*MONTGOMERY escorted by KANIMBLA departed Brisbane 1103Z/14 for Fremantle.  
Arrival Brisbane 0215Z/14 PATRICIA CAM. Arrival Sydney 2113Z/13  
R.F.A. oiler BISHOPDALE. (A.C.N.B. 0256Z/15 to Admty.)

\* ? MONTEREY - See 19/3 - p. 613.

S.U.1 Convoy S.U.1. Arrived consisting of EASTERN PRINCE, CITY OF LONDON, CITY OF PARIS, EGRA, ESPERANCE BAY, SALWEEN, PENRITH CASTLE, KOSCIUSKO. Following ships detached at sea for Adelaide direct SILVER WILLOW, EMPIRE GLADE, MADRAS CITY, MATHURA. (N.O.I.C. Fremantle 0245Z/15 to Admty.)

Dockyard work. Your 2304A/10 (Proposal for increasing accommodation in troop ships) Work of increasing accommodation will be taken in hand on arrival of ships if it can be done without delay to more urgent work. At present all available resources are employed on making good damage to warships and merchant ships. (A.C.N.B. 0408Z/15 to D.S.T.)

MAPIA (Dutch) MAPIA has been instructed by wireless to proceed to Melbourne. (A.C.N.B. 0708Z/15 to Admty.)

Request for M.T.B's Townsville Admty. 11334/27/2.\* Request consideration be given to allocating one Flotilla of M.T.B's to Australians to be based at Townsville with Cairns as advanced fuelling base. Area combined H.Q. of N.E. Area is at Townsville and Americans intend greatly increased use of port which is to be dredged 32 feet. Defences in this area are at present mostly inadequate. Will Admiralty please give fuller details of personnel and maintenance requirements and say whether assistance can be given in supply of more higher qualified ratings particular T.G.M's and E.A's. (A.C.N.B. 0718Z/15 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. etc.) \*N.T. in W.D.

Mine W F Messages Nr. 144 Floating Mine in 33° 56' S 151° 20' E. (A.C.N.B. 0927Z/15 to Australian Station (R) Admty.)

Serial number 53 From C.W.R. 14/3. (1) R/C over Dilli 14/3 sighted 2 small ships in harbour 1 A/C on aerodrome. North South Runway appears in course of extension. Bombs dropped, no result observed. Nil anti A/C reprisals or enemy A/C in air. (2) Report from Escapee Dutch Timor that wharf is being constructed Koepang. (3) Coast Watcher reported 1 small warship, 1 large transport approached Lae from S.E. 0115Z/14. 1 T 97 flying boat in company. (4) Raid number 13, Port Moresby 0142Z/14 by 9 heavy bombers, runway lightly damaged. (5) Raid number 1 Horn Island 0120Z/14 by 8 bombers and 9 Zero fighters. No damage aerodrome 2 Zero fighters



War Diary.

15.3.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Serial  
number 53  
(Contd.)

and 1 bomber destroyed in air. 1 U.S. fighter missing. 1 R.A.A.F. Hudson destroyed on ground. (6) Enemy air R/C over Nawiu 2202/12 and Shortland Island, S of Bougainville 14/3. (7) Unidentified A/C over Daly Water 0210Z/14 Darwin 0613/14. (8) Many enemy R/C flights over S.E. New Guinea 14/3. (A.C.N.B. 1338Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1355A/15 1402A/15.)