

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Photographic R/C of Trondheim at 0945B today showed TIRPITZ, SCHEER, HIPPER, and PRINZ EUGEN in their usual positions. TIRPITZ and HIPPER were emitting smoke, but the booms were closed. SCHARNHORST and NURNBERG are still in dock at Kiel.

9 ships have now returned to Iceland from Convoy P.Q.14, one without a propeller and several others damaged, and at 1315B NEWMARKET arrived at Reykjavik with 5 ships of this Convoy. 2 Russian destroyers will arrive in position G at 0900/17. 6 stragglers from P.Q.14 were in company with Q.P.10 in 70° 47' N. 1° 8' E. at 1144B today. Convoy P.Q.14 was attacked by several U/Bs at 1450B today in 73° 48' N. 21° 22' E. and the British EMPIRE HOWARD, 6985 tons, was sunk. At 1358B LIVERPOOL escorting Convoy Q.P.10 reported that ECLIPSE was no longer in company, that the A/S gear of BLACKFLY and PAYNTER was out of action, that it was necessary to detach the remaining Escort vessels in turn to refuel, and that the convoy was still being shadowed by A/C, and she requested that the Escort might be reinforced. A.C.I.C. replied at 1730B that he had no ships available for this purpose; but at 1629B C. in C. H.F. reported from 65° 39' N. 4° 16' W. that he intended to cover the convoy until p.m. tomorrow and to refuel the remaining destroyers at Seidisfiord and at 1739 he ordered R.A.DH.F. to send his available destroyers to Skaalefiord to which port MIDDLETON, LEDBURY, LAMERTON and HURSLEY are now proceeding. At 1702B Capt. D.8 was ordered to be ready to take SOMALI, BEDOUIN, and MATCHLESS at best speed to Seidisfiord and from there to join C. in C. H.F. in 66° 50' N. 10° 30' W.; and at 1709B KENT was ordered to reinforce LIVERPOOL and to part company with her in 14° W.

Russian intelligence estimates that 6 U-Boats are now operating in North Russian waters; and D/F bearings at 0318 today suggest that convoy P.Q.14 may have been reported by one of them. Two U-Boats with an Escort craft passed northwards yesterday through the Sound; and SEAWOLF after leaving the Fro Havet patrol at dark tomorrow was today ordered to patrol for one whole day in 62° 50' N. 3° 50' E. where it is considered that U-Boats may be expected.

An enemy convoy of 18 M/Vs was sighted by A/C off Terschelling at 1803 today.

/There ...

16.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

There is evidence that Russian Destroyers used R/T for intercommunication while escorting Convoy Q.P.10 and, though this has been denied, the matter is being investigated further.

British Air Activity.

16 A/C attacked St. Nazaire last night, when 10 A/C also bombed the docks at Havre; and at 2025 today an A/C on patrol attacked 2 M/Vs with depth charges off Bilbao.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy Q.P.10 was being shadowed by A/C during today; and at 1139B F.W. A/C were probably homing U-Boats on to Convoy P.Q.14.

Mining.

The ports of Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 0002 today owing to suspected minelaying.

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Malta.

There were no alerts last night. Only 6 enemy fighter aircraft on patrol were reported today.

Operation  
"Lighter".

2 platoons of 11th R.M. Bn. were landed from KELVIN and KIPLING last night on Kuphonisi Island, S.E. of Crete, and destroyed the wireless station. The enemy retreated, casualties unknown. 4 marines were slightly wounded.

UNA,  
M/V sunk.  
NINETTO.  
(Torp: c/Task 755  
Reg.)

UNA reports having sunk an <sup>5</sup>8000 ton transport escorted by asdic-fitted yachts at 1154/5 in 37.65<sup>x</sup>N., 15.41 E. She was heavily counter-attacked. *See p. 466*

East Indies.Fleet  
Bases.

Policy of Chiefs of Staff in regard to bases for Eastern Fleet is given in Admty. 1414B/16. Colombo will be the main base and both A/A defence and fighter protection should be given highest priority. Until Colombo is ready and the Fleet worked up, Kilindini is to be used. The creation of a base in Northern Arabian Sea (probably Elphinstone Inlet) is to be investigated. All further development of Addu Atoll is to cease for the time being, present defences being maintained. Development of Mauritius and Diego Garcia should proceed.

Conflicting  
Claims for  
F.A.A.  
Aircraft.

In reference to C. in C. E.F.'s inquiry whether he can complete his carriers from aircraft now in Ceylon, C. in C. Ceylon claims that the retention of all Fulmar and Sea Hurricanes there is very important, though Fulmars are definitely inferior to Japanese fighters and he only wants them until replaced by Hurricanes. He suggests carriers embark other aircraft at Kilindini or possibly Aden or Port Sudan, rather than that aircraft be moved away from an active theatre of operations just as they are most wanted.

/C. in C. ...

16.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Conflicting  
Claims for  
F.A.A.  
Aircraft.  
(Contd.)

C. in C. E.F. points out however that if his Fleet is to remain in Indian Ocean, the part he may have to play against an enemy fleet will not necessarily be of his own selection. Unless his carriers are properly equipped his task of avoiding action with superior forces becomes increasingly difficult and the opportunity of striking back effectively should occasion offer becomes less.  
(For Admty. decision, see 17/4.)

Enemy  
Units.

Air searches today from Ceylon yielded no further evidence of the enemy forces reported yesterday about 80 miles S. of Ceylon.

America and West Indies.

Dutch S.S. AMSTERDAM Beaumont to Freetown and U.K., was torpedoed and sunk at 1545 G.M.T. in 12° N. 62.45 W. 38 survivors were landed at Trinidad by S.S. IVAN.

Australia.

Panamanian F<sup>E</sup>IRTHORN reported being attacked by U-Boat at 0615 G.M.T. in 45° 38' S. 174° 10' W. No further signal has been received from her.

486

16.4.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Use of  
R/T by  
Russians  
while  
escorting  
Convoy.

There is evidence that Soviet destroyers used R/T for intercommunication when escorting Q.P.10. Denial has been given. Request information in due course whether any ocean escort ship can confirm conversations on approx. 3790 K/Cs. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0948B/16 to C. in C.H.F. Reptd. LIVERPOOL).

URSULA.  
UTMOST.  
UNIQUE.  
→ UPRIGHT.

Intend following future dispositions of submarines ex 10th Flotilla after completion of refits in U.K. URSULA 3rd Flotilla. UTMOST 10th Flotilla. UNIQUE and UPRIGHT 3rd or 9th Flotilla. (F.O.S. 1139B/16).

Bay of  
Biscay.  
U-boat  
hunts by  
A/C.

In order to give a clear field in Bay of Biscay for aircraft to intensify night hunting of U/Bs request that if possible our submarines may be routed to the west of 12° W. between latitudes 49° and 43° N.

Advantage of this clear field will be taken throughout the month and not only six nights either side of Full moon. (H.Q.C.C. 1230B/16 to F.O.S.) (F.O.S. 1916B/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P.614.  
P.615.

On completion of trials and working up patrols P.614 and P.615 are to be transferred to 7th S/M Flotilla on date to be arranged by Captains S. It is intended that these submarines should carry out working up patrols in area specified in paragraph 2 of my 1216A/4 to S.3 and A.D.S.9 only. Thereafter they are to be employed in A/S Training duties but may be required for occasional patrols. (F.O.S. 1739B/16).

11th  
M.T.B.  
Flotilla.

It is under consideration to allocate the 11th M.T.B. Flotilla to Portsmouth. Request very early reply whether you can usefully operate this flotilla. (D.D.O.D. (C.) 1758B/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements.

RUBIS.

RUBIS arrived 1546B/15. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1157B/16).

→ UPRIGHT.  
STURGEON.  
P.43.

(1) Intend (A) to sail UPRIGHT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1730B/18 for Blyth. E.T.A. 1230B/21. Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE return to Holy Loch. E.T.A. 1500B/23.  
(B) to sail STURGEON and P.43 escorted by WHITE BEAR at 1800B/18 passing West of Orkneys for Lerwick. E.T.A. 2100B/20.  
(Capt. S.3. 1203B/16).

/LIANSTEPHAN.....

487

16.4.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE carrying 1300 service personnel will be ready to leave Clyde for Gibraltar on 24/4.  
 VELOX. 2. Speed 13 knots.  
 3. VELOX will provide through escort after fuelling at Londonderry.  
 4. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to provide one additional destroyer who will be relieved at M.O.M.P. by destroyer from Gibraltar and F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail one destroyer to comply.  
 5. Admiralty will promulgate route and M.O.M.P.  
 6. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships as requisite. (D.O.D.(H) 1213B/16).

BRITTANY. Admiralty 1938/14 and N.O.I.C. Greenock 1724/15.  
 BARFOSS. Route to Freetown. (C. in C.W.A. 2002B/16).  
 BARKING.  
 BARFOUNT.

9th and 13th M/S Flotillas. A.M. 1335B/13. (i) Intend sailing 9th and 13th M/S Flotilla in company for Harwich at 1900/17. Route. E.T.A. 13th Flotilla 1200/18 and 9th Flotilla 1500/18. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2033B/16).

Operations.

Patrols. My 1025B/15. WALPOLE is to carry out patrol C. today instead of LA MELPOMENE who has engine room defects. (Capt. D.16 0520B/16).  
 3 Chasseurs patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 returning to St. Helens daylight.  
 5 M.G.B's patrolling from Portland Bill - South of Anvil Point 1930 - 2230. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1633B/16).  
 Patrol tonight. 2 M.L. near Dumpton. (V.A. Dover 1742/16 to FERNIE.)

Escort and Cover for Convoy Q.P.10. Intend covering Q.P.10 until p.m. 17th and refuelling remaining destroyers at Seidis Fiord My position 065° 39' N. 004° 16' W. at 1800B/16. (C. in C.H.F. 1629B/16 to Admt.)  
 LIVERPOOL 1144B/16 and 1358B/16. Proceed to reinforce LIVERPOOL.  
 2. Q.P.10 is routed through position (Y) 069° 05' N. 005° 35' W. to (W) 066° 40' N. 018° (?20') W.  
 3. Part company in 014° W. and return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1709B/16 to KENT.)

SOMALI. When ordered to proceed in execution of previous orders take SOMALI, BEDOUIN, and MATCHLESS at best speed to Seidis Fiord. Fuel and proceed to join me in position (Z) 066° 50' N. 010° 30' W. My approach course position (Z) (corrupt group) 230°. (C. in C.H.F. 1702B/16 to Capt. D.8.)  
 BEDOUIN.  
 MATCHLESS.

/MIDDLETON.....

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.-Contd.MIDDLETON.  
LEDBURY.  
LAMERTON.  
HURSLEY  
to Faeroes.

MIDDLETON and LEDBURY proceeding passing Switha at 2000 today to arrive Skaale Fiord 0800/17.  
2. On arrival complete with fuel and await orders. (R.A.D. H.F. 1736B/16).  
(? Immediate) Send available destroyers to Skaale Fiord. (C. in C. H.F. 1739/16 to R.A.D.H.F. Detach LAMERTON, HURSLEY, to proceed best speed to Skaale Fiord. (ii) They are fuelling on arrival and awaiting further orders.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 2321B/16 to WAINWRIGHT).

Fro  
Havet S/M  
Patrol.

Leave patrol after dark tomorrow diving by day routed as follows:- A. 064° 40' N. 009° 42' E.  
B. 064° 39' N. 008° 39' E. C. 063° 10' N. 004° 25' E. to patrol during daylight hours of one whole day in vicinity of D. 062° 50' N. 003° 50' E. where U-boats may be expected thence proceeding after dark that day to - E. 061° 25' N. 000° W., thence on surface at C.O's discretion through F. 088° Out Skerries 6 miles. G. 093° Bard Head 5 miles to Lerwick for onward escort to Holy Loch.  
Object of patrol from 1800/17th as in F.S.B.2. (Capt. S.9 1815B/16 to SEAWOLF).

Cable-  
laying.

Operation completed. E.T.A. Greenock 1230B/17.  
(IRIS 2300/16).

British Air Activity.Brixham  
Harbour.  
Height  
of Balloons  
from M/V's.

Following from C. in C. Plymouth 1310B/15, re H.Q.F.C.'s 1610B/11.  
2. It is suggested that the flying of balloons on the limited occasions proposed will be an added defence to the tankers whose principal cargo is R.A.F. aviation spirit, and that the slight risk to friendly A/C should be accepted.  
3. If you agree, propose co-ordination measures should be agreed locally between C. in C. Plymouth and Air Defence Commander, action being reported to Admiralty and Fighter Command. (D. of L.D. 1107B/16 to Air Ministry.)

Operation  
S.N.88.

Expect escort aircraft of 18 group as follows.  
A/S by Hudsons from 1600/17 to 2240/19 during Daylight hours.  
A/A by Blenheims or Beaufighters from 0600 to 1500 on 18th and 19th. (C. in C. Rosyth 1259/16 to R.A.M.)

Bombing  
operations.

On day 15/4, 9 A/C bombed the docks at Cherbourg. On Night 15/16, 16 A/C attacked St. Nazaire and 10 A/C bombed the docks at Havre. (H.Q.B.C. 1330/16).

/Newhaven.....

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.-Contd.Newhaven  
R.D./F plots  
on 23/3.

Your 1447/24. Thorough investigation has been made by Fighter Command and it is clear that enemy aircraft made low approach and were first detected 12 miles South of Newhaven at 1751 and tracked for one minute only. Attack took place two minutes later and even if raid had been identified as hostile there was insufficient time for the warning to be given. That a dive bombing attack was made does not mean that enemy aircraft approached at height. Enemy aircraft probably approached at surface level height being gained at last moment when nearing coastline. (D. of L.D. 1915B/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Off Bilbao.

Have attacked 2 M/V's with depth charges. Result unobserved. P.C.S. of M/V's 43° 31' N. 2° 28' W., 070°, 10 knots. (A/C of B. Sqdn. 2025 /16 to 19 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoys  
P.Q.14.  
Q.P.10.

F.W. aircraft are probably homing U/Bs. on to Convoy P.Q.14. (D.D.I.C. 1139B/16 to P.Q.14, Rept. C. in C. H.F.)  
Q.P.10 being shadowed by A/C. P.C.S. 070° 47' N. 001° 08' E., 237°, 5 knots. Have 6 stragglers from P.Q.14 in company. (LIVERPOOL 1144B/16 to C. in C.H.F.)

EMPIRE  
STARLIGHT  
LANCASTER  
CASTLE.  
NEW WESTMINSTER  
CITY.

Diver's report yesterday damage to EMPIRE STARLIGHT as follows. 2 Heavy bombs down number two hatch exploded on Port Side causing hole about 24 feet by 9 feet about 4 feet above turn of bilge.  
Number 2 hold  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of water, bulkhead tight, tanks tops not yet examined. Ship afloat at number 9 Wharf and proceeding to anchorage tonight. Repairs to bomb damage third April of ship completed yesterday quite satisfactorily. Now Propose putting in hand temporary repairs to hole in number 2.  
LANCASTER CASTLE after receiving four direct hits yesterday more or less beyond repair, ship lying on mud on bottom, engine room and all holds except number five flooded one foot above between decks at high water. All stores not damaged, engine and cabin, being transferred.  
NEW WESTMINSTER CITY. Discharging expected to be completed tomorrow. Then coal will be discharged, salvage tug dismissed, and, vessel beached. (Millar, Murmansk 1510B/16).

Thames  
Estuary.

At 0310/16 a group of about twelve powerful flares lasting some two to three minutes was dropped from direction of centre of Knock Deep Unknown place reported in area about ten minutes earlier. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1742/16.)



16.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

A/C over Scapa on 15/4. Your 1252B/15. Request information whether good results were given by R.D/F and number of guns that engaged enemy. (A.C.N.S. H. 1908B/16 to A.C.O.S.)

Mining.

Tees. Hartlepool. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed at 0002/16 owing to suspected enemy minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0002/16).

B.S.75. Operation B.S. 75 completed. (PLOVER 0630B/16) Arrivals WIDGEON and PLOVER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0635B/16).

S.N.88. Your 1230/15 para. (D) (2). KENYA detailed. (R.A.D. H.F. 0925B/16 to R.A.M.) Proceed as necessary to comply with R.A. (M)'s 1230/15 para. G. On completion return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 0930B/16 to KENYA). Sailed SARDONYX, SALADIN in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1020B/13. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2135B/16).

Q.K.4A. Minelaying operations to repeat or back up previous operations the P.W., Q.K., or Q.L. Series will in future have letter "A", "B" etc. added to the original number. Operation ordered in my 1904B/12 is to be amended to read Q.K.4A. (C. in C. Nore 1842B/16 to BEEHIVE)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/15 to 0900/16. Track E.14D. 2 vessels trawler size entered Boulogne from South at 0625. Speed 6 knots. (V.A. Dover 0913B/16).

Varanger Fiord. Russians report. 13 April. In 72° 13' N. 31° 10' E. one U-boat. In 70° 45' N. 30° 54' E. one U/boat. Varanger Fiord one Destroyer. 14 April. Varanger Fiord one U-boat. (Ad. Miles 1032C/16 to Admty.)

Main Units at Trondheim. Photographs taken at 0945/16 show:- Aasfjord. TIRPITZ at usual berth. She is issuing smoke but ex the camouflage rafts around stern and bow unchanged and Boom is closed. A turret still trained to starboard. ALTMARK Tanker still anchored off Salto Isl.

Lofjord. SCHEER, HIPPER, EUGEN and Cargo Liner in same positions as on 15/4 with Booms closed but HIPPER is emitting smoke. One 750 ton U-boat is new arrival since 15/4 alongside cargo liner to Starboard. Floating crane still attending EUGEN's stern.

/Hopleelven.....

491

16.4.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Main Units  
at  
Trondheim  
- contd.

Hopleelven Fjord. Three D/rs. present as on 15/4. Trondheim. Roads only part photographed. No change since 15/4. Two tankers 540 feet and 450 feet at Oil Quays, Liner 600 feet, Five M.M's 200/350 feet and WESTFALEN at anchor, and HANS ROLSHOFEN under way. Seven A/C at SPB. (P.R.U. Wick 1510/16).  
Photographic R/C Trondjeim 0945B/16.  
TIRPITZ, SCHEER, HIPPER, PRINZ EUGEN in usual positions. (D.D.I.C. 1755B/16 to A.I.G.)

Convoy off  
Ijmuiden.  
Kiel.  
Hamburg.

P.R.U. Sortie at 1230/16 shows convoy reported on Sorties A/592 again only partly photographed due to cameras failure. Six M/Vs. 200/350 ft. total gross tonnage about 8500 tons and five auxiliaries now seen in position reported by pilot heading north off Ijmuiden at 1350 hrs. Kiel. SCHARNHORST remains in Southern floating dock and NÜRNBERG in dry dock No. 6 and are only major naval units at present in Port. Hamburg. No major naval units present. (P.R.U. Benson 1700/1).  
18 Merchant Vessels. My position 53° 19' N. 4° 41' E., course 010° (A.C. of N. Sqdn. 1803/16 to 16 Group)

The Sound.

One large belived Escort Craft with twin mountings forward and aft, together with two U-boats, passed Helsingborg northwards yesterday. This is first report of U-boats using through passage of Sound since ice conditions set in. (N.A. Stockholm 1741/16 to Admty.)

U-Boats.Convoy  
P.Q.14.  
EMPIRE  
HOWARD.  
(British,  
6985 Tons)  
sunk.

D/F bearings at 0318/16 G.M.T. suggest that convoy P.Q.14 may have been reported by a U-boat. (D.D.I.C. 0609B/16 to A.I.G., P.Q.14).  
P.Q.14 attacked by U-boats in 073° 48' N. 021° 22' E. at 1450B. One ship EMPIRE HOWARD sunk. Estimate 4 or 5 U-boats in vicinity. My P.C.S. 073° 48' N. 022° 33' E., 091°, 8 knots. (BULLDOG 1700B/16 to C.S.18).

U-Boats  
suspected.

Soviet Intelligence estimated from D/F bearings 6 U-boats operating between 071° 30' N. 074° 19' E. 025° (sic) (? between 71° 30' and 74° 19' N. in 25° E.) (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1144B/16 to C.S.18, P.Q.14.)  
There is possibly one U-boat between Orkneys and Butt of Lewis. (F.O.S. 1516B/16 to S/M's).

U-Boats  
sighted.

Following from R.A.F. Stornoway begins. Walrus aircraft reported she thought she sighted a S/M in 58° 34' N. 05° 58' W. We are sending an A/C to search now. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1158B/16).

/M.Ls.....

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

U-Boats M.L's 215, 235, and 239 proceeding to search for  
sighted U-boat sighted by Walrus. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway  
- Contd. 1231B/16 and 1312B/16).  
R.A.(D) H.F. 1351B/16. Object first located  
by A.S.V. and when first sighted at distance of  
5 miles had definite bow wave. In sight 2 to 3 minutes, roughly  
course 130°, before disappearing. (A.C.O.S. 1631B/16 to  
Comdesron 8).  
Your 1610. Following is my 1530. Have orders investigate U-boat  
sighted by aircraft in 58° 43' N. 005° 58' W. Assist in search  
if your orders permit. (Comdesron 8 1920B/16 to M.L. 452).  
Report just received from Trans Atlantic Controller R.A.F.  
Prestwick.  
Pilot of Trans Atlantic plane reports sighting S/M awash in  
approx. 056° N. 09° W., between 0900 and 1100 today.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2133B/16).

The Sound. 2 U-boats passed through the Sound northwards  
yesterday. (N.A. Stockholm 1741/16).  
See Enemy Intelligence.

Navigational.

White Sea Less severe ice conditions now prevailing in all  
conditions. parts of White Sea due to higher temperature and  
light wind. Average temperature 34. Ice edge  
Svyatoi Nos. South westerly winds are forecast  
and conditions should then improve materially.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1545B/16).

Casualties and Defects.

SPEEDY. SPEEDY seaworthy but requires docking for  
underwater damage to oil fuel tanks, fresh water  
tanks, and other compartments. Intend sailing  
her for Scapa p.m. 16th. (N.O.I.C. Iceland  
0030B/16).  
My 0030/16. Sailed 1915B. (A.C.I.C. 1937B/16  
to R.A.D. H.F.)

CATERINA. Your 0934/16. Arrived. Engine trouble.  
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1815/16 to R.N.O. Wick).

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy. Congratulations on bring home in safety the  
ships of your convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 0033B/16  
to Master of CITY OF WELLINGTON).

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

P.Q.14.

Russian Destroyer SOKRUSHETELNK (S.O.)  
GREMYA~~2~~CHI will arrive position (G) 0900/17  
thence steering 266° and thereafter following  
general instructions. Radio wavelengths will  
operate as requested first 10 minutes every hour.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1019B/16 to C.S.18,  
P.Q.14, (R) M/S F.6.)

9 ships have returned from P.Q.14. 1 of these has no propeller  
and several others are damaged, extent at present unknown.  
7 ships P.Q.14 believed to have straggled, position at present  
unknown. (A.C.I.C. 1201B/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F.)  
Reykjavik arrivals NEWMARKET escorting BOTAVON, PIETER DE HOOGH,  
EXTERMINATOR, HEGIRA, EMPIRE BARD, EX P.Q. 14. (N.O.I.C.  
Iceland 1315B/16).  
P.Q. 14 attacked by U-Boats at 1450B/16. EMPIRE HOWARD sunk.  
(BULLDOG 1700B/16) See U-boats.

Q.P.10.

Request escort for Q.P.10 may be reinforced.  
ECLIPSE no longer in company. BLACKFLY,  
PAYNTER A/S out of action. Fuel situation of  
remaining escort necessitates detaching them  
in turn to refuel. Convoy still being shadowed  
by A/C. (LIVERPOOL 1358B/16 to C. in C.H.F.,  
A.C.I.C.)  
Your 1358B/16. Nothing available from here.  
(A.C.I.C. 1730B/16 to LIVERPOOL).  
(Group omitted) cover Q.P.10 until p.m. 17th April  
and (faded out). (C. in C. H.F. 1728/16 to Admty.)

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- M.L. Patrol. My 0729/13. M.Ls. have now returned.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0957A/16 to Admty.)
- German Ship. German ship numbered 55 full load ready for sea.  
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1105/16 to Admty.)
- P. 612. My 1540/13. From position Q amend route to  
(MURAT REIS) pass through S.  $038^{\circ} 30' 002^{\circ} 25' E.$  at 1800B/19  
and T.  $038^{\circ} 30' 009^{\circ} 00'$  at 2100B/22.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1306B/16 to P. 612.)
- UNBEATEN. From  $038^{\circ} 12' 001^{\circ} 01' E.$  amend route to pass  
through  $036^{\circ} 35' 002^{\circ} 12' W.$  at 0330B/20  $036^{\circ} 27' 004^{\circ} 27'$   
at 0430B/21 thence on the surface to arrive Gibraltar gate at 1200B/21.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1308B/16 to UNBEATEN, (R) P.612.)  
*See p 499*
- Italian repatriations. Your 1918B/14 and C. in C. S.A. 1325/14,  
A.M. 2006/4/12/41 para. 6, stated liners would require to refuel at Kilindini on homeward voyage from Red Sea. From this it was inferred that no fuel would be available in Red Sea.  
2. Your 1918/14 now states ships are fuelling in Red Sea, therefore no intermediate fuelling should be required.  
3. Will ships call at Port Elizabeth on return voyage for water and stores?  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1358B/16 to Admty.)  
P.C. and S. at noon on 16/4  $18^{\circ} 27' N. 23^{\circ} 51' W. 175^{\circ} 16.5$  knots. DUILIO in company. Intend passing between Stjago and Mayo Islands to avoid Leton rocks.  
(VULCANIA, 1425/16 to Admty., etc.)  
Following is reply to your 0055A/15 (a) 2580 tons. Daily consumption 90 (b) Yes. (c) Yes, but essential to call Port Elizabeth for oil - 40 tons lubricating oil 50 tons cylinder, 4 tons compressor. (d) Must water Port Elizabeth or Capetown and probably St. Vincent (Cape Verde) before Las Palmas capacity 2300 tons estimated daily consumption 200 tons.  
(S.B.N.O. SATURNIA, 2045/16 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) VULCANIA.)  
Your 0003A/15. (A) GUILIO CESARE 4900 tons, DUILIO 5600 tons.  
(B) To reach Djibouti (? without) refuelling ships will have to reduce to 14 knots and have no margin on arrival. (C) Both ships must complete with water at Port Elizabeth and Atlantic Islands on return voyage.  
(S.B.N.O. GUILIO CESARE, 2252/16 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See p 497*
- German A/C. 2 German A/C passed 1 miles west Peniche course S. 2030/15.  
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 1547A/16 to S.O.I. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

/Independently ...

494A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1849B/16 April OUT.

Date: 16.4.42

To: S.O. Force W.  
 F.O.C.N.A. 591  
 repeated C. in C. Home Fleet,  
 Comtask 39,  
 C. in C. Western Approaches, ) NOTWT

Naval Cypher D. O. T. T.

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Movements after CALENDAR. (*specific for Malta.*)

- A. WASP and 2 U.S. Destroyers will return to Scapa, CAIRO to Belfast.
- B. RENOWN, CHARYBDIS, PARTRIDGE, INGLEFIELD and ECHO will remain at Gibraltar until further orders.
- C. ITHURIEL is to join Eastern Fleet via Cape.
- 2. WASP will not repeat not call at Gibraltar and is to pass through Straits in the dark.
- 3. Arrangements are to be made for WASP to be escorted from Straits by 2 U.S. destroyers, CAIRO, INGLEFIELD, and ECHO.
- 4. INGLEFIELD and ECHO will be relieved in approximately 40 degs. north by two destroyers to be detailed by C. in C. Western Approaches. These destroyers will have fuelled at Ponta Delgade after escorting W.S. 18.
- 5. It has been decided that 812 Swordfish squadron shall return to U.K. from Gibraltar.
- 6. It is requested that arrangements may be made for the nine aircraft of this squadron to be flown on to WASP in daylight west of the Straits for transport home and for the squadron personnel and stores to be embarked in CAIRO.
- 7. It is also desired that Commander Stokes, Lieutenant Commander Yeoman, Wing Commander McLean, the Squadron Leader, Warrant Officer and Flight Sergeant, who were flown home specially for this operation and are now in WASP, should be landed at Gibraltar to rejoin EAGLE for immediately subsequent operations.

1849B/16

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

/MC

1st Lord  
 1st 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)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.O.D. (H)  
 D.O.D. (F)

D. of P. (2)      A.E. (3)  
 D.N.I.              D.D.O.D. (H)  
 E.P.S.              D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.S.D.  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 D.N.A.D. for action with  
                                  R.A.N.A.S. etc.

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Independently Routed ships. A.M. 1840/11/4. Presume S.O.(I) Freetown will pass necessary information to me concerning all ships passing through N.A. Station. (V.A.C.N.A., 1631A/16 to R.A. West Africa Force, (R) Admty.)

French Shipping. Gibraltar 0950. French armed trawler LA SERVANNAISE. French ships OUED FES, CAUDEBEC, BONIFACIO, STRABON, all laden latter deck cargo cork and barrels eastbound. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1823A/16 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Situation report. Area X. My 1350A/16 N.T. in W.D.) amend para. 10 to read BOREAS 000° Spartel 5 through 35.50 06.25 and 33.20 09.30 thence 213°, 17. (F.O.C.N.A., 1942A/16 to N.A. Stn.)

Floating Object. Lifeboat or raft under sail seen by look-out 12 miles S.W. from Capelinhos lighthouse at noon G.M.T. Captain of port has organized search by relays of launches but visibility bad due to fog. Wind now N.E. (Brit. Vice-Consul Fayal, 2142/16 to Admty., for D.N.I.)

South Atlantic.

BACHAQUERO. Departure 0101 G.M.T. 16/4 BACHAQUERO for Durban. S. of A. 7 knots, E.T.A. 1930 G.M.T. 17 routed inshore but to keep outside of 100 fathoms line. (N.O.I.C. E.London, 0105Z/16 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

U/B. Panair Clipper reports sighting S/M at 1045/15 in 4° 52' N. 0° 28' W. (R.A. West Africa, 0845Z/16 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Durban arrival <sup>\*</sup>AIREDALE 0449, VALIANT 0540, GLENGYLE 0425.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0614Z/16 to Admty., etc.)  
Arrival p.m. 15/4 M.Ls. 271 and 244.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1007Z/16 to R.A. West Africa.)  
FRITILLARY. *arrived.*  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1058Z/16 to Admty.)  
Arrival St. Helena 1100/16 MILFORD. Departure same day 1400.  
(Gen. St. Helena, 1430Z/16 to Admty.)  
→ Arrival 15/4 WILD SWAN.  
(S.O.I.) Freetown, 1211Z/16 to Admty., etc.)  
Arrival 1630, departure 1845/16 FARNDALE.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1857Z/16 to R.A. West Africa, Admty., etc.)

*\* See next page*

ARCHER. My 1717Z/12. Sailing of ARCHER postponed due to defects. Further report will follow.  
(R.A.W.Af., 1031Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

18th D.F. Present state of 18th D.F. and Corvettes as follows. ANTELOPE held until further notice and BOREAS temporarily at Gibraltar. WIVERN on passage to Gibraltar with defects. WILD SWAN available. Remainder of 18th D.F. also 6 corvettes refitting or converting in U.K., leaving WILD SWAN due for refit and 9 corvettes only available at Freetown.  
→ (R.A. West Africa, 1033Z/16 to Admty.)

CHESHIRE, A.S.2. CHESHIRE sailed to R/V A.S.2 and escort LARGS BAY to Durban Area.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1055Z/16 to Admty.)

W/T Communications. Your 1257Z/10 (N.T. in W.D.) Following arrangements have been made with C.T.F.23 (re W/T communications.)  
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1115Z/16 to C. in C. S.A. Station.)

S.L. 107. Departure 16/4 ROCHESTER, SANDWICH, SCARBOROUGH, BRADFORD convoy S.L. 107.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1201Z/16 to Admty., etc.)  
Tanker BRITISH HUSSAR sailed in convoy S.L. 107 for fuelling escorts.  
(R.A.W.A.F., 1217Z/16 to Admty.)  
Cargoes and destinations.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1424Z/16.)

*Saldanha Bay.**C. C. S.A. 1435/16. See 0655/19.*

/Italian ...



War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Italian Repatriations. Italian ships SATURNIA, VULCANIA, DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE are routed as follows. These ships are not to be interfered with if on prescribed route. Ships are due Port Elizabeth SATURNIA, VULCANIA 24/4, DUILIO, GIULIO CESARE 28/4. Latitude of positions (M) uncertain. (C. in C. S.A., 1221B/16 to Ships in Area Q.) *See p. 494*

JAY. Sailed JAY for Mauritius S. of A.  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots E.T.A. 1000Z/25 routed through (U)  $028^{\circ}$  S.  $040^{\circ}$  E. (V)  $026^{\circ}$  S.  $048^{\circ}$  E. (W)  $022^{\circ}$  S.  $056^{\circ}$  (?  $30'$ ) E. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1206Z/16 to Admty., C. in C. S.A, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Mauritius, A.C.N.B., MANCHESTER CITY.)

AIREDALE. Durban departure AIREDALE for Mombasa. S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. 0700Z/21. Routed in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1110Z/18/41. (Cdre. i/c Durban, 1218Z/16 to Admty., F.O.R.S., etc.) *See previous page - (Movements)*

Vichy Ships. A/C sighted at 1130/16/4 Vichy ships TOURS, FORT DE SOUVILLE, VILLE D'ORAN, CHELMA escorted by a 75 in position  $4^{\circ} 46'$  N.  $14^{\circ} 30'$  W. course  $130^{\circ}$  speed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1641Z/16 to Admty.)

W.S.17. Following are transshipment proposals for W.S.17. (D. of S.T., 1729B/16 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Your 1117/3. No relief available for OXFORDSHIRE. Report whether arrangements can be made with Military Authorities for accommodation of naval cases during absence of OXFORDSHIRE. (Admty., 1813B/16 to R.A. West Africa, (R) C. in C., S.A.)

MAURETANIA. Your 2313/9. Fresh water available for 18 days. (S.S.T.O. Durban, 2315B/16 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.16.4.1942  
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

THRASHER. THRASHER routed between 033° 04' 020° 01' and 032° 52' 025° 44' passing latter position about noon 20/4 has been ordered to operate off Apollonia/Derna coast during 18/4 and 19/4. (Capt. (S) 1 0711C/16 to S.O. Force I. (R) C. in C. Med., R.A. Alexandria, R.A.(D) Med.)

Movements. Arrival and departure JANUS 0626C, arrival Berbera 27/4. (N.O.I.C. Suez 0855C/16 to Admty.)  
15/4 Port Said departure 1220 F.F.S. VIKING<sup>S</sup>. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0912C/16 to Admty.)  
Enter harbour CLYDE at 1900B, P.34 at 1915B. Inner baffle is sunk Eastern end marked by can buoy. Be prepared to dive leeward in event of air raid before dark. (Capt. (S) 10 0935B/16 to CLYDE, P.34.)  
Arrivals 15/4 PORPOISE, SOUTHERN MAID, departures 15/4 \*KELVIN \*KIPLING, ROMEO, CUMBRAE. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1132C/16 to Admty. etc.)  
Departures (BOMA?) MELFORT. ~~LOCH MELFORT~~. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1155Z/16 to Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.)  
Arrival BURRA F.S. VIKING<sup>S</sup>, departure F.S. VIKING<sup>S</sup>. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa) 1530C/16 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
*\* See next page*

Black Sea. Situation report.  
1. No change in Crimea or on southern front. Both sides preparing for offensive.  
2. Russians occasionally attacking in Eastern Crimea but without territorial gain.  
3. Attacks by enemy A/C systematically carried out against Bealech, Novorossisk, Tuapse. Also frequent attacks by torpedo A/C on Russian M/Vs on passage.  
4. Weather suitable for offensive action in Crimea. Detect acute shortage Russian M/Vs in Black Sea. (N.L.O. Black Sea 1337C/16 to Admty., Adm. Miles.)

MIRCEA, Roumanian Auxiliary Vessel MIRCEA 17 tons  
Illegal transitted Istanbul 15/4 for Palestine with 34  
immigrants. illegal immigrants. Description : Grey Hull, flush deck, 1 mast speed 7 knots. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1525C/16 to S.O.I. Med. (R) D.N.I.)

Malta Air 1.224 16/4. C.S.R. Malta 16/4. Night 15/16 no  
Report. alerts. 16/4. 4 alerts 0426, 0630, 0750, 1323 hours 6 ME.109s on patrol. My 1.223 15/4. 1 further Beaufort crew of 4 rescued, 2 wounded. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1706/16.)

/Axis .....

499

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Axis Shipping. Extract from a Fairmiss Telegram. Departure 15th SAINT BRIEUC, Port Vendres, Oranges. Sete arrival 12th L.L.M. RUSS, Marseilles, in ballast. Arrival 14th, SULLBERG, Marseilles, in ballast. Departure 14th, L.L.M. RUSS, Marseilles, Oranges. (Valencia 1731/16 to M.W.T.)

U/B TURBULENT. At 1500 today a S/M was sighted in your probable vicinity. (Capt. (S) 1, 1845C/16 to TURBULENT.)

SOKOL. O.R.P. SOKOL starboard propeller damaged probably beyond repair. Two spare pairs in Malta but buried under debris and not recoverable for several weeks. Efforts being made to recover pair from P.39. Request one starboard propeller be sent from U.K. to Gibraltar at first opportunity since supply from Malta must delay undocking. Hope to sail O.R.P. SOKOL a.m. 17/4 arriving Gibraltar about 29/4. (Capt. (S) 10, 1911B/16 to F.O.S.(R) Capt. (S) 8.)

UNBEATEN. No attacks are to be carried on while on passage to Gib. (Capt. (S) 10 1925B/16 to UNBEATEN (R) F.O.C.N.A. Capt. (S) 8.) *See p. 494*

Situation report 208. Central Med. Result of air attack on 14th on two southbound convoys of 4 and 2 merchant ships escorted by destroyers passing east of Malta not yet certain. 2 merchant ships considered hit by torpedoes and 1 destroyer possibly sunk. See H.Q. Malta 1945/15. Result of possible submarine interception not yet known.

2. Air raids on Malta continue. See V.A.Ms reports. Severe damage to dockyard.

3. Operation "Lighter" completed successfully. Two platoons 11th R.M.Bn landed from KELVIN and KIPLING night 15/16 on Kuphonisi Island. W/T station destroyed, enemy retreated, casualties unknown, 4 R.M. slightly wounded.

4. Levant. At 1941/15 torpedo was fired at Beirut Harbour presumably by U-Boat, torpedo exploded against East Mole causing breach to water level but no damage to shipping or casualties.

5. Red Sea. S.S. SKAGERAK slightly damaged by ground mine while entering Suez Bay outside swept channel during night 12/15.

6. Submarines. UNA sank one of two westbound 3,000 ton transports escorted by Asdic fitted yachts at 1154/5 in 37° 55' N. 15° 41' E. Two torpedoes hit. Publicity B. Heavy counter attack followed. (C. in C. Med. 2254/16 to Admty.)

NINETTA  
Sunk 5/4.

IMMEDIATE

From:- Mideast

To:- Air Ministry Special Signal Office

CC/21 15/4

Heavy Bombers asked for in Mid-East.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders-in-Chief.

1. We have again been considering employment of heavy bombers in Middle East which we have previously raised in para. 9 of our GJP/42778 of 27 Dec., para. 5 of CC/14 of 8 Apr., and para. 4 of CC/18 of 11 Apr.
2. Malta is only able to survive enemy air attacks with difficulty, and is ineffective as an offensive base.
3. Result is that unless immediate action is taken materially to reduce the air threat, we are in grave danger of losing Malta, and our inability to interfere with the enemy's communications in the central Mediterranean may make it possible for him so to strengthen his position in North Africa as to reduce our chances of a successful Libyan offensive. Moreover, we may find our air and land forces pinned down in Libya if they were required at a later date to move to the northern front.
4. In our opinion this grave situation can be most speedily remedied by the early despatch of strong heavy bomber force to the Middle East.
5. This bomber force could attack the Sicilian aerodromes and thus supplement the island defences, which by themselves are unlikely to be able to save Malta. In addition, heavy bomber attacks on the enemy's North African and Southern Italian ports may enable us to keep his North African reinforcements within reasonable limits.
6. These are the two primary tasks as far as the Mediterranean situation is concerned, but a heavy bomber force operating from the Middle East bases would be able also to attack Roumanian oil fields and might well have a critical effect on the enemy's war effort, especially if Germany fails to capture the Caucasus oil fields this year.
7. We realize that night attacks directed against targets as far distant as Ploesti would be difficult

- 2 -

in May, June or July owing to limitations of time over target area. The entry of Turkey into the war on our side would of course enable us to bomb Roumanian oil at any time of the year.

8. Should we recapture Cyrenaica, important industrial targets in Italy would be within range of heavy bombers, and a heavy scale of attack, especially if combined with a bombing offensive from England, might have a critical effect on the already low morale of the Italian nation.

9. If the enemy attacks through Turkey, heavy bombers could delay his movement by attacking his rear communications. We should also then be able to bomb Roumanian oil in summer months.

10. Similarly we could attack his communications if the enemy moves into Caucasus. If the enemy gain control of Caucasus oil, the most effective method of attack would be by a large force of heavy bombers.

11. All above targets require long range bombers. American Liberator most suitable type, but British heavy bombers could be used with great effect.

12. It appears to us that a proportion of the heavy bombers now operating against heavily defended targets in Germany could be more profitably employed here. We strongly urge that British as well as American long range bombers should be sent to Middle East.

13. Squadron personnel, technical maintenance units and equipment must be sent out without delay, but we consider that the importance of early arrival of these bombers justifies acceptance of high degree of un-serviceability until maintenance personnel and equipment arrive.

T.O.O 1855/15

(Circulation)

War Cabinet (12)  
P.S., S of S (1)  
P.S., C.A.S (4)  
War Office (5)  
Admiralty (32)

Reply: Page 521.

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

S.W. Pacific Area. Following received from J.S.M. Washington (quotes J.S.M. 163 T.O.O. 1549/3).  
(Admty., 0227B/16 to C. in C. E.F., Dept. C. in C. E.F.)

M.B.1. Convoy sailing telegram.  
(1) M.B.1., (2) 0850Z/15. (4)  $8\frac{3}{4}$  knots.  
(5) through position  $007^{\circ} 50' N.$ ,  $077^{\circ} 40' E.$   
thence approx. 10 miles from coast.  
(6) TULIP, VERBENA. (8) Coastwise for all ships.  
(8A) "Rampion"  $007^{\circ} N.$ ,  $075^{\circ} E.$ , "Spaniel"  $012^{\circ} N.$ ,  $074^{\circ} E.$   
"Warbler"  $017^{\circ} N.$ ,  $072^{\circ} E.$  (B) Cdr. King - Harman, TEVIOTBANK.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0404Z/16, 0419Z/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I. S.O.I. Bombay). *See next page*

Aircraft, Eastern Fleet and Ceylon. Ref. \*C. in C. E.F.'s 0543Z/15. I fully appreciate C. in C.'s wishes to complete carriers to full complement but until fleet is fully reinforced it is unlikely to play much part in defence of Ceylon. Both India and Air Ministry have been asked to bring my land based fighter force up to 6 squadrons and until this is done I shall be very weak. Retention of all Fulmar and Sea Hurricanes is in the circumstances very important, though Fulmars are definitely inferior to Japanese fighters and I would (?only) want to keep them until replaced by Hurricanes. Surely it would be possible for carriers to embark other aircraft at Kilindini or possibly Aden or Port Sudan when they proceed to Africa Coast, rather than move aircraft away from an active theatre of operations just as they are most wanted. No doubt it is under consideration to use one carrier to ferry reinforcing Hurricanes via India as speed in obtaining them is an essential element. (C. in C. Ceylon, 0409Z/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., R.A.(A)). \*re embarkation of 19 Fulmars from Ceylon to complete INDOMITABLE and FORMIDABLE.

C. in C. Ceylon's 0409/16. If the Fleet is to remain in Indian Ocean, as I consider it should, the part I may have to play against enemy fleet will not necessarily be of my own selection. Unless my carriers are properly equipped, my task of avoiding action with superior forces becomes increasingly difficult and opportunity of striking back effectively should occasion offer becomes less.

(ii) I have no information concerning spare aircraft at Kilindini or Aden but in any case consider that concentration of Eastern Fleet not engaged in escort duty is now most desirable and cannot be unduly deferred. An early decision is necessary. (C. in C. E.F., 1211Z/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Ceylon, F.O.A.C.) Decision, see Admty., 1221B/17.

VITA.

Arrival 0630Z Hospital Ship VITA.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0631Z/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

/RANCHI...

War Diary.

16.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

RANCHI. My 1924/28/3. Cancel para.3.  
(1) In view of C. in C. E.F. 1033/14 to F.O.C.R.I.N. and C. in C. E.I. only. Programme is to be amended as follows.  
(A) On arrival Mauritius 18/4 R/C parties who have now completed R/C either side Diego Garcia are to remain on board.  
(B) As soon as relieved personnel from Diego Garcia Garrison have been disembarked, and ship refuelled, sail for Seychelles.  
(2) On arrival Seychelles party is to carry out R/C there. R/C of Mauritius will be carried out at a later date.  
(3) RANCHI will probably be required to leave Seychelles shortly after arrival and party must then be accommodated ashore.  
(4) RANCHI reports programme from Mauritius F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to inform Armindia. N.O.I.C. Seychelles and N.O.I.C. Mauritius inform local military authorities.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0646Z/16 to RANCHI (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty., etc.)

BIRMINGHAM. R.A.3 1603/15. Could BIRMINGHAM be complete in time to be substituted for ROYAL SOVEREIGN as escort for W.S.17?  
(C. in C. E.F., 0701Z/16 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.I., R.A.3., Admty.)

Movement Summary. No.30, dated 16/4.  
(1) Amend numbers 6 and 17, Movement Summary No.29, date due 20th and 17th respectively.  
(11)

(?Serial No.)	Ship	From	To	Remarks.
1.	LISMORE	Bombay 15th	Colombo 18th	Escorting H. T. DEVONSHIRE.
2.	TEVIOTBANK VERBENA SANDEPIPER SPRINGTIDE	Colombo 15th	Bombay 20th	Escorting M.B.1, 8 ships.
3.	ATHENE	Fremantle 15th	Trincomalee 27th	Nil.
4.	TRUSTY	Colombo 13th	Malacca Strait 18th.	7 day patrol.
5.	RAMILLIES	Mombasa 16th	Durban 21st	Nil. See p. 503
6.	D.S.SUMATRA	Trincomalee 16th	Colombo 17th	For Bombay
7.	Dutch Sub. K.11	Colombo 15th	Colombo 17th	Patrolling off Bases..

(C. in C. E.I., 0730Z/16 to S. & A. E.I. Stan., (R) Admty., etc).  
(As amended 0601/19).

Shipping Diversion. ISIPINGO arrived and held in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1427Z/9. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0845Z/16 to C. in C. E.I., (R) Admty., P.S.T.O. India).

War Diary.16.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - contd.Movements.

Departure SUTLEJ.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0915Z/16 to Admty., etc.)  
Arrival Greek Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.  
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0941Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

Air R/C.

My 1401Z/15. Air searches today Thursday from Ceylon have located nothing and there is no further evidence of the enemy forces reported yesterday. (C. in C. E.I., 1027/16 to S. and A., E.I.)

Troop  
Convoys.

Cancel my 0635/25/3 and 0759/31/3.  
Following is revised programme of proposed troop movements:-

- (A) B.P.39, 2 personnel ships DUNERA from Karachi ROHNA from Bombay both to sail 17/4.  
(B) B.P.40 2 personnel ships EKMA ISLAMI and 1 M.T. ship EMPIRE RANI from Karachi and 1 personnel ship CITY OF CANTERBURY from Bombay. All ships sailing 24/4.  
(C) B.P.41, 2 personnel ships, VARELA, ERINPURA, sailing 5/5.  
(D) B.P.42, 2 personnel ships, NEVASA, CITY OF LONDON, sailing 12/5.  
(E) B.A.21, 1 personnel ship SANTHIA, sailing 23/4.  
(F) B.A.22, 1 personnel ship EL MADINA, sailing 6/5.  
(G) Bombay-Colombo, 1 personnel ship KARIA sailing 27/4.  
(H) Bombay-Addu Atoll, 1 personnel ship LANCASHIRE and 1 M.T. ship JALAYAMUNA sailing 25/4.  
Please see my 1139/14/4 to D.S.T.O.P.G. for movement of Poles to Middle East. (P.S.T.O. India, 1203Z/16 to C. in C. E.I., (R) D.S.T., etc.)

F.A.A.  
E.Africa.

Request all F.A.A. Personnel A/C, and A/C Stores now routed Ceylon may be off-loaded at East Africa Ports.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1316Z/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., S.N.S.O. Ceylon, D. C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Ceylon).

W.S.17.B.  
Escort.

Your 1703/14. (1) W.S.17.B. The second half of convoy is due Durban 25/4 and will require several days to turn round. (2) No A.M.C. or cruiser escort from this station is available from Durban to Mombasa. 1 A.M.C. will be available at Mombasa. (3) Intend CORFU to escort Aden section after boiler cleaning at Mombasa, CORFU to accompany REVENGE with W.S.17 as far as about 250 miles South of Socotra where convoy will split, REVENGE escorting Bombay section. (4) This arrangement will enable CERES to escort TALMA due to leave Aden for Bombay about 29/4. (5) C. in C. S.A. is requested to report E.T.D. Durban as soon as known and number of ships expected to form Aden and Bombay sections.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1331Z/16 to C. in C. E.F., (R) B.S.3., C. in C. S.A., Admty.)  
C. in C. E.I. 1331/16. As W.S.17.B. does not leave Durban till 28th or 29/4, cancel my 1603/15. REVENGE will escort from Durban and ROYAL SOVEREIGN will relieve her off Mombasa.  
(R.A.3., 1928Z/16 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

/Fleet ...



War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

- Fleet Bases, Policy. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 49 addressed to C. in C. India, C. in C. Ceylon. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N.
1. (given a limited circulation)
  2. Colombo will be the main base for the Fleet and both A/A defence and fighter protection should be given highest priority. A revised scale for defence of Colombo will be promulgated shortly.
  3. Until such time as (a) Adequate shore based R/C is available, (b) Adequate air and A/A defences are available at Colombo, (c) Eastern Fleet is of sufficient strength and adequately trained, it will not be possible to use Colombo as the main base and Kilindini is to be used as such temporarily. Question of providing fighter defence and A/A defence is under urgent consideration. The highest priority is to be given for all other defences.
  4. Details regarding Naval reinforcements will be signalled shortly.
  5. The creation of a base in Northern Arabian Sea is a much needed requirement and there appears to be no alternative to Elphinstone Inlet, but from available evidence the heat there between now and September is such as to preclude its use by the Fleet or work on development except for very short periods. C. in C. E.I. is requested to give his views on this.
  6. Agreed that development of the aerodrome at Addu Atoll may prove a menace to ourselves. All further development of the port should cease for the time being, but present defences should be maintained. Development of Mauritius and Diego Garcia should proceed in accordance with previous arrangements subject to requirements of Colombo and Kilindini. (1st S.L. 1414B/16 to C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Movements. Mombasa left 16/4 1421 G.M.T. RAMILLIES, HOTSPUR. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 1453Z/16 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty.) *See p. 501*

Air Report. WX.3871 A.361 16/4. Intelligence Summary No.32 information received up to 1800 hours 16/4. Ceylon. 15/4, 1 Battleship and 1 Cruiser reported by Catalina R/C in 04° 18' N. 81° 31' E. at 1113 hours. 14/4 Trincomalee coastal R/C negative. (Air H.Q. India 1515/16 to Air Min.)

Trincomalee. Air raid on 9/4. Vote 10 damage. (S.C.E. East Indies 1656Z/16 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. (503A)

/Movement ...

# MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1656Z/16th April  
 MOST SECRET IN

From S.C.E. East Indies Date 19/4/42  
 Time 0413

NAVAL CYPHER ( X ) BY W/T & T/P

Addressed C.E. in C. Admiralty

Reference Trincomalee Air Raid 9th April  
 vote 10 damage. Ostenburg Wemyss Grove all houses  
 wrecked Mungo Terrace Area 6 bungalows wrecked armament  
 depot most roof tiles removed. Inner yard engineers  
 and constructors workshops, victualling store, heavy  
 lift store, garage, N.S.O. storehouses all totally or  
 partly wrecked. Generating Station roof slightly damaged.  
 100 yards dockyard wall near number 12 store overturned  
 taking with it two cranes. Fresh waterpipes and valves  
 broken 800 tons water lost. Chinanvadi number 91 oil  
 tank destroyed situation controlled and fire out China  
 Bay Hindustan Cement Store wrecked number 8 oil tank  
 skin wall damaged tank apparently intact. Minor damage  
 to roofs of police lines. Departmental European killed  
 J.W. Taylor Foreman of Works and W.T. Cox Leading Man.  
 Asiatic casualties not known as all natives have  
 departed. Present position homeless are being accommodated  
 in Commissioners house and remaining dockyard residences  
 and Naval operated canteen is serving meals from  
 Admiralty House for Europeans Military providing working  
 parties of two to three hundred. Progress made with  
 repairing water mains, electric power lines, clearing  
 debris and filling craters. Very few workmen have yet  
 returned and it is therefore not possible to say how  
 much of the dockyard can be brought back into use.

1656Z/16

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) Hd. of M. D.O.D.

1st Lord	D.N.I. (4)	
1st S.L.	Hd. of M. (27)	
Controller	W.D.	
Vice Controller	D.A.S.	
4th S.L.	D.N.C.	
5th S.L.	D. of V.	
V.C.N.S.	D. of S.	
A.C.N.S.(H)	Hd. of C.E.	
PARL. SEC.	Dep. Contr.	
FIN. SEC.	C.E. in C.	
NAV. SEC.	Hd. of L.	} Bath by courier
Civil Lord	Hd. of S.W.R.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.A.S.	
D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.N.C.	
D.D.I.C.(2)	D. of V.	
D. of P.(2)	D. of S.	
D.N.A.D.	Hd. of C.E.	
D. of L.D.		
D.P.D.		
I.P.(2)		

War Diary.

16.4.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Movement Summary. No.30 dated 16/4.  
1. Amend numbers 2 and 17 in summary number 20 date due 20th and 17th respectively. 2.

Serial No.	Ship	From	To	Remarks.
1.	LISMORE	Bombay, 15th	Colombo 15th	Escorting H/T DEVONSHIRE.
2.	TEVIOT BANK	Colombo 15th	Bombay 30th	Escorting M.B.1 8 ships
	VERBENA	"	"	
	TULIP	"	"	
	SPRINGTIDE	"	"	
3.	ATHENE	Fremantle 15th	Trincomalee 27th	Nil
4.	TRUSTY	Colombo 13th	Malacca Strait 18th	7 days patrol.
5.	RAMILLIES	Mombasa 16th	Durban	Nil
6.	D.S. SUMATRA	Trincomalee 16th	Colombo 17th	For Bombay
7.	Dut. Sub. K.11	Colombo 15th	Colombo 17th	Patrolling off Bases.

(C. in C. E.I. 1730Z/16 to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)

See p. 501.

Enemy Force. Your 1352/15 and 1314/15. What is your appreciation?  
(1st S.L. 1757B/16 to Dep. C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.F.)  
Reply: Dep. C. in C. E.F. 0438Z/17.

REVENGE. Re defects. Ship cannot be relied upon for extended operations requiring high speed or high speed at command. Consider ship can still do longer period at speed not in excess of 15 knots with steam for higher speed at 4 hours notice.  
(B.S.3 1931Z/16 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. D/C in C.E.F.)

Reports of Operations, Ceylon. Following from Chiefs of Staff. Your 1055Z/10. Procedure approved subject to concurrence by Armindia.  
(Air Min. T.O.O. 2148Z/16 to C. in C, Ceylon (R) Armindia.)

Zigzagging. Following is a repetition of my 0722/10/4/42 (begins) East Indies Station 543C (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.I.C. Simonstown, N.L.O. Durban, F.O.R.S., N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C.R.I.N., S.N.O. Persian Gulf, A.C.N.B., D.N.O. W.A., N.Z.N.B., C.B.C., C. in C. E.F. for N.C.S.Os. Add to my 1102/18/12/41, ships are also to zig-zag when north of latitude 015° N. (Ends)  
(C. in C. E.I. 2232Z/16 to Admty.)

/Indian ...

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Indian  
Ocean  
Aircraft.Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 50.  
Your 9066/G dated 14/4/42 and 8894/C dated  
12/4/42.

1. Serious position of India and Ceylon is fully apparent to us and we are well aware from your previous telegrams the critical need for air striking force and long range R/C.
2. Only practical method of providing you with immediate long-range striking force is to make fullest use of U.S. Unit in India. Americans have now agreed that Brereton should cooperate with you fully and orders are being issued instructing him to operate his forces under your strategic directions (details of arrangements.)
3. Apart from U.S. forces only possible means of providing you with heavy bomber striking force is despatch of British Liberators and Halifax Squadrons. Orders are being issued for Liberator personnel arriving Middle East in W.S.16 to be switched to India with all Liberator spares available in M.E. as soon as possible. Liberator lls for first M.E. Squadrons are being modified in this country and sufficient aircraft will be available to enable you to build up one Sqn. by beginning of June and a second Sqn. in August. One of the two Fortresses in M.E. is being sent you at once, second aircraft will follow when serviceable.
4. There are no Halifax aircraft, skilled personnel, ground equipment or spares available overseas. Essential personnel, equipment and spares could not reach India even by special ship until mid-June. Despatch of Halifaxes independently has been carefully considered but practical experience here decides us that they cannot be of practical operational value to you. Bomber Command with all resources of U.K. has considerable difficulty in keeping these aircraft serviceable. Reliability of Halifaxes at present in overseas conditions could not possibly compare with that of Liberators and Fortresses.
5. Despatch of additional Catalinas in advance of arrival of Squadrons proceeding in W.S.18 has already been suggested to A.H.Q. India but no reply received and early one is requested.
6. Detailed comments on your 8894/C dated 12/4/42 are being sent to A.H.Q. India by Air Min. but in regard to para.8 we would observe that about 80% of aircraft used against Germany are Medium Bombers such as Wellingtons which are being sent to you and Middle East as fast as route via Malta allows.  
(Air Min. T.O.O. 2335Z/16 to C. in C. India.)

Mombasa.

Re evacuation of non-essential civilians. Order will be issued with effect from 1st May under Local Defence Regulations equivalent to U.K.

Defence Regulation No.21. Meantime voluntary evacuation is being encouraged.

(Govr. (Sir H.Moore) No T.O.O.16 to S. of S. for Colonies.)

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements. 15/4 arrivals. SUNFLOWER from Argentinia, GEORGIAN ex W.S.C.79, SKEENA ex Halifax. Departures CHAMBLY, RIMOUSKI, EYEBRIGHT, BATTLEFORD, KAMSACK, PRESCOTT to S.C.79, GEORGIAN escorting W.S.C.79. (F.O.N.F. 0153Z/16 to Admty.) U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT from Recife R/V with tanker from Trinidad 18th arriving Recife 22nd. DIOMEDE left Montevideo 15th patrolling. At Falkland Is 19/20/4 then returns to patrol. Admty. please pass to R.A. West Africa. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1745/16 to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty. etc.) Arrivals NIAGARA from Bermuda, CHURCHILL, PIORUN escorting C.T.14. Departures VANOC to Bermuda. (S.C.D. Halifax 1904Z/16 to Admty. etc.) Galveston arrived 1400 G.M.T./16 TRILLIUM. *See p. 511* (N.S.H.Q. 2157Z/16 to Admty.)

LETITIA Your 1520/11. LETITIA does not require any ANDES special underwater repairs but my 2251/7 to BATORY. C.O.A.C. Halifax only refers. 2. No special requirements for ANDES or BATORY except that (a) ANDES understood to need 5 days in drydock and (b) if time permits BATORY should have screw surveyed. (D. of S.T. 0519B/16 to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B. D/F places U.Boat within 100 miles of 038° N. 069° W. at 0033Z/16. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0626Z/16 to B.W. in 7A, Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 15/4 and departure 16/4 H.M. M.T.Bs 332 and 335. (R.N.O. St. Thomas 0800Q/15 to Admty.)

BERA. My 0919R/15 BERA arrived 13/4. (S.O.I. Kingston 0914R/16 to Admty.)

FRANK B. British FRANK B. BAIRD due Trinidad 7/4 not BAIRD. arrived. (S.O.I. Kingston 0916R/16 to Admty. etc.)

E.G. SEUBERT. My 2331R/11 U.S.A. E.G. SEUBERT arrived Guanta 13/4. (S.O. Kingston 0917R/16 to Admty.)

/KORTHION ...

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - contd.

KORTHION (Greek) torpedoed 14/4. KORTHION proceeding from Paramaribo to New York via St. Thomas torpedoed 1030/14 45 to 50 miles east of St. Vincent while on U.S. Naval Control Route. Cargo bauxite. Survivors 9 already arrived St. Georges including Captain, C.O. Head Steward, Wireless Operator. 14 missing. Search proceeding. (Treasurer, Grenada 0955/16 to Fairmiss London, F.O. Trinidad.)

SURCOUF (sunk 19/2) Re publication of loss of SURCOUF suggested. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1132P/16 to Admty.) *See p. 578*

U/B D/F indicate U-Boat within 100 miles 036° N. 075° W. at 0343Z/16. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1103Z/16 to B.W. in 7A, Admty.)

U/Bs. Intercepted 1025 G.M.T. de NAA. WGBC1 V NAA, S/M sighted 32.42 N. 73.39 W. at 0124 G.M.T./16. WGBC1 V NAA O. S/M sighted 33.50 N. 77.48 W. at 1030 Z. Controlling Station Arlington Virginia Radio. (Arlington W/T T.O.R. 1225/16 to Admty., Adm. Liverpool.)

Iceland, Control. Your 2027/6 and 2028/6 personal (Limited distribution only N.T. in W.D.) Cominch agrees that the naval base at Hvalfjord also the aircraft operating in conjunction with Home Fleet and R.D.F. Stations watching Denmark Strait, shall all remain under British control provided aircraft are not U.S. and R.D.F. Stations are British. If you agree to these provisos, Cominch intends to instruct Commandant of Naval Operating Base to work out details with F.O.I.C. Iceland as we suggested. (B.A.D. 1225Q/16 to Admty.) *Reply: Admiralty 1145B/23.*

Rescue Tugs, St. Johns. Your 1941Z/14. No higher powered Tugs available at present but hoped one will be available before next winter. Generally accepted that towing to westward in winter months is impracticable by any tug. Ref. towing gear, requested that in future A.F.O. 3402/41 para 7 may be complied with. Action is now being taken to build up spares to numbers indicated in para.4 (i) of same A.F.O. (D.T.D. 1231B/16 to F.O.N.F.)

/Convoys ...

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Convoys,  
American  
protection.Personal for Adm. King from C.N.S.  
Grateful for copy of your plans for convoy  
on E. coast of America and in Gulf Caribbean  
area received from Adm. Little.

2. I suggest opening out cycle of H.X. - S.C. convoys to 7 days forthwith to enable two A groups to be available for start of the convoy on 15/5. Groups proposed are A.1 due Argentia on 3/5 and A.2 due Argentia on 9/5.
3. I note that you do not expect to be in a position to start the Guantanamo - New York convoys until July but I hope you may be able to improve on this in view of the vital importance of tanker traffic with Caribbean oil ports.
4. Development of your protective measures on Atlantic seaboard may lead to an increased scale of attack in Caribbean and I should be grateful for further information as to extent of air and surface coverage you expect to be available for the subsidiary Trinidad and Aruba - Curacao convoys.
5. Until Caribbean convoys are instituted it may be necessary for tankers to the U.K. to continue to proceed via Freetown despite increased length of voyage and consequent reduction in their importing capacity. We have on the one hand to maintain essential supplies but on the other to avoid losses, which during the past 3 months have been on a prohibitive scale. It would greatly help us in our problem to have full information of surface escort and air coverage that Cdr. Caribbean Patrol will be (?able) to provide and his plan of operation.  
(C.N.S. 1327B/16 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) B.A.D.)

KOLL  
overdue.My 1543Z/12 KOLL cancel and substitute for  
torpedoed not yet arrived.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1347Z/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa  
(R) Admty.)

U/B.

D/F Bearings at 0751Z/16 place S/M within 100  
miles of 020° 30' N. 066° 30' W.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1505Z/16 to Admty.)O.N. and  
O.N.S.  
convoys.

Following explanation of Admty. information is promulgated for information of new addressees. Paras. of signals refer to :-

- (1) Time at first lettered position.
- (2) Chop date and time.
- (3) Ocean escort and rescue ship, S.O. first.
- (4) Subdivided to indicate numbers of ships from U.K. for
  - (a) Halifax, Newfoundland and St. Lawrence Ports, (b) Ports from Halifax to and including Jacksonville, (c) Gulf of Mexico and West Indies (d) South Atlantic.
- (5) Commodore's ship (6) Outcon Table (7) Task Unit designation.

(D.T.D. 1517B/16 to Opnav (R) Various.)

/BULKOIL ...

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

BULKOIL. Your 1531Q/15. Request you will arrange for BULKOIL to be sailed Philadelphia to New York during daylight with escort of Eagle class. Thence via Hellgate, Long Island Sound and Cape Cod Canal. N.S.H.Q. is requested to detail 1 destroyer from Western Local Force to escort ship from Cape Cod for the first 3 days of her voyage to Capetown.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1539B/16 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Ice Report River Montreal to Quebec expected to be clear  
16/4. of ice today, steamer track Quebec to Cape Ray open passing south of line 48.25 N. 62.25 to 48.05 N. 61.10 W. Large ice field sighted to the north and eastward of this line.  
2. Field ice to south and west of a line Bird Rocks thence 47.20 50.45 E. thence 46.33 N. 58.25 E. thence 49.40 N. 59.45 E. with some clear water off Sydney and Louisburg. Heavy packed ice along north shore of P.  
3. I. Extending close to Magdalen Islands and towards west coast of Cape Breton Island.  
4. Ice in George Bay loosening up. Drift ice in Canso Strait.  
5. Scattered loose ice in bays between Cape Baund and Cape Freels Nfld.  
6. Storris ice extending 40 miles off Cape Farewell and lying 15 to 20 miles offshore from 60.00 N. 46.00 W. to 60.30 N. 49.00 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1635Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

O.N.84 O.N.84 and 85. Admty. daily S/M report this  
O.N.85. date indicates S/M approx. position 150 miles  
U/B. of 50° N. 34° W.  
(Opnav 1638/16 to C.T.U. 24.1.17, C.T.U. 24.1.18)

O.N.S.88 ORILLA, FENNEL, AMHERST and BRANDON\*arrived from  
Escort. ex S.C.77. C.T.U. No.24.1.11 in ASSINIBOINE plus DIANTHUS and ships listed above designated escort O.N.S.88.  
(C.T.G. No.24.7 1700B/16 to C.T.F. No.24.)

\* London Ferry.

KOLLSKEGG CORLSKEG (?KOLLSKEGG) torpedoed in 34° 58' N.  
RIO BLANCO 68° 38' W. at 1850Z/6. 8 survivors in 1 boat  
(torpedoed) picked up by NIAGARA in 36° 08' N. 66° (as decoded)  
59' W. at 1317Z/14. Survivors state they talked to 2 boats from  
KOLL 8/4. RIO BLANCO torpedoed about 1500Z/1 40 miles east of  
Cape Hatteras. 12 survivors in 1 boat picked up by NIAGARA in  
36° 46' N. 65° 03' W. at 1807Z/14. KOLLSKEGG and RIO BLANCO  
survivors landed at Halifax a.m. 16/4.  
(C.O.A.C. 1710Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

/SCARCIO BLANCO ...



510

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

SCARCIO BLANCO. (torpedoed 1/4) SCARCIO BLANCO sunk 1/4 by 1 torpedo which struck under bridge on starboard side. Position 035° 16' N. 074° 18' W. 9 survivors landed Norfolk (Vir) 16/4 all in hospital. C.Bs sank with ship. My 1849Z/16 with list of survivors follows. (C.S.A. Norfolk 1848Z/16 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Tribals Armament. Naval Staff has had under consideration a recommendation for revising armament of possible future Tribal class destroyers for R.C.N. Appreciated if present views of Admty. on armament of this type could be communicated. (N.S.H.Q. 1858Z/16 to Admty.)

Caribbean Sugar ships. Proposed that the following procedure shall be adopted for control of ships loading sugar in Caribbean area (details). (Admty. 1916B/16, 1917B/16 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) S.O.I. Kingston, Capt i/c Kingston, F.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

EXMINSTER overdue. EXMINSTER (U.S.) due Boston 11/4 from Port of Spain not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. 1926Z/16 to Admty. Opnav, C. in C. A.W.I. S.O.(I) Kingston.)

U.S. Transport Monrovia. U.S. Army desires to send cargo ship to Monrovia Liberia arriving about mid May. Request information protection you could furnish during unloading operations which will require about 3 or 4 weeks. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1934/16 to R.A. West Africa, (R) Admty. etc.)

St. Lawrence Navigation Lights. Admty. Message "IK" Ref. Admty Message "IH" and C.A.M.S.I. 117/42 in course of distribution. Merchant ships are not to burn navigation lights in Gulf of St. Lawrence when eastward of 68° 20' W. When between 68° 20' W. and 69° 20' W. dimmed navigation lights are to be shown. When westward of 69° 20' W. they are to be burned at full brilliance. 2. C.A.M.S.I. 32/42 will be amended. (Admty. 1958Z/16 to G.B.M.S. in all Areas (except A.I.C.12.)

/Shipping ...

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1916B/16th April.

510A

OUT

Addressed. C in C America and West Indies= 392.

DATE. 16.4.42.

Repeated. S.O (I) Kingston, Captain in Charge Kingston.

F.O.I.C. Trinidad.

B...D. Washington. 840

NAVAL CYPHER (A.one)

From Admiralty.

NITE.

It is proposed that the following procedure shall be adopted for control of ships loading sugar in Caribbean area.

1. Ministry of Food sugar co-ordinators are (a) At Ciudad Trujillo E.M. Robinson Bank of Nova Scotia controls loadings in Haiti - San Domingo. (b) At Kingston D.J. Verity Sugar Manufacturers Association controls loadings in Jamaica. (c) At Port Of Spain A.W. Baddeley controls loadings in Barbados, St. Kitts, Antigua, St. Lucia and Trinidad.

2. Transfer of cargoes overland between ports or from island to island is impossible. It is essential that all cargoes be lifted during the season because no storage exists and planters depend entirely on sale of crop and failure to load would have disastrous effect on following years production. Therefore full use must be made of open roadsteads whenever situation permits and harbours with natural protection held in reserve for periods of U-boat activity.

3. You will be informed in advance of ships proceeding to Caribbean for sugar giving the destination, repeated to S.O.(I) Kingston and F.O.I.C. Trinidad. Ships if bound for Jamaica will be routed to Kingston for orders if bound for San Domingo will be routed to Ciudad Trujillo for orders.

4. At the latest convenient moment before arrival of each ship the proposed loading port shall be considered by the Naval authority in conjunction with the sugar co-ordinator, and if desirable an alternative loading port selected in conformity with paragraph 2, the ship being diverted by broadcast. Deciding authorities might be (a) For Jamaica Ports. Captain in charge Kingston after discussion with Co-ordinator 1(b) (b) For San Domingo Ports. Captain in charge Kingston pass recommendations to co-ordinator 1(a) who will instruct masters of ships on arrival. (c) For the Islands. F.O.I.C. Trinidad after discussion with co-ordinator 1(c).

5. Liners which load in Guiana, Trinidad, and one or more of the islands will be controlled as at 4 (c)

6. Ships routed to the Caribbean for sugar will be given reference positions to facilitate diversion. The number of ships concerned is unlikely to exceed 7 or 8 monthly, excluding liners.

7. You are requested to discuss these proposals with Commandant Caribbean Sea Frontier in special connection with the control of Haiti-San Domingo ports from which our largest shipments in the Caribbean area will be taken this season.

1916B/16

4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
D.A/S.W.  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Ops (3)  
O.I.C. (2)

D. of L.D. (3)  
D. of S. 2A.  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D (C)  
D of S.T. (2)

for D.T.D. (370)  
(Approved by A.C.N.S. (T))

I.P. (3)  
D.A/S.W.  
W.D.  
O.D. (5)  
M (6) for Ministry of Food  
(Sir William Rock)

510 B.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1917B/16th April

OUT

To B.A.D. Washington. 841.  
Repeated C. in C. America & West  
Indies. 393.

Date 16.4.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (X)

From Admiralty.

Reference telegrams from Mr. Paterson Ciudad Trujillo to Foreign Office both dated 31st March and repeated Washington Nos. 21 and 22 and also C. in C. America & West Indies 1102/9.

2. It is hoped that Commandant Caribbean Sea Frontier has modified his instructions for putting to sea from open anchorages at night.

3. Proposals are being sent to C. in C. America & West Indies and will be repeated to you for adjusting loading of sugar to the requirements of the U-boat situation with minimum of ship time lost. You will see that the Proposals would best be implemented by working cargo in open anchorages at top speed until loading is completed.

1917B/16.  
for D.T.D. (370)  
Approved by A.C.N.S. (T)

- |               |                |            |
|---------------|----------------|------------|
| A.C.N.S. (T)  | D.T.D. (4)     |            |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.T.D. (M)     | D.A/S.W.   |
| Ops. (3)      | D.T.D. (C)     | W.D.       |
| O.I.C. (2)    | D. of S.T. (2) | O.D. (5)   |
| D. of S. 2A.  | I.P. (3)       | D. of L.D. |

IC

War Diary.16.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Shipping           LADY NELSON torpedoed 9/3 at St. Lucia now  
Casualties.       refloated ready for towing about 25/4. Work  
                    on UMTATA commenced ready about end of May.  
                    RIO BLANCO torpedoed and sunk 1/4 60 miles  
East Cape Hatteras 9 survivors picked up 15/4, 31 missing.  
All confidentials sank with ship. EMPIRE THRUSH reported  
yesterday was torpedoed and sunk 14/4 35° 08' N. 75° 18' W.  
Confidentials destroyed. Admty. deliver to Spenavo London  
for action.  
(Opanav 2039/16 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

TRILLIUM.         TRILLIUM arrived Galveston 16/4 1400 G.M.T.  
(? Is) proceeding to dry dock in same port for  
overhaul.  
(C.G.S.F. 2049/16 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet,  
Opanav.) *See p. 506 (Movements.)*

POLYANTHUS.     My 1808/16 on completion of trials it is  
intended to sail POLYANTHUS to Halifax leaving  
Galveston about 26/4.  
(B.A.R.M. 2100Z/16 to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q.  
Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, Admty., C. in C. W.A.  
C. in C. A.W.I. Cominch, Opanav, Cinclant.)

PAN-MAINE.      My 1236R/12. U.S.A. PAN-MAINE arrived Cienfuegos  
12/4.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 2129R/16 to N.S.H.Q.)

PHOEBE.         My 1746/8th. PHOEBE expects to be ready to sail  
Plymouth on 27/4.  
(B.A.R.M. 2144Z/16 to Admty.)

NEMAHA          NEMAHA (U.S) due Halifax 11/4 from Philadelphia  
has not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2301Z/16 to Opanav, Admty. (R) C.O.A.C.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.     Arrival Brisbane 0905Z/15 from Society Is.  
U.S. S/M tender GRIFFIN and U.S.S./M.S. 42, 43,  
44, 45, 46 (and?) 47. Departure Thursday  
Island 0500Z/15 COLAC and CESSNOCK for R/V  
TAROONA thence Port Moresby.  
(A.C.N.B. 0144Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.

16.4.1942

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Situation. 15/4 serial No.85 from C.W.R. (1) 5 unidentified A/C observed over Darwin area at 0230Z/15 height 18,000 feet. 8 P.40s failed to intercept. No bombs dropped. (2) B.26s attacked enemy shipping Rabaul harbour at 0300Z/15. Direct hit amidships on 1 merchant ship. Probable hits on wharf and buildings. Slight A/A fire. Approx. 7 medium sized merchant ships and 1 light cruiser observed in harbour. 1 merchant ship observed off Cape St. George heading south. (3) Enemy air R/C over north eastern end of New Guinea 15/4. (4) 2 unidentified A/C reported high over Geraldton area (W A) at 0100Z/15. Approached from E. departed N. (A.C.N.B. 1046Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. ATHENE left Fremantle 0800Z/15 for Trincomalee. (A.C.N.B. 1543Z/16 to Admty., C. in C. E.I., N.O. Wellington, C. in C. E.F., C.O.I.S. Colombo.)

MAUNGANUI. Departure Wellington 16/4 hospital ship MAUNGANUI 03 Fremantle 26/4 route direct via Bass Strait. (S.O.I. Wellington 1612M/16 to Admty. etc.)

CAPSA. Tanker CAPSA arrived Wellington leaking badly necessitating discharge considerable portion of cargo preparatory ascertaining damage. Suggest NICOLAO MARIA proceeds to Australia to discharge. (N.O. Wellington 1628M/16 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1401B/16, 1405B/16)

513

War Diary.

17.4.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The 4 main Enemy Units were seen at 1120 today in their usual positions at Trondheim.

It is believed that there are at present 3 Enemy Destroyers in Northern Norway, 3 at Trondheim, and 1 at Stavanger; and the first of these groups was reported at 2224B today to be steering 60° in 70° 15' N. 31° 10' E.

The Destroyers MIDDLETON and LEDBURY, which arrived at Skaalefiord at 0815B this morning, and LAMERTON and HURSLEY which arrived there at 1223B. were ordered at 1652B to meet C. in C. H.F. at 0830B/18 in 62° 50' N. 6° 15' W. whence C. in C. H.F. intends to return to Scapa.

Capt.D.8 in FAULKNER, with SOMALI, BEDOUIN, and MATCHLESS arrived at Seidisfiord at 0859B this morning.

NORFOLK was in 67° 21' N. 14° 55' W. at 1101B today, and intends to return through 68° 7' N. 10° 35' W. tonight towards Hvalfiord.

ECLIPSE, returning from Convoy Q.P.10 with the British M/V BRITISH CORPORAL, requires repairs and expects to reach Seidisfiord to fuel at 0600B tomorrow on her way to Scapa.

A new series of S/M Patrol positions is proposed today by F.O.S. for use during the passage of North Russian Convoys; and, in order to afford a clear field in the Bay of Biscay for the hunting of U-Boats by our A/C at night, it was decided today that S/Ms between 43° and 49° N. will normally in future be routed to the westward of 12° W.

BERWICK left Hvalfiord tonight to relieve LONDON on the Denmark Strait patrol.

15 ships from P.Q.14 are reported today to have returned to Iceland, and the consequent congestion of the Iceland anchorages will necessitate a postponement of the sailing of Convoy P.Q.15.

514

War Diary.

17.4.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

A German A/C was reported over Jan Mayen at 0700 this morning; and at 0257B 4 bombs were dropped on Avonmouth causing some damage to the docks and injuring two D.E.M.S. ratings.

Mining.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, with PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, and 4 Destroyers left Port Z.A. at 1230 for the minelaying operation S.N.88, for which KENYA also left Scapa at 1212B.

One magnetic mine was exploded by Sweepers today off Harwich.

U-Boats.

The S/M P.37 while submerged in about 62° 42' N. 3° 10' E. fired 2 torpedoes at 1355/14 at the sound of a suspected U-Boat with which she had been in listening contact since 1015/14. A heavy explosion followed, but F.O.S. considers success improbable.

At 1121 today the Swedish HJELMAREN in Convoy O.N.S.86 was attacked by a U-Boat in 50° N. 14° 30' W., and POTENTILLA is standing by her.

At 1644B, S.B.N.O. North Russia reported the reliable fix of a U-Boat in 72° 2' N. 32° 20' E. at 1320 G.M.T. and another in 71° 46' N. 33° 10' E. at 1345 G.M.T.

War Diary.

17.4.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

ERGO.

COREOPSIS left Gibraltar today to join SCOTTISH in an endeavour to intercept Finnish ERGO, which was cleared from Lisbon with a suspicious cargo today and is expected to sail at 1900/19.

South Atlantic.

Dakar.

Washington reports that Adm. Collinet assumed command on 14/4 of Naval Division, Dakar and Naval Forces in French West Africa and functions of Admty. Delegate, Dakar, replacing Adm. Landriau, reported given high command, Toulon.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Malta has been awarded the George Cross "to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history".

There was no alert last night, and although a few aircraft approached the island today none crossed the coast.

CASPIA,  
VIKINGS  
sunk by U.81.  
(Cor: Telford.)

British tanker CASPIA was sunk at 2310/16 and Free French patrol vessel VIKINGS at 0120/17, both torpedoed by U-boat off Beirut. Survivors have also been landed from 6 schooners reported sunk by gunfire from U-boat off the Lebanon Coast last night.



War Diary.

17.4.1942  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Conflicting  
Claims for  
F.A.A.  
Aircraft.

Chiefs of Staff have decided that aircraft carriers must have first call on Fulmars, Sea Hurricanes and F.A.A. personnel, and it is therefore approved to embark 19 Fulmars and as many Sea Hurricanes as necessary.

Proposals to operate more first class fighters from the carriers were made today by C. in C. E.F.

Rangoon.

A raid by U.S. aircraft last night failed to find shipping, and bombs were dropped in dock areas.

America and West Indies.

Tanker  
Sailings  
Suspended.

U.S. tanker sailings for the Gulf, Caribbean Sea and U.S. Atlantic ports were suspended p.m. today until further orders. Molasses tanker traffic is permitted in Gulf ports but not north ports of Everglades, Florida.

Panamanian tanker HEINRICH V. RIEDEMANN, Guiria and Trinidad for Aruba, was torpedoed at 0337 G.M.T. in 11.55 N. 63.40 W. CLARKIA was despatched to her assistance from Trinidad.

British SCOTT HARLEY made an S O S message from 11.55 N. 63.40 W. which was intercepted by Freetown at 0340.

Argentine tanker VICTORIA (independent from Buenos Aires to New York) was torpedoed at 2257 G.M.T. in 36.41 N. 68.48 W. and the crew abandoned her. p. 541,

517

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S/Ms and Biscay Area. 29 S M Z. In order to give a clear field in Bay of Biscay for aircraft to intensify night hunting of U-Boats it has been decided that submarines will be routed to the West of 12° W. between 43° and 49° N. Submarines may however be ordered to operate in any part of the Bay of Biscay at any time should the operational situation require it. H.Q.C.C. will be given ample warning of such operations.  
(F.O.S., 1048B/17 to Cpts. S. Home.)  
Your 1230B/16 which has been passed to Admiralty and F.O.C.N.A. This will normally be arranged and ample notice will be given if S/Ms are required to operate East of 12° W.  
(F.O.S., 1049B/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

4th M.T.B. Flotilla. It is requested that the 4th M.T.B. Flotilla may be returned to BEEHIVE for the following reasons:  
(1) Southbound enemy shipping is now being located with greater frequency during darkness between the Texel and the Hook of Holland thus bringing it within striking distance of 70' M.T.Bs.  
(2) Sightings indicate more movement of shipping between Flushing and the Hook during dark hours.  
(3) The weather is now becoming more suitable for M.T.B. operations in these waters.  
(4) The element of surprise is more possible and the enemy scale of escort cannot be so high as in the Dover area.  
(5) Nore Command has no M.T.Bs. for attacking these convoys and, in view of the 11th M.T.B. Flotilla being shortly sailed for Dover, it is requested that the 4th M.T.B. Flotilla may be released.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1144B/17 to Admty.)

11th M.T.B. Flotilla. M.T.B. 49 is re-allocated to the 11th M.T.B. Flotilla and the 11th M.T.B. Flotilla is re-allocated from Dover to Portsmouth. R.A.C.F. is requested to sail boats of the 11th Flotilla to Portsmouth as soon as they are worked up.  
(D.D.O.D. (C.), 1454B/17.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Supplies & Shipping Tonnage. J.S.M. 188. Aid to Russia from 1/7/42 to 30/6/43. Gen. Burns to Mr. Harriman.  
(J.S.M. 1655Z/17 to Chiefs of Staff.)  
See Lion Copy.

Movements.

URSULA. Arrived <sup>Holy Loch</sup> URSULA escorted by JAN VAN GELDER.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0613B/17.)

/WELSHMAN ...

Policy  
Russia

579A

IZ 41  
TOR 2145Z/17

MOST SECRET.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

From:- J.S.M. Washington  
To:- Chiefs of Staff London

J.S.M. 188.

(1). General Burns requests that following be transmitted urgently to Mr. Harriman. Begins.

From:- Burns  
To:- Harriman.

Reference your 1863.

The formula is based upon the general directive which requires that aid to Russia be continued and expanded to the maximum extent possible consistent with shipping possibilities and the vital needs of the United States, the British Commonwealth of Nations and others of the United Nations. With reference to shipping possibilities, these depend upon three factors, namely:- ocean shipping, the capacities of off loading ports and the capacities of routes of distribution therefrom. Preliminary report, which is still being checked, indicates that a total of approximately 3,000,000 short tons of cargo can be received during the twelve month period through the Northern ports of Russia and distributed therefrom. Similar estimate for southern route is 600,000 tons.

Tentative figures also indicate that approximately 10% of ships are lost. Therefore, to utilise ports and distribution capacities to the limit, some 3,960,000 short tons of goods would have to be made available for shipment to Russia. This would require 660 sailings on the basis of 6,000 short tons per ship. These ships would have to be supplied by the United States, United Kingdom and Russia. Study is under way by the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board as to the extent to which

/they

2.

They can be provided, but it will certainly be very difficult to obtain them and the availability of ships may reduce shipping possibilities below a total of 3,960,000 short tons.

With reference to stores, the Russian requirements as submitted exceed 10,000,000 tons. After review by the various United States agencies, detailed recommendations have been received to make available to Russia approximately 1,100,000 tons of War Department items, 240,000 tons of petroleum products, 1,000,000 tons of food and 3,000,000 tons of raw material and equipment. This is obviously much more than can be delivered. Furthermore, British representatives have been asked to submit their detailed list of British offerings which will further increase the surplus of stores over shipping possibilities.

It is proposed to recommend to Mr. Hopkins that a combined offer by the United States and United Kingdom be made to Russia based upon the following principles:-

United States and United Kingdom will make ships available to augment existing Soviet shipping so that a maximum of 3,300,000 short tons of cargo, or such quantity as further study indicates to be reasonable, can be shipped to the Northern Soviet ports during the period 1/7/1942 to 30/6/1943 in accordance with ship schedule stated in telegram.

United States and United Kingdom will make ships available to ship 660,000 short tons of cargo, or such quantity as further study indicates to be reasonable, to U.S.S.R. through Persian Gulf route in accordance with ship schedule stated in telegram.

United Kingdom will offer stores for shipment in accordance with schedules to be stated in telegram.

United States will offer stores in accordance with schedules to be stated in the telegram.

U.S.S.R. will be asked to formulate a programme within the limits of shipping and the stores schedules as indicated above.

After necessary adjustments, the programme will constitute the second protocol.

It should be noted that the shipping limitation includes all cargo to be shipped after 1/7/42 including first protocol items, nonprotocol items and second protocol items. British and United States facilities will be extended as necessary to finance the protocol. Ends.

(2). Joint supplementary telegram by Joint Staff Mission and British Supply Council is being despatched today.

T.O.O. 1655Z/17

518

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

WELSHMAN. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1300B/17. Nothing to report.  
(WELSHMAN, 0919B/17.)

BRITTANY, Intend sailing BRITTANY, BARFOUNT, BARFOSS, and  
BARFOUNT, BARKING for Freetown passing Clyde Boom 1230B/18  
BARFOSS, routed as in C. in C. W.A. 2002B/16.  
BARKING. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1104B/17.)

H. 43. At 0700/20 intend to sail H.43 escorted by  
O. 10. ST. MODWEN from Campbeltown to Londonderry  
arriving Lough Foyle Buoy at 1500. Commodore  
Londonderry is requested to sail O.10 escorted  
by ST. MODWEN to arrive Campbeltown not later than 0630/21st,  
thence O.10 is to proceed independently via Kilbrennan Sound to  
Rothesay informing me of her E.T.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock is  
requested to arrange fighter protection for outward passage.  
Speed of advance 9 knots.  
(Capt. S.7, 1406B/17 and 1036B/19.)

UREDD. Intend to sail UREDD escorted by LOCH MONTEITH  
from Dundee 1001B/19 for Lerwick. E.T.A.  
1800B/20.  
(2) UREDD will carry out diving exercises in accordance with  
S W M 46 in the vicinity of Q.Z.Y.318 between 1330B and 1500B  
after which she will proceed to Lerwick.  
(Capt. S.9, 1411B/17.)

P. 37, Dundee arrival LOCH MONTEITH, P.37, RUBIS.  
RUBIS. (Capt. S.9, 1809B/17.)

LA Departure LA MELPOMÉNE.  
MELPOMENE. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1848B/17.)

LANCASTER, My 1510B/11 para. <sup>5</sup> After parting company  
VOLUNTEER. LANCASTER and VOLUNTEER are to return South of  
Ireland by Q.Z.F.18. LANCASTER is to proceed  
direct to Newport (Mon.) to refit.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2332B/17 to GAMBIA.)

Operations.

Convoy Your 1736/16. Arrived MIDDLETON, LEDBURY.  
Q.P. 10. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 0815B/17 to R.A.D.H.F.)  
Covering Seidisfjord arrivals FAULKNOR, SOMALI, BEDOUIN  
operations. and MATCHLESS.  
(A.C.I.C., 0859B/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Scapa ...

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Convoy Scapa departures 2006/16 LEDBURY and MIDDLETON.  
 Q.P. 10. 2136 WILTON. 2001 LAMERTON and HURSLEY.  
 Covering (A.C.O.S., 0931/17.)  
 Operations. Your 1629B/16 and 1701B/16. My position 067°  
 (Contd.) 21' N. 014° 55' W. Intend to return and pass  
 through 068° 07' N. 010° 35' W. at 2000/17,  
 thence proceeding to Hvalfjord. Fuel remaining  
 50%.  
 (NORFOLK, 1101B/17 to C. in C. H.F., Reptd. LIVERPOOL, KENT.)  
 My P.C.S. 068° 05' N. 009° 40' W., 238°, 8½ knots, escorting  
 BRITISH CORPORAL bound Reykjavik. Intend that BRITISH  
 CORPORAL shall proceed independently at 2359B today when I  
 shall proceed Seidisfjord for fuel. E.T.A. 0600B/18. As  
 temporary repairs to hull are leaking and plates are strained  
 forward intend to sail for Scapa on completion of fuelling.  
 (ECLIPSE, 1201B/17 to A.C.I.C., (R) LIVERPOOL, ORIBI, etc.)  
 Your 2321/16. Arrived LAMERTON, HURSLEY.  
 (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1223B/17 to R.A.D.H.F., (R) C. in C. H.F.)  
 Meet me in position (K) 062° 50' N. 6° 15' W. at 0830B/18.  
 Fleet will approach (K) on course 160°, speed of advance 20  
 knots, and thence through 62° 10', 05° 01' to Scapa.  
 (C. in C. H.F., 1652B/17 to LAMERTON, MIDDLETON, LEDBURY,  
 HURSLEY.)  
 My 1709B/16 para. 3. LIVERPOOL return with KENT.  
 (C. in C. H.F., 1949B/17.)

Patrols. At 2159 tonight. LONDON on patrol "White".  
 BERWICK leaving Hvalfjord for patrol "White".  
 (A.C.I.C., 1508B/17.)  
 Night of 17/18. M.Ls. 137 and 141 patrolling O.D.6 and 7.  
 M.Ls. 464 and 346 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton  
 and North East Spit Buoys E.T.D. 2200 E.T.R. 0630/18.  
 (V.A. Dover, 1829B/17.)

New S/M (A) My 1216/4. Intend to institute following  
 Patrol Areas patrol area for submarines covering passage of  
 K.20 to K.31. North Russian convoys, an area 20 miles either  
 side of line joining 68° 10' N. 02° E. and 71°  
 35' N. 13° 50' E. This area will be sub-  
 divided into 12 patrol zones, each 25 miles long, numbered  
 South to North K.20 to K.31 inclusive.  
 (B) In order to keep units of Home Fleet and convoy escorts  
 informed of movements of submarines while on patrol, propose  
 to repeat relevant submarine operational signals to A.I.G. 47.  
 (C) Para. 4. Request surface ships concerned and those carry-  
 ing aircraft may be instructed accordingly.  
 (D) Para. 5. Request following may be communicated -  
 (1) Expected time and date of departure of P.Q.15 and Q.P.11  
 observing that submarines will take 3 to 4 days to reach their  
 patrol zones from Lerwick.  
 (2) Rendezvous for STURGEON off Seidisfjord. It is desirable  
 STURGEON should complete with diesel fuel at Seidisfjord if  
 available.  
 (3) Estimated time of P.Q.15 crossing 5° E.  
 (F.O.S., 1514B/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

17.4.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Bombing operations. On day 16/4, 12 A/C attacked Power Station at Havre. Crews report bursts on the Power House and in the surrounding area. A possible hit was also reported on the S.W. Dock Gate of Bassin Vauban.

On night 16/17, 13 A/C attacked the docks at Lorient and 1 A/C bombed the docks at Havre. (H.Q.B.C., 1540/17.)

Protection of S.N. 88. Patrol "Slip One" in operation until 2245. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1743B/17.)

Bombing restrictions. Bombing restrictions situation. Details. (Capt. S.9, 1849B/17 to SEAWOLF, TRIDENT.)

Failures of A/A Defences to engage A/C. Your 1908B/16 and my 1252B/15/4. At 1222 E/A first plotted 130 miles E. of Deerness course W., plots then confused with friendly fighters patrolling E. of Orkney. At 1231 E/A plotted over Flotta, thence to

Duncansby Head returning on reciprocal course over Flotta to position 270° Rora Head 10 miles. Plots continued West of Shetlands to 270° Unst 60 miles course North. Ground defences did not engage. My 1756/12/4. E/A first plotted 48 miles East of A buoy thence to Finstown, altered course to N.E. and finally East. E/A last plotted 50 miles E. of A Buoy course East at 1609/12/4. Ground defences did not engage.

(A.C.O.S., 1013/17 to Admty.)

A.C.O.S. 1013/17.

It is requested that this incident may be examined and Admiralty informed.

(A.C.N.S. H., 2053B/17 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Avonmouth bombed. At 0257B/17 an aircraft was heard overhead. 4 bombs were dropped, 1 hitting D.E.M.S. Office which was partially demolished and cracking concrete quay of lock, 1 on the foreshore, and 1 on the new oil jetty which was damaged. These three exploded. The fourth fell either between foreshore and oil jetty or to seaward of it. 2 Able Seamen both attached to D.E.M.S. were injured but not seriously.

(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 1245/17.)

Jan Mayen. Jan Mayen reports German A/C over Island at 0700. (A.C.I.C., 2101B/17.)

521

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

S.N. 88. Arrived WELLS, SARDONYX, SALADIN.  
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, ?0820/17.)  
Scapa departure KENYA.  
(A.C.O.S., 1212B/17.)

Sailed R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON,  
MENESTHEUS, CHARLESTOWN, WELLS, SARDONYX, and SALADIN.  
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1230/17.)

Harwich. At 1133/17 one ground mine exploded by Sweepers.  
Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1831B/17.)

Enemy Intelligence.

M/Vs off Nordeney. 4 merchant vessels bearing 070°, speed 7 knots,  
course 140°, my position 53° 44' N. 6° 50' E.  
(A/C F. Sqdn., 0523/17, 0524/17 to 16 Group.)

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover  
Strait from 0900/16 to 0900/17.  
Track E.28D. 2 vessels trawler size from off  
Calais at 0200/17, westbound at 6 knots entered  
Boulogne at 0530/17.  
(V.A. Dover, 0907B/17.)

Destroyers off Varanger Fiord. Report from Shore Signal Station (B.2.)  
3 enemy destroyers 069° 55' N. 031° 35' E.,  
course 225°.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1225B/17 to Escorts  
P.Q.14.)

Cancel my 2145/17. Report grade A.1. 3 enemy destroyers  
070° 15' N. 031° 10' E., 1850 G.M.T. Course 60°.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2224B/17 to Escorts P.Q.14, M/S.F.6.)

Convoy off Ijmuiden. M.A.S.B.36 reports:  
Enemy convoy in position 1 mile west of Fairway  
Buoy at 0255B/17 thought to be entering Ijmuiden  
escorted by one armed trawler ahead. Two flak-  
ships on starboard quarter. One armed trawler astern. M.A.S.B.  
challenged by red and green recognition lights and F. on small  
white light. Escorts and merchant ships opened fire with  
Oerlikon type guns. No hits. 1017B/17. Ends.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1248B/17.)

Trondheim. Four major units seen in usual positions at  
Trondheim, 1120/17.  
(D.D.I.C., 1601B/17.)

/GNEISENAU ...



522

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.GNEISENAU.  
Units at  
Trondheim.  
Destroyers  
in Norway.

(a) GNEISENAU was towed to Gdynia about 11/4 in company with SCHLESIEEN or SCHLESWIG and preceded by ice breaker STARKE and other small craft. 2 large holes forward on forecastle including serious damage from effects of B magazine which had been ablaze. Repairs estimated 6 months. Graded A.2.

(b) Warships at Trondheim last few days had following restrictions imposed by Admiralty -

(1) Exercises in fjord suspended until arrival of fuel supplies from North Sea ports.

(2) All ships to come to 3 hours notice on sighting reports of Arctic Convoys. Graded A.3.

(c) 3 Destroyers at Kirkenes and others at Tromso. Graded A.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1759/17.)

O.I.C. Comment: (a) GNEISENAU left Kiel between 29th March and 12th April. Photographs taken of her at Kiel showed damage to the forecastle and a hole abreast 'B' turret. It is considered this report is correct.

(b) (1) There are at Trondheim 4-6 tankers. It is probable that the Germans are trying to conserve stocks of fuel and have placed certain restrictions on exercises.

(2) Probably correct.

(3) Disposition of destroyers in Norway at present is 3 in Northern Norway, 3 at Trondheim, 1 at Stavanger.

Movements  
in Cattegat.

Following west coast air sightings have been reported by source in my R.S.129 of Feb. 21st.

(a) At 1700/11/4 in Sound near Ven, 4 large camouflaged transports proceeding north without escort.

(b) At 1600/14 between Varberg and Anholt 8 S/Ms and four torpedo boats going north. 2 S/Ms very large, nearly 2000 tons with 2 guns. Other six were of 750 tons class.

(c) At 0915/15, 3 S/Ms of 750 tons, 12 to 15 miles north-east of Skagen going north-west. 3 Me.110s patrolled above them.

(d) Air patrol and torpedo boat activity off Gothenburg has not been observed since 12/4. Graded B.3.

(N.A. Stockholm, 1821/17.)

N.I.D. Comment: This report has been graded C.4.

U-Boats.Search  
for U-Boat.

Searched area in Minch. No confirmed contact. Returning to port. Arriving Switha Gate 0700. (Comdestron 8, 0045/17 to R.A.D.H.F.)

Oil patch.

Am investigating suspicious oil patch. (A/C, 0935/17 to 15 Group.) Position oil streak 56° 20' N. 13° 10' W. course 2000°. (A/C 1015/17 to 15 Group.)

/U-Boat ...

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - Contd.

U-Boat attacked by P. 37. P. 37 reports at 1355/14 when submerged fired two torpedoes at under water noise suspected of being a U-Boat. At 1402 heavy explosion heard followed by loud clattering water noise which then grew fainter ceasing 20 minutes later, after which nothing whatever was discriminated. Had been in contact by listening with suspected U-Boat since 1015/14. Estimated course and speed of enemy 140°, 3 knots, approx. position 62° 42' N. 03° 10' E. U-Boat was not sighted and search of vicinity of explosion gave no result.

2. RUBIS 50 miles to the southward also heard this explosion. My 2104/15 refers.

3. Consider success improbable.  
(F.O.S., 1044B/17 to Admty.)

Convoy O.N. 86. HJELMAREN (Swedish, 2467 tons) attacked. Quality one D/F 272° taken on distress SMHA (HJELMAREN). (Tiree Radio, 1121/17.) Sunderland A/C will reach position given by S.S. HJELMAREN at about 1230Z to co-operate in attack on U/B. (C. in C. W.A., 1232Z/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.) Detach one escort vessel to assist HJELMAREN. (C. in C. W.A., 1310Z/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.) Intercepted 1126 G.M.T. S S S S de HJELMAREN 50° 00' N. 14° 30' W. Attacked. (Niton Radio, 1327/17) (C. in C. Plymouth, Recd. 1330/17.) My 1310Z/17. D/F bearings indicate HJELMAREN may be up to about 30 miles north of the position she gave. (C. in C. W.A., 1356Z/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.) Your 1310Z/17. POTENTILLA has been standing by HJELMAREN since 1130Z/17. (POTENTILLA, 1513Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Off Varanger Fiord. Reliable fix and D/F bearings of U-Boat in 72° 2' N. 32° 20' E. at 1320 G.M.T./17. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1644B/17.) Reliable fix and D/F bearings of U-Boat in 71° 46' N. 33° 10' E. at 1345/17. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1646B/17.)

Navigational.

Ice in Denmark Straits. Your 1014B/12. Best opinion here on a subject which is not well known is that in an average year limit of pack ice extends to the northern position given and that in any year bergs may be met south of this. Worst months are April and May. Everything depends on recently prevailing wind. (A.C.I.C., 2017B/17 to R.A.M.)

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.EMPEROR  
OF INDIA.My 1654B/16.  
EMPEROR OF INDIA sailing delayed owing to  
damage to Sponson.  
(F.O.I.C. London, 1003B/17.)

CRAIG.

My 0820/17. <sup>N.T.W.D.</sup> M.F.V. CRAIG towed back to harbour  
with defects.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1027B/17.)T.L.C. 146.  
RIVER LOSSIE.T.L.C. 146 was in collision with H.M. Trawler  
RIVER LOSSIE at 1100 B.S.T./16 in 56° 36' N.  
02° 6' W. Very slight damage to plate on  
door support of T.L.C. RIVER LOSSIE sustained  
damage to port bow bulwark plates.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1148/17.)

→ SOREL.

SOREL delayed by defects.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1315B/17.)

SPEEDY.

E.T.A. 0803B/19. Asdic outfit damaged in ice:  
new unit required.  
(SPEEDY, 1504B/17 to A.C.O.S.)TRINIDAD  
(Torpedoed  
29/3.)Report after consultation with Constructor  
Commander whether temporary repairs to  
TRINIDAD will enable ship to steam to a U.S.  
East Coast port at approximately 18 knots and  
if not what additional time would be required  
to carry out such repairs to enable this to  
be done.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1616B/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

SYKONA.

Your 1617B/16. RESTIVE completed today.  
Sailing 2200 escorted by MACBETH to Akureyri  
to tow SYKONA ex P.Q.14 to Reykjavik.  
(A.C.I.C., 1808B/17.)Shipping and Convoys.O.N.S. 88,  
O.N.S. 90.F.O.N.F. 1616Z/15. ORILLA will arrive  
Tobermory 19/4. SOREL designated to join  
Task Unit 24.1.11 for O.N.S.88 and DRUMHELLER  
to join Task Unit 24.1.12 for O.N.S.90.  
(C.T.G. 24.7, 1425B/17 to F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24.)LLANSTEPHAN  
CASTLE.My 0412/11. Voyage of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE has  
been further postponed by one day. Embarkation  
will now take place on 23/4.  
(D.S.T., 1621B/17.)

War Diary.

17.4.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

H.X. 183.

Average speed 8.7 knots. Heavy swell after leaving Banks and two days with strong easterly wind.  
No stragglers, all ships arrived. Cdre. states station-keeping very good indeed.  
(D.T.D., 1916B/17 to Opanav, N.S.H.Q.)

S.C. 79.

Owing to congestion in anchorages Iceland (C) as a result of the return of 15 ships from P.Q.14 and unavoidable postponement of the sailing of P.Q.15 it is necessary for the 20 ships in S.C. 79 loaded for N. Russia to proceed in the first place to U.K. Request following message be passed to the escorts for Commodore S.C. 79. "All ships of your convoy loaded for N. Russia totalling twenty are to proceed to U.K. and are not to break off for Iceland (C). Further signal will be made giving destinations of these ships".  
(A.C.N.S. (T), 2029B/17 to Opanav.)

526

War Diary.

17.4.1942.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

MIRROR. My 1158/15. Departure LORD NUFFIELD escorting cable ship MIRROR. (F.O.C.N.A. 1038A/17 to Admty.)

ERGO (Finnish). Your 2315B/16 (N.T. in W.D.) ERGO colour black funnel tall with peculiar bulging band about third way from top. Bulwarks flush well deck, not noticeable. No national markings. (B.N.A. Lisbon 1054A/17 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.) Sailed COREOPSIS to join H.M. Trawler SCOTTISH to endeavour to intercept, ERGO. (F.O.C.N.A., 1532A/17 to Admty.) My 1054A/17 ERGO cleared today. Expected to sail 19/4 1900 and to anchor at Cascais probably to await escort. Further signal will be made. (B.N.A. Lisbon 1616A/17 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

Ops., In recent action between M.L's and Italian  
HAVOCK A/C off Bona, 1 M.L. was sunk the other damaged  
and M.L's. and now in Bona harbour. 2 Cant bombers and 2  
C.R. 42's destroyed by fire from M.L. and shore  
A.A.

2. Lt. Cdr. Watkins, HAVOCK, has reported all instruments and papers destroyed including radio locators both ends. He also reported location of mine field 8 to 10 miles off Cape Bon.

3. This information comes from American source.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1138B/17 to Admty., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

H.G. and O.G. Convoys. O.G. Convoys have lately been arriving in less than 15 days. Where this occurs and M/Vs. are ready to return request you will consider sailing the following H.G. convoy before programme date, but not less than 4 days after the arrival of the O.G. (D.T.D. 1231B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)(R) C. in C. W.A.)

COWSLIP, Sailed COWSLIP escorting EMILE BAUDOT for  
EMILE Freetown routed:- (A) 035° 50' N. 006° 25' W.  
BAUDOT. (B) 35° 02' 08° 05' (C) 33° 20' 09° 30' (D) 28°  
02' 13° 30' (E) 25° 03' 16° 32' (F) 20° 30' 18°  
59' (G) 13° 58' 18° 59' (H) 10° 50' 17° 30'  
thence to Freetown speed 8 knots.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1534A/17 to R.A. West Africa (R)  
Admty., C. in C.S.A.)

MANXMAN. From position (C) pass through (D) 039° 58' N.  
013° 55' W. (E) 220° Cape St. Vincent 20 thence  
Gibraltar. 2. Report E.T.A. gate on passing  
position (D). (F.O.C.N.A. 1620A/17 to MANXMAN).

Floating My 2142/16th. Launch found and towed ashore  
object. large deep water mark buoy and mooring chain.  
(B.V. Consul, Bayal, 1625C/17 to Admty.)

/Italian.....

527

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

Italian repatriations. Request you will instruct S.B.N.O. GIULIO CESARE to adjust speed of both ships so as to arrive in Red Sea without intermediate fuelling. (F.O.C.N.A. 1715B/17 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty., C. in C.E.I.)  
Your 1918/14 and my 1358/16. Please decode my 0003/15 to GIULIO CESARE and GIULIO CESARE's 2252/16 both passed via Whitehall W/T station. My 1715A/17 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1741A/17 to Admty.)

U/B. A S/M painted black or dark grey was sighted 0935/17 position approx. 30 miles N.W. of Cadiz. Heading westward. Reliably (B.2.) (F.O.C.N.A. 1917A/17 to S. and A., N.A. Station, SCOTTISH (R) Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Italian Repatriations. Received 0018 G.M.T. VULCANIA. Pass to Admty. London. Noon position 16/4 4° 26' S. 18° 32' W. (Portishead Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 0230/17). Pass to Admty. C. in C.S.A. NR 1 21 17 1415. Coltano Radio VULCANIA. P.C. and S. at noon 17/4 12° 01' N. 22° 48' W. 184° 16 knots. DUILIO 30 miles astern. (Portishead Radio T.O.R. 2254/17 to Admty.)  
A Reuter message from Gibraltar has already announced departure of Italian ships repatriating Italians from Abyssinia (operation Guano.) Intend to release statement to press in South Africa shortly before arrival of first two ships at Port Elizabeth. (C. in C.S.A., 2136B/17 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Capetown.)

Movements. Arrival 17/4 HILDASAY, SLUNA, PLADDA, SHAPINSAY. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 0915Z/17 to Admty.)  
EXPRESS escorting DERWENTDALE arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1119Z/17 to Admty., C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.I., C. in C. E.F.)  
BACHAQUERO arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1439Z/17 to Admty.)  
Capetown arrival 17/4 Dutch Tug THAMES. (S.O.I. Capetown 1452B/17 to Admty.)  
Arrival 17/4 FANDANGO. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1507Z/17 to Admty.)  
Arrival St. Helena 0900/17 April EXMOOR, CROOME and French Sloop DETROYAT, departure same day 1600. (Genl. St. Helena 1620Z/17 to Admty.) *See Movements - next page*

SWIFT LIGHT overdue. U.S. SWIFT LIGHT due Capetown 10/4 from Corpus Christi not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1045B/17 to Admty. etc.) Cancelled, see 0955/19.

/PRINS.....

528

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.

PRINS ALBERT overdue. PRINS ALBERT due Durban 10/4 from Colombo not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1047B/17 to Admty. etc.) *See C.C.E.I., 0738Z/24. (ELIZABETHVILLE - WOT PRINS ALBERT.)*

PRETORIA CASTLE. Return to (? Freetown) through (?020° or 005°) N. 018° W. arriving 1600Z/19. A/C towing sleeve target will meet you at 1500Z in 270° Cape Sierra Leone 10 miles for high and low level practice bombing runs. Communication with A/C in accordance with F.C.O. 13. L.A. target not available. (R.A. West Africa 1107Z/17 to PRETORIA CASTLE (R) ALCANTARA, C. in C. S.A., Capt. (D) 18.)

→ GLENGYLE. Sailed GLENGYLE for Capetown S. of A. 18 knots E.T.A. 1500Z/19 routed through positions:-  
(i) 031° 50' S. 029° 55' E. (ii) 034° 15' 026° 50' (iii) 035° 30' 021°. (iv) 035° 25' 019° 30' thence by searched channel. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1132Z/17 to N.C.S.O. Kilindini etc.)

BIRMINGHAM. W.S.17. Your 0701/16. BIRMINGHAM not expected to complete at Simonstown before 29/4. It is expected W.S.17 should be ready to leave Durban 29/4. (C. in C. S.A. 1536M/17 to C. in C.E.F. (R) ? C. in C.E.I., B.S.3., Admty.)

Movement Summary. 2000Z/17 Area Q. CILICIA from patrol in area 040° to 042° S. 018° 10' to 020° E. to Capetown E.T.A. 0700Z/19. ALLENHAM GROVE, from St. Helena E.T.A. Capetown 0500Z/18.

BRIDGEWATER 024° 00' S. 009° 45' E. 324° 13 knots.  
DEVONSHIRE, CHESHIRE with A.S.2. 032° 35' S. 015° 18' E. 136° 12½ knots.  
W.S.17A 027° 53' S. 008° 55' E. 134° 15 knots.  
GLASGOW 022° 00' S. 006° 53' E. 321° 18 knots.  
WHITEHAVEN, SEAHAM, BOSTON 017° 10' S. 010° 35' E. to Simonstown 10 knots.  
SHROPSHIRE, MILFORD with W.S.17B 017° 40' S. 005° 25' W. 129° 12 knots.  
U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD 032° 30' S. 001° 48' E. 298° 15 knots.  
EXMOOR, CROOME 017° 15 S. 004° 40' W. to Simonstown 16 knots.  
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 035° 50' S. 001° 10' W. 083° 11 knots.  
GENERAL BIRDWOOD 013° 00' S. 041° 50' E. 8½ knots to Mombasa.  
CERES with C.M. 27 016° 12' S. 041° 30' E. 12 knots to Mombasa.

→ GLENGYLE from Durban E.T.A. Capetown P.M. 19/4.  
SOUTHERN PRIDE on passage Simonstown to Capetown. (C. in C.S.A. 1615B/17 to S.A.S. Squadron).

MONTICELLO, (CONTE GRAND). Report received from Santos that Italian CONTE GRANDE 23861 tons, has been transferred to U.S. Navy as an auxiliary and her name changed to MONTICELLO. (D.S. 956).

\* Transport C.B 01815(U)

/Motor.....

War Diary.

17.4.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - contd.

Motor Minesweepers. A.M. 1825B/7 (see A. and W.I.) Provision of escorts will be a matter of great difficulty until number of escort vessels available increased. Request I may be informed approximate date of sailing of motor minesweepers from Pernambuco. (R.A.W.Africa, 1912Z/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C.S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Movements. Arrival 16/4 CLYDE, P.34.  
(V.A.Malta, 0430B/17 to Admty.)  
Departure 17/4 O.R.P. SOKOL. *See p. 532*  
(V.A.Malta, 0721B/17 to Admty.)  
16/4 Port Said arrivals F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, ROMEO, F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE, JANUS, SOUTHERN SEA, R.F.A. ATID. Departures 1630C ROMEO 1853C JANUS.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1014C/17 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
Arrivals 16th, 1723 lighters R.70 and R.103. 1740 Motor Launch 1038. Departures 16th, 1402 SOUTHERN ISLE 1425 LANDFALL, 1930 M/L 1038. (N.O.I.C. Beirut, 1031G/17 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
Arrivals CUMBRAE, ROMEO, ISLAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 1315C/17 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
Arrivals 16/4. KIPLING, KELVIN, WOLBOROUGH. Departures 16/4 PEONY, GLOXINIA, HURWORTH, ERICA, DULVERTON, HAILSTORM, SOUTHERN MAID, PROTEA, COCKER, FALK. Arrivals 17/4, ERIDGE, DELPHINIUM, BEAUFORT, SNAPDRAGON, JANUS, SOUTHERN MAID.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1510C/17 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
Departure M.T.B's 266 and 268.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 2233C/17 to Admty., etc.)

Greek S/M's. Cancel my 1941/13/4 which did not make present situation quite clear. Greek C. in C. informs me he has available some 30 petty officers and 70 ratings trained in S/M's whose specialist services he does not wish to lose by employment in surface ships.  
2. S/M's NEREUS and TRITON are at present fit for limited operational use but will before long only be fit for training unless they are extensively refitted. Greek C. in C. agrees that their condition does not justify work and expenditure involved and asks if there is any chance of obtaining few submarines to replace them for operational use.  
3. In view of performance of Greek S/M's crews up to the present I cannot recommend handing over new S/M's to Greeks unless we cannot man them ourselves.  
4. Admty. pass to F.O.(S).  
(C. in C. Med., 1145C/17 to Admty., (R) F.O.S.)

/Spitfires ...



War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Spitfires for Malta. A.959 17/4/42. For C.A.S. (R) A.O.C. in C. M.E. Fighter situation. The 50 Spitfires due here shortly will be most welcome but they are insufficient to ensure that we wrest air supremacy from enemy over Malta. I understand that there are in addition a considerable number of Spitfires waiting at Gibraltar to be brought here at a later date. Could they not come immediately after the first lot? Recognised that this would delay Naval programme a few days. Immediate future is the critical time, and we must have adequate forces now. If we wait we run risk of being defeated in detail. Strongly urge this suggestion be very seriously considered. Also essential that our reinforcement of Spitfires arrive regularly each month. A.O.C. Med. concurs.  
(Govr. Malta, 1230/17 to Air Min.) See Air Min. 2150/19.

VIKINGS, CASPIA torpedoeed by U.81. (Capt. Titterton) Regret to report French Ship VIKINGS and British Tanker CASPIA torpedoeed by U-Boat and sunk off Beirut at 0120/17 and 2310/16 respectively. 6 of crew of CASPIA have been landed. Further search in progress. Survivors have also landed from 6 schooners reported sunk by gunfire by U-Boat off Lebanon Coast night 16/17. (C. in C. Med., 1301C/17 to Admty.) F.S. VIKINGS torpedoeed and sank in 3 minutes in position 240 R.A.S. Beirut 23. No time to dispose of S.P's and C.B. Flat calm and no current. Written report in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1878 follows. (N.O.I.C. Beirut, 1810C/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

IERAX. Request Greek Dest. IERAX may be sailed to Aden on completion of refit without completion of boiler repairs. She should bring boiler tube to complete these repairs at Port Sudan at Greek Repair Ship HEPHESTOS. F.O.C. Red Sea Force to propose programme award from Aden in due course.  
(C. in C. Med., 1303C/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

P.31. You were sighted this forenoon by the enemy, move position, spending 24 hours off Sicilian Coast.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1602B/17 to P.31).

S/M's. Resume normal operation control.  
(C. in C. Med., 1757C/17 to Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S)10, (R) S/M's on Patrol).

SALZBURG, ARKADIA. My 1053C/16. SALZBURG and ARKADIA reported loading with absolute priority at Bourgas and may leave at any time. C.3. Destination not known but cargo loaded at Istanbul is manifested for Trieste.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1824C/17 to S.O.I. Med., and S.1. (R) D.N.I.)

/Turkish ...

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

Turkish Oil. From Adm. Kelly. Your 1057/3 (supply of oil to H.M. Ships by Turkey). I am not clear about our possible requirements though presumably very limited as Smyrna would not be a suitable base with all islands in enemy hands.

(2) There is no Turkish tank storage available for storing British fuel anywhere beyond existing arrangements.

(3) Only available method is floating storage which could probably be arranged with Danube lighters for limited amount.

(4) If Russian tankers can bring oil to Istanbul transfer from there to Smyrna might be arranged by ANTARES on southern journey.

(5) Socony have 2 tanks dismantled at Istanbul, one 3,000 ton another 1,200, which could be erected if Turks agreed.

(6) Turkish tankers fully employed in shipping oil for Turkish requirements from Haifa.

(A.N.A., Istanbul, 1834C/17 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., N.A. Ankara.)

Night Torpedo Attacks. Your 2211/25/3. Agree generally with recommendations in N.O.I.C. Malta's 1747/19/3.

Ref. para. 1 (C). Another effective measure is smoke laid by screening vessels stationed about 5 cables on either bow of ship being protected, the latter zig-zagging between 2 lines of smoke.

2. No objection to promulgation but night trials which may give further information are being conducted. Results will be signalled. (C. in C. Med., 1859C/17).

Requesting remarks on Malta's 1747/19 re tactics to counter night torpedo attacks.

Air Striking Force. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (M.E.) 255. Your CC/21 dated 15.4.42.

1. Your need for heavy bomber striking force only too well realised here. Liberator is only practical possibility at present and we were hoping that you would have one squadron in May and another in July. Very critical position of India and Ceylon has now compelled us to change these plans. Ability to hold Ceylon and Eastern India in face of greatly superior Japanese Naval forces now almost entirely dependent on speed with which we can establish strong air striking force. We are therefore requiring Air Ministry to arrange for transfer of two Liberator squadrons arriving Middle East in W.S.16 to India. We regret that this must delay the formation of your first Liberator squadron until late in the year.

2. 2 Halifax equipments are being sent to you by sea forthwith in hope that within 2 or 3 months aircraft will be fit for operation outside U.K. At present constant trouble with pumps, etc., makes this quite impracticable.

3. We will also arrange duplication of Liberator ground equipment and ground personnel in Middle East and India so that 2 of the first 3 squadrons can be operated by either Command.

(Air Min., T.O.O. 1945Z/17 to C's in C. M.E.)

/Malta ...

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.Malta Air  
Report.

I. 228 17/4. C.S.R. 17/4.  
 Night 16/17 no alerts. 17/4 2 alerts 1234, 1310  
 hours 5 A/C none crossed coast.  
 No operations low cloud and very bad visibility.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2021/17).

SOKOL.

Capt. (S) 10's 2012B/10 to Capt. (S) 8. O.R.P.  
 SOKOL passes through 038° 10' 009° 00' about 0030B/21  
 thence as ordered by you. No torpedoes on board,  
 only one shaft available and making 80 to 90 miles  
 per day. (V.A. Malta, 2145B/17 to F.O.C.N.A. (R)  
 C. in C. Med., F.O.S., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)

*See p. 524 (movements)*

P. 35.

Patrol North of No.4 buoy until 0800B/18 for  
 northbound ship about 15 knots.  
 (Capt. (S) 10, 2217B/17 to P.35 (R) URGE, C. in C.  
 Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

War Diary.17.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Enemy Units 15/4 Your 1814Z/16 not to Admty. Pilot who is considered reliable is positive ships were 1 battleship resembling Nagato class, and 1 cruiser, much smaller, resembling Southampton class. Battleship had a control tower with a "ball" on top, 1 funnel and 1 mast aft. Turrets were never seen. Sighting was from 12 to 14 miles at 50 feet. Amendment to report mentioned my 0928Z/15 was a coding error and pilot intended throughout to report force as 1 battleship and 1 cruiser. Pilot is same officer who sighted enemy battleship during operation off Ceylon on 5/4. In spite of all this I am not entirely convinced that there was a battleship. Possible alternatives are pocket battleship or even a dummy. (Dep. C. in C. E.F. 0046Z/17 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.) Your 1401Z/15 (Enemy force reported as 1 battleship and 1 cruiser) (1) Are you satisfied with?(standard of) these reports? (2) Were any naval observers sent to identify? (3) Could these ships have been?(merchant) vessels ex east coast of India ports? (C. in C. E.F. 0707Z/17 to Dept. C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

Movements. RANCHI arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0400Z/17 to Admty. etc.)  
Colombo arrivals 16/4 1045Z MARGUERITE, HMML 1098, HMML 1086.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 0411Z/17 to Admty. etc.)  
Departure HASHEMI for Cochin routed through A. 016° N. 073° 09' B. 015° N. 073° 16' thence direct keeping 2 operator watch vide L.D.M. 525 para 2. Holds current I table.  
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0653Z/17 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival SUTLEJ at 0800Z/17.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0920Z/17 to Admty. etc.)  
Departure SUTLEJ at 1200Z/17.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1204Z/17 to Admty. etc.)  
Mombasa arrived 17/4 1050 G.M.T. DRAGON.  
(N.O.I.C. E. Africa 1110Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Colombo arrivals 17/4 0045Z FALMOUTH, ASTER. 0300Z HINDUSTAN, 0800Z Dutch Cruiser SUMATRA, Dutch Submarine K.11. Departures 1215Z DECOY.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 1553Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Force 15/4 intentions. Your 1757B/16 and my 0046Z/17. In view of the fact that this force appeared within 40 miles of coast of Ceylon it is considered that either enemy had definite objective in that area or that it was his intention to be seen. If for latter purpose he took undue risks in coming so close. Probable that enemy knew of whereabouts of Forces A. and B. and also deduced that there would be a stream of shipping proceeding from northward. Possible that he may have intercepted a signal from N.C.S.O. Calcutta giving an area in which there would be a concentration of shipping on 16/4. He may also have been aware that Neth. C. SUMATRA was due to leave Trincomalee for Colombo about this time.

/When ...

War Diary.17.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies, cont'd.Enemy  
Force 15/4  
intentions  
contd.

When sighted enemy was steering to southward and was last seen steering to westward. Probable that he intended to attack shipping to west of Ceylon and/or Cochin and/or 8 degree channel with possibility of bombardment of Addu Atoll. R/C by Catalina of these areas as far south as South Mole is being carried out possibly Friday 17/4.  
(Dep. C. in C. E.F. 0438Z/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

CLAN MACBEAN. Your 1231/14. Sail CLAN MACBEAN to Mombasa to offload the 6 aircraft. Further signal will be made about 1000 tons of Naval stores and commercial cargo.  
(C. in C. E.I. 0558Z/17 to N.C.S.O. Durban (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty. etc.)

TEVIOTBANK  
PROME  
SEAWALL.

My 0814Z/11 and my 0532Z/16. (ii) After unloading torpedoes TEVIOTBANK is to embark full load of Mark XVII B mines from PROME and to report when loaded. (iii) After unloading torpedoes PROME is to embark to capacity Mark XVII, A Mark I to IV and M Mark II mines. These mines being taken at your discretion from stock now held ashore or from incoming freight. (iv) Mine carrier SEAWALL now awaiting discharge of commercial cargo at Colombo (? is to) sail to Bombay as soon as possible to embark balance of mines at Bombay.  
(C. in C. E.I. 0538Z/17 to Cdre. R.I.N. (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty. N.A.S.O. Bombay, S.A.S.O. Eastern Theatre, PROME, F.O.C.R.I.N. TEVIOTBANK.)

Carrier  
Aircraft.

My 1056Z/8. The extensive use made by Japanese of carrier-borne fighter dive bombers necessitates re-adjustment (all available?) equipment of carriers in Eastern Fleet. Having therefore examined in detail possibilities of operating more first class fighters I propose following: To carriers. Fighter Martlets, Fighter Hurricanes or Spitfires. (Corrupt Group) Aircraft Carrier Fulmars or Firefly. Striking force Albacores and (?Swordfish) or Barracudas. INDOMITABLE 30, 0, 10 (18?) or INDOMITABLE 9, 14, 10, 18. FORMIDABLE 21, 0, 6, 15. ILLUSTRIOUS 21, 0, 6, 15.  
(2) The extra number of fighters are accommodated by: (a) Using outrigger. (b) by using one lift only (?for) fighter and slipway (?exit) for Albacore. (c) by running the best balance between number of anticipated striking and search aircraft and fighters in reconnoitring (corrupt group); e.g. if 3 more Albacores were carried in FORMIDABLE it would reduce fighters by 6.  
(3) The complement of INDOMITABLE with 30 Martlets is preferred both because extra number fighters is carried and maintenance is simplified.  
(4) During fair weather periods and for special operations there should be made available 2 Squadrons 15 Martlets each, additional to those shown in para 1. They will be embarked as deck cargo and used as escort fighters.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0809Z/17 to Admty. (R) V.A.2 E.F., F.O.A.C. E.F.)

[See Correction of this signal, received 23/4, on next page.] /Shipping ...

**MOST SECRET**

0839z/17h April

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

~~Date 17.4.42~~

Recd. 2021

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet

Naval Cypher D by W/T

CORRECTION  
(Recd. 1400/23)

Addressed Admiralty, repeated V.A. 2 Eastern Fleet,  
F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers Eastern Fleet.

IMPORTANT

930.

My 1056z / 8th April. The extensive use made by Japanese of carrier borne fighter dive bombers necessitates readjustment initial equipment of carriers in Eastern Fleet. Having therefore examined in detail possibilities of operating more First Class fighters I propose following: Read in 5 Columns.

Carriers.	Fighter Martlets.	Fighters Hurricanes or Spit- fires.	<u>Search</u> <u>Aircraft</u> Fulmar or Firefly.	Striking Force. Albacores and <u>Sword- fish</u> or Barrucudas.
H.M.S. INDOMITABLE or repetition or H.M.S. INDOMITABLE	30	Nought	10	<u>18</u>
H.M.S. FORMIDABLE	9	14	10	18
H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS	21	Nought	6	15
H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS	21	Nought	6	15.

2. The extra number of fighters are accommodated by:

- (a) using Outrigger
- (b) by using one lift only for fighter and slipway other than for Albacore.
- (c) by striking the best balance between number of anticipated striking and search aircraft and fighters in cramped space : e.g. if 3 more Albacores were carried in H.M.S. FORMIDABLE it would reduce fighters by 6.

3. The complement of H.M.S. INDOMITABLE with 30 Martlets is preferred both because extra number

fighters/....

fighters is carried and maintenance is simplified.

4. During fair weather periods and for special operations there should be made available 2 Squadrons 15 Martlets each, additional to those shown in Paragraph One. They will be embarked as a deck cargo and used as escort fighters.

0809z/17

Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

✓ Re proposals to increase number of aircraft in Carriers.

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)  
 N.A.1st S.L.  
 D.O.D.(H)(2)  
 D.O.D.(F)(2)  
 D.D.I.C.(2)  
 D.N.I.(4)  
 D. of P.(2)  
 Hd. of M.(12)  
 D.N.A.D. for action  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.A.M.  
 D.A.M.R.  
 Duty Capt.(2)  
 I.P.(2)  
 W.D.  
 N.I.D.10.

War Diary.17.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Shipping Your 2216/15 (2215/15 intended)  
Colombo. (a) Stocks satisfactory, 1000 tons Welsh 14,000 Commercial, estimated sufficient for 3 to 4 months. (b) Marked improvement due Labour Corps, working parties from services and returned native labour but delays caused by inexperience of above. (c) 3,000 tons rubber destination Karachi or Persian Gulf. 16,000,000 pounds tea for U.K. and further 4 to 5 million pounds for other destinations. M.W.T. representative taking every opportunity to arrange shipments. (d) 16 ships have left during last 4 days and reduction proceeding according to plan. Hope to resume normal arrivals before end of month. 2. Ref. para.4. No. (C. in C. E.I. 1126Z/17 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

SATURNIA Propose either SATURNIA or VULCANIA call at  
VULCANIA Tanga on return journey to collect mails from  
mails. Italians remaining in East Africa. Have you any objection?  
(Head of M. 1141B/17 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Reply 0631/19.

M.B. and (1) Intend institute coastal convoy between  
B.M. Convoys. Bombay and Colombo at about 7 days interval.  
(2) Southbound convoys will be in continuation of B.M. series. Northbound convoys will be known as M.B. first of which left Colombo 15/4.  
(4) Request you will arrange form of first southbound convoy to be known as B.M.16 about 24/4 when JUMNA and TULIP will be available for escort.  
(4) When U-boat activity increases and while present congestion work continues, discretion must be used in holding ?all ?taking into consideration value of cargo ships, speed, and delay involved. Some independent sailings must continue and in general ships should not be held for more than 3 or 4 days.  
(5) Ships to and from Cochin may be included.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1203Z/17 to Cdre. R.I.N. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

Aircraft, Ref. C. in C. E.F.'s 0543/15, C. in C. Ceylon's  
Ceylon and 0409/10, C. in C. E.F.'s 1211/16. C.O.S. have  
Carriers. decided that the aircraft carriers must have first call on Fulmars, Sea Hurricanes and F.A.A. personnel and it is therefore approved to embark 19 Fulmars and as many Sea Hurricanes as necessary. Subject to above, individual aircraft withdrawn should be such as to disturb 273 F Sqn. as little as possible.  
(1st S.L. 1221B/17 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C, Ceylon, R.A.A.C.E.F.)

/Air ...



War Diary.17.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Air Intelligence summary No.33. On information  
Report. received up to 1800 hours 17/4. R/C 16/4,  
Rangoon area reported 1 1st class cruiser  
and 8 merchant vessels in river. Raid by  
American aircraft night of 16/17 failed to find shipping and  
bombs were dropped in dock areas. Bay of Bengal, Patrols  
over shipping in Hooghly river.  
Ceylon R/C 16/4, no evidence of enemy forces reported  
yesterday.  
(A.H.Q. India 1230/17 to Air Min.)

Storeships, Your 1321/12, reserves of ammunition and other  
dispositions. armament stores now in transit to Ceylon and  
India amount to approx. 10,000 tons. Ships  
concerned are CITY OF DUNDEE, NAIRUNG, SURINAME,  
DEFENDER, MAHOUT, LT. ST. LOUBERT BIE, CLAN MCINDOE, CLAN MCIVER,  
and W.D. Transport R.415. Some of these ships have already  
passed Durban and in all ships Naval Armament stores are over-  
stowed with vital W.O. and Air Min. stores which must go on  
without delay. Similar conditions apply in MAHRONDA and  
CUSTODIAN now loaded with approx. 1,000 tons of N.A. stores.  
Request, therefore, that arrangements be made for N.A. stores  
to be transferred to Massawa by freight or disposed of as you  
or Deputy C. in C. E.F. may direct after W.O. and Air Min.  
stores have been unloaded at destination. In this connection,  
attention is invited to para.2, Admty. 1331/24/3 and para.2 of  
Admty. 1646/8/4.

2. Arrangements are being made for hulk CORSICA to be trans-  
ferred from Simonstown to Durban for use as temporary storage  
for N.A. stores intended for Eastern Fleet. This vessel will  
accommodate about 1,000 tons. Admty. 1700/11/4 refers.
3. Intended that reserves of ammunition should in future be  
sent to Massawa where additional storage afloat will be  
necessary unless improvised shore accommodation can be arranged,  
pending completion of extension of ammunition depot.
4. Additional 15" 5/10 A.P.C. shell are now available to  
convert another R class battleship. Proposed these should also  
be sent to Massawa and that you draw on Eastern Med. reserves  
for conversion to suit your arrangements.
5. Development of Durban for handling and storing armament  
stores is being dealt with separately.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1259B/17 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Med.,  
C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A. etc.)

CLAN FORBES. A.M.1414/16 para (6) and your 0944/14 para (2).  
If CLAN FORBES is sent to Seychelles the devel-  
opments at Diego Garcia and Mauritius will be  
delayed in consequence, observing that she has M.N.B.D.O.  
equipment on board and is only ship (?suitable) for an L. and  
M. operation at present available.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1718Z/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Fleet ...

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

0901Z/17th April.

FROM C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

IN

536 A

Date. 21.4.42.

Recd. 1700.

NAVAL CYPHER (A2) BY W/T.

ADDRESSED Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. South Atlantic, 12  
C. in C. East Indies, N.L.O. Durban.

929. My 1635 14th. To enable Durban to function as operational base and to provide efficient naval communications for South West Indian Ocean, the construction of a suitable W/T station there is essential.

2. Request you will approach Union Government for granting facilities.

3. W/T transmitters required are (a) type 21 (b) type 22 (c) S W B 10 (d) S W B 8 4 in number (e) low power sets 4 in number.

4. Receiving site to be adjacent to area combined H.Q. if possible.

5. Directional aerial system not repetition not required.

6. C. in C. East Indies is requested to send Mr. Heaton W/T charge Engineer ex Singapore W/T Station to Durban at next opportunity. He will then be available to select site and plan preliminary work providing Union Government has granted facilities.

7. Further action to be taken only after return of Lieut. Commander MacClelland R.A.F. for consultation with C. in C. South Atlantic.

0901Z/17

1st S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (3)  
M. (2) for action  
D.S.D. (2)  
D. of S.

D.E.E.  
C.E. in C.  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
FILE X.  
T/P for D.S.D. (3)  
D. of S.  
D.E.E. (3)  
C.E. in C. } Bath BA5621

War Diary.17.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Fleet Bases  
Policy.A.M. 1414Z/16th. Confirmed there are no  
suitable bases in North Arabian Sea.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1743Z/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F)

Addu Atoll

C. in C. E.I. 1333/10, C. in C. E.F. 1039/13  
and 0944/14, none to all addressees. Concur.  
(1st Sea Lord 1911B/17 to C. in C. E.F.,  
C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N)PIETRO  
ORSEOLO.

Berlin broadcast on 17/4 that one of the most recently built Italian motor-ships which left Tokyo 58 days ago, (i.e. about mid-February) has reached an Axis port. This ship is said to have crossed the Pacific, rounded Cape Horn, and proceeded across the Atlantic to the North Sea, and to have brought with her some of the crew of an Italian ship scuttled off Siam.

Comment: If true, this ship would probably be the PIETRO ORSEOLO 6344 tons, which was last reported at Kobe. She was built in 1939 and has a speed of 16 knots. Three Italian ships were scuttled in December off Siam, the SUMATRA, 4859 tons, VOLPI 5292 tons and the XXVIII OTTOBRE, 4888 tons. (D.S. 957.)

Boom  
Vessels.

My 2040B/12/4. Request BARFORD be sailed for Med. as soon as practicable and in addition two boom working trawlers with British crews to be detailed from E.I. Names of vessels selected and date of sailing to be reported. Craft are in addition to vessel referred to in C. in C. Med's 2000C/6/4.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2220B/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

538

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- Movements. St. Johns N.F. 16/4. Arrivals SAGUENAY ex Halifax. LINCOLN, ST. CLAIR, SNOWBERRY, ex S.C. 79. REGINA hove to, will enter at daylight. Departures
- ST. LAURENT to Halifax.  
(F.O.N.F., 0030Z/17 to Admty.)  
Arrival MAHONE escorting C.L. 22, WITCH from Western Local escort O.N. 80. Departure, WALKER, COLUMBIA, CALGARY, MIDLAND, ~~from~~ Western local escort S.C. ~~80~~.  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1511Z/17 to Admty., etc.)
- Arrival ST. LAURENT from St. John's N.F., ROXBOROUGH from Western local escort O.N. 83.  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1715Z/17 to Admty., etc.)
- U/B. D/F bearings at (?20) 352/16 placed S/M within 60 miles 40° 30' N., 54° W.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0102Z/17 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)
- HEINRICH V. HEINRICH V. RIEDEMANN (Panama) torpedoed 011° 55' N. RIEDEMANN 063° 40' W. 0337/17 G.M.T. CLARKIA despatched. torpedoed. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0102Q/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., etc.)  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0439/17 to C.C.S.S.F. (R) Admty., etc.)
- De VRY, Domerara Radio. S.O.S. de HEINRICH V. RIEDEMANN, position 11.55 N. 63.47 W. torpedoed.  
(Valentia Radio, 0340/17 to Admty., Adm. Devonport).
- LETITIA. Your 0519B/16. Master and Agents report drydocking of LETITIA unnecessary.  
(2) Huband consulted.  
(3) Unless there are circumstances of which we are unaware propose she remains at Halifax and carries out necessary repairs to engines as well as requirements in your 2251B/7.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0310Z/17 to D.S.T., (R) C.O.A.C.)
- ▷ SCOTT HARLEY Following has been read: S.O.S. SCOTT HARLEY. S.O.S. Position 11° 55' N. 63° 40'.  
*in favor area 3/42*  
(Freetown, 0340/17) See also 1506/17.
- U/B. D/F indicates S/M within 100 miles of (1) 047° 00' (?N) 032° 00' W. at 2310Z/16 (2) 037° 00' N., 064° 00' W. at 2331Z/16.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0541Z/17 to B.W. in Area 7A., Admty.)
- U/B. At 0518Z/17 and 0617Z/17 D/F placed submarine within 50 miles of 036° N. 075° W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0958Z/17 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)

/Movement ....

War Diary.

17.4.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Movement  
Summary.

1800 G.M.T. 17/4.  
Ship. Position.  
ALCANTARA ) 03° N., 25° W. on patrol.  
PRETORIA CASTLE )  
(D.O.D. (F), 0945Z/17 to Opnav).

U/B.

At 1700Z/16 S/M reported sighted on surface  
17° 45' S. 140° 40' W.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1116/17 to N.O.I.C.  
Esquimalt, Admty.)

S.O.S.  
Report  
?JAMAICA.

Reported S.O.S. 045° N. 031° 30' W. 0132Z/15.  
Norwegian patrol vessel JAMAICA near that position  
not heard from. Detach one escort search that area  
for ship or survivors.  
(C.T.24, 1137/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.18).

BATORY,  
ANDES.

My 0310Z/17. After consultations at Halifax and  
discussion with Huband drydocking BATORY  
unnecessary. Have cancelled arrangements for docking  
BATORY. 2. Owing to ice conditions at Quebec  
drydock cannot be made ready before 24/4. Huband exploring  
possibility of sending ANDES to Boston. Halifax and St. John N.B.  
Docks cannot be made available.  
(N.S.H.Q., ?1204Z/17 to D.S.T., C.O.A.C.)

Caribbean  
Lights.

Movements of shipping in Caribbean are being  
hampered by uncertainty as to what shore  
navigational lights are being exhibited.  
2. Considered most desirable that a policy with  
regard to exhibition of these lights should be decided upon and  
promulgated to all concerned.  
3. Request you will approach U.S. authorities with a view to an  
early settlement of this problem.  
(D.T.D., 1315B/17 to B.A.D.)

O.N.80.

At 1330Z/17 O.N.80 Cape Cod portion 6 ships  
St. Vincent's Gulf, 5 miles off Cape Cod.  
THE PAS proceeding Halifax.  
(THE PAS, 1345Z/17 to Opnav).  
E.T.A. Halifax 1130/18.  
(THE PAS, 2330Z/17 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

KIWI.

Request you will advise N.B. Wellington of  
itinerary of KIWI with expected dates of arrival  
at ports of call. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1802/3 refers.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1427Z/17 to C.W.S.F., (R) N.B.  
Wellington).

/CINCINNATI ...

War Diary.

17.4.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

CINCINNATI,  
SOMERS.

18/4 U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Destroyer SOMERS arriving Recife. When fuelled will patrol area defined my 2232/26/3. Admty. pass to R.A. W.A. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1442/17 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., R.A. W.A.F.)  
\*Passing action being taken by W.R.

Unknown Ship,  
U/B.

Following received from Burnham Radio. Intercepted 1256 G.M.T. WGBC de WSL (Amagansett Radio). Submarine attack 11.53 N. 63.40 W. at 0336 G.M.T./17 (unread). Navycom. Controlling Station Amagansett Radio. (Portishead Radio, 1506/17 to Admty., Adm. Liverpool).

RAMSEY.

C.O.A.C. 1905/15\* and your 1620/16 (N.T. in W.R.) H.M.T. RAMSEY can be accepted. Job No. S.197. When will ship be ready to sail? (B.A.R.M., 1514Z/17 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C., Admty., etc.) \*Defects in RAMSEY. My 1514Z/17 ship allotted to Navy Yard, Charleston, and can be taken at once. (B.A.R.M. 2032Z/17 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C., Admty., etc.)

St. Lucia

Your 1148P/6. Port Castries Harbour obstruction established from position 194° 2.25 cables Vigie lighthouse to position 107° 1.3 cables Tapion Rock light. Gate established between position 87° 1.6 cables Tapion Rock 77½° 1.8 cables Tapion Rock. Approx. position Gate, 014° 01' 15" N. 061° 00' 45" W., width of gate 204 feet. (R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1620Q/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., B.A.D. Washington).

AMSTERDAM  
(torpedoed  
16/4).

AMSTERDAM torpedoed and sunk in 012° N. 062° 45' W. at 1545Z/16. 38 survivors landed Trinidad in S.S. IVAN (Yugo Slavian). (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1652Q/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., etc.)

U 2 D article 13 (A) AMSTERDAM. (B) 16/4 1145Q, 012° 00' N., 062° 45' W. (C) and (D) sank in stowage on board. (E) 1000 fathoms (G) Master, ELAND (H) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1757Q/17 to Admty.)

Shipping.

Re alternative routes. (Opnav, 1657/17 to Admty., etc.) See Lion Copy.

/RANGITIKI ...

540A  
MSI

SECRET M E S S A G E 1657/17 April. IN

From. OPNAV. Date. 18/4/42.  
Recd. 1355.

NAVAL CYPHER S. BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty. C.O.A.C. Halifax. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.  
S.O.(I) Jamaica. SPENAVO London.

IMMEDIATE.

623. sea Frontier Codrs. disseminate to routing Officers within their frontiers. British Naval Control Service Instructions paragraph 3 2 4 entitled homeward - bound independent shipping - issue of route to alternative destinations is quote as follows:  
(1) "All homeward - bound merchant ships proceeding independently repeat independently are to be provided with alternative route to and (?from) following ports: - Oban, Clyde, Liverpool, Milford Haven, and Swansea Bay.  
(2) In addition British merchant ships are to be given a route to Belfast if subsequently ordered.  
(3) Independently routed ships bound for East Coast Ports are to be routed either to Loch Ewe or Oban according to whether their route passes north or south of the Hebrides".  
Proper routing of merchant shipping requires constant application of information promulgated in current hydrographic publications which include notices to mariners, hydro bulletin, daily memoranda, and Conhydro. In addition when routing ships into area under British strategic control it is imperative that latest "QUEEN" mostly for those areas be consulted. Close liaison with British N.C.S.O's is necessary to accomplish latter. When utilizing information obtained from Conhydro, "QUEEN" message, and other classified sources which pertain to mine fields, swept channels, etc., specific instructions shall be issued which comply with the provision of these messages but no reference shall be made to the source from which obtained. Caution shall be exercised to ensure that serial nos. and other identification references are not repeated not quoted in route instructions, issued to Masters. Where the (? ISSU-ANCE) of specific instructions is not applicable to the above a proper paraphrase is permissible. Transmit to all offices interested. Admiralty deliver to SPENAVO London. (corrupt group?).

1657/17.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. and Trade.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- M. (2)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D of P. (5)
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. Citadel.
- D.S.D. (2)
- Hydrog. (2)
- D of H.
- A.E. (4) and for SPENAVO.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.

1657/17.

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. and Trade.

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- RANGITIKI. Your 1139/13. Arrival 17/4. H.M. Transport RANGITIKI, British, will be delayed approx. 36 hours for engine repairs. Request port of destination in Plate.  
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1734Q/17 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty., etc.)
- U/B. D/F bearings indicate U-Boat within 100 miles 45° N 33° W. at 1421Z/17.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1851Z/17 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)
- N.A.8. My 2050/8. Your 1241/17. Embarkation will be completed Halifax p.m. 2/5 ready for sailing a.m. 3/5.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1909Z/17 to U.S.C.N.O. (R) Admty., etc.)
- U/B. S/M Attack Summary. ATHELQUEEN sunk by S/M 200 feet long. Blunt Bows. Painted blue grey with numerous rust spots. Guns fore and aft about 4". 2 Double-Barrel Machine Guns after part of superstructure. Survivor identified with picture of French S/M Archimede Class. 1 torpedo and 40 to 60 shells fired. S/M that sank COMOLRICO about 300 feet long. Estimated 1400 tons. Painted Blackish grey. 1 gun forward. B.A.D. Washington and C.N.O. (U.S.) informed. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1952/17 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., etc.)
- Ice Bulletin 17/4. Part 1. St. Lawrence Area limit field ice Cape Breton Is. to 045° 15' 060° 40' thence 044° 40' 059° 45' thence 046° 05' 058° 25' thence 047° 10' 059° 45' thence Birdrock. Southern limit ice in Gulf 048° 25' 062° 25' to 048° 05' 061° 10' thence North eastwards past 049° 25' 058° 45'. Cape Ray to Quebec open track passing South this floe Newfoundland area probable limit field ice Cape Bauld to 051° 05' 053° 50' thence North to 055° 00' then North Westwards. Scattered loose ice and bergs to bay from Cape Bauld to 049° 17' 053° 27'. Loose ice off shore to 048° 55' 051° 10'. Report 15th berg 046° 36' 053° 18'.  
Part 2. Greenland Area. Storis ice extending 40 miles South Farewell and lying 15 to 20 miles off shore from 060° 00' 046° 00' to 060° 30' 049° 00'. (?Denmark) Straits, no recent report.  
(C.T.F., 2001/17 to All Ships North of 40° N. and West of 35° W.)
- VICTORIA, torpedoes. Following intercepted. VICTORIA 36.41 N., 68.48 W. attacked by torpedo at 2257 G.M.T./17, taking to boats. (Bermuda, 2113P/17 to Admty., Cominch, Cinclant).
- Convoys. Your 1904/13. (Re merchant ships sailing in convoys for U.K.) Navy Dept. concur and have issued similar instructions to U.S. Authorities.  
(B.A.D., 2151Z/17 to Admty.)

/Dakar ...



War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- Dakar Intelligence. Dakar. 16/4. (B.2.) Cruisers GEORGES, LEYGUES, and MONTCALM, destroyers <sup>LE</sup>FANTASQUE and <sup>LE</sup>MALIM put to sea 15/4 believed for exercises. (B.A.D., 2201Z/17 to Admty.)
- Vichy Intelligence. Casablanca. 16/4. A.1. All lighthouses, ships and harbour lights were extinguished nights of 14th and 15/6, but no blackout of city proper. Dakar 15/4 A.1. Adm. Collinet assumed command 14/4 of Naval Division, Dakar, and Naval Forces in French West Africa and functions of Admiralty Delegate Dakar replacing Adm. Landriau reported given High (Sic) Command Toulon. (B.A.D., 2207Z/17 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.Africa, F.O.C.N.A.)
- BULKOIL. Commandant 4th U.S. Naval District Philadelphia 2044/15 (No trace in W.R.) Admty. desire sail S.S. BULKOIL when ready Philadelphia for New York during daylight under escort prescribed by Commandant 4th U.S. Naval District Philadelphia and air coverage. Thence via Long Island Sound and Cape Cod Canal where destroyer detailed by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa will take over escort. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2215/17 to C.E.S.F., (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty., etc.)
- Peru Telegrams. C. and W. advised that their Manager in Lima, Peru, reports that Peruvian regulations now prohibit use of all codes. Telegrams must bear full address and signature. Only languages allowed are English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. (D.O., C.T.C., 2230/17 to Admty.)
- Tankers, suspension. Ports Director N.Y. states that commercial oil tankers for Gulf, Caribbean Sea and U.S. Atlantic ports are to be held in port pending further orders. Molasses tanker traffic permitted in Gulf ports but not north ports of Everglades, Florida. (D.N.I. Ottawa, 2250Z/17 to Admty.)

War Diary.17.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Losses, Singapore and Java. Your 1528/4/3. Following information collated to date. M.V. BRUNEI scuttled at Singapore, GEMAS scuttled outside Tjilatjap. HUA TONG lost at Palembang due enemy action. S.S. IPOH believed scuttled in Batavia. M.V. INTAN believed lost at Penang due enemy action. JERANTUT scuttled at Palembang. S.S. KRIAN scuttled Palembang. KAMPAR lost Penang due enemy action. S.S. KATONI lost near Palembang due enemy action. S.S. KAMUNING sunk by submarine off Trincomalee. T.S.M.V. KELANTAN believed bombed and lost. S.S. KINTA damaged and believed scuttled in Batavia. KUALA lost in Banka Straits due enemy action. LARUT lost at Sabang due enemy action. LIPIS believed lost off Singapore due enemy action. S.S. KUDAT lost by enemy action. MALACCA scuttled in Tjemako River Sumatra, M.V. PANDAI believed lost by enemy action. M.C. PETALING believed lost by enemy action at Penang. RAUB lost by enemy action at Belawan. M.V. RENGAM believed captured in Penang. M.V. RELAU believed lost by enemy action in Banka Strait. M.V. RIMBA left at Penang. M.V. ROMPIN believed lost in Banka Strait. M.V. RANTAU believed lost by enemy action in Banka Strait. M.V. RASA left in Penang. M.V. RIMBA left in Penang. RHU believed scuttled in Singapore. M.V. SUBOK last heard of at Labuan. M.V. VYNER BROOKE lost by enemy action near Banka Strait, S.S. AUBY believed scuttled in Batavia. TAPAH and JARAK left Singapore 12/2 and 13/2, no further information. JERAM left Batavia 1/3, believed lost by enemy action in Sunda Strait. S.S. RAHMAN scuttled outside Batavia 1/3.

Following vessels have not been able to trace - S.S. AMPANG, M.V. JITRA, S.S. RAWANG. TRANG set on fire and abandoned in Coopers Channel. M.V. WULIN chartered by Straits Steamship Co. Ltd. from China Navigation Co. Lost by enemy action off Muar. (C.C.F., 0140Z/17 to Admty.)

Addressed to Australian Commonwealth Naval Board requesting names of survivors from ships belonging to Straits Steamship Co. and any other relevant information.

<sup>E</sup>FIRTHORN  
(U/B 16/4).

Maori No. 14. Panamanian <sup>E</sup>FIRTHORN reports being attacked by S/M 174° 10' W., 045° 38' S. at 0615Z/16. No further signal has been received from this ship. Air R/C postponed owing to adverse weather. (N.Z.N.B., 0323Z/17 to Admty., etc.)

## Movements.

Departure Port Phillip 0702Z/16 ROCKHAMPTON for Sydney. Arrival Sydney 1515Z/16 departure 1732Z/16 BINGERA for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B., 0501Z/17 to Admty.)

Departures FIJI, MURITAI, COASTGARD and KAIWAHA for Auckland E.T.A. p.m. 25/4. (N.Z.N.B., 2036Z/17 to Admty.)

\* Not identified? VITI (Fijian ship)

Sink at Sight Areas.

Your 1558B/11. A.C.N.B. concurs. Cdr. Anzac Force states that he cannot agree since the greater portion of area defined in your 1558B/11 is within U.S.A. sphere of control of relations between U.S.A. Government and Vichy. (A.C.N.B., 0916Z/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.

17.4.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - contd.

Situation. Ref. my Serial No. 85 A/C reported in para. 4 now identified as friendly. Ref. my Serial No. 81 cancel para. 4. Serial No. 86 from C.W.R. 16/4.

- (1) Photo R/C of Koepang area 15/4 not completed as A/C attacked 30 miles from objective. 1 Hudson attacked Koepang aerodrome at 1438Z/15. Intersecting runway hit by 4 bombs and incendiaries. Heavy A.A. fire no opposition by A/C. No A/C observed.
- (2) Report indicates Japanese occupied Buin (Bougainville Is.) on 5/4 and destroyed Government Station. Escapees observed considerable movements of A/C and surface vessels between Buin and Faisi including 1 S/M.
- (3) Air R/C 15/4 reports 2 ships at Lorengau (Admiralty Island) and 4 ships including 1 probable Destroyer at Kavieng.
- (4) Enemy strength New Ireland estimated approx. 200. 185 at Kavieng remainder Cape St. George.
- (5) Report states 400 horses landed at Rabaul soon after initial landing.

(A.C.N.B., 1149Z/17 to Admty.)

Pacific Islands. Re U.S. entry without notification. (S. of S. for Colonies to High Comr., Western Pacific, 1430/17). See Lion Copy. Arrival of U.S. Army personnel under Gen. Rose at Vila on 18/3. (High Comr., Western Pacific, 1625/17 to S. of S. for Colonies). See Lion Copy.

No. 240. Your telegram 8/4 No. 184. Entry of U.S. Forces in Pacific Islands. Reply now sent accordingly to J.S.M. and High Commissioner Western Pacific informed.

2. Assumptions in your last para. correct. Defence proposals for Tonga have been explained to Tongan Govt. who have expressed approval and promised cordial welcome and every possible assistance to U.S. Forces.

(D.O., 2100/17 to N.Z. Govt.)

Port Defences. Defences of Wellington and Queen Charlotte Sound. A/S Defence requirements outlined in N.Z.N.B. 0604/8 para. B. and N.Z.N.B. 1831/8 para. 3. cannot be met for some time by Navy Dept.

2. Pending your approval of directive proposed in my 1753/10, no formal request has actually been lodged by U.S. authorities acting as responsible power, but we know they agreed with N.Z.N.B. that gear is required.

3. Can British resources help?

(B.A.D., 2301Z/17 to Admty., (R) N.Z.N.B.)

544A

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1430/17 April IN.

Date: 18.4.42

From: Secretary of State for the Colonies.

CIPHER

Addressed: High Commissioner (Sir H. Luke) Western Pacific  
13045/7/42. No. 125 Most Secret.

U.S. Authorities recently requested authority for U.S. Forces to use any Pacific islands under control of His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom or Dominions without prior notification as might be required by exigencies of war. They pointed to security objections of disseminating prior information of movements to number of persons necessarily concerned if normal procedure were followed.

U.S. Authorities are being informed that so far as islands under administration of H.M.G. in the U.K. are concerned we agree to entry of their forces without prior notification when U.S. authorities consider this essential, on understanding that whenever possible prior notification will be given. Reply also states that it is assumed that any arrangements which may now exist for informing Service authorities will not be affected.

As regards islands under administration of Dominion Governments it is understood that Commonwealth Government have replied in similar sense through their Minister at Washington; and New Zealand Government have intimated that U.S. assistance will be welcomed in all areas for which New Zealand are responsible, that prior notification is of course always desirable but that where this is not considered desirable by U.S. authorities the position will be quite understood.

Recognise arrangement may entail certain inconvenience to you and High Commission staff, but you will naturally appreciate overriding importance of waiving formalities which might impede despatch of U.S. reinforcements to area

I am glad to note from your telegram No. 131 very helpful attitude shown by Queen and Government of Tonga. You will no doubt on some suitable occasion inform them how greatly H.M.G. appreciate the cordial co-operation which they are giving in these latest measures of common defence

1430/17

Recd. in War Reg. at 1815/18.

- 1st Lord P.A.S.(S) Dominions Office circulation:
- 1st S.L. D.C. (2) Lt. Col. Stirling Wg/Com. Grierson
- V.C.N.S. D.O.D.(F)(2) Mr. Boyd Shannon Mr. Labouchere
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2) Major P.R.E. Brown
- Nav. Sec.
- Secretary
- N.A. 1st S.L. D. of P. (2) Admiral Bellairs
- D.D.I.C. (2) Hd. of M. (12) D.N.I.(4) E.F.S. I.P.

MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE

1625/17th April

IN

544 B.

~~Date 17.4.42.~~

From High Commissioner  
Western Pacific.

~~Time 1530.~~

CYPHER.

Addressed Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No.151 MOST SECRET. 13046/3/42.

My telegram No.83.

New Hebrides Defence.

500 United States Army personnel under command of Brigadier General Rose arrived Vila from Noumea 18th March, information as to their intended arrival having reached Resident Commissioner on the previous day, and were followed on 30th March by 1,000 United States Marines, and 200 United States Air Force ground personnel, with 15,000 tons of heavy equipment including guns (up to 5inch), bulldozers, motor trucks, tractors, cranes and stores of all kinds. Early reinforcements are expected of fighter and bomber aircraft and work is rapidly proceeding in the construction of landing fields. Indications are that the United States authorities are considering the use of Vila as a naval base, and wharfs are being widened and improved.

2. The arrival of these United States Forces has, for practical purposes, solved difficulties in connection with French personnel of Local Defence Force set out in my telegram No.83, and has had important effect in strengthening pro-Ally sympathies of the French generally. After consultation with General Rose, the Volunteer Defence Corps has been divided into two sections, the one combatant and the other purely pioneer and unarmed. General Rose has stated that there will not be any guerilla fighting.

3. General Rose would prefer complete evacuation of the civil population from Efate and is considering pressure of French High Commissioner with a view to compulsory evacuation of women and children.

4. Local garrison force has been strengthened by recruitment of 110 natives and this unit is now complete.

1625/17.

Recd. from Col. Office p.m. 19th April.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
3rd S.J.  
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. (W)  
Sec.  
Nay. Sec.  
N.A. to 1st S.L.  
D.O.D. (F) (2)

N.I.D. Comment. Vila, situated on island of Efate, is the administration H.Q. of the New Hebrides, an Anglo-French condominium.  
D.D.I.C. (2) W.D.  
D.N.I. (5) Ad. Bellairs.  
D. of L.D. Ad. Chalmers.  
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)  
Hd of M. Hd of Air.  
D.T.S.D. I.P. (2)  
E.P.S. D.C. (2)  
D.N.A.D.  
D. of P. (2)  
A.E. (3)

War Diary.

17.4.1942.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1422B/17).

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Of the 24 M/V's originally in Convoy P.Q.14, 8 were in company with EDINBURGH at 1010/15. 9 others have returned to Iceland, and a further 6 are returning with Q.P.10. One M/V is therefore unaccounted for.

C.S.1. in LONDON with NORFOLK arrived at Hvalfiord at 2201B today; and at 2309 C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, NIGERIA and 9 Destroyers returned to Scapa.

Photographs taken today show no change in the positions of the 4 Enemy Main Units at Trondheim.

ECLIPSE reports today having been attacked by a U-Boat which she had sighted at 1120B/13 in 73° 27' N. 26° 40' E. while escorting Convoy Q.P.10. The track of a torpedo passed close astern of her and her own counter-attack upon the U-Boat, in which FURY joined at 1250B, produced no visible result.

Admiral Miles considers that the Russian Destroyers escorting Convoy Q.P.10 may have used R/T for intercommunication without appreciating the danger of doing so.

Enemy Air Activity.

One Junkers 88 A/C passed over Scapa Flow in good visibility at 1328 today; and at 1415 the position of C. in C. H.F. was reported by Enemy A/C.

War Diary.

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

One Magnetic Mine was exploded by Sweepers today off Yarmouth, and two in the Bristol Channel.

The Russians have ordered a Swept Channel two miles wide to be maintained by their own sweepers in the northern part of the White Sea, and the approaches to Molotovsk and the Dvina are also to be swept regularly by Russian sweepers from Archangel. British minesweepers will sweep all Convoys independently in and out through these channels.

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH intercepted last night TRANSPORTADOR and sent her into Gibraltar under armed guard. Ship was boarded outside territorial waters. No position given, but ship was ordered to proceed direct after passing 8 miles Cape St. Vincent. SCOTTISH reported a F.W. aircraft searching in position 335 PCL 37 between 2050 and 2132A.

South Atlantic.

HERMIONE (with Force F, escort to Convoy W.S.17.A en route to Durban) was reported at 1447/18 to be damaged and to require immediate docking. Time and details not given, but nature of damage indicates a collision. (D.O.R. 19/4).

S.S. LA CORDILLERA made an "S" report at 1835 G.M.T. in 03.30 S., 05.12 W. There seems a doubt whether she was damaged or not.

PRETORIA CASTLE encountered 6 unidentified ships burning navigation light and steering 000° in 05.54 N., 17.08 W. at 2130 G.M.T.



War Diary.

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - contd.

C. in C. S.A. proposes to use smoke in the defence of Capetown Docks and other Union ports, and has requested details of smoke defence used at Alexandria.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

After a lull for 3 nights and 2 days. Malta was again heavily attacked today by 209 bombers in 5 raids. 1 was destroyed, 2 probably, and several damaged.

Further damage was caused at Luqa, Hal Far and Kalafrana.

The torpedo and P/V workshop, Msida, was demolished by a direct hit, and the torpedo depot, Kalafrana, severely damaged.

Chiefs of Staff have decided not to attempt to run a convoy from Gibraltar to Malta in May owing to the risk to capital ships or aircraft carriers and the strength of enemy air forces in Sicily. By abandoning this convoy, heavy ship reinforcements can reach the Indian Ocean at least 3 weeks earlier.

East Indies.

Malacca  
Patrol.

It is intended to abandon the S/M Malacca Patrol as being uneconomical, in view of the prospective withdrawal of LUCIA to Mediterranean and TRUSTY to Bombay. Defensive patrols will be maintained in the approaches to Madras and Ceylon.

Force A.

NEWCASTLE and DECOY have joined Force A at Bombay. NAPIER and NIZAM are docking there until May, leaving only 6 destroyers to screen Force A during its passage to Colombo and onward.

C. in C. E.F.'s appreciation is that Japanese forces are not likely to resume operations against

/Ceylon ...

War Diary.

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. - contd.

Ceylon in near future. He considers it very necessary that Force A should visit Colombo, and intends to accept the risk of its doing so and to proceed to carry out the programme given in his 1341/15. (No trace of this signal in W.D.)

2 Hudsons made a low flying attack on 12 type 97 flying boats in Port Blair Harbour today. 2 were destroyed and 3 severely damaged.

Bases.

In view of changed conditions. F.O.C.R.I.N. reports that bases are now being established in following order of priority:- Bombay, Mandapam, Cochin, Port Okha, Karachi. Further consideration will be given to establishment of East Coast bases when the situation is more stable.

America & West Indies.

Caribbean,  
shipping.

All sailings from the Gulf of Mexico and West Indies were suspended today by Admty. instructions at 2158B.

Governor, Leeward Islands, understands American C.O., Combined Local Defence Forces, has questioned validity of this order, enquiring whether it emanates from Adm. Hoover, and Governor adds that an American ship in harbour is informed by U.S. 10th Naval Division that it does not apply to American ships. Colonial Office informed him that the Admty. instruction applies only to British ships.

An unknown ship reported being attacked by U-Boat at 0208 G.M.T. in 35.49 N., 75.40 W.

Another unknown ship reported being attacked by U-Boat at 0726 G.M.T. in ? 46° N., 81.00 W.

/U.S. ...

War Diary.

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - contd.

U.S. merchant ship casualties dropped to 6 in the week ending 18/4, as compared with 17 in the previous week.

Australia & New Zealand.

2 Allied aircraft attacked shipping at Rabaul at 0200 G.M.T. and Lakunai aerodrome at 0135 G.M.T. 2 near misses and 1 direct hit were scored on 2 transports. Wharves and buildings were probably hit. 3 flying boats were probably damaged.

War Diary.18.4.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S/Ms at Lerwick. S.9's 1411B/17. It is desired that for the time being not more than 3 submarines should be at Lerwick simultaneously. UREDD is therefore to be sailed for Scapa. (F.O.S. 1126B/18 to Capt. S.9.) *See p.552*

4th M.T.B. Flotilla. Your 1144/17. It is anticipated that the 4th M.T.B. Flotilla will be returned to BEEHIVE at the end of this month. (D.D.O.D.(C) 1423B/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

Russian Supplies and Shipping Tonnage. J.S.M.189. Points made by President re Gen. Burns memo to Mr. Harriman on Soviet requirements and shipping available. (J.S.M. 1507Z/18 to Chiefs of Staff) See Lion Copy. J.S.M.190 (J.S.M.1825Z/18) See Lion Copy.

Use of R/T by Russian Escorts of Q.P.10. S.B.N.O. North Russia's 0909B/14 para (a) and 0948B/16. D.C.N.S. is investigating both these complaints at my request. My impression is that R/T was used and that Russians had not previously appreciated danger of using it. (Ad. Miles 1529C/18 to Admty. Reptd. C.in C H.F.)

Russian intentions in Baltic. Your 1830B/15. I discussed this with D.C.N.S. today. Their first problem is that of cleaning a channel through the minefields in the Gulf of Finland which they say are extremely numerous and positions not accurately known. They hope to start this when ice clears early in May. (2) Subsequent to this they intend to adopt an offensive policy in the Baltic. (Ad. Miles 1559C/18 to Admty.)

Movements.

P.511 Sailed my 1515B/15. (WESTERN ISLES 1300B/18.)

BRITTANY BARFOUNT BARFOSS BARKING. Sailed BRITTANY, BARFOUNT, BARFOSS, MANCHESTER MERCHANT and BARKING. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1306B/18.)

ALDERSDALE. Your 0109B/18. Destination ALDERSDALE Clyde. Request proposed sailing date. (D.T.D. 1323B/18 to A.C.I.C.)

LORD AUSTIN. Arrived Reykjavik LORD AUSTIN. (A.C.I.C. 1358B/18.)

/UREDD ...

IMMEDIATE

MOST SECRET

TOR 2000/18

From:- J.S.M. Washington

To:- War Cabinet Offices

IZ 47

J.S.M. 189

18/4

Following from Sir John Dill and E.P. Taylor for Chiefs of Staff and Oliver Lyttelton.

Reference J.S.M. 188.

Burns' message to Harriman under reference contains substance of draft report which he is now preparing for President, based on policy laid down by the latter quoted in our J.S.M. 159 paragraph one of which he has given us a copy confidentially.

2. In addition to the points made in Burns' cable to Harriman, Burns' draft memorandum to the President makes the following:-

- (A) It shows Soviet requirements from U.S. which we assume you are familiar with, subdivided as follows, finished military items 1,300,000. Raw materials and manufactured equipment 5,000,000. Food 4,000,000. Petroleum products 240,000 - all short tons.
- (B) After pointing out that U.S. recommendations even without British offerings will exceed transportation available, it draws attention to fact that Russian demands in many key items exceed available resources. Inference is that Russians may contest proportions in which their demands have been scaled down.
- (C) It proposes that tripartite discussions be initiated by a cablegram to Russia signed by the President and the Prime Minister making U.S. and U.K. offers as a combined approach.

(D) It proposes allocation of the contribution of shipping as between U.S., Great Britain and Russia. On the basis of 660 sailings mentioned in Burns' cable to Harriman, he proposes that approximately 120 be provided by U.K. and forty by Russia, leaving 500 to be provided by U.S. Average monthly sailing while White Sea is open approx. 60.

Draft continues - quote - because of other very pressing needs it is believed that this number represents the maximum U.S. shipping that should be made available to Russian aid - unquote. It also indicated that a study is underway that may lead to the conclusion that shipping possibly may have to be reduced below 3,960,000 short tons.

3. Estimates of capacities of routes quoted by Burns were obtained from American J.I.C. and are now under investigation on combined basis. War shipping administration has shipping considerations under advisement and is in consultation with Salter.

4. In accordance with your instructions, we are confining action to purely exploratory discussions pending your further guidance. We are informing Burns of the substance of this telegram.

T.O.O. 1507z/18

Col. Jacob (12)  
 S. of S. for Foreign Affairs (1)  
 C.A.S. (4)  
 C.6 Telegrams, War Office (5)  
 War Registry, Admiralty (32)  
 Minister of Production (1)  
 Sir Walter Leyton (1)  
 Minister of Shipping (1)

MOST SECRET

TOR 2130/18

IMMEDIATE

From:- Joint Staff Mission Washington

To:- War Cabinet Offices London

JSM 190

18/4/42

Reference JSM 189 Para 3, enquiry into transportation capacity is being carried out by combined intelligence committee here at which our military transportation representatives are attending. We have taken such local British advice as is available and subject to your concurrence propose to agree to following figures; please signify agreement or dissent most immediate by noon Monday otherwise American JIC estimate is likely to be given to President and first impression may be difficult to remove. All figures in short tons.

2. Murmansk. Assuming ten ships unloading 300 tons per ship per 24 working hours, total 90,000 tons monthly, believed well within inland rail capacity. Allowances for accidents, weather, bombing and winter working conditions would be offset by tonnage discharged at adjacent ports not included in above. Total for Murmansk area for fiscal year one million tons.

3. Archangel. Limitation here is inland clearance capacity. We understand rail southward can now handle 6 to 8 trains of 600 tons each or say a total of 4,000 tons daily. Assuming accumulation at ports during icefree month for rail clearance during winter this would have total rail clearance for fiscal year of 1,460,000 tons. Americans claim river barges to Kotlas can handle 30,000 tons monthly during seven icefree months giving grand annual total of 1,670,000 tons. Americans have just received evidence however that single track stretch is now only last 60 km. Northwards from Obozerskaya and Doubling may be completed by July. They believe sufficient rolling stock could then be made available for fifteen trains a day to run southward. They therefore ask us to agree to total clearance for Archangel area of 2,000,000 tons which would still be well within port capacity.

4. Southern route. Following ports and monthly capacity assumed available - Basra (150,000 tons), Bandarshahpur (40,000) Khorramshah (13,000) Bushire (17,000) Total 220,000 tons, rising by end of fiscal year to 360,000 tons. Deducting military and civilian maintenance in Iraq and Persia supplies to Russia could be 67,000 tons monthly rising to 112,000 tons. Taking monthly average of 90,000 tons for fiscal year total would be something over one million tons.

5. Conclusion. Capacity for fiscal year three million tons by northern routes one million tons by southern route. Grand total four millions tons.

T.O.O. 1825z/18

Col. Jacob (12)  
S. of S. for Foreign Affairs (1)  
C.A.S. (4)  
C.6 Telegrams, War Office (5)  
War Registry, Admiralty (32)  
Minister of Production (1)  
Sir Walter Layton (1)  
Minister of Shipping (1)



552

War Diary.18.4.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- UREDD. My 1411B/17. Para (1) delete "Lerwick E.T.A. 1800B/20" and substitute "Scapa E.T.A. 0900B/20" Para. (11) for Lerwick read Scapa. (Capt. S.9 1405B/18.) *See p. 551*
- ULSTER  
MONARCH. Sailed ULSTER MONARCH in accordance with my 0938B/18. *N.T. in W.D.* (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1604B/18 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- WELSHMAN. Return Milford Haven, acknowledge. (C. in C. Plymouth 1626B/18 to WELSHMAN)
- ESKIMO.  
ESCAPADE.  
OFFA. E.T.A. 0235B/19. ESCAPADE and OFFA in company. (ESKIMO 1706B/18 to A.C.O.S.)
- UPRIGHT. Sailed UPRIGHT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with S.3's 1203/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1748B/18.)
- AMBUSCADE. A.M. 1810B/13. Intend to sail AMBUSCADE at 2230B/19. E.T.A. Bar Light vessel 1200B/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1758B/18.) Sailed AMBUSCADE for exercises. Then in accordance with my 1758B/18. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1758B/18.)? *later.*
- ROCKINGHAM. *N.T. in W.D.* Your 1317B/18. My P.C.S. 051° 26' N. 037° 10' W, 243° 18 knots. (ROCKINGHAM 1800Z/18 to Admty.)
- STURGEON  
P.43. Sailed STURGEON and P.43 escorted by WHITE BEAR in accordance with S.3's 1203/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1818B/18)
- MANXMAN. Sailed 1915 MANXMAN to Gibraltar for onward routing to Freetown, Takoradi, Simonstown and Durban. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200B/21. Speed 23 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 1924B/18.)
- LONDON. Unless otherwise ordered intend to leave Hvalfjord in LONDON p.m. 19th for Scapa. (C.S.1 2015B/18 to C. in C. H.F.) *See next page*

War Diary.18.4.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operations to cover Convoy Q.P.10. Expect air escort throughout daylight hours today as follows. A/S by single Catalina due by sorties of 2 Beaufighters. (C. in C. Rosyth 0017B/18 to C. in C. H.F.) Estimate NORFOLK will pass Denmark Strait about 1300B/18 to (? Hvalfjord.) (A.C.I.C. 0201B/18 to BERWICK.)

My 0017/18 postponed owing to weather at base. (C. in C. Rosyth 0417/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

My 0417/18. Aircraft now taken off. (C. in C. Rosyth 0813B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

E.T.A. Hvalfjord 1600Z today. (NORFOLK 1005B/18 to A.C.I.C.)

Join me. My P.C.S. at 1302Z 065° 10' N. 024° 40' W. 165°, 20. (C.S.1 1209B/18 to NORFOLK, Reptd. LONDON.)

Intend leaving convoy 067° 20' N. 14° (?00') W. at 2359B/18 (?Passing) east of Faroes making good 19½ knots. LIVERPOOL is following independently after fuelling Seidisfiord. My E.T.A. 0815B (?20th) (KENT 1253B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

My 0017/18. Last sortie A/A escort leaving you at 1900. (C. in C. Rosyth 1535B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your position was reported by enemy aircraft at 1415. (D.D.I.C. 1600B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

E.T.A. 2215B tonight in KING GEORGE V. with DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, NIGERIA and 9 Destroyers in company. (C. in C. H.F. 1652B/18 to A.C.O.S.)

Return to Scapa in LONDON after turning over to NORFOLK. *See Madras page.* (C. in C. H.F. 1940B/18 to C.S.1.)

Arrived Hvalfjord C.S.1 in LONDON and NORFOLK. (A.C.I.C. 2201B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

Scapa arrival C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. with DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, NIGERIA, SOMALI, FAULKNER, MIDDLETON, LEDBURY, LAMERTON, HURSLEY, ONSLOW, BEDOUIN, MATCHLESS. (A.C.O.S. 2309/18.)

Patrols.

SOUTHDOWN from Yarmouth p.m./18 for Patrol C.

→ QUORN from Harwich 1630/18 to join F.N.685 and patrol D. COTTESMORE, MEYNELL, VIVACIOUS from Sheerness p.m./18 for patrols H. M and K. respectively. (C. in C. Nore 1200B/18.)

Night 18/19. 4 M.G.Bs Portsmouth - Dover 1630 - 2300 remaining northward of Folkestone Gate till C.W.76 has passed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1527B/18.)

→ Departure QUORN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1647B/18.)

Night 18/19. Trawlers MARETTA and SARPEDON on O.D.1. M.Ls 195 - 346 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and Northeast spit buoys. E.T.D. 2200. E.T.R. 0630/19. (V.A. Dover 1739B/18.)

/Sweep ...

War Diary.18.4.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

Sweep off "Scent" M.Ls 153 (S.O) 157, 159 sailed.  
Channel (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2101/18 to C. in C.  
Islands. Plymouth.)

Fro Havet  
S/M Patrol.

1. If you have achieved success or compromised your position leave patrol immediately. Otherwise leave patrol after dark 19th. In either event route is to be as follows diving by day (A) 064° 54' N. 009° 22' E. (B) 062° 50' N. 003° 00' E. (C) 061° 30' N. 000° 10' W. thence on surface at C.Os discretion through (D) 090° Out Skerries 5 miles (E) 090° Bardhead 5 miles.  
2. If you leave tonight you should patrol during daylight hours of one whole day in vicinity of position (B) where U-Boats may be expected. If you leave after dark 19th proceed direct to position (E). Escort will be at position (E) at 0700B/23 until you are met.  
(Capt. S.9 2235B/18 to TRIDENT.)  
Proceed to patrol N forthwith.  
(C. in C. Nore 2319B/18 to M.Ls 335, 325.)

British Air Activity.

Home Fleet See Operations.  
Escorts.

Escorts  
for S.N.88.

Postponed owing to weather at base.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0421B/18 to R.A.M.)  
My 0421/18. Expecting escort by single Hudson A/C from 0800 today.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0545B/18 to R.A.M.)  
My 0545. Also single Beaufighter.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0659/18 to R.A.M.)

Clyde A/A  
Defences.

QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH will be berthing at the Clyde approximately 1½ miles 290° from Gourrock Pier between 15th and 22nd May and 10th and 17th June respectively.  
2. Request consideration may be given to any increases in air and A.A. defence considered desirable and that appreciation may be made of the possible value of smoke coverage for these vessels during these periods.  
(D. of L.D. 1045B/18 to Air Ministry.)

Failure of  
A/A Defences  
to engage A/C.

Your 2053B/17. Incident being examined. Admiralty will be informed of results as soon as data obtained.  
(Air Ministry 1235/18 to Admty.)

A/C at  
Hatston.

Aircraft operationally serviceable. Details.  
(R.N.A.S. Hatston 1315B/18 to A.C.O.S.)

/Allocation ...

War Diary.18.4.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - contd.

Allocation of Swordfish A/C. 819, 825 and 833 T.B.R. Squadrons are to reduce forthwith to six I.E. Swordfish each. Surplus A/C to be allotted First Line A.R. 835 T.B.R. Squadron to be increased to six I.E. Swordfish on 10th May. On return of 834 and 816 Squadrons to U.K. both to be increased to six I.E. Swordfish on 10th May. On return of 834 and 816 Squadrons to U.K. both to be increased to six I.E. Swordfish as from 25th May and 5th June respectively. Additional Swordfish to be allotted from First Line A.R. All to be A.S.V. fitted. Swordfish now in 835, 834 and 816 Squadrons are not fitted R.3039. (5th S.L. 1552B/18 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Bombing Operations. On day 17/4, 6 A/C attacked a factory at Calais, 12 A/C attacked the docks at Cherbourg, and 12 A/C bombed the power station and docks at Rouen. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/18.)

During night 17/18, 105 A/C bombed Hamburg, 14 A/C bombed the docks at St. Nazaire, and 2 A/C bombed Havre. Brunsbuttel, Cuxhaven, Bremen, Emden, Bremerhaven, Wilhelmshaven, Terschelling and Heligoland were also attacked. (H.Q.B.C. 1800/18.)

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C over Orkneys. My 1424/18. At 1310 E/A plotted 90 miles E. of Orkney, course W, at 20,000 feet. 3 sections of fighters went up, but failed to intercept. At 1328 E/A passed over Flow and identified as JU.88. Ground Defences engaged. Last plot at 1355 when E/A 120 miles W. of Orkney course N.W. Visibility excellent and E/A would have seen into Flow. (A.C.O.S. 1436/18.)

Home Fleet. Your position was reported by Enemy A/C at 1415. (D.D.I.C. 1600B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated one red Magnetic mine at 1250 in 52° 37' N. 2° 7' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1323B/18, 1230B/20, 1401B/20.)

White Sea. Swept Channel. Your SO/422/AA 24/2 and my 1528B/8. Russians have given orders for a swept channel to be maintained in northern portion of White Sea two miles wide the centre line which will pass through following positions.

A. 64° Sviatoi Nos Lighthouse five miles.  
B. 64° Gorodetski Lighthouse five miles.  
C. 133° Korabelni Lighthouse 7.6 miles.  
D. 141.5° Sosnovetz Island Lighthouse 6.5 miles.  
2. This channel will be swept systematically by Russian sweepers fitted with Oropesa and by ex Norwegian sweepers fitted with one one (sic) and S.A. Similarly the approach to Dvina and Molotovsk will be swept by Russian sweepers based at Archangel.

/3. Duties ...

War Diary.

18.4.1942  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

White Sea  
Swept  
Channel -  
contd.

3. Duties of British minesweepers will be to sweep in and out all convoys independently of Russian minesweepers by all three methods. The operation to start from or extend to the northernmost point referred to in paragraph one and to include approaches to Archangel and Molotovsk.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1601B/18.)

Bristol  
Channel.

At 1300B/18 two magnetic mines exploded by Sweepers. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1625B/18.)

S.N.88.

Operation S.N.88 completed.  
(R.A.M. 2009/18.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits  
of Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/17 to 0900/18.  
Track E.11 D. Four vessels trawlers size operating between Dunkirk and Gravelines from 2037 to 2220, possibly minesweeping. Track E.13 D. Two small craft from East of Calais at 2155 at 16 knots to Boulogne at 0125. Track E.15 D. Two vessels trawler size from three miles North of Gravelines at 2302 at nine knots entered Boulogne at 0235. Track E.20 D. Five small craft from Boulogne at 0358 at 18 knots faded six miles N.E. of Calais at 0525.  
(V.A. Dover 1119B/18.)

BOLTENHOF  
(German,  
3307 tons)  
off Namsos.

Intercept at 1233 G.M.T. De BOLTENHOF begins. U U U U position 64.31 Nord 10.34 OST 18/1225 G.M.T. Ends.  
(Wick Radio 1434/18.)  
German M/V made distress or S/M sighting report in 064° 31' N. 010° 34' E. at 1433B.  
(F.O.S. 1736B/18 to TRIDENT.)

Trondheim.

Trondheim area March 18th. Preliminary interpretation of photographs shows no change in position of four major units.  
(D.D.I.(C.) 2257B/18.)

War Diary.18.4.1942  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Reliable fix and D/F bearings of U-Boat at 2359/17 in estimated position 072° 36' N. 035° 20' E. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0240B/18 to P.Q.14.)  
By D/F at 2000Z/18, U-Boat was in approximately 57° N. 4° E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2252B/18.)

Convoy O.N.86 HJELMAREN (Attacked 17/4) Your 1513Z/17. Report situation, and whether any counter attack has been made against U-Boat. (C. in C. W.A. 0806Z/18 to POTENTILLA.)  
Your 0806Z/18. No U-Boat sighted, no contact obtained. Rejoined convoy with HJELMAREN at 2300Z/17. (POTENTILLA 0950Z/18.)

ECLIPSE attacked on 13/4. At 1120B/13 in 073° 27' N. 026° 40' E. ECLIPSE was on port quarter convoy Q.P.10 when a U-boat on surface was sighted 1 mile astern. As ECLIPSE turned to attack track of 1 torpedo passed close astern. First attack with 4 charges set to 50 feet resulted in dark patch in water. 3 further attacks made with charges set deep, but no visible results. Contact then lost and sweeps with FURY, who joined at 1250B, failed to find target. For last part of attack target appeared to be stopped. Visibility throughout 1 to 2 miles with snow, wind force surging from west. (ECLIPSE 1009B/18 to Admty.)

U-Boat attacked by A/C. Have attacked submarine with depth charges hits nil position 46° 43' N. 10° 43' W. course 090° speed 6 knots. (A/C 1612/18 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

Ice in Dvina. River Dvina ice forecast. From 20th. April onwards ice in lower reaches of River Dvina will be broken by ice-breaker LENIN, by bombing and by dynamite charges. Clear waters expected between Archangel and mouth of river by 1/5. From 1st May to 5th May all M/Vs at Boknaritza and below will be put into refuge anchorages to safeguard themselves from dangerous spate expected to last from 7th to 10th May. Thereafter Boknaritza will be open. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1502B/18.)

War Diary.

18.4.1942  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

EMILE  
DESCHAMPS.

Request permission to attempt to disperse wreck of EMILE DESCHAMPS in 51° 24' 19" N. 1° 29' 16" E.  
(C. in C. Nore 1059B/18 to Admty.)

VAE VICTIS  
(Belgian,  
1829 tons)

VAE VICTIS 2 miles North of 62 D.buoy, duration breakdown unknown, request tug may be sent.  
(LEEDS 1636B/18 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)  
LEEDS 1636. WIDGEON has been ordered to stand by VAE VICTIS until tug arrives.  
(WALLACE 1731B/18.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Q.P.10.

Commodore of Q.P.10 requests that Convoy may have minimum of 24 hours at Reykjavik before proceeding as several ships have minor repairs to make good.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0935B/18.)  
Operations to cover Convoy. See Operations.

S/M stores  
for  
Gibraltar.

Request arrangements be made for shipment by surface warship to Captain S.8 Gibraltar of about 10 tons machinery and stores urgently required. S.8 will arrange onward shipment of the gear for S.1 and S.10, preference being given to medical stores for Malta. Understood that opportunity for shipment will occur about 24/4.  
(F.O.S. 1354B/18 to Admty.)

P.Q.14.

P.Q.14 BRITISH CORPORAL arrived Akureyri 2000B.  
(A.C.I.C. 2123B/18.)

Convoy  
S.C.77.

Many congratulations on bringing home safely all the ships of your convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2255B/18 to Capt. F.H. Taylor, R.N)

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

M.Ls. Sailed M.Ls. 176, 285 to intercept <sup>?</sup>HIS Africa from Malaga.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0025A/18 to Admty.)

TRANSPORTADOR. Stopped TRANSPORTADOR. Obtained possible contact. Dropped charges. TRANSPORTADOR abandoned ship thinking it gunfire. Am sending in with small armed guard. Unable to find crew, last seen in boat.  
(SCOTTISH, 0035A/18 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) COREOPSIS.)  
My 0035A/18 vessel ordered to proceed direct after passing 8 miles St. Vincent Cape. Very doubtful sufficient coal. No wireless. Request escort if possible. My contact non sub.  
(SCOTTISH, 0230A/18 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) COREOPSIS.)  
My 0230A/18. In view of probable international incident ship was boarded outside territorial waters. Only orders given were in German and bad Spanish.  
(SCOTTISH, 0308A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Your 1747A/18 (N.T. in W.R.) received and understood. Expect to rejoin TRANSPORTADOR 0200A/19.  
(COREOPSIS, 2233A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See Sit: Rep: next page*

CAIRO,  
CHARYBDIS. Following is repetition of my 0800A/18 addressed Admty. S.O. Force W. C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta. Arrival CAIRO, CHARYBDIS.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0940B/18 to Admty.)

SOKOL. From 038° 10' 009° 00' E. pass through K. 036° 59' 000° 59' E. at 0500B/25 thence direct to Gibraltar to arrive gate 1300B/28. Do not pass 005° W. before 0700B/28. Report if more than 30 miles astern of schedule.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1206B/18 to SOKOL.)

<sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
SPIREA,  
AZALEA. Your 1232B/15 concur.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1241A/18 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

COETLOGON. Following extract from Fairmiss Telegram: Departure 18/4 COETLOGON, Port Vendras.  
(Barcelona, 1247/18 to M.W.T.)

LE TRAIT. Vichy French LE TRAIT southbound in territorial waters. Possibility of her screening U-Boats to landward.  
(SCOTTISH, 1445A/18 to COREOPSIS.)

Movements. Arrival WIVERN.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1502B/18 to Admty.)

/Arrivals ...



War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Movements.  
(Contd.) Arrivals INGLEFIELD, PARTRIDGE, ECHO, ITHURTEL,  
U.S. Destroyers LANG, MADISON.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1525B/18 to Admty.)
- Italian Repatriations. My 1811A/11 and 1211A/13. Cancel fuel requirements of four Italian liners at Port Elizabeth and Mombasa and water requirements at Mombasa. My 1811A/11 SATURNIA will require four tons compressor oil.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1513A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)
- ERGO. My 1616A/17 and my 1054A/17. ERGO may sail after dark 18/4 or 19/4. Has now square of red paint on either side below bridge which may be painted with Portuguese, Spanish or Swiss colours when outside Bar.  
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 1631A/18 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)
- A/C crash. Your 1212A/15. Air Attache now learns it was same aircraft. There were 2 accounts with very different details and different plan.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 1831/18 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)
- Italian Tankers. Following is a repetition of my 1031/18 (M.T. in W.R.) to F.O.C.N.A. (Begins) TAIGETE, ARCOLA will sail Cadiz dawn Sunday 19/4 for Gibraltar.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 1854/18 to Admty.)
- Situation Report. 2003A/18. Following is repetition of my 1300/18 (previously received indecypherable.)  
(1) Two fleet units, 5 destroyers 36° 14' 07° 21' to Gibraltar 16½.  
(2) O.G.82, 36° 33' 11° 40' through 35° 57' 08° (?32') thence Gibraltar 8, S.O. of escort STORK.  
(3) GERANIUM, COLTSFOOT escorting tanker THORSHOLM (?34°) 24' 08° 49' to Gibraltar 9½.  
(4) SCOTTISH on patrol off Lisbon, COREOPSIS escorting 1 merchant ship 338° Cape St. Vincent 20 to Gibraltar 5. *See p. 55g*  
(5) COWSLIP escorting EMILE BAUDOT 33° 56' 09° 00' through 33° 20' 09° 30' thence 213°, 8. *See p. 563*  
(6) LORD NUFFIELD escorting cable ship MIRROR in vicinity 36° 35' 08° 24'.  
(7) ALOUETTE sails noon 19/4 coastwise to patrol off Cape Roca.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1902A/18 to N.A. Station. As amended 2004A/18.)

/FARNDALÉ ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

FARNDALE,  
BOREAS. Following is repetition of my 1320A/18. (Begins)  
Situation 2003A/18.  
(i) FARNDALE 24° 08' 21° 38', 346°, 15.  
(ii) BOREAS 25° 30' 16° 00' through 25° 03'  
16° 32' thence 207°, 17. Ends. *See next page Situation*  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1926A/18 to Area Z, N.A. Station).

French  
Shipping. Gibraltar 18/4, 1500 French Armed Trawler  
L'AJACCIENNE. French ships MONTESQUIEU, GRAND  
QUEVILLY, SAVOIE, ERIDAN, eastbound.  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1943B/18 to Admty.,  
C. in C. Med.)  
My 1943B/18. All loaded.  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 2337B/18 to Admty.,  
C. in C. Med.)

SCOTTISH,  
F.W. A/C. Enemy bombing position 335 PCL 37.  
(SCOTTISH, 2050/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
My 2050. F.W. did not attack but is searching.  
(SCOTTISH, 2055A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
My 2055A/18. A/C still searching.  
(SCOTTISH, 2132A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Movements. → GROVE and ALDENHAM arrived.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0540Z/18 to Admty.)  
Capetown departure 18/4 for Kilindini ENGADINE.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0951Z/18 to Admty.) *See p. 563.*  
Capetown departures 18/4 CROMER and POOLE for Durban.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0952Z/18 to Admty.)  
Capetown arrival DEVONSHIRE.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1307Z/18 to Admty.)  
Capetown departure 18/4. AURICULA, NIGELLA, GENISTA, JASMINE,  
THYME, CYCLAMEN for Durban.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1642B/18 to Admty.)  
→ Capetown departures ALDENHAM, GROVE.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1930Z/18 to Admty.)

"SSS"  
Report. Cerrito W/T station intercepted S S S message  
at 0520 G.M.T./18 from ship giving name J. MORAN.  
No position given but signal said ship was 2  
miles off coast. Signal (? indicates) ship  
long way away.  
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 0648Z/18 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. S.A., etc.)

/U/Bs. ...

War Diary.

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/Bs. Sunderland sighted surfaced U-Boat at 0715/18 in 10° 14' N. 18° 49' W. U-Boat dived. One U-Boat reported by Panair at 0715, 3 miles off Monrovia.  
(R.A. W. Africa, 0838Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

U/B. Position of submarine reported by aircraft at 0935, 010° 18' N. 018° 53' W.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1014Z/18 to Escorts of S.L. 107 and O.S. 24.)

Overdue Shipping. Overdue shipping ALFIOS due Lourenco Marques 10/4 from Aden. MARISO due Lourenco Marques 12/4 from Madras both not arrived.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1047B/18 to Admty., etc.)

Overdue shipping WILLESDEN due Capetown 11/4 not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1210B/18 to Admty.)

Durban and Wingfield Your 2310/20/3. Proposals re command, personnel, guards, etc.  
R.N. Air Stations. (C. in C. S.A., 1102B/18 to Admty.)

Movements summary. 2000/18.  
EGRET 3 escorts with O.S.24, 015° 48' N. 020° 15' W. 175°, 9 knots.  
ROCHESTER 3 escorts with S.L. 107, 011° 15' N. 020° W. 348°, 7½ knots.  
ALBATROSS 006° 05' N. 023° 10' W. to Freetown 14 knots.  
? REVENGE 005° 20' N. 017° 40' W. to Freetown 14 knots.  
→ ALCANTARA on patrol H.34 C and D east 026° W.  
BENGALI on patrol 005° (?30') N. 013° 50' W.  
MORRIS DANCE on patrol about 006° N. 013° W. ST. WISTAN, SARABANDE off Marshall.  
VIOLET escorting 002° 30' N. 004° 45' W. to Takoradi 11½ knots.  
FANDANGO about 005° 40' N. 002° 15' E. to Lagos 8 knots.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1147Z/18 to Ships in Area P, (R) Admty.)

EXPRESS. EXPRESS will sail 0800Z/19 for Simonstown. S. of A. 18 knots. E.T.A. 0600Z/21. Routed R. 2.  
(Commdr. i/c Durban, 1258Z/18 to Admty., etc.)  
*See next page (22 minutes)*

Situation. Weekly state 18/4.  
Freetown - EDINBURGH CASTLE, PHILOCTETES, VINDICTIVE, 2 Corvettes, ARCHER, WILD SWAN.  
Freetown area - 5 Corvettes, PRETORIA CASTLE.  
Bathurst area - FLEETWOOD, FISHGUARD, PHILANTE, EGRET, SANDWICH, ROCHESTER, BRADFORD, SCARBOROUGH.  
Takoradi area - 1 Corvette.  
→ H. 34 C and D F.A. ALCANTARA.  
Canary area - BOREAS. *See previous page*

/U.K. ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Situation.  
(Contd.)

U.K. - VANSITTART, VELOX, BRILLIANT, WOODRUFF, ARMERIA, AMARANTHUS, CROCUS, BURDOCK, BERGAMOT. On passage Freetown to Gibraltar \*WIVERN. On passage Gibraltar to Freetown - COWSLIP. *See p. 560*  
Lagos - 1 Corvette.  
St. Helena - 1 Corvette.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1335Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

*\* See: G/16 - See p. 559.*

Italian repatriations.

GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO are to adjust speed so as to be able to reach Red Sea without fuelling en route.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1447B/18 to S.B.N.O. GIULIO CESARE, (R) Admty., etc.)

Ascension defence.

Your 2139/14 not to Governor St. Helena. Para. 2 (B). Presume nothing in agreement modifies full and unfettered control by C. in C. S.A. of Naval W/T. This is important.

Is primary purpose to obtain amenities of station ferry service or naval co-operation? Here, whatever is primary purpose, presume British R.A.F. or F.A.A. Liaison Officer will be appointed ensuring full co-operation British Naval and Air Force.

(C. in C. S.A., 1647B/18 to Admty., (R) R.A. West Africa, Govr. St. Helena.)

Movements summary.

2000Z/18.

*See previous page*  
Area Q. EXPRESS on passage (? Durban) Simonstown. CILICIA off Capetown from south E.T.A. (?07)00Z/19. SALTARELO 019° 50' S. 006° 35' E. 324° (? 13)

knots.

CHESHIRE with LARGS BAY (? 035°) 10' S. 017° 52' E. to Durban 14 knots.

GLASGOW (corrupt group) 25' S. (? 028°) 00' E. 321° 18 knots.

WHITEHAVEN, SEAHAM, BOSTON, 021° 10' S. 011° 15' E. to Millom 10 knots.

SHROPSHIRE, MILFORD with W.S. 17B 020° 40' S. 001° 30' W. 129° 12 knots.

U.S.S. MARBLEHEAD 029° 35' S. 004° 40' W. 298° 15 knots.  
(Corrupt group.)

CROOME (? 021°) 10' S. 001° 00' E. to Millom 16 knots.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 035° 15' S. 004° 15' E. 083° 11 knots.

GLENGYLE about 034° 40' S. 026° 00' E. to Capetown 18 knots.

ROYAL ULSTERMAN, 035° 30' S. 020° 18' E. to Durban 12 knots. *See p. 564*

ENGADINE 035° 10' S. 019° 05' E. to Durban 14 knots. *See p. 561*

JASMINE, GENISTA, THYME, CYCLAMEN (? 034°) 55' S. 019° 16' E. 12 knots to Durban. *See p. 561*

NIGELLA, AURICULA off (? Capetown) to Durban 10 knots. *See p. 561*

CROMER, POOLE 034° 48' S. 018° 46' E. to Durban 12 knots.

FREESIA, 035° 00' S. 018° 54' E. to Durban 13 knots.

(Corrupt group) AY 028° 09' S. 039° 38' E. to Mauritius 8½ knots.

W.S. 17A, 032° 00' S. 014° 35' E. 134°, 15 knots.

(C. in C. S.A., 1717B/18 to S.A. Station Sqdn.)

/Bullion ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Bullion,  
Lagos.

D. of S.T. 0355/18 received too late (corrupt group) ship bullion Takoradi in ship sailed p.m. today for that port. Can see no prospect of getting bullion Freetown by 29/4 unless VIOLET is diverted here for the purpose.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1750Z/18 to R.A. West Africa.)

U/B  
attack.

Following has been read. S/M. Attack Signal 03° 30' S. 05° 12' W. LA CORDILLERA S/M at 1605 G.M.T./18.  
(LA CORDILLERA, 1835 G.M.T./18.)

Dakar  
Intelligence.

Free French report as follows:- Dakar has received 150 mines type (?9). Navy working to camouflage F.B/S RICHELIEU, rumoured RICHELIEU must leave Dakar, but seems false news to informant. 2 Cruisers only remain, F.Cr. GLOIRE gone to Casablanca. Reported next convoy leaving Dakar 20/4. Source different from my 1721Z/1. (Grade A.3.) R.A.F. intend making R/C if machines available.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1850Z/18 to S.O.I. Freetown, R.A. West Africa, F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B.

Ref. A.M. A.F. Position 3° 30' S. 5° 12' W. at 1605 G.M.T.  
(R.A. West Africa, 2030/18 to G.B.M.S. Area 6A.)

Unidentified  
Ships.

Have encountered 6 unidentified ships burning navigation lights steering 000° in 005° 54' N. 017° 08' W. Request instructions.  
(PRETORIA CASTLE, 2130Z/18 to R.A. West Africa.)

Defence  
of Ports,

Understood smoke is used in defence of Alexandria and other ports against air attacks. Proposed to use this for defence of Capetown Docks and other Union Ports. Request brief details of scheme employed, also of balloon barrage.  
(C. in C. S.A., 2251B/18 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. Med.)

ROYAL  
ULSTERMAN.

Simonstown departure 0630Z/18 ROYAL ULSTERMAN for Durban by route R.1. S. of A. 12 knots E.T.A. 0600Z/21.  
(C. in C. S.A., 2329B/18 to Admty.)

*See previous pages  
(movements)*

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements. 17/4 Port Said departures 0955 F.F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, 1517 SOUTHERN SEA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0857C/18 to Admty.) Arrival PROTEA, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, departure CUMBRAE, ROMEO, PROTEA, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 1316C/18 to Admty.) Departure 1600Z/18 BULLFINCH Suez 21/4. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1800Z/18 to Admty.) Arrival 17/4, 1517 and departure 1745 SOUTHERN ISLE. (N.O.I.C. Beirut, 1901C/18 to Admty.)

Air Report. A. 654 or 254 (corrupt) 18/4. Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 13. 15/4, 38 Hurricanes protection of convoy off Tobruk. Two Me.109 machine-gunned road traffic between Tobruk and Bardia destroying laden petrol lorry and killing one soldier. Night 15/16. 12 Wellingtons left to attack shipping and harbour facilities Benghazi and Heraklion landing ground, 6 A/C each objective. Owing to bad weather only 1 Wellington located Benghazi and 2 Heraklion, damage from bombs unobserved. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 0904/18.)

S/M disposition. F.O.S. 1139/16. Presumably URSULA, UNIQUE and UPRIGHT will be replaced in 10th S/M Flotilla by new construction. (C. in C. Med., 1108C/18 to Admty., (R) F.O.S., (S) 1, (S) 10.)

THRASHER. My 2333/15. Proceed direct from 032° 52' 025° 44' to Alexandria searched channel. (Capt. (S) 1, 1151C/18 to THRASHER.)

Egypt defence. Ref. Ambassador Cairo's telegram number 1035 dated 10/4 to F.O. concerning security of Egyptian Coast, I concur with these proposals. Need for strengthening coastal control of Egypt is urgent. (C. in C. Med., 1220C/18 to Admty.)

T.B.R. Sqdn. for E.F. 2 of your 3 Naval T.B.R. Squadrons are ex Carriers and have always been regarded as supernumerary squadrons in the event of Carriers returning to Eastern Med. As this is unlikely to occur it is necessary to provide supernumerary T.B.R. squadrons for the Eastern Fleet Carriers. You are therefore requested to consider releasing 1 of the Naval T.B.R. Squadrons at present under your command. (Admty., 1252B/18 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

/PORPOISE ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PORPOISE, PROTEUS. PORPOISE leave vicinity Alexandria 2000C/18 and proceed through 032° 10' 028° 08', 033° 24' 025° 44', 033° 40' 018° 55', 035° 01' 015° 59' to pass last position about dawn 24/4 and thence as ordered by Captain (S) 10. PROTEUS leaves at same time routed through 032° 35' 028° 34', 034° 27' 025° 55', 034° 40' 23° 53', 037° 23' 020° 43' thence establish patrol in area Q. 037° 17' 020° 08' - 325° - 290° - 140. If time permits she will operate within 30 miles of Navarin during daylight 22/4.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1441C/18 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Convoy. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (M.E.) 257. Decided not to attempt to run a convoy from Gibraltar to Malta in May because:-  
(a) In view of general naval situation at present we cannot afford to have capital ships or aircraft carriers damaged.  
(b) Strength of enemy air forces in Sicily is such that this would involve a risk of damage to capital ships and at least one aircraft carrier which would be necessary to cover such a convoy.  
(c) By abandoning the West to East Convoy, heavy ship reinforcements can reach Indian Ocean at least three weeks earlier.  
(Air Min, T.O.O. 1455Z/18 to C. in C. M.E., A.O.C. in C. M.E., C. in C. Med.) *See next page.*

Communications Masters of vessels arriving Malta in convoy and from merchant ships wishing to communicate with their owners should be instructed that all such message are to be passed via Naval Channels to Admty. For security reasons owners are not informed of damage or casualties to these ships until such reasons no longer exist. Therefore most desirable that owners should not receive advance information by inference from telegrams sent to them direct asking for money or disposal of crews, etc., until they have been officially informed by Admty. of the damage or casualties suffered.  
(D.T.D., 1703B/18 to V.A. Malta.)

Malta Air Report. I.230. C.S.R. Malta 18/4. 17/4. Alert 1523 hours 2 Me.109s on R/C. Night 17/18, no alerts. 18/4, 5 alerts 0413, 0530, 0721, 0750, 1205 hours, Me.109s, 71 Ju.88s, 40 Ju.87s Grand Harbour torpedo depot damaged, Luqa craters runway, Hal Far 1 Hurricane burnt out, airmen's cookhouse buildings and M.T. damaged, numerous craters U.X.Bs Y(?) aerodrome dispersals. Kalafrana 1 officer, 2 airmen killed, 16 airmen wounded, 2 police killed, 1 wounded while fire-fighting main and salvage stores engineering shops. North slipway serious damage by bombs and fire many A/C under repair destroyed, M.T. damaged. Elsewhere, 3 soldiers, 1 civilian killed, 2 officers, 13 soldiers, 6 civilians wounded. Fireshell Yier Birzebuggia (?) several houses destroyed. A/A destroyed 1 Ju.88, probably destroyed 1 Ju.88 and 1 87.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1704/18.)

/HAVOCK ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

HAVOCK. Your 1138/17. HAVOCK, reports her as aground 200 Kelibia Light 2.5 miles. This is presumed to be a reciprocal as R/C has sighted burnt out ship 020° Kelibia Light 3 miles and has confirmed that Kelibia Light is being shown from its chart position.

2. Para. 2 of your signal suggests HAVOCK may have been intentionally beached, having turned back after striking a mine.

3. Request you endeavour to obtain confirmation of above and more exact details especially distance off shore of minefield located.

(V.A. Malta, 1921B/18 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Enemy ships, P.C. and S. of 2 escorted merchant ships at Operation B.S. 1800C/18 038° 59' 018° 18' 146° 10 knots.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 2001C/18 to TORBAY, TURBULENT,  
(R) C. in C. Med.)

Operation B.S. Bring into force condition A until 0001C/20.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 2101C/18 to TORBAY, TURBULENT, (R) C. in C. Med.)  
Cancel my 2001/18th and 2101/18th.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 2301C/18 to TORBAY, TURBULENT, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Malta Convoys. Cosup No. 20. Your telegram Cosup 1826 and connected correspondence. I much regret that it has now been decided that situation does not permit of a direct convoy being sent to Malta from the west for time being.  
(S. of S. for Colonies, 2030/18 to Govr. Malta.)

*See previous page.*

Tobruk Convoy. My 1125/17. HERON returned to Tobruk with defects. Convoy has been split by PEONY as follows: (A) BOKSBURG escorted by ERICA and COCKER code word "Master" proceeding inshore route speed of advance 8½ knots passing Ras Assaz 0100/19. E.T.A. Alexandria 0700/20. (B) remainder routed as in my 1125/17 code word "Totem". S. of A. 9 knots passing through N. 0800/19, A. 1530. E.T.A. Alexandria 0630/20. Request fighter protection accordingly.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2132C/18 to N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, S.O. Force T., etc.)

Manning of M/Vs. I most fully support proposal in P.S.T.O.(E)'s 1528/15 to D.S.T. Thoroughly unsatisfactory manner in which (?manning) of British merchant ships is organised in M.E. has been represented more than once by my predecessor and by M.W.T.R. At the moment crew trouble is stopping the sailing of a bulk petrol tanker to Tobruk which is most urgently required.  
(C. in C. Med., 2145/18 to Admty.)



568

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

P. 35,  
Tanker.

Patrol Kuriat - number 4 buoy route until 2030B/  
19 for southbound 10 knots tanker and escort.  
A/C searching and attacking tonight Marettimo -  
Cape Bon area.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 2205B/18 to P.35, (R) URGE,  
C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

CLYDE,  
UNA.

CLYDE and UNA leave harbour at 0530B/19,  
course 070° for 5 miles then to N.W.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 2339B/18 to UPHOLDER.)

569

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

VITA. Departure 02 Z Hospital Ship VITA.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0207Z/18 to C. in C.E.I.,  
(R) Admty. etc.)

Movements. Colombo arrival 18/4 0350Z LISMORE, departure  
1245Z Dutch Cruiser SUMATRA. (S.O.I. Colombo  
0242Z/18 to Admty.)  
Departure ALAUNIA. (S.O.I. Bombay 0336Z/18 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)  
Mombasa arrived 18/4 0610 G.M.T. HOTSPUR. (N.O.I.C. East Africa  
and Zanzibar, 0611Z/18 to C. in C.E.I.)  
RANCHI sailed. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0625Z/18 to Admty.)  
Arrival KUTUBTARI and NULCHIRA. (N.O.I.C. Madras 0857Z/18  
to Admty.)  
Departure Greek Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS for Aden.  
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 1004Z/18 to Admty. etc.)  
Departure COVENTRY for Aden, S.O.A. 15 knots.  
(S.O.I. Bombay 1201Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Force 15/4. My 0438/17. Catalina reports 17/4 negative.  
(Dep. C. in C. E.F. 0257Z/18 to Admty., DEVONSHIRE  
C. in C.E.F.)  
My 0257Z/18. Maldiv Islands were not covered.  
(C. in C.E.I., 0528Z/18 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

W/T,  
Colombo  
Bombay. My 1208Z/15 para. 1. This arrangement will  
entail some dislocation of Bombay fix services  
until more transmitters are available. Therefore  
intended for use in real emergencies only, i.e.,  
when Colombo is likely to be out of action for  
indefinite period.  
If possible request you signal to Bombay if it is necessary to  
bring this organisation into force. Bombay fort W/T will only  
bring it into force automatically if nothing is heard by  
Colombo on shortened wave for more than 6 hours.  
(C. in C.E.F. 0311Z/18 to C. in C.E.I. (R) Admty., Cdre., R.I.N.)

Eastern Fleet,  
Aircraft. My 1211/16. Request decision today.  
(C. in C.E.F. 0324Z/18 to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
Ceylon, S.O. A/C Carriers E.F.) W.D. Note.  
Decision given in Admty. 1221B/17 q.v.

DUNERA. Transport DUNERA sailed for Basra 18/4. E.T.A.  
Rooka A.M. 22/4. Numbers and requirements.  
(S.T.O. Karachi 0504Z/18 to D.S.T.O. P.G.)

CITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
"R" Report. Following has been read from Jacobs W/T RRRR  
22° 35' S. 38° 26' E. CITY OF NEWCASTLE chased.  
(Vryheid Radio). (Slangkop W/T 0513Z/18).  
Following has been read from Jacobs W/T. Cancel  
my 0513Z/18. Raider friendly. (Slangkop W/T  
0515Z/18, CITY OF NEWCASTLE, 0615/18).

/Fleet.....

570

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.

Fleet aircraft. Admty. 1921/10 ? 1935/10 intended, it is requested in present circumstances aircraft allocated for carriers be off loaded in South Africa or Mombasa and not be sent to Ceylon. (C. in C.E.F. 0603Z/18 to Admty. (R) R.A.(A) Dep. C. in C.E.F., C. in C.S.A.)

Force A. 1. NEWCASTLE and DECOY have joined Force A.  
2. NAPIER and NIZAM are docking at Bombay. NAPIER completes about 1/5 and NIZAM about end of May.  
3. This leaves 6 destroyers to screen Force A during passage to Colombo? and onward. (C. in C.E.F. 0701Z/18 to Admty. (R) Dep. C. in C.E.F.)

Water ship. D. of S.T. 1918/6/3. Owing to greatly increased numbers of ships now using Bombay, absolutely essential to have an additional water ship. Request that a similar ship to FU-KWANG may be detailed as soon as possible. Number of ships at present in port 194. (S.S.T.O. India, 0936Z/18 to C. in C.E.I., (R) D. of S.T.)

M/V's and Japanese U/B's. N.C.S.O's are to point out to masters of D.E.M.S. importance of immediately opening fire on any Japanese U-Boats that come to surface during attack. Evidence shows that Japanese U-boats are disinclined to risk damage by gunfire. Swift and vigorous action with guns coupled with turning away at full speed has already saved several ships. Adjacent stations are requested to conform. (Dep. C. in C.E.F. 0944Z/18 to N.O.I.C. E.I. Station for N.C.S.O., N.L.O. Durban, F.O.C. Red Sea Force, N.Z.N.B., C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Simonstown, N.O.I.C. Aden, A.C.N.B. Cdre. Western Australia (R) Admty.)

Japanese Naval Force Malaya, Appreciation. My appreciation of Japanese naval forces available in Malaya at this time to (? operate) against Ceylon is as follows: Battleships 3, aircraft carriers 1, cruisers 2 heavy, 2 light, (? destroyers maximum 2½ squadrons, S/MS 3 squadrons. This force does not suggest immediate operation in Indian Ocean, nor are there any indications of which I am aware to suggest that these Japanese forces are likely to resume operations against Ceylon in near future. It is very necessary that Force A should visit Colombo for reasons given in my 1341/15. It is appreciated that this must involve some risk particularly as our long range R/C from Ceylon is very limited but I intend to accept it and proceed to carry out programme given in my 1341/15 (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C.E.F. 0958Z/18 to Admty., (R) Dep. C. in C.E.F.)

/Eastern.....

571

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.

Eastern Fleet, Chief of Staff message OZ.19, 15/4/42 timed Strategy. 1900/15. Para (? 8) During recent operations Liaison South of Ceylon the Japanese employed an with U.S.N. unbalanced fleet, i.e. the number of carriers was very high in proportion to the number of battleships. If better luck had attended their operation this unbalanced fleet might have struck us a very severe blow.

2. Providing surprise is achieved and we can effect a superior concentration of carriers at the selected moment I do not consider that for a special operation inferiority in battleships is necessarily of much consequence.

3. In any case it seems a pity to pour cold water on this welcome indication of a desire to act offensively.

4. The tentative effort in my O634/28/3 to persuade C. in C. Pacific Fleet to inform me of his intentions appears to have failed. I have been informed by the U.S.N. Liaison Officer, Colombo, that views of C. in C. U.S. Fleet are to the effect that: (a) Pacific and Indian Oceans are separate strategic areas, (b) Operations classed as grand strategy would be subject to discussion between Governments, (c) For lesser operations no exchange of information is considered necessary.

5. I do not endorse these views and presume T.L.'s are also not in agreement. (C. in C.E.F1001Z/18 to Admty.)

M.T.B's Admty. 1341/30 para. 3.  
Bases. M.T.B's can be off-loaded at Madras, Calcutta or Bombay but should be consigned to (group missing) only for the present. 2. Confirm cradles and lifting gear will be shipped with boats. 3. In view of changed conditions Bases are now being established in following order of priority, Bombay Mandapam, Cochin, Port Okha, Karachi. My 1215/26/3 not to B.A.D. refers.  
4. Further consideration will be given to establishment of East Coast Bases as soon as situation is more stable. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 1015Z/18 to B.A.D. Washington (R) C. in C.E.I., Admty., C. in C.E.F.)

Malacca My 1157Z/7. In view of prospective withdrawal of Lucia to Med. and TRUSTY to Bombay standing Patrol. patrol in Malacca Strait becomes uneconomical employment.  
(2) It is therefore intended to abandon Malacca patrol after return of TRUSTY and maintain defensive patrol in approaches to Madras and Ceylon. (Dep. C. in C.E.F. 1015Z/18 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. Ceylon, B.S.O.)

W.S.17. C. in C.S.A. 1536/17 and your 1601/15.  
Escort. I regret no other suitable escort is available Request ROYAL SOVEREIGN be sailed for this duty. (2) (? 1601)/15 has not yet been received. (C. in C.E.F. 1020Z/18 to F.O. 2nd in Command E.F., (R) C. in C.S.A. Admty., C. in C.E.I.)

/Reserve.....

572

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.

Reserve A/C for Carriers, from 814 and 839 Sqdns. To re-establish reserve A/C for carriers of Eastern Fleet it is necessary to disband 814 and 839 Squadrons. A/C and spares should be stored as desired by you. Flying crews should be sent to form pool at Mombasa. Maintenance ratings should be disposed as desired by you. (Admty., 1253B/18 to C. in C. Ceylon (R) C. in C. E.F., R.A. A/C Carriers, N.O.I.C. Mombasa).

Bahrein defence. Defence of Bahrein refinery. 1. S.N.O. Persian Gulf informs me that a recommendation was made by Gen. Beresford in March that a battalion should be stationed at Bahrein for protection of refinery against air borne or S/M borne commando raids. 2. A small party of determined men properly equipped could put refinery out of action for considerable time. 3. In view of vital importance of our oil refinery in petrol aviation for prosecution of war in whole eastern theatre and Mediterranean, strongly urged some troops be sent to Bahrein now. (C. in C.E.I., 1344Z/18 to C. in C. M.E. Forces (R) S.N.O. Persian Gulf, Admty.)

CLAN FORBES. Your 1718/17. (Corrupt Group) Fuel required by Seychelles has now become more important than both Mauritius and Diego Garcia. (2) I appreciate bottom plating of support landing craft CLAN FORBES may make it undesirable for her to proceed to Seychelles initially and leave matter to your judgment. (C. in C.E.F. 1605Z/18 to C. in C.E.I. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. for Arminia, Admty.)

CHILKA. Have you any news of CHILKA sailed Calcutta 2/3 due Padang 12/3. (D.T.D. 1802B/18 to S.O.I. Colombo.)

Kilindini berthing facilities. The unloading of stores for fleet and supplies for development of a base at Kilindini may be expected to impose an increasing and possibly excessive strain on the existing port facilities. Request you will report to what extent berthing plans necessitate occupation by H.M. ships of berths alongside deep water quay. Your suggestions for prevention of congestion would be welcomed. (Admty. 1836B/18 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C.E.I., V.A.3.)

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- U/B. D/F indicates U-Boat within 50 miles of 038° 30' N. 061° W. at 1910Z and 2036Z/17. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0020Z/18 to B.W. in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)
- U/B. D/F Bearings at 2037Z/17 indicate enemy unit within 100 miles of 39° 00' N. 61° 00' W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0045/18 to A.I.G. No.304, etc.)
- Movements. St. Johns N.F. 17/4. Arrivals. COWICHAN and FAIRMILES Q -056 and Q -057 from Halifax. REGINA ex S.C.79. Departures. ROSELYS to St. Pierre, thence Argentia. SUNFLOWER escorting C.L.23 to Halifax. PRUDENT to join H.X.185 for U.K. SKEENA and SAGUENAY to overtake S.C.79. (F.O.N.F., 0104Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., etc.)
- Puerto La Cruz sailings stopped. All sailings stopped instructions from British Legation. Ships in port BRITISH INDUSTRY, NORSKTANK Norwegian MINQUAS, U.S. (Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, 0130/18 to M.W.T., Admty., etc.)
- S.C.79. S.C.79 instruct Commodore that all ships of your convoy loaded for North Russia total 20 are to proceed U.K. and are not to break off for Iceland (C). Further signal will be made giving destinations of these ships. (Opnav, 0220/18 to C.T.U.24.1.13). → SAGUENAY met. CHAMBLY detached (corrupt group) St. John from S.C.79. E.T.A. 1030Z/?21. P.C. and S. of S.C.(?79) at 1730Z/18 052° 58' N. 038° 50' W. 060° 7. (C.T.U.24.1.13, 0241Z/18 to C.T.F.24 (R) Opnav, etc.)
- Unknown ship, U/B. Intercepted 1012 G.M.T. de NAA (Washington W/T). WGBCL sub attack 35.49 N. 75.40 W. at 0208 G.M.T/18 Controlling station Arlington Virginia Radio. (Portishead Radio, 0250/18 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
- U/B. Submarine placed by D/F within 50 miles of 038° 30' N. 065° 30' W. at 2142Z/17. (N.S.H.Q., 0316Z/18 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)
- T.U.24.1.17. After Western Local escort joins continue with O.N.(?) 86 as far as 53° West. Then proceed Argentia. (C.T.24, 0401/18 to C.T.U.24.1.17).
- C.T.U.24.1.18. Fuel permitting and after Western Local has joined continue with O.N.85 as far as 053° W. Then to Argentia. (C.T.24, 0403/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.18).

/ U/B. ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

U/B. R.D.F. fixes enemy U-Boat within 100 miles 38° N. 65 W. at 2142Z/17.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0405/18 to All Commands, Atlantic Area.)

Tankers. My 2250Z/17. B.R.O. New York now reports begins Port Director now informed we can sail tankers which are not U.S. owned or controlled. Therefore resuming sailings.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0525Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Kingston, B.A.D.)

Following from B.R.O. New Orleans (Begins). Port Director has suspended sailing of all tankers. Does this apply British and British Ministry of Shipping allied tankers in Gulf ports and passage between Gulf Ports for loading (ends). Have instructed him to comply with New York instructions. My 0525Z/18 refers.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0541Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Kingston, B.A.D.)

D.N.I. Ottawa's 2250/17 request information as to whether this ban applies to British controlled tankers and any further details in amplification.

(Admty., 1605B/18 to B.A.D.)

Your 1605/18. See Ottawa's 0525/18.

(2) War Shipping Administration and not Navy Dept. is responsible for holding U.S. Controlled tankers. Ban does not therefore affect British Controlled Tankers.

(B.A.D., 2307Z/18 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I., D. of S.T.)

Report of Meter. Vichy 17/4 C.O. U.S. Consul Marseilles Italian U/B's reports from what he believes well informed and for Caribbean. well disposed sources as follows (Begins).

14/4, 4 large Italian U-Boats sailed from

La Spezia, 4 from Taranto, and 2 or 4 small

U-Boats from Naples. All are to R/V south of Formentera Is. and then proceed through Straits of Gibraltar passing 10 miles N. of Oran and 10 miles S. of Alboran Island. Straits of Gibraltar are to be passed in 3 groups at 24 hour intervals. Second R/V is 10 miles off Hierro Island passing 10 miles off Ifni (Morocco) thence proceeding in groups to position 015° N. 045° W. where groups separate, 4 large U-Boats entering Caribbean Sea through Gulf of Paria and 4 large through Gulf of Mona. Routes of smaller boats not given. Boats have orders to make no attacks before reaching Caribbean Sea. Boats will refuel off N.E. Coast of Yucatan. Boats are to keep in touch with intelligence service on Fuerteventura (Canary Is.) (Ends).

(B.A.D., 0557Z/18 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston).

Comment:- 12 Italian U-Boats could certainly be spared from Med. especially now some 20 German U-Boats are operating there.

(2) Italian U-Boats are already operating in West Indies and off Brazil.

(3) Doubtful whether details of such an operation would be known outside a very limited circle. Details of route given are, moreover, not very convincing.

(4) Quite possible that such a movement will take place, but unlikely that details given in this report are correct.

/ U/B's ...

War Diary.

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

- U/B's. S/M's placed by D/F within 60 miles 039° N. 067° 30' W. at 0054Z/18. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0759Z/18 to B.W. in Area 7A., Admty.)
- Movement Summary. 1800 G.M.T. 18/4.  
Ship. Position.  
ALCANTARA 3° N 25° W. On patrol.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1000Z/18 to Opnav (R) Spenavo).
- U/B. D/F bearings at 0100Z/18 indicate S/M within 100 miles of 40° 30' N. 52° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1013Z/18 to B.W. in Area 7A., Admty.)
- RANGITIKI. N.C.S.O. Port of Spain 1734/17. Request you will reply. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1032P/18 to Admty., (R) N.C.S.O. Port of Spain).
- Unknown Ship, U/B. Following has been received from Ascension W/T SSSS S/M attack Signal. DE KDTX (undecypherable in W.R.) X331 R 46 N 81° 00' W. DE WAX - T.O.R. 0726Z/18. (Freetown W/T, 1036/18).
- Bermuda Defence. Governor of Bermuda's despatch to S. of S. for Colonies of 13/4 with which I am in complete agreement. I suggest that, if ABC3 is still our Charter for planning of local defence, as I understand it was meant to be, then a pronouncement to this effect should be made by higher authority in U.S. The U.S. Naval authorities through C. in C. Atlantic Fleet have definitely instructed Base Commandant Bermuda, that local Joint Military Defence sub-committee has ceased to function as Co-Operative Planning agency and has become a Co-Ordinating agency only, in fact acting as Commandant's staff. No doubt similar instructions have gone to Com Carib. As a matter of principle I consider this matter should be cleared up one way or the other. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1241P/18 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)
- BURNHAM BURNHAM will be ready to sail for Halifax on 3/5 subject to satisfactory (?trials). (B.A.R.M., 1302Z/18 to Admty.)
- EMPIRE PROGRESS (torpedoed 13/4). EMPIRE PROGRESS torpedoed 13/4 in (S) 040° 00' N. 053° 36' W. list of survivors landed at Halifax by motor vessel OLAF FOSTENES follows. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1405Z/18 to Admty.)
- U/B. At 0054Z/18 D.F. fixed S/M within 60 miles 37° N. 67° 30' W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1415/18 to A.I.G. 304).

/HEINRICH ...



War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.HEINRICH  
RIEDEMANN  
(torpedoed  
17/4).My 0102/17. HEINRICH RIEDEMANN 29 survivors landed here including 2nd mate and chief engineer Master's boat last seen under sail believed to contain 15.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1452Q/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

BULKOIL.

Admty. 1539/16. 1. Since endurance of BULKOIL is insufficient to reach Capetown by route indicated without refuelling request N.S.H.Q. Ottawa will arrange for BULKOIL to proceed from Cape Cod to Boston for fuel and Destroyer from Western Local Force to meet her at Boston. 2. Anticipate ship will leave Delaware Capes daylight 19/4. (B.A.D., 1513Z/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Routeing Officer Philadelphia).

Modify my 2215/17. BULKOIL will proceed south of Long Island instead of via Sound. Provide air cover. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1804/18 to C.E.S.F., (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty., etc.)

The following has been made to C.O.A.C. (Begins). Admty. 1539B/16. is passed to you for necessary action T.O.O. 2205Z/17. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1858Z/18 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

B.A.D.'s 1513/18. Confirmed BULKOIL sailing daylight 19/4 now has orders to proceed to Boston under U.S. escort arranged by Com 4. (2) She is to complete Boston where she will meet destroyer allocated by N.O.I.C. Halifax N.S.

(3) Report E.T.A. Boston and time required fuelling. C.S.A. Philadelphia pass P/L copy to Com 4 Philadelphia.

(N.S.H.Q., 2215Z/18 to C.S.A. Philadelphia, (R) B.A.D., S.C.N.O. Halifax, N.S. Com. 4 Philadelphia, Admty., C.S.A. Boston).

CLARKIA.

Sailed CLARKIA in accordance with my 1502/18 routed as follows. Grenada 19/4 St. Vincent (W.I.) 20/4 Barbados 21/4 St. Lucia 24/4 thence position (Q) 014° 51' N. 060° W. to Dominica 25/4 thence position (N) 016° N. 062° 37' W. to Montserrat Antigua 26/4 Nevis St. Kitts 27/4 thence position (H) 020° 51' N. 059° 02' W. thence San Juan passing through (C) 019° 05' N. 065° 20' W. S. of A. from (H) 12 knots. E.T.A. San Juan 1300Z/1/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1532Q/18 to Com 10).British and  
U.S. Inter-  
communication.

C. in C. S.A. is anxious to improve inter-communication arrangements in the S.A. Will Navy Department authorise Comtask Force 23 to discuss communication arrangements direct with C. in C. S.A. Final agreement to be referred to Navy Department and Admty. for approval. (Admty. 1614B/18 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. S.A.) Reply: B.A.D., 2325/21.

U/B.

At 0100Z/18 S/M within 100 miles 40° 30' N. 52° 00' W. by D/F.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1616/18 to All Commanding Atlantic Area interested in S/M's.)

War Diary.

18.4.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

POLYANTHUS. Approved to sail p.m. 25/4 subject to approval of Com. 8, see R.O. 01 2. He should be informed that you will fuel at Charleston. Arrangements to do so have been made. Ship is to proceed from Charleston to Halifax and degauss there. No resistance(s) have yet been received from England. British trawlers are operating between Jacksonville and Long Island and should be communicated with if possible. My 2100/16 8 refers.  
(B.A.R.M. 1638Z/18 to POLYANTHUS (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.)

LADY NELSON. LADY NELSON (Br.) in tow expected ready to depart St. Lucia about 27/4 for Mobile. Provide practicable coverage.  
(Cominch, 1710/18 to C.C.S.F., C.G.S.F.)

New Zealand Units. Take INCHKEITH, SANDRA, KILLIGRAY and SCARBA under your orders leaving Bermuda a.m. 20/4 and proceeding to Panama via Kingston, Jamaica, by following route.  
H. 022° 30' N., 073° 12' W. J. 022° 00' N., 074° 13' W.  
K. 020° 15' N., 074° (?) 03' W. L. 018° 32' N., 075° 10' W.  
M. 017° 53' N., 076° 10' W. to Jamaica thence through  
N. 010° 00' N., 079° 55' W. to Christobal. Onward route will be given at Panama. Completed with fuel at Jamaica.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1833P/18 to T.U.1. (R) Admty., etc.)

U.S. Shipping Casualties.	U.S. Merchant Ship Casualties week ending 18/4/1942				
	Name.	Date	Time	Form Attack	Position.
	TIGER	1/4	-	Torpedo	2 miles S.E. Cape Henry.
	DELVALLE	6/4	0502	Torpedo	16 50 North 72 25 West Still afloat when last seen.
	GULF AMERICA	12/4	0200	Torpedo	27 miles S.S.E of St. Johns Lightship.
	ESSO BOSTON	13/4	1720	Torpedo	21 42 North 60 West.
	LESLIE	13/4	0230	Torpedo	10 miles East of Canaveral Light.
	EL OCCIDENTE	13/4	0100	Torpedo	165 miles East of Bear Is.

(B.A.D., 1901Z/18 to Admty.)

/SURCOUF ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.SURCOUF,  
loss of.

My 1132/16. The B.B.C. statement announcing loss of SURCOUF has been received in Bermuda today, but on account of its brevity it has done little to allay rumours mentioned in my signal. Story that SURCOUF was operating against Allied Shipping in fact appeared to gain strength. After consultation with Governor, I have therefore considered it advisable to issue a statement in general terms to the effect that SURCOUF was lost in the course of normal war duties fighting in the Allied Cause and that any rumours to the contrary are malicious inventions.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1916P/18 to Admty.) *see p. 507*

ANDES.

My 2204Z/17. ANDES sails Halifax P.M. 18/4 for Boston for drydocking.  
2. C.O.A.C. will arrange escort, report sailing, route and E.T.A. to necessary authorities.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1927Z/18 to D. of S.T., C.O.A.C., Opanav, (R) B.A.D., F.O.N.F.)

Ice Report.

Ice bulletin 18/4.  
St. Lawrence Area limit of field of ice Cape Breton Is. to 045° 15' N. 060° 40' W. thence 044° 40' N. 059° 45' W. thence 046° 05' N. 058° 25' W. thence 047° 10' N. 059° 45' W. thence (?Bird) Rock. Southern limit of ice in Gulf 048° 25' N. 062° 25' W. to 048° 05' N. 061° 10' W. thence north-eastward past 049° 25' N. 058° (?45') W. Cape Ray to Quebec open track passing south of this ice. Newfoundland Area probable limit of field of ice Cape Bauld to 051° 05' N. 053° (?50') W. thence N. to 055° 00' N. then northward and westward. Scattered loose ice and bergs in bays from Cape Bauld to 049° 17' N. 053° 27' W. Loose ice off shore to 048° (?55') N. 051° 10' W. Report 15/4 berg 046° 36' N. 053° 18' W. Berg 046° 20' N. 052° 35' W.  
Greenland Area. Storis ice extending 40 miles south of Farewell and lying 15 to 20 miles off shore from 060° 00' N. 046° 00' W. to 060° 30' N. 049° 00' W. Denmark Strait no recent report.  
(C.T.F.24, 1955/18 to All ships N. of 40° N. and W. of 35° W.)

U/B.

D/F bearings indicate S/M within 50 miles 35° N. 74° W. at 1608Z and 1710Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2013Z/18 to B.W. in Area 7A., Admty.)

EXMINSTER.

My 1926/16 EXMINSTER arrived Boston 17/4.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2018Z/18 to Admty., Opanav, etc.)

/Unidentified ...

War Diary.18.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

Unidentified (B.1 report) from St. Vincent states 4 unidentified S/M's. S/M's passed north coast morning of 16/4 and 1 on night of 17/4 all proceeding towards St. Lucia and Martinique.

O.I.C. Comment. This report should be graded B.3. It is not thought that more than five U/B's are at present operating in the Caribbean. 2 of them could not have been in the vicinity of St. Vincent on the date mentioned.

(S.O.I. Kingston, 2041R/18 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

MEANTICUT. MEANTICUT (U.S.) due Halifax 11/4 from Baltimore has not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2101Z/18 to Admty., Opanav).

NIPIGON, Diverted NIPIGON escorting X B (Group missing),  
→ OTTAWA. OTTAWA escorting S.S. ANDES to Boston.  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 2113Z/18 to Admty., etc.)

Caribbean Pass to N.C.S.O's and B.R.O's.  
Shipping All sailings from Gulf of Mexico and West Indies  
Suspended. are to be suspended until further orders.  
(D.T.D., 2158B/18 to C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.,  
(R) S.O.I. Jamaica).

Provided submarines are not actually reported in vicinity request approval sail tankers from Puerto La Cruz for Curacao, also small cargo steamships for New York.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 2159Q/18 to Admty.)

LETITIA, Your 0310/17, and 1204/17. Although LETITIA,  
BATORY, BATORY and ANDES are only five months out of dock  
→ ANDES. it was considered most desirable to dock them  
whilst waiting for N.A.8. because (A) they now have  
time available whereas normally they are hard  
pressed. (B) Pressure on U.K. docks is so heavy that it is  
desired to take any opportunity of docking abroad. If they do not  
dock now they may have to wait several months.  
2. Would appreciate if you would reconsider your decision  
regarding LETITIA and BATORY. Hope your proposed arrangements for  
ANDES will be carried out.  
(D.S.T., 2214B/18 to N.S.H.Q.)

VANOC. E.T.A. 1030Z/19.  
(VANOC, 2340Z/18 to Commodore i/c Bermuda (R)  
C. in C. A.W.I.)

P/L to Your 1703Z/11. Question has been examined at Admty.  
Merchant Ships. but has been rejected mainly on account of  
opportunity presented to enemy for issuing bogus  
instructions to our M/V's.

2. Various proposals however to improve situation are under  
consideration including self-evident indications of address of  
message and analysis of Diversion signals, in order that all  
failures may be investigated.

(A.C.N.S.(T) 2351B/18 to N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.18.4.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

BRAJARA  
etc. Your 1913B/16 BRAJARA has been instructed by C.C.S.O. to proceed to Abadan. From position (G) vessel is instructed to steer 288° for 600 miles thence 328° for 1200 miles thence direct. Estimated vessel 1200 miles from Perth radio possibly message will not be received.  
(A.C.N.B. 0416Z/18 to Admty. S.O.(I) Colombo)

Movements. CESSNOCK and COLAC escorting local transport TAROONA arrived Port Moresby 0721Z/17.  
(A.C.N.B. 0731Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Departed Darwin 2140Z/16 for Thursday Island TOWNSVILLE escorting ALAGNA and BAROSSA attended by ST. ARISTEL and MULLAMA. Arrived Fremantle 0132Z/16 U.S. Cruiser BOISE. Departed Port Phillip 0046Z/17 for Brisbane GOULBURN. Departure Sydney (N.S.W) 0820Z/17th U.S. destroyer ALDEN, and departure Port Phillip 1113Z/17 MANOORA escorting U.S.A. transport GENERAL JAMES PALKER (for Brisbane) and SANTA PAULA for R/V thence Noumea.  
(A.C.N.B. 0527Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Situation. Serial No.87 17/4 from C.W.R. 7 mile aerodrome at Port Moresby attacked at 0025Z/17 by 5 heavy bombers (Wellington type) escorted by 7 Zero fighters at 22000 feet. Bombs dropped one mile west of runway. No damage, some casualties. One P.40 crashed in taking off and lost. 3 P.40s damaged in combat. 3 Zero fighters shot down several damaged. Subsequent R/C at 0115Z/17 by one enemy A/C.  
(ii) First raid on Cape Nelson (New Guinea) by 2 twin-engined bombers at 0050Z/17. Result not yet reported.  
(iii) Koepang aerodrome attacked at 1045Z/17 by one Hudson. Bomb(s) on aerodrome results not observed. Unsuccessful interception by one enemy aircraft.  
(iv) (?Preliminary) report on photographic R/C over Rabaul 17/4 shows 7 large transports, 5 moored flying boats in harbour, one cruiser patrolling outside, 7 bombers several camouflaged or dummy aircraft, no fighters on Vunakanau aerodrome. A/A fire in harbour area only and very light and inaccurate.  
(v) 5 bombers 6 Zero fighters observed on Lae aerodrome during R/C 17/4 by 2 P.40s. Our A/C attacked by 2 Zero fighters. One P.40 lost. No shipping sighted.  
(vi) Enemy air R/C 17/4 over wide area S.E. New Guinea.  
(A.C.N.B. 1317Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

FIRETHORN MAORI Number 15. Ref. MAORI Number 14. FIRETHORN  
U/B. arrived Wellington 2200Z/18, reports sighting one torpedo track. Comment. (?Graded) C.3.  
(N.O. Wellington 1329/18 to Admty. etc.)

/Tower ...

Rec'd in W.P. 25/4  
Insert in Diary 18/4 580A

No. T.O.O.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.  
Date. 18.4.42.  
Rec'd. 1557.

From High Commissioner,  
(Sir H. Luko) Western Pacific.

CYBER.

Addressed. Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Reference No. 13029/42B/42.

No. 155. Secret.

Addressed S. of S.  
Reposted to Prime Minister New Zealand No. 24.

Reference your telegram No. 18.

My telegram No. 113.

Enemy activities in British Solomon Islands

Protectorate. Following report received from Resident  
Commissioner. Bogins.

No. 117 of 12th. April. Further raids on Tulagi  
since that reported in my telegram No. 95 as follows:-

- (a) 19th. March. Two bombs and cannon fire directed at  
Wollosley.
- (b) 20th. March. Eight bombs and cannon fire at  
Catalina.
- (c) 28th. March. Reconnaissance plane over but no  
bombs.
- (d) 8th. April. Single reconnaissance aircraft  
dropped three bombs at Aob and then sighted S.S. MAKO  
in Port, aimed at her but missed widely.
- (e) 9th. April. Five machines dropped considerable  
number of bombs on Aob, MAKO having left. Details not yet  
received. No serious damage or casualties inflicted in any  
of these raids although my office suffered from blast.

March 28th. WALAI, Kennedy on board, was machine-  
gunned by floatplane on the way to Treasury Island, no hits.

March 30th./.....

March 30th. Nine enemy warships passed through Bougainville Straits and two were reported to have entered Shortland Harbour. Warships have been seen in this area since Aerial reconnaissance 8th. April showed no sign of occupation but coast watchers' report received by me 11th. April indicated enemy occupation and this was confirmed to me today by R.A.A.F. This evening 12th. April it was announced in Australian broadcast that Faisi was bombed by R.A.A.F. 11th. April. Tulagi was abandoned 12th. February and there are no Europeans, Chinese or natives now in the island. Occasional visit made by Officers. Ends.

Received by hand from Colonial Office at 1211/24th.

- 1st. Lord.
- 1st. S.L.
- 4th. S.L.
- 5th. S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.O.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st. S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (3)
- D. of L.D. (2)

- E.P.S.
- Adl. Beliefs.
- J.N.A.D.
- Hd. of Air.
- Press Division.
- M. (2)
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- L.R. (3)
- W.D.

War Diary.

18.4.1942  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Tower  
Units. Your 1659/23/3. Not possible to transmit by signal sufficient details of Tower Units mentioned, which are not economical for building on sites where direct construction on bottom possible. It would appear that sites could be selected on coral reefs drying out for a few hours at low water, on which stone or concrete gun platforms could be erected by normal methods. If possible this course is recommended.  
(Head of M. 1654B/18 to N.Z.N.B.)

S.W.  
Pacific  
Command. J.S.M.No.191. Macarthur has informed War Dept. he is assuming command of S.W. Pacific Area as from 1400 hours G.M.T. Australian Govt. having notified commanders accordingly.  
(J.S.M. T.O.O. 1839Z/18 to C.O.S.)

Boom  
Defences. Your 0601/7 to Admty. and 0604/8 to B.A.D.  
1. We suggest that subject to weather conditions a better position for A/S A/B boom is 7.8 cables in direction 286° between Hinds and Dorset Points. This position gives greater security with less material than your proposal which would allow a submarine to approach within range of anchorage and fire torpedoes through A/S net. This would therefore necessitate A/T baffles in addition to A/S boom to protect anchorage from S/M attack.  
(D.B.D. 1932B/18 to N.Z.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1404B/18, 1406B/18.)



582

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH with 6 British and 2 Russian Destroyers, 4 Corvettes, and 2 Trawlers arrived at 2024B tonight at the Kola Inlet with 8 M/Vs of Convoy P.Q.14.

The thaw prevented long-range fighter A/C from taking off to assist the Convoy and the intended bombing of the aerodromes at Banak, Kirkenes, and Petsamo during its passage could not be carried out.

LIVERPOOL leaves Seidisfjord tonight for Scapa, and has ordered PUNJABI and MARNE to reinforce the escort of Convoy Q.P.10 to Reykjavik.

C. in C. H.F. requests that reserves of Oerlikon and small-arm A/A ammunition may be established at Murmansk for the use of H.M. Ships and Convoy Escorts, and proposes to send 3000 rounds of Oerlikon from the Scapa reserves in the 3 ships of 1st M/S Flotilla leaving Scapa on 21/4.

The A/S Trawlers PAYNTER and BLACKFLY are reported to have sustained action damage and are today being escorted by SPEEDWELL from Seidisfjord to Stornoway.

Enemy Air Activity.

40 enemy A/C dropped bombs in the Humber area between 2300/18 and 0030/19, but no Naval damage or casualty is reported.

At 1155 today, M.Ls. 137 and 141 were attacked off Dungeness by 4 Me. A/C which killed one rating and wounded 2 officers and 2 ratings in M.L. 141 and caused some damage to her hull; and at 1204 these same A/C bombed the St. Leonards area and attacked M.Ls. 142 and 143 without result about 10 miles East of Beachy Head.

War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

2 ground mines were exploded yesterday by Sweepers in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic.

Azores.

The Portuguese Govt. cannot give facilities for rescue tugs in the Azores.

South Atlantic.

W.S.17B.

DEVONSHIRE left Capetown last night to R/V with W.S.17B and escort to Durban.

Supply Ship  
and S/MS.

A Panair report (graded B.2 by O.I.C.) states that a supply ship and 3 submarines were in 01.35 N. 20.40 W. at 0225, PRETORIA CASTLE is ordered to leave Freetown at 0630Z/20 routed through 07.32 N. 22.10 W. and 03.40 W. 23.05 W. speed of advance 17 knots. A Sunderland A/C is also to make a search from dawn tomorrow over an area to eastward of 20° W. and between the parallels of the Equator and 04° N. GLASGOW's route to Freetown was changed.

U/B  
attacked.

At 1142, a Sunderland attacked a U-Boat off Portuguese Guinea. A large amount of rust-coloured matter and oil was thrown up.

584

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Malta.

12 raiders dropped bombs on land and sea in 4 alerts between 1840 and 0319 last night. No damage is reported; 1 soldier was wounded.

In 6 alerts up to 1353, 104 bombers with fighter escort attacked. The total for the day is given by V.A. Malta as 167 bombers in 3 heavy raids. Luqa and Hal Far aerodromes were rendered unserviceable. Kalafrana suffered severe damage. In Grand Harbour, the torpedo depot, No. 5 dock, and customs house were damaged. \*Tug ANDROMEDA was sunk, and tug ANCIENT had further damage from near misses. PAMPAS was again hit and set on fire. Gun positions, Rinella W/T and the Marsa and populated areas were also heavily attacked. 8 bombers and a fighter were destroyed, 3 probably, and 6 damaged.

\* Aux: M/S.

Air Ministry today informed Governor, Malta, that in addition to the 47 Spitfires due there in the next day or two, it is hoped to send another 32 from Gibraltar, 16 on about 3/5 and 16 about 8/5. All available long range Spitfires are also being shipped to Middle East so that further reinforcements can be flown to Malta from Western Desert, but they are not many.

Enemy  
Convoys  
for Libya.

C. in C. Med. sends a summary of operations against enemy convoy which arrived Tripoli on 15/4 by eastern route, having passed only 85 miles from Malta in daylight. He remarks that the enemy shows increasing boldness in keeping to Malta and as far as possible from our air bases in Egypt, relying on neutralization of air effort from Malta.

U/B  
damaged.

1 Sunderland on patrol attacked and damaged a U/B 45 miles N.E. of Port Said with 8 depth charges.

East Indies.

S/Ms.

Admty. today asked C. in C. E.F. on what port he intends to base the submarine depot ship.

/It ...

War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

S/Ms.  
(Contd.)

It is considered S/Ms should be able to operate away from depot ship for 2-month periods, provided shore basing facilities are available at an advanced base, and Admty. ask if Colombo or Trincomalee could be made into advanced bases, using machinery from LUCIA if essential.

America and West Indies.

Curacao,  
U/B.

A U-Boat was sighted south of Bullen Bay, Curacao at 0720 G.M.T., and later fired 7 rounds at Bullen Bay installation. No hits were made. S.B.N.O. Curacao is discontinuing the use of exposed loading berth for the present.

Collision.

S.S. GARONNE was in collision last night with S.S. MANCHESTER DIVISION. Latter was damaged below water line and after temporary repairs had been completed by 2350 G.M.T. in 50.59 N. 42.38 W. she proceeded for St. Johns. Tugs TENACITY and FRISKY sailed on 20/4 to her assistance from Newfoundland.

Australia.

6 A/C attacked enemy shipping in Rabaul at 0130 G.M.T. a direct hit and near miss being scored on 1 ship.

War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Reserves of Ammunition at Murmansk. Request reserves of Oerlikon and small arms A/A ammunition may now be established at Murmansk to meet requirements of  
(a) Ships and escorts of Q.P. convoys which have expended ammunition on outward passage or while at Murmansk.  
(b) Ships of H.F. operating from or remaining in Murmansk for long periods. e.g. 1st and 6th M/S Flotilla or TRINIDAD.  
2. As scale of air attack in these Northern waters is increasing and transport of stores from U.K. may well be delayed in many cases this requirement is of great importance.  
3. There will be opportunity of sending ammunition in three ships of first minesweeping flotilla leaving Scapa on 21/4 or shortly afterwards and it is proposed to send 3000 rounds of Oerlikon from Scapa reserves in these ships if the replenishment referred to in Admiralty 1813B/5 has by then been received.  
4. Do not propose that reserves of larger forms of ammunition be established yet but propose S.B.N.O. North Russia reports as soon as this is considered necessary, also report periodically when replenishments of pool referred to in para. 1 are required.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1741B/19).

Movements.

ESKIMO, OFFA, ESCAPADE. Scapa arrivals 0319 ESKIMO, OFFA, ESCAPADE. (A.C.O.S., 0948B/19 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).

P.511. Arrived ASIE and P.511. (Rothsday - (P. R List)) (Capt. S.7., 1002B/19).

FURIOUS. Intend sailing FURIOUS for Rosyth passing Clyde Boom 0730B/21 to R/V with CHARLESTOWN and WELLS at 0930B/21 April in position No.7 Clyde Channel buoy thence by Spithead route. E.T.A. Forth Bridge 1900B/22. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1024B/19).

BEDOUIIN. Proceed passing Switha 1300 today to Hull for refit. Except in emergency speed between 21A and 17 Buoys is not to exceed 10 knots. (R.A.D., 1031B/19 to BEDOUIIN).

UREDD. My 1411B/17 and my 1405B/18 sailed. (Capt. S.9., 1045B/19).

SPEEDY. Scapa arrival 0820 SPEEDY. (A.C.O.S., 1122B/19).

/LONDON ...

War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - contd.

LONDON. E.T.A. in LONDON 0815B/21.  
(C.S.I., 1316B/19 to A.C.O.S.)  
C.S.I. in LONDON sailed 2045B/19.  
(A.C.I.C., 2100B/19).

SPEEDWELL, Arrival Seidisfjord 1315B/19. SPEEDWELL,  
BLACKFLY, BLACKFLY and PAYNTER.  
PAYNTER. (A.C.I.C., 1405B/19 to ORIBI). *See p. 590*

WILTON. Sheerness for London. Arrival WILTON at 1417.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1436B/19).

LIVERPOOL. Intend leaving Seidisfjord at 2000B/19 routed  
position. 1. 066° 03' N., 012° 10' W.  
2. 62° 30' N., 05° 20' W. 3. 59° 11' N.,  
04° 05' W. to Scapa. E.T.A. 0600B/21.  
(LIVERPOOL, 1446B/19 to A.C.O.S.)

ECLIPSE. Scapa arrival ECLIPSE.  
(A.C.O.S., 1520B/19).

ADVENTURE. R.A.(M)'s 1242/11. Intend sailing ADVENTURE from  
Needles 1900/20th for Clyde. Route. E.T.A. 0700/22.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1553B/19).

UPHOLDER. Report position. CLYDE entered harbour 2155 and  
CLYDE etc.: M.L. and drifter on patrol line 070° from St.Elmo.  
(Capt. S.10, 2137B/19 to UPHOLDER).  
*Should be under No 9: p. 599*

Operations.

Patrols. Proceed at 0400 to take up QE 10.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0037B/19 to M.L's 335, 325).  
3 Chasseurs on patrol to Beachy Head returning  
St. Helens by daylight.  
2 M.L's patrolling 10 miles South of Portland Bill.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1537B/19).  
BERWICK on Patrol "White."  
(A.C.I.C., 1735B/19).  
Patrol to-night. (1) 2 M.L's Patrol N. (2) 2 M.G.B's Q.E. 9  
shifting 4 miles 090°. (3) 3 M.G.B's each Q.P. 24, Q.P. 25, Q.P. 28.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1752B/19).

Operation "Abercrombie" will be carried out tonight.  
"Abercrombie" (V.A. Dover, 1521B/19 to A.O.C. 11 Group).

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

Patrol. Slip One being flown by A.O.C. 15 Group Sunderland 0900 to 1600 today.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0755B/19 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 0755/19. Patrol being continued till 0445/20.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2005B/19).

Bombing Restrictions. Request bombing restrictions may be imposed from 19th to 23rd April inclusive for all small fishing vessel types on the route between Scilly Isles and Lorient and in particular the Concarneau Bay area.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1618B/19 to Air Ministry).

Admiralty's 1618/19. Institute surface vessel bombing restrictions in respect of fishing type vessels only forthwith until 2359/23 in area bounded on the North by 50° North, on the West by 07° W., on the South by 47° 30' N., on the East by coast of France and a line joining Isle De Bas and the Lizard.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1936/19).

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber Area bombed. Between 2300/18 and 0030/19 40 enemy A/C plotted approaching Spurn and operating over Humber area. Object appeared to be indiscriminate bombing. Reports of bombs from several places.

Minelaying suspected in outer channels between H 3 and Sheringham buoy. One or two mines possible in river but not yet confirmed.

A/C flying at heights between 6000 and 12000 ft. Weather fine. Heavy A.A. fire from Humber guns.

(F.O. Humber, 0050B/19).

My 0050B/19. No known Naval casualties or damage. Mining in River not confirmed.

(F.O. Humber, 1135B/19).

M.L.141 damaged. At 1155 today, while lying off Dungeness on Air Sea Rescue Patrol, M.L.'s 137 and 141 were attacked by 4 M.E.'s with bombs and M.G. fire. 2 near misses on M.L.141 caused only superficial hull damage and port engine hit by machine guns.

M.L.'s 137, 142, 143 attacked. Casualties in M.L.141 were one Rating killed and two Officers and two Ratings wounded. No damage

or casualties to M.L.137. These aircraft also dropped bombs in St. Leonards area and at 1204 attacked M.L.'s 142 and 143 10 miles East of Beachy Head while proceeding on patrol. No damage or casualties reported. M.L.142 claims hits on aircraft.

(V.A. Dover, 1914B/19).

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- S.N.3.A. Concur in R.A.M's 1024/12.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1014B/19).
- Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 1001/18. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1015B/19).  
One ground mine detonated at 1212/18 by Sweepers. Details.  
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1030B/19).
- S.N.72. R.A.(M)'s 1014B/12 and A.C.I.C's 2017/17.  
Consider May is too early for S.N.72. Operation should be carried out in June as soon as ice conditions permit.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1118B/19 to Admt.)  
Your 1014/12. 1. Proposed position is concurred in  
2. A further signal will be made regarding supply of mines.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1250B/19 to R.A.M.)

Navigational.

- Harwich. 54 C Buoy light reported extinguished.  
(Hydrog. 2036B/19).
- Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/18 to 0900/19.  
Track E 21 D. 2 small vessels from Gris Nez at 1926 entered Calais at 2125 speed 9 knots.  
Track E 1 D. 1 Vessel Trawler size operating between Boulogne and Etaples from 2145 to 0035 speed 8 knots.  
Track E 5 D. 2 or 3 small vessels from 2 miles North of Boulogne at 2205 faded 2 miles N.W. of Dunkirk at 0325 speed 7 knots.  
Track E 6 D. 2 Trawler size vessels from Gris Nez at 0030 Eastbound at 12 knots joined E 5 D at 0240.  
Track E 9 D. 3 small Vessels from 2 miles north of Boulogne at 0140 Eastbound at 12 knots entered Calais at 0315.  
Track E 11 D. 2 Trawler size vessels from 2 miles N.W. of Calais at 0338 Westbound at 6 knots entered Boulogne at 0620.  
Movements were presumably of Minesweepers or patrol craft.  
(V.A. Dover, 0937B/19).

U-Boats.

- U-Boat Reported. By D/F at 0827Z/19 U-Boat probably Northbound, was within 40 miles N.N.E. or S.S.W. of 63° 30' N., 4° 30' E. Unreliable fix.  
(D.D.I.C., 1141B/19).



War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

TRINIDAD  
(Torpedoed  
29/3).

Your 1616/17. Repairs will be strong enough but oil fuel tank available will only carry about 1100 tons useful fuel. Ships can steam on one unit and at 18 knots estimated expenditure 6.6 tons per hour give endurance 2988 miles. Expect to have following in working order. Details. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0011B/19).

EMPIRE LETHE  
(British, 369  
tons).

EMPIRE LETHE Garston to Newport aground Soldiers Point Holyhead. Expected float high water without assistance. (N.C.S.O. Holyhead, 0921B/19).

CHAMELEON.

<sup>H.T. & W.D.</sup>  
My 2116/18. CHAMELEON arrived. Leaking stern gland. Vessel being taken in hand. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1102B/19).

PAYNTER,  
BLACKFLY.

Have instructed SPEEDWELL to escort PAYNTER, BLACKFLY from Seidisfjord to Stornoway. Both trawlers have suffered action damage and I do not consider them fit to proceed unaccompanied. (Iceland, 1555B/19). See 10.587

P.Q.14.  
→ EMPIRE HOWARD  
(British,  
6985 tons).  
sunk.

EMPIRE HOWARD torpedoed and sunk. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2024B/19).

Shipping & Convoys.

HEBE.

<sup>H.T. & W.D.</sup>  
My 1439B/18. HEBE and merchant ship returned Akureyri. (A.C.I.C., 0124B/19).

Q.P.10.

PUNJABI and MARNE are to re-inforce Escort to Q.P.10 to Reykjavik. (LIVERPOOL, 1446B/19).

P.Q.14.  
EMPIRE HOWARD  
(Torpedoed  
and sunk  
16/4).

Kola Inlet arrivals.  
C.S.18 in EDINBURGH, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, AMAZON, BEVERLEY, CAMPANULA, OXLIP, SAXIFRAGE, SNOWFLAKE, \*NORTHERN WAVE, \*LORD MIDDLETON, Soviet GREMYASHCHI, SOKRUSHEN, TELNI, S.S. COMPETITOR, CHEWALD, TREHATA, DANY-BRYN, BRIARWOOD, HOPEMOUNT, LEUEL TEMPLAR, ? YAKNEST.

? BRETWALDA

? ATHELTEMPLAR

EMPIRE HOWARD torpedoed and sunk. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2024B/19).

/Your ...

War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.14.  
EMPIRE HOWARD  
(Torpedoed  
and sunk  
16/4).  
(contd.)

Your 2045/1, para. (f). Two Soviet destroyers met convoy in accordance with instructions. Long range fighters could not operate as conditions in North Sea thaw prevented them taking off. It was intended to send P E (73) fighters to bomb Banak and military aircraft to bomb Kirkenes and Petsama aerodromes during passage of convoy. Close R/C

plan failed owing to conditions on 16 and 17/4. In any case unless these attacks are carried out frequently by bombers results are unlikely to hamper enemy bombers. Local air R/C by seaplanes was made but it is not yet sufficiently frequent. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2142B/19).

P.Q.14. S.S. EMPIRE HOWARD was hit by 2 torpedoes and sunk in 073° 48' N. 021° 32' E. at 1450B/16.

(2) Regret to report Commodore Reese R.N.R. is missing believed drowned. Following 31 survivors have arrived Polyarnoe on ship

\* DOWNIE. Names.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2313B/19).

\* Downie was <sup>name of</sup> Master of EMPIRE HOWARD.

31 survivors were brought in by 2 H.M.

<sup>A.B.V.</sup> Trawlers, LORD MIDDLETON & <sup>Escort trawler</sup> NORTHERN WAVE

Received from T. Division  
by (Capt S.H. Matthews)  
14.8.52.

592

War Diary.19.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- A/C. 1 A/C unknown 090° 2 miles. Course unknown position 330° Espichel 37. (SCOTTISH 1129A/19 to Gib. W/T.) My 1129A/19 A/C not identified, possibly Portuguese. (SCOTTISH 1150A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- Rescue Tug Azores. My 1037A/18/3. Embassy has been informed verbally that Portuguese Govt. cannot give facilities for rescue tugs in Azores. Further report will be made when official note is received. (N.A. Lisbon 120?/19 to Admty.)
- Movements. Departure ALOUETTE for Y.I. (F.O.C.N.A. 1417A/19 to Admty.) Arrival GERANIUM, COLTSFOOT escorting tanker THORSHOLM. (F.O.C.N.A. 1434A/19 to Admty.)
- Italian Repatriations. ARCOLA, TAIGETE arrived from Cadiz. (V.A.C.N.A. 1545A/19 to Admty., B.N.A. Madrid, B.C. Cadiz.) Italian tankers ARCOLA, TAIGETE leaving Gibraltar 0600/20 for Curacao are not to be molested. Routed 035° 55' N. 006° 00' W. 034° 00' N. 016° 30' W. thence 026° 00' N. 040° 00' W. Ships painted black with white band around exterior. Italian flag on sides flanked by 2 white discs, illuminated at night. (F.O.C.N.A. 2331A/19 to S. & A. N.A. Stn.) *See next page*
- WASP Force W. A.M. 1914/17. For WASP, from Gibraltar through position (A) 270° Cape Spartel 40. (B) 039° 00' N. 018° 45' W. (C) 40.30 18.45. R/V SALISBURY and GEORGETOWN at 0700A/23 in position (C). (F.O.C.N.A. 1612A/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Atlantic, C. in C. H.F. S.O. Force W. etc.
- WESTCOTT, WISHART, WRESTLER, ANTELOPE arrived 1110 and refuelled. WESTCOTT, ANTELOPE sailed 1415, WISHART, WRESTLER sailed 1514 to rejoin S.O. Force W. 2. Ships have been instructed not to exceed 22 knots to R/V to enable them to remain in company on passage westward while INGLEFIELD, ECHO, U.S.S.'s LANG, MADISON, are refuelling. (F.O.C.N.A. 1654A/19 to S.O. Force W. (R) Admty. WISHART, WRESTLER.)
- French Shipping. Gibraltar 0925 French (<sup>A.P.V.</sup>armed trawler) LA TOULONNAISE, French ships MEDIE II, MARECHAL LYAUTEY, both laden, latter carrying civilian passengers, westbound. (S.O.I. Gib. 1821A/19 to Admty., C. in C. Med. etc.)

/U/B ...

War Diary.19.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

- U/B. What appears to be S/M cruising in approx. 038° 35' N. 009° 25' W. seen coast 1530/19, graded D/O.  
(N.A. Lisbon 1930/19 to S.O.I. Gib.(R) Admty.)
- CLYDE. Onward route through P 037° 59' N. 003° 01' E. at 2100B/22. Q 036° 31' N. 002° 00' W. at 0300B/24 thence on surface arriving Gibraltar at 1600B/24. Report if unable to comply within 2 hours. Shift normal W/T Watch to Gibraltar broadcast at 2100B/23.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2106B/19 to CLYDE (R) P.612, SOKOL, C. in C. Med. etc.)
- UNBEATEN E.T.A 036° 27' 004° 27' at 0900B/21. Ref. 1033B/19 from V.A. Malta reporting 3 U-Boats and your (1908(?))B/12, propose diving at 0001B/22 in 036° 14' 005° 00' surfacing 180° Europa Point 1 mile at 0930B/22. Request approval own arrangements.  
(UNBEATEN 2111B/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Your 2110B/19 not approved from operational reasons. Proceed on surface from 036° 27' N. 004° 27' W. direct to arrive Gibraltar 1600B/21st.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2340B/19 to UNBEATEN.)
- ANTELOPE My 1920A (Proceeding to assist Swordfish off crashed A/C. coast of Alboran, N.T. in W.D.) Aircraft unable to take off and has been destroyed, have embarked crew. Usual notice to join (two missing groups) at 0900A/20. My P.C. and S. are 035° 55' N. 003° 02' W. R.30.  
(ANTELOPE 2220A/19 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) WESTCOTT, S.O. Force W.)

South Atlantic.

- Italian Received 2230 G.M.T. VULCANIA 1 17 18/4 1200 Repatriations. G.M.T. pass to Admty. London. Noon position 18/4 16.06 S. 18.19 W. course 134° speed 18.5 knots.  
(? No T.O.O. recd 0131/19)
- Received 0211 G.M.T. De VULCANIA 1 14. Pass to Admty. Noon position of VULCANIA and SATURNIA 19/4 21.05 S. 4.44 W. course 134° speed 18.5.  
(Portishead Radio 1300/19 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
Following has been read addressed VULCANIA from GIULIO CESARE P.C. and S. at noon 18/4 5° 39' N. 21° 33' W, 163°, 16 knots.  
(Gib. W/T No T.O.O.19 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

*See previous page*

/Received ...

War Diary.19.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Italian  
Repatriations  
contd.

Received 2252 G.M.T. De GIULIO CESARE P.C. and  
S. at noon A.T.S. 19/4 0° 36' S. 19° 41' W.  
164° 16.5 knots.  
(Portishead Radio 1400/19 to Admty. Adm.  
Liverpool.)  
Your 1447B/18 acknowledged. Have now reduced  
to 15 knots.  
(S.B.N.O. GIULIO CESARE 2224Z/19 to C. in C.  
S.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.I. F.O.C.N.A.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Capetown departure. DEVONSHIRE to R/V with  
W.S.17 B and escort to Durban.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0040Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Movements.

Capetown departure FREESIA.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0500Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
Capetown arrival CILICIA.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0759Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
My 1258/18, EXPRESS sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0837Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
Capetown Departure CROMARTY for Durban.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0846Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
Capetown departure ROMNEY for Durban.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0929Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
Sailed M.L. 1088 (ST/O) and M.L. 1099 for Mombasa calling at  
Lindi for water. S. of A. 9 knots, E.T.A. Lindi 25/4. E.T.A.  
Mombasa 28/4. Routed as in my 1400/19/5 1941. R.O. Lindi  
informed by separate signal.  
(Cdre. Durban 1426Z/19 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. etc.)  
Capetown arrival GLENGYLE.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 1549Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrivals 18/4 SNOWDROP. Departures 19/4 ~~WILD SWAN~~  
ROCKROSE (? PICT) (? TURCOMAN) escorting S.T.20.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 1750Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival 19/4 PETUNIA.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 2135Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
My 1531Z/19 add arrival 1900 VIOLET.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 2145Z/19 to Admty.)

Saldanha  
Bay.

Your 1828/16/3 (Union Authorities and development  
of Saldanha Bay) Union are willing to undertake  
developments subject to confirmation that it is  
proposed to use the port when finished. They  
are not willing to undertake all expense merely  
on undertaking that it might be useful at future  
date. Consider this confirmation, which does  
not amount to a guarantee, should be given  
formally through High Comm.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1435/16 to Admty. Recd.0655/19)

War Diary.19.4.1942  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- LA CORDILLERA U/B. Your 1835/18. Are you damaged?  
(R.A.W.A.F. 0935/19 to LA CORDILLERA.)
- SWIFT LIGHT. Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1045/17, SWIFT LIGHT arrived Capetown.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0950B/19?, to Admty. etc.)
- C.T.F.23, W/T arrangements. Your 1115/16 Approved Para 2. Experience may show that Wireless watch should be changed at 0800 and 2000. Para.3. In order to save H.M. ships sets additional receiving watches it would be preferable for all inter-communication periods to be outside time of Falkland Is. broadcasts if this is convenient to C.T.F.23. Para.5. (?Normal) times will probably need revision, 2300 Broadcast being more reliable than that at 0530.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1025B/19 to S.O.I. Montevideo, Admty. etc.)
- BOREAS. Proceed to Bathurst and await further orders. You will probably be required to sail p.m./24.  
(R.A.W.A. 1025Z/19 to BOREAS.)  
E.T.A. Bathurst 1700/20\* to N.O.I.C. Bathurst  
(R) R.A. West Africa, C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)  
\* (BOREAS 1154/19)
- FRITILLARY. Ready for sea a.m./22 on completion of boiler cleaning and essential defects. Intend to sail her for Colombo via Mauritius.  
(C. in C. Durban 1106Z/19 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F. FRITILLARY.)
- Supply Ship S/Ms. Panair reports supply ship, and 3 submarines in 001° 35' N. 025° 40' W. at 0225/19.  
(R.A.W. Africa 1225Z/19 to ALCANTARA, (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty. B.A.D.)  
Comment by O.I.C. This report is graded B.2. My 1125Z/19 (1225/19 intended?) Correct position to read 001° 35' N. 020° 40' W.  
(R.A.W.A.F. 1247Z/19 to ALCANTARA (R) C. in C.S.A., Admty., B.A.D. ALBATROSS, GLASGOW.)  
My 1125/19 (?1225 intended) and my 1247/19. Cancel my 1057/19 (not to all addressees) Proceed through following positions  
D. 005° 05' S. 015° 10' W. E. 002° 04' S. 019° 03' W.  
F. 005° 05' N. 018° 06' W. thence Freetown.  
(R.A.W.Af. 1359Z/19 to GLASGOW (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.)  
My 1225Z/19 and 1247Z/19 PRETORIA CASTLE leaves Freetown 0630Z/20 April routed A 007° 32' N. 022° 10' W. B 003° 40' N. 023° 05' W. speed of advance 17 knots. Sunderland A/C will carry out search commencing at dawn 20/4 over area to eastward of 020° W. and between the parallels of the Equator and 004° N.  
(R.A.W. Africa 1940Z/19 to ALCANTARA, (R) PRETORIA CASTLE, GLASGOW, C. in C. S.A. B.A.D. Admty.)

War Diary.

19.4.1942  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Dakar. Your 1850Z/18 (Free French report F.B/S RICHELIEU being camouflaged) Aerial R/C of Dakar is not considered necessary at present.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 1421Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst Gambia, (R) F.O.I.C. West Africa, F.O.C.N.A.)

Independent Ships, Sailing. N.C.S.Os are to repeat "Intend to sail" signals for independently routed ships to Authorities through whose areas ships will pass. Any subsequent alteration to time of sailing is to be given by short signal.

2. In the case of ships bound for South Atlantic N.C.S.Os are to include in Route signals an estimated "Chop" date which is to be Noon G.M.T. on the day on which the ship is estimated to be approx. 1 day's run short of 20° N.

3. Schedules of coloured routes are being sent to F.O.C.N.A. and C. in C. A.W.I by first available means. My 0010A/1, 1840B/11, 1841B/11 and 2352B/18 none to all addressees, are cancelled.  
(D.T.D. 1825B/19 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A. R.A.W.A.F.C. in C. A.W.I. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

M.M.S. Your 2037Z/7. The 6 M.M.S. complete in Canada from April to August. Anticipated first vessel will leave Canada at end of May 1942.  
(Head of M. 1849B/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

U/B attacked. At 1142/19 Sunderland attacked U/B off Portuguese Guinea. Large amount of rust coloured matter and oil was thrown up.  
(D.O.R. 21/4.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Unit UPHOLDER. An R.D/F position obtained 250° Dingli 15 miles at 0157B.  
(V.A. Malta 0215B/19 to UPHOLDER.)  
CLYDE reported a group probably contact by M D U 163° 30' Delimara 4½ miles.  
(V.A. Malta 0257B/19 to UPHOLDER.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.19.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- Movements. Arrival 18th, 1500, ROMEO.  
(S.O.I. Beirut 0817C/19 to Admty.)  
18/4 Port Said. Arrival LANDFALL, departure  
1136C THORN.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1144C/19 to Admty.  
C. in C. Med.)
- Arrival 18/4 SOUTHERN SEA. M.T.B. 266, 268, 259, 264.  
Departure 18/4 PROTEUS, PORPOISE, SOUTHERN MAID, M.L.1012.  
Arrival 19/4 THORN. Departure 19/4 ERIDGE, BEAUFORT, SOUTHERN  
SEA, PRIMULA, SNAPDRAGON.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1810C/19 to Admty. etc.)
- U/Bs. Delivery aircraft sighted 3 S/Ms patrolling  
West as follows. (i) At 1315 037° 15' N.  
004° 36' E.  
(ii) At 1711 036° 46' N. 001° 17' E.  
(iii) At 1755 037° 09' N. (003°) 24' E. All times G.M.T.  
(V.A. Malta 0921B/19 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) S.O. Force W. Admty.  
C. in C. Med.) (V.A. Malta 1033B/19 to S/Ms on Patrol)
- CLYDE. CLYDE should pass 038° 20' 009° 00' about  
0330B/21 for onward routing by you.  
(V.A. Malta 0933B/19 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) P.612,  
SOKOL, C. in C. Med. etc.)
- P.611. Pass through 034° 59' 020° 01' about 0300/20  
and thence through 032° 33' 026° 58' to arrive  
Alexandria searched Channel 0530C/25. German  
and Italian submarines are known to be operating in considerable  
numbers within 60 miles of North African coast. Your S. of A.  
is assumed to be 100 miles in 24 hours diving by day. In  
order that bombing restrictions may be arranged it is important  
that you should conform approximately to this figure. Report  
in plenty of time if you cannot comply with E.T.A. within 3  
hours.  
(Capt. S.1 1141C/19 to P.611 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
- GIUSEPPE  
BIGLIERE. Your 1450/16. Report on possibility of  
putting BIGLIERE into service as LL or O  
Sweeper.  
(C. in C. Med. 1215C/19 to N.O.I.C. Massawa,  
(R) F.O.C.R.S., Admty.)
- Malta. Military Situation Report, week ending 13/4.  
(Govr. Malta 1509/19 to C. in C. M.E. (R)  
W.O.) See Lion Copy.
- R/C for Force W. Visual R/C. Messina at 1145B, 1 battleship, 2  
cruisers. Palermo at 1230B. 4 large merchant  
ships. (ii) Photographs later.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1725B/19 to S.O. Force W. (R)  
F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med. Admty.)

/Malta ...



# MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1509/19th April.

MOST SECRET

IN

From Govr. &amp; C. in C. Malta.

Date 19.4.42.  
Recd. 2230.

CYPHER.

Addressed C. in C. Middle East. Repeated War Office.

045404 G/658 cipher 18/4. Most Secret.

Military situation report for week ending 18/4  
General. Enemy raids increased beginning of week  
Deliberate attacks in two raids on Valetta extensive  
damage including Floriana Marsa. Among buildings hit  
Palace Castillo Opera House Museum Market. Raids  
latter part of week confined to two a day distributed  
attacks on Grand Harbour and aerodromes.

Military installations affected R.E. workshops  
and stores considerable damage. R.A.O.C. depot  
Marina Pinto stores damaged including 200 bicycles.  
Sergeants mess two billets and three stores in  
dispersal areas destroyed. R.A.S.C. many vehicles  
destroyed and damaged. St. Francis Bks. received  
two direct hits. Fuel and light stores partly  
demolished. Flour store Musta demolished. Army  
bomb disposal sec. disposed of 19 and half tons of  
bombs for week.

R.A. deliberate attacks on A.A. posns. those  
principally affected Benghaisa Delimara Nicola  
Saline Marsa Hagiar Kim Tal Krok others also  
affected by machine gun attacks. Tal Krok direct  
hit gun damage to height finder and predictor.  
Tal Handrak offrs. mess and telephone exchange  
destroyed. Jelimara damage to G.L. equipment.  
Considerable damage to billets and stores on many  
A.A. posns. Claims by H.A.A. 6 Me. 109s. 6 Ju 87s. 16 Ju 88s  
destroyed. 2 Me. 109s 10 Ju 88s damaged 1 Me. 109  
4 Ju 88s probably destroyed. L.A.A. 1 Ju. 87  
4 Ju 88s destroyed 1 Me 109 damaged.

Infantry. Central Inf. Bde. H.Q. partly  
demolished. The following were destroyed -  
Central Inf. Bde. Offrs. mess, Manchesters post,  
R.W.K. post and signal stores, Cheshires five  
different P.I. billets, Dorset offrs. mess,  
K.O.M.R. two billets. Other billets and stores  
fair damage.

War effort. Devon Dorset D.F. R.W.K. D.L.I.  
working parties on salvage and rendering aerodromes  
serviceable. Parties of Cheshire Dorset Devon assisted  
civil govt. in removal of debris from streets and  
buildings considerable activity by enemy low flying  
fighters has been met by increase A.A. L.M.G.S.  
Unable to confirm extent damage but definite claim  
as follows - Devon 1 Me 109 and 1 Ju 88

/destroyed .....

destroyed 1 Ju 88 damaged. Hamps. 1 Ju 88 destroyed  
 hits also on 7 Me. 1098. 6 Ju 88s. Dorset 1 Ju 88  
 destroyed. 3 O.H.R. destroyed 1 Ju 88 damaged 2 Ju 88s  
 Casualties - 31 killed. 63 wounded.

1509/19.

Received from War Office 0643/21/4.

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 Vice Controller  
 4th S.L.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(F)  
 A.C.N.S.(W)  
 Parl. Sec.  
 Fin. Sec.  
 Civil Lord.  
 Nav. Sec.  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.O.D.(F)(2)  
 D.D.I.C.(2)  
 D. of P.(2)  
 D.N.A.D.  
 D.C.(2)  
 D.G.D.  
 D. of L.D.  
 D.P.D.  
 D.N.I.(4)  
 Hd. of M.  
 E.P.S.  
 I.P.(2)  
 W.D.

War Office circulation:

S. of S.  
 C.I.G.S.  
 V.C.I.G.S.  
 A.C.I.G.S.  
 D.M.O. & P.  
 D.P.(2)  
 D.D.M.O.(0)  
 M.O. 1.5.  
 D.M.I.  
 D.D.M.I.(1)  
 H.I. 3.14.  
 D.S.D.  
 S.D. 2.4.  
 D.A.A. & C.D.  
 D.D. of R.  
 A.A. 1.4.  
 D. of O.  
 A.G.I.  
 D.D. of O(L)  
 Q.M.G.  
 D.Q.M.G.  
 Q.(Ops)  
 D.D. Sigs.  
 Sigs. l.  
 D.D.I.P.  
 I.P.I.  
 D.G.A.E.  
 Q.(O.S.) 3.  
 E. in C.  
 E.(Ops)  
 D.F.W.  
 D.D.F.W.(A)  
 F.V. 5.  
 D.M.T.  
 H.T.I.  
 Col. Rolleston (Colonial Office).  
 C.N.S. Admiralty  
 Hd. of W.R.  
 C.A.S. Air Ministry  
 A.M.C.S. Air Ministry  
 Lt. Col. Jacob.  
 Foreign Secretary.  
 D.D.A.A. & C.D.(A).

War Diary.19.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta I. 231 19/4. C.S.R. Part 1. 18th 2 alerts, 1452, 1617 hours. Me.109s 63 JU.88s 18 JU.87 (corrupt group) 1 Wellington 2 Hurricanes all unserviceable burnt out, small bomb dump destroyed, enormous craters dispersals and main runway. Kalafrana, airmen's mess and barracks destroyed, Sunderland and other hangars, dental centre, works and buildings stores, spare Spitfire wings, serious damage. Grand Harbour, Naval Abbatoir destroyed, coal depot hit. Elsewhere, 3 civilians wounded. A/A probably destroyed 2 JU.88 damaged 1 JU.88, 1 JU.87.

Night 18/19th. 4 alerts 1840, 2247, 0224, 0319 hrs. 12 raiders bombs land sea, 1 soldier wounded. Beaufighter up, no interceptions. A/A fired. 19th 6 alerts 0415, 0537, 0613, 0920, 1125, 1353 hrs. Me109s, 73 JU.88s, 31 JU.87s. Luqa Barracks, 1 roller destroyed, 2 rollers M/T damaged, aerodrome unserviceable, more enormous craters runway, U.X.Bs, Army and airmen still hard at work. Hal Far, 1 Albacore, 1 Swordfish, slight damage, craters, aerodrome unserviceable, U.X.Bs. Grand Harbour, torpedo depot, No.5 dock, customs house damaged. Elsewhere, 17 civilians killed, 17 soldiers 49 civilians wounded, 12 civilians buried, many houses destroyed. 1 G.L.sight 2 guns damaged. A/A destroyed 3 JU.88 probably destroyed 1 Me.109, damaged 3 JU.88s.  
(HQ. R.A.F. Med. 1820/19.)

Operations against Enemy Convoy 14/4. Following is summary of operations against enemy convoy which arrived Tripoli 15/4 by Eastern route having passed only 85 miles from Malta in daylight.

2. First intimation of convoy movement received a.m./12, by which time it was also known a smaller convoy was being run simultaneously from Brindisi to Benghazi.

3. Submarine dispositions. P.34 patrolling between Cape Spartivento and Santa Maria Di Leuca and TORBAY in Cephalona area, were ordered to positions S.E. of Gulf of Taranto to intercept in daylight p.m./13 and thence into Gulf of Taranto; if nothing sighted to intercept possible covering force on return. P.34 damaged by mine near Santa Maria Di Leuca 1024/12 and returned to Malta. P.31 was already patrolling Messina South. URGE, UPHOLDER, on West Tripoli route and THRASHER in Gulf of Sirte were concentrated North of Khoms. 0030/14 A.S.V. Wellington from Malta allocated 2 M/Vs. 1 escort 2 destroyers 260° Spartivento 25', course 120°, 16 knots, and at 0133/14 2 M/Vs. 1 destroyer 066° Spartivento 70' course 219° 14 knots. A.S.V. Wellington from Egypt failed to locate Benghazi convoy.

5. Air R/C A.M./14 consisted of 2 Marylands to locate and shadow Tripoli convoy, followed by 1 A.S.V. Beaufort to locate and shadow Benghazi convoy or shadow it if located by Marylands. No R/C aircraft serviceable in Malta.

6. Striking forces of 8 Beauforts for Tripoli convoy, available Blenheims and 1 Fortress for Benghazi convoy. Nothing from Malta.

War Diary.

19.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operations against Enemy Convoy 14/4 contd.

7. 1000/14 Maryland sighted 4 M/Vs. 5 destroyers and 2 M/Vs, 1 cruiser, 5 destroyers in two groups 066° Malta 115° course 200° 14 knots and shadowed excellently until 1310. Unfortunately this aircraft was shot down approaching Malta.

8. 1555/14 8 Beauforts escorted by 4 Beaufighters from Egypt attacked group of 4 M/Vs, 5 destroyers, 126° Malta 85'. 2 hits seen on 1 M/V, 1 hit on another M/V, 1 hit on destroyer. Escort M.E.110s shot down 2 Beauforts. Beaufighters destroyed 2 MellOs. 4 more Beauforts shot down by enemy fighters while approaching Malta.

9. 2235/14 A.S.V. Wellington from Malta again located convoy 1 M/V, 4 destroyers, 163° Malta 120'. In spite of constant air attack Malta managed to send strike of 1 A.S.V. Swordfish, 2 Albacores, which unfortunately failed to find.

10. As far as known at present no submarines made contact.

11. Cruiser probably returned to Messina by dawn 15th. 4 ships arrived Tripoli on 15th possible 2 ships 1 destroyer may have been sunk.

12. Enemy shows increasing boldness in keeping to Malta and as far as possible from our air bases in Egypt, relying on neutralization of air effort from Malta. Lack of adequate air striking force again allowed enemy to run important convoy almost unmolested save by one gallant attack which owing to need for landing at Malta resulted in crippling of 39 Sqdn. for some time to come.  
(C. in C. Med. 1931C/19 to Admty.)

**UPHOLDER.** Capt. S.10. 1137B/19. See p. 587.  
**CLYDE (R).**

Malta Spitfires. A.X.379 19/4. For Governor. (R) A.O.C.in C. From C.A.S. In addition to the 47 Spitfires due at Malta in the next day or two it is hoped to send in from Gibraltar a further 32 Spitfires, 16 on about 3/5, and remainder about 8/5. We are also shipping all available long range Spitfires to Middle East so that further reinforcements can be flown to you from Western Desert, but they are not many.  
(Air Min. 2150 G.M.T/19 to Govr. Malta.)

Malta, Thursday and Friday (16/4, 17/4) no raids owing to low visibility. Saturday (18/4) 5 heavy raids Damage. totalling 209 bombers; of these 1 destroyed, 2 probably, and several damaged. Sunday (19/4) 3 heavy raids totalling 167 bombers; 7 bombers and a fighter destroyed with 3 probably and 6 damaged.

2. Raids were mainly on aerodrome, Grand Harbour and Kalafrana, which last suffered severe damage. Gun positions, Rinella W/T, the Marsa and populated areas also were heavily attacked.

3. Tug ANDROMEDA sunk Tug ANCIENT further damaged from near misses and further damage in the Dockyard. PAMPAS hit again and oil fuel on top flooded, holds burnt.  
(V.A. Malta 2350B/19 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Fleet Bases. Your 1416/16 para. 5. Beyt together with Karachi may (? prove) adequate alternative to Elphinstone inlet as operational base in north Arabian Sea.

(2) At my request F.O.C.R.I.N. is actively hastening investigations on Beyt.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0533Z/19, 1520Z/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N., S.N.O.P.G.)

Movements. Summary Number 31 dated 19/4. (1) Amend number 5 in summary No. 30 date due 21st April. (Correction made in W.D.)

Serial No.	Ship	Departure	Destination
→ 1	DECOY	Colombo 17th	Bombay 19th
2	ALAUNIA	Bombay 18th	Colombo 21st
3	RANCHI	Mauritius 18th	Seychelles 21st
4	GENERAL BIRDWOOD	Durban 11th	Mombasa 21st
5	Trawler ROSALIND	Mombasa	Aden 25th
6	Trawler PARKTOWN	Mombasa 15th	Aden 24th
7	Gr. Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS	Karachi	Aden 22nd
8	Dutch Cruiser SUMATRA	Colombo 18th	Bombay 20th.

(C. in C. E.I., 0601Z/19 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

SATURNIA, VULCANIA mails. Your 1141B/17. This can be done if considered essential but in view of resultant probability of disclosure of information concerning our new East Africa base consider undesirable that these ships should call at Tanga.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0631Z/19 to Admty.)

W.S. 17. My 1231/13. If it is (? intended) to use 2 of these ships in W.S.17 request if possible they may be sailed so as to arrive Bombay 2 or 3 days ahead of remainder of convoy so as to avoid congestion at port and handling so many ships at same time.  
(P.S.T.O. Bombay, 0651Z/19 to C. in C. E.I., D.S.T.)

Movements. Mombasa arrived 19/4 0700 G.M.T. GUARDIAN.  
(N.O.I.C. E. Africa, 0729Z/19 to C. in C. E.I., (R) Admty., etc.)

→ Arrival DECOY 1014Z/19.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1601/19 to Admty., etc.)  
Colombo arrival 0220Z/19 SUTLEJ.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1601Z/19 to Admty.)

/Aircraft ...

MOST SECRET

600A.

1058Z/19th April

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From V.A.3.

Date 20.4.42.

Recd. 0203

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T

Addressed Deputy C. in C. E.F., Repeated C. in C. E.F.,  
Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

59.

Your 0147/19th not to Admiralty.

(A) Aerodromes and landing grounds

(1) Port Reitz. Developed. South Africa Air Force. Could temporarily accommodate five Fleet Air Arm aircraft. Slipway and cranes for flying boats also nearby.

(2) Kilifi. Suitable for fighters. A few buildings. As on coast army consider cannot defend and wish given up. Have asked action be deferred for present.

(3) Malindi. Good landing ground but dis-used. Also on coast.

(4) Samburu. 30 miles inland from Mombasa. Being surveyed now.

(5) Mackinnon Roads. 45 miles inland from Mombasa. Extension of runways to 1500 yards should be completed by end of April. No hangars or buildings. Has a disembarked Fleet Air Arm Squadron and some I R aircraft.

(6) Eastleigh near Nairobi. R.A.F. Repair Depot. Proposed F.A.A. Depot should be sited near.

(7) Tanga. Civil landing ground. Runways only 1000 yards.

(8) Dar Es Salaam. Good landing grounds.

(9) Nakuru near Nairobi.

(B) Aircraft. Present state.

(1) Port Reitz. 2 Anson plus two temporarily unserviceable. Two Hartebeestes, Two Nakuru. Operational training unit for Middle East of 50 to 70 Blenheims. At my request A.O.C. has asked M.E. if one squadron can do some G R training with Fleet. Doubtful if M.E. will consent.

(C). A.O.C. has asked M.E. for (corrupt group) (?) fighters for (?Mombasa) area but heavy pressure will be required to obtain. (B) asked S.A. to increase Ansons to six. He will have to refer matter to M.E.

(D)/.....

(D) No A/A guns or RD/F. but both said to be coming. Meanwhile organization for fighter direction being developed.

(E) Suggested ultimate requirements for Mombasa as Fleet Base:

- (A) Two Fighter Squadrons
- (B) One F/B Squadrons
- (C) One A/S Flight
- (D) Fleet (Hurricane?) Unit.

(F) Development of aerodromes depends on priorities. Suggest Admiralty press Air Ministry to get on with Mackinnon Roads for (use forthwith).

1058Z/19

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

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Controller
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
- N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Naval Secretary
- Civil Lord
- D.O.D. (F) (2).
- Duty Captain (2).
- D.D.I.C. (2).
- D.N.I. (4).
- Head of M (10).
- D. of P. (2).
- D.N.A.D.
- Head of Air Branch
- D.A.M.
- D.A.M.R.
- D. of D.
- D. of L.D.
- I.P. (2).
- W.D.
- C.E. in C.

- Admiral Bellairs
- Deputy Controller (3)
- D. of D.
- C.E. in C.
- Sub. War Registry

Bath.

601

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Aircraft Storage, E. Africa. Air Ministry W.G. 5702 29/3 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. and 207 Group. H.Q. M.E. and 207 Group are strongly against use of Port Reitz owing operational requirements and vulnerability. Have (? therefore) agreed establishing erection and maintenance facilities Mackinon Road, also storage for 40 aircraft in dispersed shelters. These aircraft will be kept ready for issue at short notice.

(2) Facilities for repair yards and storage depot Nairobi district under consideration and final location will not be decided until Noad arrives.

(3) Aircraft for storage at Mackinon Road under temporary conditions can be accepted now.

(4) Mackinon Road adjoins Mombasa-Nairobi Railway at Mile 52 approx.

(5) 207 Grp. agreed use of Port Reitz for erection of Fulmars or other aircraft of similar width which cannot be transported rail or road to Mackinon Road.  
(R.N.A.S, E.A. via Nairobi, 0740Z/19 to Comnas, (R) Admty. etc.)

Eastern Fleet Aircraft. My 0543/15, 1211/16 and 0324/18. As I have been unable to obtain a reply I have been forced to take action and make arrangements to embark these Fulmar Squadrons.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0837Z/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Ceylon, R.A.A.)  
W.D. Note: Reply was given in Admty. 1221B/17, Q.V.

F.A.A. Aircraft. Details of aerodromes and landing grounds.  
(V.A.3, 1058Z/19 to Dep. C. in C. E.F, (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.

Air Report. Intelligence Summary No. 35 on information up to 1800 hours 19/4.  
Bay of Bengal. 2 Hudsons made low flying attack on 12 type 97 flying boats in Port Blair Harbour 18/4, 2 E/A destroyed and 3 severely damaged.  
(Air H.Q. India, 1225/19 to Air Min.)

CLAN FORBES Seychelles. C. in C. E.F. 1405Z/18.  
1. Following information is requested -  
A. Is any useful purpose served by sending CLAN FORBES to Seychelles with her present load or will it be necessary to wait for R/C party's recommendation?  
B. Do you require M.N.B.D.O. to assist this operation? If so I suggest the Indian troops are not to be embarked in CLAN FORBES and that she be sent to Colombo to embark M.N.B.D.O. personnel and remainder of their equipment and stores. Indian troops could then be sent on at later date in another ship.

/C. Are ...



602

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CLAN FORBES  
Setchelles.  
(Contd.)

C. Are 2 4-inch or 6-inch guns for St. Anne Island available? The 2 6-inch naval guns are available at Colombo.

2. My 0817/19 not to Admty. is cancelled. Indian troops should not be embarked until a reply to para. 1 above is received.

(C. in C. E.I., 1356Z/19 to F.O.C.R.I.N., for Armindia (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty., Cdr. R.I.N.)

S.O. 3 B.S.

Intend to fly to Nairobi p.m./20 to see Governor, G.O.C. in C. and A.O.C. returning p.m./21st.

(S.O. 3 B.S., 1629Z/19 to C. in C. E.F.)

Fleet  
Bases.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

1. Following decisions affecting East Africa were conveyed in C.O.S. (India) No. 49 of 16/4 addressed Cs. in C. India, Ceylon, E.I. (R)

C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. setting out policy regarding Fleet bases in Indian Ocean:-

(a) Colombo will ultimately be main base for Eastern Fleet.

(b) Pending provision facilities for shore based R/C and development defences of Colombo and until Eastern Fleet is of sufficient strength and adequately trained, Kilindini is to be used as temporary fleet base. Question of providing fighter and A.A. defence is under urgent consideration. Highest priority is to be given to all other defences.

2. At request of Colonial Office please convey contents of this telegram to East African Governors concerned for their private information.

(Air Min, T.O.O. 1525Z/19 to G.O.C. in C. E.A.)

Employment  
of S/Ms.

So that Admiralty can investigate what further facilities may be required to permit operation of submarines in Indian Ocean request following information:-

(1) On what port do you intend to base the submarine depot ships?

(2) It is considered that submarines should be able to operate away from depot ship for two month periods provided minimum shore basing facilities are available at an advanced base.

(3) Could Colombo or Trincomalee be made into advanced bases using machinery from LUCIA if essential?

(4) How long would it take to creat these facilities?

(5) What would LUCIA have to land?

(D.O.D.(F), 1558B/19 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O.S.)

F.A.A.  
Requirements.

Re facilities required for naval aircraft in E. Africa.

(5 S.L., 1645B/19 to Air Min. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., etc.)  
See Lion Copy.

/Force A ...

# MOST SECRET

MOST ~~SECRET~~ ~~MESSAGE~~ 1645B/19th April. OUT

TO: Air Ministry.  
 Rptd: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 462. DATE: 19.4.42.  
 C. in C. East Indies. 960.  
 C. in C. South Atlantic. 811.  
 R.A. West Africa. 461.  
 Commodore, N.A.S. Ceylon.  
 R.A.A. Eastern Fleet. 25.  
 N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar.  
 Force Nairobi for R.A.N.A.S. East Africa.

NAVAL CYPHER A.2.

FROM: Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Facilities for Naval aircraft in East Africa. Your ref. S.78351/S.9. It has become necessary to revise F.A. requirements and the following are the total facilities now required:-

- (a) Repair Yard with storage for 160 repeat 160 aircraft in Nairobi.
- (b) Storage for 40 aircraft with facilities for maintenance and erection at Port Reitz, Mombasa.
- (c) Accommodation in the Mombasa area for six disembarked squadrons, 3 immediate, 3 more later on in 1942. Ranges and torpedo facilities are required.

2. Would appreciate following information as early as practicable:

(a) Could temporary arrangements be made for immediate accommodation for 3 disembarked squadrons in existing aerodromes in Mombasa area.

(b) Could Air Ministry undertake additional works services to meet the revised requirements at Nairobi and in Mombasa area?

3. Lieutenant Commander Noad, due to arrive Nairobi end of April, is being fully informed and will be able to arrange sites etc., in consultation with local authorities.

4. R.A.W.Af. to pass to Noad arriving Freetown shortly

1645B/19.

for Head of Air Branch  
(Dorland House Ext.5)

Approved by 5th Sea Lord.

5th S.I.  
 Civil Lord  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 D.N.A.D. (N.A.D. 512/42)  
 D.A.M.  
 D.A.M.R.  
 D. of S. (London)  
 C.E. in C.  
 D.P.S.  
 D. S.D.  
 D. of P. (2)  
 Hd. of Air Branch (5)

Duty Captain (2)  
 N.A. 2 S.L. (Air)  
 Hd. of M. Branch (6) (and for  
 Colonial Office)  
 D.O.D. (F) (2)  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.

War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Force A.

Departures WARSPITE, INDOMITABLE, ~~FORMIDABLE~~,  
NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE, Netherlands  
Cruiser HEEMSKERCK, NESTOR, NORMAN, DECOY,  
FOXHOUND, PALADIN, PANTHER.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 2230Z/19 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.  
S.O.(I) Colombo.)

604

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

PHOEBE PHOEBE expected to depart from New York for Hampton Roads 21/4. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0102/19 to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. etc.)  
PHOEBE departing New York Point X 1000Z/21 S of A 20 knots. E.T.A. Cape Henry 2215Z/21. Routeing 23 miles to seaward of position of Barnegat Lightship thence 40 to 50 miles off shore to swept channel into Chesapeake. C. in C. U.S. Fleet requested to inform N.S.H.Q. C. in C. A.W.I. C.O.A.C. Admty. (?Opnav 2114/19 to Admty.)

U/B D/F indicate U-Boat within 100 miles of 038° N 053° 30' W at 2132Z/18. (N.S.H.Q. 0149Z/19 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

Movements. 18/4 Arrivals MALPESQUE ex Halifax escorting L.C.6. (F.O.N.F. 0218Z/19 to Admty.)  
H.M.C.S. ELK arrived. (C.S.A. Norfolk 1355Z/19 to N.S.H.Q.)  
DAUPHIN arrived from St. Johns. (S.O.I. Halifax 1947Z/19 to Admty. etc.)  
Bermuda arrival VANOC. Departure U.S.S. TARBELL. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2103P/19 to Admty.)

U/B. D/F bearings indicate U-Boat within 60 miles 35° N 72° 30' W at 0148Z/19. (N.S.H.Q. 0607Z/19 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

U/B. R.D/F places U-Boat transmission within 200 miles of 042° 15' N 060° 00' W at 0309Z/19. May be sighting report. (U.S.C.N.O. 0623Z/19 to C.T.U. No. 24.18.7, U.S.S. ALGONQUIN. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

U/Bs. Intercepted 0425 G.M.T. de NAA (Arlington Radio) WGBC 1 V NAA. Sub sighted 36.54 N. 75.47 W at 1654 G.C.T. 18/4 1846/18. Sub. sighted 33.36 N. 74.40 W at 1330 G.C.T. 18/4 1621/18. Sub. sighted 35.47 N. 75.28 W. at 0520Z/18, 0630/18. Sub. sighted 36.25 N. 68.45 W at 0937 G.C.T. 18/4, 1305/18. WGBC 4 V NAA O. Sub. sighted 24.36 N. 81.00 W. at 0726Z/18, 0819/18. (Portishead Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0625/19)

"S" Report, Bullen Bay. Following has been intercepted from Curacao, SSSS 0720 G.M.T/19, S/M sighted South of Bullen Bay, Curacao, Opnav pass to Cominch and Com.10. (Navycom, Bermuda, 0837P/19 to Admty.) S/M fired 7 rounds at Bullen Bay installations at 0300 local time 19/4. No hits and submarine not seen. (S.N.O. Curacao, 0945QR/19 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. S.O.I. Jamaica, N.C.S.O. Aruba.) In position 12° 10' N 69° 02' W S/M made attack at 0315Q. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1215/19 for information N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Admty. S.O.I. Kingston.)

/Curacao...

605

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Curacao Loading. In view of U-Boat situation presume you are discontinuing use of exposed loading berth for the present. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0852P/19 to S.N.O. Curacao, (R) Admty.)  
Your 0852P/19, exposed berth not being used. (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1035QR/19 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. Operational Units in North Atlantic:-  
Area Scapa: DUKE OF YORK, KING GEORGE V, WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, KENT, NIGERIA, LIVERPOOL, KENYA, MAURITIUS, TUSCALOOSA, WICHITA, 9 Destroyers, 4 Destroyers (U.S.)  
Area Iceland(C): LONDON, NORFOLK, BERWICK,  
Area Clyde: FURIOUS,  
Passage to South Atlantic: FROBISHER, GAMBIA.  
Passage to Gibraltar: RENOWN, WASP, CHARYBDIS, CAIRO, 4 Destroyers, 2 Destroyers (U.S.)  
In Northern Waters: EDINBURGH, 6 Destroyers. (D.O.D.(H) 0937Z/19 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Opnav, etc.)

LADY DRAKE. N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1502/18. As LADY DRAKE will be escorted by CLARKIA until clear of Caribbean Sea, propose that she should not be held in accordance with your 2158/18. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002P/19 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Trinidad etc.)  
Your 1002/19 approved. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2346B/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B. D/F bearings indicate U-Boat within 100 miles 16.30 N 67.30 W at 0438Z/19. (N.S.H.Q. 1017Z/19 to Opnav, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.)

PRUDENT H.X.185. Ref. C.T.U. 24.1.3, 2340/18, received here as 0545Z/19. In accordance with my 2011Z/14, Rescue Tug PRUDENT is joining H.X.185, not PUERTO RICO. Would appreciate your advising C.T.U. 24.1.3 accordingly. Position of H.X.185 has been passed to PRUDENT. (F.O.N.F. 1200Z/19 to C.T.F. 24. (R) Opnav, Cinclant, Admty, C. in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

Convoy Interval. Your 1725Z/18 (N.T. in W.D.) 14 day interval confirmed, this is necessary to implement release of 2 escort groups. (D.T.D. 1315B/19 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C.)

POLARBJORN. Your 1915B/11. Nor. POLARBJORN due Halifax from Boston 19/4 bound for Greenland under charter of U.S. army. (C.O.A.C. 1319Z/19 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/RAMSEY...

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- RAMSEY. B.A.R.M.'s 2032Z/17. Intend to sail RAMSEY 1000Z/21 routed through (a) 040° 37' N 069° 31' W. (b) 035° 05' N 075° 11' W. (c) 033° 23' N 077° 30' W to Charleston. Speed 13 knots. E.T.A. Charleston 2200Z/24. (C.O.A.C. 1406Z/19 to B.A.R.M.)
- BULKOIL. Your 2215/18, vessel should arrive Boston 1600/20 requires about 15 hours for refuelling. (C.S.A. Philadelphia, 1630Z/19 to N.S.H.Q.)
- U/Bs. 19/4 submarine situation. Part 1. One 36° 54' N 75° 47' W 1645Z/18. One 38° 45' N 74° 43' W 0250Z/19. Four North of 42° N between 53° and 68° W. Four westbound within 150 miles as follows:- 38° N 67° 30' W. 37° 30' N 53° W. 47° 30' N 44° 30' W. 40° N 44° W. Six eastbound within 150 miles following positions:- 37° N 65° W. 35° 30' N 62° 30' W. 36° N 54° W. 40° N 51° 30' W. 41° 30' N 42° W. 40° N 38° 30' W. Action to all commands Atlantic Area interested in submarine position report from Cominch. Part 2. Probably 2 Wilmington Cape Hatteras Area. One by D/F within 100 miles 33° 30' N 73° 30' W 0148Z/19. No new information from Florida Straits Area. One S/M shelled Bullen Bay, Curacao 0715Z/19 no hits. One by D/F within 100 miles 17° 30' N 66° 15' W 0438Z/19. Probably several others in this area unlocated. Nothing new on Brazilian Coast. Three with supply ships 01° 35' N 20° 40' W A.M./19. One 10° 18' N 18° 53' W 0935Z/18. Possibly 2 Monrovia Takoradi Area. One unconfirmed 03° 30' S 05° 12' W 1605Z/18. One eastbound near 42° N 34° W. (Cominch 1716/19 to All Commands interested in submarine position reports, Atlantic Area.)
- DELVALLE, GULFAMERICA. Your 1901Z/18. Request confirmation of dates and times of attack on DELVALLE and GULFAMERICA. (D.D.I.C. 1716B/19 to B.A.D.)
- OCANA. OCANA torpedoed on 25/3. Sank in 043° 24' N 064° 45' W 16/4 whilst in tow. (C.O.A.C. 1816Z/19 to Admty. etc.)
- GRENANGER. Norwegian ship GRENANGER Santos to New York, torpedoed starboard side, afterwards shelled, sank in half hour, 11/4 1.10 p.m. ships time. Steering N.N.W. knots 13. No periscope seen. 3 look outs. No casualties. Cargo general mostly coffee. S/M very large 250 to 300 feet long. Master picked MICCA, Italian S/M from Silhouettes but said he believes gun crew Nazi from their efficiency. S/M about half mile range and did not approach. Gun could not be brought to bear. No mark or details discerned. All C.Bs. dropped overboard in weighted and eyeletted bags by Capt. and seen to sink in about 3,000 fathoms, 022° 57' N 057° 40' W. 8 Officers and 28 men saved. (St. Thomas 1834/19 to Admty.)

Insert in Lion 19/4 (RA)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

FROM: - R.N.O. St. Thomas

1834/19th April

DATE: - 24.4.42.

RECD: - 0730

NAVAL SHORE CODE N2 BY CABLE

Passed to Admiralty for information

ADDRESSED: - S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) repeated C. in C.  
America and West Indies D.N.I. Ottawa From: - R.N.O. St. ThomasIMPORTANT

Norwegian ship GRENHANGER Santos to New York torpedoed starboard side middle and sank in half hour April 11th 1 10 p.m. ship's time. Steering N.N.W. knots 13. No periscope seen. 3 lookouts. No casualties. Cargo general mostly coffee. Submarine very large 250 to 300 feet long. Master picked <sup>PIED</sup> MIOCA Italian submarine from the silhouettes but said he believes gun's crew Nazi from their efficiency. Submarine about half mile range and did not approach. Gun could not be brought to bear. No marks or details discerned.

All C.B's dropped overboard in weighted and cycletted bags by Captain and seen sinking in about 3 thousand fathoms. Position 022 degs. 57' north 057 degs. 40' west. Senior officer and 28 men saved.

C. in C. America and West Indies is requested to inform Nortraship New York and request instructions, as to crew and disposal wooden life boats 500 cubic feet and stool motor boat 24 feet fitted with radio.

1834/19

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(T)  
NAVAL SEC.  
PARL. SEC.  
FIN. SEC.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.A/S.W.  
M.(8)  
D.N.I.(5)  
Ops.(3)  
O.D.(5)  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(M)  
D.T.D.(C)  
Cdr. Holbrook  
D.T.M.  
D. of S.T.(2)  
O.I.C.(3)  
I.P.(3)  
C.C.R.F.  
W.D.  
Press Division  
I.M.N.G.  
M. Books (2)  
N.L.  
D.S.D.(2)  
N.I.D.10.(2)

607

War Diary.19.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

C.T.15. Escort for C.T.15 has been ordered in my 1905Z/18,  
C.T.16. escort for C.T.16 will arrive U.K. about 11/5.  
Allowing for local movements in U.K. waters fuel-  
ling any necessary voyage repairs and some rest  
for crews 17th or 18/5 seems earliest date when  
escort can be ready return. (Cinclant 1835Z/19 to  
Admty. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

U/B. D/F bearings at 1646Z/19 place S/M within 60  
miles 035° 30' N 068° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q. 1912Z/19  
to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

Convoy Your 2005/2/4. To avoid confusion that may be  
situation caused through escorts receiving two situation  
reports. reports when east of 'Chop', recommend Opnav Situ.  
report should omit convoys east of 'Chop' and  
C. in C. W.A. situation report omit convoys

west of 'Chop'.

2. Suggest Opnav situation report be in two parts.

(a) West of 42° West, this report not to be transmitted on  
Broadcast BN.

(b) 42° West to 'Chop' this report to be transmitted on  
Broadcast BN in addition to Broadcast L and any other service.  
{D.T.D. 2038B/19 to Opnav, (R) C. in C. W.A. C.T.F. 24.)  
(Reply 1625/20.)

Suspension No. 143. N.C.S.O. Antigua, has received following  
of sailings from S.O.I. Jamaica. (Begins) Following is  
Antigua. gist of Admty. 2158B/18, (begins) Until further  
orders all sailings from West Indies and Gulf of  
Mexico ports are to be suspended. (Ends.)

I have given orders accordingly but I understand that American  
O.C. Combined Local Defence Forces has questioned validity of  
the order enquiring whether it emanates from Adm. Hoover. From  
para 1 of your U.S.B.A.S. telegram No. 34 I would have assumed  
that such an order should have come from Hoover. (Govr. Leeward  
Islands, No T.O.O./19 to S. of S for Colonies. Recd. 0235/20)  
No. 144. My immediately preceding telegram No. 143. American  
ship in Harbour has been informed by American 10th Naval Div.  
that Jamaica order does not apply to American ships. Grateful  
for immediate instructions. (Govr. Leeward Islands No T.O.O./19 to  
S. of S for Colonies, Recd. 0235/20) Reply 1835/20.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Albany H.M.I.S. PUNJAB (N.O.I.C.  
Albany, 0211Z/19 to Commodore, W. Australia,  
(R) A.C.N.B.) *see next page*

/Arrival...



War Diary.

19.4.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.  
(Contd.)

Arrival Melbourne 2200Z/17 H.T. CERAMIC.  
Departure Melbourne 0305Z/18 U.S. Transport  
MARIPOSA for R.A.F.A. Departure Sydney (N.S.W.)  
0427Z/18 ACHILLES for R/V MARIPOSA thence Suva.

Departure Sydney (N.S.W.) 0751Z/18 BENDIGO for Brisbane.  
Departure Noumea 2340Z/17 U.S. Destroyer LAMSON for Vila.  
Departure Thursday Island 0415Z/18 H.M.A.S. \*WATERFORT.  
Departure Fremantle 0801Z/18 U.S. Cruiser BOISE for Melbourne.  
(A.C.N.B. 0443Z/19 to A.I.G. 115, C. in C. P. Fleet (U.S.))  
Departure Port Moresby 2359Z/17 COLAC and ~~SKALGOORLIE~~ for  
Townsville, departure Sydney N.S.W. 2242Z/18 for Port Kombla  
GERALDTON (?GERRARD). Arrival Albany 0201Z/19. \*PUNJAB. Arrival Sydney  
N.S.W. 0950Z/19 ADELE. (A.C.N.B. 2201Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

\*Not in ~~the~~ \* See previous page.

Situation  
Report.

Serial No. 88 from C.W.R. 18/4. 50 fighters  
making for Port Moresby were intercepted at  
0050Z/18 35 miles N.E. 7 miles aerodrome.  
No damage to enemy aircraft observed. 1 allied  
aircraft missing, 2 damaged.

2. 2 aircraft attacked shipping at Rabaul 0200Z/18 and  
Lakunai aerodrome at 0135Z/18. 9 medium transports or naval  
auxiliaries, 1 large transport or cruiser, 12 flying boats  
sighted in harbour. 2 small ships 1 possibly W/T ship  
approaching Watom Island. 2 near misses, 1 direct hit on 2  
transports. Wharves or buildings probably hit. 40 fighters  
attacked, 1 was damaged. On aerodrome 6 twin engined bombers  
approx. 200 fighters. Direct hits on 4 0's, other aircraft  
including 3 flying boats probably damaged. A/A fire but no  
fighter opposition.
3. Air R/C over Koepang area 0805Z/18 sighted no shipping.  
Ship firing light A/A not located.
4. Allied air R/C on 17/4 over Tanah Merah aerodrome (Dutch)  
New Guinea, 150 miles north of Merauke, reported aerodrome  
obstructed. Believed still held by Dutch.
5. Allied R/C 18/4 over aerodromes in Madang area. No  
activity observed.
6. Natives report Wunamarita (25 miles west of Rabaul)  
occupied by Japanese and extensive earth works being constructed  
at Keravat (15 miles S.W. of Rabaul) and Kopopo (10 miles S.E.  
of Rabaul) (A.C.N.B. 1019Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

See  
later  
copy  
608A

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions of U/Bs. (D.D.I.C. 1402B/19,  
1410B/19.)

608A

SECRET

MESSAGE

1019Z/19th April 1942

From Naval Board Melbourne.

Date 27.4.42.

Recd 2322.

NAVAL CYPHER M BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty C.Z.M. OPNAV. C in C Eastern Fleet  
C in C East Indies C.O.I.S. Colombo New Zealand  
Naval Board C in C U.S. Pacific Fleet C in C U.S.  
Asiatic Fleet.

973. 5 Zero Fighters making for Port Moresby were intercepted at 0050Z 18th 35 miles North East of 7 mile aerodrome. No damage to enemy aircraft observed. One allied aircraft missing 2 damaged. Serial No. 88 from C W.R April 18th.

(2) 2 aircraft attacked shipping at Rabaul 0200Z 18th and Lakunai aerodrome at 0135Z 18th. 9 medium transports or Naval auxiliaries one large transport or cruiser 12 flying boats sighted in harbour. 2 small ships one possible W/T ship approached Watom Island. 2 near misses one direct hit on 2 transports. Wharves or buildings probably hit. Zero Fighters attacked one was damaged. On aerodrome 6 twin-engined bombers approximately 20 Zero Fighters. Direct hits on 4 Zero other aircraft <sup>including?</sup> dispersed 3 flying boats probably damaged. (? <sup>A/A</sup> shots ) fired but no fighter opposition.

(3) Air reconnaissance over Keopang area 0805Z 18th sighted no shipping.

..... Ships

*Birkate!*

608<sup>B</sup>

MESSAGE

-2-

Ships firing light A/A not located.

(4) Allied air reconnaissance on 17th April over Tanah Merah aerodrome ( Dutch New Guinea 150 miles North of Merauke ) reported aerodrome obstructed. Believed still held by Dutch.

(5) Allied reconnaissance 18th April over aerodromes in Madang area. No activity observed.

(6) Natives report Wunamarita (25 miles West of Rabaul) occupied by Japanese and extensive earth works being constructed - at Keravat ( 15 miles South West of Rabaul ) and Kopopo ( 10 miles South East of Rabaul ).

1019Z/19

Advance Copy Ops O.D. O.I.C

1st Lord	
1st S.L.	O.D. (5)
4th S.L.	D.N.I. (8) (& for A.E. & D.N.L.O)
5th S.L.	O.I.C. (3)
V.C.N.S.	D of P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.A./S.W.
A.C.N.S. (F)	I.P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (T)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.P.D.
Naval Secy.	D.S.D. (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	Ad. Bellairs.
Capt Pim,	E.P.S.
D.N.A.D.	
M (35)	
Ops (3)	

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.

20.4.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C.S.18 reports today that, after his experience with Convoy P.Q.14, he considers that 8 knot convoys liable to be shadowed continuously for 4 or 5 days within easy reach of enemy air, S/M, and surface forces are unduly hazardous, and he recommends that, until the aerodromes in North Norway can be neutralised, the convoys to North Russia should be suspended unless the present very high percentage of losses can be accepted or sufficient air protection provided.

The 12 new S/M Patrol Zones off N.W. Norway proposed by F.O.S. for the protection of future North Russian Convoys were instituted today; and Admty have approved the proposal of C. in C. H.F. for the establishment of an ammunition reserve at Murmansk to which a first consignment of 3000 rounds of Oerlikon will be shipped tomorrow in 3 ships of the 1st. M/S Flotilla and a further 5000 rounds with a reserve of small-arm ammunition in Convoy P.Q.15 which is at present intended to be sailed from Reykjavik on 26/4 and to consist of 25 ships.

4 enemy destroyers were sighted by A/C at 1245 today steering 030° off Trondheim.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 0715 five enemy A/C attacked vessels and buildings round Poole Harbour, causing no Naval damage or casualty; and 3 fighter A/C at the same time attack Swanage, killing one R.N.V.R. Officer and doing some damage to buildings.

At about 1035 yesterday 3 M.G.Bs. of the 4th. M.G.B. Flotilla were attacked without result by 6 ME. 109 A/C off St. Albans Head.

War Diary.

20.4.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

At 1000 today COTSWOLD was mined in 52° 6' N 1° 50' E and was later towed into Harwich and beached.

At 1800 QUORN was mined about 1½ miles East of Aldeburgh Buoy and is being towed into Harwich.

At 1900 the British PLAWSORTH, 1498 tons, in Convoy F.S.80, was mined and sunk about ½ a mile South of Aldeburgh Buoy, all her crew being saved by VERDUN; and at 2000 the Belgian VAE VICTIS, 1829 tons, also in Convoy F.S.80, was mined and sunk without casualty about 3 miles 214° from Aldeburgh Buoy.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE with 2 Minelayers and 2 destroyers returned to Port ZA at 0610 this morning having completed the minelaying operation S.N.88.

At 1204 and 1240 today respectively, while proceeding to assist COTSWOLD, the M/S Trawler FLYING WING detonated two magnetic mines off Orfordness.

North Atlantic.

ANTELOPE was attacked by U/B at 0355A in 36° 45' N 00° 10' E. She afterwards searched the position but made no contact.

RENOWN.

RENOWN which had been ordered on 16/4 to remain at Gibraltar after Operation 'Calendar' is to join Eastern Fleet.

Force W.

The broad pendant of S.O. Force W is to be struck on completion of Operation 'Calendar'.

611

20.4.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.Supply  
ship  
and  
S/Ms.

R.A. West Africa reported at 1017 G.M.T. that 2 aircraft had confirmed the presence of a depot ship and 3 S/Ms. sighted at 0225/19 by Panair. Orders for search were issued to ALCANTARA, PRETORIA CASTLE, and GLASGOW. C. in C. U.S. Fleet was requested to arrange a search westward of 026° W. Sunderland A/C was also to co-operate.

DIOMEDE.

DIOMEDE operated by C. in C. U.S. Fleet, left the Falklands today to patrol certain areas, and will return to Montevideo on 30/4.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Bombs were dropped on land and sea in 4 alerts last night, but no damage is reported.

In 3 very heavy raids today, and a small one at dusk, 306 bombers were employed, with fighter escort except in the last raid. Guns and fighters destroyed 7 bombers and 4 fighters certain, 3 bombers and 1 fighter probably, and damaged 9 bombers and a fighter. Apart from aerodrome damage, Manoel Island mine base and pier had 5 direct hits with small bombs and is partially demolished.

There was no important damage in the Dockyard, but some at Marsa.

Operation  
'Calendar'

47 Spitfires were flown off U.S. aircraft carrier WASP and all arrived at Malta safely by 0858 G.M.T. Fortunately the air was clear and aerodrome serviceable when they arrived. By 1100 G.M.T. A.O.C. Malta, in a message of congratulation to WASP, was able to report that some of the 47 had already been successful in action.

Cyrenaica.

6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night. 2 JU.88s. bombed Tobruk Harbour without damage or casualties. An attack on shipping was reported 30 miles N. of Daba.

Minefield  
Famagusta.

N.O.I.C. Famagusta reports a minefield in Famagusta Channel, presumably laid by U/B, probably on night of 16-17/4. The Port has been closed. 4 mines were swept today.

War Diary.

20.4.1942.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Diego  
Garcia.

N.O.I.C. Mauritius reports no W/T communications between Mauritius and Diego Garcia since p.m. 18/4. Failure may be due to poor equipment there.

Force A.

Force A left Bombay ~~early this morning~~<sup>19/4</sup> for Colombo.

See p. 603.

America and West Indies.

Caribbean  
shipping.

U.S. Navy Dept. are asking Admty. the reason for the suspension of sailings in Caribbean. Although they have suspended U.S. tanker sailings, U.S. have not stopped other vessels.

Sinkings.

British COTATI reported being chased by a U-Boat at 1725 G.M.T. in 43° 19' N 58° 46' W, but she arrived undamaged at Halifax on 21/4, having opened fire on the U/B which dived and was not seen again.

Swedish AGRA Philadelphia for Table Bay was torpedoed at 2120 G.M.T. in approx. 35° 40' N 69° 35' W. Survivors were picked up at 0930/21 by TERCERO.

U.S. WEST IMBODEN was torpedoed and sunk today in 41° 14' N 65° 55' W.

Australia.

Port Moresby was attacked at 2256 G.M.T. by 9 heavy bombers and 8 fighters without damage.

About 1200 G.M.T. 2 Allied A/C each attacked a wharf and buildings at Rabaul. 2 others attacked enemy patrol H.Q. at Stockholm plantation 50 miles W of Rabaul.



War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Hazards of North Russian Convoys. After my experience with P.Q.14 consisting of 8 merchant ships accompanied by escort intended for 25, and having had good fortune of favourable weather conditions at a very critical period, I consider that 8-knot convoys liable to be shadowed continuously for 4 or 5 days in easy reach of enemy air, submarine, and surface forces are unduly hazardous. Further, limit of endurance of A/S escorts precludes efficient searching and hunting of U-Boats. Oiling of destroyer at sea under weather conditions experienced cannot be relied on and EDINBURGH was only able to oil 2 and those in rough weather and in area liable to submarine and air attack. Until enemy aerodromes in Northern Norway are neutralised I consider convoys to North Russia should be suspended during months of continuous light unless the very high percentage of losses can be accepted or sufficient air protection can be provided. S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to Admiral Miles. (C.S.18, 0943B/20 to Admty.)

Situation as to future of North Russian Convoys. Comments on J.S.M. 190. (Air Ministry, 1136Z/20 to Britman, Washington.) See Lion Copy.

Ammunition Reserve at Murmansk. Your 1741B/19. Concur in your proposal to send 3000 from Scapa reserves. Replenishment will be made. 2. 5000 have been sent in P.Q.15 and 5000 more are arranged for. A reserve of .303 and .30 is being sent. 3. Concur in your para. 4. (D.G.D., 1921B/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

KENYA. Scapa arrival KENYA. (A.C.O.S., 0631/20.)

H. 43. Sailed H.43 escorted by ST. MODWEN in accordance with S.7's, 1406B/17 as amended by S.7 1057B/19. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0745B/20.)

WELSHMAN. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1115. Nothing to report. (WELSHMAN, 0852B/20.) Request you sail WELSHMAN for Port Z.A. forthwith. (A.C.N.S. H., 1613B/20 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

/WELSHMAN ...

MOST SECRET

OZ. 51

TOD 1404/20  
1422/20

613 A

MOST IMMEDIATE

From:- Air Ministry

To:- Britman Washington

---

OZ. 51 20/4/42

C.O.S (W) 156

Reference J.S.M 188, 189 and  
190

Position here is that Lyttelton has been instructed by War Cabinet to prepare a paper setting out maximum which this country could send to Russia during periods July to December 1942 and January to June 1943 from point of view of availability of shipping including convoy escorts and of production.

This paper is nearly ready, main difficulty being assessment of convoy possibilities, and should be before War Cabinet in middle of week. Government will then decide how matter should be handled with U.S. Government as a preliminary to joint approach to U.S.S.R. As result of your telegrams and conversations with Hopkins idea of tripartite Conference in Moscow mentioned in C.O.S.(W) 140 para. 2 is in suspense.

2. Our comments on J.S.M 190 are as follows:-

Paragraph 2. Agreed.

Paragraph 3. Agreed, provided that -

- (a) Russians can move cargo which is beyond the capacity of the railway from the Archangel area during the ice-free months to a storage ground clear of the discharging berths with sufficient speed to prevent congestion on the quays.
- (b) That improvements to railway which you mention will mean that there will be a double track line all the way northward to Archangel and that railway South of Obozerskaya will carry 15 trains a day in each direction.

Paragraph 4. War Office estimate of monthly capacity available for Russia is 74,000 via Persia and 13,500 via Iraq, the latter starting in October, totalling in the year one million short tons. They consider it would be safer to take a total figure slightly under a million.

3. We must sound a strong note of warning. Capacity of reception and clearance from Murmansk and Archangel is not likely to be limiting factor on the Northern route. Convoy escort is main difficulty since each convoy now involves a fleet operation. This is under examination but Admiralty estimate that they will be unable to run more than three convoys every two months each of 25 ships. The running of even that number of convoys will entirely depend on the Naval situation in the Northern area. This means average of 37 ships per month, or total of 450 sailings a year is the maximum likely to be achieved. Even on U.S. basis of 6,000 short tons per ship which is nearly double the average so far attained in ships from either U.S.A. or U.K., this would only give a total of 2,700,000 short tons in the year from which losses must be deducted.

4. The figures in preceding paragraph are the result of preliminary study and have not yet been considered by War Cabinet, but they may enable you to prevent a false picture being created in President's mind. Hopkins is aware of position and First Sea Lord should be consulted.

T.O.O. 1136Z/20

Circulation.

War Cabinet (17)  
P.S. to S. of S. (1)  
P.S. C.A.S. (4)  
War Office (5)  
Admiralty (32)  
Minister of Production (1)  
Minister of Shipping (1)  
Sir Walter Layton (1)

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

WELSHMAN. WELSHMAN leaves Milford Haven 2030 northbound 20.  
(Contd.) (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1657B/20.)  
Sailed WELSHMAN.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2033B/20.)

KENT. Scapa arrival KENT.  
(A.C.O.S., 0859B/20.)  
KENT is to proceed passing Hoxa at 1000B/21  
(? thence) to Greenock.  
N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail KENT to arrive Scapa  
on 4/5.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1956B/20.)

NELSON. Proceed passing Switha at 1900 today to Rosyth  
and provide escort for NELSON to Scapa. R/V  
with NELSON Oxcars Gate 0640/21.  
(R.A.D., 1027B/20 to MIDDLETON, LAMERTON,

HURSLEY.)  
Leave harbour at 0600/21 and proceed to Scapa. MIDDLETON,  
LAMERTON, HURSLEY will meet you at 0640/21 at Oxcars Gate.  
Take them under your orders.  
Attention is called to C.A.F.O. 2150/41. H.M.S. MIDDLETON and  
H.M.S. HURSLEY are S.A. fitted.  
Carry out practice (b) and (c) as proposed in your 1431/18  
on passage.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1045B/20 to NELSON.)  
NELSON E.T.A. Scapa 1830/21.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1833B/20.)  
Departures 1907 MIDDLETON, LAMERTON, and HURSLEY.  
(A.C.O.S., 1910/20.)

P. 551. (1) Intend sailing P.551 escorted by JAN VAN  
GELDER at 1400B/22 west of Orkneys for Lerwick.  
E.T.A. 1400B/24.  
(Capt. S.3, 1045B/20.)

BUSHWOOD, Your 1921/17 and A.M. 1121/11. Vessels are to  
DARICA, be sailed in company to Freetown under the orders  
DERINCE. of BUSHWOOD (S.O.) They should call for fuel  
at Horta and if necessary Bathurst. Not more  
than three of H.M. Ships are to enter Portuguese  
Territorial Waters at the same time. Route on from Freetown  
is given in A.M. 2005/3/Jan. adding Port Harcourt.  
Destination of BUSHWOOD - Durban.  
Route to Freetown.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1251B/20 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

DUKE OF YORK. V.A.2 is requested to sail for Hvalfjord in  
DUKE OF YORK on 22/4.  
2. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to detail screen  
of three destroyers.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1403B/20.)

615

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

O. 10. O.10 escorted by ST. MODWEN sails Londonderry 2230B/20 for Campbeltown, E.T.A. 0630B/21, thence unescorted to Rothesay.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1644B/20.)  
Sailed ST. MODWEN, O.10 in accordance with S.7 1406B/17.  
(Commodore, Londonderry, 2140B/20.)

FURIOUS. Sailed CHARLESTOWN and WELLS to comply with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1024/19.  
(R.A.M., 2024/20.) *see p. 217.*

Operations.

Operation "Abercrombie". My 1521/19. Operation abandoned for tonight owing to unsuitable weather.  
(V.A. Dover, 0027B/20.)

N.W. Norway S/M Patrol Areas K.20 to K. 31. (1) To cover North Russian convoys the following S/M patrol area is instituted. An area 20 miles either side line joining  $068^{\circ} 10' N.$   $002^{\circ} E.$  and  $071^{\circ} 36' N.$   $013^{\circ} 50' E.$  This area will be sub-divided into 12 patrol zones each 25 miles long numbering from south to north K.20 to K.31 inclusive. S/Ms will carry out a moving patrol depending on number available and relative position of convoys.  
(2) Total bombing restrictions will be imposed whilst zones are occupied. Attention of all ships carrying aircraft is particularly called to this point.  
(3) Ships are not to attack submarines in patrol zones unless hostile identity is established beyond doubt. Submarines have been instructed to identify themselves to surface ships and aircraft recognised as friendly.  
(4) Senior Officers Escorts are to ensure all ships of the escort are aware of these patrol zones.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1605B/20.)

Operation "Abercrombie". Operation "Abercrombie" will not be carried out tonight. It is intended to extend the period for one more night.  
(V.A. Dover, 1655B/20.)

Northern Trawler Patrol. C. in C. H.F. number 480/H.F. 1232/2 and appendix (4) to Northern Patrol instruction 4 para. 5. Following additions Western lines are established. Details. N.P. trawlers are being withdrawn from T.R.30 line and will commence patrol on T.R.1 lines 0800/22nd April.  
(A.C.O.S., 1942/20.)

/Patrol ...

616

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Patrol. 3 Chasseurs patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 returning St. Helens at daybreak.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1457B/20.)

British Air Activity.

Convoy Admiralty's 2054/28. A/C from EMPIRE MORN should be instructed to land Vaenga aerodrome in Kola Inlet.  
P.Q. 15. (2) If aircraft is to be flown off for non operational flight before ship anchors request A/C in EMPIRE MORN. propose position for doing this be signalled before convoy sails. Proposed time taking off should be signalled on 500? kc/s by EMPIRE MORN when W/T silence restrictions permit. Russians would like about two hours notice.  
(Ad. Miles, 1257C/20 to A.C.I.C.)

M/V balloons Your 1107B/16. Agree proposals in para. 3. at Brixham. (Air Ministry, 1530/20 to Admty.)

Northern Ice R/C. Ice R/C Iceland - Jan Mayen - Bear Island urgently required on highest priority. Can you or U.S.N. carry out R/C. If unable, reply immediately.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1730/20 to R.A.F. Iceland.)  
R/C is required to determine the ice conditions on the route Bear Island, Jan Mayen, N.W. Iceland as soon as possible. One long range Catalina from Sullom Voe is to make this R/C landing at Iceland on completion. It is desired to discover how far to the North of the route mentioned ice conditions will permit navigation.  
(H.Q.C.C., 1950B/20 to 18 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SCOTT. Help 60° 25' N. 8° 44' W.  
(SCOTT, 0050B/20.)  
My 0050 one F.W. circling.  
(SCOTT, 0112B/20.)  
Aircraft dropped flares. Last seen 0145.  
(SCOTT, 0218B/20.)

4th M.G.B. 4th M.G.B. Flotilla consisting of M.G.Bs. 51, Flotilla 52, 53 attacked by 6 Me.109s off St. Albans attacked. Head shortly after 1035/19. Two 250 lb. slight delay action bombs dropped. No damage or casualties.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1135B/20.)

/Poole ...

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Poole and Swanage bombed. At 0715, 5 enemy fighter attacked vessels and buildings in vicinity of Poole Bay and Harbour. No naval damage or casualty. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1510B/20.)  
Swanage attacked by three enemy fighters at low altitude at 0715. Two bombs dropped near station, one near R.D.F. station (no damage). (A) C.G. report R.D.F. station out of action (cable cut) not yet confirmed. (B) one officer killed. Remainder civilians. (C) nil. (D) nil. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1530/20.)

Mining.

S.N. 88. Arrived R.A.(M) and SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON,\*CHARLESTOWN, and\*WELLS. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 0610/20.)\* *11.17.45.*

COTSWOLD mined and beached. Your 1043. Am proceeding with all speed. My position B.8 buoy, speed 28 knots. (LEEDS, 1106B/20 to Chatham C.C.O., Reptd. COTSWOLD.)  
Will reach you at 1315.  
(EGLINTON, 1109/20 to COTSWOLD.)  
Abreast Platters.  
(KITTIWAKE, 1115B/20 to WALLACE.)  
Depth of water on fore lower mess deck now 1½ feet, rising very slowly. After bulkhead shored and buckets will prevent rapid rising. Sea smooth, can safely be towed stern first. (COTSWOLD, 1120B/20.)  
Fighter protection for COTSWOLD arranged. (C. in C. Nore, 1133B/20.)  
Departure tugs KROOMAN and DIVERSION to assist COTSWOLD in distress in 52° 06' N. 01° 50' E. at 1113B. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1138B/20.)  
Tow toward 51 buoy. Tug left Harwich 1100. (C. in C. Nore, 1151B/20 to LEEDS.)  
Departure H.S.Ls. 130, 132 to assist COTSWOLD at 1052B, also M.A/S.B.33 from Lowestoft at 1102B. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1152B/20.)  
Departure H.S.L. 124 with portable pumps to assist COTSWOLD. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1217B/20.)  
On joining COTSWOLD act as escort until 1800 or relieved by local escort from Harwich then proceed to Patrol C. (C. in C. Nore, 1240B/20 to LA MELPOMENE.)  
Admiralty tugs taking over tow. Rejoin your convoy. (C. in C. Nore, 1411B/20 to LEEDS.)  
Am proceeding to rejoin F.N.687 speed 20 knots. Tow has been taken by SUPERMAN assisted by DAPPER and WAR WING. Position now 035° 51 Buoy one mile. (LEEDS, 1422B/20.)  
Arrival LA MELPOMENE, COTSWOLD in tow of tug KENIA with Salvage vessel DAPPER, tug SUPERMAN, and M.L.110. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1637B/20.)  
COTSWOLD mined at 1000 in 52° 6' N. 1° 50' E. Has been towed into Harwich and beached. Casualties landed at Yarmouth and Harwich.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2132B/20.)

/off ...

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Off Orfordness. My 1306. FLYING WING detonated one blue and one red mine in 52° 05'30" N. 01° 50'04" E. at 1204 and 1240 today. Mines were detonated while proceeding to assistance of COTSWOLD. (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft, 1506B/20 and 2155/20.)

QUORN damaged. Departure tug DIVERSION to assist QUORN in vicinity Aldeburgh Buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1911B/20.)

Departure Tug SUPERMAN to assist QUORN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1920B/20.)

Departure Tug KENIA to assist QUORN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1952B/20.)

Report as accurately as possible position in which you were mined and type of explosion.

(C. in C. Nore, 2252B/20 to QUORN.)

QUORN mined 1½ miles East of Aldeburgh Buoy at 1800. Being towed to Harwich.

(C. in C. Nore, 2132B/20.)

Convoy F.S.780. PLAWSWORTH mined and sunk half mile south Aldeburgh Buoy. Have all crew on board. No casualties.

(VERDUN, 1931B/20.)

VAE VICTIS sunk by mine, approx. 3 miles Aldeburgh 214°. 14 survivors in WILNO, 16 in

(?) CORRIB. No casualties, none missing.

(VERDUN, 2019B/20.)

(1) PLAWSWORTH mined at 1900 and sunk approximately ½ mile South of Aldeburgh buoy. All crew saved on board VERDUN.

(2) VAE VICTIS mined and sunk at 2000 approx. 3 miles 214° from Aldeburgh Buoy. All crew reported safe on board WILNO and CORRIB.

(C. in C. Nore, 2132B/20.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. Suspected E-Boat activity position W. (Harwich W/T, 0140B/20.)

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/19 to 0900/20. Track E.3D. Four vessels trawler size from three miles North of Boulogne at 2226 eastbound faded off Gravelines at 0250.

Track E.8D. One or more vessels detected three miles west of boulogne at 0527 entered Boulogne at 0615.

(V.A. Dover, 0941B/20.)

Off Trondheim. At 1245, 4 destroyer sighted by A/C in 062° 50' N. 006° E., course 030°. (F.O.S., 1516B/20.)



War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked by DEPTFORD, FOLKESTONE. Attacked submarine contact in 055° 22' N. 009° 40' W. Oil streak previously reported by A/C. (DEPTFORD, 1546B/20.) DEPTFORD's 1546. DEPTFORD has carried out 6 attacks and FOLKESTONE 3 attacks on submerged S/M contact in 55° 19' N. 009° 40' W. Target is stationary, depth of water 90 fathoms. Attack delivered with charges set between 100 and 550 feet. There is steady trickle of oil but no other visible result. Am rejoining convoy leaving DEPTFORD in contact with 44 depth charges remaining. (FOLKESTONE, 1856B/20.) My 1546B/20. Still in contact in 055° 24' N. 009° 44' W. Contact stationary. Have recovered one waterlogged heavy wood ladder in the vicinity. (DEPTFORD, 2115Z/20.) FOLKESTONE 1856B/20. Am joining you, E.T.A. midnight. (ST. MARYS, 2122B/20 to DEPTFORD.) Expect one Sunderland to c-operate from 2330B/20 till 0800B/21 followed by an A/S sweep of Hudson A/C. (C. in C. W.A., 2215B/20 to DEPTFORD.) Sweep through 55° 19' N. 09° 40' W. where contact was attacked by DEPTFORD and FOLKESTONE at 1900B/20. (C. in C. W.A., 2251B/20 to BADSWORTH, LAUDERDALE, BOADICEA, ST. MARYS.) My 2251B/20. Aircraft will be co-operating in search. (C. in C. W.A., 2318B/20 to BADSWORTH, etc.)

Casualties and Defects.

ECLIPSE. Inspection of action damage in ECLIPSE indicates that repairs will take about 14 days at a repair yard. (R.A.D., 0027B/20.) On completion of fuelling proceed passing Switha 1800 today to Devonport for repairs. Route. (R.A.D.H.F., 1415B/20 to ECLIPSE.) ECLIPSE sailed for Devonport. E.T.A. 0800B/22. (R.A.D., 2310B/20.)

NEWMARKET. Owing to sharp rise in boiler density have been detached from R.U.19 and am proceeding Loch Ewe. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 2000B/20. (NEWMARKET, 0400B/20.)

GRASLIN. S.S. GRASLIN degaussing gear out of action after collision. Ordered to Humber escorted by KINGSTON OLIVINE. E.T.A. Humber light vessel 1803. (VERDUN, 1043B/20.)

M.G.B. 13. Your 1213B/19. Arrived Needles 1025 less M.G.B.13 which entered Poole with engine trouble. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1110B/20 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

/LUDLOW ...

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

LUDLOW. Scapa arrival 1135. LUDLOW with defects.  
(A.C.O.S., 1301B/20.)

ALDERSDALE. E.T.A. Clyde 0400B/24 with ALDERSDALE.  
(WHEATLAND, 1425Z/20.)  
Sailed ALDERSDALE escorted by WHEATLAND from  
Seidisfjord 1800B. Route. E.T.A. Clyde  
0400B/24.  
(A.C.I.C., 1917B/20.)

TOBRUK (Bombed 3/4.) TOBRUK 2nd attempt successful and steamer  
floated this morning.  
(Cormack, 1442B/20 to Adnty.)

T.L.C. 314. T.L.C. 314 entered Tyne with gearbox defects.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1745/20.)

PAYNTER, C. in C. W.A., 1908B/19 and LIVERPOOL 1555B/19.  
BLACKFLY, Intend sailing 1900B/20 PAYNTER, BLACKFLY in  
SPEEDWELL. company passing through following positions (a)  
064° 30' N. 014° W. (b) 062° 30' N. 014° W.  
(c) 059° 31' N. 009° 58' W., thence Minches.  
Speed 9 knots. SPEEDWELL thence Scapa, E.T.A. 1300B/23.  
Trawlers E.T.A. Stornoway 0800B/23.  
(SPEEDWELL, 1833B/20.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Movements of Russian Ships. Serial No. 40.  
(D.T.D., 1754B/20 to Ad. Miles.)

W.S. 19. BELVOIR and HURSLEY will be required as escorts  
for convoy W.S.19 expected to leave U.K. 10/5.  
(D.O.D. H., 1932B/20.)

P.Q. 15. Your 1201B/16. It is intended to sail P.Q.15  
Q.P. 11. from Reykjavik on 26/4 consisting of 25 ships  
of which the following should be included:-  
MONTCALM, KRASSIN, BRITISH CORPORAL, EMPIRE  
MORN, SOUTHGATE, CAPE RACE.  
2. A.C.I.C. is requested to signal names of ships for North  
Russia now in Iceland (C) which will be unable to sail on the  
above date. A further signal will then be made giving names  
of ships to be included.  
3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to issue the necessary  
instructions for sailing Q.P.11.  
(D.T.D., 2000B/20.)

/LLANSTEPHAN ...

War Diary.

20.4.1942.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

LLANSTEPHAN  
CASTLE.

A.M. 1213/16, para. 2. For Londonderry read  
Milford Haven.  
2. Route to Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D. H., 2002B/20.)

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B attack on ANTELOPE. Torpedo has been fired at me position 36° 45' N., 00° 10' E.  
(ANTELOPE, 0355A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Am searching the position 036° 45' N., 000° 10' E. no contact obtained.  
(ANTELOPE, 0420/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/C crash 19/4. Swordfish crashed Alboran Island 1930A/19. A/C destroyed and ANTELOPE removed crew.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0510A/20 to Admty., B.N.A.Madrid).

O.G.82. O.G.82 Gibraltar Section EMPIRE HEATH, BARON YARBOROUGH arrived.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1003A/20 to Admty.)  
Arrivals STORK, PENSTEMON, VETCH, CONVOLVULUS escorting convoy O.G.82.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1016A/20 to Admty.)

Italian repatriations. My position for 1200 20/4 35° 52' N., 06° 12' W. course 257 speed 11 knots.  
(TAIGETE, 1200/20 to Admty.)  
ARCOLA 1200/20. Position 35° 52' N. 06° 12' W. course 257 speed 10 knots.  
(ARCOLA, No T.O.O./20 Recd. 1638/20 to Admty.)

→ MANXMAN. Amended E.T.A. 0600A/21. Northern entrance 0700. Propose sailing 1130/22.  
(MANXMAN, 1750A/20 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

Movements. Arrival GARDENIA.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1754A/20 to Admty.)  
Neth. Dest. VAN GALEN arrived Ponta Delgada 1330

G.M.T. 20/4.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1340/20 to S.O.I. Gibraltar).  
TETCOTT arrived Ponta Delgada 1600 G.M.T. 20/4.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1540/20 to S.O.I. Gibraltar).  
Arrivals 1750 M/Launches 176 and 285. Departures 1915 M/Launches 121 and 134 to patrol off Malaga.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1929A/20 to Admty.)

GORLESTON. C. in C. W.A. reference 2115B/16/4. E.T.A. off Ponta Delgada 1400N/21.  
(GORLESTON, 1301Z/20 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Situation. 2002A/20.  
→ (1) MANXMAN 38° 28' 11° 44' through 220 Cape St. Vincent 20 to Gibraltar 23 knots.  
(2) LORD NUFFIELD escorting cable ship MIRROR vicinity of 36° 55' 08° 24'.  
(3) ALOUETTE, COREOPSIS on patrol off (?Lisbon).  
(4) SCOTTISH on patrol off Cape Roca.  
(5) COWSLIP escorting EMILE BAUDOT 28° 38' 13° 02' through 28° 02' 13° 30' thence 222 8.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1320A/20 to N.A. Station Area X.)

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

- ERGO. My 1631A/18 ERGO did not sail 19/4 clearance papers have been renewed valid until midnight 21/4. Rumoured sailing tonight. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1546A/20 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)
- M/V. One Motor Vessel 4000 tons, speed 10 knots, 10 107 WOSN 42° 34' N., 10° W., grey hull, short funnel amidships, two lifeboats, red ensign hoisted after five minutes. (A/C 1636/20 and 1751/20 to 19 Group).
- RENOWN. A.T. 1849/16 para. 1B. It has been decided that RENOWN will join Eastern Fleet.  
2. A.T. 1634/8 (Hush. N.T. in W.D.)
- Force W. Broad pennant of S.O. Force W is to be struck on completion of operation "Calendar." Date to be reported.\*  
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1639B/20 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force W (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)  
W.D. Note. Para. 2 was modified by Admty. 0109/22, q.v.  
*\* not to be struck, see 0109/22.*
- U/B. Following has been read: Addressed Gibraltar W/T. Enemy S/M previously reported was on a course 180° speed 6 knots. (Aircraft using call sign 7XMR, 1900/20).
- German A/C. German A/C seen 2 miles West Peniche course south 2030/18. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1903A/20 to S.O.I. Gibraltar).
- HAVOCK. Your 1921/18 para. 2. Further information from Watkins through American Channels states HAVOCK hit sand bank off Kelibia at about 30 knots. Turbines disintegrated killing one and scalding five stokers.  
2. Further information being sought concerning minefield. (V.A.C.N.A., 2318B/20 to V.A. Malta (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Supply Ship R.A. West Africa's 1225Z/19. Report of supply ship  
and U/B's. and 3 S/M's seen by Panair. U.S. Cruiser  
U.S. Bases. CINCINNATI, U.S. Destroyer SOMERS proceeding from  
Base (F) to investigate. Thence to patrol direct  
route to Base (D) to arrive 2/5.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0036/20 to Admty., C. in C.  
S.A., R.A. West Africa).

C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 0036/20. Have no knowledge of Base F and  
Base D or similar lettered Bases.

(R.A. West Africa, 0931Z/20 to Admty.)

(C. in C. U.S. 0036/20). Request I may be informed of position  
of Base F and D.

(C. in C. S.A., 1930Z/20 to B.A.D. (R) R.A. West Africa, Admty.)  
Your 0931Z/20 not to C. in C. S.A. Base (F) is Recife, Base (D)  
is Trinidad.

(D.O.D. (F) 2111B/20 to R.A. West Africa (R) C. in C. S.A.)

See also B.A.D. Washington, 1505/21.

Following has been read. For (?S.O. (I) Montevideo pass to  
C. in C. S.A., ALCANTARA, PRINCE DAVID R.A.W. Africa. Panair  
reports sighting at 0125 G.M.T. 19/4 in 01° 35' N. 20° 40' W. a  
supply ship and 3 submarines.

(C.T.F. 23, 0110Z/20).

My 1125Z/19 (1225Z/19 intended) my 1247Z/19 and my 1940Z/19.

Report from 2 A/C confirm presence of depot ship and 3 submarines  
A/C were evidently heard as searchlight was switched on. As  
S/M's were apparently fuelling, it was unlikely that depot ship  
has moved far from the position in which she was sighted.

(2) After thorough search of area in which depot ship was  
reported ALCANTARA is to search between the parallels equator  
and 002° S. and between 020° W and 026° W.

→ (3) PRETORIA CASTLE to search equator and 003° N. and 020° and  
026° W.

(4) GLASGOW to search to limit of (?area) endurance between  
equator and 003° S. and 017° W. and 020° W. and then return to  
Freetown.

(5) C. in C. U.S. Fleet is requested to arrange search to  
Westward of Meridian of 026° W.

(6) Sunderland A/C will search during daylight hours area bounded  
by equator and 004° N. and 017° and 020° W.

(R.A. West Africa, 1017Z/20 to ALCANTARA, GLASGOW, PRETORIA  
CASTLE, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., B.A.D.)

Movements. → Arrival 19/4 PRETORIA CASTLE.

(S.O.(I). Freetown, 0406Z/20 to Admty.)

Simonstown arrival 20/4. HERMIONE.

(C. in C. S.A., 1416B/20 to Admty.)

Arrival 1530/20 BOREAS. ✓

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1539Z/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

Durban arrival 1432 GROVE, 1544 ALDENHAM.

(Cdre. i/c Durban, 1548Z/20 to Admty., etc.)

→ Departure 20/4. PRETORIA CASTLE on patrol.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1951Z/20 to Admty.)

Arrival 20/4. ALBATROSS. *5.626*

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2001Z/20 to Admty.)

Departure 20/4 HILDASAY, PLADDA, SLUNA, SHAPINSAY (?1857/20)

(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 2010/20 to Admty.)

/ALFIOS ...

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

- ALFIOS. Overdue shipping. My 1047/18 cancel ALFIOS, ship arrived Lourenco Marques.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0830Z/20 to Admty., etc.)
- VIOLET. VIOLET 0600Z/20 E.T.A. Lagos 1400Z/21.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 0907Z/20 to Admty.)
- Vichy West Africa. Appreciation of probable reactions in Vichy West Africa consequent on Governmental changes Metropolitan France. (details). Am of opinion this period of disunity and uncertainty A.O.F. will offer us favourable opportunity to enter and take over. Favourable period may be of short duration and if taken should be in sufficient strength to preclude failure. My last appreciation this respect still stands.  
(G.O.C. in C. W. Africa, 1040/20 to W.O.)
- LANCASHIRE overdue. LANCASHIRE due Capetown 14/4 not arrived.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1205B/20 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., etc.)
- DIOMEDE, MILWAUKEE, MOFFETT. DIOMEDE leaves Falklands 20/4 for patrol in area W. of line connecting 022° S. 035° W. and 040° S. 050° W. U.S.S. MILWAUKEE and U.S.S. MOFFETT R/V tanker from Trinidad 18/4, E.T.A. Pernambuco 22/4.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1301B/20 to S.A.Stn. Sqdn.)
- Departure 20/4 DIOMEDE on patrol.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 1721Z/20 to Admty.)  
Intend to sail for patrol P.M. today on completion of gunnery practice and pass through following positions, speed 12 knots returning to Montevideo noon G.M.T. 30/4.  
(a) 43° S., 63° W. (b) 42° 60' (c) 36° 49' (d) 29° 43'  
(e) 29° 44' (f) 36° 50' thence Montevideo.  
(DIOMEDE, 1345/20 to C.T.F. 23 (R) Cinclant, Opanav, C. in C. S.A., etc.)
- GLENGYLE. My 1109/14. GLENGYLE sails from Capetown 1600Z/20 for U.K. Routed through K. 18.03 S. 07.15 W. L. Equator 24.43 W. M. 27.08 N. 30.32 W. N. 38.10 N. 31.08 W. O. 48.02 N. 21.27 W. thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A. S. of A. 17 knots to 10° S. then 16 knots. Shifts to W/T organisation for area P. at 1000Z/25. E.T.A. position O. 0400Z/8/5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to order onward route from position (O).  
(C. in C. S.A., 1349B/20 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.Af., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., GLENGYLE).
- GLENGYLE sailed in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1349B/20.  
(S.O.I.) Capetown, 1818Z/20 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., (R) R.A.West Africa).

/CAMBRIA ...

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

CAMBRIA. Your 1257B/17 Cable Ship CAMBRIA will not be ready to sail until end of April Ref. para. 2 repair work can be carried out in following positions.

A. Near Cape San Thome. B. Near Rio De Janeiro.  
C. 033° 53' S., 052° 32' W. D. 034° 20' 053° 24'.  
(N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1415/20 to Admty.)

ORANJE. Hospital Ship ORANJE sailed 1230Z/18 for Simonstown for dry docking E.T.A. 0600Z/20.  
(S.S.T.O. Durban, 1418Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.,  
(R) P.S.T.O. Simonstown).

Vichy Shipping. From air R/C it appears that Vichy ships TOURS, FORT DE SOUVILLE, VILLE D'ORAN, CHELMAN and escort vessel A.75 are proceeding to ports at Ivory Coast, Togo and Dahomey Coast.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1657Z/20 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. S.A., etc.)

AYURUOCA, MANDU. Have you any news of Brazilian Ships AYURUOCA and MANDU reported overdue New York 24/3 and 26/3 respectively from Santos.  
N.S.H.Q's 2201Z/2/4 not to addressee refers.  
(D.T.D., 1721B/20 to S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro, (R)  
Opnav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I.,  
S.O.(I) Jamaica, S.O.(I) Freetown).

ALBATROSS. ALBATROSS has only 2 pilots and 2 observers with catapult experience and C.O. does not consider her fit to carry out operations against possible U-Boat Depot Ship vide my 1017/20/4. Propose to retain ship at Freetown to enable necessary training to be carried out and to sail her for Simonstown about 26/4 but if urgently required she will be ready to leave on 23/4. Ship is due for boiler cleaning but it is not intended that this should be undertaken at Freetown as ten days would be required.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1903Z/20 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

*See p. 624 (Notes)*

U/B. Periscope sighted by A/C at 1844Z/20 in 010° 23' N. 017° 45' W. (R.A. West Africa, 2025Z/20 to AUBRETIA, SNOWDROP, Escorts of O.S.24, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

Motor Minesweepers. Following is a repetition of my 1849B/19 to C. in C. S.A. (Begins). Your 2037Z/7. The 6 M.M.S. complete in Canada from April to August. It is anticipated the first vessel will leave Canada at end of May, 1942, (Ends).  
2. R.A.W.A.F's 1912Z/17 refers.  
(Head of M., 2313B/20 to R.A. West Africa, (R)  
C. in C. S.A.)



War Diary.

20.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements. → Departure 19/4 UNA.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0013B/20 to Admty.)  
Departure PANTHER. (Gr.)  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0450Z/20 to Admty.)  
Arrival 19/4 1055 CUMBRAE, departures 19/4 1635 CUMBRAE, CORDELA,  
LORD IRWIN, 1910, Motor Launch 1023, arrival 20/4, 0700 Motor  
Launch 1038.  
(S.O.I.) Beirut, 1106C/20 to Admty.)  
19/4 Port Said arrival SOUTHERN ISLE, PROTEA, F.F.S.  
LA MOQUEUSE, departure 1915C M.L. 1015.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1216C/20 to Admty.)  
Arrivals 19/4 ZINGARELLA (✓) KLO, DULVERTON, HURWORTH, PEONY.  
Departures 19/4 JANUS, M.T.B's No. 265, 266 (? corrupt group).  
Arrivals 20/4 GLOXINIA, ERICA, COCKER. Departures 20/4 KLO,  
ST. MONANCE, BRIGAND.  
(S.O.I.) Alexandria, 1225C/20 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
20/4. Arrivals PRIMULA, SNAPDRAGON, ERIDGE, BEAUFORT,  
KHEIR-EL-DINE Schooner, SAVOIA. Departure SAVOIA. (Not identified)  
(Tobruk, C.C.O., 2358C/20 to Admty.)

Mines Minefield presumably laid by S/M in Famagusta  
Famagusta. Channel probably night 16/17/4. 1 detonated  
spontaneously 0200/19 type unknown, 1 magnetic  
swept 0740/20 (? on) 3rd pulse single sweepers,  
1 type unknown swept at 1001/20. Port closed.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1005C/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.,  
C.A.M. S.N.O. Levant Area, N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa).  
My 1005/20 4 mines swept today locally by L L - small arm  
sweeper followed at 4 by small arm sweeper - 1st green 135°  
small arm ships 3/4 cable 2nd and 3rd red 135° L L - small arm  
ships 1 cable 4th red 095° L L small arm ships 1 cable. Swept  
on 1st, 3rd, 4th and 7th (? mined area) respectively.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1527C/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

Disposition. Your 1108/18. Confirmed.  
S/M's ex 10th (F.O.S., 1046B/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.,  
S/M Flotilla. S.l., S.10.)

→ UNA, Ref. sailing orders cancel area T. Proceed through  
URGE, 035° 40' 012° 50' to Area J W. of 011° 55' between  
P.35. 035° 35' and 036° 05'. URGE is in area L 036° 13'  
011° 42' - 020° - 30 - 60 and P.35 Area K 035° 00'  
011° 10' - 360° - 30 - 90.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1053B/20 to UNA, (R) URGE, P.35,  
C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)  
My 1053B/20 to UNA. P.35 concentrate on central routes in  
Area K. URGE on Eastern routes area L.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1047B/20 to URGE, UNA, P.35 (R) C. in C. Med.,  
(Capt. (S) 1.)

/Photo ...

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.Photo R/C  
Messina,  
Palermo.

Photographs 19/4. Messina. One Cavour battleship. 2 8" cruisers, 5 destroyers, 3 T.B's and 1 S/M. Palermo. 14 M.L.C. under construction. 2 medium Merchant Ships, 2 small and 8 under 1500 tons. (V.A. Malta, 1054B/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., etc.)

SALZBURG,  
ARKADIA.

My 1824C/17. Reported both ships discharged the Istanbul cargo manifested for Trieste at Bourgas before starting to load. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1055C/20 to S.O.I. Med., S.I. (R) D.N.I.) Re ships leaving Bourgas cargo loaded at Istanbul is manifested for Trieste.

Spitfires  
for Malta.

All groups arrived. Number will be signalled after check. (V.A. Malta, 1058B/20 to S.O. Force "W", (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

See Governor Malta's A/959\* of 17/4 addressed Air Min. and repeated to R.A.F. M.E. (V.A. Malta, 1114B/20 to Admty., C. in C. Med.) \*T.O.O.1230/17. My 1058/20. 47 landed safely. (V.A. Malta, 1140B/20 to S.O. Force W. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

Please pass following to U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP from A.O.C. Malta as opportunity offers. Begins:- My heartiest congratulations on your magnificent achievement in sending off 47 and all arriving here. We are all most grateful for your help. We are setting (?about) the brutes and some had already been successful in action 1100 G.M.T. ends.

(V.A. Malta, 1449B/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ALBA JULIA  
(Rumanian).

Reported ALBA JULIA will sail p.m. today for Trieste via Piraeus (B.4.) (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1245C/20 to S.O.I. Med., S.I., (R) D.N.I.)

THORN.

THORN leaves Alex. at 1915C/20 routed through 032° 12' 028° 37' 032° 54' 024° 34' 033° 02' 021° 18' 032° 45' 020° 28' to establish patrol in area C. S. of 032° 45' and E. of 015° E. (Capt. (S) 1, 1541C/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) R.A. Alex., V.A. Malta, S/M's on Patrol Capt. (S) 10 No. 201 Naval Co-op. Group).

Smoke  
Containers  
for Malta  
defence.

It is hoped that 20 tons of smoke containers of an improved and efficient pattern will be ready for shipping to Gibraltar in LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE leaving U.K. on 24/4. They are intended for defence of Malta harbours against an attack during unloading of ships.

2. Containers are cylindrical and hermetically sealed, height 10.4 inches diameter 8.1 inches, weight 72 per ton. Each burns for 10 minutes.

3. No passage facilities other than by S/M can be made available. Request you will arrange priority with F.O.C.N.A.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1644B/20 to V.A. Malta (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

/URGE ...

War Diary.20.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.→ URGE,  
P.35.Position probably compromised by sighting.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1654B/20 to URGE, P.35 (R) UNA,  
C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.) *See p. 627*Malta Air  
Report.

I.232. 20/4 Malta 20/4. Part 1.  
1435, 1553 hours 19/4. Two alerts. ME.109's 45  
JU.88's 15 JU.87's. Hal Far 2 Hurricanes slight  
damage, officers quarters serious damage, barracks  
other buildings damaged, craters aerodrome, dispersals, UXBS  
Grand Harbour naval armament proof yard damage. Elsewhere gun  
position hit, 9 soldiers killed, 1 officer, five soldiers  
wounded, several civilians trapped. Attack destroyed 4 JU.88s.  
1 ME.109. Probably destroyed 1 ME.109. Damaged 1 JU.87,  
1 ME.109. 2 prisoners. Night 19/20 4 alerts 2038, 2319, 0015,  
0102 hours, raiders bombs land sea. Beaufighter up no  
interceptions A/A fired. 20/4. 6 alerts 0410, 0612, 0840, 1029,  
1300, 1400. ME.109s. 180 JU.88 44 JU.87s. Luqa 1 Maryland damaged  
by Bofors, shell craters aerodrome, dispersals. Oil bombs.  
Hal Far 1 Hurricane petrol bowser destroyed, 2 Hurricanes  
slight damage, barracks serious damage, UXBS. Kalafrana  
1 airman wounded, engine test benches. Spitfire main planes.  
barracks destroyed, sunk plane hangar, other buildings damaged,  
water main burst. UXBS.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1810/20).  
(Pt.2.) I.232 20/4. C.S.R. Malta 20/4.  
1 fighter Blenheim destroyed. Takali. 1 airman 1 Spitfire damaged  
3 Spitfires, 1 Hurricane slight damage, craters aerodrome -  
UX BS. Grand Harbour, 1 minesweeper damaged. Elsewhere 2  
soldiers, 2 civilians, wounded, 2 guns damaged, numerous houses  
destroyed. 2 ME.109's 1 JU.87 destroyed, 3 JU.88's 1 JU.87  
damaged by 6 Spitfires, 3 Hurricanes 1 Spitfire damaged in  
collision with ME.109. Pilot uninjured, A/A destroyed 4 JU.88's,  
damaged 2 JU.88's, 1 ME.109.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1840/20).

Landing  
Craft Crews.

To assist in provision of personnel for crews of  
Landing Craft in Middle East request you will  
consider the following.  
If this scheme acceptable propose to send officer  
to Delhi immediately to consult and make necessary  
arrangements, including proposals for supply of  
officers. Admty. have concurred in principle.  
(C. in C. Med., 1954C/20 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

→ URGE.

Leave area as necessary through 036° 12' 014° 11'  
and keep more than 7 miles from coast until 070°  
from Stelmo on which bearing motor launches and  
drifters may be on patrol after dark. Adjust speed  
to enter Marsamxett 2100B/22.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 2117B/20 to URGE (R) 10th S/M Flot.  
C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.) As amended 2132B/21.

*See p. 627*

/CLYDE ...

War Diary.

20.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

CLYDE.

Departure 20/4 CLYDE.  
(V.A. Malta, 2138/20 to Admty.)  
Tug and M.L. leave harbour 2030B to patrol line  
072° from Stelmo and have been warned of your  
trials.  
(V.A. Malta, 2145B/20 to CLYDE).

Malta Air  
Raids.

3 very heavy raids and a small dusk raid today  
totalling 306 bombers with fighter escort except  
in last raid. Fortunately air was clear and  
aerodrome serviceable when delivery Spitfires  
arrived. Some of these were in action 3 hours after arrival.  
Guns and fighters destroyed 7 bombers 4 fighters certain, 3  
bombers 1 fighter probably, and damaged 9 bombers and a fighter.  
2. Raids were mainly intended for aerodrome though dockyard,  
Manoel Island, Marsa, and many other places received attention.  
3. Damage received. Manoel mine base and pier 5 direct hits with  
small bombs partially demolished. No important damage in  
dockyard, some damage at Marsa.  
4. Torpedo and P.V. workshop Msida demolished by direct hit on  
Saturday and torpedo depot Kalafrana has also been severely  
damaged.  
(V.A. Malta, 2346B/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)

War Diary.

20.4.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy M.B.1. Arrival TULIP, VERBENA, TEVIOT BANK and convoy of 6 ships.  
(S.O.I. Bombay 0545Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

Australian Intelligence. Request disposition of main naval units (?Australian) station may be passed to me for information of C. in C. India. (?Also) request signals such as your 1314/30/3 now passed to C/S Colombo may be repeated to me for C.O.I.C. New Delhi.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0546Z/20 to A.C.N.B.)

Movements. Departure VICTORIA-MARIE with launch ALISON in tow for Pamban.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0717Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

→ Mombasa arrived 20/4 0737 G.M.T. CHITRAL.  
(N.O.I.C. E. Africa 0738Z/20 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. etc.)  
Arrival SPRINGTIDE.  
(S.O.I. Bombay 1131Z/20 to Admty. etc.)  
Departure H.M.I.S. KUTUBTARI, SATYAVATI, and NULCHIRA 1252 G.M.T.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 1355Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

S.U.4. Convoy S.U.4 arrived less Durban and Mauritius portion detached.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0757Z/20 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Colombo.)  
Sailed S.U.4 consisting of WILLARD A. HOLBROOK, DUNTROON and FELIX ROUSSEL for Durban escorted by CHITRAL.  
(2) (Route)  
(C. in C. E.I. 1247Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Kilindini.)

Water Ship. P.S.T.O. India's 0936/18. ALETTA capacity 3600 tons is the only vessel at my disposal and is being ordered to Bombay forthwith. 2. Vessel is known to have engine defects but brief refit should suffice. Certain engine spares are being sent from Colombo in transport DEVONSHIRE. 3. Essential this or another similar tanker should be made available to me at earliest possible moment and D.S.T. is requested to arrange accordingly.  
(C. in C. E.I. 0818Z/20 to P.S.T.O. India, D. of S.T.)

CLAN MACINDOE. N.C.S.O. Capetown 0812/14. Naval stores and explosives in CLAN MACINDOE are to be off loaded at Durban.  
(C. in C. E.I. 0843Z/20 to Cdre. Durban (R) Admty. etc.)

/Minesweeping ...

War Diary.20.4.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

- Minesweeping Persian Gulf. Um Qasr project is now dead. I am ceasing to prepare for minewatching and minesweeping there. My number 133 A of 8/3 to C. in C. E.I. only refers.  
(S.N.O.P.G. 0914Z/18 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Basra.)
- CHILKA Your 1802 18/4 (requesting news of CHILKA) No news.  
(S.O.I. Colombo 0920Z/20 to Admty.)
- CLAN MACBEAN. My 0558/17th off load the Naval Stores at Kilindini then sail CLAN MACBEAN to Colombo.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1144Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Kilindini (R) Admty. P.S.T.O. Bombay.)
- Catalinas. Re release of American Catalinas.  
(Chiefs of Staff No.(W) 157, 1315Z/20 to B.A.D. and J.S.M. 192 2253Z/20 in reply)  
See America and West Indies.
- Kilindini. Intentions for installation of defences.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1310Z/20 to C. in C. E.F. Admty. (R) B.S.3.) See Lion Copy.
- Diego Garcia, Communication. N.O.I.C. Mauritius reports no W/T communication between Mauritius and Diego Garcia since p.m. 18/4. 2. Failure may be due to poor equipment at Diego Garcia which consists only of R.A.F. C.P. set together with 2 R.A.F. operators. 3. Efforts re-establishment communications are being continued.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1401Z/20 to C. in C. E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Mauritius, Admty. C. in C. S.A.)
- Vescas. A.M.2036/1/3 to A.I.G.19. Commencing 1/5 all Vescas from East Indies Station and whole of Red Sea are to be repeated to Opnav, Washington, in addition to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 2. As soon as Opnav is satisfied with information obtained by direct transmission, Admty. will issue instructions to discontinue repeating these Vescas to Ottawa and it is understood that Opnav will arrange for U.S. Consular Officers to discontinue reporting shipping movements. 3. Opnav is in possession of Naval Shore Code. 4. Request necessary instructions may be passed to S.Os (I), N.C.S.Os and R.Os concerned.  
(D.T.D. 1752B/20 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Med., (R) Opnav etc.)

/Force A. ...

**MOST SECRET**

632A

~~MOST SECRET~~

~~MESSAGE~~

~~1310/20th~~ April

Date 21.4.42

IN

Recd. 1225

From C. in C. East Indies

Naval Cypher F by W/T

RECIRCULATION

Addressed C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Admiralty, repeated  
B.S.3.

IMPORTANT

196.

1. Following are my intentions for the installation of defences at Kilindini. Signals referred to are not to all addressees

(a) H.M.S. GUARDIAN to lay A/B boom (C. in C. E.F. 1528 8th and A.M. 1729 9th)

(b) GYJW (KIRRIEMOOR) to lay A/T baffle (my 1742 17th)

(c) Minesweeping craft. I have no means at present of adding to one minesweeping trawler and one minesweeping whaler now at Kilindini but see Para. (d) below. Four of 171st Group LL/SA trawlers (? due) to leave U.K. April 1942 have (? however) been allocated to Zanzibar and these will if necessary be reallocated to Kilindini.

(d) Ant-Submarine craft. Two Anti-submarine M/S trawlers of 6th Trawler Group have been allocated to N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar primarily for anti-submarine duties (my 1709 13th Para. One and Two). H D M L's 1088, 1099 and 1057 are allocated to Kilindini. The allocation of H D M L's now on passage from U.K. and 6 building at Mombasa will be reconsidered when firm date of arrivals and completion are known.

(e) Boom Defence Vessels. BARSTOKE, BARONIA, PRINCE DE LIEGE, and GRAAF VAN VLANDEREN will be sent to Kilindini

(b) Base Staff. Accommodation is being prepared and N.O.I.C. E.A. and Z. is being instructed to expedite the construction of shore installations.

?2. It is requested that War Office and Air Ministry be urged to put in hand as soon as possible those parts of the defence plan laid down by Chiefs of Staff (Admiralty 1442 14th March). In particular

I/.....

I recommend

(a) that R.D.F. be given the highest priority and that the equipment and personnel allocated Addu Atoll be diverted to Kilindini.

(b) That the balloon barrage unit now on its way to Ceylon be similarly (~~developed~~) *diverted*.

(c) That the anti-aircraft gun defences be installed, mobile mountings to be used instead of static to save ~~displacement in erection.~~ *time in erecting.*

3. The employment of the M.N.B.D.O. is under consideration but it appears preferable to use this unit at Seychelles where existing facilities are considerably less than at Mombasa (my 1356 19th).

1310z/20

~~Note: D. of L.D. has not been included in the circulation of this signal.~~

Advance copy to Duty Capt.(2)

1st Lord	C.E. in C.	
1st S.L.	A.G.R.M.	
2nd S.L.	Hydrog.	
3rd S.L.	D.T.D.	
Vice Controller	D. of D.	
4th S.L.	D. of S.	
5th S.L.	D.G.D.	
V.C.N.S.	D.T.S.D.	
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	Hd. of C.W.	
A.C.N.S.(W)	I.P.(2)	
A.C.N.S.(T)	Hd. of N.	
N.A. to A.C.N.S.(T)	W.D.	
Naval Sec.	Admiral Bellairs	
Civil Lord	Dep. Controller	)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of D.	)
N.A. 2nd S.L.	C.E. in C.	)
D.O.D.(F)(2)	D. of S.	) Bath
Duty Capt.(2)	D.S.D.	)
D.D.I.C.(2)	Hd. of S.W.R.	)
D. of P. <del>for action</del>	D.A/S.W.	)
D.A/S.W.		
Hd. of M.(30) for action		
D.N.I. (4)		
E.P.S.		
D.S.D.		
D.P.S.		
D.M.S.		
D. of L.D.		
D.T.M.		
D.D.O.D.(M)		
D.D.O.D.(C)		
D.B.D.		



# MOST SECRET

23rd April 1942.

Correction from War Registry.

Correct C. in C. East Indies 1310/20 April as follows Para 2b "(? Developed)" should read "diverted" ✓

Para 2c "Save displacement in erection" should read "Save time in erecting." ✓

- 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. (V)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)
- Nav. Sec.
- Civ. Lord
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- N.A. 2nd S.L.
- D.O.D. (F)(2)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of I.
- D.N.I. (4)
- E.P.S.
- D.S.D.
- D.P.S.
- D.I.S.
- D. of L.D.
- D.T.H.
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (C)
- D.B.D.

- C.E. in C.
- G.R.H.
- Hydrog.
- D. of D.
- D. of S.
- D.G.D.
- D.T.S.D.
- Hd. of C.W.
- Hd. of N.
- V.D.
- Admiral Bellairs
- Dep. Controller
- D. of D.
- C.E. in C. } Bath.
- D. of S.
- D.S.D.
- Hd. of S.W.R.
- D.A/S.W.

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 22.4.42

Note by War Registry

CORRECTION to C. in C. East Indies 1310z/20

MOST SECRET Distribution

1. Delete note at end of text re D. of L.D.
2. Delete "for action" after D. of P. in circulation.

- 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)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A. to A.C.N.S.(T)
- Naval Sec.
- Civil Lord
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- N.A. 2nd S.L.
- D.O.D.(F)
- Duty Capt.
- D. of P.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.N.I.
- E.P.S.
- D.S.D.
- D.P.S.
- D.M.S.
- D. of L.D.
- D.T.M.
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- D.D.O.D.(C)
- D.B.D.
- C.E. in C.
- A.G.R.M.
- Hydrog.
- D.T.D.
- D. of D.
- D. of S.
- D.G.D.
- D.T.S.D.
- Hd. of C.W.
- I.P.

- D.D.I.C.
- Hd. of N.
- W.D.
- Admiral Bellairs
- Dep. Controller )
- D. of D. )
- C.E. in C. )
- D. of S. ) Bath
- D.S.D. )
- Hd. of S.W.R. )
- D.A/S.W. )

FP

War Diary.

20.4.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Force A.

You may sight RAMDAS northbound a.m./21st.  
(C. in C. E.I. 1901Z/20 to Force A.)

Eastern  
Fleet  
Aircraft.

Your 0837/19. Have you received my 1221/17  
which replied to signals quoted by you?  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1955B/20 to C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary20.4.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

PRES/COTT. E.T.A. 0730Z/20 No.1 boiler 648, No.2 912 hours, RD/F and asdic not functioning. Weather. (PRES/COTT 0002Z/20 to F.O.N.F.)

Movements. St. John's N.F. 19/4. Arrivals: VERITY, WITHERINGTON, CHARLOTTETOWN, KENOGAMI, ex H.X.185. Departures LINCOLN, ST. CLAIR, SNOWBERRY, REGINA, to O.N.85. KINGCUP, DIANELLA, LOOSESTRIKE to Argentia for H.X.186. SHERBROOKE escort C.L.24 Halifax. (F.O.N.F. 0030Z/20 to Admty.)

CALDWELL sailed for Boston.

(S.O.I. Halifax 1237Z/20 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

Norfolk arrived 1355Z/19 ELK.

(N.S.H.Q. 1314Z/20 to Admty.)

CLARKIA arrived and left 19/4 for St. Vincent. *Sum p. 639*  
(Treasurer, Grenada, 1355/20 to Admty.)

Arrival WANDERER, SUMMERSIDE, ex western local escorts O.N.83. SUNFLOWER ex C.L.23. Departure O.R.P. PIORUN, CHURCHILL to Argentia, VETERAN, MONTGOMERY, NANAIMO, OAKVILLE, HALIFAX, Western local escorts H.X.186.

(N.C.S.O. Halifax. N.S. 1723Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

Kingston departure PRINCE HENRY, E.T.A. Colon 1230Z/22.

(Capt i/c Jamaica, 1900R/20 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) B.A.D.

Admty., N.S. Ottawa, N.C.S.O. Colon, C.O.P.C.)

Arrived from Western Local Escort O.N.82, VANQUISHER, LUNENBURG, ARROWHEAD.

(S.O.I. Halifax 2021Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

C.T.15  
Escort.

This is C.T.F. 37 2355/13 addressed U.S.S. BERNADOU, U.S.S. COLE (R) Cinclant, Opnav, C.T.F. 24, C.T.G.24.6, C.T.G. 24.7, Cominch. Task Group 37.5, COLE, BERNADOU proceed

Londonderry thence escort C.T.15 scheduled depart about 28/4. Provided no delay in arrival and readiness for primary task is involved consider group available for escort duty Base C to U.K. as may be directed by S.O.P.A. Iceland. Cancel my 2350/17. (Opnav 0040/20 to C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

T.U.24.1.17  
FIREDRAKE.

*/K.T. W.D*  
My 0401Z/18. After being relieved by Western local escort, FIREDRAKE proceed St. Johns N.F. Remainder of unit Argentia. (C.T.F. 24 0057Z/20 to C.T.U. 24.1.17. (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A.)

U/B.

D/F places S/M within 60 miles of 36.30 N. 72.30 W. at 2255Z/19. (N.S.H.Q. 0243Z/20 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

/GARONNE ...

635

War Diary.20.4.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

GARONNE - This is C.T.U. 24.1.3 2050/19. "Last night S.S. MANCHESTER DIVISION, collision. GARONNE was in collision with S.S. MANCHESTER DIVISION. I went close aboard after daylight and MANCHESTER reported ability to cope with damage. Both ships then able make 7 knots. Before noon MANCHESTER began to jettison cargo and about 1600 left position in order facilitate repairs. At 2030Z MANCHESTER DIVISION on course 340° speed 4 with SPENCER standing by in position 50° - 40' N. 42° - 30' W. (Weather). Vice-Adm. Eliot in MANCHESTER as Convoy Commodore but on Sick List before I joined. Rear-Adm. Knowles in TUSCURIKA was already Acting Commodore. If MANCHESTER can proceed tonight she may be able rejoin convoy but that appears doubtful. Unless otherwise directed SPENCER will stand by MANCHESTER until daylight tomorrow and then report MANCHESTER proceeding independently as a straggler or returning to St. Johns or will take off crew. Is PUERTO RICO in vicinity? SPENCER is needed with convoy. Convoy 8 miles East of position above, speed 9, steering for (Q)".

(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0250/20 to Opanav (R) C.T.F. 24, Cinclant, Admty. etc.)

Your 0250 20th. Rescue Tug TENACITY and FRISKY sailed a.m. today to assistance of MANCHESTER DIVISION. CHAMBLY and PRUDENT in vicinity also ordered to stand by.

(C.C.N.F. 1140Z/20 to C.T.F. 24.1.3. (R) U.S. C.N.O. C.T.F.24 etc.)

This is C.T.U. 24.1.3. dispatch 0907/20 "From C.T.U. 24.1.3 MANCHESTER DIVISION completed temporary repairs 2350Z 50° 59' N. 42° 38' W. Fears serious damage below waterline. Proceeding. St. Johns course 241° speed 10 knots. Please send escort to meet MANCHESTER DIVISION. Am directing SPENCER to rejoin convoy".

(Washington 1315/20 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Opanav, Cinclant etc.)

Tugs TENACITY and FRISKY sailed 1315Z/20 to salvage MANCHESTER DIVISION.

(F.O.N.F. 1735Z/20 to Admty.)

Intercepted 1558 G.M.T. from Controlling Station Chatham Mass. Radio. WCC. S O S (MANCHESTER DIVISION) position at 1500 G.M.T. 49.57 N. 44.50 W. endeavouring to steer 245°.

(Portishead Radio No T.O.O./20 Recd 1816/20.)

LETITIA Your 2214B/18. Decision being reconsidered.  
BATORY. (2) Full consideration was given to desirability for drydocking LETITIA and BATORY. (3) Due regard also given to protests of both masters and advice of Huband and agents against drydocking at Quebec. (4) Condition and requirements of ships were carefully weighed against ice risks involved on passage to Quebec which situation still exists.

(N.S.H.Q. 0436Z/20 to D.S.T. (R) C.O.A.C.)

My 0436/20. Having due regard to all opinions as to necessity of drydocking it is considered (a) time factor and ice conditions do not justify risk of sending LETITIA and BATORY to Quebec (b) suitable escort now available and risk of proceeding to New York is not justified.

2. All necessary work now in hand at Halifax. Huband arranging quick drydocking for BATORY 26/4 or 27/4 and if possible LETITIA 28/4 or 29/4 at Halifax.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2050Z/20 to D. of S.T. (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax.

/U/B ...

War Diary.

20.4.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

U/B. D/F place S/M at 0030Z/20 within 50 miles 13.30 N. 69.30 W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0635Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

U/B attack. Intercepted 0433 G.M.T. de N.A.A. (Arlington Va.) (Unread) GCTOM submarine attack 45.32 N. 75.19 W. 2240 G.C.T. Hydro. Controlling Station, Arlington Radio.  
(Portishead Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0708/20)

U/B. D/F indicates S/M within 30 miles of 34.30 N. 70.30 W. at 0351Z/20.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0722Z/20 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

U/B. At 0512Z/20 S/M within 60 miles 35° N. 68° 30' W. by D/F.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0750Z/20 to Admty. Brit. Warships Area 7A, etc.)

Movement Summary 1800 G.M.T. 20/4.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
ALCANTARA	03° N. 25° W.	Patrol	Blank
Convoy W.S.18			
GAMBIA	} 39½° N. 29½° W.	200°	13
FROBISHER			
Destroyer Escort.			

(D.O.D.(F) 0900Z/20 to Opnav (R) Comnabeau)

U/B. At 0418Z/20 D/F placed submarine 39° N. 63.30 W. accuracy 100 miles.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1010Z/20 to Brit. warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

U/B. S/M sighted 1048Z/20 in 044° 27' N. 066° 13' W. heading N.E.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1220Z/20 to C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

Catalinas for Indian Ocean. Following for 1st S.L. from Chiefs of Staff No.(W) 157.

1. Further examination shows that we cannot meet from our own resources our minimum requirement for air R/C over Indian Ocean. As you know, we have already denuded Coastal Command beyond danger point.
2. We suggest you sound King with a view to obtaining maximum release of American Catalina Units for service in that area.
3. Agreement to this would in no way compromise agreement

/reached ...

War Diary.20.4.1942  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Catalinas reached with Marshall for concentrating maximum land-based effort against Western Europe this year.

(Air Mins. T.O.O.1315Z/20 to B.A.D.)

J.S.M.192 From 1st S.L. - Your C.O.S.(W) 157.

A. I agree regarding extent to which Coastal Command has been reduced.

B. In their original paper on air requirements, Admty. asked for two squadrons of land-based aircraft for R/C over Bay of Bengal and for dealing with any coastal advance by Japanese. I was under impresssion this requirement was to be met.

C. In any case, experience has shown that the Catalina is incapable of shadowing a Japanese Force protected by fighters and as it is essential that a force once located should be shadowed, shore-based aircraft must be provided in addition to Catalinas.

D. If the land-based squadrons together with the Catalinas we are sending will meet our requirements, there will be no case on which to approach King.

(J.S.M. T.O.O. 2253Z/20 to C.O.S. London.)

U.S. S/Ms A.M.2348B/14 to C. in C. E.F. covers provision of S/Ms for A/S training of British and Allied vessels in Australian waters. S/Ms will also be required on New Zealand station for same purpose. No British or Dutch S/Ms are

available, and you are requested to approach U.S. Authorities with a view to the provision of U.S. S/Ms for this important duty.

(D.A./S.W. 1328B/20 to B.A.D.)

U/B. D/F indicates U-boat within 100 miles of 039° N. 054° 30' W. 342° 1008Z/20.

(N.S.H.Q. 1334Z/20 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

KIWI. San Diego returned 18/4 H.M.N.Z. KIWI defective bearings. Expects to sail p.m./20.

(N.S.H.Q. 1435Z/20 to Admty.)

American Ships,I have been asked by N.O.B. if American ships may sail to various destinations. I have replied no and that I am acting under Admty. instructions. Request confirmation of my action.

(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1501Q/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.

(R) Admty. S.O.I. Kingston.)

N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1501/20. Request Admty's decision. U.S. authorities do not appear to have issued general instructions regarding suspension of sailings.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 1902P/20 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.O.I. Kingston.)

/St. Vincent ...

War Diary.

20.4.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

St. Vincent W.I. Fort Charlotte light will be extinguished as from tonight 20th. (St. Vincent W.I., 1540/20 to S.O.(I) Jamaica (R) Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

NEMAHA MEANTICUT. Your 2301Z/16. NEMAHA (U.S) arrival Halifax 13/4, vide N.C.S.O. Halifax's Vesca 2358Z/13 repeated N.S.H.Q. Your 2101Z/18. MEANTICUT reported at New York 9/4 after collision. (D.T.D. 1545B/20 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Opnav, C.O.A.C.)

Convoy Situation Reports. Your 2038B/19 affirmative. To conform with communication agreement request that the line of demarkation between Opnav and C. in C. W.A. situation reports be 28° West. (Opnav 1625Z/20 to Admty.)

ANNEBERG. ANNEBERG due St. John N.B. 15/4 not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. 1626Z/20 to Opnav, Admty. etc.)

COTATI U/B. SSSS, COTATI 43° 19' N. 58° 46' W. chased by submarine 1725Z/20. (C.O.A.C. 1745Z/20 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.) W.D. Note. Was undamaged, see C.O.A.C. 1436Z/22.

Depot Ship & S/Ms. C. in C. U.S. Fleet requests that any further signals in connection with Operations mentioned in your 1017/20 may be passed direct to Cinclant and C.T.F. 23 for information. This will also apply to any other Operations of this sort which may take place in this area in future. (B.A.D. 1809Z/20 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.) Other signals on this operation, see South Atlantic.

This is C.T.F. 23. 1132/20 Action C.T.F.23.4. Information C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. C.T.G. 23.2. C.T.G. 23.3 C. in C. U.S. Fleet Opnav. Opnav inform C. in C. S.A. and R.A.W.A. (Begins) Search equatorial belt to about 026° W. thence into area (B) ends. (Opnav 2045/20 to C. in C. S.A. R.A. West Africa.)

U.S. Atlantic Bases. U.S. Authorities normally refer to the following U.S. bases in Atlantic by their letter. For example Recife is referred to as Base F. Main Operating Bases Atlantic:- R - Argentia M - Bermuda. S - Casco Bay. H - Hampton Roads. C - Iceland. G - Narragansett Bay. J - San Juan. Secondary Operating Bases Atlantic:- B - Bahia. L - Coco Solo. U - Guantanamo. X - Halifax. W - Key West. Q - New London. F - Recife. E - Shelburne. Y - Sydney. T - St. Thomas. D - Trinidad. V - Vieques Island. Destroyer Base 1 - Londonderry, Ireland. (D.O.D.(F) 1820B/23 A.G.M.)

/Ice ...



War Diary.

20.4.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Ice Report. Ice Bulletin 20/4. St. Lawrence area Halifax field of ice Cape Breton Island to 045° 15' 060° 40' thence 044° 40' 059° 45' thence 046° 05' 058° 25' thence 047° 10' 059° (? 45') thence  
Bird Rock. Report 15/4 southerly limit of ice in Gulf 048° 25' 062° 25' to 048° 05' 061° 10' thence northward and eastward (? past) 049° 25' 058° 45'. Probable (? limit) if field of ice in track Cape Ray to Quebec in vicinity of Bird Rock. (? Newfoundland) area probable limit of field of ice Cape Bauld to 051° 15' 054° 30' thence N. to 055° 00' thence N. (corrupt group) Scattered loose ice and bergs in bay from Cape Bauld to 049° 17' 053° 27'. Report 15/4 bergs (? 046°) 36' (? 053°) 18'. Bergs 046° 20' 052° 35'.  
Greenland Area. Storis ice extending 40 miles S. of (? Farewell) and lying 15 to 20 miles off shore from 060° 00' 046° 00' to 060° 30' 049° 00'. Denmark Strait no recent report. (C.T.24 1837Z/20.)

Caribbean Shipping Suspension. Your 2158/18 not to B.A.D. Request for information of Navy Dept. reason for suspension of sailings. Although U.S. authorities have suspended U.S. tanker sailings as reported in N.S.H.Q. 2250/17 and 0525/18 they have not stopped other vessels. Request messages similar to your 2158/18 be passed to Opnav and B.A.D. for information. (B.A.D. 1849Z/20 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty 0711B/21.  
Your telegrams Nos.143 and 144 (see 19/4) Admiralty instruction referred to applies only to British ships. (S. of S. for Colonies 1835/20 to Govr. Leeward Islands.)

EASTMORE survivors. This is C.T.G. 23.4 0800/20 Addressed C. in C. U.S. Fleet, for information C.T.F.23, C. in C. S.A. At 0800Z/20 in 05.12 S. 32.15 W. Task Group 23.4. contacted British steamer CALGARY bound to Capetown. CALGARY has 28 survivors of S.S. EASTMORE picked up in 38.00 N. 62.52 W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1855/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

Caribbean Shipping. A.M.2158B/18 ships eastward bound from Caripito and Trinidad can now be sailed. MEGARA is to be sailed to Capetown but is to be given an alternative route to Freetown and Master warned that he may be diverted at sea. (D.T.D. 2001B/20 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) N.C.S.O. Trinidad, S.O.I. Jamaica.)

CLARKIA LADY DRAKE. Proceed forthwith to St. Lucia with LADY DRAKE. Report to Com. Caribbean Sea Frontier by W/T or by L/T on arrival at St. Lucia for instructions. LADY DRAKE to remain at St. Lucia pending further orders. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2002P/20 to CLARKIA (R) N.O.I.C. Trinidad, Com.10 Admty. S.O.I. Kingston.)

/SAN FABIAN ...

War Diary.

20.4.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

SAN FABIAN  
EAGLESDALE.

Sailing of SAN FABIAN and EAGLESDALE from Curacao for Freetown and Capetown respectively is a matter of urgency. Request you will ask Com.10 if he could supply an escort for these ships until well E. of Trinidad.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2003B/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Admty. ask if you can supply an escort for tanker SAN FABIAN and EAGLESDALE from Curacao until east of Trinidad. Sailing of these ships from Curacao to Freetown is a matter of urgency. They will not leave pending your reply which is requested as soon as possible. B.A.D. pass to C. in C.U.S. Fleet.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2012P/20 to Com.10)

GULFAMERICA  
DELVALLE.

Your 1716/19. GULFAMERICA 11/4. DELVALLE 12/4.  
Times of attack as stated.  
(B.A.D. 2051Z/20 to Admty.)

M.A.C.R.I  
amendment.

Amendment number 5 to 2nd edition M.A.C.R.I. now in mail. (details). Commanders Eastern Gulf, Caribbean Sea and Panama Sea Frontiers pass to routeing officers within their frontier.  
(Opnav 2130/20 to Admty. etc) See also Admty 1730/22.

U/B.

Intercepted 2025 G.M.T. WGBC1 de WBF 20/18 10. S/M sighted 43° 19' N. 58° 46' W. at 1729Z/20/1810. Controlling station Hingham Massachusetts Radio.  
(Portishead Radio No T.O.O. Recd 2225/20 to Admty)

N.Z.  
Trawlers.

Bermuda departure H.M.N.Z. Trawlers TUI, INCHKEITH, SANDRA, KILLEGRAY and SCARBA in accordance with my 1833/18. E.T.A. Kingston 26/4.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2303P/20 to Admty.)

641

20.4.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Auckland ASCANIA due Suva 2100Z/23.  
(S.O.I. Wellington 0501Z/20 to Admty. etc.)  
ROCKHAMPTON arrived Sydney N.S.W. 0250Z/19  
R.A.A.F. store ship WANAKA arrived Townsville 2015Z/18 and  
left 0030Z for Port Moresby. VOYAGER escorting H.T. QUEEN  
→ ELIZABETH (for Fremantle) left Sydney N.S.W. 0010Z/19 for  
Melbourne. (A.C.N.B. 1038Z/20 to Admty.)

Situation. Serial No. 89 from C.W.R. April 19th.  
Air R/C 19/4 reports probably aircraft carrier,  
1 A/C tender, 1 oiler in Koepang Area.  
2. 6 A/C attacked shipping in Rabaul Harbour at 0130Z/19.  
7 ships sighted in Rabaul area including 1 tanker. Direct hit  
and near miss on 1 ship. Flying boat machine gunned. Strong  
fighters intercepted. 1 Zero shot down, another probably  
shot down. 1 A/C simultaneously attacked Lakunai aerodrome.  
Buildings bombed large fires seen. A/A fire light and  
inaccurate. 4 A/C on aerodrome, 2 possibly damaged.  
3. Ref. serial No. 88 para 1. 1 Zero fighter now believed  
shot down, another damaged.  
4. Enemy air R/C 19/4 Samarai Cape Nelson Area (New Guinea)  
5. Flying boat reported refuelling at Samarai.  
(A.C.N.B. 0838Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

VAMPIRE Intend announcing loss of VAMPIRE 0200Z/22 in  
(sunk 9/4) following general terms (Begins) loss as result  
of enemy action in Bay of Bengal during recent  
operations (ends) Casualty list then to be  
released simultaneously. Request you conform  
as to text and release time of communique.  
(A.C.N.B. 1240Z/20 to Admty. (R) Dep. C. in C.  
E.F.)

Dispositions. Main Naval Units Australia Station 20/4.  
Sydney. STUART, WESTRALIA, LE TRIOMPHANT, U.S.  
WHIPPLE refitting. CANBERRA, HOBART. Repairing,  
Netherlands Cr. TROMP, U.S. WILLIAM B. PRESTON.  
Departure Sydney 18/4 for escort duty ACHILLES.  
Due Sydney 22/4 from Noumea AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, U.S. J.D.  
EDWARDS.  
Melbourne. KANIMBLA, VENDETTA (damaged) and U.S. Oiler GEORGE  
→ G. HENRY. Due 20/4 VOYAGER.  
Brisbane. U.S. Ship GRIFFIN, GOLD STAR, R.A.F.A. Oiler KURUMBA.  
Fremantle. U.S. BARKER, U.S. BULMER, U.S. PARROTT, U.S. PAUL  
JONES, U.S. BLACK HAWK, U.S. Ship OTUS, and oilers\*ERLING  
BROVIG, TRINITY.  
Departure from Fremantle 15/4 ATHENE for Trincomalee, 18/4 U.S.  
BOISE for Melbourne.  
19/4 U.S. PHOENIX for escort duty. Due Fremantle 20/4 MONOWAI,  
U.S. JOHN D. FORD.  
Albany. U.S. HERON, U.S. MCCORMICK.  
Shark Bay. U.S. CHILDS.  
Noumea. LEANDER, U.S. CHICAGO, U.S. PERKINS, U.S. Ship TANGIER,  
R.F.A. BISHOPDALE. Due Noumea 23/4 from West, MANOORA, U.S.  
ALDEN.  
Vila. U.S. LAMSON, BUNGAREE due Palm Passage 20/4. (A.C.N.B.  
2019Z/20 to C. in C. E.F. etc.)

642

20.4.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions. (D.D.I.C. 1427B/20,  
1430B/20.)

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Photographs taken at Trondheim this afternoon showed TIRPITZ still there but did not cover the usual berths of the other 3 Main Units.

ORIBI, MARNE, PUNJABI, and FURY arrived at Reykjavik at 1246B today with 11 M/Vs of Q.P.10 and 6 originally belonging to P.Q.14; and HEBE also arrived there at 1531B with 4 more M/Vs from P.Q.14.

A message originating from an A/C on the ground at 1010 today stating that 2 enemy cruisers had been sighted caused F.O.S. to issue some orders to S/MS at Lerwick and to TRIDENT which were cancelled later when the message was found to relate only to a practice.

6 E-Boats were sighted at 2300 tonight by the 6th M.G.B. Flotilla off Harwich.

The destroyer QUORN, mined yesterday, arrived at Harwich at 0225B this morning in tow of two tugs; and VERDUN and VALOROUS both report today that, though close to QUORN when she was struck, they heard no explosion.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland was attacked at 2303B by 4 or 5 enemy A/C, but no naval damage or casualty is reported.

U-Boats.

On 13/4 SPEEDWELL escorting Convoy Q.P.10 attacked a U-Boat with depth charges about 60 miles South of Bear Island. The U-Boat was again sighted later, apparently stopped, and was attacked by MARNE when a patch of oil was seen but no wreckage. (D.O.R. 21/4.)

/At ...

War Diary.

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boats - Contd.

At 1112/21 an A/C attacked off Stavanger with cannon and M.G. a U-Boat which did not dive and whose guns were not manned. (D.O.R. 596)

At 1532/21 an A/C attacked a U-Boat 60 miles S.W. of Ushant with depth-charges, four of which were seen to explode the first alongside the still visible periscope. (D.O.R. 596.)

North Atlantic.

RENOWN and ITHURIEL were to have sailed from Gibraltar as soon as practicable to join Eastern Fleet, ANTELOPE accompanying them as far as Freetown, but at 2031B Admty. ordered they were not to sail until further orders. In the interests of security F.O.C.N.A. proposes S.O. Force W should continue to fly his broad pendant until RENOWN leaves Gibraltar.

"Calendar". Operation "Calendar" was completed p.m. today.

South Atlantic.

Shipping  
Diversion.

C. in C. S.A. proposes to introduce a general scheme of diversion for shipping plying between South Africa and West Atlantic.

A.S. 2.

Convoy A.S.2, U.S. personnel for E. Africa, India, and Iraq, left Capetown today escorted by CILICIA.

BRIDGEWATER,  
U/B.

BRIDGEWATER attacked a contact at 0945Z in 05.56 S. 02.07 E. No apparent result.

/C. in C. ...

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic - Contd.

C. in C. Prime Minister of South Africa has informed C. in C. S.A. unofficially that he concurs in C. in C's proposal to move his H.Q. from Simonstown to Capetown.

Mediterranean.

Malta. In 2 medium and 1 heavy raids today 141 bombers were used, all with heavy fighter escort. About 12 Spitfires up for each raid destroyed 6 bombers and 3 fighters, with 21 probables and damaged. Aerodromes were the main target, but Dockyard was attacked in first and last raids. JADE, A/S trawler, previously damaged, was sunk. Lloyds surveyor advises that PAMPAS and TALABOT, which continue to be hit by bombs almost daily, are both total constructive losses.

Enemy Cruiser. A special Wellington reported sighting a cruiser at 0046B in 243 Filfola Is. 27, course 100° speed 29 knots.

Land Threat to Egypt. In an appreciation of enemy capabilities Cs. in C., M.E., consider that an attempt to seize Delta is improbable until after September and without addition to present formations, latter dependent on operations in Russia. - From May onwards, however, enemy may consider his superiority in armour sufficient to undertake an operation to seize Tobruk.

Cyrenaica. 4 Wellingtons mined Benghazi Harbour last night, while 11 others made a diversionary attack on moles and gun positions.

2 JU.88s attacked shipping in Tobruk without success.

Air Attack on Enemy M/V. 2 Beaufighters on free lance patrol from Middle East attacked an M/V of 2500 tons off Zuetina and scored cannon shell hits on after hold and superstructure.

/Air ...

War Diary.

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Attack  
on Enemy  
Convoy.

12 Beauforts from Middle East attacked an enemy  
convoy today (time and position not stated) and  
claim torpedo hits on M/Vs of 10,000 and 12,000  
tons.

Beirut.

*8 mines  
laid by V 331  
on 14/4*

3 magnetic mines were swept off Beirut today,  
laid by U/B possibly on night of 15/4.  
Port has been closed from 1130C/21.

East Indies.

Bases.

Armindia confirm to C. in C. E.F. that priority  
for defence of bases within their command is -  
Seychelles, Rodriguez, Diego Garcia, Mauritius.  
Kilindini is not in India Command. Positions  
recommended for boom defences there were  
communicated by Admty. today to C. in C. E.F.

America and West Indies.

Caribbean  
shipping.

At 1120B, Admty. ordered sailings of British  
shipping other than tankers between loading  
ports in Gulf of Mexico to be resumed.

Replying to an Admty. proposal on 16/4 to begin  
Caribbean convoys, C. in C. U.S. Fleet states  
that this traffic will have to depend in large  
measure on air coverage and on about a dozen  
destroyers and patrol craft until sufficient  
escort becomes available to warrant starting  
subsidiary convoys.

1st Sea Lord (in U.S.A.) has informed Americans  
that pending convoy arrangements between  
Guantanamo and New York our minimum requirement  
would be met by a tanker convoy between Aruba  
and Trinidad every 14 days.

Americans ask how many ships there would be  
in each convoy.

Admty. reply that limiting factor is number of  
safe berths in Curacao and Aruba, estimated at  
about 20, less number of U.S.A. tankers, probable  
size of convoy is therefore 15 to 20 ships.

/U.S. ...



War Diary.

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S. PIPESTONE COUNTY, Durban and Trinidad for Boston, was torpedoed at 1657 in 37.43 N., 66.16 W. and is considered sunk.

Australia.

3 heavy bombers attacked enemy shipping at Rabaul at 2215 G.M.T. 1 possible hit was obtained on wharf.

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

NELSON. Departure NELSON escorted by MIDDLETON, LAMERTON and HURSLEY. (C. in C. Rosyth 0635/21 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Scapa arrivals. NELSON with MIDDLETON, LAMERTON and HURSLEY. (A.C.O.S. 1927/21.)

LONDON. Scapa arrival C.S.1 in LONDON. (A.C.O.S. 0931B/21)

O.10. Arrived O.10. <sup>(Rotterdam)</sup> (Capt. S.7. 1031B/21)

KENT. Scapa departure KENT. E.T.A. 0520/22. (A.C.O.S. 1138B/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

UPRIGHT. Your 1203/16 and F.O.I.C. Greenock 1748/18.  
Arrived. (Capt. S.6. 1146B/21 to Capt. S.3.)  
(1317K)

WASP. A.M. 1914B/17, F.O.C.N.A. 1612A/19, and 0658A/21.  
CAIRO. 1. Onward route from position C to D  $049^{\circ} 02'$   
SALISBURY. N.  $018^{\circ} 45'$  W. E.  $055^{\circ} 03'$  N  $011^{\circ} 01'$  W.  
GEORGETOWN. F.  $270^{\circ}$  Skerryvore 10 miles.  
2. U.S.S. WASP thence through Minches to Scapa.  
3. CAIRO to proceed Belfast from position (E)  
4. S.O. Force W pass to U.S.S. WASP.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1311Z/21 to WASP, CAIRO, SALISBURY)  
*See p. 654*

DUKE OF YORK. C. in C. H.F. 1403/20. Intend to pass Hoxa Gate at 1430<sup>h</sup> in DUKE OF YORK passing through  $058^{\circ} 45'$  N  $007^{\circ}$  W. E.T.A. 0830Z/24. (V.A. 2. 1430B/21)

→ STURGEON. STURGEON is to be sailed for Seidisfjord as follows. Leave Lerwick 0600B/24 to proceed unescorted on surface at C.O.'s discretion through following positions.  
3. On arrival at Seidisfjord STURGEON is to complete with diesel oil from OLIGARCH and sail as ordered by C. in C. H.F. to join convoy P.Q.15. (A.C.O.S. 1935B/21 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick)

Operations.

Norway S/M Patrol. → Myl012/19. Confirmed except that STURGEON will probably sail 24/4. Zones are allocated as follows:- K.26 P.43, K.24 P.551, K.22 UREDD, K.20 MINERVE. Submarines are to be sailed adjusting speed of advance so as to arrive in their zones at 0800B/28. (F.O.S. 1021B/21 to Capt. S.9.) *See next page.*

Admiral Miles 1137C/18. As Russian S/M will remain east of  $018^{\circ}$  E I would like as far as endurance permits British S/M area to be extended 75 miles to North Eastwards. (C. in C. H.F. 1747B/21 to F.O.S.)

/Denmark...

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Denmark Strait Patrol. BERWICK on patrol "White". (A.C.I.C. 1458B/21)

STURGEON. STURGEON, P.43 and MINERVE to one hours notice forthwith. (F.O.S. 1619B/21)  
 P.43. Cancel my 1619/21. Revert to 4 hours notice.  
 MINERVE. (F.O.S. 2031B/21)  
 Proceed with despatch to 65° N 08° E. (F.O.S. 1621B/21 to TRIDENT.)  
 Cancel my 1621/21, my 1652/21, and my 1947/21. Proceed in accordance with S.9 2235/18. (F.O.S. 2034B/21 to TRIDENT.)

*See previous page*

Night 21/22 -  
 Dover Patrols. M.Ls. 139 - 140 on O.D.7. M.Ls. 195 - 346 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and North East Spit Buoy, E.T.D. 2210, E.T.R. 0620/22. (V.A. Dover 1739B/21.)

British Air Activity.

Brixham Height of M/V Balloons. Air Ministry have agreed proposals in para 3 of my 1107/16. Take action accordingly. (D. of L.D. 1907B/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Air Protection of North Russian Convoys. Your 2102B/11. Amendments are understood by EMPIRE MORN. (A.C.I.C. 2031B/21 to Admty.) My 2102/11 para 1. Are these amendments understood by EMPIRE MORN. (D.T.D. 2216B/21 to A.C.I.C.)

A/C from Cam ships T.D/D.E.M.S. 1120/8/9 dated 8.4.42. "Special instructions for Cam ships sailing in P.Q. and Q.P. Convoys" is to be amended as follows, sub para 9 (d) add "Aircraft should land at Vaenga aerodrome in Kola Inlet." (D.T.D. 2217B/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland attacked. Portland attacked by 4 or 5 enemy aircraft at 2303B/21. No naval casualty or damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2345B/21.)

Mining.

QUORN (Mined 20/4) Arrival SHEARWATER and QUORN in tow of Tugs KENIA and SUPERMAN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0225B/21) Following has been received. From VERDUN. Begins. Crew of PLAWSWORTH report light explosion only. Although VERDUN was in the vicinity of mining of QUORN, PLAWSWORTH, and VAE VICTIS, no explosions were heard either above or below the surface. 0815B/20. Ends.

/From...

650

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

QUORN (Mined 20/4) Contd. From VALOROUS. Begins. VERDUN's 0815. Although close to QUORN no explosion heard. 0925B/21. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 1019B/21 to Admty.)

"Tincture" Request you will repeat Operation "Tincture" by p.m. 25 in the manner described in my 1207/10/9/41. (D.M.S. 1216B/21 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/20 to 0900/21. Nil. (V.A. Dover 0922B/21)

Enemy Convoy. On 17/4 Russians report Convoy sailed Kirkenes to westward. (Ad. Miles 1031C/21 to Admty.)

Report of Cruisers. Following has been read incompletely received on 8290 kc/s at 1010. 2 Cruisers bearing 025°, distance 9 miles, course 284°. My position 172XACY23 based on reference position at 0900.

(Iceland W/T 1154/21)

My 1248/21. Nothing further heard of ship originating enemy report T.O.O. 1154. (Reykjavik W/T 1314B/21)  
Ship originating enemy report time of origin 1154/21 is to amplify. (A.C.N.S. H. 1512B/21 to Ships Areas A and B.)  
My 1512/21. The report was a practice message originated by an aircraft on the ground. (D.D.I.C. 1852B/21 to Ships and Authorities Areas A and B.)

E-Boats off Harwich. Six enemy War Motor Boats. My position 51° 42' N 2° 40' E. (S.O. 6th M.G.B. Flot. 2300/21)

TIRPITZ. P.R.U. Trondheim p.m. today shows TIRPITZ present. Berths of other main units not covered. (D.D.I.C. 2347B/21)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. On 17/4 Russians report one U-Boat in 70° 18' N 32° 47' E and one U-Boat bearing 003° Tsip Navolok 15 miles. On 18/4 single U-Boats in following positions (A) 72° 36' N 35° 20' E. (B) 72° 17' N 34° 15' E. (C) 71° 20' N 34° 53' E (D) 70° 33' N 35° 10' E. On 19/4 in 70° 22' N 35° 18' E same U-Boat as in (D) above. In centre part of Varanger Fiord one U-Boat. (Ad. Miles 1031C/21 to Admty.)  
Drifter of Scapa Pool on passage Fraserburgh to Lyness reported sighting periscope in position 17 miles north of Buckie at 1350 today. Air R/C of this area is being flown. (A.C.O.S. 1912B/21)  
By D/F at 1655Z/21 U-Boat was in approx. 61° 40' N-62° 40' N and 2° - 4° E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2254B/21 to SEAWOLF, TRIDENT)

/Attack...

651

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - Contd.Attack  
by  
DEPTFORD  
etc.

My 1546B/20. Still in contact, no apparent movement. Two attacks have been carried out by ST. MARY's. Oil still rising. (DEPTFORD 0510Z/21)  
Contact is considered to be a wreck. Proceed to base. (C. in C. W.A. 1024B/21 to DEPTFORD.)

Casualties and Defects.BLACKFLY.  
PAYNTER.

SPEEDWELL, BLACKFLY, PAYNTER sailed 1930B as in SPEEDWELL's 1833/20. (A.C.I.C. 0025B/21)  
After embarking stores BLACKFLY and PAYNTER are to proceed to Belfast in accordance with my 2319/21/3 para 4. (C. in C. W.A. 1208B/21.)

NEWMARKET.

Sailed NEWMARKET. E.T.A. Loch Foyle 1200B/21. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0041B/21.)  
Arrived NEWMARKET. (Cdre. Londonderry 1217B/21)

ORILLIA.

Sailed <sup>Admiral</sup>ORILLIA. E.T.A. Tobermory 0630Z/21. (C.T.G. 24.7. 0110B/21)  
My 0110B/21. ORILLIA returned with compass defects. (C.T.G. 24.7. 0715B/21.)

ICEMAID.

ICEMAID water under control of Salvage pumps. Request permission to berth Immingham Dock for part discharge. (Salvage Officer 0301/21 to F.O. Humber.)

LUDLOW.

Proceed full speed and stand by me. (LUDLOW 1145B/21 to VANITY.)

SPEEDY.

Proceed passing Switha at 2100 tonight to refit at Humber Graving Dock. (R.A.D. 1716B/21 to SPEEDY.)  
SPEEDY sailed for Humber. E.T.A. 0800B/23. (R.A.D. 2227B/21.)

EASTER  
ROSE.

Your 2123A/23/3. Drifter EASTER ROSE has sustained considerable damage in collision with entrance to Albert Harbour. Will require docking and will be unable to sail by May 1st. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1711B/21)

ENCHANTRESS.

ENCHANTRESS port engine out of action, gearing having developed unexplained knock. Preliminary investigation reveals no damage to gearing gear. Ship can proceed on one engine if repairs are necessary elsewhere. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 2045B/21)

/RESTIVE...

652

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

RESTIVE. My 1808B/17. Tug RESTIVE broken down at Akureyri. (A.C.I.C. 2115B/21.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.15. C. in C. H.F. 1737/20. 1. VENOMOUS and ST. ALBANS can arrive Seidisfjord by 27/4 and are available for P.Q.15. Both are short-leggers.  
Q.P.11. 2. SAXIFRAGE and OXLIP are the only corvettes available but should return to U.K. by May 15th to rejoin their mid ocean escort groups.  
3. Request that BULLDOG, BEAGLE, AMAZON and BEVERLEY be sailed to arrive U.K. May 1st and that SNOWFLAKE and CAMPANULA be sailed with Q.P.11 and detached to arrive U.K. not later than May 10th to rejoin their mid ocean escort groups.  
4. In view of signals received recently from U.S. Naval Authorities consider it highly desirable to maintain B groups at the strength intended when the through escort system for North Atlantic convoys was proposed. (C. in C. W.A. 0015B/21 to Admty.)  
C. in C. W.A. 0015B/21 paras (ii) and (iii). Withdrawal of these escorts will endanger convoy and is not considered acceptable. (C. in C. H.F. 2001B/21 to Admty.)  
STURGEON to join convoy P.Q.15 (See movements)

LLANSTEPHAN Admiralty 1213/16 and 2002/20. F.O.I.C.  
CASTLE. Greenock is requested to sail LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE escorted by BADSWORTH to R/V VELOX, as arranged by N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. (C. in C. W.A. 1206B/21)

My 1213/16 and 2002/20. War Office are arranging for 20 tons of special stores to be shipped in LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. It is expected that these will be on board by noon 24th. It is essential that these stores are embarked and if ship has to be delayed F.O.C.N.A. should receive early advice. (D.O.D. (H.) 2049B/21)

Q.P.10. Q.P.10. Arrived Reykjavik ORIBI, MARNE, PUNJABI,  
P.Q.14. FURY with 11 ships of Q.P.10 and 6 ships of P.Q.14. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1246B/21.)  
Reykjavik arrival HEBE with UNZE, (ANDRE MARTI) SEATTLE SPIRIT, ARCOS ex P.Q.14. (A.C.I.C. 1531B/21.)

D.S.26. D.S.26 composed of S.S. LEINSTER speed 16 knots  
S.D.26. carrying 900 personnel for Iceland (C) will be ready to leave Clyde on 29/4. She will return as S.D.26. (D.O.D. (H.) 1609B/21.)  
Owing to other commitments R.A. (M) is unable to provide escort for D.S.26. Request you will provide two destroyers. (D.O.D. H. 2012B/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

- My 1832/14. 1. PAGASITIKOS now 19 days overdue at Montevideo from Durban. If lost by enemy action Raider E almost certainly responsible.
2. A/C reports supply ship and 3 U-Boats in 01° 35' N. 20° 40' W. at 0225/19. There is no evidence of identity of this ship but report is graded B.1.
3. No indication of position of Raider H. (D.D.I.C., 1826B/21 to B.A.D., R.A. West Africa, A.I.G. 13, Spenavo, Opnav.)

North Atlantic.

RENOWN,  
ITHURIEL,  
ANTELOPE.

Request you will sail RENOWN and ITHURIEL as soon as practicable to join Eastern Fleet, ANTELOPE accompanying them as far as Freetown. (V.C.N.S., 0014B/21 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A.,

C. in C. E.I., R.A.W.Af., C. in C. A.W.I., V.A. Malta, A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., B.A.D.)

My 0014/21. Ships are not to sail until further orders. (D.O.D.(F), 2031B/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0014/21. RENOWN requires 4 days to make good defects to plommer blocks.

2. ANTELOPE requires 4 days to make good defects to air pumps.

3. RENOWN last undocked October and could be docked here to complete 30/4. Propose to do so and to hold ITHURIEL and ANTELOPE to escort her.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2208B/21 to Admty., (R) E.F., C. in C. H.F., R.A. West Africa, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force W, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

Approved. (A.C.N.S.(F), 1238B/22.)

Movements. >VIDETTE arrived 1620/20 refuelled, sailed 0130/21. (F.O.C.N.A., 0134A/21 to S.O. Force W, (R) Admty.)

Arrival MANXMAN. (F.O.C.N.A., 0856A/21 to Admty.)

Neth. Dr. VAN GALEN, TETCOTT left Ponta Delgada 2100 G.M.T. 20/4. FARNDALE, D.S. JAN VAN BRAKEL arrived 0945 G.M.T. <sup>Sup</sup> 21/4. <sub>659</sub>

(N.C.S.O. Pont Delgada, 0910/21 to S.O.I. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

FARNDALE left Ponta Delgada 1930 G.M.T. 21/4. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1635C/21 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

>Arrivals RENOWN, CHARYBDIS, WISHART, WRESTLER, WESTCOTT, ANTELOPE, PARTRIDGE, VIDETTE, ITHURIEL.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1718B/21 to Admty.)

Arrival UNBEATEN.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1842BA/21 to Admty.)

/Operation ...

854

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Operation "Calendar", dispersal. CAIRO, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, U.S.S. LANG, U.S.S. MADISON arrived 0250 sailed 0625 to rejoin U.S.S. WASP routed in accordance with my 1612/19. C. in C. W.A. is requested to issue onward routing instructions from position C for U.S.S. WASP to Scapa and CAIRO to Belfast.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0658A/21 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., (R) (Corrupt Group), CAIRO, U.S.S. WASP.)  
U.S. A/C Carrier WASP, CAIRO, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, U.S. Des. LANG, U.S. Des. MADISON left my command at 1100A/21 in 035° 58' N. 007° 50' W. and proceeded in execution of previous orders. (S.O. Force W, 1415A/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., Task Force 39.) *See p 248. 4 next page.*

Italian Repatriations. Following has been read from ARCOLA. S.A.T. My position 34° 57' 30" N., 10° 30' W. course 257, 9 knots.  
(Gibraltar W/T, 1200/21 to Admty., C. in C. N.A.)  
My position for 1200 S.A.T. 21/4, 35° 00' N. 10° 30' W. course 256, speed 8.8 knots.  
(TAIGETE, 1221/21 to Admty., V.A.C.N.A.)  
Italian Tankers ARCOLA, TAIGETE P.C. and S. 035° 00', 010° 30', 256°, 9 knots at noon G.M.T. 21/4. (Description.) They are not to be molested if on their route.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1745A/21 to S. & As., N.A. Station.)

CLYDE. Your 1031/21 (N.T. in W.D.) request query time of passing (a) and 009° E.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1206B/21 to V.A. Malta, (R) Capt. S.8.)  
Estimate you pass 038° 10' 009° 00' at 0300B/24. Onward route diving by day assuming S. of A. 150 miles per day through W. 037° 43' 002° 40' E. at 0300B/26 S. 180° Cape de Gata 7 miles at 2000B/27.  
R. 036° 27' 004° 27' W. at 0700B/28 to arrive Gibraltar Gate at 1130B/28.  
S/MS are not to be attacked on night 27-28/4.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1740B/21 to CLYDE, (R) P.612, SOKOL, TAKU, OLYMPUS, V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10.) *See p 661.*

JAN VAN BRAKEL. Arrived Ponta Delgada a.m. 21/4. Leave p.m. 21/4.  
(JAN VAN BRAKEL, 1310B/21 to D.N.L.O.)  
D.S. JAN VAN BRAKEL left Ponta Delgada 1430 G.M.T. 21/4.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1500/21 to S.O.I. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.) *See previous page - (Movement)*

/Portuguese ...



War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Portuguese Fishing Newfoundland. My 1231A/14th. Cod Fishing Guild states that S. JOANA and SANTA PRINCZA have been waiting 11 days for fuel in Halifax, N.S. Amount required 350 tons gas oil, 10 tons lubricating oil each. Request information can supply be expedited. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1314A/21 to Admty.)

MANXMAN. Intend sailing MANXMAN at 1130A/22 routed as follows:-  
(a) 35° 55' N. 06° 35' W. (B) 32° 43', 10° 10'.  
(C) 28° 02', 13° 31'. (D) 24° (?58'), 16° 30'. (E) 20° 50', 18° 35'. (F) 13° 45', 18° 35'. (G) 10° 41', 17° 40' thence Freetown S. of A. 18, E.T.A. 0800N/27.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1454A/21 to R.A. West Africa, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., MANXMAN.)

TAKU, Intend sailing TAKU p.m. 22/4 for Alexandria and  
OLYMPUS. OLYMPUS p.m. 23/4 for Malta passing 009° E.  
TAKU in 038° 10' at 0130B/28 and OLYMPUS in  
038° 20' at 0130B/29 S. of A. for both 125 miles  
per day. V.A. Malta is requested to signal onward route.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1440B/21 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., V.A. Malta,  
F.O.S., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10.)  
TAKU passing S. 180° Cape de Gata 7 miles at 1430B/23 T. 038°  
08' 001° 35' E. at 0430B/25 thence 089°.  
OLYMPUS 24 hours astern of TAKU to T. thence 088°. Both S/Ms  
speed of advance 125 miles per day.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1806B/21 to CLYDE, SOKOL, (R) TAKU, OLYMPUS.)

AMARANTHUS, Request permission be obtained for AMARANTHUS  
to visit St. Vincent about 10/5 for purpose  
of delivering diplomatic mail. A small  
quantity of fuel may be required.  
(Head of M., 1454B/21 to N.A. Lisbon, (R)  
British Consul, St. Vincent, C. in C. W.A.,  
R.A. West Africa.)

Operation "Calendar". Please pass following to C.O. U.S.S. WASP,  
U.S.S. WASP from British Chiefs of Staff:- Chiefs of Staff  
*congratulate* send their heartiest congratulations to yourself  
and to all ranks and ratings of U.S.S. WASP on completion of  
Operation "Calendar". From loading in Clyde, which was  
finished in record time, until arrival of all your Spitfires  
in Malta, operation has been 100% success. Arrival of these  
aircraft may make all the difference to ability of Malta to  
hold out against present devastating Axis air attacks. Some  
of them were in action 3 hours after arriving and helped to  
shoot down 11 enemy aircraft. This success augurs well for  
future combined operations undertaken by American and British  
Services.  
(1st S.L., 1516B/21 to C.T.F. 39.) *see previous page.*

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

A/C Report. Transit A/C sighted 0948A/21 1 merchant ship 2500 tons old cargo type possibly coal burning escorted by 3 trawler type vessels position 043° 19' N. 009° 26' W. steering 17° 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 2016A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Force W. Operation "Calendar". Your 1639B/20. In the interests of security propose S.O. Force W should continue to fly his broad pendant until RENOWN leaves Gibraltar. (ii) Operation "Calendar" completed p.m. today 21/4. (F.O.C.N.A., 2358B/21 to Admty., (R) S.O. Force W, C. in C. H.F.)

South Atlantic.

JAVELIN. Capetown departure 0630Z/21 JAVELIN, S. of A. 16 knots E.T.A. Durban 1000Z/23. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0748Z/21 to Admty., etc.)  
*See p. 658 - (Movements)*

CHESHIRE, LARGS BAY. CHESHIRE escorting LARGS BAY identified. LARGS BAY subsequently entered, CHESHIRE proceeded. (Cdre. Durban, 0858Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Arrival 0425 RAMILLIES, and 0830 ROYAL ULSTERMAN. (Cdre. Durban, 0846Z/21 to Admty.)  
Capetown arrival DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1116Z/21 to Admty.)  
Simonstown arrival 21/4 EXPRESS. (C. in C. S.A., 1149B/21 to Admty., etc.)  
Arrival 21/4 VIOLET, FANDANGO. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1310Z/21 to Admty.)

A.S. 2. Sailing telegram. 1. (?A).S.2. 2. 1200Z/21. 4. 12 knots. 5. Coastal R.1. 6. CILICIA. 8. U.S. Transports BRAZIL, MONTEREY, MORMACTIDE. 9. Port of arrival and time Port Elizabeth 0700Z/23. 10. S.O. Commodore: Master U.S. BRAZIL. Ships have been supplied with secret position W.S. 17(a) and (b) and onward route as instructed by C. in C. E.I. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 0956Z/21 to N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., Cdre. Durban.)

War Diary.

21.4.1942  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A.S.2 contd. Capetown departure CILICIA with convoy A.S.2 to vicinity of Port Elizabeth S. of A. knots 12. E.T.A. 0700Z/23. (S.O.I). Capetown 1459Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

ALPHACCA Ref. N.C.S.1 296 (A) Dutch ALPHACCA (B) 4/4, sunk 4/4. 1910, 001° 50' N. 007° 40' W. (C) Thrown overboard in weighted box. (D) As (C) (E) weighted box holed 2700 fathoms. (G) Master, 2nd Officer, proceeding singly. sunk by one Torpedo from German S/M. Second Officer spoke German to Commander, 48 Survivors landed Freetown from Cape Palmas, 15 killed by explosion. (R.A. West Africa 1107Z/21 to Admty.)

Italian repatriations. Italian ships DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE routed (G) 10° 00' N. 23° 00' W. (H) 10° 00' S. 17° 00' W. (I) 37° 00' S. 14° 00' E. Position unknown, speed 18 knots. (Description) These ships are not to be interfered with. (R.A. West Africa 1123Z/21 to GLASGOW (R) ALCANTARA, PRETORIA CASTLE.)

Received 0052 G.M.T. De ICOF. Noon position 21/4 of VULCANIA and SATURNIA 30° 32' S. 6° 33' E. course 136°, speed 16.5 E.T.A. Port Elizabeth 0800 G.M.T. 24/4. (Portishead Radio 1215/21 to Admty.) The following has been read. Position course and speed at 1200 A.T.S. 21/4 11.15 S. 15.25 W. 134° 14.7 knots. (GIULIO CESARE, T.O.R. 2144/21 to C. in C. S.A. Coltano Radio VULCANIA.)

St. Vincent U/B fuelling report. Master of HARTINGTON reported that whilst he was at St. Vincent he saw a German S/M refuelling from a schooner, Can you confirm this? (S.O.I). Freetown 1147/21 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent (R) D.N.I. Admty.) Reply: 1115/22.

South Atlantic shipping diversion. Consider most desirable to introduce as early as possible a general scheme of diversion for shipping plying between S. Africa and W. Atlantic, scheme being based on bacon and egg principle. 2. Propose all ships holding M.N. Code be given diversion positions extending 500 miles to Northward from St. Paul's Rocks, Ascension and St. Helena. These positions to be given a code name and executive word to be found in M.N. Code. 3. The executive to be made in M.N. Code. On receipt all ships to alter course immediately so as to reach a line joining the positions referred to in para 2 by shortest route. 4. After passing through new positions all ships to steer direct for destination. 5. Request Admty. will determine code words to be used. (C. in C. S.A. 1147B/21 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I. R.A. West Africa, B.A.D.)

/U.S. Bases ...

War Diary.21.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

U.S. Bases. Ref. 2045/20 from U.S. Chief of Naval Operations I have no information concerning area B. Request I may be given details of all areas and lettered positions used by U.S. Naval Forces operating in adjoining areas.  
(R.A. West African Forces 1149Z/21 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

ABDIEL. My 1843/9. Request intended programme for ABDIEL.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1200B/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

→ Ceylon Aircraft. Your 1850/30/3 and 1850/5/4 not to Admty. and Kilindini. ENGADINE sailed 0800Z today for Mombasa on instructions from C. in C. E.I. transferred from N.A.S. Wynberg to ship for delivery at destination 4 A.R. Walrus, 12 A.R. Swordfish and 1 cased A.R. Swordfish. All 16 A.R. Aircraft are operationally serviceable and have been secured on board fully erected in accordance with Admty. 1045/1/4\*. Request report of securing arrangements may be signalled on arrival at destination.  
2. Albacore and Swordfish A/C can be flown to Mombasa in approx. 4 days using 30 engine hours.  
3. Pilots and Observers will be available in Wynberg Pool shortly.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1323B/18 to Cdre. N.A.S. Ceylon (R) C. in C. E.I. N.O.I.C. Kilindini, Admty.)  
\* No trace in W.R. presumed A.M.2156A/1 refers.

U/B contact attacked. At 0945Z/21 attacked contact in 005° 56' S. 002° 07' E. Investigated for 6 hours but contact not regained. Proceeding to Takoradi E.T.A. 1900Z 23/4.  
(BRIDGEWATER 1629Z/21 to R.A. West Africa (R) C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Movements Summary. 2000Z/21 Area (?H). CHESHIRE 032° 15' S. 029° 42' E. to Capetown 14 knots. WHITEHAVEN, SEAHAM, BOSTON 032° 25' S. 016° 00' E. to Simonstown 10 knots. SHROPSHIRE, MILFORD 425 W.S.17 B. 030° 10' S. 011° 30' E. 129° 12 knots. U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD 019° 10' S. 020° 55' W. 307° 15 knots. EXMOOR, CROOME from St. Helena E.T.A. Capetown 0700Z/22. DEVONSHIRE with W.S.17 A. 032° 22' S. 029° 55' E. to Durban 14 knots.  
→ ENGADINE 027° 50' S. (?035°) 00' E. to Mombasa 13½ knots. AURICULA, JASMINE, CYCLAMEN, NIGELLA, THYME, GENISTA from Capetown E.T.A. Durban A.M.22/4. ROMNEY, CROMARTY 32° 18' S. 29° 28' E. to Durban 12 knots. GLENGYLE 29° 45' S. 11° 20' E. 305° 17 knots. \*JAVELIN 34° 51' S. 20° 21' E. to Durban 16 knots.  
\*\*CILICIA with A.S.2, 34° 55' S. 18° 45' W. to Port Elizabeth 15 knots. \*\* See p. 657  
(C. in C. S.A. 1650B/21 to S.A. Station Sqdn.) \* See p. 656

War Diary.21.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- AYURUOCA,  
MANDU. Your 1721B/20/4. S.O.(I) Montevideo 1732/9/4 reports these ships at Pernambuco. Voyages discontinued owing to submarine menace. (S.O.I. Freetown 1707Z/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)
- A.M.C.  
refits. Your 1213/31/1. Request your proposals for approximate dates of arrival in U.K. for refit of DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, CILICIA and PRETORIA CASTLE. (D.O.D.(F) 1752B/21 to C. in C. S.A.)
- W.S.18. W.S.18 not met. TETCOTT in company. My P.C.S. at 1700N/21 036° 47' 030° 41', 172°, 12. Visibility poor. (VAN GALEN 1800Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)  
*see p. 653 - (Notes)*
- ROCKROSE. R.A. West Africa's 1445Z/18 (N.T. in W.R.) E.T.A. position (X) 003° 50' N. 003° 46' W. 2200/23. S. of A. 8 knots. (ROCKROSE 1820Z/21 to ? N.O.I.C. Lagos (R) R.A. West Africa etc.)
- A/C Report  
U/B. Further to my 2022Z/20/4 Sunderland on convoy escort O.S.24 sighted at 1825Z/20/4 a line of bubbles in position 10° 27' N. 17° 53' W. Dropped smoke float circled for 15 minutes at end of which period Midships Gunner reported conning tower of submarine about 3 feet below surface. Further smoke float dropped circled for 20 minutes but nothing more sighted.
- Vichy  
Convoy. At 2000/20 sighted Vichy convoy of 5 Merchant ships 1 escort vessel in 10° 27' N. 17° 56' W. course 322° speed unknown. (R.A. West Africa 1829Z/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. S.O.I. Gibraltar.)
- U.S.  
Searches. Following is 1607/21. CINCINNATI group searching equatorial belt west of 26th meridian, MILWAUKEE group will commence sweep area North of equator about 26/4. Admty. pass to C. in C. S.A. and R.A. W. Africa for information. (C.F.F.23 1919Z/21 to Opnav.)
- AYURUOCA  
MARDU. Your 1721/20th April both ships (? sheltering) Pernambuco. (S.O.I. Rio de Janeiro 1929Z/21 to Admty.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.21.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Shipping  
Summary  
for H.M.  
Ships.

C.Os of H.M. ships represent that on entering a new station they frequently lack complete shipping information for following reasons.  
(A) Information given at port of departure is often incomplete.

(B) Shipping routines for any area are not received until H.M. ships reach that area; in consequence, sailing of certain M/Vs prior to this are unknown to them.  
2. For ships entering area P, (B) above is covered to some extent by daily shipping summary from Freetown W/T. This contains much redundant information. It is intended to abolish this daily signal and introduce a special shipping summary for all H.M. ships on entering area P. from N. Atlantic, W. Indies, or American stations and will contain details of M/Vs adjacent to H.M. ships' route. In the case of large diversions subsequent signals can be made.

3. Suggested that if not already in force similar arrangements might prove beneficial in other areas.  
(R.A.W.A.F. 2020Z/21 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

ALBATROSS.

Your 1903/20 approved to sail about 26/4.  
(C. in C. S.A. 2109B/21 to R.A. West Africa  
(R) Admty. ALBATROSS.)

C. in C.H.Q.

My 1748/15 (Re moving of C. in C. S.A. to Capetown) Prime Minister has informed me unofficially that he concurs.  
(C. in C. S.A. 2220B/21 to Admty.)

CLAN  
MACINDOE.

C. in C. E.I. 0843Z/20 crossed A.M.1259B/17.  
2. Stowage of ship is favourable to permit unloading at Durban of Naval Armament Stores which should be landed provided CLAN MACINDOE is not unduly delayed.  
3. Separate message concerning the 3700 tons boom defence gear carried follows.  
(D.D.A.S.(L) 2320B/21 to Cdre. Durban (R)  
C. in C. E.F. etc.)

War Diary.21.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

CLYDE. Reference sailing orders cross 009° in latitude 038° 10'.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1015B/21 to CLYDE (R) P.612, F.O.C.N. Capt.(S) 8.)  
Your 1206/21 to V.A. Malta and Capt.(S) 8. My 1031/21. (N.T. in W.D.) Amend time of passing A to 1700B/22 as given by CLYDE before sailing, and 009° E. at 0300B/24. (V.A. Malta 1502B/21 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) SOKOL, P.612, C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 1. Capt.(S) 8.) *p. 654*

P.35, Adjust patrols to be in vicinity line 000°  
UNA. through 035° 40' 11° 49' after noon 23/4.  
Further orders will follow.  
(S.10 1025B/21 to P.35, UNA (R) C. in C. Med. S.1)

Movements. Arrival 20/4 CUMBRAE, CORDELLA, LORD IRWIN.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 0911C/21 to Admty. etc.)  
20/4 Port Said arrivals LANNER, CRESCENT MOON,  
departures 1237C F.F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, 1018C SOUTHERN ISLES.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 0932C/21 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
Arrivals LOCH MELFORT.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1156Z/21 to Admty.)  
Arrival 20th 1455 M.L.1012. Arrival 21st 0647 F.S. LA MOQUEUSE,  
0720 M.L.1015, 0820 SOUTHERN MAID.  
(S.O.I. Beirut 1236C/21 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
Arrival 20/4 JANUS, QUEEN OLGA, Departure 20/4 SEKSERN, GLOXINIA,  
PEONY, HYACINTH, THORN.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1247C/21 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival SOUTHERN ISLES, ISLAY. Departure SOUTHERN ISLES,  
SOUTHERN (? SEA).  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa) 1915C/21 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)  
Departure 21/4 CUMBRAE, LORD IRWIN.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 2101C/21 to Admty. etc.)  
21/4 arrival P.31.  
(V.A. Malta 2111B/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt.(S) 1.)

ALBA JULIA A. My 1245C/20. Vessel still here. Agents have  
ALBARO. instructions continue loading indefinitely but  
ship must be ready sail at moment's notice. B.3.  
B. ALBARO entered Golden Horn today for repairs  
and painting.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1240C/21 to S.O.I. Med S.1 (R)  
D.N.I.)  
My 1240C/21. ALBA JULIA loading valuable cargo  
of antimony, copper, cotton, and cotton seed. B.2.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1730C/21 to S.O.I. Med. and S.1  
(R) D.N.I.)

War Diary.21.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Mines  
Famagusta.My 1527/20 1 mine swept probably magnetic fifth lap. Sweeping suspended, will be continued tomorrow.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 1244C/21 to Admty.)Mines,  
Beirut.Mine Situation Report 21/4 Beirut. 3 (?mines) swept in undermentioned positions off Beirut on 21/4. (1) 330° E. in area between North Mole 3.5 Cables J Acoustic. (2) 003° E. North Mole 2.5 cables Red Magnetic. (3) 355° E. North Mole 2.5 cables Red Magnetic. All detonated by NORSE. Mines laid by S/M possibly on night 15/4 and Magnetic may be of Sammy Type.  
(S.N.O. Levant Area 1512C/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C.A.M.)Beirut  
mining.Beirut 21/4 daily situation report. Port closed 1130C/21. NORSE swept for magnetic and acoustic mines. Total (corrupt group) 3.  
(S.N.O. L.A. 1515C/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)A/C  
Report.Special Wellington reports sighting cruiser at 0046B/21 in 243° Filfola I. 27 course 100° speed 29 knots.  
(V.A. Malta 20C1B/21 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

EGELAND.

Your 2022/14. EGELAND grounded on 29/11/1941 in position (031°?) 27' N. 034° 20' E. Salvage is impracticable and ship considered (total?) loss. No casualties.  
(C. in C. Med. 2021C/21 to C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Alexandria, N.L.O. Durban.)Malta  
Air Raids.2 Medium and 1 heavy raids today totalling 141 bombers all with heavy fighter escort. About 12 spitfires up for each raid and with guns destroyed 6 bombers and 3 fighters with 21 probables and damaged.  
(2) Raid mainly on aerodromes but Dockyard area attacked in first and last raids in latter case by 15 Junkers 87. JADE previously damaged now sunk. PAMPAS hit and after part of ship blown out.  
(3) Oil lighter towed to Marsa Scirocco last night but swell will prevent getting oil from BRECONSHIRE tonight.  
(V.A. Malta 2117B/21 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

/PAMPAS ...



War Diary.21.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.PAMPAS,  
TALABOT.

Am advised by Lloyds surveyor that PAMPAS and TALABOT are both total constructive losses. Both ships continue to be hit by bombs almost daily.

(D.S.T.O. Malta 2349B/21 to D. of S.T.)

Malta  
Air  
Report.

I. 234 21/4 C.S.R. 21/4. My I 231 20/4 2 alerts 1515, 1720 hours. Alert 1125 hours L.A.A. destroyed 2 Me.109. My 232? Alerts 1029 hours, A.A. destroyed 2 JU.88s. Me.109, 64 JU.88s, 25 JU.87s, Luqa. Craters, main runway unserviceable,

U.X.Bs. 2 Spitfires slight damage. Takali. 2 Spitfires destroyed, 6 damaged. Craters Aerodrome, U.X.Bs. Kalafra, 1 soldier wounded, Bofors gun position hit. Elsewhere 1 civilian killed, 1 wounded, 1 buried. Water main burst, several houses destroyed. 2 JU.88, 2 Me.109 destroyed, 3 JU.88 1 Me.109 probably destroyed, 3 JU.88, 2 Me.109 damaged by 17 Spitfires, 4 Hurricanes. 2 Spitfires shot down. 1 pilot killed, others safe, 4 Spitfires damaged in combat. A.A. destroyed 1 JU.88. Night 20/21 4 alerts 1818, 2130, 2345, 0020 hours, 15 raiders, no damage or casualties. A.A. fired. 21/4 5 alerts 0415, 0522, 0910, 1010, 1207 hours. Me.109, 56 JU.88, 15 JU.87. Luqa unserviceable. Maryland further damage, aerodrome unserviceable. Takali, 2 Spitfires damaged, craters aerodrome, U.X.Bs. Grand Harbour, no damage or casualties. Elsewhere, 1 soldier wounded, 2 JU.88, 2 JU.87 (5 corrupt groups) 3 JU.88s, 1 Me.109, probable destroyed 8 Me.109 2 JU.88s. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta No T.O.O. Recd. 0159/22.)

**ITALIAN SUBMARINE LOST**

The Rome official report yesterday announced that the Italian submarine Bianchi had not returned to her base.

The Michele Bianchi, which was launched at Spezia in December, 1939, had a displacement of about 1,036 tons. Her armament was eight torpedo tubes, two 3.9in. guns, and four A.A. machine-guns.

*Sunk by Severn 7/8/41.  
West of Gibraltar*

21.4.42

The Times

War Diary.

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- K.11. My 0657Z/10. <sup>H.T. in W.D.</sup> Owing to defects having (?developed) in K.11 intend to retain detached (?personnel) for a further 14 days (?from) today 21st. (Dep. C. in C. E.F., 0437Z/21 to Admty.)
- MARISO. Your 1047/18 (overdue shipping). MARISO is at Colombo, regret you were not informed. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0809Z/21 to S.O.I. Capetown (R) Admty., etc.)
- Movements. RANCHI arrived. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0814Z/21 to Admty., etc.)  
Mombasa arrived 21/4. 0610 G.M.T. CERES, 0750  
KIRRIEMUIR, 0810 AIREDALE, left 21/4 0415 G.M.T. CHITRAL.  
(N.O.I.C. E.Africa & Zanzibar, 1020Z/21 to C. in C. E.I.)  
H.M.T. DEVONSHIRE and R.A.F.A. SHENKING sailed for Bombay p.m./21. E.T.A. P.M./24. Personnel embarked. (S.S.T.O. Colombo, 1116Z/21 to P.S.T.O. India).  
Mombasa left 21/4 1255 G.M.T. COLOMBO. (N.O.I.C. E.Africa, 1256Z/21 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Colombo arrival 21/4 0800Z ALAUNIA, departures 1000Z LISMORE, FALMOUTH, KELANTAN, SONAVATI, MARGUERITE, ATMOSPHERE, BILLOW, 1200Z ASTER. (S.O.I. Colombo, 1326Z/21 to Admty., etc.) See 22/4 - p. 697.
- Convoy. C.M.27 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0845Z/21 to Admty.)
- Mine Carrier. My 1238/4, not to Cdre. R.I.N. A (?second) mine carrier is now essential and it is requested that on completion of discharging WARIALDA may be sailed to Bombay and there loaded. If not available request another suitable vessel be taken up as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.I., 0851Z/21 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. R.I.N.)
- Catalinas. Re employment in Indian Ocean. (C.O.S. W. 158) See America & West Indies.
- M.T.B's. Your 1339/30 last para. (N.T. in W.D.)  
1. Request that M.T.B's for E.I. Station be shipped to Colombo where they can be unloaded provided total weight of boat and slinging gear does not exceed 35 tons etc. 2. Assumed that suitable slinging gear will be shipped with M.T.B's. (C. in C. E.I., 0936Z/21 to Admty., (R) Capt. Supt. Ceylon).

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - contd.

WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIAN U.S.A. abandoned on fire fore and  
(fire, 6/4). aft in 007° 25' N., 073° (705') E. at 1055 G.M.T.  
6/4. Heavy explosion heard approx. 2200 G.M.T./6  
and mine reported. Last seen 715 miles Eastward  
drifting to Eastward, still on fire day 7th.  
No casualties. (N.C.S.O. Cochin, 1235Z/21 to  
Admty., (for Shipping Casualties Sec.) (R)  
C. in C. E.I.)

Bases. No.9702/G 21/4. Your 0944Z/14, 1605Z/18 and  
C.O.S. (India) 49.

Following were being shipped in CLAN FORBES  
(details). Information here indicates that above units and  
stores are unlikely to be required at Seychelles.

2. Col. Kelly's R/C 133941 on Diego Garcia indicates that only  
Aux Pioneer Coys and perhaps constructional stores ex CLAN FORBES  
required there during stage 1. These can only be used when small  
naval craft, vide para. 1 of Kelly's signal 0800Z/13, are  
available.

3. Kilindini. Not in India Command. Understand it has modern  
facilities.

4. Rodriguez has limited role. Therefore personnel and stores  
ex CLAN FORBES not required there.

5. Therefore recommend CLAN FORBES be unloaded and personnel  
and stores disposed (as follows).

6. Confirm your priority is Seychelles, Rodriguez, Diego Garcia,  
Mauritius.

(Armindia, 1355/21 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., etc.)

Kilindini. Ref. Dep. C. in C. E.F.'s 1757Z/9 and N.O.I.C.  
Addu Atoll's 0611Z/11. Recommended positions for  
Boom defences at Kilindini are as follows.  
(D.B.D., 2208B/21 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Dept.  
C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Kilindini, GUARDIAN,  
KIRRIEMOOR).

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 20/4. Arrivals BATTLEFORD, PRESCOTT, ex S.C.79. Departures FRISKY, TENACITY to search for MANCHESTER DIVISION.

(F.O.N.F., 0113Z/21 to Admty.)

CLARKIA arrived and left 19/4 for St. Vincent.

(Treasurer Grenada B.W.I., 1355/20 to Admty.)

→ Arrival O.R.P. PIORUN from sea, departure RAMSEY to Charlestown SUNFLOWER to Argentia O.R.P. PIORUN to Argentia. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1339Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

U/B.

S/M placed by D/F within 100 miles of 037° 30' N. 054° 30' W. at 2321Z/20, 2348Z/20 and 0118Z/21.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0421Z/21 to B.W. in Area 7A, Admty.)

My 0421Z/21. 3 submarines believed operating in this area.

(N.S.H.Q., 1556Z/21.)

Caribbean shipping.

Your 1902P/20. A.M. 2158B/18 was not intended to apply to U.S. Ships but D.N.I. Ottawa's 2250Z/17 which has been confirmed by B.A.D. refers.

(D.T.D., 0338B/21 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1849Z/20. Sailings were suspended principally because 4 or 5 submarines are considered to be operating in the Caribbean and partly after receipt of D.N.I. Ottawa's 2250Z/17 and 0525Z/18 until position was clarified. 2. Suspension was not of course intended to apply to U.S. shipping and it is probable that sailings for ships other than Tankers will be resumed p.m. today.

(A.C.N.S.(T), 0711B/21 to B.A.D.)

Resumption - See 1120/21 et seq.

→ PIORUN, CHURCHILL.

Passed to Admty. for information. Following is recyphered version of PIORUN's 1300Z/20. (Begins), C.O.A.C. (R) CHURCHILL from PIORUN. Have swept the area (2 Corrupt Groups).

(Corrupt Group) distance from Halifax, E.T.A. 0900Z/21.

Meeting CHURCHILL proceeding Argentia 1300Z/20. Ends.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0510Z/21 to CHURCHILL.)

Grenada.

Red light on Fort at entrance to St. Georges Harbour extinguished from 19/4.

(Treasurer Grenada, 0950/21 to S.O.I. Jamaica, (R) Admty., etc.)

U/Bs.

S/Ms indicated by D/F as follows (a) within 60 miles 035° (93° 51'?) N. 070° W. at 0110Z/21 and 0213Z/21; (b) within 100 miles 038° N. 057° W. 0234Z/21st.

(N.S.H.Q., 0950Z/21 to Brit. Warships in Area, 7A, Admty., etc.)

667

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

SAN FABIAN, EAGLESDALE. Your 2003/20, C. in C. A.W.I. only, and my 2012/20. Com. 10 states no vessel available. SAN FABIAN and EAGLESDALE will be held pending further instructions.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0953P/21 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., Cominch, S.O.(I) Kingston, S.N.O. Curacao.)

ANEMONE. Direct ANEMONE proceed to Halifax forthwith for installation of echo sounding gear. Will be required Op. Base, U.S. Nav. Argentia 2/5.  
(C.T. 24, 1059/21 to C.T.U. 24.1.18.)

FRANK B. BAIRD. Cancel my 0916R/16, ship now reported sailed Demerara 18th, Trinidad 22nd.  
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1109R/21 to Admty., etc.)

Caribbean Shipping Resumed. Your 2233/20. Sailings of British Shipping between loading ports in Gulf of Mexico may be resumed. My 2158B/18 was not intended to apply to U.S. Shipping.  
(D.T.D., 1120B/21 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Your 1120B/21. Should "British shipping" read "British and Allied shipping"?  
(N.S.H.Q., 2045Z/21 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty., 1226/22.  
A.M. 2158/18. I am regarding this as a "stand still" order applicable to all ports in Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean except in accordance with A.M. 2001/20 and 1120/21 but am in some doubt as to whether sailings from Colon via Florida Strait should be suspended. This is being done pending further instructions.  
2. Appreciated if an indication of the circumstances which led to suspension of sailings could be given to assist me in appreciating situation.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1122P/21 to Admty.)

Your 2220/20. My 1938/18 applies only to commercial tankers. All other U.S. flags, U.S. owned and controlled foreign vessels should be allowed to proceed. Inform F.O's in command accordingly.  
(C.N.O. Washington, 1419Z/21 to N.O.B. Trinidad, (R) Admty. etc.)  
My 1938/18 sent to C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.P.S.F., C.C.S.F., U.S. Force Curacao, N.O.B. (?Trinidad), Cinclant. Following instructions apply only to U.S. flag and U.S. owned and controlled foreign flag commercial tankers. Movements stopped are: between Gulf or Caribbean Sea and U.S. Atlantic coast inland sea Canada. From Gulf or Caribbean Sea to East Coast South America. Movements permitted are: tankers allocated to or carrying cargoes for Army and Navy. Those within limits of Gulf or Caribbean Sea. Voyages to Pacific Inland Sea West Coast Central and South America. Ships engaged in molasses trade as far North as Port Everglades, Florida. Barge movements to Miami. Relatively short hauls by Coastal tankers any area. Also released to original destinations are loaded tankers held on Atlantic seaboard and those in ballast held in ports of that coast which desire to proceed to places where repairs can be made.  
(Opnav, 1558<sup>Z</sup>/21 to C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, Admty.)

/My ...

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Caribbean Shipping Resumed. (Contd.) My 2158B/18. Sailing of British ships other than tankers from ports in Gulf of Mexico and West Indies may now be resumed unless you have later information making this inadvisable. (A.C.N.S.(T), 2026B/21 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) N.S.H.Q., S.O.I. Jamaica, Opanav, B.A.D.)

My letter 2026/21 (Admiralty's 2026/21 intended). Sailings of British ships other than tankers are to be resumed forthwith. Instruct N.C.S.O. Accordingly. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2222P/21 to S.O.(I) Kingston, (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, B.A.D.)

Your 2158/18 and Opanav 1558/21. New Orleans reports Port Director is permitting all sailings with exception of tankers. This results in Norwegian being held while Panamanian and Honduras ships operated by same company are allowed to sail. (N.S.H.Q., 2230Z/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Catalinas, Indian Ocean. Following for 1st S.L. from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (W) 158. Your J.S.M. 192. Air Min. aim to provide the two squadrons referred to in your para. B, but owing to limited production of A.S.V. aircraft, these cannot be made available until September at earliest. Our suggestion for approach to King was made after further examination of minimum requirements for air R/C in Indian Ocean, in areas such as Arabian Sea, Aden, and West Indian Ocean. (Air Min, T.O.O. 1220Z/21 to B.A.D.)

Convoy Escorts. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Your 1210/15. Confirm ROCKINGHAM assignment B.1, advise Group assignment of VERVAIN and date of arrival at Argentia of WINCHESTER. (C.T.F. 24, 1255/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

Proposal for Caribbean Convoys. Your 1327B/16. Caribbean traffic will have to depend in large measure on air coverage and on about a dozen destroyers and patrol craft until sufficient escorts become available to warrant starting subsidiary convoys. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1344/21 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

ANNEBERG. My 1626/20. ANNEBERG arrived Sheet Harbour N.S. 17th. (N.S.H.Q., 1356Z/21 to Opanav, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Bases, Initials. C. in C. S.A. 1930/20. Base F is Recife, Base D is Trinidad and Base B is B.A.D. (2) Suggest designation of U.S. Bases by single letters be promulgated by Admty. Designations are in possession of Spenavo, and Cominch agrees to their being promulgated to British Authorities. (B.A.D., 1505Z/21 to Admty.)

/Tanker ...

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Tanker  
Required.

Ref. Bilge 954. Replacement for OKLAHOMA urgently required. Main requirement is for running in fast convoys to Malta, therefore essential tanker have minimum speed 16 knots. (D. of S., 1734B/21 to B.A.D.)

Ice.

Ice report 21st (corrupt group). Most points in Gulf of St. Lawrence area are clear of ice with following exceptions: Shippigan Bay full, Tormentine untenable drifting, Pictou considerable drift outside Harbour, East Point Prince Edward Island heavy ice all round, Aspy Bay closely packed ice in shore, field of ice to northward line 48.25 - 62.25 thence 48.05 - 61.10 thence 49.25 - 58.45. Cape Breton Island area, limit of field of ice 45.15 - 60.40 thence 44.40 - 59.45 thence 46.05 - 58.25 thence 47.10 - 59.45 thence Bird Rock. Some fields of ice may be encountered on steamer track Cape Ray to Quebec in vicinity of Bird Rock. Newfoundland area, probable limit of field of ice Cape Bauld to 51.15 - 54.30 thence North to 55° N. thence N.N.W. (?), scattered loose ice and bergs in bay between Cape Bauld and Cape Freel, some bergs still reported south and westward Cape Race. Greenland area similar to last report. (N.S.H.Q., 1820Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

DESERT  
LIGHT.

Panamanian DESERT LIGHT from New York due Bermuda 18/4 has not arrived. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1829P/21 to S.O.I. Jamaica, N.S.H.Q.)

ROBIN HOOD  
overdue.

ROBIN HOOD due Boston 17/4 from Port of Spain not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1852Z/21 to U.S.C.N.O., Admty., etc.)

U.S.  
Dispositions.

My 1544/14. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Atlantic. Battleships: TEXAS left Colon 18/4 for Norfolk. Aircraft Carriers: WASP en route U.K. from

Gibraltar.

8" Cruisers: AUGUSTA at Newport.  
6" Cruisers: MEMPHIS due Rio 22/4. PHILADELPHIA left Iceland 19/4 for New York. MILWAUKEE due Pernambuco 22/4. MARBLEHEAD due Pernambuco 25/4. BROOKLYN left Panama 18/4 for New York. SAN DIEGO at Boston ready 15/5. CINCINNATI left Pernambuco 19/4 for patrol, due Trinidad 2/5. (D.O.D.(F), 1909B/21 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.)AYURUOCA,  
MANDU.

Your 1721/20. See our 2037/10. (N.S.H.Q., 1928Z/21 to Admty.)

/U/B ...

670

War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- U/B. On four frequencies, 1637Z to 1717Z, sub within 50 miles 39° 30' N. 58° 00' W., by R.D.F. this date.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2008/21 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I., Admty.)
- PANCRESCENT, CAPENEDDICK. My 1934/16. Cargo ship PANCRESCENT will arrive Monrovia about 20/5. Cargo ship CAPENEDDICK will arrive Monrovia for similar unloading about 31/5. Request A/S screen proposed your 1713Z/17 be continued for 2nd vessel.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2021/21 to R.A. W.Africa, (R) Admty., C. in C. Atlantic, C.T.F. 23, B.A.D. C.N.O.)
- New Zealand Trawlers. INCHKEITH, SANDA, KILLEGRAY, TUI, SCARBA en route New Zealand via Panama, San Diego, Honolulu. Fuel and water required.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2022/21 to Cdre. Panama S.F., etc.)
- KOSMOS II. Your 1232/14 KOSMOS II arrived Curacao 19/4.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 2035R/21 to Admty.)
- EASTMOOR, ALCOA GUIDE. Opnav Serial 21st. 28 survivors of British S.S. EASTMOOR (overdue Halifax from Savannah since 3/4) are aboard British S.S. CALGARY bound for Capetown. Survivors picked up in 38° 08' N. 62° 52' W. No information as to date and position of EASTMOOR casualty. LALCOA GUIDE, U.S., sunk 16/4 at 35° 34' N. 70° 08' W. at 2150Q/27, survivors landed Bermuda. Confidential destroyed - Admiralty pass-to Spenavo.  
(Opnav, 2042Z/21 to Spenavo, (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- U/Bs. D/F bearings at 1638Z, 1718Z, and 1727Z, indicate 1 or possibly 2 submarines within 60 miles of 38.30 N. 52.30 W.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2047Z/21 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)
- U/B. Intercepted 1856 G.M.T. Controlling Station, Amagansett Radio. WGBC.1 V NAA O. S/M sighted 43.19 N. 58.46 W. at 1729Z. X 1810/20.  
(Portishead Radio, No T.O.O., Recd, 2119/21.)
- U/B. S/M indicated by D/F at 1921Z within 60 miles 37.30 N. 54.30 W.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2222Z/21 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)  
Re-estimated position, see 0034/22.

/LADY DRAKE ...



War Diary.21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

LADY DRAKE. LADY DRAKE may now resume her voyage unescorted.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2232P/21 to R.N.O. St. Lucia,  
(R) Admty., F.O. Trinidad, N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I)  
Jamaica.)

PHOEBE. PHOEBE left New York 1210Z/21 for Hampton Roads  
for working up exercises.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2240Z/21 to Admty., (R) C. in  
C. Med., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Dakar Meter. Dakar 19/4 (B.2.) 18/4, BELLE ISLE  
Intelligence. sailed north. Escort DUMONT D'URVILLE.  
(B.A.D., 2307Z/21 to Admty.)

British - U.S. Your 1614/18. Navy Dept. have no objection.  
Communication. (B.A.D., 2325Z/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Aruba - 1st S.L. has informed Americans that pending  
Trinidad convoy arrangements between Guantanamo and New  
Convoys. York our minimum requirement would be met by  
a tanker convoy between Aruba and Trinidad once  
every 14 days.

2. Americans now ask how many ships there would be in each  
convoy. Request early reply.

3. C. in C. A. & W.I. 0953/21 is under consideration.  
(B.A.D., 2339Z/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Reply: Admty. 1832/22.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, U.S.S. EDWARDS left Noumea  
0155Z/19 for Sydney (N.S.W.)  
(A.C.N.B., 0138Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

BUNGAREE arrived Townsville 0625Z/20. VOYAGER arrived Melbourne  
2210Z/20. U.S. Naval tanker TIPPECANOE arrived Noumea 0435Z/19.  
(A.C.N.B., 1953Z/21 to Admty.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.

21.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Situation. Serial No. 90 from C.W.R. 20/4.  
Salamaua aerodrome attacked by 5 A/C at 0035Z/  
20. Direct hits on buildings and fuel dumps  
causing 2 fires. One hangar completely wrecked. Small  
launch and 4 flying boats observed in harbour.  
(ii) Enemy A/C R/C over wide area east of Port Moresby 20/4.  
(iii) New Britain. Japanese are encouraging natives to  
recognise as district officer a Swede named Kyllert stationed  
at Stockholm (West Coast of Gazelle Peninsula) and married to  
a German woman.  
(A.C.N.B., 1221Z/21 to N.Z.N.B., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1404B/21, 1411B/21.)

War Diary.22.4.1942  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

V.A.2 in DUKE OF YORK with 3 Destroyers left Scapa at 1928B today for Hvalfiord; and FURIOUS escorted by 2 Destroyers arrived at Rosyth at 1817B.

C. in C. H.F. reports that he has at present available only 12 Home Fleet Destroyers of which at least 3 require docking, and 4 Hunt Class Destroyers of which one requires docking and one is overdue for boiler cleaning.

Operation  
against  
Boulogne.

The raiding operation "Abercrombie" was carried out at Boulogne last night in good weather. One of the beach parties landed at 0150 this morning, carried out a R/C in force with little opposition, and embarked with one slight casualty and no prisoners. An engagement took place between our M.G.Bs waiting off the beach and 2 armed Trawlers of an enemy Patrol; in which 3 of our ratings were killed and both the Trawlers damaged.

M.G.B. and  
E.boat  
Operation.

*20 miles N. of  
Brest*

At 2230 last night M.G.Bs 64 and 60 on patrol off Harwich engaged at least 6 E-boats and set one on fire, slowed another down with repeated hits, and hit several others. 2 ratings in M.G.B.64 were killed, one officer and 2 ratings wounded, and some damage was done to M.G.B.64. At 0245 this morning M.G.Bs 18 and 15 had a momentary brush off Yarmouth with one E-boat which escaped to the Eastward after firing a few shots.

Convoy  
P.Q.15.

NIGERIA is detailed to cover the next North Russian Convoy P.Q.15 to which BRAMBLE, LEDA and SEAGULL will act as Escort; and S.B.N.O. North Russia proposes that these last 3 ships should be detached with the Archangel section of the Convoy at the point where the convoy turns southward to approach the coast. He considers that in this way the Archangel section might escape attack. C. in C. H.F. has asked to be informed in future of the name of any M/V in P.Q. Convoys with no heavier A/A armament than .303 weapons.

War Diary.

22.4.1942  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Bombing of enemy coastal aerodromes in N. Norway desired.

The only offensive action taken during the past week against the enemy Coastal Aerodromes in North Norway has been the bombing of Kirkenes by 4 P.E.3 long range Fighters in daylight 20/4. S.B.N.O. North Russia considers the bombing of these aerodromes to be an urgent necessity and is pressing the Russian authorities to show greater activity in the matter.

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

Between 1845 and 2215 today the M/S Trawler EQUERRY detonated 15 mines off the East Dudgeon Buoy. The mines appear to have been laid in two lines 2 cables apart and running East and West across the War Channel just south of the Buoy.

The M/S Trawler WAR WING reports today that a group of small objects wired together broke surface about 50 yards west of 54A Buoy after the explosion of a mine there at 1130/20.

One ground mine was exploded by Sweepers in the Thames Estuary yesterday, and one acoustic mine off Liverpool today.

North Atlantic.

Force W.

The broad pendant of Cdre. Daniel is not to be struck until further orders.  
S.O. Force W. sends a summary of Operation "Calendar", 19/4 to 21/4. On the morning of 20/4, 58 aircraft including her own fighters, were flown off U.S. aircraft carrier WASP in 61 minutes in 37.30 N. 03.20 E.

/Force ...

675

War Diary.22.4.1942  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.Force W.  
contd.

Force returning north of Alboran at 23 knots was shadowed but not attacked. Passage of the Straits was made in darkness. At 0800/21, No.812 Sqn. (9 Swordfish, disembarked Gibraltar from ARGUS) flew on board WASP west of Straits, and personnel from EAGLE were transferred by Swordfish to Gibraltar. WASP, CAIRO, INGLEFIELD, ECHO and U.S. destroyers LANG and MADDISON were detached at 1100/21. Remainder of Force W. returned to Gibraltar at 1530.

South Atlantic.Suspected  
Supply  
Ship.

Clipper N.C.11 reports that at 2205 G.M.T. in 02.47 N. 18.37 W. she sighted a large ship which showed light but extinguished on plane's approach. The pilot believes this is the mother ship seen with 3 submarines alongside at 0225 G.M.T./19 in 01.35 N. 20.40 W.

WARTENFELS.

S.O.(I) Capetown reports (A.i) that German WARTENFELS (at Diego Suarez) has received 3000 tons of coal from CONDE and will undoubtedly sail shortly for Germany.

Argentine  
Shipping.

The Argentine Minister of Marine is reported to have stated that Argentina will not participate in any Convoys nor will her warships act as escorts.

The Naval Prefect of Marine has informed ship owners of the conditions under which Argentine Govt. will guarantee them safe passage.

War Diary.

22.4.1942  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

V.A. Malta requests that the sailing of  
\* OLYMPUS from Gibraltar with supplies be  
delayed until further signal from him, and  
that no S/M personnel, torpedoes or spare gear  
be embarked for the present.

Only 3 raiding aircraft came over last night,  
but 86 escorted bombers resumed attacks in  
this morning's raids.

There were 3 raids today, 177 bombers being  
employed. No important naval damage was  
done except to lighters.

\* Sailing postponed as requested - See p. 688.

Cyprus.

The port of Famagusta was declared open at  
mid-day after sweepers had made 6 laps with  
negative results.

Port Said.

A danger area due to mines has been established  
off Port Said.

East Indies.

Persian  
Gulf.

Admty. have under consideration the strengthening  
of Persian Gulf defences by mining the Straits  
of Hormuz, and have asked C. in C. E.F. for his  
comments.

America and West Indies.

U.S. SAN JACINTO was torpedoed at 1202 G.M.T. in  
31.00 N. 70.45 W. about 310 miles W.S.W. of  
Bermuda.

British DERRYHEEN, Philadelphia for Table Bay  
and Middle East, was torpedoed and sunk at  
0730 G.M.T. in 31.25 N. 70.45 W.

U.S. STEEL MAKER was torpedoed today in 33.48 N.  
70.36 W.

677

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

H.F. My 2001/21. Following is Home Fleet Destroyer  
 Destroyer State.  
 State. (a) Detached with Force W - 2.  
 (b) At Murmansk - 2.  
 (c) Refitting - 4.  
 (d) Under repair for weather and ice damage - 2.  
 (e) Action damage - 1.  
 (f) Remaining 12, of which at least three require docking.  
 (2) Minimum requirements for 3 Capital ships is 9 destroyers.  
 (3) State of Hunt Class is: (a) Under repair for weather  
 damage one. (b) Remaining 4, of which one requires docking  
 and one is overdue for boiler cleaning.  
 (C. in C. H.F., 0057B/22 to Admty.)

P. 551. P.551 is to join 7th Flotilla on completion of  
 her forthcoming patrol on a date convenient  
 to respective Captains S.  
 (F.O.S., 0853B/22.) *Cancelled 24/4 - In. p. 712*

GARTH. Owing to shortage of destroyers in 16th Flotilla  
 GARTH is to be lent temporarily to the 16th  
 Flotilla. D.21 is to arrange for GARTH to be  
 wiped and sailed for Harwich to arrive 1800  
 tomorrow.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1148B/22.)

AIGLON. A.M. 2303/25/11/41 and A.M. 1107/18/3/42.  
 AIGLON is to join 158th M/S Group in the  
 Mediterranean.  
 (D.M.S., 1908B/22 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Movements.

WELLS. A.M. 1918B/21. WELLS is not now required for  
 escort of A.T. 14. Request you will sail her  
 as convenient after Soviet officers have been  
 embarked for Reykjavik. She is then to return for duty with  
 R.A.(M).  
 (D.O.D. (H.), 0031B/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
 After completing with fuel and embarking the 2 Soviet officers  
 leave harbour at 0600/23 and proceed to Reykjavik. Route.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1327B/22 to WELLS.)

KENT. Your 1956B/20. Arrived KENT.  
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0642B/22.)

UTMOST. UTMOST is to be sailed when ready about 2nd  
 May to work up at Holy Loch.  
 (F.O.S., 0851B/22.)

/CHARLESTOWN ...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- CHARLESTOWN. F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1551/20. Request you sail CHARLESTOWN for Greenock after fuelling at Rosyth tonight.  
(R.A.M., 0905/22.)  
After completing with fuel leave harbour at 2200/22 and proceed to Clyde so as to arrive daylight 24th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1331B/22 to CHARLESTOWN.)
- LOWESTOFT. Your 2240B/21. Intend to sail LOWESTOFT for Londonderry a.m. 25th to join your command.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1213B/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Floating Dock. 1. R.A.F. Floating Dock in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN is to sail for Invergordon after completion of D/G ranging at approximately 1200/23.  
2. Estimated speed of advance 4.5 knots. Escorts to be provided as follows. Details.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1335B/22.)
- DUKE OF YORK. Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER with ESKIMO and ESCAPADE proceed passing Switha 1910 tonight to R/V DUKE OF YORK at 1930/22.  
2. Provides escort in accordance with V.A.2's 1430B/21st and subsequently acts under orders of V.A.2.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1406B/22.)  
Scapa departure V.A.2 in DUKE OF YORK, FAULKNER, ESKIMO, ESCAPADE. (for Huntford)  
(A.C.O.S., 1928B/22.)
- Oiler. One Ranger Class oiler is required for oiling destroyers at sea during passage of P.Q.15.  
(ii) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail oiler to arrive Seidisfjord on 27/4.  
(iii) R.A.D.H.F., is requested to detail one Hunt as escort.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1414B/22.)
- WASP. My 1311Z/21 para. 2.  
Request you will instruct destroyers relieving off North of Ireland to pass Fleet Notice to Mariners 759 (T) to U.S.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1724Z/22 to R.A.D.H.F.)
- FURIOUS. Arrivals FURIOUS escorted by WELLS and CHARLESTOWN.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1817B/22.)

/WELSHMAN ...



War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

WELSHMAN. WELSHMAN to unload her mines and is to be sailed for Plymouth with all convenient despatch. (A.C.N.S.(H), 2024B/22 to R.A.M.)

TRIDENT. My estimated position at 2300 is 063° 50' N. 5° 57' E. E.T.A. p.m./25th. (TRIDENT, 2305B/22.)

Operations.

M.G.B. Engagements with E-Boats. 2 E-Boats damaged. M.G.B. 64 damaged. Preliminary report of E-Boat activity 21st-22nd April. (1) At 2230/21 approx. M.G.Bs. 64 (S.O. 6th M.G.B. Flotilla) and 60, lying "cut" in 51° 43' N. 02° 40' E., heard E-Boat engines approaching from Southward. S.O. waited until certain of cutting off E-Boats from Ostend, then steered to intercept. Contact was made with at least 6 E-Boats steering N. approximately in single line. M.G.Bs. 64 and 60 engaged and report one E-Boat on fire forward, one slowed down after repeated hits, several others hit. E-Boats disengaged eastward then were heard to southward. M.G.Bs. 65 and 58 rejoined from patrol further west and combined unit searched towards Ostend but ran into fog. One Officer slightly wounded, 2 ratings wounded and one killed, also damage to M.G.B. 64. Remainder untouched. S.O. is certain E-Boats returned to base without completing their operation. (2) At 0245/22 M.G.Bs. 18 and 15 in approx. 52° 35' N. 02° 35' E. had momentary encounter with one E-Boat which approached from northward and made off eastward after firing a few shots at M.G.Bs. E-Boat was chased eastward, but contact was lost in very low visibility. (C. in C. Nore, 1304B/22.)

Operation "Abercrombie". Preliminary report of operation "Abercrombie". Northern beach party landed at 0150 this Wednesday morning without opposition and carried out a reconnaissance by force without reaching their objectives. Very little opposition as enemy evacuated their posts on our troops advancing. Patrol was ashore for the full time and embarked with one slight casualty and no prisoners. Southern party were unable to land owing to opposition. Shortly after landing had taken place enemy patrol of two armed trawlers and possibly others approached the M.G.Bs. waiting off the beach. A hot engagement ensued the enemy being driven off with one vessel severely damaged and on fire and the other also damaged. Our casualties were three ratings killed. Landing craft and M.G.Bs. made contact shortly after daylight off Dungeness and the last arrived Dover at 1245. Weather conditions were excellent but were unsuitable for flying. (V.A. Dover, 1423B/22.)

/North ...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

North Norway S/M Patrol. F.O.(S) 1021B/21 and 1053B/18. S/Ms are to pass through 90° Out Skerries 5 miles leaving Lerwick at time indicated: P.43 2200B/24 for Zone K.26. P.551 0700B/25 for Zone K.24. UREDD 1200B/25 for Zone K.22. MINERVE 1700B/25 for Zone K.20.

(2) S/M s are to proceed on surface at C.O's discretion. Total bombing restrictions will be asked to cover their route. (Capt. S.9, 1429B/22 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Your 1747/21. This will be arranged and zones K.32, K.33 and K.34 added to those given in para. A of my 1514/17. I would prefer that our submarines did not normally operate in zone K.34 owing to proximity to Russian submarines areas 12B and 11B. (F.O.S., 1437B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

Amend para. A of my 1514/17 to read line joining 68° 10' N. 02° E. and 72° 28' N. 16° 50' E. This area will be divided into 15 patrol zones each 25 miles long numbered south to north K.20 to K.34 inclusive.

Russian submarines will be operating East of 018° E. Attention of submarine C.Os. is to be drawn to 782 A.Z. of 3rd March. (F.O.S., 1438B/22.)

PRINCESS BEATRIX. Request you arrange to embark the R.M. Commando in PRINCESS BEATRIX on 15/5 for an exercise cruise. (C.C.O., 1545B/22 to V.A. C.T.C.)

Patrols. Night 22/23. Three Chasseurs patrolling Q.Z.S.271 returning St. Helens at daybreak. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1647B/22.)

Night 22/23. Trawlers KINGSCOURT and ONETOS on O.D.1. Trawlers WATERFLY, FYLDEA, ALEXANDRITE, ANDRADITE on O.D.6 and 7 combined.

M.Ls. 139 and 140 on O.D.5.

M.L.s 195 and 464 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and North East Spit Buoys, E.T.D. 2210, E.T.R. 0615/23. (V.A. Dover, 1935B/22.)

4th M/S Flotilla. Available ships of 4th M.S.F. are to raise steam with all despatch and proceed out of harbour. Further instructions follow. Report time 4th M.S.F. will be ready to proceed from Roads. (C. in C. Nore, 2035B/22 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

KELLET, ELGIN, SELKIRK, ALBURY ready to proceed from Roads immediately. (KELLET, 2129B/22 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Denmark Strait Patrol. Intend to leave Hvalfjord a.m. 24th after arrival DUKE OF YORK, proceeding relieve BERWICK on patrol "White". (2) BERWICK to relieve NORFOLK a.m./1st. (NORFOLK, 2059B/22.)

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

Torpedo training at Crail. A.M. 2125/14. I consider this movement most regrettable as it can but seriously interfere with training Beaufort and Fleet Torpedo Bomber Squadrons.  
(C. in C. H.F., 0021B/22 to Admty.)

Bombing Restrictions. My 1429B/22/4. Request total bombing restrictions as follows:-  
(A) For 50 miles on either side of a line joining positions 61° 50' N. 00° 00' and 65° 20' N. 2° E. from 1000B/25 until 1200B/27.  
(B) In area enclosed by following positions: (A) 65° 40' N. 00° 00'. (B) 68° 20' N. 001° 20' E. (C) 70° 00' N. 010° 00' E. (D) 65° 00' N. 004° 00' E. from 1000B/26 until 2000B/28.  
(Capt. S.9, 1431B/22.)

North Norway Coastal Aerodromes. My 0909/15. In past week only offensive action taken against enemy aerodromes has been bombing of Kirkenes aerodrome in daylight 20/4 by four P.E.3 long range fighters. Weather conditions may be responsible to some extent but they have not prevented Junkers 88 making reconnaissance flights. Bombing of coastal aerodromes is urgent necessity which C. in C. realises but is unable to carry out effectively with few (? combination) bombers available. Neither does C. in C. appear to make best use of those now in service.  
Result of general policy in using P.E.3s. for bombing will be to reduce the 16 fighters now available for convoy escort which are in any case too few. Am pressing for greater activity.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2103B/22.)

Enemy Air Activity.

VASALAND bombed 27/3. Master of GULLMAREN mentioned in conversation that VASALAND with whom he was in company was bombed by German aircraft at 2100 G.M.T./27/3 off the Naze. No casualties or damage sustained.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1611B/22 to Admty.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 1050/21. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 0920B/22.)

S.N. 72. C. in C. H.F. 1118/19. Propose S.N.72 be laid about 27/5 so minelayers can embark again immediately on return. In this way no time will be wasted. Reasons.  
(R.A.M., 0942/22 to Admty.)

/Mines ...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

- Mines off Dover. A.L. C/M 248A/42 of 12th January and M.019923/41 of 8th January. Mines have been laid. The defects at Dover and Folkestone are being located and made good.  
(V.A. Dover, 0953B/22.)
- East Coast sweep. Carry out check lap on centre line between 54B and Aldeburgh Buoys as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1204B/22 to M.S.9.)
- Harwich Area. Following belated report from WAR/WING. 50 yards west of 54A buoy at 1130/20 heavy underwater explosion close to ship, disturbance on surface and mud, shortly afterwards group of small objects wired together broke surface. These were similar to fishermans pellets. Ship was proceeding negative S.A. 'LL' towards COTSWOLD and did not investigate.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1237B/22.)
- Liverpool. (a) At 1120/22 one mine exploded by Sweeper. Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1525/22.)
- Sweep off Aberdeen. Tomorrow 4 trawlers from Aberdeen Peterhead M/S force are to carry out an Oropesa and S.A. Sweep to commence 29 Buoy thence along a route centre line which passes through A. 057° 02' N. 001° 12' 30" W. B. 056° 59' 32" N. 001° 18' W. thence 27 Buoy. Operation is to be completed by 2100/23.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2059B/22.)
- Humber Area. A.M. 1829/13/1. EQUERRY reports at 1845/22 Mines off "5 mines detonated in sweep in position 2 cables East Dudgeon. South West and East of East Dudgeon buoy". EQUERRY reports at 2020/22 "Two more mines detonated in sweep. Mines appear to have been laid in 2 lines 2 cables apart running East and West across war channel centre of line being 2 cables South of East Dudgeon buoy".  
(F.O. Humber, 2150B/22.)  
My 2150B/22. At 2045/22 EQUERRY reported eleventh mine detonated in area previously given.  
(F.O. Humber, 2225B/22.)  
My 2150B/22. At 2215/22 EQUERRY reported 15th mine in area.  
(F.O. Humber, 2247B/22.)

683

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units. Pending further information mean draughts of German main units at deep displacement is being taken as being TIRPITZ 32 feet, SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU 28 feet, Pocket Battleships 19 feet 6 inches, Hipper Class 21 feet 6 inches. NÜRNBERG, LEIPZIG, KÖLN, EMDEN 17 feet 6 inches. (F.O.S., 0852B/22 to Capts. S. Home.)

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/21 to 0900/22. Nil. (V.A. Dover, 0906B/22.)

Norwegian Coastal Movements. SEAWOLF report. SEAWOLF reports:-  
 (1) Continuous A/S Trawler patrols in entrance to Fro Havet using listening charges. Occasional sweeps by night patrols.  
 (2) Slightly increased air activity, the area being very thoroughly searched by low flying aircraft on 13/4.  
 (3) Supply or depot ship escorted by two A/S fitted destroyers arrived a.m. 9th April from south-westward and there was some activity by 4 more destroyers on that date.  
 (4) Large U-Boat rendezvous with local escort in position 64° 14' N. 9° 40' E. on 14th April.  
 (5) Submerged U-Boat encountered in position 63° 40' N. 05° 30' E. on April 19th. Hammering noises were heard but very little H.E. No torpedoes were fired as was unable to establish course and speed with any accuracy. (F.O.S., 2133B/22 and 0807B/23.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. An over enemy submarine in 46° 36' N. 8° 50' W. (A/C O. Sqdn., 1345/22 to 19 Group.) Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 270°, speed 10 knots. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit 46° 44' N. 8° 47' W. (A/C 6PRO, 1420/22 to 19 Group.) Position of enemy S/M is 46° 53' N. 8° 27' W. (A/C O. Sqdn., 1515/22 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

Ice in Baltic. Ice Report April 20th.  
 (1) Southern Baltic. Conditions continue to improve round Swedish coast though pack ice interferes with shipping on coast between Stockholm and Oxelosund and off Trelleborg. Swedish ice breaker YMER is at work trying to open up Alands Hav and Oregrund areas. Pack ice is still hindering shipping in German Baltic ports and Finnish ice breaker SAMPO has been ordered to proceed to Warnemunde to release shipping at Rostock.

/Falsterbo ...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Ice in  
Baltic.  
(Contd.)Falsterbo Canal now open.  
(2) Sound. Free from ice.  
(3) West Coast. Coast to Norway border free  
from ice though inner Fjords at Stromstad are  
still frozen.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1143/22.)White Sea  
Swept  
Channel.Your 1126 April 21st. Please postpone issue  
of Q.Z.R. New channel is not satisfactory  
in some respects. Am requesting S.B.N.O.  
Archangel to obtain Russian agreement to certain  
alterations.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1656B/22.)Casualties and Defects.SUTTON  
(Minesweeper)  
CARDIFF  
CASTLE  
(M/S Trawler)SUTTON was in collision with CARDIFF CASTLE at  
0608 today. SUTTON reports one plate and frame  
buckled at 96 station starboard side and about  
30 rivets probably sheered all above waterline.  
Trawler stem was buckled above waterline.  
Consider SUTTON is seaworthy in calm weather.  
(KELLETT, 0929B/22.)

ECLIPSE.

Arrived ECLIPSE.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0938B/22.)

CHOCTAWS.

A.R.B. CHOCTAWS on passage through Caledonian  
Canal arrived at Inverness and reported engine  
trouble. Two cylinder liners were found  
cracked and are being temporarily repaired to  
enable vessel to proceed.  
(E.R.O. Inverness, 0945/22.)

CASTLETON.

CASTLETON entered Barry Docks 2200/20 for  
repairs to Gyro compass.  
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 0951B/22.)

ENCHANTRESS.

My 2045B/21. Fault believed traced. Details.  
There is no damaged machinery. Intend sailing  
ENCHANTRESS for Londonderry at 1200/22. E.T.A.  
1530/22.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1014B/22.)  
My 1014B/22. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1215B/22.)

SPEEDY.

Scapa departure 2125/21 SPEEDY.  
(A.C.O.S., 1109B/22.)

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

QUORN Intend to sail QUORN in tow of Tug SUPERMAN to  
(Mined 20/4.) Thames Gate tomorrow. Tug KENIA will assist  
as necessary till clear of harbour. Tow to  
leave Parkeston Quay at 0630/23. Ready use  
ammunition only on board. As much oil fuel and contaminated  
fuel as possible will be removed from tow before sailing.  
Request fighter protection and time of R.D.V. with escort and  
tugs taking over at Thames Gate.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1306B/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

ACHATES. My 1045/22. <sup>N.T. on W.D.</sup> Delayed by defective gun mounting.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1630/22.)

WARWICK. WARWICK is to proceed to Greenock for  
investigation of defects and early report by  
Capt. D. Greenock.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1958B/22.)

Shipping and Convoys.

D.S. 26. Cancel A.M. 2012B/21.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1154B/22.)

P.Q. 15. Proceed with BRAMBLE, LEDA, and SEAGULL passing  
Switha 1300 tomorrow to Hvalfjord. Route.  
BRAMBLE, LEDA, and SEAGULL will act as escort  
to P.Q.15.  
(R.A.D., 1405B/22 to M.S.1.)

NIGERIA is detailed to cover P.Q.15. Request you will sail  
in NIGERIA to arrive Hvalfjord on 25/4 and after attending  
convoy conference proceed to arrive Seidisfjord on 27/4.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1503B/22 to C.S. 10.)  
Your 1737/20, Admt. 2000/20 and S.B.N.O: Archangel's 1447/18.  
P.Q.15. Propose that Archangel section convoy should be  
detached with BRAMBLE, SEAGULL, and LEDA at point where convoy  
turn to southward to approach coast. This section might then  
escape attack. It will be necessary to decide what ships are  
to be sent to White Sea before convoy starts. Same escorts  
then bring three ships leaving White Sea to Kola. If ice  
conditions permit latter will be swept out by 2 minesweepers  
who will join escort. Should any delay occur (corrupt group)  
is now ice free.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1602B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

LLANSTEPHAN C. in C. W.A. 1206B/21. After fuelling  
CASTLE. propose VELOX R/V LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE escorted  
by BADSWORTH in 052° N. 005° 38' W. at 1930B/  
25.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1921B/22.)

War Diary.

22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Q.P. 11.           5 Steamers which arrived P.Q.14 will proceed  
Q.P.11 all with part cargo.  
(Cormack, 1946B/22 to Admty.)

P.Q.  
Convoys.  
A/A  
armament.           My 0055/8, Admty. 1832/8 and A.C.I.C. 0311/9.  
The A/A armament of ships in P.Q. Convoy is  
becoming increasingly important every passage.  
(ii) Request I may be informed when convoy  
includes any ships with no heavier armament  
than .303 weapons and names of these ships.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2331B/22 to Admty.)



War Diary

22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force W A.T. 1639/20. Broad pennant of Commodore Daniel is not to be struck until further orders.  
Operation "Calendar" 2. Did WASP's damaged propeller cause any trouble? (V.C.N.S. 0109B/22 to F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force W. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Your 0109B/22. Maximum speed during operation was 23 knots. U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP did not report any trouble. (S.O. Force W 0938A/22 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. H.F.) Following is a summary of operation "Calendar" 2. All times zone minus one.

1. Whole force was in company 60 miles E of (?Gibraltar) at daylight 19/4. 13th D.F. detached to fuel and rejoined.
2. Departure taken from Formentera Is. Light at 2330. Flying operations began 0530 and finished 0645/20. 58 A/C including own fighters flown off U.S. A/C carrier WASP in 61 minutes. Mean position 037° 30' N 003° 20' E. Wind 245° force 4.
3. Force returning North of Alboran at 23 knots shadowed but not attacked. 13th D.F. rejoined 0900. CAIRO, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, U.S. Destroyers LANG, MADISON detached at 1800 to fuel and rejoined West of Straits. CAIRO embarked personnel and stores for 812 Sqdn.
4. Passage of Straits made in darkness. At 0800/21 812 Sqdn. flew on board U.S. A/C carrier WASP west of Straits and personnel from EAGLE transferred by Swordfish to Gibraltar.
5. U.S. A/C carrier WASP, CAIRO, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, U.S. Destroyers LANG, MADISON detached at 1100/21 as in my 1415A/21. Remainder of Force W returned to Gibraltar at 1530.
6. Operation was successful and no difficulties were encountered. (S.O. Force W 1411A/22 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

→ SALISBURY 1137N/22 (N.T. in W.D) Remain with U.S. A/C carrier WASP till prudent limit of endurance or until other orders are received from C. in C. W.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 2316A/22 to Capt. (D) 3 D.F. (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty. C. in C. H.F. U.S. A/C carrier WASP. CAIRO.)

Movements.

Departure STONECROP, MYOSOTIS escorting Tankers THORSHOLM, SAN ADOLFO until 2000/26. (F.O.C.N.A. 0204A/22 to Admty.)  
→ SALISBURY, GEORGETOWN arrived Ponta Delgada 0800 G.M.T. 22/4. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0735/22 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

SCOTTISH suspicious A/C.

1 AP UN 090 3 000 197° 40° N 9°W.28(SCOTTISH 0820/22 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
2 AP UN 270 6 000 210° 40° N 9°W.40(SCOTTISH 0942/22 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
My 0942/22. Heavy smoke observed approx. 222° 40° N 9° W 34 at 0955 after aircraft had passed. Possibly ordinary bad stoking. (SCOTTISH 1005A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SPES (German)

Extract from Fairmiss Telegram:- Arrival 18/4 SPES departure 18/4 300 tons Flourspar. (Gijon T.H.I. 1200/22 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.- Contd.

CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA. Spanish CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA (?Rio de Janeiro) for Lisbon via Canary Islands carrying Axis Nationals for repatriation is not to be molested. Ship painted white Spanish colours fore and aft. Name of ship and word Diplomate on each side. (F.O.C.N.A. 1221A/22 to S and A N.A. Station)

RENOWN. ANTELOPE. ITHURIEL. Your 2208/21. RENOWN, ANTELOPE and ITHURIEL, Approved. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1238B/22 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

MANXMAN. My 1454A/21. Departure MANXMAN. (F.O.C.N.A. 1300B/22 to R.A. West Africa (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.I.)

S/Ms. S/Ms are reported having been seen going Eastwards 21/4 close in shore. (Santander 1530/22 to Admty. D.N.I.)

TAKU. My 1440B/21 departure TAKU. (F.O.C.N.A. 1904B/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

OLYMPUS. My 1440/21 and N.O.I.C. Malta 2030. Sailing of OLYMPUS postponed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2336B/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, F.O.S.) *See p 694*

FARNDALE. My P.C. and S 042° 10' N 022° 30' W 022° 16 knots. (FARNDALE 1801Z/22 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Italian Repatriations. Received 2156 G.M.T. Noon position, 22/4 VULCANIA and SATURNIA 35° 24' S 12° 13' E. Course 136° speed 17 knots. S.B.N.O. VULCANIA. (Portishead Radio Recd. 0020/23 to Admty.)

Received 0035 G.M.T. Fresh water capacity of GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO is such that on return voyage from Red Sea situation will be acute. Submit route may be modified in order to reduce distance. ends. (Portishead Radio 0254/23 to Admty.)

P.C and S at 1200 A.T.S. 22/4 15° 25' S 10° 52' W 134° 15 knots. (GIULIO CESARE 1400/22 to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Following is repetition of my 1721Z/19 (Received undecypherable) (Begins) Arrivals 18/4 HYDRANGEA, F.F.COMMANDANT DROGUE with 68 survivors Cape Palmas. Departures 19/4 AUBRETTIA, SNOWDROP local escort O.S.24 and southbound portion. (ends) (S.O.I. Freetown 0537Z/22 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

→ Arrival Capetown CROOME, EXMOOR. (S.O.I. Capetown 0725Z/22 to Admty.) SONDRRA sailed 0500 local time 22/4. E.T.A. Durban A.M. 29/4. (N.O.I.C. Dar es Salaam. 0930/22 to N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Departure 22/4 VIOLET, COPINSAY. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 1215Z/22 to Admty.)

→ Capetown departures CROOME, EXMOOR for Durban S of A 20 knots E.T.A. 0700Z/24. (S.O.I. Capetown 1639Z/22 to Admty.)

Arrivals 22/4 EGRET, FLEETWOOD, PHILANTE and FISHGUARD (?escorting) O.S.24. (S.O.I. Freetown 1731Z/22 to Admty.)

St. Vincent U/B fuelling report. Your 1147/21 cannot confirm. Military keep strict watch from Hills usually pass such information on through indirect channels, no information from them during the period HARTINGTON's stay Cape St. Vincent. Submit Master be interrogated why N.C.S.O. Cape St. Vincent or C.O. LAVENDER were not informed immediately S/M sighted. (N.C.S.O. Cape St. Vincent 1115/22 to S.O.I. Freetown (R) Admty. D.N.I.)

Madagascar Intelligence, WARTENFELS CONDE. My 1622B/15. Further report received. (1) para 1 is confirmed and regraded A.1. (2) Date of sailing of CONDE Westbound from Tamatave has been postponed to about 18/5 (A.2) (3) German ship WARTENFELS received 3000 tons coal from CONDE and will undoubtedly sail shortly for Germany (A.1.) (S.O.I. Capetown 1242B/22 to Admty.)

MAURETANIA. Sailed 0700/22 for Capetown, embarked no personnel. E.T.A. 0600/24. (S.S.T.O. Durban 1252Z/22 to S.S.T.O. Capetown.)

A/C report S/M. Pan Air pilot reports S/M which submerged immediately sighted 1415 G.M.T. position 013° 50' S 038° 48' W proceeding northwards. (R.O. Bahia 1530Z/22 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Freetown, etc.)

M.A.R.I. New Section. Your 1147B/21 (U/B fuelling report, St. Vincent) Now that U-Boat activity has commenced off the Brazilian Coast the routing instructions in M.A.R.I. Section IV para 8 as recently amended appear inadequate. The instructions in

M.A.C.R.I. para 11 are still more unsuitable for dealing with the situation.

2. A new M.A.R.I. Section IV para 8 has accordingly been proposed which would - (a) keep shipping far from the Brazilian Coast. (b) keep shipping widely spread in the Central Atlantic.

/This...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- M.A.R.I.  
New  
Section.  
(Contd.)
- This new proposed para. has been signalled to B.A.D. who has been asked to obtain the concurrence of the Navy Dept. and if possible to get M.A.C.R.I. para 11 cancelled.  
3. It is hoped that with this wide dispersion ships could in case of necessity be diverted individually. It is not desired to extend the "Bacon" and "Eggs" procedure if this can be avoided. (D.T.D. 1729B/22 to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I. R.A. West Africa. B.A.D.)
- U/B.
- Pan-air pilot sighted S/M on surface at 1415Z/22 position 13.50 S 38.48 W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1756/22 to C.T.F. No.23 C. in C. S.A. Admty.)
- W.S.18.
- Following transports sailed U.K. 15/4 (List of ships, Numbers on Board, Destination.)  
(D. of S.T. 1816B/22 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I. R.A. West Africa. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)  
See Lion Copy.
- W.S.17.
- W.S.17. No objection to following ships sailing independently in advance of W.S.17, in order to ease congestion at ports.  
DOMINION MONARCH, REMBRANDT, BHUTAN, PORT WYNDHAM. 2. Para 1 of A.M. 1725/12/3 still applies after transshipment from W.S.17.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1855B/22 to C. in C. S.A.)
- S.O.  
Force F.
- Flag of S.O. Force F transferred to ILLUSTRIOUS P.M./19 and to RAMILLIES P.M./22 on arrival at Durban. (arrived 21/4 - see p. 656.)  
(2) Presume mail address c/o. F.O. Force H will be sent to N.O.I.C. Capetown. In interests of security the address c/o S.O. Force H is still being used for (?private) correspondence by officers and ratings of my staff and retinue.  
(S.O. Force F 1859Z/22 to Admty.)
- ARAWA.
- ARAWA arrived Freetown 8/4 but did not sail until 16/4 in S.L.107.  
2. This delay has meant that ARAWA cannot be included in W.S.19 as previously intended. She will be delayed until W.S.19.X.  
3. Request report why ARAWA was delayed observing that A.M. 1233/15/2 to C. in C. S.A. then at Freetown gave permission to sail ships of 13½ knots and over independently. (D. of S.T. 1850B/22 to S.T.O. Freetown (R) R.A.W.A.F.)
- Argentine  
Shipping.
- Argentine Minister of Marine is reported to have informed Press men that Argentine will not participate in any convoys nor will its warships act as escorts.

/The...

690A

**MOST SECRET**MOST SECRET ~~SECRET~~ 1816B/22 April.

OUT.

To. C. in C. South Atlantic. 390. Date. 22.4.42.  
 C. in C. East Indies. 29.  
 R.A. West Africa Force. 501.  
 Repeated. C. in C. Mediterranean. 453.  
 P.O.C.P.A. 695.  
 P.O. Red Sea.  
 C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 509.  
 P.O.C.R.I.I. 117.  
 N.O.I.C. Durban.

## NAVAL CYPHER (2D)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT to R.A. W.A.F., Cs. in C. South Atlantic & East Indies.Following transports sailed United Kingdom 15.4. in  
Convoy W.S.18.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>	<u>Numbers on Board.</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
K.1.	EMPERESS OF CANADA	19	3599	Undecided	41
K.2	HIGHLAND PRINCESS	15	223 682 453 525 1	West Africa South Africa East Africa Middle East Iraq.	44
K.3	NIEUW ZEELAND	15	2 56 3 1250	West Africa Middle East India Undecided	53
K.4	HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN	15	157 735 591 401 2 14	West Africa South Africa East Africa Middle East Iraq Ceylon	43
K.5	MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE	16	61 8 3488	Middle East India Undecided	34
K.6	RANGITATA	14 1/2	2601 2	Middle East Malta	31
K.7	ORDUNA	14	58 2841	Middle East Undecided	21
K.8	AORANGI	15 1/2	3 11 4 3032 1 1 74	West Africa South Africa Aden Middle East India Ceylon Undecided	52

690<sup>B</sup>

2.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Numbers on Board.</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
K. 9	REINA DEL PACIFICO	18½	125 3005	Middle East Undecided	32
K. 10	EMPRESS OF JAPAN	21	53 2 74 1 4139 20 40	West Africa South Africa East Africa Aden Middle East India Ceylon	33
K. 11	DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	17½	183 14 1 6 354 2627 1 421	West Africa South Africa Aden Middle East Iraq India Burma Ceylon	22
K. 12	DEMPO	16	41 1803	India Undecided	24
K. 13	CAPETOWN CASTLE	18	2 359 2 1063 1607 401 1 10 487	South Africa Middle East Malta Iraq India Ceylon Australia New Zealand Undecided	23
K. 14	MALOJA	15	749 313 3220	Middle East Iraq India	42
K. 15	ORBITA	14	439 4 2428	India Ceylon Undecided	61

H.M.S. HXCLA, Pendant No. 51, is also with convoy.

2. Following H.M. Ships also sailed in convoy with personnel for West Africa for onward conveyance by air to Middle East.

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Number of Personnel.</u>
H.M.S. GAMBIA	10
H.M.S. FROBISHER	11

3/....

# MOST SECRET

3.

3. Following guns M.T. stores, etc. were shipped in Troop Transports.

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Destination.</u>
EMPRESS OF CANADA HIGHLAND PRINCESS	Stores M.T. ammunition stores.	Undecided. Middle East. Undecided.
NIEUW ZEELAND	M.T. stores	Undecided.
HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN	M.T. ammunition stores.	Middle East Undecided.
MARNIX VAN ST. ANDEKONDE	Gun.... M.T. ammunition, Stores, guns .....	Middle East Undecided.
RANGIATA	M.T. M.T. stores.	Middle East Undecided.
ORDUNA	Guns M.T. ammunition, Stores.	Middle East Undecided.
REINA DEL PACIFICO	Guns M.T. ammunition, Stores.	Middle East Undecided.
DEMPO	Ammunition, stores	Undecided.
CAPETOWN CASTLE	M.T. stores.	India.
ORBITA	M.T. ammunition, stores.	Undecided.

4. Following M.T. Ships also sailed in convoy W.S.18.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Personnel on Board.</u>	<u>Destin- ation.</u>	<u>Pen- der No.</u>
R.454	SOUDAN	15	M.T. stores	3	Undecided	13
R.455	CLAN LAMONT	15½	M.T. stores	3	Undecided	12
R.456	CITY OF CAPETOWN	16	M.T. stores 6 Lysanders	3	Undecided	62
R.457	WAIPAWA	16	Tanks, guns, M.T. stores.	16	Middle East	63
R.458	PHELIUS	14½	Tanks, guns, M.T. stores.	33	Middle East	11

690<sup>D</sup>

4.

5. Separate signal has been made regarding on carriage of personnel from East Africa.

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

- (a) For East Africa ex HIGHLAND PRINCESS HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and EMPRESS OF JAPAN.
- (b) For Aden and Middle East ex HIGHLAND PRINCESS HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, RANGITATA, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, CAPETOWN CASTLE and MALOJA.
- (c) For India and Iraq ex HIGHLAND PRINCESS HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN EMPRESS OF JAPAN and AORANGI.

7. Further signal will be sent regarding on carriage arrangements for personnel for Middle East and India ex NIBUW ZEBELD MARNEK VAN ST. NIDEGONDE ORDUNA REINA DEL PACIFICO DELTO and ORBITA. Also for personnel for destination undecided ex AORANGI and CAPETOWN CASTLE.

8. P.S.T.O. India should arrange for on carriage from India of all personnel for Iraq Burma and Ceylon. P.S.T.O. Egypt should make necessary arrangements for personnel for Malta.

9. CAPETOWN CASTLE will proceed from India to New Zealand to load for U.K. Personnel for Australia and New Zealand should remain on her.

10. HIGHLAND PRINCESS HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and RANGITATA will turn round in South Africa and proceed to Plate to load for U.K.

11. Proposals for (a) release of other troopships in South Africa and on carriage arrangements (b) disposal of all Troopships after disembarkation (c) allocation of ships between Capetown and Durban for replenishment and (d) destination of ships with personnel for destination undecided will be notified later.

12. Commodore of convoy is Commodore Reyne R.N.R. in EMPRESS OF CANADA, Vice Commodore, Captain Busk-Wood in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.

13. Addressees pass to S.T.Os. and Military Authorities concerned.

1816B/22

Director of Sea Transport . (M.W.T. Extn. 2187)

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 1st S.L.         | D. of S.T. |
| V.C.N.S.         | D.T.D.     |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | D.T.D. (M) |
| A.C.N.S. (T)     | D.T.D. (C) |
| N.A. 1st S.L.    | I.P. (2)   |
| D.O.D. (F) (2)   | W.D.       |
| Hd. of M. (13)   | D.N.I. (3) |
| D.D.I.C. (2)     | D.C. (2)   |
| D. of P. (2)     | E.P.S.     |



War Diary.

22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Argentine  
Shipping.  
(Contd.)

The Naval Prefect of Marine has informed Argentine ship-owners at a confidential meeting that provided - (a) Ships carry a specified number of national Flags painted on their sides and deck and name and nationality of ships painted in specified positions, (b) Alter number and placing of these identifications when ordered, (c) Show lights at night and illuminate identifications, (d) Enter and leave ports and approach land by day, (e) Use ordinary Maritime routes, and (f) Forward 4 photographs of the ships, then Argentine Govt. will guarantee them safe passage. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 2125Z/22 to D.N.I.)

MALAYA.

*N.T. in W.R.*  
Your 1700/22 to MALAYA. Expect to sail MALAYA for Freetown P.M. 24/4. (C. in C. S.A. 2145B/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. S.O. Force H, MALAYA)

ABDIEL.

Your 1200/21. (Requesting programme for ABDIEL) Date of completion end of May. Capt. Supt. Durban 1821/14\*refers. (C. in C. S.A. 2325B/22 to Admty. ) \* (N.T. in W.R)

Mediterranean.

→ THRASHER  
U/B.

U-Boat reported in 031° 40' approx. 029° 30' at 0125/22. (Capt. (S) 1 0321C/22 to THRASHER)

GIUSEPPE  
BIGLIERE.

*GIUSEPPE*  
Your 1215/19. A BIGLIERE in very rusty and dirty condition after 1 years submersion. Stock of A.M. is forwarded and sinkers will be forwarded as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 0640Z/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Red Sea Force, Admty.) *See next page*

Movements.

Arrival PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0646Z/22 to Admty.)

21/4 Port Said arrivals GLOXINIA. PEONY.

HYACINTH. SEKSERN. M.T.B. 309. Departures 1250 HYACINTH. GLOXINIA. F.F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE. SEKSERN. PEONY. PROTEA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0834C/22 to Admty.)

→ Departure 21/4\*ANTWERP, arrival 22/4 THRASHER. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1000C/22 to Admty. etc.)

Arrival SEKSERN. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1420C/22 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Arrival 22nd. LORD IRWIN, CUMBRAE, NORSE. Departure 22nd. 1245 SOUTHERN MAID, ROMEO, F.S.LA MOQUEUSE, M.L.1038. 1455, CUMBRAE, NORSE. (S.B.N.O. Beirut 1503C/22 to Admty. etc.)

\* See p. 694

/Arrivals...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Movements.  
(Contd.)Arrivals FALK, Z 27, Z 29. Departures ERIDGE,  
BEAUFORT, PRIMULA, SNAPDRAGON, FALK, "A" 17.  
(Tobruk 2357C/22 to Admty.)GIUSEPPE  
BIGLIERE.

GIUSEPPE

Your 1215/19. A BIGLIERE in very rusty and dirty condition after 1 year submersion. C.A.M. is examined and report will be forwarded as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 0640Z/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.R.S. Admty.)

S.S.  
NIZAM.

N.T. n.w.D.

My 1507/15. NIZAM still awaiting orders C. in C. E.I. 1427/9 refers. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0837Z/22 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. P.S.T.O. India.)  
(Dishayde Capt. 1-73 Bombay)

P.612.  
(MURAT RE 15.)

Adjust speed to proceed through C. dawn 24/4 thence through D and 036° 19' 014° 31' to surface in 036° 13' 015° 15' dusk 26/4 and to arrive 034° 59' 019° 59' about 0230B/28 thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 1. (V.A. Malta 0940B/22 to P.612 (R) Capt. (S) 8, S/Ms on Patrol, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1, F.O.C.N.A.)

M.E.  
Air  
Report.

A. 659 22/4. Bi-weekly Opsum No.14. Night 17/18. 8 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi Harbour bombs bursting on all central, Cathedral Juliana Moles. 18/4. 3 Hurricanes on convoy protection off Tobruk, 21 Hurricanes shipping protection off Alexandria, 2 Hurricanes off Port Said, 4 Ju.88s bombed tanker 25 miles northwest Alexandria no damage. Hurricanes intercepted damaging 1 Ju.88 1 Hurricane damaged by return fire. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0951/22.) (Part 2 of A 659 22/4) 19/4. 19 Hurricanes off Alexandria, 8 Hurricanes off Port Said, Hurricanes damaged a probable Ju.88 off Alexandria. 1 Sunderland on patrol attacked and damaged S/M 45 miles N.E. of Port Said with 8 depth charges. Night 19/20. Ground haze and low cloud, 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour bursts seen on outer central Juliana Cathedral Moles, 2 unable to locate 1 bombed TOCC other Berka Satellite nil results, 1 Wellington crashed on return. 2 abandoned task. 2 enemy aircraft raided Matmuh (?Matruh) 1 parachute mine believed dropped in sea. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1014/22) Part 3 of A 659 ) 20/4. 31 Hurricanes and 16 Tomahawks shipping protection for convoy entering Tobruk. 16 Hurricanes shipping protection North of Port Said. 2 Ju.88s bombed Tobruk Harbour. No damage or casualties. No interceptions. Attack on shipping reported 30 miles North of Daba. Details awaited.

Night 20/21. 4 Wellingtons mined Benghazi Harbour, 11 diversion Wellingtons attacked moles and gun positions 1 heavy (?A.A.) battery silenced, burst seen on (base ?) central and on Cathedral and Juliana Moles. 1 aircraft hit by A.A. over town bombed Berka Satellite, no results, no news, 1 Wellington. 21/4. Strong force fighters stood by to defend convoy in Tobruk, 17 Hurricanes, 4 Kittyhawks offensive patrols forward area, no enemy seen. 2 Ju.88s only attacked shipping Tobruk without success, 1 Hurricane intercepted was hit by return fire forced landed pilot safe. 2 Beaufighters on free-lance patrol attacked M.V. 2,500 tons off Zuetina cannon shell hit aft

/hold...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.E. hold and super-structure. 6 Hurricanes on shipping  
 Air protection off Port Said. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.  
 Report. 1034/22.)  
 (Contd.) (Part 4 of A 659) 21/4. 12 Beauforts attacked  
 convoy in formations 3 3 2, 15 Me.109s  
 intercepted Beauforts 4 miles from ships, first  
 formation of 3 Beauforts missing, remaining 5 claim 2 torpedoes  
 hit M.V. ?10,000 tons, another M.V. 12,000 tons also believed  
 hit. 2 Beauforts jettisoned taking evasive action, 1 Ju.88  
 damaged by return fire, another Ju.88 badly hit by wild fire  
 from convoy escort. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1041/22)

→ P.35. My 1025B/21. Two 14 knot escorted merchant  
 UNA. ships may be encountered proceeding N on  
 meridian 011° 49' crossing 034° 30' about  
 1400B/23. At 2030B/23 UNA extend area east  
 to 012° 50' and N to 036° 10'. (Capt. (S) 10  
 1031B/22 to P.35, UNA (R) C. in C. Med. Capt.  
 (S) 1.)

→ P.35. Leave patrol p.m. 23/4 through 035° 24' 012°  
 48' and 036° 11' 014° 11' thence as in my 2117B/  
 20 to URGE to enter Marsamxett 2101B/25.  
 (Capt. (S) 10. 1033B/22 to P.35 (R) UNA, C. in C.  
 Med, Capt. (S) 1.)

Malta Wreck. Q B B 249 for N.C.S.Os. and C.S.As. Malta. Stem  
 of sunken wreck showing above water is in position  
 193° 2450 feet from Fort St. Lucian Light on  
 chart number 2626 Malta S.E. portion. Wreck is  
 510 feet long and lies in direction 325° from  
 above position. (Malta 1059B/22 to All concerned  
 Q B B Messages.)

THORN, THRASHER. THRASHER confirms Eastbound route on tracing  
 supplied to you. All convoys appear to pass  
 through a point 090° Ras Khara 6.  
 This area was not compromised by THRASHER who  
 carried out two successful attacks on approaches to R.Tayonnes.  
 Convoy apparently had no air escort between 016° 30' and 019°  
 (Capt. (S) 1, 1125C/22 to THORN.)

A/C report U/B. A/C reports sighting a S/M in your area at  
 0730 today. (Capt. (S) 1 1145C/22 to TORBAY (R)  
 PROTEUS.)

Mines Famagusta. My 1244/21. Sweeping continuing with single  
 SA (LL) sweepers 6 laps results negative. Port  
 declared open. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta 1210C/22 to  
 Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

U/B. At 1347 enemy S/M sighted in 032° 20' 024° 39'.  
 (Capt. (S) 1, 1511C/22 to THORN, P.611.)

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

**CAPR. MIHAI. (Vedette.)** My 1815/18/3. Roumanian Auxiliary sailing vessel MIHAI left for Palestine 21/4 with 12 immigrants. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1515C/22 to S.O.I. Med.)

**Libya Appreciation.** 22.4.42. Following from C. in C. for Chiefs of Staff. Summary J.I.C. (MEF) Appreciation enemy capabilities Libya, 1942.  
6. Conclusions. (a) owing to M.T. limitations advance on Delta in force not considered practicable without possession of Tobruk, therefore enemy's first objective must be seizure Tobruk, followed by period of preparation.  
(b) Attempt to seize Delta improbable until after September and without addition to present formations. Latter dependent on course of operations in Russia.  
(c) From May onwards enemy may consider his superiority in armour sufficient to undertake operation to seize Tobruk. Early offensive would however involve considerable risk owing strong Gazala defences and enemy's inferiority in infantry. (Mideast TQO 1710/22 to Air Min.)

**AVON VALE. FARNDALE.** Your 1120B/30/3. AVON VALE will complete repairs and refit in July.  
2. FARNDALE is expected to complete about August.  
3. Subject to situation then prevailing it is intended that both these ships should return to Med. (D.O.D. (F) 1718B/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C.N.A. R.A.D. Med. Fleet.)

**Malta Dockyard.** V.A.Ms. 1659B/8. Situation regarding dockyard labour. (A.S. Malta 1722B/22) See Lion Copy.

**TURBULENT intelligence.** 1. JANUS on A/S patrol in Sanctuary. APHIS and \*ANTWERP E.T.A. a.m. from W and E respectively, latter with small (?) convoy.  
14th D.F. leaves harbour 0830 for exercises.  
2. Enemy S/M trials sighted and may be on patrol north (?) west of Alex. (Capt. (S) 1 1855C/22 to TURBULENT.) \* See p. 691 (Movements)

**OLYMPUS.** Your 1440B/21. Request sailing of OLYMPUS be delayed until further signal from me and that no S/M personnel torpedoes or spare gear be embarked for the present. (V.A. Malta 2030B/22 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8.)  
See p. 688

**PROTEUS. THORN.** Establish patrol as follows \*PROTEUS by dawn 26/4 in vicinity of 036° 25' 018° 18', THORN by dawn 27/4 in vicinity of 032° 58' 019° 28'. (Capt. (S) 1 2045C/22 to PROTEUS, THORN (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, 201 Group.) (as amended 2251C/23)  
\* See p. 695

/Italian...

694 A. med

SECRET

MESSAGE

1722B/22nd April

From A.S.Malta

Date 23/4/42

Recd. 0349

Naval Cy her X D P by W/T

Addressed Admiralty C in C Mediterranean 70 V.A.M.

522. V.A.M's 1659B/8.

The present situation regarding dockyard labour is as follows in round numbers.

- (A) 100 casuals have been discharged.
- (B) 300 skilled tradesmen have been lent temporarily to army, R.A.F, and Civil Government. This number may increase.
- (C) 500 Apprentices and boys under 18 are on leave with pay. This is under review and some will probably be brought in again shortly.
- (D) 4000 key men and others required for maintenance of essential services, production, repair, salvage of machines, tools and stores and other important work are employed on full time.
- (E) 400 men of all grades have absented themselves. Many of them owing to destruction of homes. This number will probably be steadily reduced.
- (F) 2000 men are divided into two groups. One group is on full employment while the other is on leave with half pay groups alternate weekly. This number will be reduced as soon as conditions allow.
- (G) 1000 men on approved unpaid leave and sick. The above figures exclude victualling yard, Naval Armament Depot and Torpedo depot at which normal numbers are required continuously. The numbers quoted will fluctuate as the situation alters.

694<sup>B</sup>

2.

Assistance is also being given to the Civil Government in repair and salvago of Tugs and Lighters, and repair of Flour Mills the men so employed being included under category (D).

1722B/22

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. (T)  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
Parl Sec.  
Financial Sec.  
Civil Lord  
Controller (M.S.R)  
Secretary  
Naval Secretary  
N.A 1st S.L.  
P.A.S. (S)  
Ops (3)  
O.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D 57 O.B  
D.N.C.  
C.E. in C  
D of L.D. (2)  
D.P.D.  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
D.N.A.D.  
Air Branch  
M (30)  
D of S  
D of V  
D.A.S.  
W.G.F.  
D.C.L.  
P.A.S. (PR)

Dep. Contr (3)  
D (4)  
D.N.C.  
C.E. in C  
L  
D.N.A.  
A. Under Secretary  
C.E.  
D of S  
D of V  
D.A.S.

Bath by T/  
(BA 5924)

695

22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Italian U/B. From D/F bearing Italian U-Boat in approx. 039° N 006° 30' E at 1703C/22. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2118C/22 to V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1 (R) C. in C. Med.)

PROTEUS. High Power periscope out of action. Weather report. (PROTEUS 2125C/22 to Capt. (S) 1 (R) Capt. (S) 10)

Malta Air Report. I.236 22/4. C.S.R. Malta 22/4. Part 1, My I.234. 1 Spitfire pilot rescued, 1 Ju.88 probable now confirmed destroyed, another damaged. A.A. damaged 1 Ju.88. Alert 1359 hours 60 Ju. 88s. 20 Ju.87s. Luqa 2 Wellingtons destroyed, 1 damaged, crater dispersals main (?) runway unserviceable. Hal Far 1 Hurricane damaged, craters, dispersals aerodrome UXBS. Takali 4 Spitfires destroyed, 5 damaged, many craters, dispersals aerodrome. Grand Harbour no damage or casualties. Elsewhere houses damaged, 1 Me.109 destroyed 1 Ju.88 probably destroyed by 10 Spitfires, 1 prisoner. 7 Spitfires damaged in combat, 1 crash landed, all pilots uninjured. A.A. destroyed 2 Ju.87s, 1 Ju.88 damaged 3 Ju.88s, 1 Me.109. Night 21/22. 3 raiders 1916, 2313, 0315 hours bombs sea, Hurricanes up. No interceptions. A.A. fired. 22/4. 5 alerts 0435, 0720, 0932, 1018, 1349 hours. Me.109s. 70 Ju.88s. 16 Ju.87s. Luqa 1 Wellington damaged. Craters dispersals aerodrome. Ta? Kali, 2 soldiers killed 6 wounded. 1 Spitfire destroyed, damage to 15 Spitfires. Many craters, dispersals aerodrome unserviceable (UXBS?). Grand Harbour damage or casualties. End of Part 1. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2135/22.)

Part 2. I.236 22/4. C.S.R. Malta 22/4. Elsewhere 11 civilians wounded, hotel several houses destroyed, hospital damaged. 1 Ju.88 destroyed, 1 Me.109 probably destroyed, 1 Ju.88 damaged by 12 Spitfires. 2 Spitfires crash landed, pilots uninjured. A.A. destroyed 2 Ju.88, damaged 2 Ju.88. Night 21/22. 4 Wellingtons IC attacked Comiso through nineteenth cloud 2212 to 2350 hours, no results seen. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2145/22.)

War Diary.

22.4.1942.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Co-operation with U.S.N. In order that you may obtain more information from S.W. Pacific area of enemy movements and activity it is suggested that, unless the mission referred to in your 0634/28/3 has already borne fruit, you should use procedure agreed to between us and Americans of direct communication between "Opposite echelons" in adjacent areas, substance of which was promulgated in Admty 104A of 22/1. The "Opposite echelon" of C. in C. E.F. or C. in C. E.I. acting as deputy is Adm. Leary who is now Naval Commander of Allied Forces in S.W. Pacific area, and signals should be addressed to "Comsowespacfor".  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0013B/22 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I. (R) B.A.D)

Persian Gulf Mining. Under consideration to strengthen Persian Gulf defences by mining Straits of Hormuz.  
2. Scheme 1 envisages single line of mines with mile wide shipping channel at one end. Controlled minefield in channel.  
3. Scheme 2 envisages double line of mines but with gap of about 10 miles at one end. Gap to be covered by EREBUS in conjunction with R.D.F. set and patrol craft.  
4. Request your comments with particular reference to minimum acceptable width of channel required for safe navigation under local conditions.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0107B/22 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

M.M.S. Adrift. 2 Motor minesweepers painted grey reported adrift in 008° 19' N., 076° 56' E., and 008° 09' N., 077° 47' E.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0251Z/22 to S. & A., E.I. Stn).  
*Cancelled by C. C.E.T., 0314Z/4/5.*

F.A.A. Aircraft. Your 1221B/14 No. 788 Sqn. was disbanded to meet operational requirements, the whole of maintenance personnel being turned to No. 814 Squadron to replace those either lost in HERMES or survivors on leave. No F.R.U. has been formed to replace it.  
2. C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange the one Skua in S.S. NAIRUNG at Durban and 2 Skuas in S.S. DEFENDER to be sent Mombasa.  
3. Arrangements are being made for target-towing gear now in Ceylon to be shipped to Mombasa at earliest opportunity.  
(Dep. C. in C. E.F., 0346Z/22 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A. etc).

Movements. Departure SCOUT.  
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 0443Z/22 to Admty etc).  
Mombasa left 22/4 0315 G.M.T. AIREDALE.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0504Z/22 to C. in C. E.I.)

Arrival RAMDAS.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0613Z/22 to Admty etc).  
Mombasa left 22/4 1155 G.M.T. CERES.  
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1158Z/22 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Colombo arrival 21/4 1900Z. BARSTOKE, BARONIA B.S. PRINCE DE LIEGE B.S. GRAF VAN VLAANDEREN. Departure 22/4 D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN, Dutch S/M K.14. *See next page.*  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1232Z/22 to Admty etc).

/RUFIDJI...



War Diary.

22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

RUFIDJI (German). Reported (B.2) taken in supplies at Beira, and that port authorities have been informed by Ship's agents that vessel is to be beached for cleaning and men to be sent to Lourenco Marques for docking. Vessel is coal burning but has only about 300 tons on board. (D.S. 960).

Aerodromes. My 1058/19. R.A.F. can take one F.A.A. Squadron at each of the following ports - Reitz, Kilifi, Mackinnon Road, given a few days notice to arrange tentage. Number to be accommodated would help. (B.S.3., 0618Z/22 to D.C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.F. S.O. A/C E.F., Admty).

Movements  
Sum. No. 32.

1. Amend number 7 in Summary number 31 date due 22/4.

Serial No.	Ship	From	To	Remarks
1.	CHITRAL	Kilindini 21st.	Durban 27th.	Escort S.U. 4 - 4 ships
2.	ENGADINE	Capetown 18th.	Mombasa 25th approx.	Nil.
3.	FALMOUTH	Colombo 21st.	Bombay 25th approx.	Escorting M.B.2.
4.	LISMORE	Colombo 21st.	Bombay 29th approx.	Escorting 2 ships towards Persian Gulf.
5.	KELANTAN	Colombo 21st.	Seychelles 1st May.	Nil.
6.	MARGUERITE & SONAVATI	Colombo 21st.	Colombo 27th.	Escorting 5 ships to 070° E.
7.	Dutch M/L WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN and S/M. K.14.	Colombo 22nd.	Bombay 26th.	Nil.
8.	Dutch S/M 0.19.	Colombo 20th	-	On patrol E. of Ceylon.
9.	LANGLAAGTE	Mombasa 19th	Aden 27th.	Nil.

(C. in C. E.I., 0623Z/22 to S. & A E.I. Stn).

See p. 696 (Movements)

/Control...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Control of G.R. Air Sqdns. AX536 22/4. Desirable all long range G.R. Air Forces operating over Indian Ocean be under control one authority. Consider A.O.C. Ceylon should be this authority and accordingly propose he should have operational control all long range G.R. Squadrons based E. Coast Africa or S. Coast Arabia exclusive Gulfs of Aden and Oman, Persian Gulf and Red Sea.

2. A.O.C. Ceylon would operate these Forces in accordance with directive from C. in C. E.F. as laid down in C.O.S. No. (India) 33 11/3 to C. in C. India.

3. Squadrons based Africa or Arabia would be under local A.O.C. for administration, discipline, organisation, maintenance and training. Realize Persian Gulf in area of C. in C. E.F. but R/C there is short range problem and not directly connected general R/C Indian Ocean. Same applies Gulfs Aden and Oman.

4. Would like your confirmation this proposal acceptable after consultation C. in C. and C. in C. E.F. H.Q. M.E. is in favour. Shore-based striking forces based these areas would remain under operational control local A.O.'s C. (Air Min., 0920/22 to A.H.Q. India).

Diego Garcia, communication. Your 1039 B/22 (N.T. in W.D.) If communication is not restored tomorrow 23/4 intend investigation by Catalina unless C. in C. E.F. can arrange to investigate by ship. (C. in C. E.I., 1216Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Tankers. Admty 1836/11 (Loading of Admiralty tankers sailed for Trincomalee) No action to divert has been taken to date but tankers will be diverted if considered necessary. (C. in C. E.I., 1234Z/22 to Admty).

Whalers, conversion. Conversion of Whalers SILHOUETTE, SNOWDRIFT, SAHRA, SANTA, RAINSTORM and ?SEMLA to "London". "London" at Colombo was very slow prior to port air raid, since air raid labour practically non existent, there does not appear to be any prospect of completing conversion of these ships unless Capetown can undertake the work. Therefore proposed that 5 of these vessels should be sailed for Cape forthwith, all available equipment being sent in them. Intend retaining SEMLA at Colombo as an examination vessel. She is urgently required in S.W. monsoon. (C. in C. E.I., 1249Z/22 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A., etc).

Carrier Aircraft in Eastern Fleet. My 0809Z 17/4. Request date by which Carrier A/C complement will be adjusted. (C. in C. E.F., 1405Z/22 to Admty).

/Employment...

War Diary.

22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Employment  
of S/Ms.

C. in C. E.I's 1153/17 and Dep. C. in C. E.F's  
1015/18 and A.T. 1558/19, which is being passed  
to C. in C. Med., for information.

In order that facilities may be provided in Ceylon  
as soon as possible, so that S/Ms can continue to operate  
offensively it is approved to employ WUCHANG as proposed in  
C. in C. E.I. 1153/17. H.T. W.D.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2248B/22 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med (R)  
C. in C. E.I. F.O.S.)

Carrier  
Aircraft.

Your 0809/17. Approved in principle but aircraft  
to meet your requirements will not be available  
immediately. Further signal as regards supply of  
aircraft will follow.\*  
(V.C.N.S., 2341B/22 to C. in C. E.F.)  
\*See his 1726/24.

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

FIREDRAKE. E.T.A. St. Johns (N.F.) 1400Z/22, following urgent defects. (FIREDRAKE, 0015/22 to F.O.N.F., (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns (N.F.))

Task Force 38. A.T.15, N.A.8. Com.3 deliver to BROOKLYN for action upon arrival. C. in C. Lant originator, Opanav deliver to Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., and C.O.A.C. Task Force 38, Capt. Stone, hereby reconstituted as follows effective when present Task Force 38 dissolved about 24/4. U.S.S. NEW YORK, BROOKLYN, Des. Div. 14 less MADISON, Des. Div. 16, Des. Div. 26 less WILKES. Convoy A.T.15 ready sail New York 30/4 via Halifax consists of Transports MACANDREW and SANTA ELENA A.K. MIZAU for Iceland (C). AQUITANIA, CATHAY, SANTA ROSA, MEXICO, CRISTOBAL for U.K. CHATEAU THIERRY for Halifax. One A.K. SEATRIN TEXAS for U.K. Escort to Halifax where destroyers take fuel. Convoy N.A.8 consists of 4 transports sail Halifax 3/5 for U.K. will join and sail with you from Halifax. Thence escort to Iceland (C) and U.K. in accordance with routeing to be prescribed by Opanav. When sections separate split escort as appropriate including Des. Div. 16 and heavy ship in which COMNAVEU is embarked in U.K. Section. NEW YORK and Destroyers will be directed to report to you in time carry out your plans. Adm. Stark expected take passage in Task Force 38. AVENGER expected join you at New York for passage U.K. Return orders to be issued later. (Cinclant, 0023/22 to Comtask 3, C.T.G.24.4. C.T.G.27.5. Cominch, Opanav, C.T.G.26.1. C.T.F.29, C.T.G.27.11, C.T.F.24.)

U/B. D/F bearing indicates S/M within 50 miles 38.00 N. 52.45 W. at 1326Q. Cancel my 2008/21. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 0029/22 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., etc.)

U/B. My 2222Z/21 position re-estimated as within 60 miles 37° N. 52° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q., 0034Z/22 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)

Dakar Intelligence. Dakar 20/4 B2. Arrived naval tanker and armed auxiliary believed ex "Fruiter" with two submarines Nos. 81 and 82 possible Madagascar origin being investigated.

(B.A.D., 0219Z/22 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.A.F.)

N.I.D. Comment:- 1. Naval tanker is probably ELORN. Reported on 25/3 that ELORN was due to leave Diego Suarez on 15/3 for Dakar with 9,000 tons fuel (B.2) S.O.(I) Cape Town's 0017/25/3. 2. "Armed auxiliary ex-Fruiter" is probably A.M.C. QUERCY. QUERCY left Tamatave 4/3 for Fort Dauphin to "load military for France" (A.2) (S.O.(I) Cape Town's 1030/5/3). Before conversion into A.M.C. QUERCY was a fruit ship.

/BUSRA ...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- BUSRA. C. in C. A.W.I. 1122/20 which is being repeated to Admty. and N.S.H.Q. While BUSRA may be said to be in force in that it has been agreed to by all concerned, sections altering present arrangements will not come into effect until so agreed by Navy Dept. and Admty. in accordance with section J.
2. Under present arrangements B.R.M's should act as in paras. 1 and 2 of C. in C's 1122/20. When BUSRA is in full effect U.S.R.O's in U.S. and Neutral Ports in U.S. strategic areas will assume responsibility for the correctness and suitability of routes and orders given to all ships including British ships. B.R.O's will then act in accordance with BUSRA section para.(D) sect. E (D) and (E). U.S.R.O's will be responsible with co-operation of B.R.O's for correct reporting of shipping in accordance with BUSRA section G para. (C).
3. Similarly under present arrangements responsibility for diversion of British ships, and other ships which have been issued routes by British Authority, rests with British Authorities. When BUSRA sect. F is brought into force U.S. Authorities will assume responsibility for diversion of all ships in U.S. strategic areas with exception of ships dispersed from O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys.
4. Since it is desirable that no misunderstandings shall arise, request Admty. and N.S.H.Q. signify agreement with above interpretation which is agreed to by Opnav.  
(B.A.D., 0255Z/22 to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)  
Your 0255/22. Agree with your interpretation.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2242Z/22 to B.A.D., (R) Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)  
Following passed to Admiralty for information from Washington. Addressed S.B.N.O. Curacao (R) B.A.D. Your 1002/18 and your letter No.35 of 10/4. My interpretation of BUSRA is that British Officers whether they are stationed in British, U.S. or Neutral Ports should continue to route British ships and ships under British Control as heretofore. U.S. routing Officers route U.S. ships and ships under U.S. control. General routing instructions i.e. MARI and MACRI will be received from Admty. and from Navy Dept.
2. In U.S.A. Ports, under which category Curacao and Aruba must be considered to come, such questions as time of sailing, safety of anchorages and Fleet Auxiliaries, escorts etc. must be decided by the responsible U.S.A. Authorities, but responsibility for interviewing and issuing of all routing instructions to Masters of British ships and allied ships under British control remains with the British routing authorities.
3. BUSRA is in force.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1122P/22).

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 21/4. Arrivals CLAYOQUOT escorting L.C.7 from Halifax. NASTURTIUM ex O.N.85, CHAMBLY ex S.C.79 and escorting S.S. MANCHESTER DIVISION.

Departures READING, LETHBRIDGE, PRIMROSE, PRESCOTT, SHAWINIGAN, BATTLEFORD to S.C.80. VERITY, WITHERINGTON, CHARLOTTETOWN, KENOGAMI, \*TOGAMI to O.N.84. MALPEQUE escorting C.L.18 to Halifax. (F.O.N.F., 0338Z/22 to Admty.) \* Not identified

PRINCE HENRY arrived 1020R.  
(C.S.A. Colon, 1021R/22 to Admty., etc.)  
SHERBROOKE arrived escorting C.L.24.  
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1902Z/22 to Admty., etc.)

/LINCOLN ...

War Diary.

22.4.1942.

Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

- Movements. LINCOLN arrived from O.N.85.  
(contd.) (S.O.I.Halifax, 1920Z/22 to Admty., etc.)  
Norfolk arrived 0110Z/22 PHOEBE.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2259Z/22 to Admty.)
- U/B. D/F indicates U-Boat within 75 miles of 026° 30' N.  
071° W. at 0040Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0426Z/22 to Admty., etc.)
- U/B. D/F indicates U-Boat within 100 miles of 035° N.  
070° 30' W. at 0436Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0944Z/22 to Brit. Warships in Area 7,  
Admty. etc.)
- MANCHESTER DIVISION. Returned from H.X.185 collision damage.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John's, 1101Z/22 to Admty.)  
Following for C.C.R.T. Tugs TENACITY and FRISKY  
arrived 1215Z/22 ex search S.S. MANCHESTER  
DIVISION. (F.O.N.F., 1422Z/22 to Admty.)
- HARVESTER, BUXTON, CHESTERFIELD. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Your 2042/21. HARVESTER, BUXTON and CHESTERFIELD  
must arrive Argentia 4/5.  
(C.T.F., 24, 1129/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Caribbean Shipping Resumption. Your 2045Z/21. All signals made by Admty.  
referring to the control and routeing of shipping  
should be understood as referring only to British  
Managed Shipping as defined in Busra Section B.  
para. (C).  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1226B/22 to N.S.H.Q.)  
Your 1122P/21 para.2, sailings were suspended principally  
because 4 or 5 submarines were considered to be operating in  
Caribbean and partly after receipt of D.N.I. Ottawa's 2250Z/17  
and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 0525Z/18 until position was clarified.  
(D.T.D., 1302B/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- O.N.S.88. (1) 1530Z/22. (2) 1200Z/27. (3) ASSINIBOINE,  
DIANTHUS, ORILLIA, FENNEL, AMHERST, BRANDON, SOREL,  
Rescue Ship DEWSBURY.  
(D.T.D., 1320Z/22 to Opnav).
- Admty. 1320Z/22 and para.3. Request confirmation H.M.C.S.\*ORILLIA  
in view of C.T.G.24.7 1425B/17.  
(F.O.N.F., 2118Z/22 to Admty., (R) C.T.G.24.7., C. in C. W.A.)
- COTATI, U/B. My 1745Z/20. COTATI arrived Halifax undamaged 21/4.  
Sighted S/M on surface and opened fire. S/M  
submerged and was not seen again.  
(C.O.A.C., 1436Z/22 to Admty., etc.)  
S.C.80. COTATI returned with engine defects.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1931Z/22 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

/ U/B...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

- U/B. D/F bearing at 1220Z/22 and 1235Z/22 places S/M within 60 miles of 33.30 N., 70.30 W. (N.S.H.Q., 1500Z/22 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty., etc.)
- O.N.84. O.N.84 Halifax section leaves at 62° W. Route 11 ships from J to Cape Cod Canal Long Island sound to New York for onward routeing. (Opnav, 1524Z/22 to C.T.U.24.18.6 (R) C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Admty., C.T.F.24. C.E.S.F.)
- Convoys. My 1836A/4. Proposed to instruct Commodores that, St.Lawrence. commencing with O.N.S.86 they will be advised by Western local Escort of position in which ships for St. Lawrence will be detached. (D.T.D., 1647Z/22 to Opnav).
- S.C.81. Halifax report 43 ships for Iceland, 3 H.I.T.I.C. 6 N.T.S. 34 Lend-Lease Russia. Recommend lend-lease ships be routed to U.K. Do you concur? (Opnav, 1728/22 to Admty.) S.C.81. Your 1728/22. Concur. (D.T.D., 2125Z/22 to Opnav).
- M.A.C.R.I. Amendment. Opnav's 2130/20. The new sub-para.5 under para.9 was inserted at Admiralty's request in order that diverting authorities should have freedom to route shipping through any passage in the Caribbean and thus be enabled to make maximum use of U-Boat information in their possession. (D.T.D., 1730B/22 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) N.S.H.Q., S.O.I. Jamaica).
- M.T.B's for E.Indies. Following received from C. in C. E.I. (quotes 0936/21). Request you will take necessary action. (D.D.O.D.(C) 1805B/22 to B.A.D.)
- Aruba-Trinidad Convoys. Your 2339Z/21. Limiting factor is number of safe berths in Curacao and Aruba estimated at about 20. From this must be deducted number of U.S.A. Tankers. Probable size of convoy therefore 15 to 20 ships. (A.C.N.S.(T), 1832B/22 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.A.W.I.)
- Dakar Intelligence. Dakar 20/4 (B.2). 20/4 CAP BLANC, CAPITAINE LE DIABAT sailed for Kaolack. Marseille 16/4 (B.2). Departures 12/4 FOUMALHAUT for Blank, ST. FERNAND for Nemours, PLM 24 for Algiers. G.G. LE GUEYDON for Oran. 13/4 GRETE for Valencia, OUERGHA for Blank, DJEBEL NADOR for Algiers, CYRNOS for Ajaccio, STE ROSELINE for Nemours. 14/4 KILISSI ? ARTESIEN ? G.G. TIRMAN and STE. CHRISTINE for Algiers, MOSTAGENEM for Tunis, IMERETHIE II for Blank. 15/4 MARECHAL LYAUTEY for Blank, ARAGAZ for Oran. Arrivals : 13/4 GENERAL BONAPARTE from Bastia, G.G. LA FERRIERE from Oran.

/14/4 ...

War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Dakar 14/4 VILLERS and BELAIN DESNAMBUC from Algiers.  
 Intelligence. 15/4 ST. RAYMOND from Phillippeville ST. SAUVEUR  
 (contd.) from Ajaccio. Algiers 21/4 (B.2). Departures.  
 13/4 CHATEAU YQUEM for Sete. 14/4 DJEBEL AMOUR  
 for Port Vendres. 16/4 LINOIS ? ST. ETIENNE  
 (10 tons rubber) DJEBEL NADOR for Marseille. Arrivals 14/4  
 ST. ETIENNE from Bougis (Iron Ore) CAP FALCON from Tunis LINOIS  
 from Marseille. 15/4 PLM 24 (39 Rly.Cars) DJEBEL NADOR,  
 G.G.TIRMAN from Marseille JOSEPH BORFRE from Sete KILISSI from  
 France. 16/4 SUDEST from Tunis. 17/4 ARTESIEN from Blank  
 STE. CHRISTINE from Marseille (10 trucks). Departures. ORAN for  
 France. 9/4 SIDI AISBA 11/4 G.G.LA FERRIERE 14/4 KRISTEL 16/4  
 G.G. DE GUEYDON. Arrivals ORAN from Casablanca. 14/4 ALGEROISE  
 GUYANEV from Marseille. 14/4 BOUDJEMEL. Departures. MOSTAGANEM  
 for France 1/4 GONNEVILLE 4/4 MERS EL KEBIR 16/4 CHATEAU PAVIE  
 13/4 SEBAA. Departures. NEMOURS for France. 3/4 STE. ROSELINE  
 11/4 CHARLES BORONE. Departures. BONE for France. 14/4 TLEMCEM  
 (Iron ore) 16/4 JONNART 17/4 CEPHEE 18/4 MARIE ~~BOBONE~~ LOUISE LE BORNE  
 19/4 JANINE. STE. JULIENNE.  
 (B.A.D., 1913Z/22 to Admty.)

U/B. Following received (Begins). To any British  
 warship from WXGK (Undecypherable in W.R.) Chased  
 by S/M 30° N., 66° 40' W. at 2150 G.M.T/22 B.A.D.  
 pass to Opanav and Cominch.  
 (Bermuda, 2017P/22 to Admty.)

U/B's. Intercepted 1835 G.M.T. De NSS - Annapolis Radio.  
 Sub. sighted 36.05 N., 75.00 W. at 1235 G.C.T./22  
 X221727. Sub. sighted 13.50 N., 28.48 W. at 1415  
 G.C.T./22 X221753. Controlling Station Annapolis  
 Radio. (Portishead Radio No T.O.O./22 Recd.  
 2045/22).

Shipping Admty. pass to Spenavo for action. Opanav serial 22.  
 Casualties. Swiss MOUNT LYCABETTUS overdue Leixoes since 26/3  
 presumed lost. Radio Messages remain unanswered.  
 WASHINGTONIAN U.S. reported by Aluslo Colombo  
 torpedoed 6/4. Ship due Colombo 8/4. SAN JACINTO U.S. torpedoed  
 1202 G.M.T. 22/4. Position 31° 00' N., 70° 45' W. Distress call.  
 "children women passengers crew need help." 5 Boat loads  
 survivors picked up by U.S.S. ROWAN at 1640/22 G.C.T. Believed  
 only 1 Submarine in vicinity.  
 (Opanav, 2051/22 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B attacks S/M attack summary. ESSO BATON ROUGE, 1 torpedo,  
 on Shipping. beached near Brunswick, Georgia. U 88 type.  
 OKLAHOMA, 1 torpedo, 12 rounds, beached Brunswick  
 Georgia, U 88 type. CITY NEW YORK, 2 torpedoes,  
 38.42 N., 72.30 W., attack unseen. S.S. CATHAHOULA 19.13 N.,  
 68.12 W., 2 torpedoes, periscope believed damaged by M/G fire.  
 S.S. MONTEVIDEO, 29.13 N., 69.35 W., periscope seen, no avoiding  
 action taken. 2 torpedoes 5 rounds, U 88 type. S.S. PEDERBOGEN,  
 24° N. 57° 44' W. 2 torpedoes 40 rounds, unseen. EMPIRE STEEL,  
 36.41 N., 64.17 W., 1 torpedo 12 rounds, no adequate description.

/MALCHACE...



War Diary.22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B Attacks on Shipping. (contd.) MALCHACE, 2 torpedoes, 34.28 N., 75.56 W., U.45 type. ATLAS, 34.27 N., 76.16 W., 2 torpedoes, Italian ENRICO TAZZOLI. OTHO, 1 torpedo 72.22 N., 36.25 W., no adequate description sub. BYRON D. BENSON, 1 torpedo, attack unseen, 37.17 N., 75.36 W. LANCING, 35.08 N., 75.22 W., 1 torpedo, sub not seen. B.A.D. informed. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2118Z/22 to Admty.,)

U.S. Naval operations base Bermuda reports following.

(A) 8 survivors of DERRYHEEN (British) picked up by U.S. patrol plane p.m. today 22/4 in 031° 25' N., 070° 45' W. and landed Bermuda.

(B) 5 boats containing survivors from DERRYHEEN and SAN JACINTO (U.S.) picked up by U.S. destroyers in company U.S.S. BROOKLYN (Cruiser) p.m. today 22/4 in approx. same position.

(C) 1 boat contained 18 survivors from STEELMAKER (U.S.) picked up by U.S. destroyers in 032° 06' N., 070° 52' W. p.m. today 22/4. Ship was torpedoed in 033° 48' N., 070° 36' W. at 2230Q/19. 1 Motor boat contained 26 men still unaccounted for.

(D) 3 enemy life rafts and much wreckage sighted by U.S. patrol plane a.m. today 22/4 in vicinity distress message from PIPESTONE COUNTY (U.S.) in 037° 26' N., 065° 54' W. B.A.D. Washington pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet and Opanv). (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152P/22 to Admty., B.A.D., etc.)

33 survivors of AGRA, Swedish, landed at Bermuda p.m. today 22/4 from TERCERO Norwegian. 7 of these were U.S. Ambulance drivers. AGRA was torpedoed in approx. 035° 40' N., 069° 35' W. at 2120Z/20 Master and 5 men missing believed drowned. Survivors were picked up tired in 034° 49' N., 069° 06' W. by TERCERO at 0930Z/21. B.A.D. pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet and Opanv). (C. in C. A.W.I., 2257P/22 to Admty., B.A.D., etc.)

U.S. tanker ATLANTIC SUN and Panama tanker STANVAC CALCUTTA, both previously reported torpedoed and sunk, are now known to have arrived safely in port, former at Philadelphia and latter at Covenas. (D.S., 961).

Argentine VICTORIA, torpedoed on 18/3 (?18/4) has arrived damaged at New York. (D.S., 961).

ANDES.

Coastal movement.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2250Z/22 to C. in C. Lant).  
Embarkation arrangements confirmed.  
(B.A.D., 1901Z/23).

War Diary.

22.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Brisbane 0130Z/21 GOULBURN, BINGERA.  
Departure Sydney 0105Z/21 for Brisbane WARREGO.  
Arrival Darwin 0557Z/21 WARRNAMBODI. Departure  
Melbourne 0401Z/21 VOYAGER escorting PRESIDENT, COOLIDGE to  
R/V VOYAGER subsequently proceeding Sydney PRESIDENT COOLIDGE  
proceeding San Francisco. Departure Williamstown 0601Z/21 for  
Sydney BALLARAT.  
(A.C.N.B., 0009Z/22 to Admty.)

Situation. Serial No.91 from C.W.R. 21/4.  
Port Moresby attacked 2256Z/20 to 2320Z by 9  
heavy bombers and 8 fighters. No damage reported.  
3 fighters damaged and possibly crashed, 2 others possibly  
damaged in combat with our fighters.  
(2) About 1200Z/20 2 A/C each attacked a wharf and buildings at  
Rabaul causing several fires. 1 large ship sighted in harbour.  
(3) 2 other A/C attacking enemy patrol H.Q. at Stockholm  
plantation (50 miles W. of Rabaul) at 0430Z/21 demolishing  
1 large building others damaged.  
(4) Allied air R/C 21/4 reported following - No shipping sighted  
Madong, Manus Island, Cape Gloucester (Singapore) Lae Salamoia  
area. 1 vessel 3000 tons at anchor near Igauri Island (China  
Strait E. of New Guinea). 2 transports (approx. 8000 tons each)  
and a tender at anchor off Enang Island (S.E. of New Hanover).  
10 twin engined and 11 single engined A/C on Lae aerodrome.  
5 enemy fighters over Lae failed intercept.  
(5) Additional troops reported landed Sohana (Buka passage)  
enemy strength there now estimated 600.  
(A.C.N.B., 1258Z/22 to Admty., etc.)

Cairns, N.O.I.C's have been appointed to Cairns (Queensland)  
Geraldton, and Geraldton (Western Australia) and have taken  
N.O.I.C's. over duties in connection with reporting of  
merchant ships from Admiralty Reporting Officer.  
They are in possession of Naval Shore Code, Naval  
Code, and Naval Cypher No.4 with complementary  
tables and books.  
(A.C.N.B., 1921Z/22 to Admty.)

U/B. Maori No.16. 2300Z/21 submarine sighted by ferry  
aircraft, 009° 33' S., 171° (725) W. course 225°.  
submerged when being passed.  
(N.Z.N.B., 2047Z/22 to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1422B/22, 1424B/22).

706A

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Commodore R.L.B. Cunliffe assumed command today of the Dover Command.

In weather which did not permit of air action the South Foreland 9.2" Battery fired 24 rounds between 2312 and 0010 this morning at an Enemy Convoy passing Cape Blanc Nez.

3 M.T.B's with 2 M.G.B's in support were ordered at 2200 last night to attack an Enemy Ship with several escorting vessels proceeding westwards off Gravelines, but were prevented from reaching an attacking position by a barrage of star shells maintained by the enemy vessels.

An enemy Convoy of 7 M/V's escorted by a Torpedo-Boat and 2 Escort Craft was reported from Stockholm today to have passed Gothenburg at 1530 yesterday to the northward.

British Air Activity.

Six P.E.3 Fighter A/C were sent to attack the German aerodrome at Banak early today and one of them, diving through thick fog, bombed and machine-gunned a hangar. Junker A/C were seen on the ground; no A/A fire was encountered; and S.B.N.O. North Russia considers that complete success might be achieved there if heavy Bombers could be sent at once before the defences are organised.

22 Bomber Command aircraft dropped about 48 tons of H.E. on the docks at Le Havre last night.

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

The port area at Murmansk was heavily bombed early this morning when some warehouses were demolished, a Tug and some floating cranes sunk, and No.5 berth put out of use for at least one month. But no British ship had any damage or casualty.

M.A/S. B.31 was attacked and damaged by bomb splinters by 2 M.E.109 A/C at 1820 today while carrying out R.D.F. trials 5 miles South of Folkestone. Her C.O. and 3 ratings were wounded by M.G. fire.

2 A/C were over the Orkneys from 1120 till 1149 today and would have seen into the Fleet Anchorage.

The R.N. Cordite Factory at Holton Heath was bombed last night. 3 bombs were dropped, but caused no damage or casualty.

Mining.

At 1750B today the British CHATWOOD, 2768 tons, in Convoy F.S.83 was mined and sunk without casualties off the East Dudgeon Buoy, where 15 mines were exploded by EQUERRY yesterday; and at 2300B C. in C. Nore ordered the available ships of the 4th M/S Flotilla to proceed at 0600 tomorrow to carry out a search sweep of the channels to the Southward of the Buoy where an F.S. Convoy will be due at 1900.

44 aircraft of Bomber Command last night laid 134 mines in various areas off North and N.W.Germany.

North Atlantic.

N.A. Madrid reports that German LEESEE at Bilbao is fully loaded and ready to sail.

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

At 1037 G.M.T. Ascension Radio intercepted a report purporting to come from a U.S. ship with signal letters KOUM in 8.10 S., 32.30 W. that a suspicious vessel was following her.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

V.A. Malta states that enemy raids are now mainly on the aerodromes, but at least 1 attack daily is made on Marsa area and dockyard. In 2 alerts last night four raiders dropped bombs without damage or casualties. In 2 medium and 1 small raid today 134 bombers were used, of which 6 were destroyed and 3 damaged. Further damage was caused at the aerodromes.

S.S. KIRKLAND  
sunk.

Cased petrol carrier KIRKLAND was sunk by torpedo from U-Boat at 0400 on passage from Tobruk in convoy in 31.51 N., 26.37 E. No lives were lost. The result of subsequent hunt by ERIDGE and BEAUFORT is unknown.

S.S. JERSEY  
sunk.

S.S. JERSEY was sunk p.m. today in Suez Bay, when about to anchor, by an explosion probably of a mine at least 5 months old.

Wellingtons and Albacores bombed Benghazi harbour last night.

Aircraft  
situation.

In reply to the Admiralty proposal of 18/4, that one Naval T.B.R. Squadron should be released for the Eastern Fleet C. in C. Med today sends a report on the aircraft situation and the importance of retaining the T.B.R. Squadrons in the Mediterranean.

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Coastal  
Shipping  
India.

F.O.C.R.I.N. suggests reopening the East coast of India to a limited amount of shipping, the numbers in port on any one day being not more than Calcutta 10, Vizagapatam 3, and Madras 4 (including 1 tanker). To maintain this flow it is estimated that not more than 12 ships would be at sea in Bay of Bengal at any one time. Valuable vessels would not be used. (Admty. concurred, see 0010B/24. C. in C. E.I. concurred generally but considered that this shipping should keep close to the coast, see 1046Z/25).

RUFIDJI.

Reports indicate that German coaster RUFIDJI may attempt to escape from Beira.

Mandalay was bombed p.m. today.

Eastern  
Fleet.  
(Force A)

WARSPITE, INDOMITABLE, FORMIDABLE, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE, NEWCASTLE, Dutch Cruiser HEEMSKERCK and 6 Destroyers arrived at Colombo early this morning from Bombay, en route for Mombasa.

America & West Indies.

Caribbean  
Shipping.

At 1355B, Admty. notified that sailings of British tankers from port in W. Indies and Gulf of Mexico might be resumed. For the present, all tankers from these ports bound for U.K. are to be routed via Freetown unless otherwise ordered. C. in C. A.W.I. is given discretion to suspend any or all sailings in the light of any U-Boat intelligence he may receive.

N. Atlantic  
Shipping.

All merchant shipping in North Atlantic has been directed to clear the area north of 20° N. and South of Cape Cod, between 65° and 75° W., on account of the U/B situation. Northbound shipping will seek coastal lane, reporting to the nearest major port for onward routing where necessary.

An unknown ship reported being attacked by U/B at 1100 G.M.T. in 39.18 N., 72.51 W., 100' S.E. by S. of New York.

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

7 miles aerodrome, Port Moresby, was attacked at 0001 G.M.T. by 8 Japanese bombers and 7 fighters, but no damage is reported.

2 Allied aircraft attacked 3 transports in Talili Bay, Gazelle Peninsula, at 0110 G.M.T. without success. 3 others attacked wharf installations at Rabaul at 0140 G.M.T. and started several fires, including 1 on a ship.

706F

War Diary.23.4.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Proposed  
cessation  
of laying  
certain East  
Coast Buoys.

My 2240A/26/3 and FNM 764P Section 1. Owing to the recent developments of enemy minelaying tactics it is considered that the risk of contact minefields being laid round these buoys constitutes a danger to destroyers chasing E-boats, observing that insufficient sweepers are available to search the area frequently.

It is desired therefore to abandon the laying of buoys in FNM 764 P Section 1.(A) sub paras.(A) to (F) inclusive.

2. It is considered desirable to alter the characteristics of the buoys referred to in Section 1(B). It is requested that this may be done at the same time as the numbers of the buoys are changed and the proposed date communicated. (C. in C. Nore 1458B/23.)

First 20  
R.M.Ls  
Allocation.

The first twenty 'B' Type M.Ls building for Air-Sea Rescue and to be known as R.M.Ls are allocated as follows. Details. (D.D.O.D. (C) 1537B/23.)

CARADOC.

When ready for sea request you will sail CARADOC for Clyde to work up. 2. She will be required to leave the U.K. on 10/5 for a foreign station. (D.O.D. H. 1616B/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Dover  
Command.

Commodore R.L.B. Cunliffe assumed command of the Dover Command today. (V.A. Dover 1817B/23.)

Movements.

WELSHMAN.

Admiralty's 2024B/22. Intend to sail WELSHMAN at 1000 tomorrow for Plymouth by Sleaford Sound and standard route through Irish Sea and Q/Z S 315 and searched channel. Speed of advance 25 knots C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection. (R.A.M. 0002/23.)

My 0002/23. E.T.A. Plymouth 0800/24.

(R.A.M. 0944/23.)

Sailed my 0002/23. (Pat Z.A.)

(R.A.M. 1102/23.)

WASP.

Owing to delay in entering Ponta Delgada due to weather and to defects SALISBURY and GEORGETOWN will not be able to make R/V in position (C) referred to in my 1559Z/20. N.T.H.W.B. (C. in C. W.A. 0003Z/23 to WASP, CAIRO (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. H.F. Capt.(D) Greenock, INGLEFIELD, GEORGETOWN, (?SALISBURY.)

3... 117060 9706N

/SALISBURY's ...



7066

War Diary.23.4.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

WASP - SALISBURY's 1137/22. INGLEFIELD and ECHO  
contd. are to remain with WASP pending further  
instructions.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0213B/23 to D.3.)

INGLEFIELD and ECHO continue escort duty to U.K.  
2. SALISBURY and GEORGETOWN proceed to Gibraltar. *See p. 706H*  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1015B/23 to D.3 SALISBURY (R) C. in C. H.F.  
F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. R.A.D. H.F.)  
Comdesron 8 in WAINWRIGHT with PLUNKETT proceed passing Switha  
at 1200 today to Merville, routed as in Fleet Notice to  
Mariners 759 (T).  
2. On arrival wait further orders from C. in C. W.A.  
3. WAINWRIGHT and PLUNKETT will be required to R/V with WASP  
and act as additional escort to Scapa.  
(R.A.D. 1016B/23.)  
My 1016B/23. Comdesron 8 in WAINWRIGHT with PLUNKETT sailed  
for Merville. E.T.A. 0800/24/4.  
(R.A.D. 1458B/23.)

WELLS. Departure WELLS for Reykjavik. E.T.A. 0900/25.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0657B/23.)

UREDD. Intend to sail UREDD escorted by PRESTON NORTH  
END from Scapa 0700B/24 for Lerwick E.T.A.  
2000B/24.  
(A.C.O.S. 1143/23.)

Floating Dock. Your 1335/22. Sailing delayed owing to weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Leith 1145/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

FARNDALE. Your 1314B/21. Request you will arrange for  
FARNDALE to call at Plymouth to disembark 149  
cases of gold bullion before proceeding up  
Channel.  
(D.O.D. H. 1228B/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 1314B/21. From position F. proceed via Q Z S 278 to  
Plymouth to disembark bullion before proceeding up channel.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1838B/23 to FARNDALE.)

BRAMBLE M.S.1 in BRAMBLE sailed with LEDA and SEAGULL.  
LEDA E.T.A. 1800Z/25.  
SEAGULL. (R.A.D. 1504B/23 to A.C.I.C.)

66th M/S Request you will sail 66th M/S Trawler Group  
Trawler including ANDYK to Portsmouth p.m. 25th for  
Group. duty under C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(D.M.S. 1717B/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

7064

War Diary.23.4.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Enemy Convoy shelled. Projected attack by Coastal Craft. At 2200/22 R.D.F. detected an enemy ship off Gravelines proceeding westward at about 9 knots and accompanied by a number of smaller escorting craft. M.T.Bs 34, 30 and 70 who were exercising at sea were ordered to attack with M.G.Bs 41 and 46 in support but were unable to reach an attacking position owing to a protective barrage of star shell maintained by the enemy vessels.

South Foreland 9.2" Battery fired 24 rounds between 2312 and 0010 when enemy convoy was passing about 4 miles off Blanc Nez. Weather conditions did not permit air action. Enemy vessels entered Boulogne at 0140/23. (V.A. Dover 1002B/23.)

Denmark Strait Patrol. R/V at 2000Z/24 066° 05' N. 024° 50' W. My approach course 350°. Intend R I X on meeting. (NORFOLK 1052B/23 to BERWICK.)

Patrols. M.Ls 464 and 346 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and North East Spit Buoys E.T.D. 2215. E.T.R. 0630/24. M.Ls 138 and 293 on O.D.6 and 7 until 0001 then proceeding to Dover. (V.A. Dover 1802B/23.)

2 M.Ls leaving Yarmouth 2015 by inshore route for patrol N. (C. in C. Nore 2015B/23.)

Operation K.C.1. (A) Operation K.C.1. M.T.Bs 55, 52, 56 (B) 24th - 25th April (C) Yarmouth (I.O.W) (D) 274° W W 19 (E) Small convoys (F) 050° 15' (G) ADVENT (H) 3 U V F (I) Nil. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1857B/23 to M.T.B. Flotilla 11th.)

Enemy M/V sunk. Russian S/M 173 returned from patrol claims sinking 8500 ton ship with 2 torpedoes at range of 4 cables. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2023B/23.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing restrictions. My 1849/17. Delete 2359B/23 and substitute 1200B/25th April. (Capt. S.9 0951B/23 to TRIDENT.)

Institute total submarine bombing restrictions in area 35 miles either side of a line joining 090° Out Skerries 5 miles and 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and 61° 18' N. 00° 33' W. from 0600/24 to 1800/24. (H.Q.C.C. 1735/23.)

/Banak ...

War Diary.23.4.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - contd.

Banak aerodrome bombed. 6 P E 3 fighters were sent to attack Banak early April 23rd. Thick fog encountered over aerodrome. Squadron Leader sent 4 back, but dived through fog with one machine. Hangar bombed and machine gunned. No anti-aircraft fire. Junkers seen on ground. This indicates what complete success (?can be) achieved by heavy bombers if they are sent at once before defence organized.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1251B/23.)

Bombing Operations. Day 20/4 to day 22/4 inclusive, no operations. On night 22/23, 21 A/C bombed the docks at Havre.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1815/23.)

Enemy Air Activity.

M.A.S.B.31 damaged. M.A.S.B.31 was attacked by two Me.109s at 1820 today while carrying out R.D.F. trials five miles south of Folkestone. C.O. seriously and three ratings slightly wounded by machine gun fire. Considerable hull damage forward from bomb splinters. Aircraft attacked in line ahead from starboard bow.  
(V.A. Dover 0029B/23.)

R/C of Convoy. LEICESTER CITY reports 1 unidentified A/C flew over our convoy at 0030/23, examined ship with landing lights, later dropping flares on water to westwards position 061° 36' N. 5° 40' W.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 0848B/23 to A.C.O.S.)

Orkneys and Scapa. At 1120 2 enemy aircraft plotted 90 miles East of Orkneys, course west, height 30 thousand feet. 2 section fighters ordered up. 1143 enemy aircraft identified as JU.88s were over South Ronaldshay height 18 thousand feet when they turned South. 1149 enemy aircraft plotted 30 miles North of Kinnaird Head course South East. Visibility excellent and enemy aircraft would have seen into Flow.  
(A.C.O.S. 1201B/23.)

Murmansk bombed. Port Area heavily bombed during early morning. None of our ships damaged nor casualties.  
(2) Floating cranes sunk, together with tug at berth number five. Berth will be out of commission one month or more. All tanks had previously been discharged by cranes from WEST CHEWALD.  
(3) More warehouses demolished.  
(Cormack 1246B/23 to Admty.)

/April ...

706J

War Diary.

23.4.1942

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk  
bombed -  
contd. April 23rd bombers attacked Murmansk twice  
early today. Floating crane and tug sunk  
number five berth damaged more warehouses  
demolished. No ships hit. 19 Junkers 88  
took part in raids. 2 were shot down. At  
noon 3rd attack was made by about 35 planes. Some bombs fell  
in repair yard and in Vaengmonck. Enemy lost 2 planes Soviet  
lost 2.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2023B/23 to Ad. Miles.)

Holton  
Heath  
bombed. Air attack on R.N. Cordite Factory, Holton  
Heath, on night of 22nd. Three bombs dropped  
but no damage or casualties.  
(Supt. Holton Heath 1622/23 to Admt.)

Mining.

Sweep off  
Aberdeen. Cancel my 2059B/22/4.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0730/23.)

S.N.72. Your 1118B/19. Concur.  
(A.C.N.S. (H.) 0935B/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

Convoy F.S.783 Departure at 1905 H.M. Tug SABINE to assist  
CHATWOOD in position East Dudgeon Buoy.  
(British, (F.O. Humber 1955/23.)  
2768 Tons) CHATWOOD in F.S.783 mined and sunk at 1750B  
sunk. today in approx. 53° 19' N. 1° E. All crew  
(7 Officers and 17 men) safe on board KINGSTON  
OLIVINE proceeding Harwich.  
(C. in C. Nore 2140B/23.)

Search off Available ships of 4th M.S.F are to proceed at  
East Dudgeon 0600 tomorrow by Q Z S 287 and 277 to East  
Buoy. Dudgeon Buoy. They are to carry out a search  
sweep in "G" formation of both searched channels  
from the Buoy to two miles Southward of the Buoy  
and the water adjoining them, covering all ground as far as  
practicable but clear of Shoals and a dangerous wreck in  
position 193° 12 cables from the Buoy. F.S. Convoy is due at  
East Dudgeon at 1900. Sweepers are to return to Yarmouth  
astern of Convoy.  
(C. in C. Nore 2300B/23 to KELLET.)

706K

War Diary.23.4.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/22 to 0900/23. Tracks E 8 and 11 D. One ship accompanied and preceded by a number of smaller escorting vessels detected 3 miles northwest of Gravelines at 2200 west-bound at about 9 knots entered Boulogne at 0150. (V.A. Dover 1048B/23.)

Varanger Fiord and Tromso. Enemy Warships reported by Russians on 20, 21 and 22/4. See Ad. Miles 1508C/24.

Convoy in Cattegat. Following West Coast sightings have been reported by source of my 1821/17. At 1530/22 convoy consisting of 7 vessels escorted by torpedo boat and 2 escort vessels sighted off Gothenburg steaming North. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1731/23.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Following from B520 in flight to Iceland begins - Appears to be two submarines on surface. No signals exchanged. Steered off course to miss them. D R position 5820 N. 1105 W. No apparent movement. (T.A.C. Prestwich 0807/23 to Air Ministry.)

Casualties and Defects.

LIFLAND (Danish 2254 tons) Following received from POLKA begins. LIFLAND ex W.N.73 engine disabled in 330° South East 6 miles. Am standing by. Request tug forthwith 0030B/23 ends. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0130B/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Request you sail NIMBLE forthwith to assist LIFLAND. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0215B/23 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)  
Sailed NIMBLE. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0310B/23.)  
W.N.73. LIFLAND returned in tow of rescue tug NIMBLE. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1120B/23.)

AYRSHIRE. Proceeding Stornoway condenser trouble. E.T.A. 1900B. (AYRSHIRE 0509B/23.)

AYRSHIRE 0509/23rd. If ready ship should be sailed with U.R.21. (C. in C. W.A. 1036B/23 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)  
AYRSHIRE detached at 0440B/23 to proceed to Stornoway with condenser trouble. (ST. ELSTAN 0900B/23.)

/QUORN ...

War Diary.23.4.1942  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

QUORN (Mined 20/4.) Departure QUORN with Tug SUPERMAN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0749B/23.) Southend arrival QUORN in tow of Tugs MASTADONTE and WATERCOCK and proceeded up river. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1529B/23.) London. Arrival QUORN at 2010. (F.O.I.C. London 2055B/23.)

SPEEDY. Arrival SPEEDY at 0825. (N.O.I.C. Humber 0921B/23.)

CHAMELEON. <sup>N.T. n.w.d.</sup> Cancel my 1651/21. More defects revealed. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0923B/23.)

PAYNTER BLACKFLY. Arrived H.M.Ts PAYNTER and BLACKFLY. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1109B/23.)

HEBE. <sup>N.T. n.w.d.</sup> BLENHEIM's 1711B/22. Request you sail HEBE for Scapa as soon as temporary repairs have been completed. (R.A.D. H.F. 1237B/23 to A.C.I.C.)

CRAIG. Arrival MF/V JOEY BROWN with MF/V CRAIG in tow. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1649B/23.)

TRIUMPH. M.F.V. TRIUMPH arrived with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1715B/23.)

ACHATES. My 1630/22. Intend to sail at 0830 tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1800/23.)

ORILLIA. Intend sailing ORILLIA from Lough Foyle 1130B/24 to Tobermory. E.T.A. 1900B/24. (Commodore, Londonderry 1801B/23.) *See p. 702*

ALDERSDALE. WHEATLAND. Your 1917B/20. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1939C/23 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.) My 1939/C/23. WHEATLAND will boiler clean at Greenock and sail for Scapa on completion. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1945B/23 to R.A.D.)

706M

War Diary.

23.4.1942  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

LLANSTEPHAN  
CASTLE.  
BADSWORTH  
VELOX.

Intend sailing LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE passing Clyde boom 2130B/24 to R/V BADSWORTH at 0300B/25 in number 5 Clyde Channel buoy thence by Irish Sea route K to R/V VELOX in 052° N. 005° 38' W. at 1930B/25. Thence as in A.M. 2002B/20.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1034B/23.)

MOSDALE.  
WINCHELSEA.

Admiralty's 1639/22. <sup>H.T. W.B.</sup> WINCHELSEA is to be sailed to R/V with MOSDALE in North Channel as arranged by N.O.I.C. Greenock about daylight 25th and escort MOSDALE to vicinity of St. Johns (N.F). WINCHELSEA is subsequently to proceed to Argentia and return with B.4 expected to sail about 3/5.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1046Z/23.)

P.Q.15.

C. in C. H.F. 1503B/22. Suggest conference be held 1600Z at Reykjavik. Intend to anchor off Reykjavik.  
(C.S. 10 1054B/23 to A.C.I.C.)

C. in C. H.F. 1503B/22nd. Intend proceeding NIGERIA passing Hoxa Gate at 1900B today, through 058° 43' N. 006° 16' W.  
E.T.A. Reykjavik 1100Z/25.

(C.S.10 1126B/23 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Scapa departure F.O.C.S. 10 in NIGERIA.  
(A.C.O.S. 1923/23.)

Your 1054B/23. Ships and escorts will be at Hvalfjord and conference is being arranged there at 1600Z/25.

(A.C.I.C. 2117B/23 to C.S.10.)  
Your 2001B/20. Following ships unable to sail in P.Q.15, WINONA, BRITISH CORPORAL, ANDRE MARTI, and SUKHONA.  
(A.C.I.C. 1431B/23.)

D.S.26  
(LEINSTER)

A.M. 1609B/21. D.S.26. Sailing delayed until 30/4.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1619B/23.)

U.R.21.

Sailed SARDONYX and SALADIN for Aultbea and U.R.21.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1945B/23.)

P.Q.Convoys.  
A/A  
armaments.

Request you will comply with C. in C. H.F. 2331/22 when list of vessels for inclusion in each P.Q. convoy is finally decided, message to be repated to Admiralty.  
2. It can be assumed that all British and European Allied vessels leaving U.K. ports are armed with Oerlikons in addition to other A.A. armament unless you are informed to the contrary.  
(D.T.D. 2101B/23 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.23.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- SCOTTISH. Your 1147A/20. Left position B at 1715A/22 at 8 knots. Likely to be delayed by SWITZERLAND and heavy weather.  
(SCOTTISH, 0105A/23 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) COREOPSIS, ALOUETTE.)  
My P.C. and S. 204° 40' N. 9° W. 20' 013° 10 knots. Did ship leave in thick weather during night. Weather report.  
(SCOTTISH, 0705A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
In position 249, 40° N. 9° W. 8' unidentified twin engine A/C passed overhead northbound.  
(SCOTTISH, 0820A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- CLYDE. Your 0107Z/23 and my 1740B/21 pass W at 0800B/24, S at 0027B/26 thence direct to arrive Gibraltar 1200B/26.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0506B/23 to CLYDE, (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, SOKOL, P.612, TAKU.)  
*See p. 706<sup>9</sup>*
- Movements. SALISBURY, GEORGETOWN left Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T. 23/4.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0921/23 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.) *See p. 706<sup>6</sup>*
- OLYMPUS. My 1806/21st sailing of OLYMPUS postponed.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1038B/23 to SOKOL, CLYDE.)
- Italian shipping. Report received reliability A.1 that following Italian ships are to come to Bilbao for overhaul and alteration including gun platforms: FIDELITAS, XXXIV MAGGIO, AFRICANA, MONBALDO. First named vessel arrived 3/4, 2nd named vessel arrived 22/4.  
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1225/23 to Admty., (R) M.E.W., etc.)
- Portuguese Fishing, Newfoundland. Your 1314A/21. Position is being investigated locally. Arrangements will be notified as soon as possible.  
(Head of M., 1431B/23 to B.N.A. Lisbon.)
- Axis shipping. EUGENIO C arrived at Castro. LEESEE fully loaded ready for sea.  
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1701/23 to Admty., (R) M.E.W.)  
LEESEE at Bilbao fully loaded and ready sail.  
(N.A. Madrid, No T.O.O. recd. 1927/23 to D.N.I.)
- JEUNE  
DENISE  
(French) Following extract from Fairmiss Telegram:  
JEUNE DENISE.  
(San Sebastian, 1730/23 to D.T.D., Admty.)

/Italian ...



War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Italian Tankers.

Request confirmation that latitude of position C is 25 N. as given in your 1116/4 and not 26 N. as given in your 2331/19.  
2. Request you will also check E.T.A. Curacao given in your 1524/21.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1752B/23 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., R.A. West Africa, Opnav.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship.

Following has been read. From KOUM (U.S. Ship) (Unidentifiable). At 1030 G.M.T. 8° 10' S. 32° 30' W. suspicious vessels following us with span (portion missed) collar? S (portion missed).  
(Ascension W/T, T.O.R. 1037Z/23 to Freetown W/T.)  
Intercepted 2000 G.M.T. de WCC. (Unread) GR 12 suspicious ship sighted 08° 10' S. 32° 30' W. at 1030Z/23 231835.  
Controlling Station Chatham, Mass. Radio. Portishead Radio.  
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O./23 to Admty. Recd. 2211/23.)

VITA.

Your 0551/14. VITA will have to discharge patients at Durban not Simonstown.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1133B/23 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O. 3rd B.C.S., Admty., etc.)

Tanker Routes.

In future all British-managed tankers bound for the West Indies or Gulf of Mexico from Gibraltar or Africa should be routed to Trinidad for orders.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1401B/23 to C. in C. S.A., R.A. West Africa, V.A.C.N.A.)

ALBATROSS, W.S. 18.

My 1901Z/20 (1903Z/20 intended) and your 2109B/21. Provided delay can be accepted there would be advantages in retaining ALBATROSS at Freetown until W.S.18 sails about 3/5. She would then provide air escort for convoy, would have A/S protection while in danger area and pilots and observers would be given additional training at sea before leaving here.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1417Z/23 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., ALBATROSS.)

/REVENGE ...

War Diary.23.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- REVENGE. Adjust your time of arrival Durban to 1400Z/28.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1452Z/23 to REVENGE, (R)  
S.O. Force F.) *in p. 706... (movements)*
- Movements. Simonstown arrivals 22nd WHITEHAVEN, SEAHAM,  
BOSTON. 23rd ADAMANT, MILFORD.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1649B/23 to Admty., etc.)
- Arrival 23/4 BRIDGEWATER.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1730Z/23 to Admty.)  
Departure WILD SWAN p.m. 23/4.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2351Z/23 to Admty.)
- W.S. 17A. Position 23/4.  
W.S. 17A arrived and berthed 23/4.  
(S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1643Z/23 to D. of S.T.)
- Movement summary. 2000Z/23.  
Area Q. CHESHIRE from Durban E.T.A. Capetown  
a.m. 24/4.  
SHROPSHIRE with W.S. 17B Durban portion 036°  
00' S. 020° 20' E. to Durban 12 knots.  
GLENGYLE 022° 10' S. 001° (05'?) W. 305° 17 knots.  
CILICIA from Port Elizabeth to Capetown.  
EXMOOR, CROOME from Capetown E.T.A. Durban 0700Z/24.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1750B/23 to S.A. S. Sqdn.)
- Fulmars. Your 1316/16 (personnel A/C and A/C stores for  
Ceylon may be off-loaded at East Africa Ports.)  
4 Fulmars aircraft consigned to Trincomalee  
have been off-loaded at Durban ex CITY OF VENICE.  
Request instructions for disposal.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1753B/23 to C. in C. E.I.,  
(R) Admty., etc.)
- U/B. Ref. my 2030/18 to C. in C. S.A. Master of  
LA CORDILLERO reports sighting conning tower  
at 1605/18, range 3010 yards. U-Boat dived.  
(R.A.W.A.F., 1800Z/23 to Admty.)
- Supply Ship(?) Clipper N.C.11 reports in 02.47 N. 18.37 W.  
sighted by A/C. 2205Z/22 at 8000 feet sighted large ship  
believed dead in water which showed light but  
extinguished on plane's approach. Pilot  
believes this is mother ship which was seen with 3 submarines  
alongside 01.35 N. 20.40 W. 0225Z/19. Admty. pass to R.A.W.A.\*  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1915/23 to GLASGOW, ALCANTARA, PRETORIA  
CASTLE, (R) R.A.W.A., Admty., C. in C. S.A., C.T.F. No.23)  
\* Passing action being taken by W.R.  
W.D. Note: Possibly QUERCY, L'ESPOIR, VENGEUR. See  
R.A.W.A., 1105Z/25. *also 23/4 - p. 706Z (B)*

/Freetown ...

706Q

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Freetown Water shortage. Your 1601/3 and my 2232/17. MAFUTA could only load 1700 tons. MARY SLESSOR loaded 600 tons and DAGOMBA 600 tons. Total in O.S.26, 2900 tons. Request arrangements be made for quick discharge. As NEW BRUNSWICK will sail with O.S.28 total water arriving before W.S.19 due 24/5 will be about 5000 tons. Estimated requirements of W.S.19 at 5 gallons 3500 tons, at 4 gallons 700 tons. It will be necessary to issue instructions regarding restrictions of consumption in W.S.19 in near future and certainly before EMPIRE AIRMAN arrives. Request your views as to whether 3500 tons can be provided assuming that water still on passage cannot be relied on.  
(D. of S.T., 1918B/23 to S.S.T.O. Freetown.)

Mediterranean.

TORBAY, E.T.A. 0530/24. Request information of P.611 and P.611. (ORUC REIS) if any (? visual) signal. My position 034° 027' 30' acknowledge.  
(TORBAY, 0101C/23 to Capt. (S) 1, P.611.)  
TORBAY 0101/23 and P.611 2100/22 acknowledged. Estimate your noon position 23/4 TORBAY 032° 50' 028° 18', P.611 032° 02' 027° 58'. Sanctuary in force from 0400C/24. (?P) 611 is somewhat similar to Portuguese Delfim class. She has entire British crew.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1151C/23 to TORBAY, P.611.)  
(1) 2 destroyers and one transport leave Alexandria 1800C/23 N.E. bound. 2 destroyers and 2 corvettes escorting convoy E.T.A. Early a.m. 24/4 from westward.  
(2) German U-Boats have been sighted and may be on patrol within 50 miles of Alexandria.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1647C/23 to TORBAY, P.611.)

CLYDE. Your 1740B/21. My position 0300B/23 038° 06' N. 007° 44' E. 265°. After hydroplane out of action but secured amidships. If diving by day am fully capable of S. of A. 180 miles per day. Asdic out of action, dome and possibly oscillator missing. Have 47 passengers on board.  
(CLYDE, 0107Z/23 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, N.O.I.C. Malta, SOKOL, P.612.) 2-706Q

/German ...

706R

War Diary.23.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.German  
broadcast  
of S/M  
incident.

Ref. German broadcast from Zeesen in English for North America at 0500/15, it is considered that this story should be denied most strongly after confirmation has been obtained from C. in C. Med. that no incident of this nature can be attributed to one of our S/Ms. (F.O.S., 0127B/23 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival 22/4 URGE.  
(V.A. Malta, 0522B/23 to Admty.)  
22/4 Port Said arrival ANTWERP. Departure

→ 0709C M.T.Bs. 309 and 57, 1645C ANTWERP.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0914C/23 to Admty.)  
Departure 22nd (?2240) LORD IRWIN, 23rd, 1030 lighters R.70, R.103.  
(S.O.I. Beirut, 1034C/23 to Admty.)

→ Arrivals 22/4 M.T.Bs. 57, 309. Departures 22/4 HASTY, HERO, ERICA, MALINE\$, COCKER. Arrivals 23/4 TURBULENT.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1240C/23 to Admty., etc.)  
Arrivals PARKTOWN 0425Z, COVENTRY 0457Z. Departure COVENTRY.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1340Z/23 to Admty.)

GIUSEPPE  
BIGLIERE.

Your 1215/19. C.A.M. report. (Begins)  
BIGLIERE is fitted to use Italian "A" sweep.  
Capable of being fitted O mark 2 and S.A. plus  
skid tower if required. Alternatively can take LL and S.A.  
2 vessels similar to Moy class trawler. Owing to prolonged  
immersion will be necessary strip her completely. Suggest  
she be sent to Haifa for conversion and reconditioning. One  
riplass with suitable chain required for this, suggest wreck  
TOBRUK. (Ends.)  
(C.C.O. Massawa, 0614Z/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Red Sea  
Force, Admty.)  
My 0614/23. BIGLIERE now being cleaned and will be examined  
for condition of hull and machinery as soon as practicable.  
Main mast was broken and funnel displaced during the present  
operations. Further report will be made.  
(C.C.O. Massawa, 0632Z/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Red Sea  
Force, Admty.)

SICILIA.

Following received by F.O. from Geneva. (Begins)  
Your telegram No. 53 I.R.C.C. delegate Athens  
reports that SICILIA was due to leave Piraeus  
this evening 22/4 on return voyage following same route as on  
voyage to Greece. I.R.C.C. have immediately asked Italian  
authorities to hold back vessel so that necessary notice can be  
given to British authorities but it is not certain that request  
will reach proper quarter in time for sailing to be cancelled.  
(Ends.)  
(Head of M., 1356B/23 to C. in C. Med.)  
My 1105/10 April SICILIA left Piraeus p.m. 22/4 for Gibraltar  
by reverse of outward route. AAA, ship is not to be attacked.  
(C. in C. Med., 1724C/23 to Med. Fleet and S/Ms.)

7065

War Diary.23.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.211. Capt. (S) 3 1349/7.  
P.211 delayed till about mid-May.  
(F.O.S., 1616B/23 to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.,  
(R) Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5, Capt.  
(S) 8, Capt. (S) 10.)

DELOS (German) German DELOS loaded with guns and lorries leaving 23rd or 24/4 from Piraeus for Crete.  
2. Greek destroyer KING GEORGE undergone trials.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1747C/23 to S.O.I. Med.,  
(R) D.N.I.)

Malta Air Report. I. 239, 23/4. C.S.R. 23/4. Following under repair destroyed in attacks on Kalafrana, airframes 2 Hurricanes, 9 Spitfires, 1 Swordfish, 1 Fulmar. Engines 2 Merlin 45, 2 Merlin 46, 1 Pegasus III.

22/4. My I.237. A/A destroyed 2 Ju.88s, damaged 2 others. 1524 hours Me.109, 50 Ju.88s, 20 Ju.87s. Ta Kali. 2 Spitfires destroyed, craters aerodrome. Luqa workshops equipment store damaged. 3 Wellingtons, 1 transit Blenheim slight damage, craters dispers(al)s. Hal Far, torpedo shop partly destroyed, 1 Hurricane slight damage. Grand Harbour no damage or casualties. Elsewhere 5 soldiers killed, 10 soldiers 1 civilian wounded, 1 gun position direct hit, 3 guns 1 searchlight position damaged. 1 Me.109 probably destroyed, 2 Ju.88s, 2 Ju.87s, 2 Me.109s damaged by 6 Spitfires, 2 Hurricanes 2 Hurricane missing, 1 Spitfire crashed pilot wounded, A/A destroyed 1 Ju.87, 1 Ju.88 damaged 1 Ju.87 1 Me.109.

Night 22/23. 2 alerts 2317, 0050 4 raiders bombs land, sea no damage or casualties. Hurricane up no interceptions.

23/4. 4 alerts 0415, 0854, 1045, 1125. Me.109s, Macchi 200s, 41 Ju.88s, 15 Ju.87s. Ta Kali 1 airman killed, 1 unserviceable Spitfire 1 Hurricane destroyed.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1800/23.)

Part 2. I. 239. C.S.R. 23/4. Further damage Pens, buildings, craters, aerodrome. Hal Far, 1 Hurricane destroyed, craters aerodrome. Luqa, Grand Harbour, no damage or casualties. Elsewhere, 4 soldiers, 4 civilians wounded, buildings destroyed, 3 gun positions damaged. A/A destroyed 4 Ju.88s, 1 Ju.87 destroyed, another damaged by 6 Hurricanes, 3 Spitfires. 2 Hurricanes, 1 Spitfire damaged in combat pilots uninjured.

Night 22/23. Wellington 8 0250 hours attacked 2 M/Vs 6000 tons escorted by two Drs. 025° Tripoli 80 miles course 035° 12 knots 5 500-lb.G.P 11 secs delay from 2500 ft. no damage.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1810/23.)

/Aircraft ...

706T

War Diary.23.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Aircraft  
in Middle  
East.

Your 1252B/18. T.S.B. Squadrons cannot be considered supernumerary until 201 N.C. Group is brought up to strength. Col. IV(?) of my 1855C/15/3, includes all aircraft on Station including reserves and is not number serviceable.

2. At present there are available daily about 6 G/R aircraft, 3 Sunderland, 2 Wellingtons and 2 Hudsons for all R/C of Eastern and Central Med. and for A/S Patrol duties from Beirut to Tobruk over the whole of which enemy (?) U-Boats are now active.

3. As regards striking forces position is even worse. Our only Beaufort Squadron was crippled on 14/4/42 and will be ineffective as a Unit for some time to come. We have about 6 Wellington T/Bs whose training is not yet completed.

4. Not only are T.B.Rs fitted A.S.V. invaluable for A/S work but they are at present the only aircraft in Middle East capable of striking effectively at sea targets at a time when the enemy has sufficient surface and air superiority to launch sea borne attacks on North African Coast.

5. 821 Sqdn. is only at half strength till additional personnel arrive.

6. Until 201 N.C. Group is made up to strength, the fact that Carriers are absent greatly increases the burden on shore-based aircraft, and so far from being supernumerary the T.B.R. Squadrons played vital part in relieving the few G.L.R. aircraft we have of short range patrol and striking duties.

7. T.B.R. Squadrons in Egypt are transferable at any time to Malta from which they have inflicted great losses in the Libyan supply routes. It is only from Malta that they can at present reach these routes, but should we regain Cyrenaica their retention in M.E. would be even more necessary.

(C. in C. Med., 1931C/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

PORPOISE,  
P. 35.

Proceed through 035° 51' 015° 15' and 036° 00' 014° 53' to enter Marsamxett 2030B/25. P.35 will be approaching from N.W. submerged during daylight keeping about 7 miles from coast until on line 071° from St. Elmo to enter harbour 2100B same day.

(Capt. (S) 10, 2127B/23 to PORPOISE, (R) S/M on Patrol, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

Malta  
Air Raids.

3 raids on 22/4 total 177 bombers. 5 bombers and 2 fighters destroyed, 2 bombers and a fighter probably and 6 others damaged, no important Naval damage except to (? lighters).

(2) 2 medium and one small raid only today, total 134 bombers. 6 bombers destroyed and 3 damaged.

(3) Raids are now mainly on aerodrome but at least 1 attack daily is made on Marsa area and dockyard.

(V.A. Malta, 2217B/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)

/KIRKLAND ...

7060

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

KIRKLAND  
sunk.

Cased Petrol Carrier KIRKLAND sunk by torpedo  
0400/23 on passage from Tobruk. All saved.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 2220C/23 to D. of S.T.)

U/B  
attacked.

By LA MOQUEUSE, 31.29 N., 34.01 E. at 0722  
G.M.T./23. Result uncertain.  
(D.S., 964.)  
(No signal in W.D. but see C. in C. Med.,  
1544Z/24.)

706V

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Japanese S/Ms. and guns. Your 0501/14. If considered safe to transport unexploded 6" projectile should be sent to U.K. consigned to N.A.S.O. Woolwich. Request details of shell including weight C.R.H. and method of fuzing. (Admty. 0145B/23 to C/S Colombo.)

Shipping East Coast of India. Am considering reopening East coast of India to a limited amount of shipping. Present proposal is to limit number of ships in port on any one day to Calcutta 10, Vizagapatam 3, Madras 4 (including 1 tanker).

2. To maintain this flow, estimated that not more than 12 ships would be at sea in Bay of Bengal at any one time.
3. Even this small amount of shipping would ease the strain on railways' carriage of coal and oil distribution and is considered to be worth the risk. Valuable vessels should not be used.
4. Limited air support available between Vizagapatam and Calcutta but none between Vizagapatam and Ceylon. Consider essence of ships safety lies in diversity of routeing.
5. C. in C. E.I. and M of W.T. representative India agree.
6. Request approval. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0621Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I.) Concur (A.C.N.S.(T) 0010B/24)

Movements. Mombasa arrived 22/4 1105 G.M.T. CORFU, left 23/4 0557 G.M.T.\*REVENGE. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 0728Z/23 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Arrival ASTER at 0715Z/23. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 0906Z/23 to Admty.)

Eastern Fleet Force B. Available ships of Force B have been exercising independently this week. Intend Force B to proceed sea 27/4 for further exercises, (paying?) visit Zanzibar p.m. 28/4 till a.m. 29/4 and returning Kilindini p.m. 1/5.\*(F.O. 2nd. in C. E.F. 0843Z/23 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C.E.I.Admty)

My 1145Z/23 para 7. (N.T. in W.R.) (1) What ships Force B will be available to sail ?

(2) A suitable ship is to remain at Kilindini as W/T base ship. (C. in C. E.F. 1149Z/23 to V.A.3.)

\* Hope also to inspect Manza Bay during period.

A/S and M/S Craft. Can reply now be expected to A.M. 1444/3/3. (Enquiry whether any A/S M/S vessels escaped from Abda Area) (Head of M 0923B/23 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F. N.Z.N.B.)

Convoy BP 40. My 1203/16/4. CITY OF CANTERBURY replaced by LANCASHIRE. KAROA is replaced by ELLEJPA. (P.S.T.O.I. 1053Z/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

Catalinas, Indian Ocean. Following for Chiefs of Staff. No. (India) 51 para 2. Text of 222 Group signal referred to is as follows. (Begins) Ref. A.M. Signal A.X.511 8/4. We now have 7 R.A.F. Catalinas and 4 Dutch,



706W

War Diary.23.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Catalinas, of the latter one damaged likely write off.  
Indian 4 more are expected ex Gibraltar and 4 of 413  
Ocean. Sqdn. This will bring total to 18. Can operate  
(Contd.) 14 of these from Koggala with other 4 at  
Bangalore on inspection. Present resources  
plus ground echelon of 413 Sqdn. sufficient to  
maintain all. Do not consider advisable accept flying boats  
Ceylon additional to above until slipway and other facilities  
ready at China Bay. This not yet in sight owing to general  
exodus labour. Meantime suggest 209 and 240 Sqdns. be diverted  
to E. Africa. 1 based Durban, 1 Mombasa, with detachment at  
Lindi and Dar-es-Salaam, Mauritius and Seychelles. Alternatively  
you might prefer these units to be based in Southern India at  
Cochin, Krisnara, Janaga, and possibly Bangalore. (Ends.)  
(Arminia T.O.O 1145/23 to Air Min.)

Shipping ESKBANK arrived and held in accordance with  
suspended, C. in C. E.I. 1427Z/9. Cargo (details)  
ESKBANK. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini  
1245Z/23 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. P.S.T.O.  
India) Cancelled see 0900Z/26.

A.S.2. Convoy A.S.2 arrived (corrupt group) 0742Z/23.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth 1306Z/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Employment Ref. C. in C. E.F. 1015/18 and your 2248/22  
of S/Ms. using WUCHANG as S/M accommodation ship at  
Colombo it will be possible to continue Malacca  
Straits Patrol sending S/Ms to Bombay periodically  
for about 1 month in 3 to carry out repairs and rest crew.  
ADAMANT is needed at Kilindini as base ship and is too valuable  
to be based at Colombo in present circumstances. If later a  
S/M depot ship can be sent to Colombo it will be possible to  
make more intensive use of S/Ms in the command. (C. in C. E.F.  
1434Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Ceylon. B.S.O.)

Naval I have discussed with Gen. Wavell Naval Command  
Command and representation in India.  
and 2. We are agreed that: (a) There is duplication  
represent- and overlapping of R.N. and R.I.N. Staffs and  
ation India. these should be amalgamated.  
(b) Naval representation at Delhi requires  
considerable strengthening.

3. To implement above, we propose that (a) Title of F.O.C.R.I.N.  
be abolished and F.O. India substituted. (b) A F.O. should be  
appointed as Deputy F.O. India, to take charge of operational  
side, leaving Adm. Fitzherbert free to concentrate on  
administration.

4. These proposals will be referred to Viceroy by Gen Wavell,  
and subject to Viceroy's approval I suggest R.A. Palliser should  
be appointed as Dep. F.O. India. C. in C. Ceylon is reluctant  
that Palliser should leave Trincomalee, where his services as  
Fortress Commander have proved of greatest value, but recognises  
importance of better naval representation at Delhi and agrees.

706X

War Diary.23.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Naval  
Command  
and  
represent-  
ation  
India.  
(Contd.)

5. Layton informs me that a Military Officer is available for appointment as Fortress Commander, and for appointment as N.O.I.C. Trincomalee Capt. F.S. Bell would be suitable. (C. in C. E.F. 1443Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I. F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C. Ceylon, Armindia)

F.A.A.  
Bases.

9293 22/4 Following from R.N.A.S. Africa Your 1645/19 repeated in your 1704/19. (A) Investigation proceeding. 1 Sqdn. can be accommodated at Mackinnon Road if Group is given 48 hours notice. One Sqdn. at Port Reitz given 7 days notice. One Sqdn. at Kilifi given 14 days notice. Assumed that disembarked Sqdns. will be available for operational duties because above arrangements may necessitate temporarily displacing R.A.F. Sqdns. accommodation will be under canvas and Sqdns. will have to provide majority of their own mess traps, cooking utensils and bedding. Location of more permanent camp accommodation of other Sqdns. and provision of torpedo facilities will be reported on after arrival of Noad. Request information whether Mobile Torpedo Unit is being sent. Your 2 (B). Yes, subject to priority. (E. Africa Command 1637/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.I. C. in C. S.A. etc.)

F.O. East  
Africa and  
Zanzibar.

R.A. Read and Chief of Staff will take passage in ALAUNIA. On arrival Kilindini he will hoist his Flag ashore as F.O. East Africa and Zanzibar. Request appointment may be promulgated and present N.O.I.C. may be appointed Maintenance Capt. on Staff F.O.I.C. and in Command base ship. (C. in C. E.I. 1715Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Kilindini F.O. 3rd. B. S. C. in C. S.A.)

RUFIDJI

Following is a repetition of my 0855Z/18. (Begins) E.I. Station (R) B.S.3 from C. in C. E.I. Reports indicate that German coaster RUFIDJI may attempt to escape from Beira. (C. in C. E.I. 1720Z/23 to A.C.N.B.)

Indian  
Ocean  
Theatre.

Summary of Review of Situation. C.O.S. (M.E.) 259 (Chiefs of Staff, 1900Z/23 to C. in C. M.E. and Med. and A.O.C. M.E. (R) C. in C. India, C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Ceylon etc) See Lion Copy.

OZ.75

23  
706XA

TOD 0455/24  
0500/24  
0600/24  
0605/24

MOST SECRET

From:- Chiefs of Staff

To:- Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East and Mediterranean  
and A.O.C-in-C, Middle East.  
Reptd. Commander-in-Chief, India  
Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet  
Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon  
G.O.C-in-C, East Africa  
Joint Staff Mission.

OZ.75 23/4/42

No. C.O.S.(M.E) 259

1. Following is summary of review of situation in Indian Ocean theatre, prepared in accordance with request in Commander-in-Chief, Middle East No. C.C. 18 cipher 11/4.

#### Strategic Background

2. Problem is primarily naval. Japanese successes so far achieved by control of sea communications in which maintenance of air superiority at sea has played important part. This has enabled them to concentrate superior land and air forces against us at will. Further moves all demand seaborne operations. Our eventual security and ability to return to attack are dependent on regaining control at sea.

#### Japanese Intentions

3. Immediate object is to secure exclusive control of East Asiatic area bounded by Dutch islands and India-Burma frontier. Within this area they would hold bulk of their economic war requirements and road to China would be cut. They will be primarily concerned with protection of this area, seizing such outlying points as are necessary for this purpose. Thus policy may be to limit further immediate conquests and to consolidate gains.

4. Alternatively although motives believed entirely selfish and no evidence of linked strategy with Germany, Japan may well appreciate ultimate defeat of British Empire essential for her own survival and may press westward without halt.

- 2 -

5. In latter case she would endeavour to interrupt supply route to Middle East and Persian Gulf oil route. For this occupation of Ceylon is essential pre-requisite. She will also realise Ceylon is key to security of sea communications upon which India's resistance depends.

6. Invasion of Bengal, including seizure of Calcutta, would be disastrous for India and political and strategic gain of first magnitude for Japan

#### Japanese Naval Intentions

7. Japanese have showed that they are prepared to operate a force of from 3 to 5 capital ships and five aircraft-carriers in the Bay of Bengal. Their recent operations were probably designed to destroy our Eastern Fleet, thus opening up Indian Ocean, India and Ceylon, endangering our reinforcements to Middle East and Persian oil route.

8. Until American amphibious forces seize bases near vital Japanese sea routes, containing effect of U.S Pacific Fleet may not be great. Nevertheless Japan knows she has eventually to meet this fleet and raids by American "task forces" already making themselves felt.

#### Conclusion on Intentions

9. Japanese future action will depend to some extent on estimate of our present weaknesses, particularly naval, since in order to continue advances and maintain hold on conquered territory they are dependent upon sea communications with Japan.

10. Japanese boldest move and greatest strategic prize would be invasion of Ceylon. They would have to face risk of main fleet action. This risk they have shown they are willing to accept in this area. We cannot therefore rule out this move; but we believe more likely course is step by step advance coastwise via Burma covered by shore-based air support. Dependent on success achieved, Japan may exploit into North-East India, thus doing incalculable harm and reducing our chances of comeback. Whole sequence may be rapid.

11. In any event Japan will try to create maximum internal security problems in India.

#### Scales of Attack

12. North-East India. May develop in following stages:

- (a) Seizure of Akyab at any time by seaborne expedition.

- 3 -

- (b) Seizure of Chittagong by seaborne landing covered by air from Akyab - Mandalay. May be possible some two weeks after (a).
- (c) Development of air superiority over head of Bay of Bengal. Estimate about 425 aircraft could be operated but this effort likely to fall after about 14 days.
- (d) Development of threat against Bengal -
  - (i) by bombing
  - (ii) by seaborne expedition with air cover.

Timing of these threats dependent on success of (c) above. Latter might develop by end May.

13. Ceylon. No evidence at present of intentions to invade Ceylon but we cannot rule out possibility of expedition (say two divisions) to capture Island owing to magnitude of strategic prize.

#### Defence Situation

14. Sea Eastern Fleet is at present in no condition to offer effective opposition if Japanese decide to call our bluff and will not be in a position to do so for a considerable time even with support of shore-based air striking forces. C.O.S Telegram 02.30 not to all addressees refers. Fleet lacks secure and good base facilities. Except in Ceylon area no shore-based air support can be given at present owing both to lack of air bases and air striking forces. Even in Ceylon area air support very limited and adequate air striking forces lacking.

15. Land Most land forces now in India seriously deficient in training and equipment. In numbers present deficiencies are at least one armoured division, one army tank brigade and four infantry divisions. These deficiencies cannot be met from inside or outside India until late in 1942. Thus no prospect of providing adequate forces for North-East India by May. Any further substantial withdrawals of troops from internal security or North-West Frontier would involve great risk.

16. Commander-in-Chief, India, estimates his minimum requirement for all purposes in India and Ceylon but excluding the North West Frontier, as 66 squadrons. Excluding the U.S Air forces and transport aircraft, approximately 15 squadrons should now be operational in India and Ceylon, rising to about 25 by the end of June. The deficiency is therefore great in a situation which depends fundamentally on adequate air forces.

- 4 -

Conclusion

17. If Japanese press boldly westwards without pause for consolidation and are not deterred by offensive activities or threats by Eastern Fleet or American Fleet nor by rapid reinforcement of our air forces in North-East India, Indian Empire is in grave danger. Eventual security of Middle East and its essential supply lines will be threatened.

18. Middle East and India are interdependent. Allocation of reinforcements both British and American between two theatres is under constant review. Decisions will be notified to you from time to time.

T.O.O 1900Z/23

Circulation

Col. Jacob (12)  
S of S for Foreign Affairs (1)  
C.A.S (4)  
War Office (5)  
Admiralty (32)

*Reply: Com-C. M.E.**1330/3/5/42**para 76A. May.*

7064

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. 22/4. Arrivals TENACITY, FRISKY ex MANCHESTER DIVISION, FIREDRAKE ex O.N.84, WALKER, COLUMBIA, MIDLAND, CALGARY ex S.C.80. Departure CLAYOQUOT with C.L.25 and ARCTIC EXPLORER to Halifax. (F.O.N.F., 0005Z/23 to Admty).  
Departure Balboa 1800 Zone plus 5 PRINCE HENRY. (C.S.A. Panama, 1827/23 to Admty).  
Arrivals ANEMONE from Argentina. Departures, WITCH, NIAGARA GANANOQUE, THE PAS, SASKATOON, FREDERICTON Western local escort  
→ S.C.81, MINAS escorting L.C.8. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1852Z/23 to Admty etc).  
Bermuda arrivals U.S. S/M R.1. Bermuda departures U.S. S/M R.5 in accordance with my 2232/22. (Movements of U.S. Submarines) Tug ROODE ZEE in accordance with my 1602P/23 (Re survivors of DERRYHEEN).  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2323P/23 to Admty (R) B.A.D. etc).

U/B D/F at 1830Z/22 places S/M within 100 miles of 042° 30' N., 036° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. 0005Z/23 to Brit. warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc).

U/B D/F bearing indicates S/M within 60 miles (A) 31.30 N., 71.30 W., at 0007Z/23. (B) 31.30 N., 70.30 W., at 0037Z/23. (N.S.H.Q., 0346Z/23 to Opnav, Admty, C. in C. A.W.I.)

→ S.C.81 Admty 2125Z/22. Request Russia bound ships be routed via U.K. (Opnav, 0420Z/23 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) Admty etc).

C.T.U. No. 24.1.16 in HESPERUS plus PIORUN, CLEMATIS, GENTIAN, SWEETBRIAR and \*VERAPRIMAIN designated escort for S.C.81. (C.T.F. 24., 1303/23 to Opnav).

S.C.81 following ships should proceed Iceland (list). The balance of ships for Iceland should proceed U.K. (C.O.A.C., 2008Z/23 to C.T.U. 24.18.2 for Cmdre. and Vice Cmdre. (R) C.N.O., Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.F. 24 C.T.G.24.6., C.T.G.24.7).

Your 0420Z/23 received after convoy under way information passed to necessary authorities, see my 2008Z/23. (C.O.A.C. 2012Z/23 to Opnav (R) Admty N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., C.T.F., 24. C.T.G.24.6 C.T.G.24.7).

\*VERVAIN *at J.J.*

PARTHIAN. Refer to this as C.T.F.25's 2156/22. S/M notice. PARTHIAN unescorted departs New London for Eastern Atlantic passing 5 miles E. of Montauk Point at 2400Z/23 thence through point 36 - 43 N. 66 - 08 W., about 2400Z/26 diving during daylight submerged speed 2 knots surface speed 11 knots during darkness. Thence on the surface at speed 11 knots to pass through position 43 - 05 N., 29° W. at about 1600Z/3/5. Thence to destination as directed by British authorities. Bombing restrictions requested 15 miles each side of track and 100 miles ahead and astern. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0445/23 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., etc).

/This...

706Z

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

PARTHIAN  
Contd.

This is C.T.F. 25, 2156/22 (repetition as 0445/23)  
(Cominch, 1720/23 to Admty for info., U.S.  
destroyer TUCKER).  
Your 0445/23 passed to F.O.C.N.A. for action.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1622B/23 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

U/B

Intercepted 0426 G.M.T. de NSS Arlington W/T  
WGBC Information 22/4. S/M sighted 39.40 N.,  
73.55 W., 1720 G.C. T. Controlling Station  
Annapolis Radio.  
(Portishead Radio, No T.O.O./23 Recd. 0646).

Movement  
Summary.

1800 G.M.T. 23/4/1942.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
4 Trawlers	25° N. 71° W.	218°	9
Convoy W.S.18)			
GAMBIA	25° N., 29° W.	172°	12½
FROBISHER			
2			
Destroyers.			
PRETORIA	01° N. 25° W.	Searching	-
CASTLE			
ALCANTARA	01° S. 25° W.	Searching	-
GLASGOW	Equator 19° W.	Searching	-

(D.O.D. (F) 0930Z/23 to Opnav (R) Comnavu).

Shipping  
Summary for  
H.M. Ships.

R.A. West Africa 1020/21 para 3. (Presume 2020/21  
intended re lack of shipping information by ships  
entering a new station). Similar arrangements are  
in force in this area.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Z/23 to Admty).

Iceland  
Control.

Your 1225/16. On assumption that no distinction  
is intended between "naval base at Hvalfjord" to  
which you refer and "base in the Hvalfjord -  
Reykjavik area" referred to in A.T.1050/14/1 and  
2027/6/4 we agree to Cominch's proposals.

A.C.I.C. is being instructed accordingly to work out details  
with Commandant of Naval Operating base.  
(Head of M., 1145B/23 to B.A.D.)

U/Bs.

Intercepted 1009 G.M.T. de NAA. WGBC1 V NAA O S/M  
sighted 29.23 N., 80.57 W., at 0633Z 0832/23,  
S/M sighted 39.40 N., 73.55 W., at 1720 G.M.T.  
22/4 X 1852/22. Controlling station Arlington  
Virginia Radio.  
(Portishead Radio, T.O.R. 1219/23).

/Tankers....



706ZA

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Tankers, Caribbean. A.M. 2158B/18. Sailings of British tankers from ports in West Indies and Gulf of Mexico may now be resumed.

2. For the present all tankers from these ports bound for U.K. are to be routed via Freetown unless otherwise ordered. MARIT II and FRONTENAC from Aruba and Curacao respectively are to be routed to the Azores for S.L. Convoy.

3. Unless any special protection can be arranged it is recommended that shipping sailing between Trinidad and Aruba and Curacao should be kept well to Southward.

4. It is always at your discretion to suspend any or all sailings in the light of any U-boat intelligence you may receive N.C.S.Os. should specially warn Masters of tankers to look out for Diversion signals.

5. KOSMOS II is to be held at present.  
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1355B/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DERRYHEEN Your 2152P/22. My 1415Z/20 diverting DERRYHEEN (British) does not appear to have been acted upon. Request you will investigate.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1555Z/23 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty).

My 2152/22. Para. B. U.S. N.O.B. now reports boats from DERRYHEEN not picked up by U.S. Destroyer. Three boats are missing and search is being made by U.S. Patrol planes and tug ROODE ZEE from Bermuda.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1602P/23 to Admty., B.A.D., Cominch, N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica, C.O.A.C.) *Supp. 706Y. 9706ZB*

O.N.85 E.T.A. Cape Cod O.N.85. 2010Z/23. 6 Merchant Ships for Cape Cod Canal.  
(C.T.U.24.18.5, 1600Z/23 to Opanav).

Shipping Diversion, U/Bs. All merchant shipping in North Atlantic has been directed to clear area North of 020° N., and South of Cape Cod between 065° and 075° W. due to existing enemy S/M situation. North bound shipping will seek Coastal lane reporting nearest major Port for onward routing where necessary.  
(C.N.O. 1610/23 to C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F., C.P.S.F. (R) Admty N.S.H.Q. etc) Modified by Opanav 1454Z/25 q.v.

U.S.C.N.O.'s 1610/23. Should British managed ships conform observing that ships proceeding to S. and E. from U.S. ports will have to go via Florida Strait and Yucatan Channel?  
(N.S.H.Q., 2155Z/23 to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)

Opanav's 1610/23. Request text of G.B.M.S. issued to merchant ships may be signalled to Admty. for information.  
(A.C.N.S. (T) 2326B/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Opanav 1610/23. Pass to N.C.S.Os. These instructions are to apply to British and Allied shipping as well as to U.S. shipping  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2322P/23 to S.O.(I) Jamaica, (R) Admty. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

/Dakar...

706ZB

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Dakar Intelligence. Dakar 21/4 (B.2). My 0219/22 Aux. C QUERCY S/Ms L'ESPOIR, VENGEUR arrived from Madagascar. (B.A.D., 1641Z/23 to Admty (R) R.A. West Africa Force).
- N.I.D. Comment. Re Arrival Naval Tanker A.M.C. and 2 submarines at Dakar 20/4.
- Ice Report 23/4. N.S.H.Q., 1737Z/23 to Admty etc).
- DERRYHEEN (British) sunk 22/4  
AGRA (Swedish) sunk 20/4.  
DERRYHEEN sunk by S/M 22/4 31° 00' N., 69° 30' W.  
AGRA sunk by S/M 20/4 34° 40' N., 69° 35' W.  
In both cases C.Bs. went down with ships which were not boarded by enemy. Information obtained from 3rd Officer and Chief Officer respectively. (Cdre. I.C. Bermuda, 1752P/23 to Admty).  
*See pp 706Y 706ZA*
- "Queens" and A.T. Convoys. Request information for reference purposes whether "Queens" will be allotted numbers in the A.T. series for their Atlantic passages. (D.O.D. (H) 1819B/23 to B.A.D.) Reply: U.S.C.N.O. 1653/24.
- U/Bs Intercepted 1636 G.M.T. de NAA. S/M attack 39.18 N., 72.51 W., at 1100Z/23, X 1310/23. S/M sighted 38.53 N., 72.04 W., at 1319Z/23, X 1400/23. S/M sighted 39.40 N., 72.09 W., at 1044Z/23, X 1440/23. Submarine sighted 30.00 N., 66.40 W., at 0107Z, X 0628/23. Controlling station Arlington Virginia Radio. (Portishead Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 1849/23).
- C.T.F. 24 Vice Adm. Coland Brainard U.S.N. Comtask Force 24 has hoisted his flag in U.S.S. PRAIRIE. (C.T.F.24 1855Z/23 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty, N.S.H.Q.)
- ANDES Your 2250/22. Para. 3 confirmed. (B.A.D., 1901Z/23 to N.S.H.Q.)
- Convoys and Escort System. C. in C. U.S. Fleet approves points agreed upon and approved by N.S.H.Q. relative establishment coastal convoys by extension of mid-ocean system in Boston Halifax area as follows (details) (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1901Z/23 to Admty (R) Cinclant, C.T.F.24., C.O.A.C., Opnav, F.O.N.F., C.E.S.F. Com.1) See Lion Copy.
- U/B D/F indicates U-boat within 60 miles of 034° 30' N., 067° 30' W., at 1726Z. (N.S.H.Q., 2040Z/23 to Brit. Warships in area 7A., Admty., etc).

/Shipping...

# MOST SECRET

706ZB(1)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

III

1901Z/23rd April.

FROM: C. in C.U.S. Fleet.

Date: 24.4.42.

Recd: 1010.

U.S.X. (Special Drums) by Cable and T/P.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty, Repeated Cinclant, Comtaskfor 24,  
C.O.A.C. OPNAV. F.O.N.F. C.E.S.F. Com One.

C. in C.U.S. Fleet approves points agreed upon among representatives first four repeated addressees and approved by N.S.H.Q. relative establishment coastal convoys by extension of midocean system in Boston Halifax area as follows

- (A) Control and dispatching of shipping along U.S. Atlantic Coast must fit in so far as practicable with established transatlantic convoys from Halifax and Sydney.
- (B) Organization administration and operation of present midocean and Western local escort forces will continue as at present with exception that Western local escort force will be reorganized into eight groups instead of seven.
- (C) If fuel permits two or three escorts from midocean escort groups will escort shipping for Sydney and Gulf St. Lawrence from Westomb to Sydney. Senior officer of each midocean escort group to report by signal on reaching longitude 45 W what ships have sufficient fuel for this duty. If escorts are unavailable in a particular convoy shipping for Sydney and Gulf St. Lawrence will be detached at Halifax and escorted from Halifax to Sydney by coastal convoy as in sub. para. (G) following.
- (D) Western local escorts will escort H X and S C convoys to about 52 W and after refuelling in Newfoundland will escort O N and O N S convoys from about 52 W to Boston area. O N and O N S convoys to be routed close to Halifax where Halifax Section detached. Remainder of convoy and entire Western local escort group to continue until close to Boston.
- (E) Western local escort groups will refuel and carry out emergency voyage repairs as necessary at Boston.
- (F) Northbound shipping of all speeds except special independently routed ships will sail together in slow convoys from Boston to Halifax about twice every seven days timed to agree with assembly of HX and SC convoys and escorted by western local escort groups.
- (G) Coastal traffic between Halifax and Sydney  
and/.....

70

and reverse will be escorted by special groups of Canadian minesweepers allocated to C.O.A.C. for this and other local escort duties.

(H) Arrangements for routing of ocean or coastal convoys passing through coastal frontier zones will be as follows (in accordance with para. 14 of ABC 22)

1. ON and ONS Convoys will be routed by the same authorities as at present emergency diversions being made by C.O.A.C., F.C.N.F. or C.E.S.F. as necessary in their respective zones.

2. Convoys from Boston to Halifax will be routed by C.E.S.F. with emergency diversions as necessary in coastal zones by C.E.S.F., C.O.A.C. or F.C.N.F. in their respective coastal zones.

3. CHOF to be at predicted time at which convoy should pass from one coastal zone to the next.

(I) Air coverage will be arranged under existing arrangements between U.S. Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force. C.E.S.F. directed report to me when system can be established in so far as convoy terminal arrangements Boston are concerned and I will inform you. If you agree with above plan suggest that after advice from me C. in C. Western Approaches designate first ON and ONS Convoys with which system is to be placed in effect, Comtaskfor 24 to designate first SC and HX Convoys with which Boston Halifax convoys can be coordinated.

1901Z/23

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- Controller
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.F.S.
- A.C.F.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.F.S. (H)
- A.C.M.S. (T)
- A.C.M.S. (W)
- N. 1st S.L.
- D.T.D. (2) for action
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.C.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- Air.
- D. of S. (2)
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C.
- D.C.
- D.N.I. (7) & for A.E.
- D.N.I.D.
- D.T.S.D.

- D.S.D. (2)
- D.M.S.
- D.A./S.W.
- D. of S.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.

7062C

3  
24.4.1942.  
Thursday.

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

Shipping Opnav serial 23. DERRYHEEN British torpedoed  
Casualties, and sunk 0730Z/22 in 31° 25' N., 70° 45' W. No  
U/B. casualties. STEEL MAKER U.S. torpedoed 22/4,  
33° 48' N., 70° 36' W. 18 survivors picked up.  
26 missing. PIPESTONE COUNTY U.S. at 37° 43' N.  
66° 16' W., torpedoed 1657/21, considered sunk. Searching  
for survivors. WEST IMBODEN U.S. at 41° 14' N., 65° 55' W.  
torpedoed and sunk 20/4. 34 survivors in Portland Maine.  
(Opnav, 2042/23 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)  
Sub attack summary. EMPIRE GOLD 27.11 N., 48.35 W., 80 to  
90 rounds defensive fire 35 rounds, no hits, U.88 type.  
BIDWELL arrived port damaged, 34.25 N., 75.57 W., 20600Z/6/4  
1 torpedo, Sub. not seen. LIEBRE arrived port damaged, 34.11 N.  
76.08 W., 20 to 30 rounds, no adequate description. Sub.  
sighting summary. Panair sighted Sub. on surface 13.50 S.,  
38.48 W., 1415Z/22 course N. Plane bombed submerged Sub.  
39.40 N., 73.55 W., 1720Z/22. Panair sighted Sub. hove to on  
surface 34.07 N., 67.38 W., about 1109Z/23. Panair reports  
11 subs on surface disposed about 1000 yards apart course west  
speed 8, 38.53 N., 72.04 W. 1319Z/23 unconfirmed. Possibly  
lifeboats from REINHOLT on fire 39.10 N., 72 W. 0950Z/23.  
U-plane sighted periscope 39.40 N., 72.09 W., 1044Z/23.  
Fishing Craft sighted Sub. 44.15 N., 68.03 W., 0900Z/23  
considered doubtful. Request set of latest U-boat silhouettes  
be forwarded.  
(Cominch, 2043Z/23 Action to Admty for O.I.C.)

BULKOIL. 23rd R.F.A. BULKOIL 22, Capetown 13/5.  
Route and positions.  
Alternative route to Freetown given in case  
bunkers are required.  
(Boston, 2112Z/23 to Admty).

NASSAU NASSAU reports S/M S.E. of Devils Point Cat  
U/B. Island 20/4.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2237R/23 to Admty, C. in C.  
A.W.I., B.A.D.)

RAMSEY. E.T.A. 1600Z/24 B.A.D. pass to B.A.R.M.  
(RAMSEY, 2345Z/23 to Commandant 6th U.S. Naval  
District Charleston B.A.R.M. (R) B.A.D. C.E.S.F.,  
C. in C. A.W.I.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Fremantle 0623Z/22 PUNJAB. Departure  
G.M.T. 0825Z/22 ATREUS for Melbourne.  
Departure Melbourne 0015Z/22 U.S.S. VICTOR for  
Sydney. Departure Sydney 0627Z/22 STUART for Melbourne.  
0608Z/22 ADELAIDE for R/V with PRESIDENT COOLIDGE thence Suva/  
Fiji.  
(A.C.N.B., 0332Z/23 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.)) /LEANDER

706ZD

War Diary.

23.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements LEANDER and U.S. Destroyer LAMSON left Noumea  
Contd. 2048Z/21 for Suva. U.S. Cruiser BOISE arrived  
(?Melbourne) 0015Z/23. U.S. Aircraft Tender\$  
WRIGHT and U.S. Destroyer TUCKER sailed from  
Noumea 0413Z/22. Arrivals Sydney 0530Z/23 BALLARAT, 0614Z/23  
VOYAGER.  
(A.C.N.B., 2357Z/23 to U.S. Pacific Fleet. Admty. etc).  
Amended A.C.N.B., 2024Z/24.

Situation Serial No. 92 from C.W.R. 22/4. 3 heavy bombers  
attacked shipping and wharves Rabaul at 2215Z/21.  
1 possible hit on wharf. 6 fighters observed  
over Rabaul but not encountered.  
(7) large transports and 5 flying boats observed in harbour.  
(2) Air R/C 22/4 sighted 15 A/C on Lae Aerodrome but no  
shipping. No activity or flying boat (?flights).  
(3) Well equipped local rebel natives causing serious trouble  
Sepik River Area. (4) 2 identified (as received) warships  
possibly destroyers reported by air R/C approx. 120 miles S.E.  
of Port Moresby at 0145Z/22.  
(5) Japanese reported sending natives from Faisi Island to  
Gizo and Choiseul Islands to (?calm) native population prepara-  
tory to advancing.  
(6) Unidentified twin engined A/C with bellytank reported over  
Magnetic Island (Near Townsville) at 2302Z/20th.  
(A.C.N.B., 1457Z/23 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1425B/23, 1426B/23).

War Diary.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Photographs taken today showed TIRPITZ, SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN in their usual berths at Trondheim, and HIPPER and one Destroyer under way in Trondheim Fiord.

At 0007B ALBRIGHTON was ordered to intercept an enemy M/V reported in 140° Dungeness 30 miles and when 2½ miles from the French coast off Fecamp she engaged 3 E or R-boats at close range, hitting at least one with gun-fire, and later fired one salvo at a probable Torpedo Boat further to the westward. She returned with one man slightly wounded.

C. in C. Nore requests that in view of the great value of fast 70 foot and 71' 6" M.G.Bs. for use against E-boats in the present shortage of Destroyers, priority may be given for the delivery of the 8th M.G.B. Flotilla and that the refitting of M.G.Bs. in other Flotillas may be hastened.

It is reported today that the Panamanian EL OCCIDENTE, 6,008 tons, in Convoy Q.P.10 was torpedoed and sunk on 13/4 in 73° 28' N., 28° 30' E.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night made a heavy attack on targets at Rostock.

Enemy Air Operations.

It is reported today that the British HARPALION, 5486 tons, in Convoy P.Q.13 was sunk by gunfire in 73° 33' N., 27° 19' E., after having been bombed and abandoned.

War Diary.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations - Contd.

3 Officers are leaving U.K. by air tomorrow for Washington to initiate scheme "Plough".

A few enemy aircraft dropped bombs in the Plymouth area last night.

Mining.

One Magnetic Mine was exploded by sweepers today in the East Dudgeon Buoy area.

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH was attacked by F.W. A/C at 1956 in position 81° 21 miles from 39° N., 10° W., but made no report of damage.

South Atlantic.

Suspected  
Raiders.

S.O.(I) Montevideo sends reports of a meeting of German and Japanese units this morning in 38.18 S., 39.07 W., and that this position and 3 messages were transmitted by W/T at 0311, 0316 and 0318 to German Legation, Buenos Aires, who only sent acknowledgment in reply. Units are reported proceeding N. after meeting. 2 German raiders are known to be at sea, but there have been no other indications of Japanese units in the Atlantic.

/French....



War Diary.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

French  
fighters at  
Kotonou.

A U.S. ferry pilot reports the presence of what appears to be a group of 22 French fighters at Kotonou. The U.S. Army Air Corps consider that this constitutes a potential threat to the trans-Africa ferry route, but the Air Ministry have no confirmation of the report, and in fact the intimations are that the French are tending to concentrate their aircraft in West Africa in the Casablanca-Dakar area, rather than dispersing them. (Note. Subsequent R/C showed no aircraft at Kotonou.)

Mediterranean.

Malta

4 raiders came over in 3 alerts last night without causing any damage. In 4 raids today between 0436 and 1036, 104 bombers with fighter escort attacked, aerodromes being again the main target. No damage or casualties were caused in Grand Harbour. Civilian damage and military and civilian casualties occurred, and Gozo ferry boat was again machine gunned. In further raids during the day the torpedo depot was damaged. C. in C. Middle East, today ordered the garrison and population to be placed on the lowest scale of rations forthwith.

UPHOLDER  
lost.

UPHOLDER is overdue at Malta since 18/4 and must be considered lost. On 18/4 the Italian news bulletins claimed to have sunk a submarine by torpedo boat. Capt. S.10 considers UPHOLDER was probably sunk by T.B. patrol on 14/4 near 33° 25' N., 13° 40' E. (p. 725, 751)

Air  
Operations.

A Wellington from Malta attacked in 2 sorties at 2010/23 and 0138/24 two enemy M/Vs of 7,000 and 10,000 tons escorted by 3 destroyers, 030° Lampion 50 miles. In the second attack a hit or near miss is claimed on 1 M/V

8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night, obtaining a hit on a converted wreck used as a landing stage and dropping other bombs on the moles.

3 enemy aircraft attacked Tobruk harbour and El Adem area last night but no damage or casualties were caused.

/Mines...

War Diary.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Mines. Mines have been swept off Beirut, Haifa, Port Said and Famagusta, and all ports are now re-opened.

THRASHER. Details of THRASHER's successful patrol in Gulf of Sirte from 9/4 to 19/4 are summarised by C. in C. Med. today.

TURBULENT. Successes achieved by TURBULENT in an Adriatic patrol in the first half of this month are also summarised by C. in C. Med., today.

East Indies.

Manza Bay. To provide temporary defence for proposed anchorage at Manza Bay (about 6 miles N. of Tanga C. in C. E.I. proposes that GUARDIAN should lay an indicator net there as soon as possible.

Eastern Fleet. (Force A.) WARSPITE, INDOMITABLE, FORMIDABLE, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE, NEWCASTLE, Dutch cruiser HEEMSKERCK and 6 destroyers left Colombo early this morning to join the 3rd B.S. at Mombasa.

S/Ms. A Free French ship reports she was attacked by S/M p.m. 23/4 approx. 50 miles south of Mozambique. An aircraft was reported at 1400Z/23 in 14° 40' S., 40° 58' E; at 1200/23 SONTAY fired at a submarine; and at 1900Z today a S/M was sighted in approx. 15° 40' S., 40° 31' E.

China.

D/F bearings today indicate further increase in the number of units in the Marshall Is. area.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Coastal  
Convoys.

U.S. Navy Dept. are considering running a few convoys for a limited number of tankers only in Eastern Coastal Frontier waters, including Florida Strait, as an interim measure until the start of regular coastal convoys.

U/B attacked.

CHARLOTTETOWN attacked a U/B at 0615 G.M.T. in 42.50 N., 63.29 W., with uncertain results.

Norwegian TROPIC STAR, with 23 survivors of PIPESTONE COUNTY (sunk 21/4) on board, was torpedoed today (no time given) in 40.50 N., 68.42 W.

Australia & New Zealand.

At least 7 Zero fighters attacked Port Moresby in the early hours of today: a moored Catalina and 3 P.40s were destroyed. Fifteen Zero fighters attacked Port Moresby again at 2310Z, destroying 3 aircraft on seven mile aerodrome, and later 10 Zeros made an unsuccessful attack on shipping in the harbour. Some loss was caused to the enemy in the first two of these raids.

One B.25 attacked Lae Aerodrome at 2305Z today, damaging buildings.

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

P.551. Cancel my 0853/22. P.551 is to remain in 3rd Flotilla. She is to be employed on A/S training when not required for patrol duties. (F.O.S., 1754B/24). *See p 713 1p 715*

Priority of M.G.B's. In view of the present shortage of destroyers it is considered to be of extreme importance that as many as possible 70 foot and 71' 6" M.G.B's should be available for service as their speed is of the utmost value in anti-E-boat operations. It is requested therefore that priority may be given for the delivery of the 8th M.G.B. Flotilla, some boats of which are understood to be delayed by low priority in the supply of their power-operated gun mountings although they are otherwise completed. It is also requested that consideration be given to the speeding up of damage repairs or modifications to M.G.B's of existing operational flotillas now refitting in private yards. (C. in C. Nore, 1720B/24)

RUBIS. Since short nights preclude further lays by RUBIS in North Sea this summer, RUBIS on completion of her next lay about mid June is to be transferred temporarily to 5th S/M Flotilla and is then to operate from Portsmouth for about 3 months. When not employed in minelaying RUBIS is to be made available for anti S/M training in Plymouth and Portsmouth Commands. (F.O.S., 1858B/24).

Movements.

ULSTER QUEEN, ULSTER QUEEN from Belfast, ST. ALBANS from ST. ALBANS, Liverpool, BOADICEA from Greenock and BADSWORTH from Londonderry are to proceed in company to Seidisfiord arriving a.m. 27th. N.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to arrange R/V for destroyers and ULSTER QUEEN. Request you sail ships accordingly.

On arrival ships will act under orders of C. in C. H.F. (C. in C. W.A., 0441B/24).

C. in C. W.A.'s 0441B/24. Intend to sail ULSTER QUEEN 0300B/25, speed of advance 14 knots. Destroyers to R/V in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0730B/25.

(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0947B/24).

Sailed ST. ALBANS in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 0441B/24 and F.O.I.C. Belfast 0947B/24.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2209B/24).

VENOMOUS. Request you sail VENOMOUS to arrive Seidisfiord a.m. 27th. On arrival VENOMOUS is to act under orders C. in C. H.F. (C. in C. W.A., 0443B/24).

OZ 85  
TOD 2300Z/24MOST SECRET

From:- Air Ministry  
To:- Joint Staff Mission

---

OZ 85 24/4/42.

Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 161.

1. Mr. Pyke, Brigadier Duncan and Major Wedderburn are leaving the United Kingdom Saturday, 25th April for Washington by air, and should be regarded as being attached to Combined Operations Committee, but under wing of Joint Staff Mission. They are going to initiate a scheme called PLOUGH which was discussed with the Prime Minister, Mr. Hopkins and General Marshall and will be fully explained to you on their arrival.
2. PLOUGH has approval of Prime Minister, Marshall, Hopkins and Harriman. We understand that Hopkins and Marshall have agreed that necessary priority should be given to production of equipment, which must come from America, to enable the scheme to be carried out. Joint Staff Mission are requested to render necessary assistance.
3. C.C.O. is sending separate personal letter to Field Marshal Dill. Captain Knox to be informed and arrange accommodation.

T.O.O. 2215Z/24

(Circulation).

Col. Jacob. (12).  
C.A.S. (4).  
C. 6 Telegrams, War Office. (5).  
War Registry, Admiralty. (32).

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

- UREDD. Scapa departure UREDD escorted by PRESTON NORTH END. (A.C.O.S., 0654B/24 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick) A.C.O.S's 0654/24. Arrived. (S.O. S/M's Lerwick, 1849B/24).
- FARNDALE. My P.C.S. 049° 32' N., 15° 22' W., 080° 17 knots. (FARNDALE, 0659Z/24). Your 1838B/23. E.T.A. 1700B/25. 11 hours late at position E. (FARNDALE, 2359B/24 to C. in C. Plymouth).
- Floating Dock. Your 1335/22. Delayed a further 24 hours owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Leith, 0750/24 to C. in C. Rosyth).
- WELSHMAN. Arrived 0921 WELSHMAN. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0936B/24).
- O.9. At 2000B/26 intend to sail O.9 escorted by WHITE BEAR from Rothesay to arrive Lough Foyle Buoy at H.43. 0700B/27. Commodore Londonderry is requested to sail H.43 escorted by WHITE BEAR to arrive Rothesay a.m. 28th. (Capt. S.7., 1146B/24).
- PRINCE ALBERT, (1) Intend sailing PRINCE ALBERT escorted by FERNIE. FERNIE at 2000 today for Dover. Speed 18 knots. E.T.A. 0200/25. Returning Portsmouth on completion. 2. Instructed to keep 1 mile South of convoy route when overtaking Object (i.e. ALBRIGHTON). Object ordered to keep to Northern edge of route. 3. PRINCE ALBERT will enter Dover Harbour to embark A.L.C's. FERNIE will remain off entrance. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1243B/24 to V.A. Dover).
- SPEEDWELL. Proceed passing Switha at 2100 tonight to refit at Humber Graving Dock. (R.A.D. (D), 1245B/25 to SPEEDWELL).
- DUKE OF YORK. Your 1403B/20. Arrived 1200B. (H.43/20) (A.C.I.C., 1246B/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
- STURGEON. Your E.T.A. Seidisfiord is amended to read 0600/27. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1253B/24 to STURGEON).
- SEAWOLF. Arrived Clyde SEAWOLF escorted by WHITE BEAR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1428B/24).
- P.551. S.3's 1045/20. Arrived. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1446/24). *S. 12.712 11p.715*

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

WASP, U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT and U.S.S. PLUNKETT, R/V  
 WAINWRIGHT, U.S.S. WASP in 054° 44' N., 011° 24' W. at 1600Z/25  
 PLUNKETT. and escort to Scapa. Approach course 036° routed  
 through E. 055° 03' N., 011° 01' W.  
 F. 270° Skerrymore 10 miles thence through Minches.  
 Estimated speed 16½ knots.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1015Z/24 to Comdesron 8).  
 U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT and U.S.S. PLUNKETT sailed in accordance with  
 C. in C. W.A. 1015Z/24.  
 (C.T.G. 24.7 1939Z/24).  
 Sailed WAINWRIGHT and PLUNKETT.  
 (Commodore, Londonderry, 2112B/24).

GRAPH. (1) Intend sailing GRAPH escorted by LA  
 CAPRICIEUSE from Greenock Canal at 1730B/25 for  
 180° Lizard Head 5 miles, E.T.A. 2130B/26.  
 Thence GRAPH to Chatham as ordered by Capt. (S) 5.  
 Thence F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE to Holy Loch.  
 (Capt. S.3., 1947B/24).

TRIDENT. TRIDENT escorted by JAN VAN GELDER leaves Lerwick  
 1500/24 for Holy Loch. E.T.A. 1300/27.  
 (F.O.S., 2216B/24).

ALBRIGHTON. My 1857/24. Sailed Needles 2246/24.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2347B/24 to F.O.I.C.  
 Portland, etc.)

Operations.

ALBRIGHTON, Enemy A.M.V. reported in position 140° Dungeness 30,  
 Engagement speed 11 knots, course 208° at 2250. Proceed to  
 with E-Boats intercept. Return to within 30 miles of British  
 off Fecamp. coast at 0600 when air cover will be arranged.  
 One E-Boat Dover hopes to intercept with M.T.B's at midnight.  
 damaged. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0007B/24 to ALBRIGHTON).  
 ALBRIGHTON engaged light forces off Fecamp. M/V  
 not seen. Fired at by Fecamp. Now returning.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0557B/24).

My 0557B/24. ALBRIGHTON proceeded to within 2½ miles of the  
 French coast inside QZX.318. She engaged 3 E or R Boats at very  
 close range claiming a definite hit on at least one. She then  
 swept to the eastward but sighted no merchant vessel. She then  
 turned and swept west and sighted a ship resembling a Hunt,  
 probably A.T.B., and fired one salvo at this target. She fired  
 about 30 rounds of 4" and a lot of pom-pom and smaller.  
 Enemy fired about same amount, some of which probably came from  
 the shore batteries.  
 ALBRIGHTON casualties 1 man slightly wounded.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1217B/24).

/Projected ...

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - contd.

Projected attack on M/V on 23/4. My 1002B/23. Yesterday the vessel was reported in Boulogne outer Harbour by P.R.U. 23 430 foot armed M/V. In anticipation of continued westward passage 3 M.T.B's and 3 M.G.B's were sent to arrive Bullock Bank Buoy by 2200 at which time R.D.F. detected a vessel leaving Boulogne Southwestwards but by 0021/24 rising Northeasterly wind and sea had forced coastal craft to abandon their attack. Weather conditions prevented 11 Group aircraft from operating and 16 group aircraft were unable to locate the target. (V.A. Dover, 1005B/24).

Operation K.C.1. My 1857/23. Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2147B/24 to S.O. M.T.B. 11th Flotilla).

North Norway S/M Patrol. Following S/M's leaving Lerwick 24th and 25th April may be in vicinity of position (C) of my 2235/18 as follows. Time and course are approximate. P.43 0900B/25 021°. \*P.551 1800B/25 018°. UREDD 2300B/25 015°. MINERVE 0400B/26 010°. (Capt. S.9., 1725B/24 to TRIDENT).

P.43 left Lerwick 2201B/24 proceeding unescorted on surface at discretion of C.O. routed as follows:- 090° Out Skerries 5 miles, thence direct to patrol in zone K.26. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2207B/24). \* See p.712 713

British Air Activity.

Larne-Stranraer sailings. Additional sailings will leave Larne for Stranraer between April 25 - April 30th both days inclusive - ferry steamers at 0700B - 0900B and 1330B daily. Personnel ships at 1145B and 1515B daily. Speed of ferry steamers 16 knots and personnel ships 20 knots. Request that air co-operation already provided for GAMMA may be extended to cover these sailings. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1141B/24 to H.Q.F.C.)

Basing of 304 and 311 Squadrons. It is considered a matter of first importance to get the 2 Wellington and 2 Whitley Squadrons being transferred from Bomber to Coastal Command working on A/S duties in the Biscay area by day at the first possible opportunity.

It is understood that 304 Squadron will be located at Ticee and 311 Squadron at Aldergrove or Talbenny. Request you will consider accommodating these Squadrons more suitably for the work on which they will be employed. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1642B/24 to C. in C. C.C.)

Scheme "Plough." 3 Officers leaving U.K. on 25/4 for Washington to initiate Scheme. (Air Ministry, 2215Z/24). See Lion Copy.



War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

A/C over Scapa on 23/4. Following has been received from A.C.O.S. Repeats A.C.O.S. 1201B/23. (A.C.N.S. (H), 1134B/24 to Air Ministry.)

A/C in sea. German aircraft in sea, position 50° 35' N., 01° 35' W. (Ouessant Radio, 2020/24).

HARPALION See Casualties.  
(Convoy P.Q.13)  
sunk 28/3.

Mining.

Milford Haven Admiralty 1717B/23. Request that Dutch M/V3 M/S Forces. trawlers may be sent to replace, as present effective M/S force is reduced to three vessels, including one employed on operation "Tincture." (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1821B/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

Dundee. Request you sail one Oroposa S.A. Trawler from Aberdeen or Peterhead to Dundee on 13th April to operate from latter base for about one week. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1855B/24 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

East Dudgeon area. At 1835/24 one Magnetic Mine exploded by Sweepers N. 15° W. East Dudgeon Buoy 2.2 miles. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1954B/24).

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/23 to 0900/24. Track E. 1 D. One large and several smaller vessels from Boulogne at 2200 at 10 knots faded 4 miles West of Etaples at 2315. M.T.B's and M.G.B's sent to attack returned owing to deteriorating weather. (V.A. Dover, 1002B/24).

North Norwegian Waters. Following is repetition my 1447C/23 to Admiralty. Begins. Russians report 20/4 in 17° (sic. 771°) 12' N., 32° 10' E. one U-Boat. Varanger Fiord one U-Boat. 21/4 Vestfiord one U-Boat. Tromso one destroyer. In 69° 34' N. 13° 03' E. one destroyer. 22/4 in 69° 46' N. 31° 16' E. one destroyer. Northern part of Varanger Fiord one destroyer. Two groups of M/V's in Varanger Fiord proceeding North. Ends. (Ad. Miles, 1508C/24 to Admty.) Russians report 22 April, Convoy off Kibergnes proceeding to Kirknes. Vardo one destroyer. 23 April, off Nordkyn one destroyer. (Ad. Miles, 1657C/24 to Admty.)

/Trondheim ...

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - contd.

Trondheim. Preliminary interpretation of P.R.U. Trondheim shows TIRPITZ in usual berth, PRINZ EUGEN and SCHEER in Lo Fiord, HIPPER and one destroyer under way in Trondheim Fiord.  
(D.D.I.C., 2152B/24).

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. S.O. Minesweepers in DOEDAR with C.E.76 reports that at 1827/23 he obtained an echo exactly like that of a S/M in estimated 120° Beachy Head 4½ miles. Echo was heard for 12 minutes and it is estimated that at its closest it was 2 cables on starboard beam of ship. H.S.D. Rating operating gear. (C. in C. Nore, 1644B/24 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

EL OCCIDENTE See Casualties.  
(Convoy  
Q.P.10)  
torpedoed  
13/4.

Navigational.

Floating wreckage. Floating object part just visible resembling portion of ships hull in position 029° 54 A Buoy 11 cables, probably dangerous to navigation.  
(WINCHESTER, 0914B/24).

Casualties & Defects.

PAYNTER, Sailed PAYNTER and BLACKFLY for Belfast. E.T.A.  
BLACKFLY. 1400B/25. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0823B/24).

ACHATES. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
Your 0842/24. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1300/24). *See next page*

CHESTERFIELD. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
Cancel my 0453B/24. CHESTERFIELD cannot sail owing  
to defects. (C. in C. W.A., 1602B/24).  
*See next page*

COTSWOLD. Salvage Officer Harwich reports:-  
(Mined 20/4). Intend to re-float COTSWOLD, High Water on 29th.  
Further 24 hours will be required to complete  
temporary repairs. Selecting fine day vessel should  
be towed to docking port nearest possible to Harwich. Salvage  
Vessel DAPPER to tow alongside with salvage pumps in party in  
COTSWOLD. Second Tug required, also request degaussing be dealt  
with to coincide with above.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1858B/24).

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - contd.

ORILLIA. Arrived ORILLIA.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 2205B/24).

ACHATES. ACHATES sailed 2200/24. E.T.A. Greenock 0800/26.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 2211/24). *See Medicine page*

Convoy P.Q.13 HARPALION sunk by gunfire after being bombed and  
abandoned, position 073° 33' N. 027° 19' E.  
HARPALION EL OCCIDENTE torpedoed and sunk on 13/4 in 073°  
(British, 5486 tons) 28' N., 028° 30' E.  
sunk. (A.C.I.C., 2225B/24).

Convoy Q.P.10  
EL OCCIDENTE  
(Panamanian  
6008 tons)  
sunk.

Shipping & Convoys.

LLANSTEPHAN My 1206/21. For BADSWORTH read CHESTERFIELD and  
CASTLE. substitute on relief at position (V) 044° 35' N.  
015° 30' W. CHESTERFIELD is to proceed Argentia  
and join B 3 temporarily.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0453B/24). *Cancelled - see p. 717.*

Request you will sail one destroyer to provide additional escort  
for LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE in accordance with A.M. 1213/16, para.4  
in place of BADSWORTH.

2. Destroyer is to fuel at Milford Haven as requisite to R/V  
with LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and VELOX in accordance with F.O.I.C.  
Greenock's 1034/23 and will provide escort to position V in  
accordance with A.M. 2002/20.

3. A.M. 1213/16 and A.M. 2002/2 (?2002/20) and F.O.I.C.  
Greenock's 1034/23 and N.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1921/22 have  
been repeated to C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. D.1, and  
ALBRIGHTON. (D.O.D. (H), 1740B/24).

My 1206/21, 0453/24, 1602/24 and your 1034/23. LLANSTEPHAN  
CASTLE is to be sailed independently to R/V in 052° N. 005° 38' W.  
Fighter protection required category one.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1818B/24 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Sailed LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE unescorted to R/V VELOX and one other  
destroyer as in my 1034B/23.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2145B/24).

P.Q.15. The following Ships are expected to sail in P.Q.15.  
KRASSIN, EXPOSITOR, ALCOA CADET, MONTCALM, EMPIRE  
MORN, MORMACSUL, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, SOUTH GATE,  
BAYOU CHICO, DEER LODGE, CAPE RACE, ALCOA RAMBLER, ZEBULON B.  
VANCE, EMPIRE BARD, PAUL LUCKENBACH, CAPE CORSO, MORMACRIO,  
PIETER DE HOOGH, SEATTLE SPIRIT, JUTLAND, HEGIRA, BOTAVON,  
LANCASTER, CAPIRA, TEXAS.  
(D.T.D., 1730B/24).

R.A.(D) 1504B/23 and your 2117B/23. Consider it is most important  
that C.O. attend conference. S.O.1st.M/S.F., can not reach  
Hvalfjord before 1700Z. (C.S.10, 2302B/24 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

H.X.184. Average speed 8.76 knots. Weather good on whole but some delay on account of breakdowns. No stragglers, all ships arrived. (D.T.D., 1759B/24 to Opanav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Movements of Russian Ships. Serial No.42. (D.T.D., 1913B/24 to Adm. Miles).

Convoy. Hearty congratulations on bringing in safely all the ships of your convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 2143/24 to Commodore J.Elliott, R.N.R.)

GRAY RANGER. LEDBURY. C. in C. H.F. 1414B/22. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Scapa departures GRAY RANGER and LEDBURY. E.T.A. 0900B/27. ? where - (A.C.O.S., 2255B/24).

War Diary.24.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passings 23/4. French eastward ALGERIE, BOREAL both full, CAPITAINE ARMAND, JOSEPH ELISE. (V.A.C.N.A. 0913A/24 to M.E.W.)  
Gibraltar 0745. French armed Trawler<sup>2</sup>ALGEROISE French ships OUERGHA, full, OUED TIFLET, light, both deck cargo motor transport, PARAME, laden. Trawler SIMON DUHAMEL<sup>1</sup>westbound. 1025. French armed Trawler LA SETOISE French ships FAUZON laden FOMALHAUT, light, both deck cargo motor transport, latter also two steam tractor engines.  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 1949B/24 to Admty., C. in C. Med. etc.)  
My 1949B/24. All vessels westbound.  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 2121B/24 to Admty., C. in C. Med. etc.)

Italian tankers. Your 1752B/23. Position C. 026° N. E.T.A. Curacao 5th, but now certain to be delayed by weather probably E.T.A. 7th.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1004A/24 to Admty. (R) Opnav etc.)

CLYDE. Hydroplanes securely wired to (corrupt group). Am proceeding on surface. My P.C. and S. of advance at 1500B 037° 37' N. 001° 49' E. 252° 10½ knots. Escort not required.  
(CLYDE 1307Z/24 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. (S) 8, SOKOL, TAKU.)  
Your 1309/24 (1307/24 intended). Amend route to pass through 180° Cape de Gate 20 miles thence direct to Gibraltar. Adjust speed to cross 005° W. at 0630B/26. Total bombing restrictions arranged.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1640B/24 to CLYDE (R) SOKOL, TAKU.)

Movements. Arrival COREOPSIS escorting British ships FRESSADO, OPORTO and SWITZERLAND.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1442A/24 to Admty.)

EUGENIO C. (Italian) EUGENIO C. will be detailed to load at Castro 25/4.  
(H.M. Consul Bilbao 1742/24 to Admty. (R) M.E.W. etc.)

Enemy A/C. Following has been read. 1 unidentified A/C bearing 300° height 40,000 ?feet, course 180. My position 081° 39° N. 10° W.  
(SCOTTISH 1900/24.)

Following has been read. Am being attacked by A/C in position 081° 39° N. 10° W. 21.  
(SCOTTISH 1956/24.)

A second F.W. attacked. Both at present southbound.  
(SCOTTISH 2005A/24 to V.A.C.N.A.)  
One A/C unknown, bearing unknown, height unknown. My position 103° 39° N. 10° W. 23.  
(SCOTTISH 2317A/24.)

War Diary.24.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Enemy A/C contd. My 2317, course N. Probable F.W. (SCOTTISH 2326A/24 to V.A.C.N.A.)  
My 2317. Second F.W. now passing N.bound. (SCOTTISH 2340A/24 to V.A.C.N.A.)

German A/C. German A/C seen from Montidor Lighthouse 041° (?45') N. 008° 52' W. course south 0930/24. (B.N.A. Lisbon 1826A/24 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

SAN JUAN. From M.E.W. Release SAN JUAN. Seize Spanish  
SAN SEBASTIAN. SAN SEBASTIAN. Seizure applies only to vessel and not to cargo which is at disposal of owners. (D.E.W.D. 1954B/24 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

Italian Ship. Report in my 2345/23 (N.T. in W.D.) confirmed personally today by Pro Consul Guyatt. Italian steamer painted grey 2 masted of some 8000 tons entered Corcubion evening 21/4 left harbour night 22/4 entered Ferrol evening 23/4 and left early morning 24/4. 4 engine German plane flew over mentioned ports when ship arriving. A/A battery remained indifferent. (Corunna 2350/24 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Supply Ship (?) sighted by A/C. C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 1915/23 is being passed to you for information. (R.A. West Africa 0107Z/24 to GLASGOW, ALCANTARA, PRETORIA CASTLE.)

Italian repatriations. P.C. and S. at 1200 23/4 19° 36' S. 6° 31' W. 134° 15 knots A.R. (VULCANIA via Coltano Radio T.O.R. 0114/24 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)  
Following received from GIULIO CESARE P.C. and S. at 1200 ATS 24/4 23.42 S. 01.59 W. 134 15 knots. (Coltano Radio 1310/24 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)  
Italian ships VULCANIA and SATURNIA arrived Port Elizabeth. (C. in C. S.A. 1854B/24 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.24.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- Movements. → Arrival 23/4 WILD SWAN.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 0157Z/24 to Admty.)  
Capetown arrival CHESHIRE.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0935Z/24 to Admty.)  
Simonstown departure 1900Z/23 HERMIONE for Durban. Route.  
S. of A. E.T.A. 0730Z/25th. *See next page.*  
(C. in C. S.A. 1105B/24 to Admty. Cmdre. Durban etc.)  
Departure 1430Z/24 BRIDGEWATER overtaking and escorting L.S.3.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1547Z/24 to Admty.)  
Simonstown departure 1230Z/24. ADAMANT for Durban, S. of A. 14  
knots E.T.A. 1200Z/27.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1722B/24 to Admty. etc.)  
→ Arrival 1400/24/4 WILD SWAN.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1731Z/24 to R.A. West Africa.)
- MALAYA. Capetown departure MALAYA for Freetown.  
(A) S. of A. 15 and 16.5 knots. (B) E.T.A. 015°  
S. 0400B/28th. (C) E.T.A. at end of swept  
channel 0900Z/3rd May Boom 1045Z 3rd May.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1125Z/24 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.W.A.)  
*See next page.*
- PETUNIA. Departure 23/4 PETUNIA escorting U.S. motor  
vessel FAIRFAX, thence escorting W.S.18.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 0237Z/24 to Admty.)
- ALBATROSS. R.A.W.Af. 1417/23. Intend to approve retention  
of ALBATROSS at Freetown till 3/5 subject to  
concurrence of C. in C. E.F.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1057B/24 to R.A.W.Af, (R) Admty.  
C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F. ALBATROSS, Dep.  
C. in C. E.F.) Concur. (Dep. C. in C.E.F. 1659Z/26)
- DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE has engine defects which reduce  
maximum speed to 11 knots. Repairs in S.A.  
would take 30 days. In view of ship's forth-  
coming refit intend to sail her for Freetown  
and on to U.K. in first convenient S.L. convoy  
without repairs being carried out.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1357B/24 to Admty. (R) R.A.  
West Africa etc.) *See next page.*
- CLAN MURDOCH. Reports attack by U-Boat in 006 50 N. 076 37 E.  
at 0130/8/4/42. U-Boat not sighted, 1 torpedo  
estimated fired but missed. I.D. Form SA being  
forwarded.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1358Z/24 to Admty. etc.)
- THEMISTOCLES, Suspicious ship. THEMISTOCLES 11/4 in 001° 02' S. 018° 26' W.  
sighted suspicious vessel German built similar  
to German ship HEIDELBEL (O.U.6329 (i) number 77).  
Vessel when sighted steering 140° knots 11  
altering to 90° in heavy rain squalls and  
closing at 12 knots from 17 miles to 6 miles after which ship  
was lost and not seen again on account of heavy rain and  
evasive course alteration. Description. Vessel in sight 8½ hours.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 1519B/24 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. F.O.I.C. W.Af.)  
/W.S.17 ...

War Diary.

24.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

W.S.17. Position 24/4 W.S.17.  
(S.S.T.O. Capetown 1530Z/24 to D. of S.T.)

Movement Summary. 2000Z/24 Area Q.  
SHROPSHIRE with W.S.17B Durban portion 034° 45' S. 026° 00' E. to Durban 12 knots.  
GLENGYLE 018° 15' S. 007° 00' W. 305° 17 knots.  
CILICIA from Port Elizabeth E.T.A. Capetown 0705Z/25.  
HERMIONE 033° 12' S. 028° 27' E. to Durban 23 knots. *See p. 722*  
→ DUNNOTTAR CASTLE off Capetown to N.  
ADAMANT 035° 20' S. 021° (?20') E. to Durban 14 knots.  
→ MALAYA 033° 35' S. (?016°) (?30') E. 330° 15 knots.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1606B/24 to S.A. Sqdn.)

→ DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Intend sailing DUNNOTTAR CASTLE at 1800Z/24 for Freetown routed through  
(A) 15° 50' S. 03° 25' E.  
(B) 01° 45' S. 12° or 16° 30' W.  
(C) 05° 20' N. 14° 20' W.

S. of A. 10½ knots to 10° S. thence 9½ knots. E.T.A. Freetown 8/5.

2. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE to join S.L. convoys for onward passage to U.K.

3. Request R.A. West Africa provide A/S escort as available.

(C. in C. S.A. 1640B/24 to Admty. R.A. W. Africa.) *See previous page*

AUST (Norwegian) Your 1125/15. Have you any news of AUST due Capetown 12/4 from Pernambuco?  
(D.T.D. 1640B/24 to S.O.I. Capetown.)

→ MALAYA. Intend to sail MALAYA at 0800Z/24 for Freetown routed through *See T. of O. below*

(A) 34° 05' S. 16° 55' E.  
(B) 25° 40' S. 11° 10' E.  
(C) 114° 10' S. 04° 50' E.  
(D) 02° 50' S. 12° 10' W.  
(E) 05° 20' N. 14° 20' W.

S. of A. 15 knots to 10° S. thence 16½ knots. E.T.A. Freetown 0920/3/5.

2. Request R.A. West Africa provide A/S escort for MALAYA to maximum (? endurance) possible.

(C. in C. S.A. 1701B/24 to Admty., R.A.W.A.) Sailed - *See previous page*

M.Ls 271, 244. Departure 1500/24 M.Ls 271, 244 escorting SAN ANDRES. Ref. (?position) Fox 009° N. 016° W.  
SAN ANDRES. E.T.A. Freetown P.M.26/4. SAN ANDRES requires following stores provisions and fuel on arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1732Z/24 to R.A. W. Africa.)

/ARAWA ...



War Diary.24.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - contd.

ARAWA.

Your 1850/22. Owing to local S/M activity and no escorts available risk of sailing independently could not be accepted. (S.S.T.O. Freetown 1850Z/24 to D. of S.T. Rept. R.A.W.A.F.)

Report of meeting of German and Japanese Units.

(Classified C.3/4) Reports meeting of German and Japanese units this morning 24/4 in 038° 18' S. 039° 07' W. and that this position and 3 messages were transmitted by W/T at 0311, 0316 and 0318 to German Legation Buenos Aires who only sent acknowledgment in reply. Units are reported proceeding North after meeting. This information has been given to U.S. in Buenos Aires and therefore I am repeating to British addressees only. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2009Z/24 to Admty. (for D.N.I.)(R) C. in C. S.A. R.A. West Africa, B.A.D.)  
Comment by D.D.I.C. Two German raiders are known to be at sea. There are no other indications of Japanese units in the Atlantic.

GLASGOW.

E.T.A. 1715Z/25 passed boom 1810Z. Requirements. (GLASGOW 2314Z/24 to R.A. West Africa.)

Mediterranean.

Movements.

Departures PARKTOWN 0440Z. PAUL CONDOURIOTIS. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0507Z/24 to Admty.)  
23/4 Port Said arrivals. Tug ST. MONACE, F.F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, M.L.1038, A.S. SOUTHERN MAID, ROMEO. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0914C/24 to Admty.)

Polish Seamen.

No reply yet received to my 1528/15/4. Situation most urgent owing to crew of another bulk tanker, EOCENE, refusing to sail thus causing delay in filling petrol tanks at Tobruk, and sinking of cased petrol carrier, KIRKLAND, yesterday is likely to cause more crew trouble.  
2. Pool of Polish seamen is intended to provide for immediate requirements only to replace crews who refuse to sail. Suggest question of manning ships on operational service could be most satisfactorily solved by obtaining volunteers in U.K. Essential matter receives immediate attention otherwise supplies by sea to army in Cyrenaica may have to be seriously curtailed. Agreed.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1010C/24 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med. G.H.Q., M.E.)

/Defence ...

War Diary.24.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Defence of Malta. Strongest possible measures must be taken to assess and control all possible stocks of food and to secure harvest. You must now place Garrison and population on lowest possible scale of rations forthwith.  
(C. in C. M.E. 1025/24 to Gov. & C. in C. Malta.)

STARYA VOLK. Bulgarian STARYA VOLK arrived from Burgos 24/4.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1150C/24 to S.O.I. Med. (R) D.N.I.)

CARLISLE. Intend following programme Alexandria to Simonstown (E.T.A.13/5) thence to U.K. as ordered by C. in C. S.A. CARLISLE has all armament available but is not fully efficient due to hull and machinery defects. Max. speed 22 knots normal seagoing speed 18 knots. Fuel capacity reduced by 11%.  
C. in C. Med. 1230C/24 to C. in C. E.I., Admty.)

PORPOISE My 2127B/23. Cancel route to Marsamxett. Proceed through 035° 20' 014° 12' and proceed submerged up S.E. channel to surface in 143° Delimara 4.5 miles at 2030B/25 if black flag is not flying Ta Silc Port War Signal Station and berth at Shell Pier to discharge kerosene during night.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1321B/24 to PORPOISE (R) P.35.)

UPHOLDER. UPHOLDER overdue since 18/4. Must be considered lost. S.10 report casualties and any details known.  
(C. in C. Med. 1408C/24 to V.A. Malta.)

Situation. Situation report 210. Malta air attacks continue. 2. Levant. Several sightings of U.Boats by A/C and coast watchers on 22/4 and 23/4 and by LA MOQUEUSE at 0722/23 in 031° 29' N. 034° 01' E. Results of subsequent attacks uncertain. 2 more schooners sunk since my 1745/21, casualties slight as crews have generally been allowed to escape. Mines have been swept off Beirut, Haifa, Port Said and Famagusta all ports now reopened. 3. Western Desert. 3 or 4 U-Boats sighted by A/C and surface forces 22/23. KIRKLAND torpedoed by U-boat and sunk at 0406/23 in 031° 51' N. 026° 37' E. in eastbound convoy. Survivors landed at Mersa Matruh. Result of subsequent hunt by ERIDGE and BEAUFORT unknown. 4. Red Sea. S.S. JERSEY sank in Suez Bay as result of explosion when about to anchor p.m.23/4. Probably mine at least 5 months old.

726

War Diary.24.4.1942  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation - 5. S/Ms. THRASHER returned from enterprising  
contd. patrol in Gulf of Sirte after determined 36  
hours chase of Convoy. 1500 ton laden merchant  
ship was torpedoed and sunk at 0635/9 in 31°  
49' N. 19° 42' E. Second eastbound convoy passed out of range  
a.m./12 was chased for 4 hours largely on surface in daylight  
and at 1012/13 in 31° 42' N. 19° 07' E. laden 3500 ton merchant  
ship with big deck cargo was torpedoed and sunk. At 1402/19  
in 02° 53' N. (732° 53' intended) 22° 23' E. engagement with  
armed motor lighter was broken off owing to gunfire from shore.  
1 hit was observed on lighter. Publicity A.2.

6. TURBULENT returned from Adriatic Patrol. Heavily laden  
6000 ton southbound merchant ship torpedoed and sunk at 1451/1Z  
(as received) off Monopoli and 1200 ton ship also heavily laden  
sunk by gunfire at 1430/7 off Popovaniva Bay (42° 12' N. 18°  
58' E.) deck cargo included 4 motor cars. Schooner hit with  
gunfire off Devenick at 2020/14 but TURBULENT was forced by  
shore batteries to dive before Schooner could be sunk. 3 other  
attacks on merchantmen and one on Balilla U-Boat were unsuccess-  
ful. Publicity A.2.  
(C. in C. Med. 1544Z/24 to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta. etc.)

Malta I. 243. C.S.R. Malta 24/4 Part 1.  
Air 23rd. 4 alerts 1355, 1606, 1715, 1745 hours.  
Report. Me.109s, 61 JU.88s, 15 JU.87s. Luqa, 1 Wellington  
1 Spitfire destroyed, craters dispersals,  
Aerodrome U.X.Bs, Hal Far 1 Albacore destroyed,  
1 Tractor (approx. 10 corrupt groups).  
Hurricanes 2 Spitfires. A.A. destroyed 1 JU.88 damaged another.  
Night 23-24. 3 alerts 1912, 2116, 0330 hours 4 raiders. Luqa,  
1 soldier killed. U.X.Bs. Elsewhere no damage or casualties.  
A.A. fired.  
24th. 4 alerts 0436, 0509, 0810, 1036 hours, Me.109s, 90 JU.88s  
14 JU.87s Luqa, 2 unserviceable Hurricanes burnt out, buildings  
further damage. Craters dispersals Aerodrome. Ta Kali, 1  
soldier killed. Craters dispersals Aerodrome. Grand Harbour,  
no damage or casualties. Elsewhere 15 Civilians killed, 2  
soldiers missing, 48 civilians 1 Padre, 5 soldiers wounded.  
Many houses destroyed, hospital damaged, Gozo Ferry Boat Machine  
Gunned. 1 JU.88 probably destroyed 6 JU.88s, 3 Me.109s, 1 JU.88  
damaged by 8 Spitfires 7 Hurricanes. 1 Spitfire 3 Hurricanes  
damaged in Combat, Pilots uninjured. A.A. destroyed 1 JU.88,  
damaged 2 Me.109s.  
H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2155/24.)  
Part 2 I.243 24/4 C.S.R. Night 23/24. 1 Wellington 8, 2  
Sorties. 2010 hours attacked 1 M/V 7000 tons 1 M/V 10,000 tons,  
escorted by 3 D/Rs. 030° Lampion 50 miles course 180° 15 knots.  
No damage.  
?138 hrs again attacked M/Vs with machine gun fire and 5 x 500-lb  
G.P. from 3000 feet hit or near miss in 1 M/V.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2157/24.)

/ORUC REIS ...

War Diary.

24.4.1942  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

ORUC REIS.  
(P.611)

E.T.A. Iskanderun 9/5.  
(C. in C. Med. 2332C/24 to N.A. Ankara (R)  
Admty. F.O.S. S.I.)

Malta  
Air  
Raids.

4 medium raids today total of 160 bombers.  
2 bombers destroyed, 1 probably and 10 bombers  
or fighters damaged.  
2. Raids on all the usual targets with a heavy  
attack on Msida and M M areas.  
3. Torpedo depot at Msida hit again, extent of  
damage not yet known. Bighi hospital and grounds  
received several bombs yesterday and 8 today,  
considerable damage.  
(V.A. Malta 2345B/24 to C. in C. Med. (R)  
Admty.)

728

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Shipping East Coast of India. Your 0612Z/23. Concur. M. of W.T. will communicate with Ainscough regarding loading. (A.C.N.S.(T), 0010B/24 to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) C. in C. E.I.)

Overdue shipping. Your 1205/20 LANCASHIRE did not sail Capetown see remarks (? given in) M.S. 417. CASTALIA was ship referred to see M.S. 430. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0314Z/24 to S.O.I. Capetown (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

WARSPITE, INDOMITABLE, FORMIDABLE, etc. (Force "A") HEEMSKERCK, WARSPITE, INDOMITABLE, FORMIDALE, NEWCASTLE, ENTERPRISE, EMERALD, SCOUT, PALADIN, PANTHER, NESTOR, NORMAN, DECOY, FOXHOUND, arrived Colombo 23/4 0200Z to 0300Z. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0611Z/24 to Admty.) HEEMSKERCK, ALAUNIA, WARSPITE, INDOMITABLE, FORMIDABLE, EMERALD, NORMAN, ENTERPRISE, NEWCASTLE, FOXHOUND, PANTHER, NESTOR, DECOY, PALADIN, left Colombo 24/4 0100Z to 0145Z. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1811Z/24 to Admty.)

GEORGIOS AVEROFF. Your 1852/13. Poor ventilation makes GEORGIOS AVEROFF most unsuitable as accommodation ship in any part of this station. 2. A report from D.S.R. is awaited as to her steaming capabilities. 3. Under consideration whether ship could be usefully employed at Beyt as guardship and for protection to oilers. (C. in C. E.I., 0636Z/24 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., D.S.R. Bombay.)

ELISABETHVILLE Your 1047/17 merchant shipping 387 refers to overdue. ELISABETHVILLE not PRINS ALBERT. (C. in C. E.I., 0738Z/24 to S.O.(I) Capetown, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O. Durban.)

B.A. 21. Departure WORCESTERSHIRE escorting B.A. 21. S. of A. 10 knots. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0720Z/24 to Admty.) (3) E.T.A. Aden 0430/1/5. (4) 10 knots. Route, &c. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0828Z/24 to Admty.) Ships. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0830Z/24.)

Movements. VITA arrived. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0909Z/24 to Admty., etc.) Departure ASTER at 1030Z/24. (? N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1118Z/24 to Admty., etc.) Arrival BARODA 0604Z/24 and sailed for Madras. (N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 1401Z/24 to Admty., etc.)

/Japanese ...

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Japanese U/B Guns. Cancel my 0501Z/14 S.A.S.O. Staff on further examination concludes projectile was 5.5 inch. (C.O.I.S. Colombo, 0954Z/24 to Admty., etc.)

U/B. Fisherman reports small S/M in close proximity to Ormara 025° 10' N. 064° 40' E. at 0030Z/19. (C. in C. E.I., 1202Z/24 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Boom Vessels. Admty. 2220/17. Request the decision to transfer these 2 trawlers to Mediterranean be deferred until future requirements on E.I. Station are better known. (C. in C. E.I., 1314Z/24 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med.)

Manza Bay, Net. GUARDIAN. (1) In order to provide temporary defence for proposed anchorage at Manza Bay, propose that GUARDIAN should be sent there to lay an indicator net as soon as possible. This is only means at present available for providing any form of underwater defence. Request that instructions in Admty. 1911/4 may be deferred until work has been completed. (2) I am considering allocation of A/S craft for patrolling this net, if above suggestion is approved, and I propose to use two A/S M/S Trawlers allocated to Persian Gulf (vide my 1709/13 para. 3) for this purpose until they can be relieved by H.D.M.Ls. (3) Not intended to construct base facilities ashore nor a P.W.S.S. (C. in C. E.I., 1340Z/24 to Admty., (R) V.A.3, C. in C. E.F.) Paras. 1 & 2 approved. (Admty., 1112B/26.)

Command of Small Islands. 046184 9940/G 23/4. Your 82609 (M.O.12A) 16/4. Not agreed. Command will be exercised direct but small liaison staff being established at Colombo. (C. in C. India, 1600/24 to W.O.)

Note by M.O.12A. Tel. 73134 26/2 laid down that command of Cocos, Seychelles, Mauritius, Rodriguez and Diego Garcia should be exercised jointly by C. in C. East Indies (through Naval H.Q. shore in Ceylon), C. in C. India (suggested through G.O.C. Ceylon) and A.O.C. in C. India (through A.O.C. Ceylon.) Tel. 82609 16/4 asked whether suggested command through G.O.C. Ceylon was agreed.

Italian Repatriations. Following Italian ships are E.T.L. Port Elizabeth shortly for Berbera to repatriate Italians from East Africa. SATURNIA and VULCANIA - 18 knots. DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE - 16½ knots. (2) Descriptions and route.

/Vessels ...

War Diary.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Italian Repatriations. (Contd.)	Vessels are not to be interfered with by British or Allied Forces. (C. in C. E.I., 1702Z/24 to E.I. Station, 621C Neg. C.B.C.)
Carrier Aircraft.	Details promised in Admty. 2341B/22. (V.C.N.S., 1726B/24 to C. in C. E.F., (R) V.A.3, F.O.C. A/C., E.F.) See Lion Copy.
Mozambique S/M attack.	Reported from Mozambique by Free French ship that she was attacked by S/M p.m./23 approx. 50 miles south of that port. (Dep. C. in C. E.F., 1903Z/24 to REVENGE.)

# MOST SECRET

730A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

1726B/24th April

To:- C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 543 Date. 24.4.42.  
Repeated: V.A.3 Eastern Fleet. 102  
F.O.C. A/C Eastern Fleet. 30.

Naval Cypher D.O.T.T.

From:- Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

1. My 2341/22. Estimate your proposals as follows. Maximum 102 Martlet, 22 Fulmar or Firefly, 48 T.B.R. Minimum 51 Martlet, 14 Hurricane or Seafire, 22 Fulmar or Firefly, 48 T.B.R.

2. All aircraft which can be shipped are being despatched to you and providing wastage is not excessive your proposed I.E. strength of (a) T.B.R. and (b) British type single and two seater fighters can be maintained to end of 1942. They can be maintained after this date providing no further delay in Barracuda and Firefly production is experienced.

3. Martlet II shipments from U.S.A. are as follows - en route 11 - outstanding from March 28 - in ILLUSTRIOUS 12.

4. Martlet IV shipments from U.S.A. April 18, May 18, June 21, July 21, August 21, September 33.

5. No allotment of U.S. production for last quarter of this year but action in hand to try and borrow 200 Martlet from U.S. Navy.

6. Martlet allotments quoted above will maintain your minimum I.E. strength allowing 100% as reserve and wastage 20% per month. No larger I.E. strength can be maintained efficiently. Your maximum figure would absorb each month's supply of aircraft to make good wastage and there would be no reserves to replace Martlets under repair or overhaul.

7. If all Martlet squadrons are to be operationally efficient your 102 Martlet pilots would have to be given flying and fighting practice on the type and we do not consider the aircraft we can ship is sufficient to meet your probable wastage.

8. Further signal will be made regarding our efforts to obtain more Martlet aircraft.

1726B/24

for Sec. to V.C.N.S. (584)

Approved V.C.N.S.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)(2)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M. (12)

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of Air

D.A.M.

D.A.M.R.

D.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10



731

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

## Movements.

St. John's N.F. 23/4. Arrivals VETERAN, MONTGOMERY, NANAIMO, OAKVILLE and HALIFAX ex H.X.186. Departures FIREDRAKE to overtake H.X.186. (F.O.N.F. 0127Z/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. etc.)

## U/B.

D/F places S/M within 100 miles of 45° N 25° W at 0055Z/24. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0631Z/24 to B.W. in Area 7A. Admty. etc.)

O.N.89  
Escort.

C.T.U. No. 24.1.1. in U.S. Destroyer BENSON plus ALBERNI, ACONITT, HEPATICA, COLLINGWOOD, U.S. Ships COURAGE and SURPRISE sailed for O.N.89. U.S. Corvettes do not hold U.S. cryptograph system. (C.T.G. 24.7. 0750B/24 to C.T.F. 24 (R) C.N.O. Admty. etc.)

## Dispositions

Operational Units in North Atlantic.  
Area Scapa. KING GEORGE V. NELSON. WASHINGTON. VICTORIOUS. KENYA. LIVERPOOL, LONDON,

MAURITIUS. TUSCALOOSA. WICHITA. 6 Destroyers. 2 Destroyers (U.S.)

Area Iceland (C). DUKE OF YORK. BERWICK. NIGERIA. NORFOLK. 3 Destroyers.

Londonderry. 2 Destroyers (U.S.)

North Russia. EDINBURGH. 2 Destroyers.

Gibraltar. RENOWN. CHARYBDIS.

Passage to U.K. WASP. CAIRO. 2 Destroyers. 2 Destroyers (U.S.) (D.O.D.(H) 1000Z/24 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Opnav. C. in C. Atlantic.) For amendment see 1100B/26.

Caribbean  
Sugar Ships.

Admiralty 1916/16. My Staff Officer has proceeded San Juan to discuss proposals with Com. Caribbean Sea Frontier after which further signal will be made. Meanwhile I would be glad of any observations which you may care to make. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1142P/24 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad)

## U/B.

Intercept 1151 G.M.T. SSSS 42° 46' N 67° 04' W MOKJ sighted submarine at 1157 G.M.T. de VCS. (Halifax N.S. 1218Z/24 to Admty.)

## U/B.

Intercepted 1015 G.M.T. WGBC 1 de NAA. O. S/M sighted 34° 07' N 67° 38' W at 1059Z X 231200. Controlling Station Arlington Virginia Radio. (Portishead Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1230/24.)

## U/Bs.

Submarines placed by D/F as follows: (A) within 100 miles of 037° N 058° 30' W at 0708Z/24 (B) within 100 miles of 037° N 058° 30' W at 0721Z/24 (C) within 100 miles of 037° N 058° 30' W at 0847Z/24. (N.S.H.Q. 1236Z/24 to B.W. Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

/My...

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U/Bs.  
(Contd.)

My 1236Z/24. Further information indicates only one S/M at position re-estimated within 60 miles 036° 30' N 056° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. 1625Z/24 to B.W. Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

PHOEBE.

Your 1111 of 12/3. Following important alterations and additions incomplete on completion of refit of PHOEBE. (B.A.R.M. 1440Z/24 to Admty.)

U/B.

Sub. sighted 042° 46' N 067° 04' W 1157Z/24. (Opnav 1516/24 to U.S. Ship TEMPTRESS. C.T.U. 24.18.6. (R) C.T.F. 24, C.O.A.C. Admty. etc.) As amended 1845/24.

DERRYHEEN.  
STEELMAKER.

My 1324/20, DERRYHEEN sunk 22/4. My 2327/18. STEELMAKER sunk 22/4. (N.S.H.Q. 1636Z/24 to S.O.I. Freetown, S.O.I. Capetown.)

A.T.15 X.  
A.T.15 Z.

Your 1819/23 to B.A.D. QUEEN MARY will be known as A.T.15 X. QUEEN ELIZABETH as A.T.15 Z. (U.S.C.N.O. 1653/24 to Admty.)

CITNALTA.  
(British)  
overdue.

Sailing vessel CITNALTA from Boston 13 April to Bermuda has not arrived. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1759P/24 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. S.O.I. Jamaica)

Aruba-  
Trinidad  
Convoys.

Your 2339/21 and my 1832/22. We have in mind a convoy between Trinidad and Aruba - Curacao as a 14 day cycle leaving Trinidad as soon as possible after arrival of ships from O.N. southbound and O.S. convoys. Convoy would leave Aruba - Curacao as soon as ships are loaded for Trinidad, whence ships would be sailed independently for Freetown to join S.L. convoys or to Cape.  
2. Above arrangements would entail least delay to tankers and would meet our minimum requirements until full U.S.A. scheme is implemented. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1811B/24 to B.A.D.)

U/B.

S/M within 60 miles 036° N 070° W at 1520Z by D/F. (N.S.H.Q. 1816Z/24 to B.W. Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

Dakar.

Arrivals and departures from 15/4 to 23/4 (B.A.D. 1915Z/24 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Ice  
Bulletin  
24/4.

Part 1. (C.T. 24. 1937/24 to Admty.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

19157/24th April

432A  
III

From: B.A.D. Washington.

Date: 25.4.42

Recd: 0137

RECIRCULATION

NAVAL CYPHER (XD) BY CABLE. BY N.L.D.

Addressed: Admiralty.

456. Dakar 23rd April B.2. 22/4 ROUENNAIS  
CARIMARE, ANDRE MOYRANE, GEOLA FORT DE VAUX, VILLE DU  
HAVRE, Arrived from South. Escort AVISO 23/4 JAMAIQUE,  
FORT ARCHAMBAULT, GARBET, CONGO, AUVERGNE arrived from  
North. Escort AVISO. ST HUBERT sailed for Kaolack.  
Casablanca 16th April. B.2. 14/4 CAUDEBEC sailed for  
Oran. 22nd April.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>DEPARTURES</u>	<u>FOR</u>
17/4	GOSSE	Port Etienne
22/4	JOSEPH ELISE	Marseille
22/4	BOREAL	Marseille
22/4	CAPITAINE ARMAND	Marseille
	<u>ARRIVALS</u>	<u>FROM</u>
18/4	CAPITAINE ARMAND	Port Etienne
18/4	PONTET CANET	Lisbon (Amber)

My METER 1929/18 Lieut De La Tour 4000 tons  
coal. Marseilic 20th April B.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>DEPARTURES</u>	<u>FOR</u>
15/4	STE MARTINE	Philippville
15/4	G G LE PINE	Tunis
16/4	G G LA FERRIERE	Oran
16/4	STE MONIQUE	Nemours
16/4	SENNEVILLE	Sfax.
16/4	BELAIN D, ESNAMBUC	Algiers
16/4	SIDI AISSA	Oran
16/4	LIBERIA	Sfax.
16/4	GENERAL BONAPART	Bastia
16/4	STE ROSELINE	Nemours
17/4	PARAME	-
17/4	AUZON	-
17/4	ST SAUVEUE	Tunis
18/4	RABELAIS	Oran
	<u>ARRIVALS</u>	<u>FROM</u>
16/4	DJEBEL DIRA	Bone
16/4	CHATEAU LA ROSE	Tunis
16/4	G G LREVV	Algiers
17/4	DJEBEL NADOR	Algiers
16/4	VILLE D AJACCIO	Bonifacio
18/4	STE CLEMENTE	Sfax.
18/4	HOGGAR	Dakar.
18/4	G G DE GUEYDON	Oran
18/4	S F LUOLLE	Tunis
19/4	CAP CORSE	Bastia.

-2-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>ARRIVALS.</u>	<u>FROM</u>
19/4	G G TIRMAN	Algiers
19/4	CASTILLO BUTRONS	Valencia
19/4	G G JONNART	Tunis
19/4	ST ETIENNE	Bougie.

1915Z/24

Comment by N.I.D.

The ships which arrived Dakar from the South (except ANDRE MOYRAND) are those which left Dakar 9th March for the south and were suspected of proceeding to Madagascar.

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(F)  
 A.C.N.S.(T)  
 Nav. Sec.  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.N.I.(4)  
 O.I.C.(3)  
 O.D.(5)  
 W.D.  
 D.T.D.(2)  
 D.T.D.(M)  
 D.T.D.(C)  
 D.E.W.D.(3)  
 M.(2)  
 D. of P.(3)  
 D.S.D.9.  
 VMB. Admiral Chalmers.

733

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

KIRSTEN B. Have you any news of Norwegian KIRSTEN B. due Guantanamo 10/4 from New York? (D.T.D. 1958B/24 to B.C. Havana (R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

U/B. D/F indicates S/M at 1718Z within 100 miles 036° 30' N 058° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. 2002Z/24 to B.W. Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

French Fighters at Kotonu. J.S.M. 196. U.S. ferry pilot has reported presence of what appears to be group of 22 French fighters at Kotonu in Dahomey. U.S. Army Air Corps disturbed by this potential threat to trans-Africa ferry route. Anxiety has been increased by notification given by British to Dawson, U.S. Liaison Officer at Takoradi, that aircraft flown over Dahomey are liable to be fired on by the French.

2. Please signal urgently:- (i) Whether you have any confirmation of above report.  
(ii) Your appreciation on this reinforcement of Dahomey.  
(iii) Any action proposed to counter threat or to deal with situation should attack on ferry route be made.  
(J.S.M. Washington 2009Z/24 to C.O.S. London.) Reply C.O.S.(W) 162, 1040Z/26.)

J.S.M. 197. Personal from Field Marshal Dill. Ref. our J.S.M. 196. Important that we should be kept informed as there is tendency here to suggest precipitate offensive air action without full consideration of possible consequences, using aircraft from Ranger destined for India. (J.S.M. Washington T.O.O. 2013Z/24 to C.O.S.)

U/B attacks on shipping. Sub attack summary. ESSO BOSTON 21° 45' N 60° W 1 torpedo 20 to 25 rounds. U.88 type or possibly Italian. TIGER 36° 50' N 75° 49' W 1 torpedo. Sub not seen. REINHOLT arrived port 39° 10' N 72° W. 60 to 80 rounds. 14 rounds defensive fire. No sub description. ROBIN HOOD 38° 45' N 66° 46' W 2140Z/15 3 torpedoes and shell fire from 2 subs, no sub description. KOLLSKEGG 35° 01' N 68° 49' W 1850Z/6, 1 torpedo. 35° 20' N 70° 03' W 0000Z/7. 1 torpedo, no sub description. STEELMAKER 33° 52' N 70° 36' W, 1 torpedo, no sub description, sub sighting summary. U.S.S. ROGER ONE made torpedo hit on westbound enemy sub on surface, 36° 50' N 60° 52' W 1330Z/16. no detonation heard, sub disappeared. COTATI sighted and fired on sub 43° 19' N 58° 46' W 1729Z/20. TROPIC STAR sighted sub and was missed by torpedo 40° 50' N 68° 42' W 1223Z/24. Plane attacked periscope 41° 20' N 66° 52' W 1158Z/24. Plane attacked sub on surface 41° 40' N 68° 30' W 1602Z/24. Opnav and B.A.D. informed. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2017Z/24 to Admty.)

U/Bs. attacks on M/Vs. Opnav serial 24. ROBIN HOOD U.S. torpedoed and sunk at 2140/15 position 38° 45' N 66° 46' W. Torpedoed by two S/Ms, 26 survivors including Master. Confidentials destroyed. DESERT LIGHT Panamanian torpedoed 35° 35' N 72° 48' W 1203/16.

734

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/Bs. 30 survivors picked up off Hatteras. No S.O.S. sent. 1 killed. Vessel considered sunk.  
Attacks TROPIC STAR Norwegian with 23 survivors of  
on M/Vs. PIPESTONE COUNTY on board torpedoed at 40° 50' N  
(Contd.) 68° 42' W on 24/4. (Opnav 2035/24 to Admty.  
Spenavo London. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U.S. S/M My 1002/24. U.S. S/M R.5 patrol position amended  
Patrol. as follows. 200 miles N of Bermuda until 0001Z  
28/4, then proceeding 300 miles N of Bermuda  
until 30/4.

U.S. S/M R.9 patrolling in 035° N 062° W until 0001Z 28/4, then  
proceeding to 300 miles (? 40° - 322° ) from Bermuda.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2212B/24 to PARTHIAN.)

N.A.8. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail convoy  
A.T.15. N.A.8 carrying R.A.F. and Military personnel on  
AVENGER. 3/5 in company with convoy A.T.15.  
S.D.27. 2. Convoy N.A.8 comprises S.S. BAFORY, LETITIA  
and ORCADES destination Clyde, ANDES destination  
Liverpool.

3. Convoy A.T.15 carrying U.S. personnel and stores will  
comprise (a) S.S. AQUITANIA, destination Clyde.  
(b) S.S. CATHAY and U.S. Troopships SANTA ROSA, MEXICO, CRISTOBAL  
and U.S. Store Ships SEA TRAIN TEXAS, JAVA and TANIMBAR,  
destination Belfast.  
(c) U.S. Troopships MACANDREW, SANTA ELENA and U.S. Store Ship  
MIZAU destination Iceland (C).

4. AVENGER will sail with A.T.15 from New York to Clyde.  
5. Escort will be provided for both U.K. and Iceland (C) portions  
of convoy by U.S. in accordance with Cinclant's 0023/22.  
6. Route will be promulgated by Opnav.  
7. After disembarkation in Iceland (C) troopships mentioned in  
Para 3 (c) will embark British troops and proceed to U.K. in  
S.D.27 sailing approx. 17/5. (D.O.D.(H) 2248B/24 to C.O.A.C.  
(R) Various.)

U.S. Navy Dept. considering a few convoys for tankers  
Interim only in Eastern Coast (?Frontier) Water,  
Coastal including Florida Strait, escort likely to be  
Tanker light. Intention is to divert to nearest port  
Convoys. if threatened. Interim arrangement, preliminary  
to regular Coastal convoy. We shall probably be  
asked whether we wish British-controlled tankers  
included, U.S. authorities would expect complete control and  
could not guarantee to accept any definite number or regularity  
of sailing. (B.A.D. 2341Z/24 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 1307B/25  
See also B.A.D. 0019Z/26.

U/BS. Intercept 2029 G.M.T. Arlington Radio. WGBC 1 O  
sub sighted 27° 24' N 80° 23' W at 0236 G.M.T/24  
X 0258/24. WGBC 1, urgent, sub sighted 41° 40' N  
68° 30' W at 1602Z X 1710/24. Controlling Station  
Arlington Virginia Radio. (Portishead Radio  
No T.O.O. Recd. 0048/25.)

War Diary.24.4.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. TOWNSVILLE arrived Thursday Is. 0230Z/23.  
STUART Melbourne 0220Z/23. R.A.A.F. store ship  
WANAKA arrived Port Moresby 2130Z/22. My 2357Z/23  
delete U.S.S. HERON. (A.C.N.B. 2024Z/24 to Admty.)  
BUNGAREE left Townsville 0931Z/22 for Sydney. DELORAINIE  
escorting YARRA and MATABELE passage from Thursday Island  
0230Z/23. (A.C.N.B. 1011Z/24 to Admty.)

Troop transport. QUEEN ELIZABETH left, arrived Fremantle 2300Z/23  
ROCKHAMPTON arrived Brisbane 2310Z/23.  
(A.C.N.B. 1226Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

Situation. Serial No. 93 from C.W.R. 23/4. Japanese strength  
at Atamboea (Timor) estimated 2,000 troops and at  
Vila Celestino (22 miles W of Dilli) 500.  
No A/C Atamboea aerodrome, average number at  
Dilli 10 (grade B.1.)  
(ii) 7 miles aerodrome, Port Moresby, attacked 0001Z/23 by 8  
possibly Mitsubishi T 99 navy heavy bombers and 7 Zero fighters.  
Our A/C failed to intercept. 8 bombs fell on runways. 3  
fighters attacked new runway near 7 miles aerodrome at 0123Z/23  
no damage reported.  
(iii) Enemy air R/C 23/4 over area N and N.E. of Port Moresby.  
(iv) A/C on photo. r/c 23/4 reported (a) S/M on surface 9 miles  
S.E. of Cape Gazelle. Freighter (2500 tons) at anchor near  
Duke of York Island. A/A fire from Ulu Island (Duke of York  
group). (b) 3 transports (about 5,000 tons) covered by an A/C  
on patrol in Ataliklikun Bay (Gazelle Peninsula) (c) No activity  
Watom Island.  
(v) 2 Allied A/C attacked 3 transports in Talili Bay (Gazelle  
Peninsula) at 0110Z/23 no damage. 3 A/C attacked wharf  
installations at Rabaul at 0140Z/23. Incendiaries fell on  
wharves, transports, and buildings. Several fires observed  
including one on a ship. 8 transports sighted. 1 enemy fighter  
attacked and was damaged. Heavy machine gun fire from ships  
and shore. No. A/A fire.  
(vi) Allied A/C fired on by vessel possibly S/M sighted in  
008° 23' S 146° 10' E 23/4.  
(vii) Reported 2 officers of enemy high command arrived Salamoia  
19/4 in flying boat inspected defence works and returned to N.E.  
on same day.  
(viii) Ref. serial No. 91, para 4 air R/C 23/4 sighted 2 objects  
possibly ships off Enang Island.  
(ix) Unidentified Japanese naval unit was in Nauru area 20/4.  
(x) Indication that third Sqdn. was at Jaluit 22/4.  
(xi) AKIKAZE arrived Koepang area 20/4. (A.C.N.B. 1241Z/24 to  
Admty.)

Nandi Fleet Anchorage. After surveying, Combaskso Nandi is considered  
entirely suitable as a fleet anchorage from  
navigational requirements. (2) Admty. Chart  
845 has proved remarkably accurate for this area.  
Soundings generally slightly less than charted  
but in no case sufficient to endanger navigation.  
(3) Holding ground in anchorage is good.  
(4) Chart scale one/25,000 is being prepared. Details of

/navigational...

War Diary.

24.4.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Nandi  
Fleet  
Anchorage.  
(Contd.)

navigational danger and underwater defence  
outside approach channel and anchorage, tide,  
buoy and meteorological conditions are held by  
N.O.I.C. Fiji. (N.Z.N.B. 2136Z/24 to C. in C.  
Pacific Fleet (R) B.A.D. A.C.N.B. Cdr. Anzac  
Force, Admty. for Hydrog., N.O.I.C. Fiji.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions. (D.D.I.C. 1436B/24,  
1439B/24.)



War Diary.

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TRIDENT on return from a 9 days patrol in Fro Havet area reports that she sunk a\*6000 ton laden motor vessel on 20/4 and missed a ship on 18/4. 100,000 tons of shipping were sighted off the foreshore during her patrol, the objective of which, until 1800/17 was cruisers and above. \*HOEDUR. (Torpedo Attack Register)

TIRPITZ, SCHEER, and PRINZ EUGEN were in their usual positions at Trondheim at 1600 today, and a large warship almost certainly HIPPER was also seen at that time turning slowly in Aasfiord.

Rear-Admiral P. Macnamara will assume the duties of A.S. Orkney on 1st May when his flag will be hoisted on shore at Lyness and that of A.C.O.S. transferred to IRON DUKE.

The S/MS P.551, UREDD, and MINERVE left Lerwick today for their positions on the newly constituted S/M Patrol off N.W. Norway.

U.S. Task Force 39 has been renumbered 99.

British Air Activity.

The Russian D.C.N.S. informed Ad. Miles today that the A/A defences at Archangel have now been strengthened and a regiment of Fighter A/C sent there; and, although no more Russian Bombers have yet been made available for convoy protection, Ad. Miles was assured that both Fighters and Bombers for this purpose will be sent shortly.

Bomber Command aircraft today attacked Cherbourg, Dunkirk and Le Havre. Another heavy attack was made on targets at Rostock last night, and 74 tons of H.E. were dropped on the docks at Dunkirk.

War Diary.

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

5 M.E. A/C attacked Yarmouth, Isle of Wight at 0710 this morning, damaging the cable ship MONDARA which had later to be beached and slightly damaging the Gate Vessel CHERWELL. 1 rating was killed in MONDARA and 2 injured.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the South West Coast.

→ NORTH ATLANTIC.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Heavy air attacks recommenced at 0437 today and were spread over many areas. UXBs were dropped in the Grand Harbour, but caused no damage, but some military quarters on the island were seriously damaged. Deliberate heavy attacks were made at 0730, 1300 and 1815 on hospitals well marked by Red Cross, and severe damage and casualties were caused. In all, the enemy employed 259 bombers.

A/A are now restricted to 15 rounds per gun per day, except 3 inch (20 rounds), in order to conserve stocks.

→ OLYMPUS left Gibraltar today for Malta, carrying oil, stores and ammunition. *See p. 748.*

East Indies.

F.A.A.  
Aircraft.

10 Fulmars and 2 other aircraft left Colombo at 0101 G.M.T. for FORMIDABLE, and 5 Albacores left Colombo at 0106Z G.M.T. for INDOMITABLE.

/Diego...

War Diary.

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Diego  
Garcia.

Communication was reported re-established with Diego Garcia at 0247 today. A Catalina is to investigate the cause of the breakdown.

Malacca  
Patrol.

The intention to abandon the Malacca Patrol (see 18/4) has been reversed.

America and West Indies.

U-Boat  
attacks.

Jamaica reports the arrival of the crew of Canadian S.S. VINELAND, torpedoed by German U/B at 1425/20 in 23.05 N 72.20 W. Two torpedoes missed U.S.S. RAVEN in 33.31 N 76.57 N at 1025Z today. S.S. MODESTA was sunk this morning about 110 miles N.E. of Bermuda.

North  
Atlantic  
Shipping.

The area which was ordered on 23/4 to be cleared on account of the U-Boat situation was today altered to between lat. 32° and 38° N and long. 66° and 72° W.

Australia

At 0448Z today 24 heavy bombers escorted by 9 heaviest fighters raided Darwin, causing some damage to essential services. The enemy lost at least 8 bombers and 3 fighters. Four Allied aircraft were slightly damaged.

The Solomon Islands were raided at 0050Z today, and some damage was caused on Gavutu Island. An attack on Lae aerodrome at 2130Z today caused damage to enemy aircraft.

There were two enemy air attacks on Port Moresby today, at 2155Z and 2350Z respectively. In the latter raid, by heavy bombers escorted by fighters several of our aircraft were destroyed and damaged on Kila Kila Aerodrome.

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Titles As from 1st May the title "Rear Admiral Scapa"  
 R.A. Scapa will lapse and the title "Admiral Superintendent  
 and AS. Lyness Lyness" will be changed to "Admiral Superintendent  
 to lapse. Orkney".  
 Flag of 2. R.A. P Macnamara, C.B., C.B.E. will assume  
 AS. Orkney the latter duties.  
 to be 3. Capt. G.B. Amery-Parkes will assume the  
 hoisted at duties of Maintenance Captain, Orkney and  
 Lyness on Shetlands Command.  
 1/5. 4. All ships and Naval establishments previously  
 under the administration of R.A. Scapa will be  
 administered and operated by A.C.O.S. with the  
 exception that A.S. Orkney will operate following establishment:-  
 Boom Defence, R.M.A.B., R.M.E., and Base Engineer Officer,  
 Lyness.  
 5. A.C.O.S. is to be substituted for R.A. Scapa in all letters  
 and signals formerly addressed R.A. Scapa, similarly A.S.  
 Orkney is to be substituted for A.S. Lyness.  
 6. My flag is to be transferred to IRON DUKE at colours on  
 1/5 and flag of A.S. Orkney is to be transferred and hoisted  
 on shore at Lyness at the same time.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1231B/25)

SUSSEX Your 1812/24. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Essential that completion date  
 SUSSEX be kept.  
 This ship should have priority after J.1669 and  
 Destroyer and Corvette repairs regarding supply of necessary  
 fitters and transfers should be arranged accordingly.  
 (Controller, 1455B/25 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

CARADOC. A.M. 1616B/23 para. 2. In view of later  
 sailing from Plymouth than was anticipated by  
 what date do you consider CARADOC will be fully  
 worked up and ready to leave U.K.  
 (D.O.D. (H.), 1501B/25 to CARADOC).

WELLS. Your 1327B/22. Request instructions for WELLS.  
 (A.C.I.C., 1718B/25 to C. in C. Rosyth).

INTREPID. Anticipate INTREPID will be ready for sea on  
 approx. 30/4. Request instructions as to where  
 she is to be sailed.  
 (N.O.I.C. Humber, 1833B/25 to R.A.D., H.F.)

Iceland. Your 1145/23. Description of naval base as "base  
 in Hvalfiord - Reykjavik area" is correct.  
 Instructions to F.O.I.C. Iceland in your 1146/23  
 are being communicated to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.  
 (B.A.D., Washington, 2255Z/25 to Admty).

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

ALBRIGHTON Suspected minelaying. Keep five miles north of  
050° 23' N., 003° 09' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0114B/25 to ALBRIGHTON)  
A.M.1740/24. ALBRIGHTON is to return direct to Portsmouth after  
making R/V at "V".  
C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide route.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1159B/25 to C. in C. Plymouth).

ULSTER QUEEN, C. in C. W.A. 0441B/24 and F.O.I.C. Belfast's  
BOADICEA, 0947B/24. Sailed BOADICEA.  
BADSWORTH. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0207B/25).  
My 0947B/24. Sailed ULSTER QUEEN.  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0221B/25).  
Sailed BADSWORTH.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0602B/25).

PRINCE ALBERT, Arrived and departed for Portsmouth PRINCE  
FERNIE. ALBERT and FERNIE.  
(V.A. Dover, 0335B/25).

LEDA, E.T.A. with LEDA, SEAGULL 1600Z.  
SEAGULL. (S.O. M/S 1., 0631Z/25 to A.C.I.C.)

ORION. Sailed 0845 ORION. E.T.A. Greenock 0830/26.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0928B/25).

R.A.F. Your 1335/22. Delayed a further 24 hours owing  
Floating to weather.  
Dock. (N.O.I.C. Leith, 1040/25 to C. in C. Rosyth).

GRAPH. Your 1947/24. Intend route for GRAPH to be (a)  
180° Lizard Head 5 miles (b) 160° Lizard Head 20  
miles (c) 180° Start Point 20 miles.  
2. To R/V escort in 180° Portland Bill 5 miles at 0630/27 for  
passage to Portsmouth to await C.E. Convoy. C. in C. Portsmouth  
is requested to detail escort.  
(Capt. S.5., 1103B/25 to Capt. S.3).  
Sailed GRAPH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with  
Capt. (S)3 1947B/24.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1745B/25).

CHESTERFIELD Request you will sail CHESTERFIELD to Glasgow  
when ready.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1146B/25 to Comdre. Londonderry)

FARNDALE. Your 1934B/15 (?1943B/15). Request the probable  
date of ship's arrival at Chatham may be communi-  
cated.  
(A.S. Chatham, 1244/25 to Admty).

742

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

NIGERIA. Arrival F.O.C. 10 C.S. in NIGERIA 1030. (Hualfin.)  
(A.C.I.C., 1348B/25).

ANSON. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide 3  
destroyers and C. in C. H.F. one destroyer to  
escort ANSON from Tyne to Rosyth on 3/5 as arrang-  
ed by C. in C. Rosyth.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1939B/25)

Operations.

N.W. Norway P.551 left Lerwick 0700B/25 unescorted proceeding  
S/M Patrol. on surface at C.O. discretion routed 090° Out  
Skerries thence direct to patrol in zone K.24.  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 0711B/25).

UREDDED sailed from Lerwick 1200B/25 unescorted proceeding on the  
surface at C.O.'s discretion routed 090° Out Skerries 5 miles,  
thence direct to patrol in zone K.22.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1205B/25).

1. My 1605B/20 para 1. Amend to read a line joining 068° 10' N.  
002° E., and 072° 28' N., 016° 50' E. This area will be sub  
divided into 15 patrol zones each 25 miles long numbers from  
south to north K.20 to K.34 inclusive.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1304B/25 to H.F. Ops).

MINERVE from Lerwick to patrol 1705B/25 proceeding on surface  
at discretion of C.O. and unescorted routed 090° Out Skerries 5  
miles thence patrolling in Zone K.20.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1703B/25).

MINERVE sailed for patrol.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1705B/25).

M/V sunk by TRIDENT reports sank 6,000 tons laden M/V steering  
TRIDENT 050° in 64° 37' N., 10° 46' E., at 1200/20.  
on 20/4. (F.O.S., 1641B/25).  
HOEDUR.  
(Torp. Attack Register)

Operation My 1857B/23. Postponed 24 hours.  
K.C.1. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1647B/25 to S.O. 11 M.T.B.  
Flotilla).

Rescue of 500 loyal Norwegian school teachers have been  
Norwegian arrested by the Germans and are being transported  
Teachers. to a concentration camp in the Far North in  
SKJERSTAD. SS. SKJERSTAD, under conditions of great brutality.  
2. SKJERSTAD sailed Trondheim on 14/4 and is  
reported to have left Tromso p.m. 23rd bound for

Kirkenes. It is estimated that she will be between North Cape  
and Kirkenes tomorrow.  
3. The Norwegian Govt. are most anxious that these people should  
be rescued.  
4. Request you will consider the possibility of intercepting  
SKJERSTAD on passage and effecting the rescue of the school  
teachers.  
5. SKJERSTAD is a small coaster of about 800 tons. Description.  
(V.C.N.S., 1834B/25 to C. in C. H.F.)  
A.M. 1834B/25. Do not consider coastal operation by cruiser or  
destroyers advisable. Could Russian submarines or M.Ls. effect  
capture and rescue after air R/C.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2217B/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Air  
Protection  
of North  
Russian  
Convoys.

Please refer my memorandum Oct. 30th 1941 on protecting of White Sea convoys and report (a) from what aerodrome fighters will be sent (b) how many are available at each aerodrome (c) what is their range. If you cannot obtain replies they may at least think it over. A.L. M.017935/41 refers.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1017B/25 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

My 1324C/14 para. 3. D.C.N.S. told me today that so far they have not managed to get any more bombers from Army but that they were still fighting for them. 2nd para. on the other hand Red Army had strengthened A/A defences at Archangel and sent regiment of fighters there. They had also promised to send more of both shortly.  
(Ad. Miles, 1753C/24 to Admty).

A/C from  
WASP.

Your 1643B/23. WASP intends to fly off 812 squadron to Machrihanish at 1630Z/25 in 055° 07' N., 010° 46' W. E.T.A.1930Z.  
(Capt. D.3., 1122B/25).

My 1122B/25. 9 Swordfish 812 Squadron Airborne at 1630Z.  
(Capt. D.3., 1830B/25).

Vichy A/C  
Markings.

The following details of markings of Vichy French service aircraft supersede those promulgated in Admty. General Mge. 1330A/15/2/42. Details.  
(N.I.D., 1618B/25. A Message 572A).

Enemy Air Activity.Yarmouth  
I. of W.  
bombed.  
MONDARA  
(British,  
359 tons)  
damaged.  
CHERWELL  
damaged.

5 Me's attacked Yarmouth I. of W. at 0710 this morning. Bombs dropped near Cable ship MONDARA and gate vessel CHERWELL. MONDARA damaged by near miss. Superficial damage to CHERWELL only. MONDARA has been beached 2 cables E. of Yarmouth Pier. Engine room and cable room flooded. Casualties 1 K. 2 W. CHERWELL no casualties.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1047B/25).

LLANSTEPHAN  
CASTLE.

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE was probably reported by Enemy A/C about 2000B/25. Expect Blenheim Air Escort from Dawn tomorrow.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2241B/25 to VELOX).

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Mines off  
Malin  
Head.

C.T.U. 24.1.1 reports Floating Mine sighted and sunk by BENSON 1300Z/24 in 55° 40' N., 07° 42' W. Floating Mine reported by convoy ship 55° 34' N., 09° 05' W., at 1750Z/24 not sunk and believed still afloat.  
(C.T.G. 24.7., 0010B/25).

Enemy Intelligence.Straits of  
Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/24 to 0900/25. Nil.  
(V.A. Dover, 0918B/25).

Kiel.  
SCHARNHORST,  
NÜRNBERG.

P.R.U. Sortie at 1030/25 shows SCHARNHORST still present in Southern Floating Dock. Since 16/4 NÜRNBERG left dry dock number six and now berthed at entrance to inner dockyard basin and camouflage netting erected between vessel and quayside. No other major Naval units present in port and drydock five unoccupied.  
(P.R.U., Benson, 1440/25)

Fro Havet  
Area.  
TRIDENT  
report.

TRIDENT reports as result of nine days patrolling in Fro Havet Area.  
Missed 3000 tons ship steering 210° in 064° 31' N. 010° 34' E., at 1400/18.  
100,000 tons of shipping was sighted off Foreshore during patrol. Object of Patrol was cruiser and above until 1800/17.  
(F.O.S., 1641B/25).

TIRPITZ,  
SCHEER,  
PRINZ EUGEN,  
HIPPER.

Photographs taken at 1600/25 show:-  
Aasfiord. TIRPITZ in usual position with boom closed and a turret still swung to starboard. Camouflage rafts remain moored to boom and shore. ALTMARK tanker still anchored off Salto Island and two large tankers anchored at approx. 63° 33'

30" N. 10° 45' E. Prinz  
Lofjord. SCHEER, EUGEN. The cargo liner and possibly the U-boat present as on 24/4 with auxiliary 200 ft. new arrival mid-fiord. Usual position of HIPPER obscured by cloud but large naval vessel almost certainly the HIPPER seen on distant obliques turning slowly in Aasfiord in 63° 33' 20" N., 10° 48' E.  
(P.R.U., Wick, 2205/25).

SEIDLITZ,  
KÖLN.

P.R.U. Sortie at 1615/25 shows:-  
Bremen. SEIDLITZ vacated her berth in Wefthafen for first time since July 1940 and now in floating dock five. One active U-boat departed port since 18/4 leaving only one now present, but 10 compared with 9 U-boats fitting out. Two E/R boats new arrivals but other minor naval units unchanged with 5 destroyers, one T/B, one M class M/S, one escort vessel. Some increase merchant shipping tonnage with arrival six M/Vs 200/340 ft. and departures include collier 425 feet.



War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

SEIDLITZ, Wilhelmshaven. Cruiser KOLN still present in  
KÖLN. dry dock No. 5. Since 18/4 one old type M  
class M/S departed, while one F class escort ves-  
sel and four E/R boats arrived, making total  
of seven E/R boats now present. Two obsolete cruisers and  
ZAHRINGEN target vessel still present but one cruiser changed  
berth. Outstanding increase in number of T.L.Cs. from 8 to 21  
now present. Merchant shipping activity slight, two M/Vs 250/  
300 feet having departed and one M/V 250/300 feet arrived.  
(P.R.U. Benson, 2308/25).

U-boats.

U-boats Icelandic fishermen report seeing S/M in 066°  
reported. 22' N., 023° 10' W., at 1400B/24. Grade B.2.  
(A.C.I.C., 0022B/25).  
(1) Report of possible S/M in 056° 38' N., 009°  
W., at 1235B/25. Arrange to sweep through this area.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1421B/25 to ULSTER QUEEN).  
Contact by SV position 56° 20' N., 8° 6' W. Shall I continue  
search in this area or turn to previous position.  
(A/C 1554/25 to H.Q. 15 Group)

U-boat Am over enemy S/M in 47°20'N., 20° 20' W. When  
attacked. first observed S/M was on surface and then  
observed to submerge. Have attacked with depth  
charges, estimate one hit.  
(H.Q.C.C., 15 Group 1040/25)  
(C. in C. W.A., 1110B/25 to Escorts S.L.106).  
Enemy course and speed are 270° 6 knots.  
(H.Q.15 Group, 1205/25).

Navigational.

Wreckage off Heavy wreckage reported in 054° 41' N., 000° 50'  
Sunderland. W., at 1100/25.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1740B/25).

54 C Buoy. 54 C. buoy reported extinguished.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1927B/25).

Casualties & Defects.

PAYNTER, Arrived PAYNTER, BLACKFLY.  
BLACKFLY. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0920/25).

HALCYON, Request information urgency of repairs to  
FIDRA. HALCYON. Shaft now arrived. Vessel due to  
dock 27/4. Time required ten to fourteen days.  
FIDRA refloated after being ashore requires  
temporary repairs before proceeding south for permanent  
repairs.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1159/25 to R.A.D.)

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

Task Force 99. Designation former Task Force 39 hereby changed to Task Force 99.  
(Cdre. U.S.N. Forces, 0731/25 to C. in C. A.F.)

P.Q.15 Fuelling. (Force Q). P.Q.15. Arrangements for fuelling at sea are to be as follows.  
2. GRAY RANGER and LEDBURY are to form force "Q".  
3. Force Q has been sailed for Seidisfiord and is to join P.Q.15 with Seidisfiord portion of escort as ordered by C.S.10.  
4. Initial object for force Q is to refuel ships of close escort of P.Q.15.  
5. C.S.10 is requested to arrange force Q is detached as early as practicable and in any case, before crossing longitude 005° East.  
6. When detached force Q is to proceed to position Y 068° 25' N. 005° 14' W., and is to cruise in the vicinity passing through position Y at 0700B, 1300B, and 1900B on each day.  
(7) Failing further orders force Q is to leave position Y at 1900B/4 and proceed Scapa. If fuelling at sea has not been practicable Force Q is to proceed Seidisfiord when endurance of escort necessitates.  
(8) If force Q is shadowed by enemy A/C position Y is to be altered and report made.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1027B/25).  
It is at your discretion to detach Archangel Section as proposed in S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1602/22.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1029B/25 to C.S.10).  
SOMALI with MATCHLESS proceed passing Switha 1000B tomorrow. On completion of H.A. firing proceed to Seidisfiord routed west of mine barrier. On arrival complete with fuel and proceed as necessary to join P.Q.15 as ordered by A.C.I.C.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1815B/25 to SOMALI, MATCHLESS.  
My 1027/25. Oiler has been supplied in accordance with A.F.O.  
"S" One para. 17.  
(2) Recoding table for D.Gs. not carried, but group for "Following is an unrecoded B.D." is understood.  
(3) Oiler reads G.A. routine and normal commercial one-operator watch.  
(4) Escorting destroyer is to maintain W/T watch on broadcast H.D. and on Fleet Wave for the half hour before 0700B, 1300B, 1900B and be prepared to transmit on lower power to enable ship to obtain D/F bearings.  
(5) LEDBURY pass to GRAY RANGER.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2357B/25 to H.F.)

S.L.106

*Liberator*

LIBERATOR attacked U-boat on surface in 47° 20' N., 20° 20' W., at 1040B/25. Estimated one hit. S.L.106 slow recommended to continue on route ordered.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1110B/25 to Escorts S.L.106).  
My 1100B/25. A/C reports that S/M on surface was steering course 270° 6 knots when sighted.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1305B/25 to Escorts S.L.106 Fast and Slow).

/Convoy...

War Diary.

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- Convoy. Many congratulations on bringing home safely all the ships in your convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1114B/25 to Master of MOVERIA)
- Convoy S.L.105. Many congratulations on bringing home safely all the ships in your convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1116B/25 to Vice Admiral B.W.M. Fairbairn).
- S.L.107 S.L.107. Request one escort be detached to proceed Ponta Delgada and escort 4 ships to join convoy. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange R/V for escort to contact ships.  
(D.T.D., 1143B/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Stornoway Fish Carriers. My 1321A/20/12 and your 0939/22/12. Ministry of Food request these facilities for passage of Sound of Sleat by Stornoway Fish Carriers to and from Mallaig be continued for summer herring season 1st May to end September.  
Do you concur.  
(D.T.D., 1242B/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Lochalsh).
- Slow Atlantic Convoy Escorts. Your 1337/24 and D.O.A.C. Halifax 1823/17. It is particularly requested that in view of the long period which mid-ocean escort of slow convoys spend at sea they should not be called on to join or to remain with these convoys west of 050° W., which was the agreed limit for Westomp.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1346Z/25 to C.T.F. 24).
- LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, ALBRIGHTON, VELOX. Sailed ALBRIGHTON, VELOX to R/V LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, thence as in F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1034B/23.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1715B/25).
- Convoy Many congratulations on bringing home safely all the ships in your convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1741B/25 to Ad. Sir H.J. Studholme Brownrigg).
- P.Q.&Q.P. Convoys. In view of Admiralty's 1604B/11 cancel my 1222A/3. P.Q. Convoys commence and Q.P. convoys terminate at Reykjavik. Ships will sail between U.K. and Iceland (C) in U.R. and R.U. convoys.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1803B/25).

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passings 24/4. French Westward OUERGHA, PARAME, FAUZON full OUED TIFLET, FOMALHAUT deck cargoes, SIMON DUHAMEL.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 0855/25).

Movements. Arrival 0845 ALOUETTE escorting ARDEOLA, EMPIRE CAMERON, EMPIRE IMALA. ALOUETTE left 0900 to resume 11 (one) patrol.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0957A/25).  
Arrival CLYDE.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1028B/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc.) *See next page.*

Fighter Protection for Force H. A.F.O. 2647/40 part IV Admty's 0130/4/3. Hurricanes L 2039 and Z 4937 Merlin III 31305/174584 and 22775/166545 respectively from A.R.Pool to I.E. 813 Squadron.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1004A/25 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS. V.A.Malta 1932/24. Intend sailing OLYMPUS p.m./25 for Malta crossing 9° E. in 38° 0' at 0500B/30. S. of A. 12.5 miles per day diving. V.A.Malta is requested to signal onward route.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1206B/25). Personnel and stores carried.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1806B/25).  
OLYMPUS passed L 36° 0' 5° 0' West at 2200B/25 thence on the surface at 10½ knots until dawn 27th through M. 36° 11' 1° 24' W., N. 37° 48' 1° 0' E., thence diving by day to O. 38° 0' 9° 0' E. at 0500B/30.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1208B/25 to CLYDE, O.R.P. ST. RUE, TAKU, P.42).  
My 1206B/25. Sailed OLYMPUS.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2002B/25 to C. in C. Med.)

? There is no H.M. Ship in this area.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1248A/25 to A.I.G.65).

TARANA. TARANA searching for Dogfish in the vicinity 036° 17' 3° 32' W.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1310B/25 to CLYDE (R) OLYMPUS).

S.S. SAN SEBASTIAN. Ref. A.M. 1954B/24 vessel seized.  
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 1505/25).

EUGENIO C. Completion of loading delayed till 28/4.  
(B.C. Bilbao, 1555/25 to Admty.)

/CLYDE ...

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - contd.

- CLYDE. 2 corvettes sail for A/S sweep along coast N. at 2100 B 25th returning to Gibraltar at 0930B/26. CLYDE is to cross 5° W. at 0830B/26. (F.O.C.N.A., 1706B/25 to CLYDE (R) OLYMPUS).  
*and: Gibe - See previous page.*
- LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Departure WRESTLER to R/V LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE position (V) at 0800A/28. (F.O.C.N.A., 1812A/25).
- ARCOLA, TAIGETE. Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE estimated P.C. and S. 030° 05' N. 028° 15' W. 248° 10 knots at 1200 G.M.T. 25th. Ships are painted black with white disc on funnels. Italian flag on side illuminated at night. They are not to be molested if on their route. (F.O.C.N.A., 1835A/25 to S. and A. N.A. Station, West of 020° W.)
- S.L.107. Detach one escort to proceed Ponta Delgada and escort S.S. CHESAPEAKE, BOLTON CASTLE, VOLTURNO and NOIDSJELL to join convoy. Escort is to report to F.O.C.N.A. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 24 hours before arrival F.O.C.N.A. has been requested to arrange R/V for escort to contact ships. (C. in C. W.A., 2153B/25 to Escort of S.L.107).
- WIVERN. Sailed 1930 for Bathurst (route). S. of A. 16 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 2156A/25).

South Atlantic.

- German Unit. Following information from source of unknown reliability. An unidentified German Unit on course North contacted German Embassy Buenos Aires early morning 24/4 from 38° 18' S., 39° 07' W. (A.C.U.S.Fleet, 0645/25 to C.T.F.23, Admty., C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. U.S.Fleet).
- MALAYA. S.O.(I) Capetown's 1125/24 and my 1701/24 passed to you for information. (C. in C. S.A., 1026B/25 to MALAYA (R) Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - contd.

QUERCY,  
L'ESPOIR,  
VENGEUR.

B.A.D. Washington 1641/23. If these vessels now arrived Dakar 21/4 it is just possible that they were those sighted by Pan Air Plane reported in C. in C. U.S.Fleets' 1915/23.  
(R.A.West Africa, 1105Z/25 to Admty., C. in C.S.A.)

A.M.C.  
Refits.

Your 1752/21/4. (Dates of arrival in U.K. for refits). DUNNOTTAR CASTLE about 1st week in June. CILICIA about 30/6. PRETORIA CASTLE about 30/6. Request information when CARNARVON CASTLE may be expected to rejoin S.A.Station.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1110B/25 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.A.)

Movements  
Summary  
2000/25.

R.A.West Africa 1145Z/25.  
See Lion Copy.

Meeting of  
Japanese &  
German Units.

Report graded C.3. states Japanese and German Units met in 038° 18' S. 039° 07' W. a.m./24 and were proceeding North after meeting.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1430B/25 to S.A.Sqdn.)

N.A.S.  
Supplies.

C. in C. E.F.1321/12 and Admty. 1259/17, 1308/17 and C. in C. E.I. 0843/20. It is presumed that ships mentioned in Admty. 1259/17 except CLAN MACINDOE should not be delayed for off loading ammunition and N.A.S. in South Africa even though temporary storage can be made available. Ships are being sailed accordingly.  
(2) Admty. 1308/17 is taken to refer to further supplies to be shipped in future.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1501B/25 to Admty.)

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

D. of S.T. 1555/5th. Request E.T.A. Capetown of QUEEN ELIZABETH may be signalled as quickly as possible also fuel and water requirements.  
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1503B/25 to A.C.N.B.)  
Reply, see A.C.N.B. 0403Z/25.

H.H. ROGERS,  
NORBRIS.

Request reply to my 2357/10.  
(D.T.D., 1650B/25 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

Shipping  
information  
by ships  
entering a  
new station.

R.A.W.Af.'s 2020Z/21 and C. in C. A.W.I. 1002Z/23.  
Request your views.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1700B/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

/GLENGYLE ...

# MOST SECRET

750A

M E S S A G E. 1145Z/25th April.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From R.A. West Africa. Date. 25.4.42.

Recd. 1815.

Naval Cypher "M" by T/P & W/T.

Addressed Ships in Area P. Repeated Admiralty.  
C. in C., South Atlantic.

IMPORTANT.

510. Movements Summary 2000 25th.

LANDGUARD and 3 escorts with O S 25 016 degs.  
50' North 020 degs. West 168 degs. 9 knots.

H.M.S. MANXMAN 016 degs. 25' North 018 degs.  
40' West to Freetown 18 knots.

H.M.S. GAMBIA, H.M.S. FROBISHER with W S 18  
014 degs. 45' North (026 degs.?) 25' West 162 degs.  
12.5 knots.

H.M.S. WILD SWAN, H.M.S. BOREAS 012 degs. 45'  
North 022 degs. 10' West to rendezvous W S 18 26th  
April.

(H.M.S. PETUNIA?) about 012 degs. (?30') North  
024 degs. West to R/V W S 18 26th April.

COWSLIP escorting 014 degs. 05' North 019 degs.  
West 155 degs. 8 knots.

H.M.S. MORRIS DANCE escorting about 007 degs.  
40' North 014 degs. West to Marshall 9 knots.

CANNA on patrol (?006 degs.) 40' North 014 degs.  
10' West.

H.M.S. \* LANCE, H.M.S. KELT off Marshall. \* Not dest: (Lance off at Malta)

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER and 4 escorts with L S 3  
003 degs. 40' North 004 degs. (35'?) West routed  
002 degs. 57' North 007 degs. (03'?) West and  
003 degs. 53' North 011 degs. 18' West 5.5 knots.

COPINSAY escorting about 005 degs. North 000  
degs. 30' East to Lagos 8 knots.

HILADASAY and (?4 trawlers) about 010 degs.  
30' South 008 degs. 45' East to Walvis Bay 9 knots.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA searching Northern half I 34  
(A) and (B) East of 026 degs. West.

/H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE...

750<sup>13</sup>

-2-

H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE searching South half of  
H.31 (C) and (D) East of 026 degs. (West).

H.M.S. GLENGYLE 013 degs. 45' South 012 degs.  
West 315 degs. 16.5 knots. *See opposite*

1145Z/25

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.L. (F)  
& D.D.I.C.

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

MMC.



From Vice-Admiral Weichold, 22.2.1950.

An Italian convoy of 4 transports, 3 destroyers, was attacked at 1620 on 14th April, 1942, by a submarine in  $34^{\circ}30'$  N.,  $16^{\circ}$  E. The Italian torpedo boat PEGASO threw depth charges which may have caused the loss of the UPHOLDER.

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

GLENGYLE. ?C. in C. S.A. 1349/20. Amend E.T.A. <sup>9.6.</sup> to be 30 hours early. (GLENGYLE, 1911Z/25 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., R.A. W.Af.) *see opposite*

U-Boats. S.O.(I) Capetown 2027Z/25 see E.I.

Mediterranean.

UPHOLDER. 1. In view of Italian news bulletins of 1300B and 1400B/18th claiming to have sunk a S/M by Torpedo-boat and by the prolonged depth charging heard by URGE from 0651B until dusk on 14/4, it seems most probable that UPHOLDER was located and successfully hunted by T.B. Patrol in vicinity of 33° 25' 13° 40' whilst proceeding to Patrol line for interception of enemy convoy North of Khoms. It is noteworthy that a ship on course 035° was sighted by aircraft near this position a few nights later, showing that enemy were using a hitherto unsuspected route north east from Tripoli.

2. UPHOLDER had been untouched by air raids and was in all respects ready for War Patrol and had been in harbour for a full rest period of 10½ days.

3. This very serious loss of such an outstanding S/M officer his proved ships company and S/M seems probably due to greater efficiency and more advanced methods of Italian A/S measures.

4. Probable that conditions favoured A/S hunt assisted by air since weather conditions with URGE who was only about 35 miles to Northward of the presumed position of UPHOLDER's loss were Sky B Sea 21 throughout the day.

5. Warm conditions are not sufficiently advanced to cause A/S difficulties due to density layers. C. in C. Med. pass to S.I. (Capt. S.10, 0545B/25 to Capt. S.1.)

Air Operations. WX.2042. Bi - weekly Ops. No. 15.  
Night 21/22 April. 8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour bombs bursting on Moles. 4 enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk Harbour destroying quantity unserviceable ammunition no casualties.

22 April. Covering patrols over shipping off Tobruk, and Egyptian coast. A Sunderland attacked S/M with 8 depth charges 20 miles North Maaten Bagush, S/M possible damaged. 2 ME.109 dropped bombs South of Tobruk without damage. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1016/25).

Part 2. Night 22/23. 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour 2 Wellingtons 2 Albatrosses unable to locate ship reported beached off Zuetinn both Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour. Patrols over shipping off Egyptian coast. A Sunderland attacked S/M with

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

- Air Operations.** (contd.) one 250 lb. bomb 25 miles E.N.E. Tobruk result unknown. A single enemy aircraft reconnoitered Port Said area 2 Hurricanes unable to intercept. Night 23/24. 8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour obtaining 1 hit on converted wreck used as landing stage, other bombs on Moles but damage unobserved. 3 enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk harbour and El Adem area, no damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1034/25).  
Part 3. Patrols over shipping off Tobruk and Egyptian Coast 2 Beaufighters offensive R/C of ? enemy lighter shipping off Cyrenaica a Martlet intercepted and damaged a JU.88 which bombed Mersa Matruh, no damage from bombs. 1 Blenheim missing from sea R/C.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1103/25 G.M.T.)
- Movements.** Arrivals 24/4 ERIDGE, BEAUFORT, PRIMULA, SNAPDRAGON, FALK. Departures 24/4 VULCAN, CARLISLE, SIKH, KIPLING, ANTWERP, KLO.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1141C/25 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- UNA.** R/C suggests 2 important  $14\frac{1}{3}$  knots Southbound escorted ships approaching  $035^{\circ} 46' 012^{\circ} 09'$  on approx. course  $165^{\circ}$  about 0700B/27th. Adjust patrol according to moon conditions to intercept before that time on line  $345^{\circ}$  from position given as far as  $036^{\circ} 30'$ . Other traffic may be encountered later in vicinity and may pass between Lampion and Lampeusa.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1232B/25 to UNA).
- Flag Appts.** Your 0603B/17 (N.T. in W.D.) Reply. Refers to appt. of R.A. Training, R.A. Egypt, and abolition of S.B.N.O. S.C.A.  
(C. in C. Med., 1309C/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
- Navigation.** Q.B.C.411 Alexandria. A black cylindrical buoy with white light flashing every 3 seconds has been laid in  $031^{\circ} 16' 30''$  N.  $029^{\circ} 42' 45''$  E.  
T.O.O. 1259/25.  
(R.A.Alexandria, 1331C/25 to S/M's on Patrol).
- Malta Air Raids.** 046489. Re deliberate air bombing attacks on hospitals 25/4. First incident of this nature.  
(Govr. Malta, 1440/25 to C. in C. M.E.)
- Enemy Convoy.** At 1201C/25 P.C. and S. 2 merchant ships 2 destroyers  $039^{\circ} 07' 018^{\circ} 22' 180^{\circ} 10$  knots.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 1631C/25 to PROTEUS, THORN).  
My 1631/25. At 2115C/25. A/C reported P.C. and S. of Convoy  $037^{\circ} 40' (?017^{\circ}) 47' 163^{\circ} 10$  knots.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 2139C/25 to PROTEUS, THORN).

/PROTEUS ...

# MOST SECRET

952A

1309C/25th April

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From Commander-in-Chief  
Mediterranean.

Date 27.4.42.

Recd. 1223.

C. IN C. CYPHER "X" PLUG BY W/T

RECIRCULATION

Addressed Admiralty.

891.

Your 0003B/17. (N.T. & W.D.)

Fully concur in the appointment of R.A. Training, who will also carry out the duties normally performed by Commodore of R.N. Barracks.

2. With reference to appointment of F.O.R.S. and Captain Larcom, I have already been considering the re-organisation of the Naval Command to bring it more into line with the other services. My proposals are as follows:

(A) R.A.L. should become R.A. Egypt, and appointment of S.B.N.O.S.C.A. should lapse. R.A. Egypt would deal direct with G.O.C.B.T.E. and A.O.C. Egypt, and would control all local forces and local convoys on North Egyptian coast. New N.O.I.C. Port Said would be under R.A. Egypt with the rank of Commodore and be responsible for present canal area.

(B) The present command limits for F.O.R.S. should remain unaltered.

(C) S.N.O.L.A.'s command remains unchanged. His area covers Cyprus Syria Palestine and South Turkish coastal waters and corresponds to G.O.C. Ninth Army and A.O.C. Levant.

(D) S.N.O.I.S. S Command remains unchanged. His area covers the Western desert and Cyrenaica, and corresponds to G.C.C. Eighth Army and A.O.C. Western Desert.

3. Your alternative proposal of placing the canal area under F.O.R.S. would mean that military and air force commanders, Egypt, would have to deal with two flag officers instead of one. If Port Said was under F.O.R.S. it would necessitate his being associated with R.A. Egypt and S.N.O.L.A. on all shipping and convoy questions and local A/S operations, whereas, under my proposal only two senior officers would be involved, R.A. Egypt controlling the Eastern border of Egypt, and S.N.O.L.A. controlling the remainder of the Levant area, moreover, my proposal should result in a decrease in staff.

1309C/25

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F).  
A.C.N.S.(T).  
Naval Secretary for action  
D.P.(?) (2).

Head of C.W.  
D.T.S.D.  
D. of L.D.  
D. of P.(2).  
D.M.S.  
D.A/S.W.  
D.N.A.D.  
Head of A.  
D.T.D.(2).  
Duty Captain  
D.D.I.C.

D.N.I.(4).  
I.P.(2).  
W.D.  
N.I.D.10  
(Pay.Cdr.Wilson).

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.

- PROTEUS. Operation B.S. Bring into force Condition A. If nothing sighted by noon 26th return to area Q. (Capt. (S) 1, 1715C/25 to PROTEUS).
- Malta C.S.R. WX.2150. I. 246, 25/4. 25/4 Part One. My I.243 two alerts. Raid 1355 hrs. A/A destroyed one JU.88 24th. 1606, 1721 hrs. ME.109s, 34 JU.88s. 19 JU.87s. Luqa Takali no damage torpedo depot damage, civilians, damage and aircraft losses, (details). 25th 4 Alerts 0437, 1045, 1207, 1317 hrs. ME.109's, 143 JU.88's 30 JU.87's Luqa casualties and damage. UXB's Takali Grand Harbour, no damage, elsewhere serious damage St. Georges Barracks Pembroke area Ghain Tuffeiha and Mellieha camps 39 General Hospital known casualties (details). Of these 11 soldiers were killed and 4 wounded in the hospital marked with big Red Cross, many houses destroyed, aircraft losses (details). (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 1810/25).
- Delimara Light. Q.B.B. 250 For N.C.S.O's and C.S.A's. Malta Delimara Light is unreliable. (Malta, 1814B/25)
- Buoy missing. Q.B.B. 251, for N.C.S.O. and C.S.A's. Reference 197 Q.B.B. Para. 5. The Red Conical Buoy laid in 052° St. Elmo Lighthouse is missing. (Malta, 2019B/25).
- Malta, bombing. Re deliberate bombing of 39 and 45 general hospitals. Details. Suggest this be given wide publication. (Govr. Malta, 2140/25 to C. in C. M.E.)

War Diary.25.4.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- FORMIDABLE. 10 Fulmar 803 and 2 (corrupt group) (?833) left for you 06 (corrupt group) local time. (Via Colombo W/T 0101Z/25 to FORMIDABLE (R) R.A.A. E.F., C. in C. E.F.)
- INDOMITABLE. 5 Albacore 827 left for you at 0700 local time. (Via Colombo W/T 0106Z/25 to INDOMITABLE (R) R.A.A. E.F.)
- EREBUS.  
BALTA. Departures 0130Z/25th.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 0240Z/25)
- Diego  
Garcia. My 1216/22. Communications re-established. Catalina investigating today 25th. (C. in C. E.I. 0247/25 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)
- Reserve A/C  
for carriers  
from 814 and  
839 Sqdns. Your 1253B/18 and 1252B/18 addressed C. in C. Med. Cdre. Naval Air Station having moved to Mombasa the administrative control of Naval air personnel and A/C in Ceylon and southern India has been assumed by me. Number 839 Sqn. has already been disbanded and A/C placed in reserve. After discussion with C. in C. E.F. and A.O.C. Ceylon it was decided that 814 Squadron should be used for defence of Ceylon until relieved by R.A.F. Beaufort Squadrons. Subsequently this highly trained unit to be regarded as a supernumerary Sqn. in reserve at Cochin, Bombay or Africa. Intend to act accordingly unless your 1235B/18 to C. in C. Ceylon is confirmed. (C. in C. E.I. 0307Z/25 to Admty.)
- IERAX. Departure Greek destroyer IERAX for Vizagapatam. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0323Z/25 to Admty. etc.)
- M.B.2. Arrival FALMOUTH with Bombay portion M.B.2. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0348Z/25)
- Wreck Wreck dangerous to navigation reported 24/4 in 20° 2' 30" N. 86° 33' 30" E. report does not state whether sunk or derelict. (Navyntell Colombo 0730Z/25 to Admty.) Nore W/T 0730Z/25 to Admty.
- Navigation. Calcutta. Cancel Q C A 451 Beaumonts Reef Light vessels are relit. Western Channel and Saugor remain extinguished. Reinstate para C of Q C A 433. (S.O.I. Colombo 0801Z/25 to All concerned Q.C.A. 462.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.25.4.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Shipping East Coast of India. Ref. F.O.C.R.I.N. 0612Z/23, Admty. concur. C. in C. E.I. and F.O.C.R.I.N. to arrange with Diversion Committee choice of vessels to proceed to Vizagapatam, Madras or Calcutta. Suggestions for guidance. (D. of S.T. 0817B/25 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.C. R.I.N.) See Lion Copy.

→ B.M.16. Departure JUMNA, TULIP with B.M.16. (S.O.I. Bombay 1001Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

Malacca Patrol. Cancel my 1015/18th. (Deputy C. in C. E.F. 1003Z/25 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Ceylon, B.S.O.)

→ B.M.16. Details. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 1031Z/25, 1034Z/25.)

Proposed reopening East Coast of India. Your 0621Z/23 to Admty.. Concur generally but consider this shipping should not be diversely routed at present but should keep close to the coast. (C. in C. E.I. 1046Z/25 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

S.S. NIZAM. Your 0837/22 to C. in C. E.I. NIZAM is to be despatched to Durban. (P.S.T.O. India 1135Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)  
*(Destroyer Inf. 1/15 at Bombay)*

Marshall Is. D/F bearings 24/4 indicate further increase in numbers of units Marshall Is. area. (C.O.S. Colombo 1238Z/25 to C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. B.A.D. Washington, Admty.)

Kilindini. Your 1836/18. Berthing and port facilities at Kilindini. (F.O.2 I.C., E.F. 1256Z/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

/India ...

M E S S A G E

OUT

755A

SECRET

0817B/25th April

To C. in C. East Indies,  
F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy.

Date 25/4/42

Naval Cypher (X)

From D. of S.T.

1. Reference F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy's 0612Z/23. Admiralty have concurred and we leave you arrange with Diversion Committee the choice of vessels to be allowed to proceed to Vizagapatam, Madras or Calcutta as most suitable within limits of numbers set out for in Port and at Sea in Bay of Bengal. The main consideration is to avoid sending valuable ships. Subject to this ships for Calcutta and Bay of Bengal Ports should be chosen first with a view to outward cargo from India as set out in para. 2 and only in the second place with a view to inward cargo.

2. Report to us names of vessels allowed to proceed and after discharge of British controlled vessels we suggest following general guidance leaving you full discretion, amend as necessary by reason of cargo availability and other local factors.

1. Vizagapatam load for United Kingdom.
2. Madras load ordinary vessels for United Kingdom. Separate orders will be given re tanker.
3. Calcutta of each 10 load
  - (a) 5 with coal for Colombo, Bombay and Middle East as ordered after vessels named to us or failing this Aden for orders.
  - (b) 3 for United Kingdom.
  - (c) 2 for West Indies or Chile or Africa including Mauritius or Australasia or River Plate referring to us where possible.

Priorities for United Kingdom should be items most unlikely suit railage to West Coast with general idea Jute goods Gunnies Groundnuts Tea Pig Iron Manganese Kapok etc. in that order kept in mind but we leave discretion your hands according to availability and best help to general position.

3. As regards loading under (c) we will telegraph later. Strategic cargo e.g. rubber may be shipped irrespective of destination for transshipment if necessary. Keep in touch F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy and advise Director of Ship Movements.

4. Can you cover Middle East Programme West Coast.

5. Repeated from telegram to Ainscough Bombay, under Mast 3537.

1st Lord	O.D. (5)	0817B/25.
1st S.L.	O.I.C. (3)	D. of S.T. Ext. 2217
4th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	
5th S.L.	D. of P. (3)	D.T.D. (C)
V.C.N.S.	E.P.S.	D. of S. 2A
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.A./S.W.	Ad. Bellairs
A.C.N.S. (T)	I.P. (3)	Air
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.	M. (2)
Naval Sec.	D.T.D. (4)	D. of S.T. (2)
Ops. (3)	D.T.D. (M)	D. of L.D. (2)
		D.N.A.D.



755 B

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1256Z/25th April IN

From F.O. 2nd in Command,  
Eastern Fleet.

Date 26.4.42.

Recd 1605.

Naval Cypher (D) by Cable.

---

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. East Indies,  
C. in C. Eastern Fleet, M.O.I.C. East Africa and  
Zanzibar.

IMPORTANT.

78

Your 1836/18. Berthing and port facilities  
at Kilindini.

(A) Berthing. Up to 5 battleships or carriers  
can be taken now; 6 at some inconvenience to handling  
of shipping; without using a berth alongside.  
Mooring referred to in my 0733/24 will provide one  
more and hoped ready in 10 days. There are tidal  
limitations on entry and exit of large ships.

2. In addition 2 large and 4 small (? cruisers)  
can be berthed.

3. Above number must be proportionately reduced  
or a berth alongside used if a large transport or AMC  
is (? in harbour).

4. Sufficient room for destroyers and fleet  
auxiliaries in port Reitz.

5. Appears to be good site for floating dock  
South West of Kilindini reef.

(B) Capacity of Port.

6. Port designed for one million tons a year.  
Handled over 2 million in 1941. Port Authorities  
consider now working at full capacity with present  
resources.

7. H.M. Ships should therefore avoid using deep  
water berths but until (? Fleet)?oiler(s) available  
necessary to do so for fuel.

8. Limitations to raising oiled capacity (?seems)  
to be:

- (a) Shortage of rolling stock.
- (b) Difficulty of expanding storage  
and transit space.
- (c) Shortage of European overseeing  
staff for labour and harbour service.
- (d) Falling off in quality of labour.

9. Congestion....

9. Congestion likely to occur with increased calls on port to cope with:

- (a) Increased production of Kenya and Uganda and
- (b) Naval stores and material of all kinds.

(C) Suggestion(s) to overcome congestion. External.

10. Divert more traffic through Tanga, railway and Port of Tanga which understand not worked to capacity. Extra lighters probably required.

11. Build connection Tanga railway to Dar Es Salaam Tabora Railway and use Dar Es Salaam as well for Kenya and Uganda exports and supplies. Understand some 100 miles of rail required for this and that route has been surveyed.

12. Alternatively, divert some locomotives and trucks from Tanganyika railway on to Kenya Uganda railway. And/or get some from Mogadishu where gauge is same.

(D) Internal.

13. 2 projects exist for additional deep water quays but too long term to be considered.

14. Several sites available adjacent to railway where new lighter quays could be built in short time given plant viz pile drivers etc. Additional tugs lighters and cranes required.

15. For naval stores etc., pier and Dolphins could be built near the site for (? Admiralty) oil tanks between Ras Mkwini and Ras Mchamgamwe and sheds in local construction for storage. Cranes required for handling. Pier could be joined up to railway which would also provide one direct connection with mainland should causeway carrying road and railway be put out of action.

(E) General.

16. Whatever schemes adopted for increasing capacity of port, additional European staff required. If cannot be provided from elsewhere consider men should be released from services locally.

17. Use of port for repairs to merchant ships should be avoided. Facilities very meagre in any case.

18. M.W.T. should endeavour not to leave merchant ships at this port awaiting orders and should arrange an even flow of tonnage as far as possible.

19. Have.....

# MOST SECRET

- 5 -

19. Have sent copy of this telegram to Governor of Kenya.

1256Z/25

- |                           |                 |        |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1st Lord                  |                 |        |
| 1st S.L.                  |                 |        |
| 2nd S.L.                  | Dep. Controller | } Bath |
| 3rd S.L.                  | D. of D.        |        |
| Vice Controller           | D. of S.        |        |
| 4th S.L.                  | D.A.S.          |        |
| 5th S.L.                  | D.C.L.          |        |
| V.C.N.S.                  | C.E. in C.      |        |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2)          | Hd. of L        |        |
| A.C.N.S. (W)              | Hd. of S.W.R.   |        |
| A.C.N.S. (T)              | Hd. of M.F.     |        |
| N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)      | Hd. of P.       |        |
| Civil Lord                |                 |        |
| Sec.                      |                 |        |
| Fin. Sec.                 |                 |        |
| P.A.S. (S)                |                 |        |
| P.A.S. (F)                |                 |        |
| Nav. Sec.                 |                 |        |
| N.A. 1st S.L.             |                 |        |
| D.O.D. (F) (2)            |                 |        |
| D.C. (2)                  |                 |        |
| D.D.I.C. (2)              |                 |        |
| D.N.I. (2)                |                 |        |
| D. of P. (2)              |                 |        |
| D.P.S.                    |                 |        |
| D.S.D.                    |                 |        |
| Hd. of M. (20) for action |                 |        |
| D. of L.D.                |                 |        |
| D.A/S.W.                  |                 |        |
| I.P. (2)                  |                 |        |
| D.B.D.                    |                 |        |
| D.T.M.                    |                 |        |
| D.T.S.D.                  |                 |        |
| E.P.S.                    |                 |        |
| D.T.D. (2)                |                 |        |
| D.T.D. (M)                |                 |        |
| D. of S. <sup>E</sup>     |                 |        |
| C.C.R. <sup>E</sup>       |                 |        |
| Hydrog.                   |                 |        |
| D. of N.                  |                 |        |
| Director of Staff Charts  |                 |        |
| D. of S.                  |                 |        |
| D.S.V.P.                  |                 |        |
| D. of D.                  |                 |        |
| C.E. in C.                |                 |        |
| D.C.L.                    |                 |        |
| W.G.F.                    |                 |        |
| D.A.S.                    |                 |        |
| D. of E.                  |                 |        |
| D.M.R.                    |                 |        |
| D.N.A.D.                  |                 |        |
| Hd. of Air                |                 |        |
| Admiral Bellairs          |                 |        |
| W.D.—                     |                 |        |

War Diary.25.4.1942  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

India,  
air. W.X.2119 A. 257 25/4. Intell. Summary 41 on information received up to 1800 hours 25/4. Burma Mandalay and Myohaung bombed p.m. 23/4, R/C of (Akyab?) aerodrome by 3 enemy fighters 24/4. Low level bombing attack by Blenheims 24/4 on Sandoway and Taungup. Small craft machine gunned. No movement seen. Ceylon. Trincomalee and Colombo dawn and dusk patrols 23/4 negative. R/C by Hudson Port Blair 24/4, 5 flying boats dispersed in harbour. No shipping seen or aircraft on landing ground. (Air H.Q. India 1300/25.)

FALMOUTH P.S.T.O. India 1203/16 para (G) 1. Request  
KAROA. you will sail FALMOUTH as A/S escort to KAROA.  
2. FALMOUTH is to report programme in due  
course.  
(C. in C. E.I. 161Z/25 to Cmdre. R.I.N.)

Burma Mandalay and Myohaung again bombed noon local  
Sitrep to time 24/4. Damage negligible.  
1230 (G.O.C. Burma 1915/25.)  
G.M.T./24.

U-Boats. V.C. Lumbo reports (i) SHIRALA in 014° 40' S.  
040° 58' E. at 1400Z/23 sighted A/C flying  
eastward. No civil A/C in neighbourhood.  
(ii) SONTAY made S S S at 1200/23 and reported having opened  
fire on S/M course 130° speed 9 knots. (iii) Sailing vessel  
LAIJA sighted S/M on the surface at 1900Z/24 in approx. 015°  
40' S. 040° 31' E. S/M dived. 45 minutes later switched  
searchlight on to sailing vessel. Finally dived heading E.N.E.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown 2027Z/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)  
SONTAY, position, see S.O.I. Capetown 0825Z/26.

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

VINELAND  
(torpedoed  
20/4.)

Turks Island report arrival of Master and 45 crew of Canadian Steamer VINELAND torpedoed by German S/M 1425/20 in 023° 05' N. 072° 20' W. One man lost.  
(S.O.I. Kingston, 0111R/25 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., etc.)

Movements.

St. Johns N.F. 24/4. Departures MIDLAND escorting C.L.26 to Halifax. WALKER carrying out A/S sweep en route to Boston. COLUMBIA carrying out A/S sweep en route to Halifax.  
(F.O.N.F., 0151Z/25 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U/Bs.

D/F indicates U-Boats (a) within 60 miles of 36° 30' N. 60° W. at 0023Z. (b) within 60 miles 36° 30' N. 70° 30' W. at 0117Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0458Z/25 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

U/B.

D/F indicate U-Boat within 100 miles 039° 30' N. 041° 30' W. at 2308Z/24.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0656Z/25 to B.W. in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

U/B.

S/M sighted on surface at 0615Z, 042° 50' N. 063° 29' W. S/M dived. Attack made, result uncertain.  
(CHARLOTTETOWN, 0845Z/25 to C.O.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q. Opnav.)

U/B  
attacked.

By CHARLOTTETOWN, 0815/25, 42.50 N. 63.29 W., 90' E.S.E. of C. Sable, result uncertain.  
(D.S., 964.)

DERRYHEEN.

Your 1555/23. 3rd Officer only deck officer here and does not know if diversion signal was received. Ship was on original route when sunk.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1009P/25 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty.)

MERIDA,  
ACONCAGUA.

MERIDA, Honduras, ACONCAGUA, both due Colon 20/4 not arrived.  
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1107R/25 to Admty., etc.)  
See Opnav 1532/27.

U/B.

D/F indicates U-Boat within 100 miles 036° 30' N. 053° W. at 0615Z.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1110Z/25 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

/Opnav ...

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Opnav  
Convoy  
Reports.

C.T.G. 24.6 states that C. in C. W.A. does not send out full information daily Convoy position reports and desires Opnav continue reports E. of 28° W. Your consent desired.  
(Opnav, 1227/25 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty 1329/28.

Interim  
Tanker  
Convoys,  
E. Coast.

Your 2341Z/24. We should be grateful for inclusion of British-controlled tankers when possible. 2. All information of ships likely to be available before regular Coastal Convoy commences should be obtained from Sparks.  
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1307B/25 to B.A.D.)

IMPERIAL  
MONARCH,  
BELGIAN  
SAILOR,  
FERNBROOK.

N.C.S.O. New York's 636/24 (T.O.O. 2255/24:- IMPERIAL MONARCH, BELGIAN SAILOR and FERNBROOK to Capetown via Cape Cod Canal, N.T. in W.D.) These 3 vessels should be ready for escort at eastern end of Canal 1100Z/26. Please advise name of escort and E.T.A. Cape Cod Bay.  
(Boston Mass., 1328Z/25 to N.S.H.Q.)

Shipping  
Diversion.

Opnav 1610/23 modified. All merchant ships now directed to clear area between 32° and 38° N. and 66° and 72° W.  
Opnav, 1454Z/25 to C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F., C.P.S.F., (R) C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F., Admty., N.S.H.Q.  
C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston.)

Navigation.

Following buoys reported off position due to ice will be replaced as soon as possible. (list)  
(C.O.A.C., 1503Z/25 to British and U.S. Warships in Area D.)

BULKOIL.

Departure Boston 2200Z/23 BULKOIL escorted by CALDWELL for 3 days.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1522Z/25 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

GLASGOW.

Your 1017/20 para. 4. Can approx. date of arrival of GLASGOW at New York be given?  
(B.A.D., 1551Z/25 to R.A.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

Convoy  
Sit. Reps.

Your 1625Z/20.  
Admty. would prefer time and date of demarkation rather than a fixed longitude for following reasons. A. Convoys may appear in both situation reports. B. Convoys may be omitted from both situation reports. C. A convoy may receive situation report from one authority while under the operational control of the other authority.

759

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (cont):

- Convoy Sit. Reps. (Contd.) 2. If you agree suggested that in your 1335Z/22 para. B might be amended to read "Chop" instead of 28° W. to overcome these difficulties. (D.T.D., 1619B/25 to Opanav, (R) C. in C. W.A., C.T. 24.)
- U/B. S/M placed by D/F within 100 miles 036° N. 054° 30' W. at 1024Z/25. (N.S.H.Q., 1626Z/25 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)
- PHOEBE. Following is intended programme and route for PHOEBE: 1930 G.M.T. 27/4 sail Hampton Roads. 1330 G.M.T. 28/4 38.43 N. 70° W. S. of A (?15) knots thence 41.08 N. 76° W. 42.35 N. 50° W., 43.10 N. 40° W., 46.30 N. 30° W., 48.40 N. 20° W. 1700 G.M.T. 5/5 49° (?57') N. 09° 36' W. S. of A. 20½ knots thence direct to Plymouth. E.T.A. 0400/6 G.M.T. Opanav pass to B.A.D. Washington. (Comdt., 5th Naval District, 1640/25 [amplified 1140Z/27] to Admty., Opanav, C.E.S.F., Com. 3 etc.)
- P. 552. S/M P.552 will sail from New London for St. Johns N.F. on 29/4. Thence to U.K. (B.A.D., 1719Z/25 to Admty.)
- Ice Bulletin (C.T. 24, 1803/25 to Admty.)  
25/4.
- DAVID W. BRANCH. DAVID W. BRANCH, U.S. Transport, reported sunk. (N.S.H.Q., 1819Z/25 to Admty.)
- S/M attack Summary. RIO BLANCO 36.16 N. 74.18 W., 1 torpedo, S/M not seen. STANVAC MELBOURNE arrived port 33.53 N. 77.29 W., 2 torpedoed, S/M not seen. TAMANLIPAS, 34.30 N. 76° W., 1 torpedo, S/M not seen. EMPIRE THRUSH, 35.08 N. 75.18 W., 1 torpedo, S/M not seen. DESERT LIGHT, 35.35 N. 72.48 W., 2 torpedoes, no S/M description. S/M sighting Summary. 3 following are sound contacts - 75.51 N. 34.46 W. 1525Z/25, considered poor; 41.15 N. 71.07 W. 1145Z/25, 40.32 N. 69.50 W. 1930Z/24, considered good. Plane attacked S/M 40.18 N. 68.25 W. 2230Z/24, no results. Plane sighted S/M on surface 35.40 N. 75.15 W. 0230Z/25. Plane sighted S/M on surface 38.54 N. 74.48 W. 1333Z/25. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1919Z/25 to Admty., for O.I.C.)
- U/B. S/M within 60 miles of 37.30 N. 55.30 W. (? by) D/F at 1548Z/25. (N.S.H.Q., 2025Z/25 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

/TERCERO ...

War Diary.25.4.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

TERCERO. My 1918/20, TERCERO Norwegian arrived Bermuda 22nd to land survivors and sailed 23rd, now due Buenos Aires 18/5.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2102Z/25 to S.O.I. Kingston, etc.)

Navigation, Admty. 1315/17. C.C.S.F. was asked by Opnav what policy for shore Navigational Lights was in force in Caribbean Sea and his reply as follows has been approved (begins): Merchant traffic through Island chain passage much reduced particularly at night. Am recommending to British Governor and Naval Authorities that:-  
(a) Main navigational aids for passage into and through Caribbean Sea be lighted.  
(b) Minor lights and those for entrance to Port be extinguished except in emergency.  
Upon receipt of information this office (i.e. Opnav) will issue list of main lights in operation. (Ends).  
(B.A.D., 2207Z/25 to Admty.)

PICTOU COUNTRY. Cancel my 2237/8. PICTOU COUNTY sailed Parrsboro 23/4 for Boston.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2217Z/25 to Opnav, Admty., etc.)

Australia and New Zealand.

A/S, M/S Groups. Ships of different types have been organized in groups for A/S and M/S duties at Australian defended ports.  
Vessels consist of sloops, Australian minesweepers and auxiliary A/S vessels. Collective term "Local Defence Flotilla (Group)" would be appropriate. In order to comply with true state in your 1034/3/2 request distinguishing signal and call sign be allocated for 21 groups. (2) Request also Destroyer Flotilla number be allocated for STUART, VOYAGER, VENDETTA.  
(A.C.N.B., 0308Z/25 to Admty.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Your 1503B/25. E.T.A. 1000Z/3/5. Fuel 7000, water nil. D.N.O. Western Australia's 0210Z/25 (N.T. in W.R.) refers.  
(A.C.N.B., 0403Z/25 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

/Situation ...



761

War Diary.

25.4.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Situation. Serial number 94 from C.W.R. 24/4.  
At least 7 Zero fighters attacked Port Moresby  
at 0208Z/24. A moored Catalina was destroyed.  
6 P.40s intercepted of which 3 were destroyed. 2 Zero  
fighters probably destroyed and 2 damaged.  
2. Enemy air R/C 24/4 over wide area around Port Moresby.  
3. Report states Japanese occupied Komiatum (7 miles south  
of Salamo) on 23/4.  
5. Photographs taken over Kavieng 15/4 show 4 vessels  
including a possible aircraft carrier.  
(A.C.N.B., 0836Z/25 to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions of U/Bs.  
(D.D.I.C., 1400B/25, 1410B/25.)

762

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M/S VIKINGBANK reports that at 1100B/24 in 51° 43' N. 7° 28' W. she sighted a suspicious vessel with the appearance of an aircraft carrier or cruiser steering north which disappeared at high speed to the westward when VIKINGBANK altered course to investigate.

WASP and 6 destroyers arrived at Scapa this afternoon from the operation of flying aircraft off to Malta.

Convoy P.Q.15 sailed from Reykjavik today for North Russia.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command last night carried out a further heavy attack on targets at Rostock. Dunkirk Docks were also attacked.

Enemy Air Activity.

Some damage was caused at Bristol last night by bombing.

South Atlantic.

MUNSTERLAND.  
Ger: blockade  
Lunnct. (G.D.507)

PRETORIA CASTLE on patrol today in 1° 17' N. 24° 34' W. intercepted a ship purporting to be ANGLO CANADIAN. The latter arrived at Bombay on 19/4, however. PRETORIA CASTLE had no aircraft serviceable with which to keep in touch.

War Diary.

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

There were 2 medium raids today by a total of 125 bombers, 4 or more of which were destroyed. The raids were again spread over many areas, including hospitals. Both main and auxiliary civil power stations were temporarily put of action. Damage was caused at Kalafrana Sea-plane Station.

East Indies.

FORMIDABLE, who recently damaged a gear wheel must continue to run at reduced power until she can be spared to proceed to U.K. or U.S.A. for repair.

America and West Indies.

24 survivors of S.S. MODESTA, Portland (me.) to Trinidad, landed at Bermuda today. The ship was torpedoed and sunk in the early hours of yesterday 110 miles N.E. of Bermuda.

The Admiralty at 0008B today ordered all merchant ships to be routed clear of an area between 32° and 38° N. and 66° and 72° W.

Australia.

Allied float planes carried out a successful attack at 2205Z today on an escorted convoy about 90 miles S.E. of Kavieng Head.

764

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

WELLS. Your 1718B/25. WELLS is to return to R.A.M. (C. in C. Rosyth 0359B/26 to A.C.I.C.)  
\*Sailed WELLS 1930B/26 routed direct via Butt of Lewis. E.T.A. 0630B/28. (A.C.I.C. 2201B/26 to R.A.M.) \*Rogers

U.S.S. WILSON. Return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 0500B/26 to WILSON.)

Floating Dock. Your 1335/22. Delayed further 24 hours owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Leith 0929/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

PRINSES ASTRID. PRINSES J. CHARLOTTE, QUEEN EMMA may be sailed A.M. 29th so as to arrive Portsmouth on 1/5. (S.O. Assault Ships 0930B/26 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CASTLETON. CASTLETON sailed. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1025B/26 to R.A.M.)

GRAPH. S.5's 1103B/25. STAR OF INDIA is to R/V with GRAPH in 180° Portland Bill 5 miles at 0630/27 and escort by QZS 293 and 284 to Portsmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1027B/26.)  
C. in C. Portsmouth 1027/26. Intend sailing STAR OF INDIA at 0515/27 to R/V with GRAPH in 180° Portland Bill 5 miles at 0630/27 and escort her to Yarmouth I.O.W., STAR OF INDIA returning to Portland on completion of escort. (N.O.I.C. Portland 1225B/26.)  
S.3. 1947B/24 and C. in C. Plymouth, 1544B/26. No escort from this command is available for GRAPH between Portsmouth and Sheerness.  
Suggest FARNDALE should carry out this duty. Ships to pass Sandhead Buoy at 0515/29. (C. in C. Nore 2150B/26 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) LA CAPRICIEUSE 1444/26.  
Bombing restrictions arranged for passage. Total bombing restrictions now arranged between position (C) of Capt. (S) 3 1759/25 and R/V from 0530/27 to 1200/27. Escort will now meet you at 0900/27. (Capt. S.5. 2241B/26 to GRAPH.)

RODNEY. Subject to trials anticipate RODNEY will be ready to sail from Bar L.V. 1700B/4. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1112B/26.)

CUMBERLAND. Intend to sail CUMBERLAND<sup>(Chatham)</sup> for Scapa at 1300B/2. Escort of 2 destroyers will be provided, 1 from Rosyth and 1 from Nore. Destroyer from Nore will part company off Flamborough Head, that from Rosyth continues to Kinnaird Head where CUMBERLAND is due about 1130/3. (2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange any surface escort considered necessary after passing Kinnaird Head.

765

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

CUMBERLAND. (3) Fighter escort and protection for whole  
(Contd.) passage will be arranged by C. in C. Nore.  
(C. in C. Nore 1116B/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

SOMALI. D.6. in SOMALI with MATCHLESS sailed for  
MATCHLESS. Seidisfiord. E.T.A. 1900B/27/4. (R.A.D. 1122B/26)

QUENTIN. Intend to sail QUENTIN for Scapa at 0915B/27.  
E.T.A. 0700B/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1133B/26  
to R.A.D.)

NIGERIA. Intend proceed with NIGERIA at 1400Z today  
southabout Seidisfiord. E.T.A. 1201Z/27.  
(C.S.10. 1344B/26 to A.C.I.C.)  
F.O. 10th. C.S. in NIGERIA sailed 1640B/26 (corrupt group)  
Seidisfiord (Iceland). E.T.A. 1401B/27. (A.C.I.C. 1730B/26.)

ULSTER ULSTER QUEEN with BOADICEA, ST. ALBANS,  
QUEEN. BADSWORTH, E.T.A. Seidisfiord 0830 G.M.T./27.  
BOADICEA. (ULSTER QUEEN 1350B/26.)  
ST. ALBANS.  
BADSWORTH.

ARETHUSA. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail and route  
ARETHUSA for Suez via the Cape leaving Clyde on  
6th May.  
2. Passage is to be made with all convenient despatch fuelling  
at. Ponta Delgada, Freetown, Capetown, Mombasa, Aden.  
3. Ship will be required to carry stores including smoke  
making material to full capacity without interference with  
fighting efficiency.  
4. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail ARETHUSA to Clyde on  
completion of working up and to direct her to report in  
accordance with C.A.F.O. 620/42. (A.C.N.S. F. 1509B/26.)

ORION. A.M. 1322/11. para 2. ORION will not now be  
required to leave U.K. before 23rd. May.  
(A.C.N.S. (F.) 1516B/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BLANKNEY. Intend to sail BLANKNEY leaving Plymouth about  
1700/27 to Scapa. (C. in C. Plymouth 1518/26.)

WASP. Scapa arrivals U.S.S. WASP, WAINWRIGHT, LANG,  
MADISON, and PLUNKETT, H.M.S. INGLEFIELD and  
ECHO. (A.C.O.S. 1615/26.)

O.9. My 1146<sup>B</sup>/24. Sailed WHITE BEAR and O.9.  
(Capt. S.7. 2001B/26.)

/VISCOUNT...

766

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.VISCOUNT.  
HARVESTER.  
BUXTON.

Request you will sail VISCOUNT to Greenock early a.m. 28th. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange for VISCOUNT to embark special consignment for transport to Argentia and to sail VISCOUNT as soon as possible to R/V as arranged by Commodore Londonderry with HARVESTER and BUXTON. HARVESTER, BUXTON and VISCOUNT are then to proceed in company to Argentia. (C. in C. W.A. 2054Z/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Operations.SJKERSTAD.  
(Rescue of  
Norwegian  
Teachers.)

Your 2048/25. 3 Russian submarines on patrol off north coast are being ordered  
(a) not to attack SJKERSTAD. (b) to report her.  
(c) if unescorted to divert her northwards.  
In latter event consider rescue might be achieved if fighter protection is given but 1 destroyer either Russian or British would run great risk from enemy surface attack. F.O.C. 18th C.S. will be consulted before any action is taken. Admty. pass to C. in C. H.F. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0044B/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F. C.S.18.)  
Norwegian steamer SJKERSTAD with 500 Norwegian teachers on board left Tromso p.m. 23rd. proceeding north. Destination believed Kirkenes. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1151/26 to Admty.)  
Admty. 2048/25 and S.B.N.O. North Russia 0044/26. Intend if SJKERSTAD is sighted in favourable position to send all destroyers less BEVERLEY to intercept provided this does not delay sailing of Q.P.11. Have asked for 2 Russian destroyers to join and fighter escort. (C.S.18 1207B/26 to Admty. C. in C. H.F. (R) S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Operation  
K.C.1.

My 1857B/26. Postponed until further notice.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1147B/26 to 11<sup>th</sup> M.T.B. Flotilla.)

Operation  
to cover  
convoys  
P.Q.15 and  
Q.P.11.

See Shipping.

British Air Activity.Bombing  
Operations.

During day 25/4, 6 aircraft bombed the docks at Cherbourg, 6 aircraft attacked the docks at Dunkirk, and 11 A/C bombed the docks at Havre. (H.Q.B.C. 1223/26)  
On night 25/26, 110 A/C bombed the town and Heinkel Works at Rostock, and 21 A/C attacked the docks at Dunkirk (H.Q.B.C. 1735/26.)

/On day...

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Bombing  
Operations.  
(Contd.)

On day 23/4 no operations took place. During night 23/24, 126 A/C bombed Rostock and 17 A/C attacked the Heinkel Works at Marienehe. (H.Q.B.C. 1830/26.)

Air  
Defence  
of  
T.L.C's.

Ref. arrangements recently made for employment of T.L.Cs. for training purposes on certain South coast beaches. Please confirm that Home Forces will be taking necessary steps or initiating action for provision of A.A. and/or Air Defence for T.L.Cs. off and on the beaches whilst undergoing training. (A.C.N.S. H. 1910B/26 to Home Forces.)

Enemy Air Activity.R/C of  
Faroes.

Plane identified as Ju.90 carried out R/C of Faroes in maximum visibility from 0907 to 0930 today. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1255B/26.)

Convoys  
R.U. 20  
and  
U.R. 21.

A F.W. Aircraft from Trondheim covered an area 200 miles to south and S.W. of Iceland (C) during which convoys R.U. 20 or U.R. 21 were probably reported. (D.D.I.C. 1630B/26.)

Mining.

S.N. 72.

Your 0942/22. 1. It is desired to avoid possibility of Squadron being held up with mines on board that are suitable only for S.M. 72 and it is also hoped to accelerate supply of mines for S.N. 3. B.  
2. It is therefore intended to defer laying S.N. 72 until completion of S.N. 3A and S.N. 3B. (A.C.N.S. H. 1111B/26 to R.A.M.)

Minesweepers.  
Arrangements  
for  
Detached  
Duty.

In view of recent minelaying activity 25% of the LL/SA minesweepers at each base may be required to be moved from present bases at short notice for limited period of detached duty at other ports in home waters.  
2. Vessels so detached will be required to sail at short notice complete with LL/SA spares in accordance with C.A.F.O. 2269/41 excluding those listed in Appendix "B". Details and instructions. (D.M.S. 1520B/26.)

Western  
Channel  
sweep.

66th M/S group and ANDYK are to be detached in 180° Start Point 8' to Dartmouth. They are required to sweep the convoy routes from Dartmouth to Portland. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth to sail the group and issue the necessary orders. (C. in C. Plymouth 1624/26 to KRAKOWIAK, BERGEN)

/M/S gear...

768

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

M/S gear in North Russia. Your 1453/6/3. 6 spare one one cables numbers 609 to 614 in Russian store Murmansk. Intend retaining 2, shipping 4 to Archangel first opportunity. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2001B/26.)

Fifeness Sweep. My 1105/24. Sweeps completed. Results negative. (C. in C. Rosyth 2131B/26.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Main Units on 25/4. Photographic R/C. Kiel 1030B/25. SCHARNHORST, NURNBERG. Trondheim 1600B/25. TIRPITZ, SCHEER, PRINZ EUGEN in usual positions. HIPPER under way in Aasfiord. (D.D.I.C. 0007B/26.)

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D/F in Dover Strait from 0900/25 to 0900/26. Track E 21 D.2 vessels picked up eight miles S.W. of Boulogne steering north at ten knots at 0610, entered Boulogne at 0655. (V.A. Dover 0933B/26.)

Suspicious ship off Cork. At 1100B/24 in 51° 43' N 07° 28' W Royal Netherlands Minesweeper, VIKING BANK sighted approx. 7 miles to S.W. what at first appeared to be a sailing vessel steering north. On altering course to investigate, the vessel turned away at high speed to the westward and disappeared in quarter of an hour. It then had the appearance of an aircraft carrier or cruiser. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1217B/26.)

North Norway. 23/4 Russians report Kongsfiord, convoy escorted by one destroyer steering East. Again sighted at 1945C off Komagneset. Vardo, one Destroyer. Varanger Fiord, one destroyer. 24th April. Persfiord, Tanker escorted by two minesweepers steering S.E.. (Ad. Miles 1714C/26.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported.

~~Ice-Lander~~  
ICELANDER reports seeing S/M on surface in approx. 066° 10' N 016° 45' W at 2200B/25, proceeding in north westerly direction. Seen for about 25 minutes before submerging. Grade B.2. Aircraft searching. (A.C.I.C. 0051B/26.) By D/F at 1515Z/26 a U-Boat in approx. 63° 30' N 5° E. (D.D.I.C. 1823B/26.)

U-Boat sunk by SEAWOLF on 18/3.

T.L. consider that your attack on a U-Boat on 18/3/42, probably achieved the destruction of a German U-Boat.  
2. They congratulate SEAWOLF on this success. (V.C.N.S. 1210B/26 to SEAWOLF.)

(Not upheld by post-war information.)



769

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Ice off N.W. Norway. A/C ice report. (A.C.I.C. 0217B/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

Rathground Buoy. Rathground North Buoy extinguished. (C. in C. Rosyth 1008B/26.)

Explosive Buoy. Explosive Buoy observed approx 0800 East of Persnaes on East Coast of Oeland, drifting Southwards. (Karlskrona Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1215/26.)

57 F. Buoy. 57.F Buoy fouled by S.S. CARRAS of F.N.691 and light extinguished. (WINCHESTER 1400B/26.)

Casualties and Defects.

Unknown ship ashore. Signal NC being flashed by red automatic light apparently from vessel ashore in North East Corner of Legend Bay, 055° 49' N 006° 16' W. (PUNJAB10415B/26.)

XMAS EVE. Your 1415/25. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0938/26 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall.)

CHORLEY (Boom Defence Vessel) sunk. CHORLEY sank apparently owing to a leak at 1615/25 in approx. 50° 10' N 3° 37' W on passage from Plymouth to Dartmouth. Casualties (details) (C. in C. Plymouth 1304B/26.)

FASTNET. N.C.S. Drifter RAMBLER ROSE caused damage to steamship FASTNET at 1745/24 in Methil Roads. No damage to H.M. Ship. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1602/26)

KELLETT. KELLETT struck pier entering harbour today. Fractured starboard hawse pipe and other minor damage. Temporary repairs to enable vessel to operate with one anchor will be completed p.m. 28th. Vessel due for boiler cleaning at Ipswich shortly. Suggest final repairs be undertaken during boiler cleaning. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1737B/26.) Your 1737B/26. Concur. (C. in C. Nore 2201B/26 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

RICHMOND EPINE. Your 1250B/25. Intend sailing rescue tug SEAMAN with RICHMOND in tow in about 7 days time. Repairs to EPINE expected to be completed by 1st. May. (A.C.I.C. 2207B/26.)

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Atlantic  
Convoys.

Following received from Opnav begins: Comtask 24.6 states that C. in C. W.A. does not send out full information daily Convoy position reports and desires Opnav continue reports East of 28° W. Your consent desired. Ends. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1204B/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

## P.Q.15.

My 1643/24. Add to para (A) Force Q consisting of GRAY RANGER and LEDBURY sailed with P.Q.15 for fuelling of close escort. Force Q will be detached before reaching 005° East and then patrol vicinity position Y 068° 25' N 005° 14' W. (F.O.S. 1204B/26 to S/Ms.) My 2347/22 para (ii) (a). Request you will sail 4 destroyers to Seidisfiord.

2. After fuelling they are to R/V covering force in either position. (m) 007° Glettinganes 35 miles at 0600B/30 or position (n) 090° Dalatangi 6 miles at 1030B/30. R/V will be ordered before covering force sails.

3. Covering force will steer 040° from position (m) or to northward from position (n). (C. in C. H.F. 1501B/26 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Atlantic  
Convoy  
Escorts.

Your 1712B/24, and Cominch's 1901Z/23. It is not possible for mid-ocean Escort Groups on S.C. Convoys and O.N. (slow) Convoys to meet or remain with Convoys to the Westward of 50° W. (My 1346Z/25 refers) When fuel capacity of Escort vessels is extended to the near limit, the operational value of these vessels is seriously impaired on passage, and counter-measures against submarines are severely restricted.

2. In order to assist as far as possible in implementing Cominch's proposals it would, however, be possible:-

(a) to release one mid-ocean Escort Group for service with Western Local Escort Force, retaining existing Convoy cycle.

(b) in the case of O.N. Convoys, a certain proportion of each mid-ocean Escort Group could escort vessels bound for the Gulf of St. Lawrence to a position off Argentia, where they could be met by a local Group for onward escort to Sydney. This scheme would save approx. 300 miles, compared with the scheme for escorting these vessels to Halifax for onward escort to Sydney. In order to make this scheme possible, the Westomp would have to be reasonably far North to enable the Escorts to proceed to Argentia at slower speed. In view of Northerly route of the H.X. and S.C. Convoys, ships from Sydney for homeward bound convoys could presumably be escorted to a position to the southward of Cape Breton for conjunction with these Convoys. If the above were adopted, only ships bound for Sydney in O.N.S. convoys would need to proceed to Halifax.

3. It is pointed out that the adoption of these proposals would entail a reduction in the time in harbour afforded to each Group, and thus a loss of time available for Maintenance and Training. It is considered that this could be accepted in the summer months. See my 1251/26 Cypher Groups 53 for last para.4.

(C. in C. W.A. 1232B/26 to Admty.)

War Diary.

26.4.1942  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

WILNO.

S.S. WILNO Straggler from F.N.691 was found by CATTISTOCK proceeding by Q Z S 287. She was ordered to join F.S.85 until F.N.692 was met. She broke away from F.S.785 and proceeded independently by Q Z S 287 again. Request Master may be interrogated on arrival of ship. (C. in C. Nore 1507B/26 to N.O.I.C. Blyth.)

Russian  
Destroyers  
with  
N. Russian  
Convoys.

It is reported that the excessive speed used by Russian Destroyers on local escort duty is one of the factors necessitating their premature withdrawal from the convoys. (C. in C. H.F. 1638B/26 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

772

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Italian Repatriations. Italian tankers ARCOLA, TAIGETE P.C. and S. 029° 41' 029° 18' 249° 9 knots at noon G.M.T./26. Ships are painted black with white band around hull and white disc on funnel. Italian flag on side illuminated. They are not to be molested if on their route. (F.O.C.N.A. 0827A/26 to S. & A., N.A.)

→ LOCH OSKAIG. Departure for Y.1. (F.O.C.N.A. 0919A/26 to Admty., (R) SCOTTISH, ALOUETTE.)

MARIA DEL CARMEN. B.N.A. Madrid's 1818/15. MARIA DEL CARMEN. Para. 2 approved. (D.E.W.D., 1126B/26 to C.C.S.O. Gib., (R) S.O.I. Gib.)

BRITTANY. Arrived Ponta Delgada 1200 G.M.T./26. (N.C.S.O., P.Delgada, 1220/26 to S.O.I. Gib. (R) Admty.)

FRIMAIRE. ARAGAZ. My 1142/12. French tankers FRIMAIRE and ARAGAZ now at Oran expected sailing for Lisbon 27th, 28th, as agreement finally reached and approved by H.M.G. Request they be allowed to pass Gibraltar. (N.A. Lisbon 1256B/26 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)

Situation Report. Area X 1956A/26.  
 (1) WRESTLER 38.28 10.39 327° 12½.  
 (2) WIVERN 31.42 10.50 through 28.01 13.29 thence 222° 16.  
 (3) LORD NUFFIELD escorting cable ship MIRROR Liverpool 36.55 08.24.  
 (4) SCOTTISH on patrol off Cape Roca. Leaving patrol 0200/27 for Gibraltar coastwise 10.  
 (5) ALOUETTE on patrol off Cape Roca.  
 (6) LOCH OSKAIG off Huelva coastwise to patrol off Lisbon 10. (F.O.C.N.A. 1316A/26 to N.A. Stn.)  
~~Situation Area Z 1956A/26th (i) WIVERN 031° 49' 010° 50' through 28.01 13.29 thence 222° 16. (F.O.C.N.A. 1332A/26 to N.A. Stn.) See (2) above.~~

B.D.V's. BARFOUNT, BARFOSS and BARKING arrived and bunkered (R.O. Horta 1545/26 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

BRADFORD. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 2100A/27. My P.C. and S. 033° 40' N. 025° 12' W. 326° 12. Weather report. (BRADFORD 1959Z/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Italian P.C. and S. at 1200 A.T.S. 25/4 27° 43' S. 24°  
Repatriations. 1' E., 134°, 15 knots.  
(VULCANIA, No. T.O.O., Recd. 0056/26.)  
Following received from GIULIO CESARE. P.C.  
and S. at 1200 A.T.S. 25/4, 27.43 S., 2.41 E., 134°, 15 knots.  
(Coltano Radio, No T.O.O./26 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)  
Request repairs to Sperry Generator commutator on arrival at  
Port Elizabeth. Compass is out of action.  
(GIULIO CESARE, T.H.I. 0150/26 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.)  
Following received from GIULIO CESARE. P.C. and S. at 1200  
A.T.S. 26/4 31.41 S., 07.34 E., 134°, 14.8 knots.\*  
26/4 departure VULCANIA and SATURNIA Italian Repatriation  
ships, Berbera 5/5.  
(N.C.S.O. P. Elizabeth, 1907/26 to M.W.T., S.O.(I) Freetown,  
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) \*(Coltano Radio, T.O.R. 1622/26 to Admty.,  
C. in C. S.A.)

Shipping All merchant ships are to be routed clear of an  
Diversion. area between 32° and 38° N. and 66° and 72° W.  
(D.T.D., 0008B/26 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.W.A.F.,  
F.O.C.N.A., (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo.)

SONTAY, My 2027Z/25 para. (II). SONTAY's position was  
U/B. 015° 45' S. 041° 28' E.  
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0825Z/26 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. S.A., S.O. Force F.)

SHROPSHIRE. Arrived 0502 and sails 1600 for Capetown routed  
R (corrupt group) S. of A. 21 knots, E.T.A.  
outer end searched channel 1000/28.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1005Z/26 to Admty., C. in C.  
S.A., etc.)  
My 1005Z/26 SHROPSHIRE sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1539Z/26 to Admty., etc.)

French In West Africa.  
Aircraft. (C.O.S. W. 162, 1040Z/26.)  
See America and West Indies.

Dispositions. Weekly state 25/4. Freetown EDINBURGH CASTLE,  
PHILOCTETES, ARCHER, ALBATROSS, \*EGRET, \*PHILANTE,  
\*FLEETWOOD, \*FISHGUARD, 4 Corvettes. \* *See p. 775*  
Freetown area GLASGOW, 2 Corvettes.  
Takoradi area BRIDGEWATER, 2 Corvettes.  
Bathurst area GAMBIA, FROBISHER, HECLA, TETCOTT, (Corrupt Group)  
HASTINGS, MANXMAN, WILD SWAN, BOREAS, VAN GALEN, LANDGUARD,  
LULWORTH, 2 Corvettes.  
Lagos 1 Corvette.. H.34 PRETORIA CASTLE. I.34 ALCANTARA. */see next page*  
U.K. VANSITTART, VIMY, BRILLIANT, 5 Corvettes.  
Gibraltar \*WIVERN. On passage from U.K. to Freetown, VELOX,  
1 Corvette..  
(R.A. W. Africa, 1330Z/26 to C. in C. S.A., etc.)

\* *See previous page.*

/BUSEN ...

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

BUSEN IV Your 1729/15 BUSEN IV sailed 25/4 for Capetown due 8/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 1342Z/26 to Admty.,  
(R) C. in C. S.A.)

Movement summary. 2000Z/26. Area Q. MALAYA 022° 50' S. 009° 10' E., 330°, 15 knots; DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 026° 55' S. 012° 00' E., 324°, 10½ knots.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1527B/26 to S.A. Sqdn.)

GLASGOW. GLASGOW sailed 1630Z/26 for New York E.T.A. outer end Ambrose Channel 1230Z/6/5. Route via Great Circle from position (b) 015° 02' N. 030° 03' W. S. of A. 16.5 knots. Request GLASGOW may be informed of any U.S. Warship likely to be encountered.  
(R.A. W.Africa, 1631Z/26 to B.A.D., (R) Admty., etc.)

ABDIEL. Your 2325/22. Capt. Supt. Durban's 1821/14 not received in Admiralty until today. A.M. 1843/9. It was intended that ABDIEL should be repaired in U.K. Request you will report present state of ABDIEL and confirm that end of May is the earliest she can be sailed.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1733B/26 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Suspicious ship seen by PRETORIA CASTLE. Please confirm if S.S. ANGLO CANADIAN is on shipping list.  
(PRETORIA CASTLE, 1845Z/26 to R.A.W.Af.)  
Your 1845/26. Last information received at Freetown is that S.S. ANGLO CANADIAN left Capetown 18/1 for Aden. Confirmation is being sought. You shall not lose touch until identity is definitely established.  
(R.A.W.A.F., 2255Z/26 to PRETORIA CASTLE.)  
*(German U-boat runner MUNSTERLAND, see G.P. 507)*

Your 1845Z/26. S.S. ANGLO CANADIAN arrived Bombay April 19th. (D.D.I.C., 2333B/26 to PRETORIA CASTLE, (R) R.A.W.Af.)  
PRETORIA CASTLE appears to have intercepted ship purporting to be ANGLO CANADIAN. Latest information at Freetown is that this ship left Capetown 18/1 for Aden. Request confirmation that ship is not in this area.  
(R.A.W.A.F., 2115Z/26 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., PRETORIA CASTLE.)  
Report your P.C. and S.  
(R.A.W.A.F., 2126Z/26 to PRETORIA CASTLE, (R) ALCANTARA.)

BRIDGEWATER. E.T.A. Takoradi 0700Z/27.  
(BRIDGEWATER, 2025Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi,  
(R) R.A.W.A.)

/VIOLET ...

War Diary.

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

VIOLET U/B. VIOLET attacked contact at 2019/26 in 00.06 N., 7.25 W., 250' S. of Cape Palmas, no details. (D.S., 967.)

KIRKPOOL. Overdue Shipping. British KIRKPOOL which left Durban 1/4 for Montevideo has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2054Z/26 to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 26/4 EGRET, FLEETWOOD, PHILANTE, FISHGUARD, Free French COMMANDANT DROGOU, HYDRANGEA with S.L. 108. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2153Z/26 to Admty.)

W.S. 17C. GENISTA and CYCLAMEN escorting CITY OF HONG KONG sailed 1545Z to overtake convoy W.S. 17C. (2) ANTHONY sailed 2158Z to overtake above ships. (Cdre. Durban, 2159Z/26 to Admty., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

S/M Depot Ship. C. in C. S.A. 1944/24 (N.T. in W.R.) Depot ship at Freetown for S/Ms will be EDINBURGH CASTLE or her successor. (R.A. W.Africa, 2357Z/26 to F.O.S.)

776

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta, smoke. Admty. 1914/5. Smoke protection. Difficulties.  
(V.A. Malta, 0120B/26 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)  
See Lion Copy.  
Supply of generators.  
(D. of L.D., 1940B/26 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta)  
See Lion Copy.

?  
Governor of Malta's telegram 1315/25 addressed  
Chiefs of Staffs (N.T. in W.D.) approx. 300 tons.  
Will confirm figures later.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0750B/26 to V.A. Malta).

Movements. 25/4 Port Said arrivals CARLISLE, ANTWERP,  
VULCAN M.T.B. 310. Departures 0950 SOUTHERN MAID,  
1011 MOONSTONE, 1004 PEONY, 1002 CRESCENT MOON,  
1030 LANNER, 1140 F.F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, 1240  
CARLISLE, 1730 ST. MONANCE, 1800 ANTWERP.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0934C/26 to Admty., C. in C.  
Med.)

PROTEUS. Cancel my 1715/25, move 725 miles 270° from  
present position.  
(Capt. S.1., 0935C/26 to PROTEUS, (R) THORN).  
My 0935/26. At 1045/26 R/C show P.C. and S. of one 3000 ton  
tanker with destroyer escort 038° 25' 017° 50' 180° 10 knots.  
(Capt. S.1., 1101C/26 to PROTEUS (R) THORN). *See p 777*

P.31. 26/4 H.M. Sub. P.31 sailed.  
(V.A. Malta, 0952B/26 to Admty.)

UNA. My 1232B/25. Alternative route appears to be 185°  
to arrive 036° 01' 011° 49' about 0530B/27. Patrol  
vicinity 036° 20' 011° 55' until dawn 27/4.  
Anticipate enemy pass that position 0400B to westwards or 0430B  
to eastwards. Do not approach Pantellaria closer than 20 miles  
and retire if possible to S.S.E. on leaving patrol position in  
search of other targets.  
(Capt. S.10, 1005B/26 to UNA (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)  
My 1005B/26. 1 Wellington taken off to search and attack before  
0200B/27.  
(Capt. S.10, 2223B/26 to UNA (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

Famagusta Minesweeping. My 1210/22. Weekly (?minesweeping) summary -  
sweeping carried out daily - total 5 mines swept.  
Believe channel now clear.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1115C/26 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. Med.)



# MOST SECRET

776A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0120B/26th April IN

From: V.A. Malta.

Date 26.4.42.

Recd: 0534

Naval Cypher D by W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty repeated C. in C. Mediterranean  
837

A.M. 1914 5th.

(1) Protection of Grand and Marsamxett Harbours by smoke presents tremendous difficulties the greatest of which are the quantities of material required and its rapid replacement as it is used.

(2) To be really effective the whole of the above area must be covered and even so if the high ridges of land are not hidden they will indicate the form of the harbours. The condition of humidity and temperature and wind direction and strength differ on surface and at a height and in the various creeks.

(3) If it were possible to form a more or less uniform low cloud over whole area the A/A defence, particularly short range weapons, would be handicapped. If smoke rises in detached clouds the attackers are helped.

(4) During height of recent attacks extending over 14 days interval between heavy raids varied from one to 4 hours and many raids lasted an hour or more. Amount of material and labour to maintain effective screen against attack of this scale would be prodigious.

(5) The immense cloud of dense smoke and dust formed by the burst of enemy bombs and often extending from Bighi to Arica did not appear to deter the dive bombers or put them off their aim. They (?scattered) blinded by ships A/A fire and some of the harbour A/A defences. As a general rule J U 88's attacked first and were followed by J U 87's possibly taking advantage of the protective cloud produced by the former's bombs.

(6) As cover against reconnaissance continuous smoke would be necessary since it is seldom that the island is not under observation.

(7) Reference paragraph 3 of A.M. The wind and weather conditions at Malta are so variable that any trials which it is possible to put in hand between raids are unlikely to be of much practical value and in any case the chemical smoke producing material available (only 240 ship's type of smoke floats) is insufficient for the purpose. Reports of smoke trials see C R Malta number 22216/3 G of 10th July 1934.

(8) Reference paragraph 4 of A.M. The front intended to be "manned" is approximately 10 miles. To get full effect at least a 30 per cent section of frontage depending on the wind direction would need to be burnt and replenished each raid. Therefore daily consumption based on recent experience of attack and Admiralty figures might be as high as 30 tons.

(9).....

(2)

(9) If, in order to save on expenditure smoke is produced to screen a small area of the harbour it will draw attention to that area or concentrate the attack on an unshielded part which must hold attractive targets since every creek contains them.

(10) The use of a chemical smoke requiring the wearing of respirators would be a grave disadvantage especially for the large number of Maltese in the harbour area and in view of the fact that few of the rock shelters are artificially ventilated.

(11) The foregoing, in which the other services and the government concur, give the difficulties and disadvantages as we see them of providing smoke protection to Malta harbour. They are not small but if sufficient material can be got here in time, every possible effort will be made to surmount them as the advantage of an effective (?screen) is fully appreciated.

(12) Admiralty pass to War Office, Air Ministry and Colonial Office.

0120B/26

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)
- N... 1st S.L.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- Hd. of M. (30) and for W.O., A.M. and C.O.
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.S.D.
- D. of S.
- D.C.D.
- D. of D.
- D.S.R.
- D.C. (2)
- D. of L.D. (3) (L.D.0003463/42)
- D.T.M.
- D... S.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)
- D.M.W.D.
- D. of D.
- D.A.S. } Bath
- D. of S. }
- S.W.R. }

MP/

1  
1  
1  
1  
2  
2  
23  
24  
25

C  
776 B.

# MOST SECRET

---

---

From, Gov. and C, in C, Malta.

Date. 27.4.42.  
Time. 0955.

CIPHER,

Addressed, C, in C, Middle East, Repeated War Office.

IMPORTANT.

C46653, G/834/R cipher 26/4.

Military situation report for period 14 to 25 April. Please note further reports will be sent weekly up to Saturdays.

One. Enemy air attacks maintained on heavy scale except 15, 16, 17 April when weather conditions indifferent. Daily scale of enemy effort and main targets follows.

(a) Date.	(b) No. of JU.88,	(c) No. of JU.87,	(d) total bombers includes others,	(e) Main targets.
14 April	124	120	251	Primary Harbour, aerodromes secondary gun posns.
15, 16, 17 April.	About 28 aircraft in all.			Bombs widespread by single aircraft.
18 April.	145	60	210	Kalafrana Harbour, aerodromes gun posns.
19 April.	120	71	203	Aerodromes, gun posns, harbour.
20 April.	235	62	304	Primary aerodromes, secondary harbour. Gun posns.
21 April.	100	40	148	Primary Ta Kali. Secondary other aerodromes and harbour.
22 April.	136	43	181	Aerodromes and harbour area.
23 April.	106	30	141	- Ditto -
24 April.	126	33	167	- Ditto -
25 April.	220	39	259	Military Camps and hospitals.

Bombers/.....

# MOST SECRET

---

Bombers always have numbers of M.E. 109 as escort. These carry out occasional machine gunning attacks. Normally three sometimes four main raids daily of about three quarter hours duration interspersed with minor raids day and night. Defence almost entirely A.A. until 20 April when reinforcement Spitfires arrived although many of these put temporarily out of action in first three days mainly on the ground. Of interest to note 337 tons bombs dropped on Takali fighter aerodrome, 104 tons on Luqa on 20, 21 and 22 April. A.A. L.M.G.'s manned on scale of one in each PL. Area and more in V.P. Area, firing part A.P. amm. obtained from R.A.F. A.A. normally very restricted re amm. expenditure except for certain periods in order conserve stocks. Special A.A. measures taken temporarily however to strengthen Ta Kali and Luqa barrages to cover arrival Spitfires. A.A. now restricted to 15 rds. per gun per day except 3- in which 20 rds. Claims for period. A.A. destroyed JU 88 31. JU 87 5. ME 109 7. Probable destroyed JU 88 3. JU 87 1. ME 109 2. Damaged JU 88. 20. JU 87 4. ME 109 9. R.A.F. destroyed JU 88 5. JU 87 4. ME 109 8. Probable destroyed JU 88 8. JU 87 2. ME 109 3. Damaged JU 88 27. JU 87 5. ME 109 23.

## Two. Damage to military installations.

39 and 45 Gen. hospitals both hit 25 April (see my G/801 and G/815 dated 25/4). 39 Gen. Hospital almost completely demolished. Deliberate attacks on military barracks and camps at St. Andrews, St. Georges, Ghain Tuffeqha, Mellicha K.O.M.R. Depot, Poor House Marsa. Severe damage to barracks and buildings. R.A.O.C. clothing store, radio workshops, fire control instruments workshops, R.A.S.C. supply stores St. Andrews seriously damaged. New pay office damaged. 15 hy. A.A. gun posns. attacked besides all Bofors posns. included in attacks on aerodromes and harbour. Direct hits gun posns. Handak, Pietru, Salina, Delimara, Tigne, Maria, Hagiar Kim, Benjhaisa, Manoel, Hompesch, and two Bofors posns caused casualties personnel, guns and equipment. Elsewhere damage to Ordnance Depot and workshops Ospizo, Billets Rinella, Inf. billets Luqa H.Q. 32 L.A.A. Regt. H.Q. Cheshires, Lintorn and Casemate barracks. Some damage to G.L. equipment. Extensive damage signal communications but situation met by temporary repair.

Three. Other damage severe damage to civil installations and buildings particularly in Valletta - Floriana - Dockyard Area included cratering of roads, serious suspension of water and electric light. G.P.O. destroyed. Many houses demolished blocking main roads and thoroughfares. In the harbour M.V. PAMPAS received another hit and other damage included torpedo depot. Several lighters sunk. Extensive cratering of aerodromes and dispersal areas damage to aircraft, pens; aerodrome buildings and demolition of R.A.F. workshops D.A. bombs dropped on aerodromes at dusk to hinder night working parties.

Four. War Effort. During period Army working parties averaged 2000 men daily assisting R.A.F. on aerodromes in

addition/.....



# MOST SECRET

med  
776 ~~D~~ F

N. MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1940B/26th April OUT

To: C. in C. Mediterranean 551 Bl Date 26.4.42.

V.A. Malta 487  
Repeated Air Ministry  
War Office.  
Ministry of Supply  
F.O.C.N.A. 786.

Naval Cypher (D O.T.T.) & Hand.

From: Admiralty.

Admiralty 1914B/5th April and V.A. Malta's 0120B/26. arrangements have been made to send to Gibraltar in LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE 2700 H.C.E. generators (Approx. 40 tons) for onward shipment to Malta as can be arranged. Trials show respirators not, repeat not, required in cloud.

2. Consideration will be given of practicability of shipping further smoke ~~direct~~ from U.K. to Malta should opportunity offer. Further supplies will also be sent to Gibraltar possibly in CARADOC due to sail 10th May.

3. 300 tons generators being consigned to Alexandria in W.S.19 for local use or onward shipment.

4. Intend to send further generators to Alexandria in ARETHUSA and ORION.

1940B/26.

D. of L.D. (800)

Controller	D.C.(2)	
Vice Controller	D.M.W.D.	
V.C.N.S.	I.P.(2)	
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	W.D.	
A.C.N.S.(H)	Deputy Controller}	Bath
A.C.N.S.(W)	D. of D.	
N.A. 1st S.L.		
D. of L.D.(3) (L.D.003463/42)		
D.O.D.(F)(2)		
D.O.D.(H)(2)		
D. of S.		
Hd. of M.(4) for Min. of Supply		
D.D.I.C.(2)		
D. of P.(2)		
D.T.S.D.	D. of S.	} Bath
D.A.S.	D.A.S.	
D. of D.	Hd. of S.W.R.	

777

War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - contd.P.612.  
(MURAT REIS)

1. Your 2115/25 and V.A. Malta 0940/22. Proceed through 034° 59' 019° 59' about dawn/27 and thence through 031° 48' 029° 02' to arrive Alexandria searched channel at 0530C/1/5.
2. German and Italian submarines are known operating in considerable number along African coast and between Cyrenaica and Crete.
3. Report in plenty of time if you cannot comply with E.T.A. within 3 hours.  
(Capt. S.l., 1121C/26 to P.612 (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

Enemy Units.

2 Merchant ships 2 destroyers in 036° 10' N., 018° 55' E. course 190° speed 8 knots at 1155C. (V.A.Malta, 1156B/26 to S/Ms on patrol).

My 1155. Enemy course and speed 170° 8 knots at 1215C/26. (V.A.Malta, 1325B/26 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Following received. One medium merchant ship, one destroyer in 035° 45' N. 018° 52' E., one medium merchant ship, one destroyer in 035° 54' N. 018° 50' E. about 170° speed 8 knots 3 Junkers 88's at 1448C. (V.A.Malta, 1511B/26 to S/Ms. on Patrol).

Black Sea.

- (1) No change in general situation in Crimea.
- (2) Enemy air attacks frequent against all Russian Black Sea ports. Attacks directed mainly against shipping.
- (3) Russian Fleet inactive except for S/M patrols which are having little success.
- (4) Admty. 2009A/283. Series of telegrams have been sent by naval authorities to Crimea Army H.Q. but no answer as yet received. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 1437/26 to Admty., Adm. Miles).

LL.Sweepers.

Conversion to 'LL' of 5 whalers at present at Colombo is urgently required. Can all or any of these be undertaken in your Command? All gear necessary for conversion can be sent from Colombo. (D.M.S., 1735B/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C.E.I)

THORN.

Shift patrol 12 miles east.  
(Capt. S.l., 1925C/26 to THORN).

PROTEUS,  
THORN.

\* PROTEUS. By dawn 29th establish further patrol as in my 2045/22, THORN. By 0800C/28 establish patrol in vicinity of 033° 14' 018° 24'.  
(Capt. S.l., 1927C/26 to PROTEUS, THORN).

\* See P-776

Malta.

Military situation report for 14/4 to 25/4.  
(Govr. Malta, 1940/26 to C. in C. M.E., (R) W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

/French ...

War Diary.

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

French  
Aircraft,  
Kotonou.

For your information. Following received from J.S.M., Washington. (Quotes J.S.M.196). Our reply is as follows. (Quotes C.O.S. No.(W)162) (1040/26). Please pass to A.O.C. in C. and A.O.C. respectively. (W.O., 2145/26 to C. in C. M.E., G.O.C. in C. W.Africa).

URGE.

URGE leaves Malta a.m./27 direct for 034° 55' 020° 05', arrives about 0700B/30 thence as ordered by you to Alexandria. (Capt. S.10, 2240B/26 to Capt. S.1.)

Enemy Units.

P.C.S. 2 merchant ships, 1 destroyer 037° 11' N. 011° 52' East - 200° - 15 at 2245B/26. (Capt. S.10, 2355B/26 to S/M P.35).



War Diary.26.4.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Deputy F.O., India. My 1443/23 (re appointment of Deputy Flag Officer India). Should this proposal be approved, I consider that F.O. India, could take over  
(a) Control of Indian coastal trade and movements.  
(b) Protection of trade in Persian Gulf.  
2. C. in C. E.F. would place under his orders any additional escorts or patrol vessels for (a) and (b) which may be allocated from Eastern Fleet.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0458Z/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I., Arminia, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Proposed reopening East Coast of India. Your 1046/25. Consider route should be coastwise (?between) Calcutta and Vizagapatam and along Ceylon coast as (?this will) enable some measure of air protection to be given.  
2. Between Vizagapatam and N.E. coast of Ceylon consider diversive routing will give greater safety especially against submarines.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0512Z/26 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty)

Movement Summary. No.33 dated 26/4.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0753Z/26/4 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)  
See Lion Copy.

ESKBANK. Cancel my 1245Z/23. Vessel proceeding Aden.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0900Z/26 to C. in C. E.I., (R) Admty., etc.)  
Your 0415 Z/26. (N.T. in W.D.) Vessel sailed for Aden at owners orders. My 0900Z/26 refers. Request further instructions.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 2005/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

ENGADINE. Mombasa arrived 26/4 0905 G.M.T.  
(N.O.I.C. E. Africa, 0922Z/26 to C. in C. E.I., (R) Admty., etc.)

Manza Bay Net. Your 1340Z/24/4, Manza Bay, para.1 approved.  
2. You should retain GUARDIAN until your requirements for base defences are complete, unless on arrival of netlayer BRITTANY her services can be spared.  
3. In order that early provision of defence equipment may be made request you will state whether you intend using Manza Bay, Zanzibar or Tanga for ships which cannot be accommodated at Kilindini.  
Para. (ii) Approved.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1112B/26 to C. in C. E.I., (R) V.A.3., C. in C.E.F.)

Movements. Colombo arrival 26/4 0100Z ASTER, departure 1200Z SUTLEJ.  
(S.O.I. Colombo, 1137/26 to Admty., etc.)

/Sea ...

SECRET

MESSAGE

0753Z/26th April

IN

From C. in C. East Indies

Date 26.4.42

Recd. 1726

MINOR CYPRER (C) BY W/T

Addressed S. & A. E. I. Station Repeated Admiralty, C. in C.  
South Atlantic, Naval Board Melbourne, F.O.R.S.

IMPORTANT. AIDAC.

281. Movement summary number 33 dated 26th April (1) reference  
summary number 32 amend number 8 thence patrol North Malacca  
Strait leave patrol 5th for Colombo

(11)

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	H.M.S. COVENTRY	Aden 23rd	Suez	from Bombay
2	H.M.S. CERES	Mombasa 22nd	Aden 29th	escorting CM 27
3	Greek Destroyer PANTHER	Aden 20th	Bharnagar 29th	towed by SVUH (ATHINA LIVANOS) to 070 degs East
4	H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE	Bombay 23rd	Aden 24th	escorting B A 21.
5	H.M.I.S. JUMNA	Bombay 25th	Colombo 1st	escorting B M 16.
6	H.M.S. TULIP HINDUSTAN	Colombo 25th	Bombay 30th	H.M.S. BARLANE in company.
7.	H.M.S. LUCIA H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ	Colombo 26th	Addu (corrupt group) & Colombo	escorting ■ (GRFY) (?DEMODOCUS) for Kilindini as far as 070 degs 48' East.
8	H.M.S. EREBUS	Trincomalee 25th	Colombo 27th	H.M.S. SHOREHAM A/S escort.
9	Greek Destroyer TERAX	Vizagapatam 26th	Madras 27th	for Mediterranean thence Trincomalee 28th Colombo 29th Cochin 2nd Bombay 4th
10.	H.M.S. TRUSTY	Malacca Strait 25th	Colombo 29th (approx)	from patrol
11.	Controlled Minelaying Trawler JAY	(?Durban) 16th	Mauritius 25th	for Fremantle and New Zealand.

/12 H.M.S. ALDENHAM .....

779 B.

<u>Serial Number.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
12	H.M.S. ALDENHAM H.M.S. GROVE	Capetown 18th	Mombasa 28th (approx)	
13	H.M.S. REVENGE	Kilindini 23rd	Durban 28th	to escort W.S. 17 to off Mombasa
14	H.M.S. COLOMBO	Mombasa 21st	Durban 27th	overtaking and escorting H.M.S. CHITRAL and S U 4.
15	H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE	Capetown 19th	Durban	to r/v W.S. 17 and escort to Durban
16	H.M.S. DAUNTLESS	Capetown 25th	Durban	to escort W.S. 17 from Durban to off Mombasa.
17	H.M.S. AIREDALE	Mombasa	Aden 25th.	

0753-Z/26.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

\* Alternative GBP Y (PACIFIC ENTERPRISE)

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim,  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
O.D. 3  
M. (2)  
O.I.C.  
Mails  
Movts.  
I.P. (3)  
D.A/S.W.  
W.D.  
D.P.S.

D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D. of S.T. (2)  
D. of V.  
D.T.M.  
D. of L.D.  
FILE X.

War Diary.

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

Sea Hurricanes Ref. R.A. Aircraft carriers' message T.O.O. for Ceylon 1519F/?23/4 addressed Comnas and repeated C. in C. defence. E.F. and C. in C. E.I. which stated 6 Sea Hurricanes are to be used for defence of Ceylon until they can be spared and then to Coimbatore or (?Cochin) for training and as reserve, INDOMITABLE intends to form a temporary squadron of 6 Sea Hurricanes at Ratmalana to be known as 803 "?X" Squadron with Lt. P.E.I. Bailey R.N. in command and naval and R.A.F. pilots 366 (as received, could read "maintenance") personnel being taken over from remainder (?803) squadron not embarked in (?carrier). This squadron to go into reserve at Coimbato with naval pilots only as soon as R.A.F. in Ceylon is fully reinforced. A.O.C. 222 Group has agreed to detach some Hurricanes (?purely) for initial training so as to conserve hours on Sea Hurricanes.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1219Z/26 to Admt., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Control of G.R. Sqdns. A.O.C. 103-26/4. Subject of your AX 536 22/4 (0920/22) discussed between A.O.C. in C. and C. in C. E.F., C. in C? Ceylon and A.O.C. Ceylon in Colombo 23/4. It is confirmed that A.O.C. Ceylon can co-ordinate operations long range G.R. Squadrons based E.Coast Africa or S.Coast Arabia or elsewhere Indian? Ocean exclusive India direct from Colombo and in accordance with directive laid down by C. in C. E.F.  
(Air H.Q. India, 1305/26 to Air Min.)  
Note by War Registry. Message AX.536 from Air Ministry (0920/22) is being repeated to C. in C. E.I. and C. in C. E.F. for information under T.O.O. 2026B/26, at request of D.O.D.(F).

SUMATRA. Deputy C. in C. E.F. 0516/9. Dutch authorities in London propose -  
(a) After working up SUMATRA should join Eastern Fleet, operating with 2 boilers out of action, giving a maximum speed of 26 knots.  
(b) 2 boilers to be retubed during her annual refit in 6 to 12 months time at a South African or East Indies Station port.  
2. Arrangements will be made to divert boiler tubes to Simonstown.  
3. Request your remarks.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1306B/26 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., B.S.O.)

FORMIDABLE Your 0501/18. (N.T. in W.D.)  
defect. New gear wheel must be fitted in U.K. or U.S.A.  
2. It is not desirable to fit new pinions with the old gear wheel.  
3. Until FORMIDABLE can be spared to proceed to U.K. or U.S.A. she must continue to run at reduced power as stated in your 0501/18.  
4. Gear now in MANXMAN should be retained on board FORMIDABLE until refit takes place.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1308B/26 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., FORMIDABLE).

/A.A. Units ...

War Diary.

26.4.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

A.A. Units for Ceylon. OZ 93. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. COS (India) 53.  
As A.A. defences not for time being required Addu Atoll and in view request C. in C. East Indies for A.A. defences to be installed Kilindini at early date we have considered question diverting to Mombasa 1 HY. A.A. and 1 Lt. A.A. Regt. at present en route India in W.S.17.  
We have decided that in order to ensure A.A. defences Ceylon are made up to full scale with least possible delay A.A. units earmarked by you for Addu Atoll should go to Ceylon.  
All A.A. units for India in W.S.17 will proceed as at present ordered. A.A. defences for Kilindini will be despatched from U.K. as early as possible.  
(Air Min., T.O.O. 1642Z/26 to C. in C. India (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

ALBATROSS. Your 1057/24. Concur.  
(Dep. C. in C. E.F., 1659Z/26 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

782

War Diary.26.4.1942  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Area to be cleared. Your 2155/23. All British-controlled ships should conform with Opnav's 1454/25. (D.T.D. 0009B/26 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. A.W.I. B.A.D.)

Coastal Tanker Convoys. My 2341/24. Proposals are as follows. (B.A.D. 0019Z/26 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. April 25/42 arrivals. MINAS with L.C.8 ex Halifax. Departures. VETERAN, MONTGOMERY, OAKVILLE, NANAIMO and HALIFAX to O.N. 86, CALGARY to escort C.L.27 to Halifax. (F.O.N.F. 0105C/26 to Admty.)

U/B. D/F indicated S/M within 60 miles 36.30 N. 58° W. at 2128Z/ and 2152Z/25. (N.S.H.Q. 0151Z/26 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

Wreck. Dangerous wreck in position (a) 042° 35' N. 069° 25' W. (b) 042° 34' N. 069° 33' W. (C.O.A.C. 0210Z/26 to British and U.S. Warships in area D. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.T.F. No.24, Opnav.)

WALKER COLUMBIA. Your 1618/25 (N.T. in W.R.) American Hudson sighted about 1130Z WALKER P.C. and S. 044° 13' N. 056° 39' W. 230° 20 knots, no zigzag. COLUMBIA 5 miles on starboard beam. Weather report. (WALKER 0401Z/26 to F.O.N.F.)

U/B. D/F places S/M at 0013Z/26 within 100 miles of 041° 30' N. 048° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. 0817Z/26 to Brit. Warships in Area 7a, Admty. etc.)

U/B. S/M at 0417Z/26 within 60 miles 031° N. 068° W. by D/F. (N.S.H.Q. 0845Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

/Movement ...

SECRET

MESSAGE

0019Z/26 April,

IN.

AWJ.  
782 A

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 26.4.42.  
Recd. 0405.

Flag Offs. (X) BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated N.S.H.Q. C. in C.  
America and West Indies. M.O.W.T. New York.  
IMPORTANT.

494. My 2341/24 not to all addressees.  
Reported consideration by Navy Dept. of a few preliminary  
coastal convoys for tankers only, has proved an incor-  
rect description of intentions. Proposals are as  
follows.

2. Com E.S.F. is being made responsible for movement  
of all U.S. controlled tankers in Eastern, Gulf,  
Panama and Caribbean, sea frontiers. He will through  
U.S.R.O.'s control their movements and route.

3. It is intended that until coastal convoy system  
is brought into effect tankers should be sailed  
independently when risk is estimated to justify it,  
and that in certain areas groups will be given light  
escort when possible.

4. Navy Dept. offer to include British controlled  
tankers in the scheme but propose that, to facilitate  
working, BUSRA shall be brought into full effect in  
respect of tankers only repeat only in Eastern, Gulf,  
Caribbean and Atlantic part of Panama sea frontiers.  
Responsibilities of routing officers in ports in those  
areas would be as in my 0255/22. Diversions of tankers  
in the sea frontier areas would be made by Com. E.S.F.,  
and diversions of East going tankers outside sea  
frontiers by OPNAV as far as Chop at U.S. strategic  
area limit. Diversions of West coming tankers on  
ocean routes to be by British Authorities as at present.

5. Question of whether distribution of books to U.S.  
Authorities is sufficiently advanced to enable them to  
make diversion signals on G.B.M.S. to British tankers  
and necessary MERC0 and Route signals is being  
investigated.

6. It is understood in Navy Department that close  
touch should be established between M.O.W.T. New York  
and Com. E.S.F. for consultation on tanker movements.

7. In the opinion of B.A.D. proposals are practicable  
subject to para. five with initial imperfections. It  
is recommended that no approach concerning proposals

should/

should be made by M.O.W.T. New York to Com. E.S.F. for the moment. If proposals are accepted by Admiralty it is intended by arrangement with Navy Dept. to send an officer from B.A.D. staff to visit New York to ensure understanding of Com. E.S.F. and M.O.W.T. New York is in line with intention of Navy Dept.

0019Z/26,

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

Advance copy.      Ops.  
    O.D.  
    Trade.

- D. of S.T. (2).
- D.A/S.W.
- M. (4).
- Mr. Soal.
- I.P. (3).
- W.D.



783

War Diary.26.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Movement Summary.	1800 G.M.T. 26/4.	Position	Course	Speed.
	Ship	Arriving		
	4 Trawlers.	Kingston		
		Jamaica.	Blank	Blank
	D.S. JAN	34° N.	260°	10
	VAN BRAKEL	51° W.		
	PARTHIAN.	37° N.	136°	6
		66½° W.		
	PRETORIA )			
	CASTLE )	03° N.	Searching	Blank
	ALCANTARA )	20° W.		
	QUEEN MARY	26° S.	284°	25½
		31½° W.		
	DIOMEDE	31° S.	036°	12
		44½° W.		

(D.O.D.(F) 0905Z/26 to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)

U/B.

Intercept 1019 G.M.T. S/M sighted 42.50 N. 63.29 W. at 0615 Z, X 1252/25. Controlling station Arlington Virginia. (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O. Recd 1308/26.)

French Aircraft, W. Africa RANGER.

Following for J.S.M. from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 162. Your J.S.M. 196 (2009/24) and 197. We have no confirmation of this report. Intimations are that French, so far from dispersing their aircraft in West Africa, are tending to concentrate them in the area Casablanca/Dakar.

Even if U.S. Ferry Pilot's report is true we do not attach much importance to it. Leg of route from Accra to Lagos is only 250 miles; extremely unlikely that there will be R.D.F. facilities at Kotonou; and all necessary is for aircraft on that leg to be routed well out to sea. We certainly should not embark on any sort of offensive action with RANGER because the main thing to get the aircraft in that ship to their proper destination as quickly as possible, without undertaking any adventures on the way. (Air Min. T.O.O. 1040Z/26.)

Dispositions. A.M. 1000Z/24. Area Scapa add WASP. Amend destroyers to read 9. Amend destroyers (U.S.) to read 6. Delete Area Londonderry. Delete Passage to U.K. (D.O.D.(H) 1100B/26 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Opnav, Cinclant.)

VELMA  
BRITAMSEA  
diversion.

From departure signal from your port for Norwegian VELMA and Norwegian BRITAMSEA it would appear that vessels did not carry out my diversion signal 1253/19 and 1059/20 (both repeated to you) to proceed to Jamaica for orders. Report if Admiralty have been informed and investigations made why ship did not receive diversion signal. A.M. 1746/25/2 passed to you by S.O.(I) Kingston refers. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1209P/26 to S.N.O. Curacao.)

/Convoy ...

784

War Diary.26.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Convoy Escorts. British escort units under present schedule are assigned consecutive convoys, thus preventing use repair facilities Argentina to maximum advantage for B Units. In order stagger foregoing assignments as practicable and also to establish policy of alternate assignment to fast and slow convoys as practicable for all escort units, propose following assignments months May - June; eastbound convoys commencing with H.X.188 and consecutively thereafter escorts will be B3, B5, C1, B6, C2, C3, A3, B7, C4, B1, B2, B3, B4; westbound convoys commencing with O.N.91 and consecutively thereafter escorts will be A2, A3, C3, B7, C4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, C1, C2, B6, C3, A3, B7, C4, B.1. (C.T.F. 24, 1231/26 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Opnav etc.)

H.X.187. WANDERER, ROXBOROUGH, SUDBURY, SUMMERSIDE, sailed Western local escort H.X.187. (S.O.I. Halifax 1437Z/26 to Admty. (R) C.C.N.F. etc.)

Intend to sail SUNFLOWER as additional escort for H.X.187. My 0201Z/26th (N.T. in W.R.) (C.T.24 1445/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.86. Halifax Section break off at 062° 00' W. Remaining ships from (F) to Cape Cod canal, Long Island Sound to New York for onward routing. (Opnav, 1446/26 to C.T.U. 24.18.1, C.T.U.24.1.4.)

COAMO AGWILEON. My 1533/24 (Personnel from Freetown to be accommodated in W.S.18) (1) COAMO sailed today for Freetown via Recife. (2) AGWILEON reports she could proceed to Capetown if desired. U.S. Authorities request you determine best course of action observing that some of freight now on board is required by U.S. Missions at Basra and Massawa. (B.A.D. 1501Z/26 to R.A. W. Africa.)

P.552 Your 0057Z/23. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Delay not acceptable. Request P.552 be sailed without fitting ejector. Only 4 ejectors will therefore be despatched. (F.O.S. 1512B/26 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. B.A.R.M.) P.552 expects to depart New London for St. Johns, N.F. 29/4. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1953/26 to C.E.S.F. (R) Com. Sublant, C. in C. A.F. (United States) B.A.D. Washington, Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

KIWI. My 1525Z/25. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> KIWI sails for Christchurch via Papeete 9/5. Following are U.S. route instructions given. (N.S.H.Q. 1610Z/26 to Admty.)

Dakar Casablanca. Arrivals and departures, 19/4 to 22/4. (B.A.D. 1615Z/26 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

/ECHODALE ...

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1615z/26th. April. IN

Date: 26.4.42.

From: B.A.D. Washington.

Recd: 2039.

NAVAL CYPHER XD BY CABLE. RECIRCULATION.

Addressed Admiralty.

498. Dakar 24th April B.2. 24/4 CAP BLANC arrived Casablanca 25th April B.2.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Departures</u>	<u>For.</u>
20/4	ST. EMILE	Dakar.
22/4	MEDIE II	Dakar (one batt infantry part of Tank Regt.)
22/4	ALGERIE	Marseille (Arrived from Safi 20/4)

Algiers 25th April B.2.

21/4	CATHERINE SCHIAFFINO	Sete
21/4	G.G. DE GUEYDON	Marseille
22/4	STE. CHRISTINE	Marseille
22/4	STE. MARTINE	France
22/4	G.G. LE PINE	France
23/4	AISNE	France(iron ore)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>From.</u>
21/4	STE. GISELLE	Port Bouc(Oil)
22/4	DJEBEL NADOR	Marseille(Trucks)
22/4	ST. MARTIN	Port Bouc(Oil)
22/4	DJEBEL AMOUR	Sete
22/4	G.G. GREVY	Marseille

Marseille 23rd April B.2.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Departures</u>	<u>For.</u>
19/4	DJEBEL DIRA	Philippeville
19/4	ST. RAYMOND	Bone
20/4	DUNKERQUE	Algiers
20/4	DJEBEL NADOR	Algiers
20/4	VILLE D'AJACCIO	Ajaccio
20/4	G.G. GREVY	Algiers
21/4	KILISSI	Algiers
21/4	CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERIE	-
21/4	CHATEAU LA ROSE	Bone
21/4	G.G. DE GUEYDON	Algiers
21/4	CASTILLEBORTON BUTRON	Valencia
21/4	G.G. TIRMAN	Oran
21/4	G.G. JONNART	Tunis
21/4	SEBASTIAN	Valencia

.. /Date .....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>From</u>
19/4	IMERETH II	Casablanca
19/4	KILISSI	Algiers
19/4	ST. BASILE	Algiers
19/4	P. L. M 21 (21	Sfax
19/4	BOURGES	Casablanca
19/4	LINOIS	Dakar
20/4	STE. SIMONE	Sfax
20/4	GRETE	Valencia
20/4	CHATEAU LA TOUR	Tunis
20/4	SEBASTIAN	Valencia
21/4	ST. RABIN	-
	BELAIN	Algiers
21/4	D'ESNAMBUC	
21/4	BONIFACIO	Casablanca
22/4	ST. LOUIS(?)	-
22/4	CYRNOS	Ajaccio
22/4	G.G. LAFERRIERE	Oran

1615Z/26

V.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (M)
N.A 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (C)
D.N.I. (5)	D.E.W.D. (3)
O.I.C. (3)	M. (2)
O.D. (5)	Adl. Chalmers
W.D.	M. (6) for War Office

m.s

1

War Diary.26.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

ECHODALE. Your 1051/26 (N.T. in W.D.) ECHODALE has been re-routed by Key West Port director in accordance with your 1331/22 as follows.  
(B.R.O. Jacksonville 1629Z/26 to Admty.)

Escort for LADY NELSON. My 2202/16 and your 1710/18. Tug MORANIS delayed until about 1/5.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1652P/26 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Attacks on Shipping. U.85 intelligence. S/M Attack Summary. 2 torpedoes missed U.S.S. RAVEN 33.31 N. 76.57 W. at 1025Z/25, ineffectual D/C attack made. Plane attacked S/M 40° N. 72° 36' W. at 1445Z/25, no result. 2 attacks on moving sound contact 34.55 N. 75.45 W. at 1915Z/25 result large quantity oil and bubbles. 2 aircraft sightings 35.20 N. 75.25 W. at 0032Z/26, 41.50 N. 69.30 W. at 1110Z/26. WEST IMBODEN 41.14 N. 65.84 W. at 0248Z/23, 1 torpedo and approx. 35 shells, no S/M description due to darkness. Unconfirmed sighting 02.43 S. 41.48 W. at 1200Z/23. Large S/M sighted 13.11 N. 72.33 W. at 1410Z/91 (as received)

2 diaries recovered from bodies of U-85 appear to establish following: Year 1941. Aug. 10 arrived Trondheim from Oslo; 29 sailed for N. Atlantic first war cruise. Sept. 25 depth charged by aircraft, met U-105, 4 South Denmark Straits, 9 southeast Greenland followed convoy, 10 gunned BYDD, torpedoed two ships 1720Z, heavily depth charged surfaced at 1748Z, depth charged by aircraft 1918Z, damage impaired ability to dive, returned. Oct. 16 left Nazaire second war cruise, 21 and 22 chasing convoy ineffectively, 24 hunting convoy off Newfoundland. Year 1942. Jan. 1 left Lorient third war cruise; 17, tried to operate against convoy W.S.16, course 180°, ordered to America; 21. fired 4 at steamer 1648Z; 24, sighted vessel stopped, submarine trap, 27, Baptism of fire, aircraft attack, possibly 46 N. 51 W. 1230Z/27; 28, off Newfoundland, bombed and hit 1848Z, inner exhaust flap valve damaged. (Inner exhaust flap). Feb. 8, operated against convoy, torpedoed single ship possibly EMPIRE FUSILIER, returned owing to fuel, 23 reached Nazaire. March 21, sailed Nazaire, 28 special announcement heard about British landing at Nazaire; April 7, position 660 miles from Washington; 10, steamer sunk. (Cominch 1837Z/26 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

PHOEBE. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1410/25. PHOEBE departs Norfolk (Virginia) 1530Z/27 for Plymouth, England. Route.  
(C.E.S.F. 2001Z/26 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. etc.)

U/B. D/F indicate U-boat within 60 miles of 37° N. 59° W. at 1745Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2007Z/26 to Br. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

War Diary26.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- O.N.87. O.N.87 dispersed in position K at 1000Z/26. BRITISH TENACITY proceed Bermuda for repairs. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/26 037° 56' N. 050° 09' W. 337° 13 knots. LAVENDER, PIMPERNEL, GODETIA, PENNYWORT and MORDEN in company. Weather report. (HAVELOCK 2013Z/26 to Opnav (R) C.T.F.24 Admty. etc.)
- U/B. Enemy S/M within 200 miles from 037° 15' N. 062° 15' W. at 1745Z/26. (C. in C. A.F. 2020Z/26 to Admty.)
- Enemy Unit. By D/F enemy unit placed within 50 miles 36.00 N. 60.00 W. at 1745Z/26. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2145/26 to C. in C. A.F. C.O.A.C. etc.)
- MODESTA (sunk 25/4.) 24 survivors of MODESTA landed Bermuda today 26/4. Ship sunk by torpedo 110 miles 045° from Bermuda at 0215/25. Further report will follow. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2212A/26 to Admty.)
- MARGARET. U.S. MARGARET due New York 17/4 from San Juan has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. 2227Z/26 to Admty. etc.)
- POLYANTHUS. Anticipated POLYANTHUS will depart Galveston 26/4 1800R for Charleston routed exactly according to Macri with diversion positions New Orleans W, Key West X, Jacksonville. After fuelling Charleston and checking routeing with Com 6 proceed to Halifax in accordance with Sec.2 para 7 of Macri through following positions. Special escort will be provided Key west to Jacksonville if available. This run patrolled during all daylight hours. S. of A. 10.8 and cruising is 12 with maximum as 16. Port Director, Jacksonville, inform B.R.O. (Washington No T.O.O. Recd. 2233/26.)
- EMPIRE DUNLIN. U.S. Navy reports EMPIRE DUNLIN aground Aliant Rock Long Island Sound, 26th. (B.R.O. New York 2310Z/26 to Admty.)

War Diary.26.4.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

- Situation. Serial number 95 from C.W.R. 25/4. Ref. serial number 94 para.1. Raid was by 10 Zero fighters and 4 bombers.
1. Port Moresby attacked at 2310Z/24 by 15 Zero fighters. 3 aircraft on 7 mile aerodrome destroyed or rendered unserviceable. 4 P.40's attacked and probably destroyed one Zero and damaged another. 10 Zeros later made unsuccessful attack on shipping in harbour.
  2. At 0448Z/25 24 heavy bombers type uncertain escorted by 9 heaviest fighters raided Darwin at 2000C. 8 bombers 3 fighters destroyed, 1 bomber possibly destroyed. 4 allied aircraft slightly damaged. Damage to water pipe power and telephone lines. A few personnel casualties.
  3. Solomon Is. raided at 0050Z/25 by 8 twin-engined monoplanes similar to Army T 97 Mitsubishi heavy bombers. Some damage on Gavutu Island to buildings, water catchment and W/T installation. Tanambogo Island and Tulagi also attacked but no damage reported.
  4. One B.25 attacked Lae aerodrome at 2305Z/24. Buildings damaged. 3 Zero fighters intercepted, no damage.
  5. Ref. serial number 93 para.7. Officers of enemy command again arrived Salamaua on 25/4 in flying boat to inspect aerodrome, etc. some of whom remained.
  6. No shipping or other activities at Gasmata Kessa or Buka Passage area observed by air R/C on 25/4.
  7. 4th Fleet W/T guard in New Britain waters is accepting traffic for C. in C. 4th Fleet.  
(A.C.N.B. 1016Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

Abamama  
bombed.

Maori number 17. Shortly before 2200Z/25. Japanese bombers attacked Abamama. 4 bombs dropped near hospital and wharf. No damage or loss of life.  
(N.Z.N.B. 1231M/26 to Admty. etc.)

Movements.

Arrival Suva 2004Z/26 U.S.S. BRIDGE. Departure LEANDER and U.S.S. LAMSON on escort duties.  
(N.Z.N.B. 2026Z/26 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1426B/26, 1428B/26.)

788

27.4.1942  
Monday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

In the early hours of today F.O.S. informed the four submarines on the North-West Norway submarine patrol that a submarine was sighted by aircraft at 1444B yesterday on a northerly course leaving an extensive oil track in approx. 62° 49' N. 0° 39' E.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command heavily attacked targets at Rostock last night, for the fourth night in succession. Dunkirk docks were also attacked. The power station at Ostend was attacked today.

Enemy Air Operations.

Damage was caused to Admiralty departments at Bath, by air attack last night.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Two medium raids today by a total of 119 bombers included for the first time 5 Italian H.L.B. Targets were again similar to those of yesterday. Further damage was caused at the Grand Harbour: Two tugs were sunk and M/S Drifter TRUSTY STAR damaged. The auxiliary civil power station was in operation again this evening.



War Diary.27.4.1942  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

There are nearly 200 ships in Bombay harbour at present and an anti-torpedo baffle is an urgent necessity. Night attack by submarines would cause immense losses. There is, however, only one heavy netlayer on the station at present and she will be occupied for some time to come with the Mombasa defences. Three boom defence vessels are now on passage to establish the boom defences of Mauritius and will further reinforce the East Indies Station resources.

C. in C. E.I. stresses the urgent strategical importance to the Fleet of the installation of defences at the Seychelles.

America and West Indies.

U.S.S. ALCOA PARTNER is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0100 Q.R. today, 80 miles N.N.E. of Bonaire where 25 survivors landed.

The Navy Department today announce the loss of the destroyer STURTEVANT off the coast of Florida by an underwater explosion within the past 24 hours.

Australia.

17 heavy bombers accompanied by fighters attacked Darwin aerodrome at 0237Z today causing damage. P.40s intercepted and lost 4 machines; at least 7 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Catalinas attacked Faisi (Solomon Is) today. No definite results were seen.

790

War Diary.27.4.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Russian  
Naval  
Forces.

My 1041C/27. Russians deny (?that there are) any other effective surface units in North. Reference N.I.D. list dated 1/2/42 showing distribution of Soviet Naval forces, Russians state that lighter CRADDI is in Baltic. (B) GROZVOI does not exist. Name may be an old mistake for KAILAZNI or for GROZYASHCHI which is in Baltic. (C) VORVSKI is a converted yacht (?not a) destroyer. She is exposed in Northern waters. Undoubtedly SNEG is a trawler.

2. S.B.N.O. Archangel 1119A/March 5th. Do you know which destroyer this was?

3. Is it known which destroyer was in Naval port at Molotovsk in December last? Presumably she is still perfect.

4. Do you know of any surface units majority of those named in my 1046C/27.  
(Ad. Miles 1722C/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Movements.Escorts of  
Convoy  
P.Q.15.

For movements see Shipping.

GRAPH.

My 1225B/26. Sailed STAR OF INDIA.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0750B/27.)  
Your 2150/26. GRAPH sails in C.E.77.  
(Capt. S.5 0934B/27.)

Your 1947B/24. Arrived. (GRAPH YLA CAPRICIEUSE.)  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1417B/27.)  
Your 1225/26. Passed Needles 1510, STAR OF INDIA.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1520B/27 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

P.44.  
H.43.

(i) Intend sailing P.44 and H.43 escorted by WHITE BEAR at 1530B/29 for position (a) 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles, E.T.A. 1830B/1st.

(ii) Thence H.43 escorted by WHITE BEAR to 180° Lizard Head 5 miles, E.T.A. 2130B/1st. H.43 proceed thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 7 WHITE BEAR return to Holy Loch.  
(iii) P.44 proceed to dive by day from position (a) through (b) 049° 45', 006° 10' (c) 049° 30', 012° 59' to (d) 043° 01', 013° 02', E.T.A. 0400B/8. Thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.

(Capt. S.3. 0951B/27.)

Intend sailing H.43 escorted by WHITE BEAR from Lough Foyle 2000B/27 for Rothesay. E.T.A. 0800B/28.

(Commodore, Londonderry 1148B/27.)

My 1148B/27. Sailed.

(Commodore Londonderry 1940B/27.)

791

War Diary.

27.4.1942  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

- L.23. F.O.(S) 1246B/14. Request L.23 may be sailed to arrive Blyth p.m. 2nd May or a.m. 3rd May and that her escort may be permitted to escort UTMOST and THUNDERBOLT to Scapa sailing from Blyth 3rd May. Captain (S) 3 is requested to provide onward escort from Scapa for UTMOST to Holy Loch and THUNDERBOLT to Devonport. F.O.(S) 1247B/14, Devonport 0851B/22 refers. (Capt. S.6. 0956B/27 to A.C.O.S.)  
Your 0956/27. This will be arranged. (A.C.O.S. 1922B/27 to Capt. S.6.)
- RODNEY. F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1112/26. Request you arrange necessary escorts and sail RODNEY to Scapa to work up under C. in C. H.F. (D.O.D.(H.) 1112B/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
- ANSON. Admiralty 1939B/25. Request you will detail a destroyer. (C. in C. H.F. 1406B/27 to R.A.D. H.F.)
- ARETHUSA. Admiralty 1509B/26, para (4). Submit your proposals. (C. in C. H.F. 1415B/27 to ARETHUSA.)
- CARNARVON CASTLE. CARNARVON CASTLE will be required to leave U.K. on 10/5. (D.O.D.(H.) 1449B/27.)
- QUEEN OF THANET. Paddle minesweepers QUEEN OF THANET and QUEEN OF KENT are to be sailed to arrive North Shields p.m. 30th to operate temporarily under the orders of Capt. M/S North Shields. (C. in C. Rosyth 1457/27.)
- BELVOIR. Your 1200B/27. <sup>N.T.L.V.D.</sup> BELVOIR sailed from Sullom Voe. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1801B/27 to R.A.D. H.F.)
- CADGER 2. My 1225B/26. Escort CADGER 2 returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1839B/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

War Diary.27.4.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Convoy  
S.L.106.A/S air sweep of 3 Hudsons will be in your vicinity from 1100B today.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0450B/27 to S.E.C. S.L. 106 Fast.)DELHI,  
working up.Following requests received from Twatt.  
(1) Overhaul of Henley L3309 by Cunliffe-Owen Eastleigh to be expedited if possible.  
(2) Henley L3408 on special trials at Roborough be flown back to Twatt forthwith. DELHI 2256B/24 to Admty. (For D.F.D) and A.C.O.S. 1245/27/4 refers. Request instructions. (R.A.N.A.S. 1135B/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F. etc.)Bombing  
restrictions.Institute total submarine bombing restrictions 30 miles either side of line joining 068° 10' N. 002° E. and 072° 26' N. 016° 50' E. from 0001/28 until further directions.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1505B/27 to H.F.)Bombing  
operations.On night 26/27 for the fourth night in succession 49 A/C bombed Rostock, 47 A/C bombed the Heinkel Factory at Marienehe, and 22 A/C attacked the docks at Dunkirk.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1730/27)Hunt for  
U-Boat.

See U-Boats.

Operation.

R.A.N.A.S. 2406/0167/5 of 15 April para.4. Long range tanks are not at present cleared for jettisoning. The operation should not be carried out until this has been investigated further.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2336B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)Mining.Minesweepers.  
Detached  
Duty.A.M. 1520B/26. Request supply of following spares. Details.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1306B/27 to Admty.)Milford  
Haven M/S  
Forces.Your 1821/24. It is not proposed to move Dutch M/S Trawlers at present. N.O.I.C. Holyhead is requested to keep these ships in readiness for mooring (?moving) if required.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1529B/27 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)Western  
Channel  
Sweep.Intend BERGEN, ALMA, EWALD, ANDYK at 0615/28 for Portsmouth, sweeping as far as Portland en route. E.T.A. Portsmouth 2130/28.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1601/27.)

Humber ...

War Diary27.4.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.

Humber. One mine detonated by Sweepers at 0951/27. Details.  
(F.O. Humber 1928B/27.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Straits of Dover. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/27. Track E 4 D. one vessel with 5 smaller from Boulogne at 2145 at 9 knots course south westerly faded 23 miles S.W. of Etaples at 0300. Track E 5 D. 6 vessels Trawler size operating between Boulogne and Gris Nez from 2215 to 0150 possibly minesweeping. (V.A. Dover 0921B/27.)

Trondheim. Photographic R/C of Trondheim area at 0900/27 shows all four major units at their usual berths.  
(D.D.I.C. 1722B/27.)

Oslo. Following is report of arrival of transports Troop arrivals at Southern Norwegian ports during April. during April. (a) April 1st - April 10th. 20 transports arrived Oslo with Alpine troops tanks and heavy artillery.

(b) April 9th. German transports DONAU, NUANZA, ASKARIA together with Norddeutscher Lloyd liners POTSDAM and GNEISENAU arrived Oslo with 12000 - 15000 troops tanks armoured cars and sledges. 5 special trains daily are running to Trondheim 2 of which continue to Mosjoen.

(c) During period April 12th - April 14th 31 transports arrived Oslo and Christiansand south with 70000 men from Hamburg. 3 large vessels arrived Oslo during period and discharged tanks guns heavy tractors and sledges.

(d) April 19th. 5 large transports arrived Oslo and discharged troops and tanks. All graded B.3.

(N.A. Stockholm 1920/27.)

N.I.D. Comment. (a) Number of transports reported is probably correct. (b) Information re transports is considered correct but these vessels should be included in the number referred to in (a) (d) Information is probably correct.

Frisian Islands. Nine M/Vs bearing 180°. Position 53° 45' N. 6° 30' E.  
(A/C 2015/27 to 16 Group.)

794

War Diary.27.4.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boat  
sighted  
on 26/4.A S/M was sighted by A/C at 1444B/26 on  
northerly course leaving zigzag oil track about  
100 feet wide and 3 miles long in approx.  $062^{\circ}$   
 $49'$  N.  $000^{\circ}$   $39'$  E.  
(F.O.S. 0113B/27 to UREDD, MINERVE, P.551, P.43)U-Boat  
attacked.1 S/M  $010^{\circ}$  8 miles position  $60^{\circ}$  N.  $10^{\circ}$   $55'$  W.  
(A.O.C. 15 Group 0806/27.)  
My 0806. S/M has dived. P.C.S.  $60^{\circ}$   $8'$  N.  
 $10^{\circ}$   $20'$  W. (?)  $70^{\circ}$ , (?) 6).  
(A/C 0811/27 to 15 Group.)Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate (?) 2) hits.  
(A/C Duty O. 0815/27.)I am remaining in  $60^{\circ}$   $7'$  N.  $10^{\circ}$   $19'$  W. until (?) 1200  
(A/C 0900/27 to 15 Group.)Proceed at best speed to hunt U-Boat reported by A/C in  $60^{\circ}$   
 $08'$  N.  $10^{\circ}$   $20'$  W. steering  $270^{\circ}$  at 6 knots at 0806/27. A  
Sunderland and a Hudson are hunting in this vicinity.

(C. in C. W.A. 1154B/27 to WELLS, Reptd. R.A.M. SABRE.)

My 1154B/27. Hudson A/C will be co-operating in the search  
throughout the night. If nothing found by 0800B/28 proceed  
to base.

(C. in C. W.A. 1833B/27 to WELLS.)

Navigational.

Aberdeen.

Aberdeen approach channel. Inner red conical  
buoy is now  $239^{\circ}$  1.2 cables from correct  
position.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1734B/27.)

Submerged  
object.Have struck submerged object in  $041^{\circ}$  Aldeburgh  
Buoy 1 mile. No damage.  
(VANITY 2355B/27.)Technical.Calibration  
Range  
at Scapa.There is now an urgent requirement for certain  
ships to do calibration firings against an R.D.F.  
ranging mark, if only to restore confidence in  
the present method of calculating muzzle  
velocities.2. Arrangements are therefore being made with A.C.O.S. to set  
up a calibration range at Scapa and to detail certain ships to  
carry out trial calibration firings. Depending on result of  
trials it will be decided whether all capital ships and cruisers  
should do similar firings.3. Requirements and details.  
(C. in C. H.F. 2253B/27.)Casualties and Defects.

B.O.DAVIES.

B.O. DAVIES entered Hartlepool 0435/27 with  
injured rating and defective W/T.  
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0750/27.)

/STURGEON ...

795

27.4.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

STURGEON See Shipping.

NORTHERN  
WAVE.  
(Q.P.11.) See Shipping.

KELLETT. Your 1800/26. KELLETT is to continue to operate with 4th M.S. as soon as temporary repairs have been completed at Yarmouth, until new hawse pipe casting is available and Yard is allocated. Boiler Cleaning also to be postponed.  
(C. in C. Nore. 1812B/27.)

FURIOUS A.S. Rosyth reports that FURIOUS cannot complete before 1/6.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1949B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

TOBRUK.  
EMPIRE  
STARLIGHT.  
(Bombed 3/4) TOBRUK now beached temporary repairs to her and EMPIRE STARLIGHT expected to commence tomorrow. Unable to estimate date of completion or whether these repairs will be successful without dry docking. Russians appear fairly confident and we think it worth the attempt owing to long wait for dry docking.  
(Miller, Murmansk 2005B/27.)

MONDARA  
(Bombed 25/4) MONDARA arrived Southampton 1240/27.  
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 2300/27.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.19. Following is proposed embarkation programme for convoy W.S.19.  
(D.S.T. 0110B/27.)

Speed of  
Russian  
Destroyer  
Escorts. Your 1638B/26. Russians destroyers always return from escort duty at 25 knots but state economic speed to be 20 knots. After premature return from escorting Q.P.10 I learn that they had 150 tons and 100 tons fuel respectively remaining, and received assurance that in future they would continue until position ordered was reached.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0823B/27 to C. in C.H.F.)

Convoy  
P.Q.15. Starboard engine exhaust pipe J bend perforated. This does not affect patrolling efficiency of submarine at present.  
(STURGEON 1113B/27.)

MARTIN, with PUNJABI, ORIBI and MARNE proceed passing Switha at 1200 tomorrow to Seidisfiord. 2. On arrival act in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1501B/26. 4. Copy of route for P.Q.15 and Q.P.11 attached.  
(R.A.D. 1140B/27.)

/Detach ...

796

War Diary.27.4.1942  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Convoy P.Q.15 contd. Detach LORD AUSTIN 100 miles west of position Q with instructions to proceed at best speed to Seidisfiord, Iceland, Group 1 may be met proceeding to northward.  
(10 C.S. 1216B/27 to M/S F.1.)  
Your 1514B/17. Para (D) 3. (P.Q.15 expected to pass 5° E. at) 1800B/1 May.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1325B/27 to F.O.S.)  
Arrival Seidisfiord C.S.10 in NIGERIA, VENOMOUS, ST. ALBANS, LEDBURY, STURGEON, BOADICEA, BADSWORTH, ULSTER QUEEN, GRAY RANGER.  
(A.C.I.C. 1401B/27.)  
Admiralty 1730B/24 gives MORMACSUL; your 1721B/26 MORMACREY. Please telegraph which ship is in P.Q.15 repeating to Cormack Murmansk.  
(Ives 1424/27 to A.C.I.C.)  
Your 1122B/26. Arrived Seidisfiord 1640B/27 SOMALI, MATCHLESS.  
(A.C.I.C. 1815A/27 to R.A.D. H.F.)  
Russian intelligence report all times zone B. (a) Pullen received W/T information 1857/26th that English convoy had been sighted. Re-transmitted 2021 by Narvik to Wilhelmshaven. Wavelength 55 metres (b) Retransmitted by Wilhelmshaven 0318/27 to ships which had by then left Trondheim. (c) From 0548 until 1100/27 intensive (? signalling) remarked addressed U-boats operating at sea.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1823B/27 to D.N.I.)  
Comment. It is not clear what ships were mentioned as leaving Trondheim. All 4 German main units were sighted by recco. aircraft, at 0900B/27.  
My 1420B/27. NORTHERN SPRAY returned with defects. Will be unable to overtake.  
(A.C.I.C. 2110B/27 to M.S.1.)

S.L.107. S.L.107. When ships from Ponta Delgada have joined, Convoy is to split into fast and slow sections. Fast section of convoy to consist of ships of 10 knots escorted by 2 escorts. Names of escorts and ships in fast and slow sections of convoy to be signalled. Commodore to remain with slow section of convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1543B/27 to ROCHESTER.)

Movements of Russian Ships. Serial No.43.  
(D.T.D. 1728B/27.)

Q.P.11. Owing to serious engine room defects NORTHERN WAVE will not sail with Q.P.11.  
(C.S. 18 1730B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Convoy ...



War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Convoy  
C.T.15.  
ANDALUSIA  
STAR,  
BLANKNEY.

Your 1807B/27. Certainly.  
(R.A.D., 2011B/27 to C. in C. W.A.)  
1. After escorting\*P.Q.147 BLANKNEY is to proceed  
Barry Roads. \*? P.Q. 15.  
2. N.O.I.C. Cardiff is to sail BLANKNEY escorting  
ANDALUSIA STAR to R/V Convoy C.T.15 in position  
(P) 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0500Z May 1st.  
3.- When met, BLANKNEY is to proceed Scapa.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2107Z/27).

WILDWOOD,  
POELAU,  
ROEBIAH,  
CHANT,  
TALISSE.

WILDWOOD, POELAU, ROEBIAH, CHANT, and TALISSE are  
expected Belfast 8th May to discharge.  
(D.S.T., 2153B/27).

War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- STONECROP My P.C. and S. 030° 20' N., 020° 39' W., 066° 13. E.T.A. 2100A/29. MYOSOTIS in company. (STONECROP, 0302A/27 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
- B.D.Vs. My 1545/26 (B.D.Vs. BARFOUNT, BARFOSS and BARKING) 3 B.D.Vessels completed and sailed. (R.O. Horta, 1053/27 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
- Movements. BRITTANY left Ponta Delgada 1130 G.M.T. 27/4. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1150C/27 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).
- Cartagena Vice Consul, Cartagena, reports that A/S defences  
A/S defences. fixed outside port and that ships must take pilot outside port and turn on all lights before entering.  
(Ast. B.N.A. Madrid, 1230/27 to Admty).  
My 1230/27 Ministry of Marine informs me this is due to Anti S/M exercises and not precautionary measures.  
(Madrid, 1740/27 to Admty).
- Situation Area Z.  
report. WIVERN 026° 25', 015° 06' through 25° 02', 16° 28' thence 208° 16 situation 2004A/27. (F.O.C.N.A., 1320A/27 to N.A. Station).
- JOAO PESSOA Arrived 26/4 expected to complete loading iron  
(German). ore 1/5. (Consul, Bilbao, 1748/27 to Admty).
- French Extract from Fairmiss Telegram:-  
Shipping. Arrived 27/4 PONTET CANET. (Lisbon, 1819/27 to M.W.T.)  
A.P.V. ASPIRANT BRUN, SS. MONTAIGNE, CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE, both full and deck cargo military transport, POITOU, AUGUSTE DENISE, BRITTIA all full westbound. 1,000 destroyer SIMOUN, SS.KITA, PROVIDENCE Both full latter many troops and families PORT SAINT LOUIS full westbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1932B/27 to Admty, C. in C. Med., etc).
- Axis American source reports tanker 309 tons name LOLA  
Shipping. or JONSTEAD arrived Algiers 22/4 and left night of 25/4 destination believed to be Onmara or Tripoli (Libya). Speed 8 knots. Due Cape Bon 2200/26. Believed (?unarmed). Report loaded oil fuel 273 Spanish crew changed as far as possible for German.  
(2) 2 additional small unknown ships arrived Algiers believed German but no details available yet. (American Grade A.1).  
(3) Vessel LOLA is likely ex Dutch SKOOT JAEDJOER which passed Straits and entered Melilla 24/12/41 leaving for Algiers 19/4. (F.O.C.N.A. , 1830B/27 to C. in C. Med. , V.A. Malta).

War Diary.

27.4.1942.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

H.G.82

Departure STORK, PENTSTEMON, GARDENIA, CONVULVULUS with convoy H.G.82 Local escort GERANIUM, COLTS-FOOT.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1842A/27 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.)

List and destinations.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1903A/27).

South Atlantic.

Interception Your 1845/26 and my 2115/26 neither to Admty or of \*ANGLO C. in C. S.A.S. Report situation.

CANADIAN.

(R.A. West Africa, 0720Z/27 to PRETORIA CASTLE

PRETORIA CASTLE (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.S.)

\* ~~MUNSTERLAND~~

(G.S. 507) Have no A/C serviceable.

Your 0720/27. Carrying out normal patrol.

(PRETORIA CASTLE, 0822Z/27 to R.A. West Africa Forces (R) Admty., C. in C. Atlantic.)

Report last known P.C. and S. of suspicious vessel. When breaking W/T silence always report your own position and fuel remaining.

(R.A. West Africa, 0945Z/27 to PRETORIA CASTLE (R) ALCANTARA Admty etc).

Description of suspicious vessel, see 1151Z/27.

Your 0945Z/27. 01° 17' N., 24° 34' W., at 1000Z/26. Estimated course and speed 287° 8 knots.

A/C flew close round ship 3 times and in vicinity for 10 minutes

All appeared normal. Had Roundels on hatch. My present

P.C. and S. 02° 44' N., 22° 18' W. 005° 16 knots. Intend to search to westward at 1400Z. Fuel remaining 74%.

(PRETORIA CASTLE, 1300Z/27 to R.A. West Africa (R) ALCANTARA, C. in C. U.S. Fleet. Admty. C. in C. S.A., B.A.D., C.T.F.23).

AUST.

Your 1640/24. I have no news of AUST neither has S.O.(I) Montevideo.

(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0745Z/27 to Admty).

CAMBRIA

Your 1257B/17 Cable Ship CAMBRIA ready to sail 30/4 may she proceed to position given in my 1415/20 (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1108/27 to Admty).

Your 1108/27. Approved subject to concurrence of Opnav which B.A.D. is requested to obtain.

(D.O.D. (F), 2222B/27 to N.C.S.O. Pernambuco (R) B.A.D. S.O.(I) Freetown).

UMBERSLEIGH  
overdue.

Overdue shipping UMBERSLEIGH due Freetown 24/4 from Capetown not arrived.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1150Z/27 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Capetown).

/Suspicious...

War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Vessel. Suspicious vessel similar to German ship HEIDELBURG (O.U.6329 (1) No. 77) sighted in 001° S., 018° 30' W., on 11/4.  
Description 7,000 tons tall thin straight funnel two straight masts two Samson posts at break of forecastle and two on poop, large bridge, well-deck hidden by yellow tarpaulin slung over derrick. No guns visible.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1151Z/27 to PRETORIA CASTLE, ALCANTARA).

Italian repatriations. P.C. and S. at 1200 ATS 27/4 35° 36' S., 12° 36' E. 134° 14.5 knots.  
(GIULIO CESARE, 1200/27 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., Coltano Radio, VULCANIA.)

Movements summary. 2000Z/27/4. Area Q.  
MALAYA 017° 30' S., 005° 55' E., 330° 15 knots.  
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 023° 30' S., of 009° 10' E., 324° 10½ knots.

SHROPSHIRE 035° 10' S., 023° 02' E., to Simonstown 21 knots.  
→ CHESHIRE, DAUNTLESS with W.S.17 Capetown portion off Capetown to Durban by route R.4. SHAPESHIRE, SLUNNA, PLADDA, HILDASAY (?018°) 00' S., 010° 30' E., to Walvis Bay 9½ knots.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1214B/27 to S.A.S. Sqdn).

Disbanding of No. 788 Squadron. Your 0346/22 not to C. in C. E.I. Para. 2  
NAIRUNG sailed 5/4 destination Colombo.  
DEFENDER sailed 21/4 destination Bombay. No Skuas offloaded Durban.  
(C. in C. South Atlantic, 1215B/27 to Dept. C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., Admty).

W.S.17 Convoy W.S.17 sails Capetown 1430/27 (List)  
A.S.2. 2. Convoy A.S. 2 consists of MORMACTIDE, BRAZIL, for Karachi, MONTEREY for Basra joining off Port Elizabeth.

3. Durban portion WINDSOR CASTLE, FRANCONIA, NOVA SCOTIA, KHEDIVE ISMAIL for India ELIZABETHVILLE for Mid-East R/V outer end Durban searched channel 1000/1/5.

4. MENDOZA for Mid-East will not be ready to join convoy.

5. Following ships require fuel or water at Mombasa.

6. Escorts from Capetown, DAUNTLESS to Mombasa, CHESHIRE to Durban, REVENGE Durban to Mombasa, then as arranged by C. in C. E.I. DAUNTLESS required fuel at Durban will part company to arrive Durban 0630/1/5 then rejoin.

(C. in C. S.A., 1303B/27 to C. in C. E.I.)

→ Capetown departure CHESHIRE with Capetown portion of W.S.17 B for vicinity Durban.

(S. O. (I) Capetown, 1313Z/27 to Admty etc).

→ Simonstown departure 1200Z (?DAUNTLESS) for escort of W.S.17 E.T.A. Durban 0430Z/1 for fuelling, rejoining convoy on completion.

(C. in C. S.A., 1540B/27 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

COLOMBO. Departure COLOMBO for (?Simonstown). S. of A. 17 knots E.T.A. 1500Z/29/5. (As received. Presumably April intended). Routed R.2. (Cmdre. I.C. Durban, 1303Z/27 to Admty etc).

VIOLET At 1819/26 VIOLET attacked confirmed contact in U/B attacked. 3° 06' N., 7° 25' W. (Freetown, 1316Z/27 to Admty).

Movement 2000/27. GLASGOW 010° 20' N., 020° 50' W., 297<sup>8</sup> summary. 16½ knots GAMBIA, FROBISHER and 5 escorts with W.S.18 009° 20' N., 022° 05' W., to Freetown 12½ knots LANDGUARD and 3 escorts with O.S.25 009° 50' N., 018° 30' W., to 009° 05' N., 018° 15' W., thence 134° 9 knots French Sloop VILLE D'YS and 3 escorts with S.L.108 009° 30' N., 017° 05' W., 287° 7½ knots. HYDRANGEA, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU 009° 20' N., 016° 45' W., to R/V with O.S.25 28/4. MORRIS DANCE off Robertsport. KELT off Marshall, ST. WISTAN between Cape Palmas and Marshall to Freetown 8 knots. ROCKROSE and 3 escorts with L.S.3 003° 35' N., 010° 05' W., routed 003° 53' N., 011° 18' W., to Freetown 6 knots BRIDGEWATER escorting about 004° 10' N., (?002°) 10' W., to Freetown 12 knots. PRETORIA CASTLE on patrol southern half (?H) 34 C and D, E. of 026° W., ALCANTARA on patrol northern half I 34 A and B, E of 026° W., GLENGYLE 003° S., (?021°) 45' W., routed 000° 024° 43' W., thence 350° 16 knots. (R.A. West Africa, 1401Z/27 to Ships in Area P. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

Troop Position 27/4. W.S.17 etc. Transports. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1542Z/27 to D. of S.T.)  
*Saldanha Bay. C. in C.S.A. 1542Z/27. See next page.*

S/Ms for A.M.1627A/23/3 (Allocation ex-American submarines to A/S training duties). With regard to Freetown reply cannot be given until it is known what arrangements are being made to provide relief for EDINBURGH CASTLE. My 1652Z/21 refers. (R.A.W. Africa, 1545Z/27 to Admty).

A/Cs to attack S/Ms off Ivory Coast. After consultation with A.O.C. West Africa propose to authorize aircraft to attack any submarine seen at night off Ivory Coast provided she is not in company with a convoy which is showing navigation lights. (R.A. West Africa 1553Z/27 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.)

U/B Contact. My 2005Z/26 (N.T. in W.R.) (?AUBRETIA) made 4 (?extremely) good contacts last one at 1941 subsequently contact lost and area searched for 4 hours. before leaving to rejoin convoy. Apart from some sort of bubbles seen no evidence other than Asdic to confirm (?submarine detection) (ROCKROSE, 1653Z/27 to R.A. West Africa (R) C. in C. S.A. Capt. (D) 18).

/Ascension...

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET ~~M E S S A G E~~ ~~1548B/37H~~ April IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 2.5.42.

Recd 0036.

Naval Cypher (X) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

734

Your 1828/16 March and M.W.T. number 3270 of 17 March. Defence of Saldanha Bay has been discussed with Union Military and Seaward Police Authorities who agree that following is minimum repeat minimum scale of protection acceptable before Saldanha Bay could be used as an anchorage alternative to Table Bay. Further signal will be made in due course regarding requirements before port could be used for convoy assembly.

2. Unless otherwise stated requirements enumerated in following paragraphs are not repeat not obtainable from local sources.

3.(A) Booms and nets. As proposed in your 1536/30 March similar boom and nets also required between Marcus Island and Eland Point. Gate should be in this section.

(B) Indicator loops. As ~~4000/32~~ in your 1536/30 March consider however that controlled minefield must be to seaward repeat seaward of booms.

(C) Guns. Battery of two in number six inch guns Mark XI on PV mountings is available from Union Government stocks and can be mounted on sites prepared on North Bay Hill at 10 days notice. Similar six inch battery required for mounting on Westward slope of North Bay Hill to cover approaches to Bay from Northward. Four in number twelve pounders are available for defence of booms from Marcus Island. Four in number 20 mm automatic weapons required.

(D) Lights. Two in number three degree H C D fighting lights for six inch North Bay Hill battery are available. Four in number additional 16 degree searchlights for mounting in pairs for proposed additional six inch battery and for Marcus Island required.

(E) A A guns. Ten in number three point seven and ten in number Bofors guns to be mounted on sites chosen locally. None repeat none available locally.

(F) A A lights. Eight in number 120 C M Sperry or equivalent (? S/Ls).

(G) R D F.....

(G) R D F Long range R D F equipment for North Bay Hill. Certain R D F equipment can be produced locally but this would not repeat not be suitable for long range required.

(H) Landing grounds. Existing landing grounds in rough state North of Saldanha Village is inadequate and requires development. Prevailing fog conditions also make it imperative that second aerodrome be established further inland.

(J) Aircraft adequate force escort aircraft can be provided by S A A F. Fighter aircraft are not at present available but are essential to provide adequate protection.

4. Union Government authorities are prepared to proceed forthwith with development of Saldanha Bay subject to confirmation that these defence requirements can be met before port is put into use.

1542B/27.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Controller
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- Civil Lord

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (M)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- N.A. to A.C.N.S. (M)
- N.A. 1st S.L.

- F.A.S. (3)
- P.A.S. (F)
- D. of L.D. (L.D. 003342/42)

- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Duty Captain (2)

- D.D.I.C.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.S.D. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- Hd. of M.F.
- Hd. of M. (10)

- D. of S.T.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of Air

- D.G.D.
- D.A.S. (2)
- D.N.O.
- D.T.M.
- D.B.D.
- W.G.F.

- C.E. in C.
- D.S.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of S.
- D. of D.
- D.A.M.
- I.F. (2)
- W.D.
- Dep. Cont.
- C.E. in C.
- Hd. of M.F.
- Hd. of S.W.R.
- D. of D.
- D.T.M.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.S.D.
- D.N.O.
- D.A.S.
- D. of S.

Bath

jr

# MOST SECRET

J. B. 42.

FROM: War Registry.

Correction to message 1542/27 from C.in C.South Atlantic (Defence of Saldanha Bay).

Paragraph 3(B) first sentence. After "Indicator loops" read "As proposed in your 1536/30 March."

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Contr.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- Civil Lord.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- N.A. to A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- P.A.S.(F)
- D. of L.D.(L, D. 003442/42)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.(2)
- D.D.I.C.
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.T.S.D.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- Hd. of M.F.
- Hd. of H.(10)
- D. of S.T.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of Air
- D.G.D.
- D.A.S.(2)
- D.N.O.
- D.T.M.
- D.B.D.
- W.G.F.
- C.E. in C.
- D.S.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of S.
- D. of D.
- D.A.M.
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.

- Deo. Contr.
- C.E. in C.
- Hd. of M.F.
- Hd. of S.W.R.
- D. of D.
- D.T.M.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.S.D.
- D.N.O.
- D.A.J.
- D. of S.

Bath.



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

From War Registry

Date. 2.5.42

RECIRCULATIONC. in C. South Atlantic's 1542B/27 re  
SALDANHA BAY

In distribution please read "D. of L.D. (ID 003342/42)  
for action.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Controller  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
Civil Lord  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
A.C.E.S. (W)  
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (F)  
D. of L.D. (L.D. 003342/42) for action  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
Duty Capt. (2)  
D.D.I.C.  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.T.S.D. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
Hd. of M.F.  
Hd. of M. (10)  
D. of S.T.  
D.A./S.W.  
Hd. of Air  
D.G.D.  
D.A.S. (2)  
D.N.O.  
D.T.M.  
D.B.D.  
W.G.F.

C.E. in C.  
D.S.D.  
D.N.A.D.  
D. of S.  
D. of D.  
D.A.M.  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
Dep. Contr  
C.E. in C.  
Hd. of M.F.  
Hd. of S.W.R.  
D. of D.  
D.T.M.  
D.A./S.W.  
D.S.D.  
D.N.O.  
D.A.S.  
D. of S.

Bath

War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Ascension. Ascension unloading operation completed and no ships remain island. S.S. PAN ROYAL departed 28/4 for Takoradi to arrive 3/5 as directed C.T.F.23 1410/6. Admty inform British C. in C. S.A. and R.A.W.A.F. Originator (?U.S. Cruiser OMAHA)  
(Washington 1804/27 to Admty).

Signalling positions of shipping. Your 1700/25 and R.A. West Africa's 2020/21. Do not concur with abolition CUDSS Signals as these provide full information to enable ships on patrol to keep a shipping plot.  
2. Shipping summary as proposed by R.A. West Africa amounts to an encounter signal only and is not sufficient though of value to ships entering the area (?pending) receipt of current FS and AS Signals.  
3. Consider therefore that FS signals should be retained in a shortened form with fewer positions given and that these be supplemented by encounter signals in form suggested by R.A. West Africa. Ships entering area P from North Atlantic to West Indies.  
(C. in C. S.A., 2015B/27 to Admty (R) R.A. West Africa).

803

War Diary.27.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

## Movements.

26/4 Port Said arrivals Dutch S/M J.23, R.F.A. ATID, HYACINTH, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, PROTEA, departures 0700C M.T.B. 310, 1105C/ Dutch S/M 023, 1232C F.F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0914C/27 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

→ 27/4 URGE sailed. (V.A. Malta 1025B/27 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival 26/4 HERO, ERICA, HASTY, ANIWERP M.T.B. 310, K.L.O. MALINES, COCKER, ST. MONANCE. Departure 26/4 FALK, BEAUFORT, ERIDGE. Departure 27/4 SNAPDRAGON, PRIMULA, DULVERTON, HURWORTH. (S.O.I. Alex. 1258C/27 to C. in C. Med., Admty.)

## UNA.

Patrol vicinity  $036^{\circ} 09' 011^{\circ} 51'$  from 0001B/28 in anticipation of C.A.F.O. 422/40 number 570 at about 0430B on course  $005^{\circ}$ . Aircraft may attack, before midnight. Leave position not later than 0800B/28 and return to Malta through  $035^{\circ} 42' 012^{\circ} 50'$  and  $036^{\circ} 11' 014^{\circ} 21'$  to enter Marsamxett 2030B/30. (Capt. S.10, 1001B/27 to UNA (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

## P.31.

→ URGE.

1. Capt. (S) 10's 0052/26 and 2240/26.

Proceed as follows:- P.31 through  $035^{\circ} 01' 019^{\circ} 59'$  and  $032^{\circ} 12' 029^{\circ} 06'$  to arrive Alexandria Searched Channel 0530C/5.

URGE through  $034^{\circ} 53' 020^{\circ} 28'$  thence same route as P.31 24 hours later.

2. German and Italian S/Ms. are known to operate in considerable numbers along African coast and between Cyrenaica and Crete.

3. Report in plenty of time if you cannot comply with E.T.A. within 3 hours. Estimate your S. of A. 90 miles in 24 hours. (Capt. S.1., 1121C/27 to P.31, URGE (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

## Enemy

A/C

Reports.

Reports of enemy aircraft received by R.A.F. filter rooms will be passed to ships on Western Desert run on appropriate fighter R/T wave by inter-service system given in S.P. 02192 (2) 47611.

At present this frequency is 6000 kcs.

If watch on this wave is not kept kept it is to be set by S.O. of a group on receipt of blue warning. This only applies to Corvettes and above. (C. in C. Med., 1136C/27 to S. & A. Med.)

## TAKU.

Follow route in my 0940B/22 to P.612, M.S. 785 Owing to moonlight condition proceed submerged between position B and C, and N of Malta during daylight 29/4 and 30/4 respectively. Anticipate you arrive  $034^{\circ} 59' 019^{\circ} 59'$  about 1700B/2. C. in C. Med. pass to 201 Group. (V.A. Malta 1155B/27 to TAKU).

/ALBA.....

804

War Diary.27.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.

ALBA JULIA (Roumanian) My 1703C/21. ALBA JULIA reported fully laden below deck, may take further ?cargo but indications she will leave within next hours. B.2. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1235C/27 to S.O.(I) Med. S,1, (R) D.N.I.)

THORN, enemy units. My 1631/25. R/C shows convoy has divided. At 1201/27 P.C. and S. 1 merchant ship, 1 destroyer 033° 41' 018° 38' 185° 8 knots. Patrol in vicinity 032° 01' 019° 35'. (Capt. S.1, 1559C/27 to THORN.)  
My 1559/27. Cancel orders for THORN in my 1927/26. (Capt. S.1, 1831C/27 to THORN, (R) PROTEUS).

Ship for Malta. IZ 110 HE/847 27/4/42. Ref. your ME 260 of 23/4 para. 6 (B) (N.T. in W.D.)  
In order to ensure the maximum protection to the ship while discharging it should arrive as soon as possible after 11/5 - preferably 12/5.  
Mideast please pass copy to A.O.C. in C. Mideast and to C. in C. Med. (Govr., Malta, 1740/27 to Admty. for C.O.S.)

Malta Air Raids. I.251. C.S.R. 27/4. 26th. My I.250. Military and Civilian casualties and damage. A.A. destroyed 1 JU. 88, damaged another one. Alert 1554 hrs. ME. 109's 46 JU.88's 15 JU.87's  
Kalafrana, casualties and damage at seaplane station. Hal Far damage. Takali, Grand Harbour, no damage. Elsewhere, civilian casualties and damage. A.A. destroyed 2 JU.88's, 1 prisoner.  
Night 26/27. Alert 0140 hrs., 1 raider, bombs sea, 1 Beaufighter up, no interception.  
27th. 4 alerts, 0416 hrs. 11 ME.109's 1 DO.24 rescue search, 0550, 0900, SCUF, 1321 hrs., ME.109's, 47 JU.88's, 16 JU.87's.  
Luqa, some damage buildings, 1 bus, 1 Wellington destroyed, 1 Beaufort 1 Maryland under repair further damage. Grand Harbour, M/S Drifter TRUSTY STAR damaged. Tigne Barracks, no damage reported. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1845/27).  
WX.2601 Part 2. C.S.R.27/4 part. 2.  
A/A destroyed 2 JU.88 and 1 ME.109. Night 26-27 1 Wellington VIII 2352 hours 1 M/V 5000 tons 2 D/Rs 124° Cape Bon 8 miles course 160° 15 knots. Near miss on M/V. 2029 hours, 2 M/Vs 4000 tons, 1 D/R 081° Cape Bon 40 miles course 200° 15 knots 0215 hrs. 1 special Swordfish 1 Albacore sighted 1 M/V 7000 or 7500 2 M/Vs 5000 tons, 3 D/Rs, 290° Linosa 25 miles, course 180° 15 knots, 1 probable torpedo hit on 5000 ton M/V. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1850/27).  
Sunday 26th, 2 medium raids, total 125 bombers. 4 destroyed, 1 probable and 2 damaged.  
(2) Transformer room of Civil Power Station hit, temporarily cutting off main electricity supply to Island, also (?wires) to auxiliary power station cut preventing it coming into operations. Essential Naval Military and Air services being maintained on local service supply.  
(3) Raids spread as on Saturday over many areas including Barracks, Hospitals, Camps, gun positions, as well as usual Military targets.

/(4) ...

805

War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air  
Raids.  
(contd.)

(4) Monday, 27th, 2 medium raids, the second included for the first time 5 Italian H L B. Total 119 bombers. 2 destroyed, 1 probably, and 1 bomber and 1 fighter damaged.

(5) Tug C 350 sunk. Targets similar to Monday.

(6) Auxiliary civil power station in operation and supplying the few essentials within its capacity.

(V.A.Malta, 2335B/27 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

L.L.Sweepers.

Your 1735/26. All 5 whalers can be converted at Mediterranean Ports. Request they may be sailed to Suez bringing with them if possible all gear necessary for conversion. Request early estimate of date they may be expected.

(C. in C. Med., 1951C/27 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. E.I.)

806

War Diary.27.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

LUCIA.

*H.T. & W.D.*

My 0733/21. (Improvements to increase efficiency of LUCIA as Sub. Depot Ship.) Request improvements may be taken in hand that can be completed concurrent with hull repairs. (2) Further request anticipated date of completion. (Dep. C. in C. E.F., 1011Z/27 to D.S.R. Bombay (R) Admty. etc.)

Shipping casualties.

C.A.F.O. 292.

Ship.	Date and how sunk.	Position	Casualties
BAHADUR	7/4 Torpedoed	019° 44'N.	All safe
		068° 28'E.	
CLAN ROSS	2/4 Torpedoed	015° 55'N.	4 wounded
		068° 26'E.	
BANJOEWANGI	6/4 Shelled by Cruiser.	017° 35'N.	12 dead
		083° 45'E.	12 wounded
BATAVIA	6/4 Shelled by Cruiser.	018° 20'N.	4 killed
		084° 25'E.	wounded 3.
VAN DER CAPELLEN.	6/4 Bombed.	018° 20'N.	All safe.
		084° 18'E.	
EXMOOR	6/4 Shelled by Cruiser.	019° 52'N.	All safe.
		086° 25'E.	
FULTALA	8/4 Underwater Explosion	006° 52'N.	All safe
		076° 54'E.	
DAGFRED	Details not yet available.		
	(N.O.I.C. Bombay 1138Z/27).		

WARIALDA  
mine  
carrier.

My 0851/21.

(1) As WARIALDA is now discharging her coal at Colombo she should be taken up there on completion of discharge.

(2) WARIALDA should then be sailed to Karachi to embark parcels, my 1210Z/27 and N.O.I.C. Karachi 0621/21, neither to all addressees, refers. (C. in C.E.I. 1211Z/27 to P.S.T.O. India (R) Admty. C. in C.E.F., Cdre., R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Karachi, S.S.T.O. Colombo, N.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

A/S Vessels.

Your 1444/3/3 and 0923/23/4 (re Auxiliary A/S vessels and minesweepers cleared from Abda area urgently needed in New Zealand) A/S vessels PANGKOR and KEDAH. (ii) M/S vessels nil. (C. in C.E.I. 1244Z/27 to Admty.) *Repls: Admty 1503/21/5.*

Seychelles.

An early reply is requested to my 1356/19 para. 1 (A) and (B). Installation of Seychelles defences is a matter of urgent strategical importance to the Fleet. (C. in C. E.I. 1310Z/27 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Kilindini  
Defences.

Request you will consult with GUARDIAN and KIRRIMOOR as to number of B.D.Vs. and Boom trawlers which will be required for laying underwater defences at Kilindini and for those proposed in my 1340/24. (C. in C.E.I., 1316Z/27 to B.S.3.)

/Bombay.....

War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Bombay  
port defence.

Your 1304/24 to Commodore, Durban, and my 1337/24 to Admty. In addition to requirements on East Coast, India, an anti-torpedo baffle is an urgent necessity at Bombay, where a night attack by submarine would cause immense losses. Nearly 200 ships in Bombay at present. Can any of this boom gear be made available? About 4 miles would suffice. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1322Z/27 to C. in C.E.I.)

Muscat  
Light.

Muscat Light extinguished. (S.O.I. Colombo 1329Z/27)

GROVE.  
ALDENHAM.

Departure Mombasa GROVE and ALDENHAM, E.T.A. Aden 1500Z/1/5. (N.O.I.C. E. Africa, 1401Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

War Diary.

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

EMPIRE  
DUNLIN.

Following received from EMPIRE DUNLIN. Vessel still aground, No.3 flooded, stokehold and engine room water 5' above plates and rising, engines disabled. Need expert advice (ends).  
(N.S.H.Q., 0100Z/27 to Admty.)

U/B.

S/M placed by D/F within 60 miles 038° N. 059° 30' W. at 2036Z/26.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0107Z/27 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A. Admty., etc.)

U/B's.

D/F places S/Ms within 100 miles of (a) 20.30 N. 72.30 W. at 0001Z/27 (b) 40° N., 49.30 W. at 0044Z/27. (N.S.H.Q., 0656Z/27 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)

Movements  
summary.

1800 G.M.T. 27/4.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
MOSDALE	53° N. 31° W.	250°	15
WINCHESTER			
PARTHIAN	37½° N. 62½° W.	077°	11
D.S. JAN VAN BRAKEL	33½° N. 61° W.	260°	10
PRETORIA	02° N. 22° W.	Searching	Blank
CASTLE			
ALCANTARA			
GLENGYLE	04° S. 21° W.	317°	16
DIOMEDE	30° S. 45° W.	216°	12
QUEEN MARY			
Arriving Rio de Janeiro		285°	25½
(D.O.D. (F), 0845Z/27 to Opanav (R) Comnaveau)			

U/B's.

D/F places S/Ms as follows.  
(A) Within 60 miles 39.30 N. 72° W. at 0120Z/27  
(B) Within 100 miles 44.30 N. 30.30 W. at 0224Z/27  
(C) Within 100 miles 34.30 N. 71.30 W. at 0229Z/27  
(N.S.H.Q. 0905Z/27 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)

Parachutes  
Jamaica.

836 Sqdn. of 4 aircraft should leave Jamaica on 18/5 to comply with B.A.R.M. 1812Z/25. Unable to do so until 4 pilot type parachutes are received. A similar situation occurred with despatch of 835 Sqdn. to U.S., when R.N.A.S. Piarco supplied R.N.A.S. Kingston with parachutes by air mail.  
(R.N.A.S. Kingston, 0914R/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B.

D/F bearings place S/M within 60 miles of 44.30 N. 30.30 W. at 2025Z/26.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0925Z/27 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A., Admty., etc.)

/Italian ...



27;4.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Italian  
Repatriations. Italian tankers TAIGETE and ARCOLA are due  
Curacao 7/5 from Cadiz to load and proceed to  
Las Palmas to fuel Italian liner repatriating  
Italian civilians from East Africa. Tankers are under control  
of S.O. of British armed guard. Movements within U.S. strategic  
area are controlled by Opnav. Loading at Curacao is to be  
carried out with utmost despatch.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1012P/27 to S.N.O. Curacao (R) Admty.,  
B.A.D., etc.)

BRITAMSEA            Your 1209P/26. Reports as directed by S.O.(I)  
diversion.            Kingston (Jam)'s 1012R/24/3 have been sent to  
Admty. in all cases of non-acceptance of  
diversion. These will be repeated to you in future  
No trace here of Admty. 1746/25/2.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1027QR/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Caribbean            Your 1142/24. Shipping contemplated appears  
Sugar.                inadequate for West Indies crop and increase will  
                         probably have to be asked for.  
                         2. Admty. JE1916/16 para. 2. Trinidad and  
St. Lucia only safe ports. Should adverse S/M situation persist  
serious consequences would follow delay involved. Suggest  
M.T.B's be based by open loading ports during season as soon as  
practicable. (F.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1108Q/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.,  
(R) Admty., B.A.D.)

Movements.            26/4 arrivals MIDLAND escorting C.L.26,  
                         COLUMBIA from St. Johns N.F.  
                         (S.O.I. Halifax, 1332Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

BRANDON.             Request BRANDON be detached for Halifax when  
                         ocean escort leaves O.N.88. Ship required there  
                         for urgent repairs.  
                         (F.O.N.F., 1402Z/27 to C.T.F.24).  
Your 0053Z/31/3 (N.T. in W.R.) BRANDON will be detached to  
Halifax to arrive about 5/5. Request she be taken in hand on  
arrival. Please confirm time required to renew main circulating  
pipe. (F.O.N.F., 1403Z/27 to C.O.A.C.)

P.552.                My 1719/25. When route is promulgated for P.552  
                         request Canadian Authorities arrange bombing  
                         restrictions and escort if considered desirable  
                         for passage through your coastal water.  
                         (B.A.D., 1521Z/27 to N.S.H.Q., (R) N.O.I.C.  
                         St. John's N.F., etc.)

MERIDA,  
ACONCAGUA.            Your despatch 1107R/25. MERIDA Honduras arrived  
                         Cristobal 20/4. ACONCAGUA Chile arrived (corrupt  
                         group) 20/4.  
                         (Opnav, 1532/27 to S.O.I. Kingston (R) Admty., etc)

810

War Diary.27.4.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

O.N.93. <sup>25 May</sup> JOHN C. SPENCER, U.S. Destroyer COLE, and U.S. Destroyer escort. BERNADOU arrived. C.T.U.24.1.3 in U.S. Destroyer GLEAVES plus <sup>JOHN</sup> SPENCER, ARVIDA, ALGOMA, BITTERSWEET and SHEDIAC designated escort O.N.93. (C.T.G.24.7, 1730B/27 to C.T.F.24 (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., etc.)

Tanker Replacement. Your 1734/21. Provision of replacement now has backing of Navy Dept. Shipping Mission is communicating with M.W.T. concerning vessel to be selected. (B.A.D., 1733Z/27 to Admty.)

H.X.187 Escort. Following is repetition my 0201/26 C.T.U.24.15 in HURRICANE plus ROCKINGHAM, DAHLIA, MONKSWOOD and ANCHUSA designated Ocean Escort for Convoy H.X.187. (C.T.F. 24 1759/27 to Opnav (R) Admty., etc.)

Ascension. Washington 1804/27. See South Atlantic.

WHITE CLOVER, VIRGINIA DARE. WHITE CLOVER (U.S.) and VIRGINIA DARE (IH) both due Halifax 22/4 from Philadelphia have not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1947Z/27).

Ice. Ice Bulletin 27/4. (C.T.24, 2021/27 to Admty.)

Bauxite. Your 1420/19 (N.T. in W.D.) not to Admty. and B.A.D. Enquiries from Aluminium Company show that as they are now employing Trinidad as a transshipping station they do not intend owing to shortage of ships to send any more Bauxite to St. Thomas until the existing stocks at St. Thomas can be reduced. (2) Company has arranged for one million tins up to December and provided they can maintain or augment the number of ships in the trade it is hoped this quantity may be materially increased. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2026Z/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B Attacks on M/V's. Sub attack and sighting summary. BRITISH SPLENDOR 35.07 N. 75.19 W. at 0215Z/6, 1 torpedo, Sub. not seen. SAN DELFINO 35.35 N. 75.06 W. at 0200Z/9, 1 torpedo, Sub. not seen. HARRY F. SINCLAIR, 34.25 N. 76.30 W. 1 torpedo, Sub. not seen. KOLL 35° N. 69° W. at 1430Z/6, 1 torpedo, 10 or 12 shells, Italian Argonauta Class, painted light grey, painted on conning tower was red shield with white vertical stripes surmounted by fluted crest painted red and white. AXTELL J. BYLES arrived port, 35.32 N. 75.19 W. 1 torpedo, Sub. not seen. PIPESTONE COUNTY 37.43 N. 66.16 W. 2 torpedoes, U-45 Type with

/charging ...

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U/B Attacks on M/V's. (contd.) charging bull insignia on C/T. Plane sighted submerged Sub. 39.58 N. 73.55 W. 1945Z/26 considered probable. (C. in C. U.S.Fleet, 2021Z/27).
- Shipping Casualties. Opnav. Serial 25, 26, 27. MODESTA ex Finnish now British sunk by torpedo 110 miles 45° from Bermuda at 0215Q/25. 24 survivors landed in Bermuda 26/4. EMPIRE DUNELIN. Hard aground on Valiant Rock in Long Island Sound. Serious damage and leaking badly. 15 men of crew remain aboard. U.S. Coast Guard standing by (Opnav, 2030/27 to Admty.)
- STURTEVANT sunk. U.S. Destroyer sunk. Navy Department announced 27/4 that the destroyer STURTEVANT had been sunk off the coast of Florida by an underwater explosion within the past 24 hours, but that the loss of life had been small and most of the crew had reached port safely. (The Times 28/4).
- POLYANTHUS. Left Galveston at 0738R/27 for Charleston. (Opnav, 2205/27 to Admty., C.G.S.F., C.E.S.F., etc.)  
Departure 1900/27 POLYANTHUS for Halifax via Charleston for bunkers. (B.R.O. Galveston, 2211Z/27 to Admty.)
- ALCOA PARTNER. Netherlands authorities report ALCOA PARTNER, American, torpedoed 80 miles N.N.E. of Bonaire 0100QR/27. 25 survivors landed Bonaire. (N.C.S.O. Curacao, 2215QR/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
- Routeing of Tankers. My 0019/26. Para.2. has been put into effect. (2) Ascertained that distribution of books is sufficiently advanced to enable B.U.S.R.A. to be brought into full effect in respect of tankers only in these areas. As detailed instructions have not yet been issued to Sea Frontier Cdrs. regarding diversion signal on G.B.M.S. system arrangements are being made to send them temporarily through Navy Dept. (B.A.D., 2349Z/27 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

27.4.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Sydney (N.S.W.) 0018Z/26 U.S. Store Ship GOLDSTAR for Melbourne. Arrival Thursday Island 2330Z/25 LITHGOW escorting YARRA.(s.s.)  
Departure Thursday Island 2342Z/25 TOWNSVILLE escorting TULAGI for Darwin.  
(A.C.N.B., 0338Z/27 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., etc.)  
BUNGAREE arrived Sydney, (N.S.W.) 0242Z/27. U.S.S. BRIDGE arrived Fiji 0840M/27. U.S.S. JOHN D. FORD departed Melbourne 0003Z/27 for Sydney (N.S.W.) MONOWAI departed Melbourne 0045Z/27 for Auckland, E.T.A. 1130Z/1/5. LEANDER and U.S.S. LAMSON departed Fiji 0826M/27 for R/V. CESSNOCK departed Townsville 0645Z/27 escorting H.T. TAROONA to Port Moresby.  
(A.C.N.B., 1601Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

Situation. Serial No.96 from C.W.R. 26/4.  
(1) 2 air attacks on Port Moresby 26/4. 2155Z/25 5 Zero fighters attacked Seven Miles aerodrome, 1 crashed and 1 possibly 2 damaged. 2 Zero simultaneously attacked Kila Kila aerodrome without results. At 2350Z/25 9 T.99 heavy bombers escorted by Zero fighters (?raided) Kila Kila aerodrome destroying 6 A 24's badly damaging 2 others, and later unsuccessfully attacked new aerodrome constructing at Rorana (30 miles N.N.W. of Port Moresby) which was reconnoitred on 21/4 and 23/4.  
(2) 2 B.17's attacked Buka Island aerodrome (Solomon Is.) at 2137Z/25 without result.  
(3) 2 Catalinas attacked Faisi (Solomon Is.) at 1610Z/25. 4 hits on buildings, near miss on small vessel in harbour. Erratic A/A fire.  
(4) 3 B.17's attacked Lae aerodrome at 0105Z/24. Result not observed. Interception by 2 seater German (?or) Italian planes reported. A/A fire inaccurate.  
(5) 3 B.25's attacked aircraft on Lae aerodrome 2130Z/25. 5 Zero intercepted one shot down. One Zero certainly 3 other aircraft probably destroyed on ground.  
(6) Enemy occupying forces reported in my serial No.94 para.3 estimated 65 in number.  
(A.C.N.B., 1023Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

Dispositions. Naval units in S.W.Pacific Area.  
(A.C.N.B., 1942Z/27). See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1406B/27, 1430B/27).

# MOST SECRET

812A

## MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

1942Z/27th April

From Australian Commonwealth  
Naval Board.

Date 29/4/42  
Recd. 0953

Naval Code J by W/T

CORRECTION

Addressed F.O.C.A.S., H.M.A. Ships (Except Aux. A/S and M/S Vessels), H.M.N.Z.S. MONOWAI, F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, N.O.I.C. Sydney, N.S.W. 657, D.N.O. N. Territory, (Port Darwin) 755, D.N.O. Western Australia (Fremantle) 432, D.N.O. Victoria, Australia Melbourne (Port) 827, D.N.O. Queensland Brisbane, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, C. in C. East Indies, N.Z.N.B., N.O. Wellington, D. Townsville, Australia, N.C.O. Noumea, C.O.S. Colombo, B.S.O. Comdesdiv 57

Disposition of detachment of naval units south west Pacific area 27th April. Sydney (N.S.W.) H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA, N. Cruiser TROMP, U.S. EDWARDS, U.S.D. WHIPPLE, U.S.D. TUCKER, U.S. Aircraft Tender WRIGHT, U.S.N. VICTORIA (ex GEORGE G. HENRY) Refitting H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA, H.M.A.S. CANBERRA, H.M.A.S. HOBART, F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, U.S. WILLIAM B. PRESTON. Due Sydney (N.S.W.) 27th April BUNGAREE from Townsville, H.M.A.S. MANOORA and U.S.D. ALDEN from Noumea. Departure from Sydney (N.S.W.) 22nd April H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE for Suva. 24th April, F.S. CHEVREUIL (Sloop) for Noumea. 26th April, U.S.S. GOLDEN STAR for Melbourne. 27th April, H.M.A.S. VOYAGER for Melbourne. Brisbane Royal Australian Fleet Auxiliary KURUMBA, United States Ship GRIFFIN. Melbourne H.M.A.S. KANIMBLA, H.M.A.S. STUART repairing H.M.A.S. VENDETTA. Due 28th April H.M.S. ATREUS (Minelayer) from Fremantle. Departure from Melbourne 25th April U.S. Cruiser BOISE for Samoa. 27th April H.M.N.Z.S. MONOWAI for Auckland, U.S. Destroyer JOHN D. FORD for Sydney (N.S.W.). Fremantle U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX, U.S. Destroyer BARKER, U.S. Destroyer BULMER, U.S. Destroyer PARROTT, U.S. Destroyer PAUL JONES, U.S. Destroyer Tender BLACK HAWK, United States Ship OTUS, ERLING BROVIG, TRINITY, and H.M.S. ALSEY (Minelayer). Repulse Bay U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON, U.S. Submarine Tender HOLLAND. Shark Bay U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS.

1942Z/27.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
N.A.1st S.L.  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.C.(2)  
D.A/S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D. of P.(2)  
e.d. D.N.I.(4)

W.D.  
N.L.O. Australia Hse.  
B.N.L.O.(F.F.)(2)  
D.D.O.D.(M)  
D. of L.D.  
A.E.(3)  
D.N.L.O.(2)  
I.P.(2)

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Heavy weather is affecting the movements of small ships and coastal convoys.

Passage of  
P.Q.15 and  
Q.P.11.

C. in C. Home Fleet in KING GEORGE V with VICTORIOUS, KENYA, one destroyer and 4 Hunt Class, U.S. WASHINGTON, WICHITA, TUSCALOOSA, and 3 destroyers left Scapa at 2201B today to cover Convoys P.Q.15 and Q.P.11.

LONDON from Scapa is to R/V with NIGERIA a.m./30 as additional cover to P.Q.15 until 0400B/1 when LONDON proceeds on patrol near 73° 34' N. 8° 20' E until 1800B/3.

*Inaccurate  
See p. 822.*

STURGEON is joining Force Q (LEDBURY and oiler GRAY RANGER) which sailed with P.Q.15 for fuelling of close escort. New Soviet S/M patrol zones have been established and will be occupied during the passage of P.Q.15 and Q.P.11. F.W. aircraft reported P.Q.15 at 1615 today. All four enemy main units were sighted in Trondhjem at 1300 today. C.S.18 in EDINBURGH sailed at 2220B to cover Q.P.11.

British Air Operations.

Eight Bomber Command aircraft attacked Dunkirk last night. A strong force attacked the German naval base in Trondheim Fiord, but the results of the attack cannot be known for some time.

Enemy Air Operations.

Damage was caused at J.S.Whites, Cowes by air attack at 0700B today. The enemy aircraft flew at 100 ft. or less. C. in C. Portsmouth has asked that immediate action may be taken to improve the defences.

War Diary.

28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Eleven aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night in the Heligoland Bight and N.W. Germany areas.

South Atlantic.

S.S. STEEL TRADER made a submarine distress signal at 1215 today in 32° 8' S. 9° 42' E.

Three ships due at Capetown from America and two due at Montevideo from Durban are overdue and may be raider casualties. A further aircraft sighting of a possible supply ship was made at 2200/22 in 2° 47' N. 18° 37' W.

Mediterranean.

The only T/B Albacore at Malta obtained hits on a merchant ship in 36° 3' N. 12° 12' E. at 0445/27 and on a tanker in 37° 20' N. 11° 42' E. at 0045 today. Both ships were southbound.

Air attacks on Malta re-commenced early this morning and continued until the afternoon. Damage was caused to small craft and ashore in the Grand Harbour and considerable damage at the air stations.

Some damage was caused on shore at Alexandria by an air raid late this evening.

War Diary.

28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

By the end of June there is to be a flying boat squadron each at Madras, Ceylon and Mombasa. The directive for the operations of long range G.R. Squadrons in the Indian Ocean is given in Deputy C. in C. E.F. 1214Z/29.

America & West Indies.

On account of the U-Boat situation C. in C. A.W.I. at 1012P today ordered the sailings of all British managed shipping from Curacao and Aruba and from Caribbean Sea ports bound for Curacao and Aruba to be suspended until further orders. Tankers for these ports will be directed to Trinidad.

In view of the extremely serious oil situation at Halifax and St. Johns N.F. CALDWELL, BURNHAM of the Escort Forces are to be sent to the Caribbean to convoy Canadian and Norwegian flag tankers on charter to Canada to Halifax.

Dutch S.S. ARUNDO (New York to Capetown) was torpedoed and sunk at 0930 E.W.T. in 40° 10' 30" N. 73° 44' W. (about 40 miles S.S.E. of New York).

A ship, probably Dutch S.S. INO made a submarine distress signal at 1048 G.M.T. in 11° 47' N. 68° 45' W. (near Curacao).

Australia.

Seven Miles Aerodrome, Port Moresby was attacked again today at 0058Z by 8 heavy bombers accompanied by fighters and some damage was caused. Six U.S. pursuit planes intercepted, and there were losses on both sides.

Six U.S. heavy bombers attacked Lae Aerodrome at 0310Z today and did some damage.



War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Cowes A/A  
Defences.

The vulnerability of the important factories at Cowes to low flying attack was pointed out in para.2 of Portsmouth's 6065/0125F/2 of 17.11.41. Correspondence with Fighter Command regarding the possibility of installing Mark VI Balloons at Cowes was forwarded to Admiralty under cover of Portsmouth's 6719/0125F/2 of 18.12.41 and Portsmouth's 222/0125F/2 of 14.1.42. No comment has yet been received from Admiralty but, in view of importance of activities at Cowes such as construction and repair of Destroyers and aircraft production, it is requested that immediate action may be taken to improve defences by increasing number of A.A. Guns and installation of Balloons as this form of low attack is now being regularly exploited by the enemy and we must do all possible to counter it. My 1047B/28 also refers.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1743B/28 to Admty.)

Movements.Convoys  
P.Q.15 and  
Q.P.11.Movements for Covering Operations.  
See Shipping.QUEEN EMMA,  
P.J.CHARLOTTE  
P.ASTRID.

Intend sailing QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES J. CHARLOTTE, PRINSES ASTRID for Portsmouth passing Clyde Boom 2030B/29. E.T.A. 0800B/1.  
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0948B/28).

PHOEBE.

Route from position D to E 180° Bishop 5, F 180° The Lizard 7, then by Q.Z. S. 278 to Plymouth. Adjust speed so as to arrive position E at 0500B/6.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1006B/28 to PHOEBE).

ALBRIGHTON.

Route from Position V.  
(A) 049° 32' N., 010° 58' W. (B) 180° Bishop Rock 5 miles. (C) 180° thence for 8. (D) 180° Start Point 8 thence water Q.Z.S. 293 and 284 to Needles. Adjust speed so as to arrive position B at 0500/30.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1054B/28 to ALBRIGHTON).

PRINCE  
CHARLES.

Intend to sail PRINCE CHARLES for Portsmouth so as to pass Sand Head Buoy at 2240B/29 thence as requisite to arrive at E.A.3 Buoy at Daylight 30th. Escort of one Destroyer will be provided to Dungeness, PRINCE CHARLES thence proceeding independently. D.21 is to detail Destroyer.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1100B/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

- LA CAPRICIEUSE (1) Intend sailing LA CAPRICIEUSE at 2230B/30 from Clyde via North of Isle of Man for Barrow. E.T.A. 1245B/1. (Capt. S.3, 1121B/28).
- PRINCESS BEATRIX. My 1545/22. Request you will arrange for PRINCESS BEATRIX to embark R.M. Commando from Salen, Ardnamurchan Peninsula, on 15th May. Numbers will not exceed 17 Officers 400 other ranks. (C.C.O., 1227B/28 to V.A.C.T.)
- P.44. (1) P.44 passes Wolf Rock at 1830B/1 and crosses 043° N. in 013° 02' W. at 0400B/8. Proceeds thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. Speed of advance P.44 on surface is 9 knots. (Capt. S.3, 1417B/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- KENYA. Circumstances permitting intend sending KENYA to Clyde for stand off on completion of present operation about 6/5. (C. in C. H.F., 1638B/28 to KENYA).
- ORION. Arrival ORION. (N.O.I.C. Lamlash, 2008/28).
- ST. MARYS, CASTLETON, WELLS. Admiralty's 1911B/28. Intend to sail Destroyers addressed for Scapa as follows. (*from Port Z.A.*)  
A. ST. MARYS at 0200/29. E.T.A. Switha Boom 1000/29.  
B. CASTLETON and WELLS at 0600/29. E.T.A. Switha Boom 1400/29.  
(R.A.M., 2354/28). *See 29/4 - p. 844*
- Operations.
- Convoys P.Q.15 and Q.P.11. Operations to cover. See Shipping.
- Patrol. Dover dispositions for night 28/29 nil, owing to weather. (V.A.Dover, 1839B/28).
- M/S Ships at Yarmouth. Whilst 4th M.S.F. are temporarily based at Yarmouth four vessels, if available for service, are to be anchored in Yarmouth Roads during dark hours, unless operating elsewhere. Cancel my 1259/23. (C. in C. Nore, 2220B/28 to M/S.4.)

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Bombing  
Operations.

On day 27/4, 5 A/C attacked the Power Station at Ostend. During night 27/28, 8 A/C bombed the Docks at Dunkirk, and a strong force of A/C attacked the German Naval Base at Trondheim. (H.Q.B.C., 1422/28).

Fleet  
requirements  
of A/A  
co-operation.

The state of affairs revealed in my 1725B/28 and in Admiralty 1221B/14 cannot possibly be allowed to continue. The scale of A.A. co-operation available has not kept pace with the requirements, thereby endangering the fleet. Ships must be able to use their A.A. armaments effectively in defences and the requisite standard of A.A. gunnery cannot be maintained without facilities now lacking.

2. I consider F.R.U. for Home Fleet and Fleets abroad should be given the highest priority in material and personnel.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1723B/28 to Admty.)

A.C.O.S. 1245B/27. Despite every effort made by the Squadron itself and by Hatson and Twatt, the capacity of 771 Squadron to meet the fleet requirements has become progressively reduced in the past few months and has now reached a stage where the training of the fleet is being affected very seriously.

2. As stated in my 1723B/28. I consider that the needs of A.A. co-operation be given the highest priority and request that the requirements put forward in A.C.O.S.'s signal may be met as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1725B/28 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.Cowes  
bombed.  
BLYSKAWICA  
damaged.

Messrs. J.S. Whites Cowes report boat building department fairly extensive damage by air attack at 0700/28. Superficial damage to BLYSKAWICA. U.X.B's in East Cowes Yard being dealt with.  
(F.O.I.C. Southampton, 0928/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Cowes attacked at 0700B/28 by 4 M.E.109's carrying bombs and flying at 100 feet or less. 2 U.X.B's in factory of Saunders Roe.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1743B/28 to Admty.)

Bath  
(Bombed  
Night 26/27).Damage etc.  
(Deputy Controller, 1659B/28 to Controller).Convoy  
P.Q. 15  
reported.

See Shipping.

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

B.S. 77. Following operations B.S. 77, B.S. 78 and  
 B.S. 78. B.S. 79 are proposed when B.S. 6, 7 and 8 have  
 B.S. 79. been cleared. Particulars.  
 (2) Owing to danger from both E-Boat and Anti  
 E-Boat patrols in this area propose to carry  
 out these operations by day in the order  
 given as follows.  
 B.S. 77 takes departure from and returns to  
 55 buoy laying from South to North.  
 B.S. 78 takes departure from 55 buoy laying from  
 North to South returning to Q. Buoy.  
 Remainder take departure from Q. Buoy laying  
 from South to North.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1022B/28 to Admty.)

Sweep of  
Convoy  
Routes.

66 Minesweeper Group and ANDYK are to be  
 detached in accordance with my 1624/26.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1158/28 to KRAKOWIAK,  
 FARNDALE (R) BERGEN).

Enemy Intelligence.Straits  
of Dover.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover  
 Strait from 0900/27 to 0900/28.  
 Track Ellz. 2 vessels from 7 miles North  
 of Dieppe at 2230 speed 14 knots entered  
 Boulogne at 0200.  
 (V.A. Dover, 0954B/28).

Northern  
Norway.

April 26th Russians report. Convoy sailed  
 Kirkenes to Westward and numerous M/V's in  
 harbour at Tromso. 27/4. Varanger Fiord.  
 Convoy bound for Kirkenes and off Ingoy  
 Island one Destroyer.  
 (Ad. Miles, 1746C/28).

Trondheim  
R/C.

Photographs taken at 1300/28 show  
Aasfjord. TIRPITZ and ALTMARK Tanker in same  
 positions as on 27/4. Boom is closed and  
 further camouflage rafts have been added to  
 B.Ss. stern and her "A" turret now trained  
 forward.  
Lofjord. SCHEER, HIPPER, EUGEN, and cargo  
 liner in usual positions with booms closed  
 and camouflage netting on SCHEER unchanged.  
 U/B possible still alongside cargo liner.

/Hopleelven ...

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Trondheim  
R/C.  
(contd.)

Hopleelven Fjord. Four D/R's present, being increase of one since 25/4.  
 ALTMARK Tanker still anchored off entrance. (P.R.U.Wick, 1820/28).  
 Photographic R/C Trondheim at 1300B/28.  
 TIRPITZ, SCHEER, HIPPER and PRINZ EUGEN in usual berths.  
 (D.D.I.C., 2138B/28).

U-Boats.U-Boats  
located.

D/F bearings at 0938Z indicate U-Boat in area within 30 miles of 46° 30' N., 20° W. (D.D.I.C., 1229B/28).  
 Aircraft report S/M in 58° 57' N., 5° W. at 1705. S/M dived on course 206°. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2016/28).  
 (A.C.O.S., 2042B/28).

U-Boat  
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 12' N., 15° 20' W. S/M is on surface. (A.C. T.O.R. 1722/28).  
 (A.O.C. 15 Group 1918/28 to F.O.S.)  
 S/M on surface 58° 12' N., 15° 20' W. course 250° 10 knots.  
 Estimate one hit.  
 (A.O.C. 15 Group, 1935/28 to Admty.)

Navigational.East  
Spile  
Buoy.

East Spile Light Buoy extinguished. (WALLACE, 0223B/28 to C. in C. Nore).

Ice in  
White Sea  
area.

North to North Easterly winds have again packed ice in Gorlo where conditions are bad. Patches of clear water in White Sea basin. Ice edge Cape Gorodetski. Wind North, force 2. Temperature 35, snowing hard. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0915B/28).

Ice in  
Baltic and  
Sound.

Gulf of Bothnia and Southern Baltic. Details. Sound and Swedish West coast are free from ice. (N.A. Stockholm, 1747/28).

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.

Calibration Range at Scapa. Your 2253B/27. Para. 3 approved. A further signal will be made on para. 4. (A.C.N.S. W., 1834B/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

Unknown casualty. Aircraft report indicates possibility of survivors in 091° Sumburgh Head 15. Pass through this position on passage to Scapa. (R.A.D., 0430B/28 to HURSLEY, BELVOIR).

Convoy S.C. 79. EMPIRE LOTUS (British, 3696 tons) sunk. Full gale on leaving, during which EMPIRE LOTUS sprang a leak and foundered. (D.T.D., 1254B/28 to Opanav).

HEBE. Proceed passing Switha at 2100 tonight to refit at Grimsby. (R.A.D., 1618B/28 to HEBE).

LAVATERA. N.C.S. Drifter LAVATERA was in collision with S.S. EMPIRE ACTIVITY at 1000 today in Methil Roads. No apparent damage to EMPIRE ACTIVITY. LAVATERA not seaworthy. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1624/28).

ATMAH. H.M. Yacht ATMAH was in collision with Stone Jetty at entrance to No.2 Dock Methil Docks at 1100/27. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1626/28).

TRINIDAD (Torpedoed 29/3). <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Your 1644B/23. Destroyer Escort will not be available on 5/5. Present intention is that SOMALI and MATCHLESS should escort TRINIDAD after fuelling and rest. (C. in C. H.F., 1710B/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

ST. FRANCIS. ST. FRANCIS and DUNVEGAN from Task Unit 24.1.12 DUNVEGAN. \*delayed with damage\$ from collision. Expect ST. FRANCIS to complete 30th and DUNVEGAN May 1st. (C.T.G.24.7 1830B/28 to C.T.F.24).  
\*at London diary.

VICTORIOUS. FURIOUS. Your 1949/27. FURIOUS will not now be working up before mid July at earliest. Refitting of VICTORIOUS will have to be postponed accordingly. Consider it necessary VICTORIOUS be given a quick docking for scraping and painting bottom at first suitable opportunity. So far as can be foreseen VICTORIOUS can be spared between 23 and 29/5. Request repairs standby be allocated. (C. in C. H.F., 1831B/28 to Admty.)

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - contd.AMSTERDAM.  
Unknown  
Vessel.

Following received from D.O. Caernarvon. Begins. Cargo vessel broken away from mooring in position 233° Barmouth. Lookout 6 miles drifting 270°. Firing distress signals. Barmouth life boat will be launched. 2135/28 ends. Rescue tug AMSTERDAM weather bound in Holyhead. Request assistance if available. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2304B/28 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Shipping & Convoys.Convoy  
P.Q.15.

ULSTER QUEEN, LEDBURY, STURGEON, and GRAY RANGER sailed Seidis Fjord to R/V P.Q.15 in vicinity of position Q. E.T.A. position Q 1800Z/28. (10 C.S. 0431B/28 to S.O. M/S 1.)

P.Q.15 sailed Reykjavik 26/4 for North Russia. My 0957/13 add. BOTAVON, CAPE CORSO, EMPIRE BARD, TOPA TOPA, MORMACREY, HEGIRA, MORMACRIO, CAPIRA, ZEBULON B. VANCE, TEXAS, ALCOA BANNER, BAYOU CHICO, SEATTLE SPIRIT, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY. (D.T.D., 0954Z/28 to Opnav).

Your 1725B/26 does not include EMPIRE MORN but your 1709B/26. Request you confirm whether she has sailed in P.Q.15.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1042B/28 to A.C.I.C.)

Intend to proceed passing Hoxa at 2200B/28 in KING GEORGE V with U.S. WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, U.S. WICHITA, U.S. TUSCALOOSA, KENYA, INGLEFIELD, U.S. WAINWRIGHT, U.S. WILSON, U.S. MADISON, U.S. PLUNKETT and 4 Hunts, routed through position

(a) 059° 05' N. 007° 02' W. (b) 063° 50' N. 014° 40' W.

to pass through position (n) 090° Dalatangi 6 miles at 1030B/30.

(2) After fuelling destroyer force will proceed cover Russian convoy.

(3) Air escort not required on outward passage.

(C. in C. H.F., 1131B/28).

My 1131/28. On completion KING GEORGE V will return to Scapa with VICTORIOUS and KENYA.

2. Comtask 99 in U.S. Battleship WASHINGTON will proceed Hvalfjord with U.S. ship (?ships).

(C. in C. H.F., 1134B/28 to V.A.2).

MARTIN with PUNJABI, ORIBI and MARNE sailed. E.T.A. Seidis Fjord 1500N/29. (R.A.D., 1244B/28 to A.C.I.C.)

My 1134/28. Present intention is to return routed close to Shetlands to facilitate fighter escort.

(C. in C. H.F. 1336B/28 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Request Russian S/M disposition to cover P.Q.15 and Q.P.11 may be addressed to A.I.G. 47.

(C. in C. H.F., 1406B/28 to Admty.)

Request you sail ESKIMO to arrive Seidis Fjord at 0600B/30.

(2) ESKIMO will be required to join Covering Force Screen, as ordered by Capt. (D) 3.

(C. in C. H.F., 1641B/28 to V.A.2).

Scapa departure LONDON.

(A.C.O.S., 1701B/28).

Northrop Aircraft reports sighting 4 engine A/C in 067° N. ? 015° ? 00' W. at 1555B/28.

(A.C.I.C., 1728B/28 to S.O. 1st M/S F., C.S.10. (R) C. in C.H.F.)

My 1728B/28. Northrop A/C reports having made beam to Focke Wulf, fired one thousand rounds and scored many hits. (?) Return fire was feeble. Lost sight of Focke Wulf on course 90° in bad visibility. Second Northrop in pursuit.

(A.C.I.C., 1831B/28 to M/S 1, C.S.10).

/F.W. ...

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy P.Q.15 (Contd.) F.W. Aircraft reported convoy P.Q.15 at 1615 today. (D.D.I.C., 1833B/28 to Escorts P.Q.15 (R) C. in C. H.F.)  
(1) LONDON from Scapa R/V NIGERIA a.m. 30th as additional cover to P.Q.15 until 0400B/1st when LONDON proceeds to patrol vicinity 073° 34' N. 008° 20' E. until 1800B/3, then returning to Scapa through 070° 02' N. 000° 05' E.

(2) C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. with VICTORIOUS, KENYA, INGLEFIELD, 4 Hunt and U.S. WASHINGTON, WICHITA, TUSCALOOSA, WAINWRIGHT, MADISON, PLUNKETT will be off Seidis Fjord a.m. 30th and will then proceed to cover Russian convoy.

(3) All 4 enemy main units sighted in Trondheim 1300 today. (F.O.S., 1854B/28 to S/M's).

To ensure STURGEON can be seen from the air I have decided to station her five cables on starboard beam of convoy where she will be inside A/S screen. C.O. points out provisions of submarine warfare memorandum six, part two, para. 4; but I consider during period she is with convoy condition visualized by this memorandum does not apply.

(C.S.10, 1924B/28 to F.O.S.)

Ship's present intention is to part company with Convoy and proceed at high speed to arrive Kola Inlet about 12 hours ahead. E.T.A. will not be made by W/T. Intend visiting you and Russian C. in C. immediately on arrival.

(F.O. C.S., 2001B/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

My 1131B/28 para. 1. Amend route as follows. Through position L. 062° 30' N., 005° 06' W. to pass through M. 007° Glettinganes 35 miles at 0600B/30.

2. Para.3. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter and A/S air escort from 0600B/29 in 060° 40' N. 004° 25' W. Course will be 350°, speed of advance 17 knots.

(C. in C. H.F., 2007B/28 to H.F. Opl).

Scapa Departure. C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with U.S. WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, KENYA, U.S. TUSCALOOSA, U.S. WICHITA, INGLEFIELD, MIDDLETON, LAMERTON, U.S. MADISON, U.S. WILSON, U.S. PLUNKETT, HURSLEY, BELVOIR, U.S. WAINWRIGHT.

(A.C.O.S., 2201B/28).

My 1906B/13. New Soviet S/M patrols zones have been established which will be occupied during passage of P.Q.15 and Q.P.11 as follows. Area 11B. rectangle 72° 46' to 72° 16' N. 20° 00' to 22° 54' E. Area 10B rectangle 72° 07' to 71° 34' N. 19° 10' to 21° 54' E. Area 2 lines joining following positions 70° 11' N. 20° 00' 71° 11' N. 20° 00' 71° 21' N. 21° 50' 70° 44' N. 22° 24' and the coast.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2206B/27 to C. in C. H.F., F.O.S., C.S.10, C.S.18, Escort Q.P.11, Escort P.Q.15).

British Escort Units. Your 1231/26. Concur.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1044Z/28 to C.T.F.24).

Convoy Task Unit 21.6.3. U.S. Destroyers BERNADOU, COLE, MCCORMICK escort for C.T.15 hereby designated Task Unit 21.6.3.  
(C. in C. A.F., 1430Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - contd.

- U.R.22.           The five ships for North Russia now in Loch Ewe are to be sailed in U.R.22. (D.T.D. , 1459B/28).
- Q.P.11.           Q.P.11 sailed 1500C. 13 ships only vide my 1601/27 negative YAKA, ILMEN, LEONID KRASIN, KUZBASS, and NORTHERN WAVE. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1516B/28).  
My 1601/27. C.S.18 in EDINBURGH sailed to cover Q.P.11 at 2220B. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2230B/28 to Admty.)
- O.N.93.           O.N.93 is to be limited to Ships for Bermuda, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, West Indies, and South Atlantic Ports. (D.T.D. , 1851B/28).

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M.1826B/21.

1. Following ships now overdue.

WELL PARK due Capetown 3/4/42 from St. John N.B.

WILLESDEN due Capetown 12/4/42 from St. Thomas.

AUST due Capetown 12/4/42 from Pernambuco.

PAGASITIKOS due Montevideo 2/4/42 from Durban.

KIRKPOOL due Montevideo 21/4/42 from Durban.

May be Raider casualties.

Not thought that Raider H could have operated South of 10° S. before about 6/4.

2. Further aircraft sighting of possible supply ship in 02° 47' N. 18° 37' W. at 2200/22/4.

(D.D.I.C., Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2005B/28 to B.A.D., A.I.G.13 etc)

North Atlantic.

Portuguese Fishing, Newfoundland. Your 1614/20. The good faith of the Portuguese is not doubted, but for operational reasons it is out of the question to permit neutral vessels to fish within sink at sight areas.

2. For your personal information only, fishing near these banks would in any case be dangerous.

3. N.A. requests that reply to Portuguese be held up until his return. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0023B/28 to A.N.A. Lisbon).

Italian Repatriations. Following received from Lands End Radio (Begins). Addressed Admty. (R) Opanv, C. in C. A.W.I., V.A.C.N.A. Position of TAIGETE and ARCOLA at Noon 27/4 28° 02' N. 33° 57' W. course 249° speed 10 knots. TAIGETE. 2150/27. - 0711/28 Lands End Radio (Ends). (C. in C. Plymouth, T.O.R. 0720/28).

French Shipping. Passings 27/4. Westward MONTAIGNE, CAPITAINE, PAUL LEMERLE 7, PROVIDENCE PORT, SAINT LOUIS KITA all full POITOU, AUGUSTE DENISE, CITTIA. (V.A.C.N.A., 0900/28 to Admty., for M.E.W.) Following extract from Fairmiss Telegram:- Departure PONTET CANET Setubal 29th. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1847/28).

WRESTLER. Not met. P.C. and S. 44° 39' N., 15° 27' W. B 160° 13. (WRESTLER, 0930A/28 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)

Movements. BRITTANY left Ponta Delgada 1230/27 BARFOUNT, BARFOSS, BARKING, left Horta a.m. 27/4. (F.O.C.N.A., 1142B/28 to R.A. West Africa).

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - contd.H.G.82.  
Escorts.

ANTELOPE (7) sailed 0930 as additional local escort to convoy H.G.82. (F.O.C.N.A., 1228A/28 to Admty.) Sailed VETCH as additional escort to U.K. to Convoy H.G.82. (F.O.C.N.A., 2258A/28 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., Escort H.G.82).

Situation  
report.

Area Z. Situation at 1959A/28. (1) WIVERN 20° 58' 18" 30' through 20° 49' 18" 35' thence 180° 16. (F.O.C.N.A., 1326A/28 to N.A.Station).

JEAN BART.

Following received from Tangier. (Begins). S.O.(I) Gibraltar please repeat to Admty. French Battleship JEAN BART.

Following originated from wife of French Commandant in charge of Naval Construction, Casablanca, and passed to America by reliable contacts. Grades are all American.

(i) All working on French Battleship JEAN BART has eased (Identity confirmed by another source). B.2.  
(ii) She will leave Casablanca within week. C.3.  
(iii) She is to go to Dakar to join French Battleship RICHELIEU and thence to attack Brazaville. C.5. Time of origin 1121/28. (Ends).  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1502/28 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., R.A. West Africa).  
N.I.D. Comment:- JEAN BART is not considered a fighting unit. Only forward 15" turret in commission.  
It is believed that a number of A.A. guns have been mounted. Speed not more than 20 knots.

EAGLE.

My 1946/30/3. EAGLE completes 28/4. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1504A/28 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A. EAGLE).

S/M.

Periscope reported by (?Martlet) A/C at 1115 G.M.T./28/4 in 040° 30' N., 008° 53' W. Course - degs. 360. (F.O.C.N.A., 1649A/28 to S. and A's N.A. Station, Admty.)

SCHARLACH-  
BERGER.

Arrived today 28th to load iron ore. (Consul Bilbao, 1715/28 to Admty.)

U/B's.

Transit A/C report 2 S/M's on surface in 042° 00' N., 009° 43' W. at 1133 G.M.T./28/4 course 090° both dived. (F.O.C.N.A., 1803A/28 to S. and A's N.A. Station, Admty.) As amended 1851A/28.

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- W.S.18. Ref. A.M. 1816/22 para. 11 (a) and (c). Following is disposition of ships of W.S.18 between Durban and Capetown.  
(D. of S.T., 0251B/28 to S.T.O. Freetown).
- PRETORIA CASTLE. Your 0800/28. Return to Freetown through position X 006° 03' N., 017° 30' W. arriving at 1800/30.  
(R.A. West Africa, 1041Z/28 to PRETORIA CASTLE (R) ALCANTARA, Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.T.F. 23.)
- UMBERLEIGH. My 1150Z/27. UMBERLEIGH has arrived Freetown.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1046Z/28).
- MANXMAN. MANXMAN sailed. E.T.A. Takoradi 1300Z/29. Thence direct to Simonstown in accordance with programme. (R.A. West Africa, 1109Z/28 to C. in C. S.A.)
- Vichy Aircraft Report, Cotonou. Your 84781 (M.O.1) 26/4 (2145/26/4).  
R.A.F. Liaison Officer reports as follows. As result report by U.S. Ferry pilot R.A.F. R/C was carried out. Resulting report as follows. (Begins). No aircraft at Cotonou or Lome. (Ends).  
Above results passed by R.A.F. to U.S. Ferry Command representative. U.S. local observer apparently telegraphed Washington without consulting R.A.F. authorities and did not inform R.A.F. or military authorities that he had done so. Possible that some French fighters may have paid quick visit Cotonou with touring Vichy Officer.  
(G.O.C. in C. W. Africa, 1120/28 to W.O.)
- French Aircraft Cotonou. Following is forwarded. U.S. ferry pilot reported presence of 22 French fighters at Cotonou Dahomey 24/4. Telegram from J.S.M. Washington JSW/196 states U.S. Army Air Corps greatly disturbed by this potential threat to trans-African ferry route. R/C carried out by this command disproves presence of aircraft at Cotonou and also that the aerodrome at Cotonou is obstructed with large blocks. (Ends).  
(G.O.C. in C. W. Africa, 2210/28 to W.O.)
- CARNARVON CASTLE. Your 1110B/25. CARNARVON CASTLE will leave U.K. 10/5 to rejoin S.A. Station.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1125B/28 to C. in C. S.A., (R) R.A. West Africa).

/Italian ...

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

Italian P.C. and S. at 1200 ATS 28/4 36° 55' S.,  
Repatriations. 19° 32' E. 090° 15 knots.  
(GIULIO CESARE, 1140/28 to Admty., etc.)  
Received 2055 G.M.T. Position of VULCANIA and  
SATURNIA at noon 28/4 23° 36' S. 38° 09' E. course 026° speed  
19 79. Speed doubtful reception difficult.  
(Portishead Radio, T.H.I. 2300/28 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
E.T.A. GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO at Port Elizabeth 1600 G.M.T.  
29/4. (GIULIO CESARE, recd. 2338/28 to C. in C. S.A., etc.)

FRANCONIA. Your 1303/27 para.3. Request confirmation that  
FRANCONIA is being sailed under orders of  
S.O. Force F in accordance with A.M. 1305/16.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1157B/28 to C. in C. S.A.)  
Confirmed. (C. in C. S.A., 0859B/29).

STEEL Following has been received Bombay W/T.  
TRADER. SSSS ALLO DE STEEL TRADER 32° 08' S. 9° 42' E.  
(Simonstown, 1215/28 to Admty.)  
Vertical object sighted 3 times.  
(STEEL TRADER, 1318/28 to Admty.)

N.A.S. Your 1501/25. Conditions vary so much in loading  
Supplies. of vessels referred to that each ship should be  
treated on its merits.  
2. A.M. 1308B/17 refers primarily to future  
supplies but you may retain N.A.Stores from ships referred to  
in A.M. 1259B/17 provided undue delay or congestion is not  
incurred. Admty. is not justified in holding up supplies vital  
to other services.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1250B/28 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.F.,  
C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C.Durban,  
S.A.S.O. Eastern Theatre).

Shipping My 2020/21/4, para.2, area P signal will not  
Summary be abolished. Signal will be made in modified  
for H.M. form containing ships north of Equator and east  
Ships. of 26° W. Special shipping summary will be made  
as from 1/5.  
(R.A.W.Africa, 1437/28 to C. in C. S.A., (R)  
Admty., etc.)

Falkland Proposed that garrison of Falkland Islands  
Islands reinforced by (a) Advance party of 250 with stores  
defence. and huts leaving U.K. about 22/5 in O.S.Convoy  
and proceeding independently after Freetown.  
(b) Approx. 1250 troops in one ship, speed 14  
knots, in W.S.20, leaving U.K. about 20/6.  
2. Request your proposals as regards escort for ship in para.(b)  
which could break off from convoy in vicinity of Ascension or  
proceed from Cape as preferred.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1547B/28 to C. in C. S.A., (R) R.A.West Africa).

/ABDIEL ...

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

ABDIEL. Your 1935/27. (N.T. in W.R.) Permanent repairs are now being carried out and are well advanced. Anticipate completion by end May. No saving of time by resorting to temporary expedients is now possible. Ship is locked up in dock with VALIANT and could not be undocked earlier without serious delay to latter ship which will be temporarily undocked to release ABDIEL when ready. (Cdre. Durban, 1633B/28 to C. in C. S.A., (R) ABDIEL).

SEAHAM,  
BOSTON. Simonstown Departure 1505Z/28 for Durban and onward passage to Meditn. S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. Durban, 1400Z/1st May. (C. in C. S.A., 1725B/28).

W.3.17. My 1303/27, add to para. 1 CAMERONIA for India. (C. in C. S.A., 1739B/28 to C. in C. E.I., (R) DAUNTLESS, etc.)

Towage of floating Dock from New York to Freetown. A.M. 2326B/24. The only ships under my orders at present capable of providing anti raider protection are 2 A.M.C's. The number of A/S vessels is insufficient for local requirements. Propose (a) C. in C. U.S. Fleet should be requested to provide protection as far as 026° W. (b) with a view to economizing escorts the possibility of some of the M.M.S. referred to in A.M. 1825B/7 sailing to accompany the dock should be considered. (c) From 026° W. to Freetown escort consisting of one or two A.M.C's and 3 A/S vessels - at least one of which will be a corvette - obviously provided by R.A. West Africa. 2. In view of prevalence of toreda worms in these waters it is assumed that dock is sheathed. (R.A. West Africa, 1745Z/28).

Wreck. Q.G.B. 102. Vessel sunk in 10 fathoms in 009° 07' N., 013° 37' W. two masts and crosstrees visible above water. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1800Z/28).

CARLISLE. C. in C. Med. 1230/24. On arrival in U.K. CARLISLE will be taken in hand at Devonport. (D.O.D.(F), 1912B/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy M/V's damaged by A/C. Southbound tanker damaged by aircraft in 037° 17' N., 011° 42' E. at 0045B/28 may be proceeding less than 12 knots. Remain last patrol position ordered until 2030B/28 then return as previously ordered. (Capt. S.10, 0504B/28 to UNA (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1).

For position of A/C attack see Air Report, 1545/28. Our one T/B Albacore has scored hits on merchant ship in 36° 3' N., 12° 12' E. at 0445/27 and on tanker in 37° 20' N., 11° 42' E. at 0045/28. Both ships southbound. (V.A. Malta, 1015B/28 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)

Levant Minesweeping. Weekly (?sweeping) report. 3 mines detonated on 21st off Beirut breakwater. Sweeping carried on as follows. Beirut 21st and 22nd with trawlers, 24th, with Skid, 25th to 28th inclusive with single L. Tripoli. 23rd with trawlers, 24th with trawlers, 27th with drifters. Without result. Mines off Beirut believed laids by subs. (S.N.O. Levant Area, 0918C/28 to Admty., etc.)

see 19-646  
662  
no

Enemy Convoy. At 1045/28 convoy of small ships sighted in 030° 56' 017° 56', course easterly, probably coasting. Estimate it will pass through approx. 031° 29' 019° 54' at about 0500C/29. You have complete

freedom of movement in area C.

(Capt. S.1., 1121C/28 to THORN).

At 1115C/28 P.C.S. 1 merchant ship 1 destroyer 033° 14' 018° 24' 358° 10.5 knots.

(Capt. S.1., 1131C/28 to PROTEUS (R) S/M's on Patrol, Capt. S.10).

My 1121/28. At 1301C/28 aircraft sighted 1 small tanker, 2 merchant ships escorted by 2 aircraft in 030° 42' 018° 25' speed 7 knots.

(Capt. S.1., 1631C/28 to THORN).

My 1131/28 at 2303C/28, P.C. and S. of enemy 035° 18' 018° 20' 358° 10 knots.

(Capt. S.1., 2331C/28 to PROTEUS (R) URGE).

ALBA JULIA. My 1703C/21 (1730/21 intended) and 1235C/27. ALBA JULIA cleared and now sailing for Trieste. (Description). (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1520C/28 to S.O.I. Med., S.1., D.N.I.)

Malta Air Report. I. 256. C.S.R. Malta 28.4.42. 27th. My I.25. 1 additional Grand Harbour tug sunk, warehouse damaged. A.A. probably destroyed 1 JU.88. 2 alerts 1354, 1656 hours. ME.109's, 39 JU.88's, 21 JU.87's, 5 BR.20's, 2 Do.24's rescue search. Luqa 1 unserviceable, Wellington destroyed, craters dispersals aerodrome, Grand Harbour no damage, elsewhere (civilian damage). Night 27/28th. 1857 hours, 1 raider did not cross coast, Beaufighters up, no interception.

/28th ...

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (contd.) 28th. 5 alerts 0474, 0556, 0812, 1045, 1245 hours ME.109's Macchi 202's, 71 JU.88's, 40 JU.87's. Luqa considerable damage. Hal Far, craters dispersals, Takali, 1 unserviceable Spitfire further slight damage, craters aerodrome. Grand Harbour, tug, water tank boat, hospital launch, fire-fighting float sunk. Elsewhere (civilian casualties and damage). 1 ME.109, 1 JU.87 damaged by 3 Spitfires, 4 Hurricanes. 1 Hurricane shot down, pilot killed. A.A. destroyed 1 JU.88 damaged 3 JU.88's, 1 JU.87. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1540/28).  
Part 2 of my C.S.R. I.256 28/4.  
Night 27/28. 1 special Swordfish 1 Albacore on shipping sweep at 2245 hours sighted 1 unidentified aircraft, 2 or 3 D/Rs 1 M/V 4000 tons, 340° Pantelleria 30 miles course 180°, 12 knots. 1 torpedo hit on M/V causing much smoke. 1 surfaced submarine 135° convoy 5 miles course speed unknown. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1545/28).

Malta Arrivals. IZ 117. HE 864/28. My HE 847/28. As Spitfires now arriving here 9th would like ship to arrive morning 10th. If any further alteration in date arrival Spitfires, ship to come in on day following arrival Spitfires. (Govr. Malta, 1730/28 to Chiefs of Staff (R) C. in C. M.E. A.O.C. in C. M.E., C. in C. Med.)

S/M's for Meditn. C. in C. Med. 1908/28 (Hush) not received by W.D.

BARHAM. Remarks on loss and failure of A/S screening destroyers. (D.A/S.W., 2109B/28 to C. in C. Med., etc.) See Lion Copy.

TORBAY R. of P. Report received of activity of TORBAY during April. These include a minesweeper sunk on 9/4 off Anti Taxos, and a laden southbound schooner off Fano Island on 11/4, both sunk by gunfire. On 18/4 a ship of 5000 tons fully loaded was sunk in the Taranto area, and on following day a 1,400 ton auxiliary petrol carrier flying German naval ensign was attacked from the surface and left abandoned and blazing. (D.S., 966, 28/4, no signal in W.D.)  
*Handwritten: AVANGUARDISTA (Italian source)*  
*\*GESU CROCISSO (Italian source)*  
*Not Gen: or Italian*  
*\*\*BELLONA. (Torpedo & Tank Register.)*



# MOST SECRET

831A

M E S S A G E 2109B/28 April OUM

To C. in C. Mediterranean Date 28/4/42.  
Fleet 591B1.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 600.

C. in C. Home Fleet. 438.  
n Approaches, 699.  
. 573.

C. in C. South Atlantic. 62.

C. in C. America & West Indies. 613.

Repeated C. in C. Portsmouth. 137.

C. in C. Plymouth. 76.

C. in C. Nore. 421.

NAVAL CYPHER D.O.T.T.

From Admiralty.

The loss of H.M.S. BARHAM must be primarily attributed to a failure on the part of the A/S Screening destroyers.

2. The U-Boat passed between two of the screening destroyers apparently at comparatively high speed. One destroyer made no contact. The other destroyer obtained an echo with the first transmission of her port sweep (Red 70 degs.) which may have been from the U-Boat herself. Sweeping forward the operator subsequently obtained a series of echoes from the wake and reported a large extent of target. He was, therefore, ordered to disregard and carry on with the sweep.

3. A quicker appreciation by either the operator or the O.O.W. would have shown the necessity of finding the left cut on which would almost undoubtedly have led to the detection of the U-Boat and to a counter attack in time to save the situation.

4. The attention of all C.O.s for A/S vessels employed on Fleet Screening duties is to be drawn to the fact that the rate of change of bearing of a U-Boat passing through a screen will alter rapidly at high speeds which will necessitate cutting aft to maintain contact and obtain the leading cut-on.

5. Although the difficulties of obtaining A/S practices are fully realised, the circumstances of the loss of this capital ship emphasise the need for A/S screening "exercises" at high speed in addition to the normal hunting practices.

2109B/28

D.A./S.W. (Tel No. 325)

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

Admiral Usborne.

A.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

A.C.N.S. (W)

Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.A./S.W. (2)

D.G.D.

D.T.S.D.

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.N.A.D.

D.N.C.

D.N.I. (4)

D.N.E.

D. of P. (2)

D.S.D.

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.M.

Admiral Submarines (by courier)

M. (M. 03985/42)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

D.C. (2)

War Diary.28.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.ELLENGA  
FALMOUTH.

ELLENGA with troops and stores sailed escorted by FALMOUTH 0230Z/28 due Colombo 0430Z/1/5 S. of A. 12½ knots. (Route and secret positions) (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0331Z/28 to Admty.)

Shipping  
Instructions.

Your 1048/19 (requesting repetition of 1102/18/12 quoted in C. in C. E.I. 0722Z/10) Following is a repetition of my 1102/18/12/41 (begins) N.O.I.C. E.I. Station (R) C. in C. S.A. (etc.) from C. in C. E.I. pass to N.C.S.O's. Ships of 10 knots and above proceeding independently in area 3 B E. of 70° E. and also similar ships proceeding Eastward out of this area are to act in accordance with C.A.M.S.I. Article 487. 2. C.A.M.S.I. 487 is being replaced by C.A.M.S.I. 618 issued on 13/11 but this revision does not affect above area (Ends) (C. in C. E.I. 0334Z/28 to Admty.)

Seychelles  
defences.Following from Arminia addressed C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty. begins. Your 1310/Z/27th See my 9702/G21/4. 0519 G.M.T./28/4 (ends) (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0520Z/28 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty.)  
Reply: C. in C. E.I. 1231Z/29.

WANGANELLA.

Hospital Ship. Sailed Fremantle p.m./26. Patients carried. Requirements on arrival. (S.S.T.O. Colombo 0639Z/28 to S.T.O. Fremantle.)

Transport  
of Polish  
Troops.

10th Army. message Q.M. 49 of 26/4 states 2 ships embarking 1/5 and 1 ship embarking 6/5 will complete programme for evacuation of Poles to Mideast by sea. This radically amends programme given your 1130Z/14 and ARMINDIA 9719/Q of 21/4. Please advise whether second ship arriving for embarkation 6/5. Also later programme if any.

(D.S.T.O. P.G. 0723Z/28 to P.S.T.O. India.)  
Movements, Basra reports by letter Poles for shipment ex BANDAR GULF 1/5 onward now 4500. If EKMA or CAP ST JACQUES used 4 ships will be needed. Suggest LANCASHIRE 2/5 1790, RHONA 7/5 1300, DEVONSHIRE 11/5 1700. Propose to use EKMA for 500 details awaiting return to India. Request approval. Agreed. (D.S.T.O. P.G. 1455Z/28 to P.S.T.O. India.)

ENGADINE.

1. On completion of unloading sail ENGADINE for Durban in anticipation of further ferry of aircraft to Kilindini. 2. Cdre. N.A.S. Eastern Theatre is requested to issue loading directions and programme of future requirements. (C. in C. E.I. 0916Z/28 to N.O.I.C. E. Africa &amp; Zanzibar (R) Admty. ENGADINE, C. in C. E.F. S.O. A.C. E.F. Cdre. N.A.S. Eastern Theatre, Cdre. Durban.)

/Fulmar ....

War Diary.28.4.1942  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Fulmar  
Aircraft  
Durban.

Following received from C. in C. S.A. (begins) Your 1316/16. 4 Fulmar aircraft consigned to Trincomalee have been off loaded at Durban ex CITY OF VENICE. Request instructions for disposal. T.O.O.1753B/23 (Ends) (2) Request you give disposal instructions on arrival. (C. in C.E.I. 0930Z/28 to Comdre. N.A.S. Mombasa (R) Admty. etc.)

Bombay Port  
Defence.

Your 1322/27. (1) 86 anti-torpedo nets together with moorings etc. but without bottom jackstays or Bulldog grips are now being loaded in CLAN MAGGILLIVRAY at Colombo. (2) Further amount of unspecified boom gear being unloaded at Durban. S.S.T.O. Durban asked for particulars. (3) Difficulty in providing boom defence for Bombay lies not only in provision of the nets themselves but in the shortage of net laying vessels. KIRRIEMOOR is the only heavy net layer on E.I. Stn. and occupied for some time to come with Mombasa defences. (4) Gear for Cochin and Madras can be provided from that now loaded in CLAN MAGGILLIVRAY. Glad if visit of officers referred to in my 0546/24 takes place as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.I. 1215Z/28 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Movements.

Colombo departure 28/4. 1000Z EREBUS, ASTER, SONAVATI, arrival nil. (S.O.I. Colombo 1319/28 to Admty. etc.)

B.D.Vs.

Your 1314Z/24. Request compliance with Admty. 2220B/17. BRITTANY, BARFOSS, and BARRYMORE are now on passage to establish boom defences Mauritius and will further reinforce station resources. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1334B/28 to C. in C. E.I.)

→ Kilindini  
defences.

Your 1316/27. Requirements at Kilindini. (1) To lay A/S A/B boom, 3 boom defence vessels. (2) To lay 4 A/T baffle simultaneously, 2 B.D.Vs 2 trawlers. If 2 laid at a time, then 1 B.D.V 2 trawlers. (3) For subsequent work and maintenance. A/B A/S boom for working 2 B.D.Vs. For maintenance 1 B.D.V. A/T baffle for maintenance, 2 trawlers. (4) Recommendation. For laying underwater defence 4 B.D.Vs, 2 trawlers. For working and maintenance 3 B.D.Vs 2 trawlers. (5) Your 1340/24. None, unless a proper boom can be provided. (F.O.3 B.S. 1603Z/28 to C. in C. E.I. (R) N.O.I.C. E. Africa, GUARDIAN, KIRRIEMOOR.)



834A

SECRET

MESSAGE

0008B/28th April

OUT

Date 28. 4. 42.

To. C. in C. South Atlantic 35.  
 C. in C. America & West Indies 591  
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 178  
 R.A. West Africa. 581.  
 S.O.(I) Jamaica.  
 A.C.I.C. 407  
 C.O.A.C. Halifax.  
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 806  
 Repeated: B.A.D. Washington 96.  
 OPNAV.

NAVAL CYPHER (M)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT except to A.C.I.C., F.O.C. North Atlantic and B.A.D.

Pass to F.O.I.C. and N.C.S.O's.

Amendment No. 5 to M.A.R.I. Section IV. para 8, cancel and substitute.

1. Ships on passage between Bermuda or North America ports north of Jacksonville and South or West Africa: (A) Southbound pass between 200 and 300 miles north and east of St. Pauls Rock, and between 450 and 500 miles from the coast when crossing meridian of 52 degrees West. (B) Northbound pass between 100 and 200 miles north and east of St. Paul's Rock, and between 400 and 450 miles from the coast when crossing meridian of 52 degrees West.
2. Ships on passage between West Indies and South or West Africa: (A) South or Eastbound pass between 50 and 100 miles south and west of St. Paul's Rock and between 250 and 300 miles from the coast when crossing 52 degrees West. (B) North or West bound pass between 50 and 100 miles north and east of St. Paul's Rock, and between 300 and 350 miles from the coast when crossing 52 degrees west.
3. Ships on passage between Bermuda, North American ports or West Indies and South America: (A) Southbound pass between 100 and 150 miles South and West of St. Paul's Rock, and between 150 and 200 miles East of Fernando Noronha, keeping between 200 and 250 miles from the coast when crossing 52 degrees West. Pass between 150 and 200 miles from Abrolhos Rock. (B) Northbound pass between 150 and 200 miles South and West of St. Paul's Rock, and between 100 and 150 miles East of Fernando Noronha, keeping between 150 and 200 miles from the coast when crossing 52 degrees West. Pass between 100 and 150 miles from Abrolhos Rocks. (C) Ships for ports between Cape Frio (Brazil) and Cape St. Roque as in 3A and 3B, approaching ports on a westerly course.

0008B/28  
for D.T.D. (983)

A.C.N.S. (T)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 Ops. (3)  
 O.I.C. (2)  
 D.T.D. (4)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (C)

W.D.  
 O.D. (5)  
 I.P. (3)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 A.E. (3)  
 D. of P. (3)

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Shipping, Amendment No.5 to M.A.R.I. (D.T.D. 0008B/28 to  
Routeing. C. in C. A.W.I. C. in C. S.A. N.S.H.Q. etc.)  
See Lion Copy.  
Your 0008/28. Should ships now on passage  
south and east bound be diverted to comply? (C. in C. A.W.I.  
2302P/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.) Reply: Yes. (D.T.D.  
1859B/29.)  
Routeing Officers are cautioned to warn Masters that position  
of newly established buoys indicated in Sec. 1 Para 6 Macri  
2nd. Edition are approximate only. (Opnav 1627/28 to Spenavo,  
London.)

ANDES. ANDES sailed Boston 0100Z/28 escorted by  
WALKER and U.S. Coastguard Cutter, DUANE for  
Halifax. (N.S.H.Q. 0050Z/28 to Admty. D.S.T.)

Movements. 27/4. Arrivals. MIMOSA ex O.N.86. Departures  
COWICHAN escorting W.S.C.81, Fairmile Q 057  
carrying out Sweep vicinity of Virgin Rocks.  
(F.O.N.F. 0057/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I.  
etc.)

Convoys and  
Routeing System. Your 1901Z/23. Paras. A, B, E, F, G, H and I,  
Concur.  
2. Paras. C and D. Recent experience of  
endurance of British destroyers and corvettes  
of mid-ocean escorts indicates that it is not  
feasible to move the Westcomp further west than  
50° W in the case of S.C. and O.N.(S) Convoys. A Westcomp  
in 52° W would be practicable for the H.X. and O.N. fast  
Convoys but the efficiency of counter-measures by escorts  
against U-Boats would be impaired by the necessity for  
conserving fuel.  
3. As an alternative suggest for consideration that Western  
Local escort which takes and H.X. Convoy to Westcomp should  
return with an O.N.(Slow) and the escort of an S.C. Convoy  
should return with an O.N.(Fast) It is estimated that in a 28-  
day round trip this would give about 15 days harbour time.  
4. As regards ships for St. Lawrence concur that these will  
have to proceed to Halifax unless it is possible for ships to  
be detached early under escort of Canadian minesweepers to  
entrance to Cabot Strait. Commitment will be eased when  
sailing of S.C. convoys from Sydney is resumed about 1/6.  
5. Until the Guantanamo - New York convoy is started and  
provided the U-boat situation permits it is desired to continue  
the present system of routeing occasional O.N. fast convoy to the  
Southward and dispensing with the Western Local escort of these  
convoys.  
(D.T.D., 0124B/28 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C.  
W.A. etc., as amended 1035B/28).  
Add to addressees of my 0124B/28 and my 1035B/28.  
"Repeated Cinclant. Comtask 24."  
(D.T.D., 1107B/28).

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

CABARITA Your 1427/9th. CABARITA sailed for Mauritius 29th with coal and has general cargo for Colombo and Bay of Bengal Ports, also 120 tons explosives for each Madras and Calcutta.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 0819Z/28 to C. in C. E.I.)

"SS" Report. Following received (begins) 1048 G.M..T Intercepted from Curacao Radio SSSS posn. 11° 47' N., 68° 45' W.  
(Navycom, Bermuda, 0957P/28 to Admty).  
My 0957/28. This SSSS was probably from INO (Netherlands). S.B.N.O. Curacao route signal 0924/27 refers.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1603P/28 to Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Kingston, Opanav).

Caribbean Shipping Suspended. Suspend sailings of all British managed shipping from Curacao and Aruba and from Caribbean Sea Ports bound for Curacao and Aruba until further orders.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1012P/28 to N.C.S.Os. C.S.As. and R.Os. in Jamaica Intelligence Area at Atlantic Ports only (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica).  
In view of U-boat situation in Curacao area all sailings of British managed shipping from Curacao and Aruba, and from Caribbean Sea port bound for Curacao and Aruba have been suspended until further orders.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1022P/28 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet., B.A.D., Opanav, N.S.H.Q., Com 10., (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Kingston).  
My 1012/28. Presume you will divert ships from outward bound convoys to Trinidad if you consider desirable.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1832P/28 to Admty).

A. MIKOTJAN S.O.(I) Montevideo's 2219Z/20. U.S.S.R. Icebreaker A. MIKOTJAN due Coronel 30/4. Permission has been obtained to supply 1400 tons coal. Arrangements are being made to land 1 British Naval Rating for hospital treatment.  
(N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1120Q/28 to Admty).

Convoy Escorts, Westomp. Your 1357/25. Midocean escorts make junction with eastbound Convoys vicinity 50° W. This Westomp Necessarily somewhat varied to permit midocean escorts depart Argentinia during daylight and join Convoys during daylight following day. Midocean escorts for westbound Convoy have remained with convoys to approx. 53° W., to provide additional protection through area of submarine concentrations. Foregoing policy has been made applicable to the three joint services without discrimination.  
Specific unit referred to in your reference despatch had uninterrupted period 11 days in Argentinia.  
(C.T.F., 24 1301/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.T.G., 24.7).

Opanav Convoy Reports. Your 1227/25. Condensed reports in Anglo/U.S. cypher are issued by C. in C. W.A. for benefit of U.S. Escorts under his operational control /and...

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Opanav and not in possession of S.P. 02373 or Western  
Convoy Approaches one time pad. It is understood that  
Reports. U.S. escorts working from Londonderry have been  
supplied with these codes and steps are now  
being taken to supply escorts working from

Iceland (C) with the same.

2. In view of your 1404/27 it is presumed that request in  
your 1227/25 is cancelled.

(D.T.D., 1329B/28 to Opanav (R) C. in C. W.A., C.T.24.6).

Coastal  
Tanker  
Convoys.Your 0019Z/26 and 2349/7. We feel it would be  
unwise to accept this offer until you are  
satisfied that organisation for diversions  
mentioned in para. 5 of your 0019/26 is adequate  
and that urgent diversions can be made without  
delay. 2. Present policy is not to sail tankers south of NewYork on coastal route until convoy is introduced. As regards  
the Gulf and Caribbean we feel that introduction of proposed  
system would not be worth while if there is any prospect of  
institution of Trinidad-Aruba convoy within a reasonable time.3. Grateful for further information and also confirmation of  
date of sailing of first coastal convoy before any indication  
of our views is given to Navy Dept.

(V.C.N.S., 1331B/28 to B.A.D.)

U/B

Following received from Georgetown (begins)  
Pan American plane reports sighting S/M on surface  
in 007° 20' N., 057° 35' W., at 1248 G.M.T. (Ends)  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1343P/28 to Adnty (R) N.S.H.Q.,  
S.O.(I) Kingston, B.A.D., C. in C. U.S. Fleet,  
Opanav, C.C.S.F.)

P.552

This is C.T.F. 25 1859/27 S/M notice.

(Route for P.552 from Base Q 29/4 to St. Johns  
N.F.) Request bombing restrictions 100 milesahead and astern and 15 miles each side of track. This vessel  
is former U.S. Submarine S.1.

(U.S. Navycom, Washington, 1346Z/28 to C.E.S.F., Cinclant etc).

Washops 79.

Philippine Isles. Hostile action against fortified  
Islands has slackened. In Cebu and Panay  
Japanese appear to be content for moment with  
their control of principal coastal roads andtowns. Enemy transports under naval protection continue to move  
in Visayan waters.

(J.S.M., 1615Z/28 to Adnty etc).

U/B

S/M sighted by aircraft 043° 08' N., 067° 37' W.,  
at 1605Z/28.

(C.O.A.C., 1631Z/28 to G.B. Area 7A).

Vichy  
Intelligence.My Meter 1727/18, under Marseille - Add 9/4  
ST. SAUVEUR sailed for Ajaccio, Dakar 26/4 B.2.  
26/4 CARIMARE, RHEA, MORAN, PORTHOS, GROIX, REMOYR

/(ANDRE.....



War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Vichy Intelligence. (ANDRE MOYRAND intended) sailed for North. Escort one trawler. 26/4 ST. HUBERT arrived from Kaolack. Considerable amounts of unmanifested rubber being shipped North. C.1 (B.A.D., 1631Z/28 to Admty).

Routeing by U.S.N. Following are comments on your 1031Q/1 and proposals for agreement on routeing of warships. Request you will obtain concurrence of C. in C. U.S. Fleet if you concur.

1. Concur that H.M. Ships should be sailed by Sea Frontier Commanders and routed by them to first British port of call, except that Admty may request that they be routed to some geographical position at sea for R/V with escorts, onward routeing or other purpose.
2. Routes to be signalled before sailing and to be considered to have received automatic concurrence unless objection is raised.
3. Concur that S.F.C.s are authorised to make diversions within their frontier, and that Cominch is responsible for diversion outside of sea frontier and within limit of U.S. strategic control.
4. Proposed that except when diversion is extremely urgent, Cominch should inform Admty before making a diversion, since a R/V or other circumstances may be affected.
5. Admty may suggest diversions to Cominch as has been the agreed practice with trade convoys.
6. In the event of extreme operational urgency Admty may issue diversionary orders direct to H.M. Ships, although within area of U.S. strategic control, at the same time informing Cominch. Only real emergency in which no delay could be accepted would require this procedure.
7. These arrangements to be reciprocal and to cover routeing of U.S. Warships from British ports, British Cs. in C. for this purpose being considered the equivalent of S.F.C.s. and Admty of Cominch.  
(V.C.N.S., 1656B/28 to B.A.D.)

O.N.89 Western Local Escorts Task Unit 24.18.2 H.M.T. WITCH, S.O. NIAGARA, FREDERICTON, SASKATOON, THE PAS.  
(F.O.N.F., 1829Z/28 to T.U. 24.1.1. (R) C.T.F., 24. C.O.A.C. etc).

Tanker Routes. Following from Admiralty to C. in C. S.A. R.A.W.A.F. and F.O.C.N.A. is passed to you for information. "In future all British managed tankers bound for the West Indies or Gulf of Mexico from Gibraltar or Africa should be routed to Trinidad for Orders". T.O.O. 1401B/23 (Ends).  
(D.T.D., 1849B/28 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

/Escort...

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Escort of  
Tankers  
for Halifax  
CALDWELL,  
BURNHAM.

My 1628Z/28, not to all addressees. (N.T. in W.D.)  
The oil fuel situation at Halifax and St. Johns  
N.F. has become dangerously acute. Intend  
CALDWELL be used temporarily to escort Canadian  
and Norwegian Flag tankers under charter to  
Canada from Caribbean to Halifax.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1908Z/28 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) C.O.A.C.  
CALDWELL, C.E.S.F., Admty. C.N.O., C. in C. U.S.  
Fleet).

My 1908Z/28. Request you sail CALDWELL for Trinidad with despatch  
and arrange for tankers CITIES SERVICE FUEL and BRITAMSEA under  
charter to Canadian Govt. now loading at Caripito and Puerto  
La Cruz respectively, to be sailed direct to Halifax escorted  
by CALDWELL.

(N.S.H.Q., 2038Z/28 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Cominch, C.E.S.F.  
C.C.S.F., S.O.(I) Kingston, F.O.I.C. Trinidad, Admty. C.O.A.C.)  
In view of extremely serious oil situation Halifax and St. John's  
N.F. it is proposed BURNHAM should be sent Caribbean to convoy  
Canadian and Norwegian Flag tankers on Charter to Canada to  
Halifax.

2. B.A.R.M. is requested to confirm that BURNHAM will be ready  
for service on 3/5.

3. F.O.N.F. is to report if a delay approx. 14 days could be  
accepted in return BURNHAM to Mid-Ocean Escort Force.

(N.S.H.Q., 1909Z/28 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.,  
C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Opnav, B.A.D. B.A.R.M., C.E.S.F.)  
N.S.H.Q. 1909Z/28 para (iii) re BURNHAM. Delay can be accepted.  
(F.O.N.F., 2359Z/28 to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B attacks  
on Shipping.

S/M Attack on Sighting Summary. GULFAMERICA  
sunk 30° 15' N., 81° 17' W., 0230Z/10. 2  
torpedoes, 10 to 20 rounds. S/M not seen.  
ULYSSES sunk 34° 23' N., 75° 35' W., 2030Z/11.  
2 torpedoes hit, 1 missed. Reported sighting 11° 47' N., 68°  
45' W., not time given, assumed a.m. 28th.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2021/28 to Admty for O.I.C.)

U/B

D/F at 1517Z/28th placing S/M within 100 miles  
037° N., 057° W.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2046Z/28 to British Warships in Area  
7A, Admty; etc).

WHITE CLOVER

My 1948/27 WHITE CLOVER U.S. arrived New York 26th.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2204Z/28).

ARUNDO.

Dutch Ship ARUNDO sunk off Jersey coast. 36  
survivors. My 1900Z/29 with list of survivors  
following.  
(B.R.O., Philadelphia, 2355Z/28 to Admty).

War Diary.28.4.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Serial Number 97 from C.W.R. 27/4.  
 Darwin aerodrome attacked 0237Z/27 by 17 heavy bombers, 9 Zero fighters. Buildings roadway power line severely damaged, few casualties. P.40s intercepted 1 shot down 3 missing, Enemy lost 3 bombers certain, 4 Zero certain, 2 probably.

(2) 3 B Float planes attacked convoy consisting of 3 transports 2 destroyers 2 possibly submarines approx. 90 miles S.E. of Kavieng Head Rabaul, at 2205Z/26. 1 direct hit and 5 near misses on 6,000 ton transport possibly near misses on another transport. 1 transport sighted 25 miles to south head Rabaul 2 transports 003° 57' S., 150° 15' E.

(3) A/C on R/C Cape Gloucester (New Britain) to Kavieng on 27/4 reports 2 single freighters and 3 in company proceeding Rabaul. Transport 8/12000 tons in Palmer Harbour, Dyaul Island. All considered additional to ships in para 2. No A/C or activity observed Cape Gloucester or Kavieng aerodrome.

(4) 2 Catalinas attacked Faisi (Solomon Is). twice on 27/4. Buildings and wharf possibly damaged. No shipping observed.

(5) Unidentified A/C reported over Mogoura (Queensland) 0225Z/27 at 10,000 feet, course S.E.  
 (A.C.N.B., 0926Z/28 to Admty. etc).

CAPSA.

My 1628/16 CAPSA expected to complete docking and repairs 8/5. Request destination.  
 (N.Z.N.B., 1553M/28 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
 (D.D.I.C., 1427B/28, 1430B/28).

29.4.1942.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The weather is still causing delay to shipping.

Convoys  
P.Q.15  
and Q.P.11.

C. in C. H.F. was probably sighted by an enemy aircraft between 0600 and 0700 and again at 1330 today.

Convoy Q.P.11 was probably reported by an enemy submarine at 1459 G.M.T. today. P.Q.15 was probably reported by an enemy submarine at 2126Z today.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command made attacks on Kiel and Trondheim last night. The dry Dock at Dunkirk was attacked today.

Mining.

About 10 enemy aircraft were apparently engaged in minelaying off the Yorkshire coast between Flamborough Head and Spurn Head last night.

Bomber Command aircraft laid mines last night at Kiel, Langeland Belt and Heligoland Bight.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

There was a cessation of air raids from yesterday afternoon until early this morning, when attacks were resumed and damage was caused at Hal Far and there were losses of aircraft on both sides. The attacks continued at intervals during the day. During the present heavy daylight bombing of Malta submarines which remain will be bottomed either in or outside the harbour during the day.

/Govr., ...

842

29.4.1942.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - contd.

Govr., Malta, in a report for month ending 20/4, says the outlook remains very difficult. Growing shortage of food is serious, and the effect of the cut in the bread ration cannot yet be foreseen. He is confident, however, "that we shall see our troubles through."

ALLIANCE  
sunk.

British tug ALLIANCE, on Government service, was mined and sunk in Eastern Mediterranean at 2045. Master and 2 of the crew are missing.

East Indies.

A Free French ship has been reported being attacked yesterday off Mozambique by a submarine believed to be Japanese.

China.

There are indications of large concentrations of enemy ships in the Marshall Islands.

America & West Indies.

The orders for clearing of an area in the North Atlantic by shipping (23/4 and 25/4) was cancelled today.

U.S. Tanker MOBIL OIL was torpedoed in the early hours about 425 miles North of Porto Rico and Panamanian tanker HARRY G. SEIDEL was torpedoed this afternoon about 18 miles W. by N. of Port of Spain, Trinidad, and sunk. 48 survivors landed at Trinidad on 1/5.

/Tanker ...

War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - contd.

Tanker ATHELEMPRESS was torpedoed at 2345Z/29  
in 13° 21' N., 56° 15' W. or 2354Z/29

Australia.

An Allied destroyer reported an enemy submarine near Rodondo Island, Wilson's Promontory, Victoria at 1234Z today.

There were air raids today on Seven Mile Aerodrome and a new aerodrome at Laloki near the former, but little damage was caused. Tulagi also reported an air raid in which two Catalinas were damaged. Our aircraft bombed Lae aerodrome today causing damage; at least 30 enemy aircraft were on the aerodrome. Zero fighters attempted to intercept and at least 3 were shot down.

29.4.1942  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

*K.T. in W.D.*

→ WELLS. Your 2151B/28. Proceed to Scapa forthwith and place yourself under orders of R.A.(D) H.F. Report E.T.A. which should not be later than noon today.  
(R.A.(M) 0254/29 to WELLS.)

ST. MARYS. My 2354/28. Delete all reference to WELLS.  
CASTLETON. (R.A.M. 0302/29.)  
→ WELLS.

ST. MARYS. My 2354/28, para B. Amended by 0302/29. Sailed  
CASTLETON. 0600/29.  
(R.A.M. 0605/29 to A.C.O.S., R.A.F., C. in C.H.F.)

→ WASP. Sailed WASP escorted by STERETT, LANG and BLACKMORE for Greenock. E.T.A. 1100B/30th.  
(A.C.O.S. 0901/29 R.A.(D) H.F. 1225B/29.)

Routes for U.S.S.R S/M. New routes for U.S.S.R. S/M proceeding to and from patrol areas come into force 1/5/42. Outer route (namely most Northern and Eastern) pass through following positions 71.58 N. 21.40 E. 72.12 N. 25.00 E. 72.12 N. (?31) 22 E. 71.37 N. 35.00 E. 69.54 N. 35.00 E.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1033B/29 to Admty.)

VANITY. Detach VANITY North of Tyne to proceed to Rosyth.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1041B/29 to LIDDESDALE.)

U.S. Forces in Atlantic. My 1909B/21/4. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Atlantic.

Battleships:	TEXAS	At Norfolk
	NEW YORK	At New York
	WASHINGTON	Left Scapa 28/4.
Aircraft		
→ Carriers.	WASP	At Clyde
8" Cruisers	AUGUSTA	Arrd. Trinidad 28/4
	TUSCALOOSA	} Left Scapa 28/4.
	WICHITA	
6" Cruisers	MEMPHIS	Due Bahia 28/4
	PHILADELPHIA	At New York
	MARBLEHEAD	En route New York
	BROOKLYN	At New York
	MILWAUKEE	On patrol
	JUNEAU	At Casco
	CINCINNATI	Due Trinidad 30/4.

(Admty. 1153B/29 to C. in C. H.F. C. in C. A.W.I.)

/Operational ...

War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

Operational  
Units in  
North  
Atlantic.

In Northern Waters

KING GEORGE V  
WASHINGTON  
VICTORIOUS  
EDINBURGH  
KENYA  
LONDON  
NIGERIA  
TUSCALOOSA  
WICHITA  
10 destroyers  
4 destroyers (U.S.)

Area Iceland (C)

DUKE OF YORK  
BERWICK  
NORFOLK

Area Scapa

2 Destroyers  
NELSON  
LIVERPOOL  
MAURITIUS  
1 destroyer

Area Clyde

WASP  
2 destroyers (U.S.)

Area Gibraltar

RENOWN  
ARGUS  
EAGLE  
CHARYBDIS

(Admty., 1208B/29 to C. in C. U.S.F.)

CUMBERLAND

My 1116B/26th sailing postponed 24 hours owing to ship being weather bound in basin. Further signal will be made regarding escort between Sheerness and Kinnaird Head. (C. in C. Nore, 1446B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

Escort of  
ANSON.

A.M. 1939B/25. If Destroyer without S.A. gear can be accepted ONSLOW is detailed. Request ONSLOW may be detached on completion of duties to proceed to Scapa. N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne pass to ANSON. (R.A.D. H.F., 1448B/29 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Russian Naval  
Forces.

Your 1722C/27/4. Destroyer referred to was \*KLINGTSKI which moves south from Mcloonomia to Molotovsk where she still remains. Russians inform me there is no other destroyer or other surface craft in Dvina ports. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1549B/29 to Adm. Miles).  
\* Not in L.B. 1815

RODNEY.

Subject to weather conditions RODNEY proposes to fire one round from each gun of S turret at 0800 B/5/5 whilst on passage Scapa. RODNEY will sail 1700B/4/5 speed 17 knots. Request your concurrence. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1629B/29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

/BLANKNEY...



War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

BLANKNEY, My 2107Z/27 was not received by BLANKNEY.  
BLANKNEY is proceeding Scapa P. and S. at 1840B/  
29 054° 08' N., 005° 02' W., 20 knots.  
CAIRO, ANDALUSIA STAR. CAIRO will escort ANDALUSIA STAR (to R/V with  
Commodore Londonderry pass to C.T.G. 24.7. C.T.15)  
(C. in C. W.A., 1733Z/29 to S.O. D.F. Home Fleet).

*See p. 850*

29th M.L. Flotilla. A.M. 1844/27/1. Request you will arrange for the  
29th M.L. Flotilla to assemble at Milford Haven  
in time to sail 10/5.  
(Admty., 1919B/29 to R.A.C.F.)

MARTIN, PUNJABI, ORIBI, MARNE. Arrived Seidis Fjord 1815B/29 MARTIN, PUNJABI,  
ORIBI, MARNE.  
(A.C.I.C., 1945B/29 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Operations.

N.W. Norway S/M Patrol. At 0800 30/4 (?P)43, P.551, UREDD, MINERVE move  
so as to be in zone K.30, K.28, K.26, K.24  
respectively at 0800 1/5.  
(F.O.(S) 1641B/29 to S/Ms on N. Patrol)

Operation "Fritham". 1500 rounds of Oerlikon ammunition for each ship  
are to be carried.  
(Admty. 1920B/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

British Air Activity.

Attack on S/M A.O.C.15 Gp. 0505/29 see U-boats.

Attacks on Kiel and Trondheim. Report of attacks on Kiel and Trondheim on night  
28/29 April.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1805/29).

H.X S.C.80 There will be a large number of British A/C in your  
area throughout the night searching for possibly  
damaged U/B. Fire should not be opened on any  
A/C unless a definite attack has been made on your  
convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1823B/29 to Escort of H.X. and  
S.C.80).

A/C Activity. 3rd P.R.U. Trondheim being flown. Patrol "Lotus  
2" flown off 1815 also R/C of coast between  
Bergen and Lister. Patrol "Stand," "Stab", "Bert"  
and "Vaaro" being flown after dark.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1835B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

847

War Diary29.4.1942  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Reprisals. Our attacks on Trondheim may be expected to produce reprisals.  
(Admty. 1235B/29 to A.C.O.S. 402.)

Enemy A/C. Jan Mayen  
~~JAN MAYEN~~ reports unidentified A/C crossing N.E. part of Island at 0952B/29th course S.E.  
(A.C.I.C. 1755B/29 to Admty.)

Mining.

Q.S.17. Your 1008. Approved to commence operation Q.S.17 30/4, if weather is suitable, subject to satisfactory fixing by taut wire and buoy of initial sweeping position.  
(C. in C. Nore 1244B/29 to S.O. 4th M/S Flotilla.)

Sweep of Convoy Routes. Request you will sail 66th M/S Group less ANDYK for Portsmouth sweeping Q Z S 293 (from its junction with Q Z S 295) and Q Z S 284 en route as soon as weather is suitable for sweepers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1847/29 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ Preliminary visual R/C, Trondheim - all four present.  
SCHEER  
HIPPER (Admty. 1229B/29 to A.I.G. 47.)  
PRINZ EUGEN. My 1229/29. Photographic R/C of Hopleelven Fjord (Trondheim area) at 1000/29 shows one destroyer departed since 0830/29.  
(Admty. 1620B/29 to A.I.G. 47 etc.)

My 1229/29. P.R.U. Trondheim at approx. 1130/29. Photographs show SCHEER has left Lo Fiord since 1615/28. Other 3 present in usual positions.  
(Admty. 1457B/29 to A.I.G.37, S/Ms N. of 51° N. S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) H.Q.C.C. 2344B/29 to A.I.G. 21, F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. A. & W.I., Opanav, Adm. Miles, H.Q.B.C. Hofors.)

Visual R/C showed TIRPITZ, HIPPER, EUGEN in usual positions at 1915/29. SCHEER not seen. Visibility good. A/C flew direct from Sogne Fiord to Trondheim Fiord as far N. as 64° N. re-turning along coast to Stadlandet.  
(Admty. 2308B/29 to A.I.G.47, S/Ms N. of 51° N. S.B.N.O. N. Russia, Reptd. H.Q.C.C.)

848

29.4.1942  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

Attack on U-Boat. Suspicious contact made and lost position XJC 60000 (indecipherable). (A.O.C. 15 Gr. 0340/29.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 58° N. 15° W. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 190° estimated speed 10 knots. (A.O.C. 15 Group C.C. 0500/29.)  
Have attacked enemy submarine with torpedo (corrupt group). (A.O.C. 15 Group 0505/29.)  
Sail VISCOUNT as soon as possible at best speed to hunt U-Boat in 058° N. 015° W. A/C will co-operate. U-Boat may be damaged. (C. in C. W.A. 0811B/29 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)  
Turn over convoy to CHURCHILL and proceed at best speed to position 058° 00' N. 015° 00' W. to hunt U-Boat believed damaged. VISCOUNT will join from Londonderry. A/C co-operating. (C. in C. W.A. 1108A/29 to FIREDRAKE.)  
Anticipate U/B will make to southward. If fuel permits FIREDRAKE and VISCOUNT continue search until noon 30th then failing contact FIREDRAKE proceed Londonderry VISCOUNT in execution previous orders. A/C searching vicinity 057° 00' N. 016° 00' W. from dawn 30th. (C. in C. W.A. 2311B/29 to FIREDRAKE, VISCOUNT.)  
Your 2311B/29th. Oil fuel remaining will allow FIREDRAKE to continue search till at least noon 1st if necessary. Request instructions. (FIREDRAKE 2330Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

3 U/Bs reported. Shore station report 3 U-Boats on surface 0824B/29 70.10 N. 31.12 E. Course 360. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0949B/29 to C.S.18. Escort Q.P.11, Escort P.Q.15, C.S.10 (R) Admty.)

Navigational.

Nore Wreck Buoy. Wreck buoy in 053° 16.2' N. and 001° 2.8' E. is damaged and believed to be extinguished. (WHADDON 1320B/29 to Admty.)

West Holm Buoy. Trawler reports West Holm buoy in correct position but riding upside down. Report not yet confirmed. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1321B/29 to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties and Defects.

CELIA. Cancel my 1524B/26. <sup>HT N.W.D.</sup> CELIA delayed by defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1733B/29 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea)

/BERWICK ...

849

War Diary.

29.4.1942  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

BERWICK is due for refit on 12/5 and KENT about 31/5. Understand it would be more convenient to Admiralty Repair Organisation if dates were transposed to enable BERWICK to be taken in hand by a Royal Dockyard. It would be preferred to adhere to original programme if both ships are to refit in a Royal Dockyard but would accept the alternative arrangement if KENT has to be allocated to private firm.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1806B/29 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

C.E.77 Your 1500B/27 and my 1303B/28. Intend to postpone C.E.77 for 24 hours on account of weather.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0823B/29 to C. in C. Nore. etc.)

→ F.N.695 F.N.696. F.N.695 postponed 24 hours owing to easterly gale. Propose to postpone F.N.696 until 1/5.  
(C. in C. Nore 0948B/29 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Convoys You were probably sighted by enemy A/C between P.Q.15 0600 and 0700.  
Q.P.11. (Admty. 1102B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 1102B/29. You were sighted again by enemy aircraft at 1330.  
(D.D.I.C. 1513B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Enemy submarine has made a first sighting report at 1459/29 G.M.T. of a convoy or important unit probably Q.P.11.  
(D.D.I.C. 1822B/29 to Escorts of Q.P.11.)  
Archangel's telegram No.2038B/27/4 and telegram No.0915B/28/4 (seven) Soviet Naval Staff consider it will be impossible to sweep channel before arrival of P.Q.15, they therefore require that all ships including ice breakers should proceed to Murmansk. Request necessary orders be given convoy P.Q.15 and escort.  
(Adm. Miles 1654C/29 to Admty.)

→ F.N.695 My 0948B/29. Owing to shortage of escorts intend F.N.696 to sail F.N.695 fast at 0600/30 and F.N.696 slow F.S.788. at 0800/30. D.21 is to detail 2 escorts for F.N.696 until F.S.788 is met when VALOROUS and WOLSEY are to take over. GARTH is to escort F.S.788 to destination.  
(C. in C. Nore 1236B/29 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
F.N.695 postponed, sails 0600/13th. F.N.696 will run as a slow convoy, sailing 0800/13th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1429B/29 to Admty.)

850

War Diary.

29.4.1942  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- D.S.26. Request you will provide both Destroyer escorts for D.S.26.  
(Admty. 1321B/29 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 1044/27. No destroyer of 17th Div. is now available for D.S.26.  
(R.A.(M) 1454/29 to Admty.)
- D.S.26. Owing to other commitments R.A.M. will be unable to provide escort. Request you will sail SCIMITAR and SHIKARI as escort of D.S.26 returning with S.D. 26.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1526B/29 to Cmdre. Londonderry.)
- MOSDALE. Part company with MOSDALE in time to arrive Argentinia A.M. 1/5.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1411Z/29 to WINCHELSEA.)  
*See p. 842*
- Convoy C.T.15. C. in C. W.A. 2107B/27 para 1. Neg. BLANKNEY. Substitute CAIRO as escort for ANDALUSIA STAR.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1850B/29 to C. in C. W.A.)  
C. in C. W.A. 2107Z/27th BLANKNEY has been reported proceeding N. independently a.m. 29th. CAIRO detailed this duty.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1911B/29 to C. in C.W.A.)  
*See p. 846*
- Passengers. Details required whenever passengers or mails are embarked for U.K. either in a merchant ship sailing independently or in convoy.  
(Admty. 1902B/29.)
- Replies to Visual Signals. Masters of independently routed ships are to be specially warned of importance of replying promptly to visual signals made to them by British or Allied warships and are to be reminded that failure to do so may cause them to be mistaken for an enemy raider.  
(Admty. 1907B/29 to N.C.S.Os.)

War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

PARTHIAN Onward route on surface through 225° Cape St. Vincent 25 miles to R/V with escort in (350°) Cape Spartel 5 miles at 0700Z/8/5. Bombing restrictions arranged. Report if unable to comply within 3 hours.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1210B/29 to PARTHIAN (R) Admty etc).  
As amended 1306B/29.

Movements. Departure 1815 IMPERIALIST for Y.I. Arrival 2305 SCOTTISH.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1309A/29 to Admty).  
Departure ST. NECTAN escorting BARON YARBOROUGH to Melilla.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1727A/29 to Admty).

DUC D'AUMALE. French Ship DUC D'AUMALE.  
(Cuidad Trujillo, 1609/29 to M. of W.T.)

French Shipping. Gibraltar 1225 Armed Trawler LA TOULONNAISE SS. BELLE ISLE/FNLQ, MARECHAL, LYAUTREY, both laden. Trawlers PESGAGEL, KERMARIA eastbound.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1747A/29 to Admty., C. in C. Med).

? Spanish Cruiser. Transit A/C reported light cruiser or large destroyer in 043° 36' N., 008° 50' W. course N.W. speed 15 knots at 1030A.  
2. At 2000A/28 LOCH OSKAIG sighted a Spanish cruiser or minelayer in 038° 36' N., 009° 31' W. course S.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1748A/29 to Admty).

?Hostile A/C 2 A/C presumed Hostile to 275° distance 5 miles course Southward and Westward my position 323° (P?) C.L.8  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1905A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SCHARLACH-BERGER At Bilbao fully loaded and ready sail.  
(N.A. Madrid, No T.O.O./29 recd. 2127/29 to Admty for D.N.I.)

852

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

## Movements.

Arrival 27/4 COWSLIP, EMILE BAUDOT.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 0125Z/29 to Admty).AWATEA,  
Polish  
personnel.AWATEA is due Capetown about 2/5 with approx. 2000  
Polish naval and air force personnel on board for  
U.K.2. Request personnel in excess of numbers  
permitted by Admiralty 1948/25/2 be disembarked  
and transferred to other returning troopships for passage to  
U.K.3. P.S.T.O. India should notify separate totals of air force  
and naval personnel.(D. of S.T., 0246B/29 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown, (R) P.S.T.O.  
India, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)Your 1014/28 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown only. Request you will  
utilize EMPRESS OF RUSSIA as proposed for service personnel  
to U.K. in excess of unescorted categories. Escort will  
be provided.2. After arrival Capetown ship will be filled to capacity  
with Polish Naval and Air Force personnel ex AWATEA due Capetown  
8/5. Latter with personnel reduced to permitted scale will  
then proceed to U.K. independently. D. of S.T., 0126/29  
(0246/29 intended) refers.(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1252B/29 to S.S.T.O. Durban (R) P.S.T.O.  
India, C. in C. E.I., D. of S.T.)

## W.S.17

Your 1303/27. Request confirmation that CAMERONIA  
is included in W.S.17 for India.2. Your para. 4. Presume you have substituted  
MENDOZA for LLANDAFF CASTLE.3. Your para. 5. Request repetition of Name of ship after  
SAMARIA.(D. of S.T., 0302B/29 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.I.,  
N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. India,  
F.O.R.S.)FRANCONIA,  
Force F.Your 1157/28. This is confirmed.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0859B/29 to Admty).Movements  
Summary.2000/29. WIVERN 015° N., 018° 35' W., to  
Bathurst 16 knots.EGRET and 3 escorts with S.L.108. 013° N., 020°  
40' W., routed 014° 30' N., 021° 30' W., thence

008° 7.5 knots.

ROCKROSE and 3 escorts with L.S.3 007° 20' N., 014° W., to  
Freetown 6.5 knots.COWSLIP and One Motor Launch escorting 007° 25' N., 014° 50' W.,  
228° 9.5 knots.

ST. WISTAN about 007° 25' N., 013° 20' W., to Freetown 8.5 knots.

MORRIS DANCE off Robertsport.

KELT off Marshall. CANNA on patrol 006° 20' N., 014° 10' W.

PRETORIA CASTLE 005° 55' N., 017° 55' W., to Freetown 14 knots.

BRIDGEWATER 002° 50' N., 010° 20' W., 305° 11 knots.

*See next page.* MANXMAN off Takoradi to Simonstown 18 knots. *See 30/4 P. 88**See next page.* ALCANTARA on patrol Northern half I 34 (A) and (B) E., of 026° W.

GLENGYLE 007° 45' N., 026° 30' W., 350° 16 knots.

/MALAYA...

853

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements Summary. Contd. MALAYA 008° 50' S., 003° 15' W., 303° 16.5 knots. (R.A. West Africa, 1047Z/29 to Ships in Area P. (R) Admty).

BIRMINGHAM. Intend sailing BIRMINGHAM from Simonstown p.m. 30/4 for Mombasa routed coastal route R.1. then as in C. in C. E.I., 1110/18/4/41. E.T.A. a.m. (?7/5). (C. in C. S.A., 1137B/29 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., (R) Dept. C. in C. E.F. R.A. 3 N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar. Admty. BIRMINGHAM).

ABDIEL Your 1733/26 concur in Commodore Durban's 1633/28 /4 being passed to you. (C. in C. S.A., 1218B/29 to Admty).

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS, BAGE, SERPA PINTO, Safe conduct. Brazilian SIQUEIRA CAMPOS, BAGE and Portuguese SERPA PINTO issued safe conduct by State Dept. for repatriation of Axis and Latin American diplomats leave from Rio de Janeiro about 2/5 for Lisbon and return (Description). (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1249/29 to C.T.F. 23, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty, etc).

ALCANTARA Leave patrol so as to arrive Freetown 1800Z/4/5 and pass through position (2) 006° 01' N., 017° 05' W. (R.A.W.A.F., 1311Z/29 to ALCANTARA). *See previous page.*

MANXMAN. Arrival 29th MANXMAN. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1450Z/29 to Admty). *See previous page.*

STAMOS Your 1949B/28. Yes. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1924Z/29 to Admty).

CAMBRIA CAMBRIA will depart Pernambuco 30/4 for operations following areas in order listed. (A) Near Cape St. Thome. (B) Near Rio de Janeiro. (C) Position 33° 53' S., 52° 32' W. (D) 34° 20' S., 53° 24' W. Opnav will divert as necessary in case of enemy activities areas concerned. Will advise estimated date of completion later. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2106/29 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) C.T.F. 23, Alusna, Rio de Janeiro, Opnav, Admty. B.A.D.)

/Ascension...



854

War Diary.29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Ascension Your 1647/18. Our views regarding retention  
Defence. of control of W/T Station have been made clear.  
Primary purpose of U.S. Ascension project is  
alternative route for ferrying in event of  
Bathurst or Freetown route being prejudiced. Naval air require-  
ments are for refuelling aircraft and re-arming with bombs.  
No F.A.A. or R.A.F. Liaison Officers are proposed at present.  
Please pass to Governor St. Helena.  
(Head of M., 2252B/29 to C. in C. S.A. (R) R.A. West Africa).

Mediterranean.

TAKU. Delayed by bad weather, my position 038° 05'  
010° 40'. Intend to remain in vicinity of 038°  
03' 011° 00' today 29th arriving position B at  
dawn 30th. Weather report.  
(TAKU, 0330B/29 to N.O.I.C. Malta (R) C. in C.  
Med etc).  
Your 0330B/29 acknowledged. Report in due course when considered  
safe to do so only if unable to arrive 034° 59' 019° 59' by  
2350B/3/5.  
(V.A. Malta, 0946B/29 to TAKU). *See next page.*

Movements. 28/4 Port Said Arrivals, A Lighter No. 17  
FALK, MALINES, ERIDGE. Departures 0625 R.F.A.  
RELIANT, 1109 HYACINTH, VULCAN, M.T.B. 58,  
ROMEO, SOUTHERN ISLES, PROTEA, SOUTHERN SEA, 1728 FALK,  
M.L. 1069.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0916C/29 to Admty, C. in C. Med).  
Departures 29/4\*PORPOISE, \*S/MP34. \* *See next page.*  
(V.A. Malta, 0935B/29 to Admty).  
Departures AIREDALE 0559C, M.T.Bs. 311, and 312 0610C.  
CARLISLE 0611C, CONVENTRY 0623C. RELIANT (R.F.A.) 0651C.  
Arrival PAUL CONDOURIOTIS.  
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 1603C/29 to Admty).

Malta S/MS. My 1150B/29/3 para.3. During present heavy  
daylight bombing of Malta, Submarines will be  
ordered to enter harbour about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour after  
sunset. Approach must be made submerged throughout daylight  
hours, adjusting speed to surface in position given and  
entering harbour accordingly. Under these circumstances when  
entering harbour at dusk C.Os. should be on the bridge. If  
remaining at Malta submarines will be bottomed either in or  
outside harbour according to circumstances at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an  
hour before sunrise.  
(V.A. Malta, 0953B/29 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Med., etc).

/PORPOISE...

War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

PORPOISE. PORPOISE arrives 035° 05', 019° 55' on course 101°  
P.34 about 1400B/1/5 130 miles per day, and P.34 passes  
034° 55' 020° 05' about 1400B next day 90 miles  
per day. Both thence as ordered by you.  
(Capt. S.10, 0955B/29 to Capt. S.1. (R) S/Ms on  
Patrol) *See previous page - (Movements)*

Air attacks Stores further damaged by enemy action and  
on Malta. plumber's shop completely destroyed. Main motor  
damaged and shop out of action.  
(S.C.E., Malta, 1012B/29 to C.E. in C. Admty).

Air raid 2130/28 to 2320. Twenty two planes. Fighters burnt two  
damaged three - guns probably hit others. 3 German prisoners.  
Four illuminations. Sixteen bombs on shore. Electric power and  
railway to Mahmoudied Quay cut. Number 26 Shed ruined but most  
victualling stores salvable. Sea shore evacuated. Ammunition  
truck burned. Service and Civil casualties and damage 6 bombs  
in Harbour no damage. (R.A. Alexandria, 1201C/29).  
I.258 C.S.R. 29/4. 28/4, My I.256 additional. Grand Harbour.  
Armament stores, submarine workshops, joiners shops, electric  
drawing office destroyed, considerable damage warehouses and  
buildings, elsewhere 26 civilians killed 3 wounded, R.A. Mess  
Marsa destroyed. Alert 1533 hrs. Me. 109s 31 Ju.88s. 70 Ju. 87s.  
Luqa, 3 airmen wounded. Hal Far, craters aerodrome, U.X.Bs.  
Ta Kali, 1 Hurricane, 1 Spitfire damaged, craters aerodrome, 1 Me.  
109 damaged by 4 Hurricanes, 6 Spitfires A/A damaged 1 Ju. 88.  
Night 28/29. No alert. 29th, 4 alerts 0548, 0949, 1244, 1430.  
18 Me. 109s. 7 Ju.88s. Hal Far, 1 Hurricane destroyed 1 bomber  
damaged, craters dispersal U.X.Bs. 1 Ju.88 1 Me., 109 probably  
destroyed 3 Ju.88s. 1 Me. 109 damaged by 4 Hurricanes, 7 Spitfires  
1 Spitfire 1 Hurricane damaged in combat. Spitfire crash-landed,  
pilot slightly injured. A/A fired. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1730/29)

OLYMPUS, \* TAKU delayed by weather and leaves position B  
TAKU. dawn 30th. Passing that position to proceed  
through QBB 65 during daylight 2/5 thence through  
positions C D E to approach submerged up S.E.  
channel and surface in position 143°. Delimara 4.5 miles at  
2045B/3 and berth at Shell Pier. If unable to comply adjust  
speed to arrive 24 hours later. Black flag will be hoisted at  
Ta Silc if air raid in progress and you are not to surface until it  
is lowered. (V.A. Malta, 1020B/29 to OLYMPUS (R) S/Ms on Patrol etc)  
*\* See previous page.*

OSIRIS, Your 0905/23/3 (0105 intended). Admty. 0443/10/4  
ROVER. and my 1815/23/4. A further survey has been  
carried out and it is considered OSIRIS is  
quite repairable. In view of her value either  
as a store carrier to Malta or a training S/M at Home it is  
proposed that a refit should be undertaken. Work to be of low  
priority in order that Fleet requirements should not be interfered  
with. Gear earmarked for ROVER is being removed as arranged.  
(Capt. S.1., 1031C/29 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.S.)

/M.E., Air...

858

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.E. Air Report. A.669. Bi-weekly Opsum No. 16. Part 1. Night 24/25. 8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting large fire possibly petrol on base of Cathedral Mole, other bombs near base of central Mole. 1 Wellington bombed small ship in shore south Benghazi scoring hit or very near miss. 2 enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk without damage. Hurricane unable to intercept. 25/4. 2 Morning attacks on Tobruk by 2 Ju. 88s and 12 Ju 87s. escorted by Me.109s and Me. 202s, both raids intercepted by 6 Hurricanes and 20 Tomahawks, 9 Kittyhawks respectively, 2 Me. 109s. 1 Me. 202 destroyed, 2 Me. 109s, 1 Me. 202, 2 Ju.87s probably destroyed, 2 Ju. 88s. 4 Me.,109s damaged. A.A. fire damaged 1 enemy aircraft. 2 Tomahawks shot down, 1 Tomahawk 1 Kittyhawk missing, 1 Tomahawk, 2 Kittyhawks damaged. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1109/29).

ALBA JULIA My 1520C/28. ALBA JULIA entered Aegean 0430 G.M.T. 29/4. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1245C/29 to S.O.(I) Med., S.I. (R) D.N.I.)

Pool of Polish Seamen. Your 1528/15 and 1010/24. (1) Polish authorities here have cabled their representatives Cairo and Teheran turning down proposal on grounds Polish seamen are required to man Polish Naval vessels here under agreement already made with British Naval authorities. (2) In order to assist overcome difficulties could we have more details, e.g., would men sail with special payment or more time off? Is refusal to sail confined to British crews? Could Naval Ratings fill gaps? (3) We appreciate trouble experienced for ships bound to Tobruk may extend to other Eastern Med. ports and are anxious to help with a workable scheme. (4) Would pool of men on T.124X help? This could only apply to British men and ships. If so could pool be formed from men signed on locally? We could send out men from here but would of course much prefer not to have to use shipping space if men can be obtained locally. (D. of S.T., 1455B/29 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

PROTEUS. Return to Area Q passing through 037° 54' 019° 34' after which you have freedom of movement My 1715/25. Bring into force condition B. (Capt. S.I., 1711C/29 to PROTEUS).

*Cancelled - See next page.*

THORGRIM, SVANA It is intended to hold board of enquiry into loss of THORGRIM and SVANA. (C. in C. Med., 1923C/29).

/PROTEUS...

857

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

PROTEUS,  
THORN.

*See Medicine page.*  
Cancel my 1711/29 PROTEUS return to area Q through  $39^{\circ} 18' 18'' 08'$  not passing this position before dawn 1st. THORN to be North of  $31^{\circ} 30'$  and East  $19^{\circ}$  by dawn 1st unless present position is most productive.  
(Capt. S.l., 2035C/29 to PROTEUS, THORN).

Malta.

Report on situation and raids for month ended 20/4.  
(Govr. Malta, No T.O.O., Recd. 2040/29, to S. of S. for Colonies) See Lion Copy.

#854 A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE No. T.O.O.

IN

From Governor (Lt. Gen. Sir W. Dobbie).  
Malta.

Date 29.4.42.  
Recd. 2040.

CYPHER

Addressed Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 167. Most Secret.

My telegram No. 123.

During the month ended 20th April there were 277 alerts, 184 by day and 93 by night. These included 74 day raids and 58 night raids. 333 people were killed (139 men 117 women and 77 children).

2. Details of damage to property are not available but it has been exceedingly heavy.

3. During the whole of this period the enemy has continued to deliver heavy bombing attacks two, three or four times a day. Only respite in all during two short periods of rough weather. Damage has been terrible in Valletta, Floriana, Three Cities and Marsa but Luqa, Pawla, Zabbar, Sliema, Hamrun, and Mosta have also suffered heavily and most other places in the Island to a less extent. In the first four places named, destruction is very widespread and almost every street in Valetta, Floriana and Three Cities is blocked with debris.

4. So far none of the flour mills has been put out of action and all are now in working condition. Power house has received two direct hits, one of which has wrecked part of the transformer room and damaged switch gear. We hope to restore the power within a few days. Meanwhile, emergency services are being worked from underground stand-by plant.

5. Clearance of debris represents very heavy problem. Only part of the demolition squads are available as the rest have to be ready to extricate people from damaged buildings. Up to 400 shelter construction workers have been employed on clearance but have now been restored to shelter work and replaced by workers transferred from the Dockyard which cannot employ its full staff under present conditions. We have also received most generous help from the Army, and the Police have assisted on many occasions. In this way roads in the port area of the Grand Harbour have been cleared, stores are being cleaned of debris and a start has been made with the clearance of Valletta. So long as bombing continues all we can do is to keep essential roads clear, carry out such demolition work as is necessary to maintain essential services and make such preparations in the port area as are necessary for the reception of a convoy. In this last task, we are already ahead of schedule.

6. Heavy bombing has greatly interfered with the distribution of food and special efforts were (corrupt group)ed to maintain bread supplies. With the destruction of the bakeries alternative arrangements have to be improvised while distribution, which is carried out by horse and cart, cannot always be relied upon. Distribution of flour to bakers and rationed

commodities/.....

commodities to retailers has also been interfered with. Steps have been taken to deal with all these matters and, so far, we have been able to carry on satisfactorily. Additional strain imposed on protection officers, district commissioners and their staff is very considerable and has been borne admirably. Special liaison officers of the Lieutenant-Governor's office have been appointed in the most difficult areas so as to ensure rapid communication especially where telephones are out of order.

7. Repair gangs of the water and electricity branches and telephone department have been under continuous strain and have worked wonderfully putting right breakages. Entire areas, however, inevitably remain without telephone and electricity for considerable periods while the people have had to fall back on wells especially in Valletta and the Three Cities, until water supply could be restored. Emergency telephone services have proved their value in maintaining contact with centre.

8. Police have earned special praise. Commissioner has provided his men for every sort of task from the clearance of debris in the power house to assisting in running the flour mill at night. They have also done very useful work on aerodromes. Fire brigades have had much work to do and have always responded to any call. Assistance of the Police in settling the Government in part of their headquarters has also been admirable.

9. While it has been possible to make arrangements to meet any difficulties which have so far arisen, the outlook remains very difficult. Growing shortage of food is serious and the effect of the cut in the bread ration cannot yet be foreseen. Extreme shortage of fodder is also causing difficulties; I am confident however that we shall see our troubles through.

10. With all we have had to put up with both in bombing, in restriction and scarcity of food, bearing and morale of the public has remained admirable. I cannot too highly praise the fortitude and endurance which they have shown under the most severe test to which they have been subjected. Without that spirit we could not have carried on.

No T.O.O.

Received in War Registry at 1145/2.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C. Hd. of M.

1st Lord	N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of D.	
1st S.L.	D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.S.D.	
2nd S.L.	D. of P.(2)	D.S.D. 9.	
3rd S.L.	D.N.A.D.	W.D.	
Vice Cont.	D.T.S.D.	D.T.D.(2)	
4th S.L.	D.G.D.	I.P.(2)	
5th S.L.	D. of L.D.	Dep. Cont.	
Civil Lord	Head of M.	C.E. in C.	} Bath.
V.C.N.S.	C.E. in C.	D. of D.	
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	Duty Capt.(2)	Hd. of S.W.R.)	
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.D.I.C.(2)		
A.C.N.S.(T)	D.N.I.(4)		

War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

BRITISH  
COMMODORE. Your 0655/28 BRITISH COMMODORE was routed via Bombay to change crew vide my 0655/23 to C. in C. E.I. only.  
(Inspt. Admty. Fuel, Abadan, 0940Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

INDOMITABLE. INDOMITABLE, PANTHER, PALADIN arrived.  
C. in C. E.I. pass to C. in C. E.F.  
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0700Z/29 to Admty., etc.)  
INDOMITABLE, PALADIN, PANTHER left.  
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1445Z/29 to Admty., etc.)

Naval Aircraft, requirements. As stated in my 0306/10 use of Albacore or Swordfish Striking Force against Japanese Carriers must be restricted to (?night) or good cloud cover.  
2. Against Navy Zero Fighters, Fulmars have inadequate performance. Range of Martlett or Hurricane when escorting Albacores or Swordfish is restricted to a short strike.  
3. In order to provide Eastern Fleet with an effective daylight striking force, however limited, request 880 Squadron may be lent or re-equipped immediately with 14 mark 2 Hurricanes with bomb racks.  
4. The performance of Hurricane 2 is superior to Japanese Fighters and in spite of disparity of numbers it is considered we (?may) have good prospects of achieving success in a daylight strike. (C. in C. E.F., 1047Z/29 to Admty.)

U/B attack on Free French Ship. I.20713 29/4. Southbound B.O.A.C. flying boat arrived Beira 28/4 reports receiving signal from Free French ship off Mozambique being attacked by S/M believed Japanese. Above corroborated by northbound flying boat when north of Lourenco Marques. Details later when received. Refer our intelligence summary 57 para. G. (VI).  
(G.O.C. in C. E.Africa, 1130/29 to W.O. (R)  
C. in C. M.E., N.O.I.C. Mombasa).

Kilindini defences. Request estimated dates for completing  
(a) A/T Baffles  
(b) Improvised A/B A/S defence at Kilindini.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1209B/29 to C.O. KIRRIEMOOR  
(R) C. in C. E.I.)

G/R Air Sqdns. Subject to confirmation by C. in C. E.F. the following Directive is to govern the operations of long range G/R Squadrons in Indian Ocean.  
When sufficient Air Forces are available, following

R/C are required:-

- (1) Western Indian Ocean. Patrols in neighbourhood of 060° E. to locate enemy naval forces approaching Africa and Madagascar when specifically asked in connection with fleet movements and operations.
- (2) Patrols elsewhere in Western Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea when specifically asked.

/(3) ...

859

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. contd):

G/R Air Sqdns. (contd.) (3) Central Indian Ocean. Patrol to locate enemy naval force crossing to westward of 080° E. to North of equator and 075° E. to South of equator when patrol asked for.

(4) Periodical patrol of Maldive Is. and Chagos to locate enemy raiders and supply ships.

(5) Bay of Bengal. Daily patrol to locate enemy naval force or sea-borne expedition approaching South India and Ceylon from east or south-east.

(6) Special patrols specifically requested in connection with information of enemy movements.

Note: While numbers of aircraft are still limited the number of aircraft employed in (5) should not be such as to prevent carrying out number (3) or (6) if required.

(Dep. C. in C. E.F., 1214Z/29 to A.O.C. Ceylon (R) C. in C. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F., Admty.) *Concur. (C. in C. E.F. 0644Z/29/5/42)*

3rd B.S. Exercises. V.A. 3rd B.S. in RESOLUTION, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, CALEDON, DRAGON, GRIFFIN, HOTSPUR, FORTUNE, ARROW D.S. ISAAC SWEERS sailed for exercises. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1223Z/29 to C. in C. E.I., (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

Seychelles defences. Your 0520/28th. Pass to Armindia.  
(i) Your 9702/G T.O.O. 1355/21 contains no information as to (a) how or when you propose to commence installation of Seychelles defences. I am aware that R/C has not yet been completed but I can see no reason why a start cannot be made in embarking the guns and gear required for landing and emplacing (b) whether you (?intend) to employ M.N.B.D.O. and if so whether you accept the (?recommendations) in my 1356/19 para. 1 (b).  
(c) Whether you will require CLAN FORBES. D. of S.T. is pressing for return of this valuable ship which I am at present holding only because there is no other ship suitable for a M.N.B.D.O. operation available. Your 10241/G T.O.O. 0930/27 (N.T. in W.R.) to C. in C. E.F. is not understood. Installation of coast defences and A.A. gun defence is military responsibility and it is consequently for military authorities to decide upon what stores and personnel are required for the purpose.  
(d) Whether the guns for St. Anne's Island are available (vide Troopers N (?V) (?E) M.O. Feb. 10th Para.6 G). If not I will endeavour to obtain them from Naval source.  
(ii) I must again emphasize that the early completion of these defences is an operational requirement of the first importance to the Fleet.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1231Z/29 to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

Kilindini defences. A.M. 0220/21 (Presumably refers to 2208/21). Para.2 Confirm that A/S A/B Boom is required in view of A.M. 1719/9 and A.M.1629/31/3 para.2. (C. in C. E.I., 1355Z/29 to Admty., (R) R.A.3., B.S., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

/SHOREHAM ...



860

War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - contd.

SHOREHAM, Colombo departures 29/4 0345Z SHOREHAM, BATHURST.  
BATHURST. Arrivals nil.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1416Z/29 to Admty., S.O.(I)  
Aden, S.O.(I) Bombay).

Whalers. Your 1249Z/22. Request five whalers for  
conversion may be sailed in accordance with  
C. in C. Med's 1951C/27.  
(D.M.S., 1601B/29 to C. in C. E.I., (R) C. in C.  
Med.)

GLENEARN My 1111Z/29/3. Now considered doubtful whether  
repairs. main dynamo of GLENEARN can be even temporarily  
repaired in period of 12 weeks stated to enable  
vessel to proceed under own power. Can 4 dynamos  
in working order be salvaged from GLENROY and  
BRECONSHIRE and despatched at early date for  
installation in GLENEARN pending permanent repair  
of her generator?  
(C. in C. E.I., 1652Z/29 to C. in C. Med., (R)  
Admty., etc.)

Stores, Your 1209/14. Stock of naval stores in Ceylon  
Ceylon. being reduced generally to equivalent of twice  
Hong Siang's original outfit. Balance of sea  
stores being sent Mombasa and Durban, half to  
each, with higher proportion to Mombasa of steaming and  
cleaning items. After action repairs, reserves and like, mainly  
to Durban. All F.A.A. stores not required in Ceylon to Mombasa.  
Smith, Deputy N.S.O., Pearn D.C.O., and Nye Storehouseman  
proceeding Mombasa. Remaining Naval Stores Staff required in  
Ceylon until stores get away.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1720Z/29 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C.  
S.A., C. in C. Ceylon.)

Boom Defences Boom defences approved for Port Louis,  
for Port Mauritius. Details.  
Louis. Defences will be supplied from U.K. and laid after  
completion of Grand Port.  
(Admty., 1755B/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

861

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

CALDWELL. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2038Z/28. Leave Bermuda 0800P/29 and proceed Trinidad by most direct route via Sombrero channel so as to arrive as early as possible on 2/5. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0027P/29 to CALDWELL (R) Admty. etc.)

Tankers for Halifax. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2038/28th. Request you will issue orders for sailing of these tankers escorted by CALDWELL as soon as possible after ships have arrived Trinidad. Convoy should be routed well to Eastward of Antilles and call at Bermuda if necessary for CALDWELL to fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1212P/29 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad). Bermuda departure CALDWELL in accordance with my 0027/29 E.T.A. Trinidad 0800Z/2/5. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2033P/29 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

Movements. St. John's N.F. 28/4. Arrivals - WITCH, NIAGARA, SASKATOON, FREDERICTON, LE PAS, GANANOQUE ex S.C.81. ACANTHUS, POTENTILLA, EGLANTINE, ROSE, ex O.N.86. COWICHAN ex W.S.C. 81. Fairmile Q057 ex Sweep vicinity Virgin Rocks. (F.O.N.F. 0200Z/29 to Admty.)

A.T.15. Asking for information regarding CATHY, SANTA ROSA, CHRISTOBAL and MEXICO in A.T.15.  
2. Would also appreciate in respect of SANTA ROSA, CHRISTOBAL, MEXICO, SANTA ELENA and J.W. MCANDREW. (a) Whether vessels are manned by U.S. Navy personnel, (etc.) (D.S.T. 0245B/29 to B.A.D.) Reply 2333/1.

U/B. D/F places S/M at 0057Z/29 within 50 miles of 040° N. 073° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. 0341Z/29 to Brit. Warships Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

U/B. S/M within 100 miles of 039° 30' N. 051° 30' W. at 0145Z/29 by D/F. (N.S.H.Q. 0507Z/29 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty. etc.)

MOBILOIL torpedoes. Following intercepted at 0714 G.M.T./29 S.S. MOBILOIL torpedoes at 0230 G.M.T./29 in 25° 35' N. 66° 18' W. B.A.D. pass to Cominch and Opnav. (Cdre. I/C Bermuda 0517P/29 to Admty.)

Intercepted 1012 G.M.T. (MOBILOIL) S/M attack 25.35 N. 66.18 W. at 0230 G.M.T./29. 290726. Intercepted 1015 G.M.T. S/M sighted 37.37 N. 64.25 W. at 0400 G.M.T./29 X290509 (Ends). Controlling Station Arlington Virginia Radio. (Portishead Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1255/29).

U/B. At 0047Z/29 by D/F S/M within 60 miles of 037° N. 064° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q., 0616Z/29 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

/U.B.

War Diary.

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

U/B.

S/M within 100 miles 39.30 N. 51.30 W. by R.D.F. at 0144Z/29. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0621/29 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. PARTHIAN, VISCOUNT). My 0621/29 D/F at 1218Z/29 and 1619Z/29 further indicate U-boats in your vicinity, no fix obtainable. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1939/29 to PARTHIAN, (R) Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

→ WINCHELSEA.

Limit of endurance 2000 tomorrow 30/4. Intend leaving MOSDALE in position D at 0900Z and proceed Argentina. (WINCHELSEA 0925Z/29 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns. N.F., (R) C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Argentina.) *See p. 850.*

Movement Summary.

1800 G.M.T. 29/4.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
→ PARTHIAN	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 51° W.	078°	11
MOSDALE	47 $\frac{6}{8}$ ° N. 48° W.	241°	15
→ WINCHELSEA			
PHOEBE	41° N. 60° W.	079°	16
D.S. JAN VAN BRAKEL.	Arriving Bermuda	260°	10
GLASGOW	17° N. 32° W.	312°	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>See p. 852</i> → GLENGYLE	07 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	348°	16
- - - → PRETORIA	05 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	056°	14
CASTLE			
- - - → ALCANTARA	01° S. 25° W.	Searching	Blank
DIOMEDE	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° S. 52° W.	281°	12

(D.O.D.(F) 0930Z/29 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)

O.N. 90.

C.T.U. No. 24.1.12 in BROADWAY plus COBALT, DRUMHELLER and NAPANEE, sail for O.N. 90. C.T.G. 24.7 1005B/29 to C.T.F.24 (R) Opnav, Admty. etc.) *London Telegram.*

HARRY G SEIDEL.

Following from St. Lucia 1230Z. S.O.S. HARRY G. SEIDEL torpedoed W.N.W. of Dragon's Head, ship bound for Carapito from Aruba. (Cdre. I/C Bermuda, 1033P/29 to Admty.)

Caribbean Sugar Ships.

Your 1916/16th and my 1142/24th. Staff Officer has returned from San Juan. Com. Caribbean Sea Frontier is contented to leave regulation of loading programme of sugar ships in our hands. He has no surface or air patrol which can be detailed exclusively for protection of these ships in exposed anchorages. (2) I concur generally in proposal in A.M. 1916/16 except that with reference to para 4 (b) it is considered simpler if C. in C.A. & W.I. acts as chief for San Domingo ports. (3) Reference para. 2 of A.M. 0916/16 investigations as to possibility of transferring cargoes between Ports in Jamaica are being made with a view to reduction of ships days in exposed anchorages, and a further signal will be made if this proves practicable. Minister Trujillo has already made proposals for reducing ships days in exposed anchorages in Santo Domingo in

/his.....

863

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Caribbean  
Sugar Ships.  
- Contd. his telegram 1820/1 to the Ministry of Food but I have seen no reply. I hope this will be given earnest consideration.  
(4) Question of protection of ships in exposed anchorages is being dealt with in a separate signal. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1302P/29 to Admty.)
- Mid Ocean  
Escort  
Group. Ref. W.A.C.I. Part 110 para. 19. Instructions to be included in sailing orders of Midocean escort group:  
A. On reaching splitting position 1 escort is to be detailed to escort Loch Ewe portion to Loch Ewe or until relieved by trawler. 1 other escort is to be detailed to escort combined Clyde Belfast and Liverpool portion until relieved by trawler.  
B. Details of signals to be made.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1507Z/29 to C.C.N.F. Cdr. T.F. No. 24)
- T.U. 24.1.19. HAVELOCK, PIMPERNEL, PENNYWORT, LAVENDER, CODETIA of Task Unit 24.1.19 arrived Argentina. (C.TF 24. 1525/29 to C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)
- Diversion of  
Tankers to  
Trinidad. Your 1849/28.  
All Tankers bound for Curacao and Aruba will be diverted to Trinidad. No action is being taken with regard to ships dispersed from O.S.25 as no special reference position for Trinidad is held by me. My 1832/28 refers.  
(C. in C.A.W.I. 1702P/29 to Admty.)
- Cable ship  
CAMBRIA. Ref. A.M. 2222/27. Navy Dept. concur.  
When an approx. date of completion of this repair work is known request B.A.D. may be informed. (B.A.D. 1721Z/29 to N.C.S.O. Pernambuco (R) S.O.(I) Freetown, Admty.)
- BURNHAM,  
Tanker  
Escort to  
Halifax. Your 1909/28. U.S. Authorities request (a) you inform C. in C. U.S. Fleet of destination to which BURNHAM should be sailed in Caribbean Sea. (b) C. in C.A.W.I. and N.S.H.Q. take charge of this Tanker convoy operation in their respective areas, keeping Opnav informed of movements. (c) This should also apply to CALDWELL's convoy, see N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2038/28. (B.A.D. 1723Z/29 to N.S.H.Q. C. in C.A.W.I., (R) Admty. C.C.N.F. Opnav, C.E.S.F., BURNHAM, C. in C.U.S. Fleet.)
- DUC D'AUMALE. Ciudad Trujillo arrival 29/4 French DUC D'AUMALE. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1736R/29 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.Fuel for  
Portuguese  
Fishing  
Vessels.

Portuguese Cod Fishing Guild vessels S.JOANA and SANTA PRINCOZA have been waiting about 18 days for fuel in Halifax, N.S. Understand Fuel Controller states unable to supply trawlers until oil situation clear. 2. Trawlers called Halifax as result of requests to avoid St. Johns. (N.F.) 3. Admty. is most anxious that fuel should be supplied in Halifax or suitable alternative port in case denial should result in prejudice to our fuelling position in Azores. 4. Request you will take all possible steps to ensure supply of fuel without delay and report action taken. (4th S.L. 1800B/29 to N.S.H.Q., (R) N.A. Lisbon.)

British  
Guiana,  
local  
forces.

My 1132/12. Opportunity was taken by my Staff Officer on his recent visit to San Juan to enquire of C.C.S.F. whether he was in agreement and, if so, whether he had taken any action about this. Adm. Hoover's reaction was that in view of the very small size of the local Naval Defence Forces in British Guiana he did not propose to raise the question. I consider therefore that it may be assumed that British N.O. will exercise command so long as he remains the S.N.O. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1822P/29 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. etc.)

Shipping,  
Routeing.

Your 2302/28, yes. (D.T.D. 1859B/29 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) C. in C.S.A.)

TRINIDAD.

H.F. 1710B/28. Destination of TRINIDAD is Philadelphia U.S.A. calling at Hvalfiord for fuel. Route, ice conditions permitting:-  
G. 74° 01' 28° 59' E. H. 73° 30' 8° 02' E. J. 69° 58' 02° 01' W.  
K. 66° 50' 15° 02' W. Thence by QZS 232 to Hvalfiord. E.T.A. Hvalfiord should be reported. Onward route:- L. 63° 59' 24° 01'.  
M. 56° 40' 38° 58' N. 46° 02' 50° 30'. O. 42° 58' 60° 01'.  
P. 39° 01' 73° 58'. (D.O.D. (H) 1912B/29 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk, TRINIDAD).

U/B.

D/F indicates U-boat within 100 miles of 039° N. 071° 30' W. at 1530Z. (N.S.H.Q. 1955Z/29 to Brit. Warships in Area 7A, Admty., etc.)

U/B attacks  
on shipping.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. ARUNDO sunk. 40° 10' N. 73° 44' W. 1 Torpedo. Sub. not seen. ALCOA GUIDE sunk 35° 34' N. 70° 08' W. 0210Z/17. About 40 rounds. U.88 type. Dates for SAN DELFINO and GULFAMERICA should be 10/4 and 11/4 respectively. U.S.S.R. 5 sighted Sub. on surface course W. 37° 37' 64° 25' W. about 0330Z/29. 1 sighted 14° 31' N. 61° 07' W. 2205Z/28. No details. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2004/29 to Admty. for O.I.C.) *See next page.*

/Shipping.....

865

29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.Shipping in  
North  
Atlantic.

Restrictions promulgated by Opnav 1610/23 and modified by Opnav 1454/25 are hereby cancelled. (Opnav 2014Z/29 to C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F., C.P.S.F., (R) S.O.(I) Kingston, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I. C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F., N.S.H.Q.)

ARUNDO  
HARRY G.  
SEIDEL  
torpedoed.Opnav Serial 29. Neth. ARUNDO torpedoed sunk 0930/28 E.W.T. in 40° 10' 30" N. 73° 44' W. En route New York to Alexandria via Capetown. 37 survivors including all Officers being landed Lewes, Delaware. 6 missing. Confidentials destroyed. HARRY GEORGE SEIDEL U.S. torpedoed at 1230Z/29 W. N.W. Dragon's Mouth. (Opnav 2049/29 to Spenavo (R) N.S.H.Q.) *in previous page*Coastal  
Tanker  
Convoys.

Your 1331/28. On reconsideration assurance cannot be given that organisation for diversion is adequate by British standards. Advice of Cdr. Wynne on tracking and plotting is being followed in Navy Dept. but will not be far enough progressed

for another 2 or 3 weeks. Communication arrangements cannot yet be guaranteed for the passing of diversion signals with sufficient speed.

2. Cominch is still considering institution of Trinidad-Aruba convoys. Present indications are not encouraging on account of lack of escort vessels. There are at present only four destroyers in the Caribbean. Further signal will be made.

3. Navy Dept. is being pressed to give protection to bauxite ships bound North and they appear to regard this as a conflicting requirement with Aruba-Trinidad convoys.

4. Understood coastal convoy between Key West and Hampton Roads is to commence on 15/5 and detailed arrangements are in the hands of Com.E.S.F. who has not so far indicated that postponement of that date will be necessary. Doubtful if sailings will be regular at first. There is talk of it having eventually to be run more frequently than every 3 days to allow for an average traffic of 30 ships a day each way.

(B.A.D. 2105Z/29 to Admty.)

A/S gear  
for N.Z.(1) Navy Dept. intends to supply following arriving Wellington about 10th July.  
(B.A.D. Washington 2225Z/29).Towage of  
dock.

588 My 0119/21 Para. Two.

(1) Towage arrangements are not yet definitely concluded.

(2) Navy Department now consider it undesirable that two tugs which could be most usefully employed in salvage work off the east coast should be taken away for such a long period, especially at this juncture.

(3) Request therefore that immediate consideration may be given to providing towage from British or Canadian sources.

(4) Dock will not now be ready until 5th May.

(B.A.D. 2237Z/29).

866

War Diary.29.4.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Serial number 98 from C.W.R. 28/4.  
7 miles aerodrome Port Moresby attacked 0058Z/28  
by 8 heavy bombers and at least 8 "Zero" fighters.  
Runway damaged, small fuel dump destroyed. 6 P.40s intercepted,  
2 crashed, 1 badly damaged. 1 enemy bomber probably destroyed  
1 damaged. 1 Zero reconnoitred aerodrome 0400Z.  
2. A/C sighted enemy S/M approx. 009° 36' S. 147° 15' E. at  
0120Z/28.  
3. 6 B.17s attacked Lae aerodrome at 0300Z/28. Direct hit on  
buildings and possibly ammunition dump. No engagement.  
Approx. 15 fighters 15 bombers observed on aerodrome during  
photographic R/C 0400Z.  
4. Enemy not sighted by army R/C 27/4, Salamoia Area.  
(A.C.N.B. 0829Z/29 to Admty. etc.)

U/B. MAORI (No. 18 C.T.F.17) sighted S/M totally  
submerged 0330Z/28th course 140° in position  
021° S. 176° 30' E. (N.Z.N.B. 1504M/29  
to Admty. C. in C.E.F., C. in C.U.S. A. and P.  
Fleets. N.B. Melbourne. C.Z.M. Opnav.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1459B/29, 1502B/29.)

867

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy  
Q.P.11.  
EDINBURGH  
torpedoed.

D/F bearings indicate that Convoy P.Q.11 was shadowed and reported last night. At 0836B U-boat was probably still in contact. EDINBURGH, covering Q.P.11 was hit by 2 torpedoes at 1620B today in approx. 73° 8' N. 33° E. (180 miles N.E. of North Cape). Her steering gear is completely disabled and she is endeavouring to steer 150° (for Murmansk) at 8 knots. D/F fixes showed two U-boats in 73° 30' N. 31° 17' E. at 2229 and one at 2311 G.M.T. in 71° 38' N. 34° 44' E.  
The arrangements made to escort EDINBURGH are given in S.B.N.O. North Russia 2027B/30.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked docks and shipping at Ostend. Today, attacks were made on shipping at Le Havre and docks and oil storage at Flushing.

8 Hurricane Bombers escorted by Spitfires attacked shipping today off the coast of Brittany and obtained a direct hit on a destroyer.

Enemy Air Operations.

A recurrence of attacks by enemy aircraft on Faroese and Icelandic trawlers has occurred to the southward of Iceland. Three ships have been attacked in four days. There have been no casualties so far, but should these occur it may result in the cessation of fish carrying independently routed Icelandic vessels as occurred last year.

/During.....



868

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

During April German air forces have been drawn away from south Norway to operate from north Norwegian bases, to the exclusion of anti-shipping operations off the east coast of Great Britain.

Mining.

Bomber Command aircraft laid mines last night in the Langeland Belt and Fehmarn Channel.

North Atlantic.

A Hudson aircraft which reconnoitred Casablanca this morning at 15,000 feet was fired at by A.A. and attacked by one of 7 fighters. The reconnaissance showed no alteration in the major units; both lines of nets are in place round JEAN BART. (It was reported on 28/4 that JEAN BART was to leave Casablanca within a week for Dakar, to join RICHELIEU and thence attack Brazzaville. JEAN BART is not considered a fighting unit by the Admiralty.)

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Air attacks commenced rather later this morning and continued all day. Damage was caused at the aerodromes. Malta's A.A. Artillery destroyed 100 enemy planes during April.

Alexandria.

4 enemy aircraft which operated off Alexandria last night are believed to have laid mines.

869

War Diary.

30.4.1942.

Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

C. in C. A.W.I. reported today with reference to the suspension of British sailings to Curacao and Aruba that he proposed to resume traffic after about five days, by which time it was hoped that the U-boats would have to leave for home. There are no craft to take offensive action or provide escort. The Admiralty concurred in this policy (O100B/1/5). Meanwhile, Curacao is becoming congested and as the U.S. authorities are anxious to secure berths for U.S. controlled shipping C. in C.A.W.I. ordered tankers to be sailed as necessary in order to release berths for them.

The C. in C.U.S. Fleet considers that the institution of Aruba-Trinidad convoys is not possible at present whilst a concentration of force near the French West Indies is necessary. B.A.D. Washington suggests that an R.N. group be allocated temporarily for the purpose. Two ships, one of them a tanker, were torpedoed and sunk today east of Cuba and 60 miles East of Wilmington respectively.

Australia.

Eight enemy bombers escorted by 3 fighters bombed Horn Island (Torres Strait) at 0055Z today.

Tulagi was attacked at 0326Z by 3 T.97 Kawanisi flying boats without damage.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

**CHASSEURS**  
42 and 43.

My 1543A/18/10/41 and your 1906A/22/10/41.  
S.O. Chasseurs states that French Admty. have given an order that **CHASSEURS** 42 and 43 are to sail for French Equatorial Africa in about a fortnight's time. No official notification has been received by C. in C. These craft cannot be spared without relief.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1707B/30 to Admty.)

S/M's for  
Meditn.

Remarks by F.O.S. on proposal in C. in C. Med.  
1908/28.  
(F.O.S., 2221B/30).

Movements.

GARTH.

GARTH proceed to Harwich.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0947B/30 to GARTH).

29th M.L.F.  
AZALEA.  
SPIREA.

C. in C. W.A. 1232/15.  
C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for AZALEA and SPIREA to provide escort for 29th M.L. Flotilla from Milford Haven to Gibraltar.

2. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail Flotilla on 10th May or as soon after as weather forecast is suitable, by southerly route to be promulgated by C. in C. W.A.  
3. Spare gear and Flotilla maintenance staff should be embarked in AZALEA or SPIREA, at Milford Haven.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1130B/30).

Your 1515/29 and Admiralty's 1919B/29. Request you arrange for 29th M.L.F. to be sailed for Milford Haven on 3/5.  
(R.A.C.F., 1555B/30 to ST. CHRISTOPHER).

WELLS.

My 0908/30. On completion of exercise about 1345 today proceed to Port Z A.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1155B/30 to WELLS).  
Scapa departure 1745 WELLS.  
(A.C.O.S., 1914/30).

D.23.

Your 0956/27. <sup>See p.791</sup> Intend to sail D.23 escorted by SCALBY WYKE at 0900/1st for Blyth. E.T.A. 1000/2.  
(A.C.O.S., 1238/30).

H.43.

H.43 leaves vicinity of Lizard Head at 2130B/1st diving by day through 160° Lizard Head 20 miles, 180° Start Point 20 miles, to R/V in 050° 35' N., 001° 44' W. at 0630B/4 for escort to Portsmouth.  
(Capt. S.7., 1531B/30).

/CARADOC ...

871

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - contd.

- CARADOC. Intend sailing CARADOC to Greenock leaving Plymouth 0800/1.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1550B/30).
- HELVIG. Intend sailing HELVIG 1400/1 to Lerwick in accordance with A.L. No. 5463/14/4/42. Request fighter protection.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1705/30).
- CAMPBELL. <sup>/R.T. in W.D.</sup> My 1317/29. Movements postponed 24 hours. E.T.D. F.buoy 2100/1. E.T.A. 0730/2.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1713B/30 to C. in C. Nore).
- CYCLOPS. Intend to proceed to sea in CYCLOPS for exercises in Clyde area from 0730B/5 May until approx. 1800B/6 May.  
(Capt. S.7., 1845B/30).
- INTREPID. <sup>/R.T. in W.D.</sup> Departure at 1840. My 1812B/29 (INTREPID).  
(F.O. Humber 1900/30 to R.A.D.)
- R.A.F. Floating Dock. Add to my 1730/30 (?1732/30). Floating Dock in tow escorted by 2 Trawlers passes May Island 2300 Northward.  
2 Trawlers sail Aberdeen 0100 to take over Escort at 25 Buoy. One Trawler patrolling tonight 39 to 32 Buoy.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1926/30 to OFFA).
- RODNEY. NEWMARKET is required to escort RODNEY to Scapa leaving Liverpool P.M. 4th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1944B/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).  
I should be grateful if BLEASDALE could escort RODNEY to Scapa leaving Liverpool p.m. May 4th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1948B/30 to R.A.D. H.F.)  
Your 1948B/30. Yes certainly.  
(R.A.D., 2306B/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
- PRINCE CHARLES. Sheerness departure PRINCE CHARLES escorted by BRIDLINGTON at 1910. E.T.A. 0630/1 Nab Tower.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2130B/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/THUNDERBOLT ...

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - contd.

THUNDERBOLT. Intend to sail THUNDERBOLT and <sup>from Blyth</sup>UTMOST escorted by  
UTMOST. SCALBY WYKE at 0600/3 for Devonport, HolyLoch,  
O.14. and Scapa respectively. Speed of advance 9 knots.  
Capt.(S) 9 is requested to sail O.14 to R/V with  
this group at 23 buoy for onward passage to  
Scapa. Capt. (S) 3 is requested to sail JAN VAN GELDER to take  
over escort of THUNDERBOLT and UTMOST from SCALBY WYKE in  
360° Duncansby Head 2 miles at 1000/4.  
This group is expected to arrive in 225° Mull of Kintyre Light  
House 5 miles at 2300/5. Capt. (S) 3 is requested to sail  
LA CAPRICIEUSE to make this R/V and thence escort UTMOST to  
HolyLoch. JAN VAN GELDER and THUNDERBOLT will then proceed at  
12 knots. E.T.A. Devonport 1200/7.  
Routes as follows.  
(Capt. (S) 6., 2210B/30).

Operations.

Convoys  
P.Q.15 and  
Q.P.11.

Operations to cover Convoys.  
See Shipping.

Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol.

BERWICK's 1855/28 (?1755/28). Amend R/V to  
position 067° N., 022° 52' W.  
(V.A.2., 1610B/30 to BERWICK, NORFOLK).

T.L.C.  
Exercises.

O 5447 30 Reference 1910B dated 26 April. It is  
confirmed that beaches at Isle of Wight and  
Newhaven are only ones on which T.L.Cs. will be  
operating on South coast of England and that  
Home Forces will take initiating action for  
provision of A.A. Defence.  
(Hofo, 1920/30 to Admt.)

British Air Activity.

Enemy  
Convoy  
attacked.

Have attacked enemy convoy bearing 360° 10 miles  
090° position 53° 50' N., 7° 20' E.  
(A/C K.Sqn., 0141/30 to A.O.C., 16 Group H.Q.)  
My 0141 P.C. and S. of 16 Merchant Vessels is  
54° 0' N., 7° 20' E. 090° 8 knots.  
(A/C K. Sqn., 0208/30 to A.O.C., 16 Group).

Norwegian  
Coast R/C.

Patrol Lotus 2. See Shipping.

Home Fleet  
Air Escort.

Use of R/T. See Shipping.

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. - contd.

A/C Exercise with S/M's. As aircraft crews of 19 Group require further experience of the appearance of a Submarine on the surface, intend carrying out following exercises tomorrow with P.44 and H.43 near Trevoise Head.

2. Four groups of aircraft to take off from Saint Eval at about 20 minute intervals and fly over S/M's. Details.
3. Aircraft will not identify themselves unless challenged.
4. WHITE BEAR pass to P.44 and H.43.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1304B/30 to F.O.S., WHITE BEAR).

Facilities for Naval Aircraft in East Africa. Air Min. 1538/30 see East Indies.

Protection of MARIE LOUIS MACKAY. Air protection of MARIE LOUISE MACKAY is making heavy calls on 19 group aircraft at the expense of A/S operations.

2. When ship moves to position C, it will be necessary to transfer 3 Sunderlands to Loch Erne for this duty.
3. Propose to discontinue air protection while ship is to the westward of Ireland unless air attack appears probable.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1712B/30 to Admty.)

Bombing Operations. On day 29/4, 6 A/C bombed the Docks at Dunkirk; and on night 29/30, 15 A/C bombed the Docks at Ostend. (H.Q.B.C., 1730/30).

A/A protection at Newhaven. 05448/30th. Training in combined operations including use of TLC will be shortly be taking place on beaches near Newhaven. Seco will be responsible for providing Lt. A.A. protection on all occasions when such training taking place. (Hofor, 1930/30 to Seco (R) Admty.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Icelandic Fish Carriers. A recurrence of attacks by enemy aircraft on Faroese and Icelandic trawlers has occurred to southward of Iceland. Three ships have been attacked in four days. No casualties so far but, should these occur, it may result in cessation of fish-carrying independently-routed Icelandic vessels as occurred last year. (A.C.I.C., 1457B/30 to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation Q.S.7. Intend sailing 4th M/F for operation Q.S.7. A.M. tomorrow. Programme as follows. Details. E.T.R. Yarmouth Roads 2130. (M.S.4., 1727B/30).

/Minesweepers ...

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - contd.

Minesweepers for Detached Duty. Your 1529/26 (?1520/26). Twenty five per cent. of LL/SA sweepers are available for immediate service.  
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1740/30).

Enemy Intelligence.

3 M.V's. 3 Merchant Vessels 270° 1 Mile course 090°. My position 53° 48' N., 5° 43' E.  
(A.C. K.Sqn., 0203/30 to A.O.C. 16 Group).

Enemy Convoys. Russians report. On 27/4 a Convoy sailed for Kirkenes. A number of ships which have left Trondheim were sighted on a Northerly course near the Lofoten Islands. On 28/4 two Convoys proceeding to ports in Varanger Fiord. Ande Fiord one U-Boat.  
(Ad. Miles, 1048C/30 to Admty.)

Norway Transports. (1) Aalborg April 20th. 3 large transports observed embarking troops and horses. Destination believed Oslo. Transports BASEL and EK (see my R S 22) in harbour. Graded C.3.  
(2) Your 1818B/29 (?1518/29). Am endeavouring to obtain further information.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1701/30).

Trondheim. Visual R/C of Trondheim at 1107/30 shows all four major units present. SCHEER manoeuvring off Tautra Island, remainder in usual berths.  
(D.D.I.C., 1710B/30 and 1723B/30).

U-Boats.

U-Boat located. By D/F at 2022Z/29. A U-Boat in approx. 54° 30' N. 18° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 0048B/30).

Convoys P.Q.15 and Q.P.11. EDINBURGH. See Shipping.

Search for U-Boat. Your 2330/29. Act as in my 2311B/29.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0242Z/30). Proceed forthwith to investigate contact reported by DUNBAR 1.5 miles 140° from May Island.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1234B/30 to WOOLSTON).

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

- Dover Area. N.E. Varne and "E" light buoys extinguished.  
(V.A. Dover, 1008B/30).
- Trondheim.  
Dangerous  
Area. Following notice to mariners was broadcast from  
Norddeich Radio at 1102/30 G.M.T.  
(C. in C. Nore, Recd. 1352/30).  
The area enclosed by lines joining following  
positions has been declared dangerous to shipping.  
Origin Norddeich Radio.  
(a) 64° 24' N., 10° 16.5' E.  
(b) 64° 41' N., 10° 34' E.  
(c) 64° 44' N., 10° 00' E.  
(d) 64° 27.3' N., 10° 00' E.  
(Hydrog., 1945B/30).
- Ice off  
North Cape. Further to A.C.I.C. 2017/17. Admiralty opinion is  
that it is possible though most unusual for open  
pack ice to approach close to North Cape in May  
but average limit is from 45 to 50 miles from  
Straumness. The occurrence of ice bergs is rare in this  
neighbourhood since they are controlled more by the Greenland  
current than by wind.  
(D.N.M.S., 1835B/30 to R.A.M.)
- Greenock  
Area. Dubh Artach fog signal out of action.  
(Hydrog. 2051B/30).
- Casualties & Defects.
- WINONA. Immingham departure. Rescue Tug SABINE at 0545  
to assist S.S. WINONA in 53° 25' N., 00° 51' E.  
(F.O. Humber, 0557/30).  
Arrival WINONA in tow of SABINE at 1510.  
(F.O. Humber, 1515B/30).
- BARONESA. Following is a repetition of part of my 1539Z/28  
BARONESA degaussing defective, proceeding to  
Belfast.  
(GORLESTON, 0801Z/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Liverpool. Your 1928/2/4. No outstanding merchant ship  
repairs at present.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1133/30 to Admty.)
- T.12.  
R.160. My 1130B/30. T.12 and R.160 returned owing to  
engine defects.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1332B/30).
- RODNEY. Condenser defects in RODNEY have developed during  
basin trial. These are in hand. A further trial  
will be carried out on 2/5. It is not anticipated  
that sailing will be delayed.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1639/30).



30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

M.L.294. M.L.294 taken in hand at Lowestoft for repairs to hull damage. Estimated time three weeks.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1748B/30 to R.A.C.F.)

EDINBURGH See Shipping. p. 877  
torpedoed.

CORRIB. Your 1550/30. Ship left convoy with engine defect  
(F.N.694). and anchored off Skegness 1700/29. At 1615/30 she weighed and proceeded to Boston where she arrived at 1900/30 with 6 feet of water in stokehold and requiring bunkers.  
(F.O. Humber 1920B/30 to N.C.S.O. Blyth).

BRIGHTON. My 2209/13/4 to R.A.M.  
Examination of machinery of E.R. 1422, disclosed following defects. Propose that new thrust pads be fitted and that ship again proceed on service for 7-10 days and then return to Glasgow for a comparative examination. Request approval.  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1928B/30 to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoys Enemy S/M has made a first sighting report at  
P.Q.15 and 2126Z/29 G.M.T. of a convoy or important unit,  
Q.P.11. probably P.Q.15.  
EDINBURGH (D.D.I.C., 0202B/30 to Escorts of P.Q.15).  
torpedoed. Reliable fix and D/F bearings of U-Boat in  
71° 38' N., 34° 44' E. at 2311/29.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0234B/30 to Admty.,  
M/S 6, P.Q.15, Q.P.11).

Reliable fix and D/F bearing of U-Boat in 71° 15' N., 34° 48' E.  
at 2316/19.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0236B/30 to Admty., M.S.6, Q.P.11,  
P.Q.15).

My 1822B/29. D/F bearings indicate you were shadowed and reported during the night. U-Boat probably still in contact.  
(D.D.I.C., 0836B/30 to Escorts Q.P.11).

Either A/S or fighter escort for DISTAFF a.m. Wednesday continually use R/T mentioning Ship's name. Letter follows.  
Acknowledge.

(C. in C. H.F., 0852B/30 to C. in C. Rosyth).

P.Q.15. All ships in convoy including ice breakers are to proceed to Murmansk. Orders for stragglers unchanged.  
(D.T.D., 1121B/30).

Departure Seidis Fjord 0300B/30 MARTIN, PUNJABI, ORIBI, MARNE.  
(A.C.I.C., 1205B/30 to C. in C. H.F. (R) C.S.10, V.A.2).

Nothing sighted by Air R/C last night. Lotus II being flown again today commencing 1600.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1239B/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

Q.P.11 sailed Murmansk 28/4 for Iceland (C).

BRIARWOOD, GALLANT FOX, DAN-Y-BRYN, BALLOT, TREHATA, DUNBOYNE, ATHELTEMPLAR, EL DENA, TSIOLKOVSKY, MORMACMAR, STONESTREET, WEST CHESWALD, EL ESTERO.

(D.T.D., 1425Z/30 to Opnav).

877

War Diary.30.4.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Convoys (i) On reaching 005° E. estimated to be about  
P.Q.15 and 1200/1st STURGEON is to leave P.Q.15 and proceed  
Q.P.11. with despatch to patrol in zone K.26. Total  
EDINBURGH bombing restrictions are to be in force 30 miles  
torpedoed. either side of a line joining 071° 58' N. 005°  
- Contd. 02' E. and 070° 20' N. 007° 30' E. from 0800/1  
to 1800/2.

(ii) At 0800/1 P.43, P.551, UREDD, MINERVE move  
so as to be in zones K.34, K.32, K.30, K.28 respectively, at  
0800/2. (F.O.S. 1658B/30).  
EDINBURGH torpedoed in 073° 09' N. 032° 45' E. at 1620B/30.  
(BULLDOG 1705B/30). *by U Boat see 15L 2348 - May 9 hit by 2 torpedoes*  
EDINBURGH hit by two torpedoes in 073° 08' N. 033° 00' E.  
Steering gear completely disabled. Request all available  
tugs and escorts be sent to assist. Also fighter protection.  
Am endeavouring to steer 150° at 8 knots.  
S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to Admiralty and C. in C. H.F.  
Casualties believed light. (C.S.B. 1758B/30 to S.B.N.O.  
North Russia.)  
HARRIER, GOSSAMER, NIGER sailed 2115C to escort EDINBURGH.  
SOKRUSHITELNI and U.S.S.R. Dest. GREMYASHCHI ordered to render  
assistance if fuel permits. HUSSAR with one tug leaves Kola  
Inlet 2330C, speed 8 knots maximum. Fighter cover P.E. three  
will be sent. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2027B/30 to 18 C.S.  
(R) Admty., C. in C.H.F.)  
Your 2045/1/4, para. 3. Q.P.11 2 Soviet destroyers provided  
additional escort. Hurricanes provided cover until 2200/28.  
2 relays of 3 P.E.3. long-range fighters provided cover 29th,  
but reported cloud 330 feet. No more sent. Coastal aerodromes  
not bombed since 26/4. R/C by seaplanes has been more frequent.  
Catalina made ice R/C flight 27/4.  
Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2201B/30  
to Admty.)

ANDALUSIA As convoy C.T.15 is delayed CAIRO is to escort  
STAR. ANDALUSIA STAR to Greenock and then proceed  
to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A. 0851Z/30 to CAIRO).

Oil Fuel Russian Naval Staff state that it will be necessary  
situation at for British Admiralty tanker of 8/9000 tons to  
Archangel. supply boiler fuel for escorts. This will be  
discharged into storage tanks at Molotovsk.  
5000 tons is now available from Russian stocks  
which will be supplied on loan in the event of  
escorts arriving here before tanker. Request  
Admiralty tanker may if possible be sailed  
in P.Q.16 or P.Q.17. (S.B.N.O. Archangel  
1359B/30).

C.E.77. Your 1500B/27. C.E.77 including GRAPH and  
GRAPH. FARNDALE sailed VEFTANVIK did not sail.  
FARNDALE. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1417B/30 to C. in C. Nore).

/QUEEN.....

War Diary.30.4.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - contd.QUEEN  
MARY.

1. SS QUEEN MARY to be known as A.T.15 X carrying U.S. Troops will leave New York on 11/5 for U.K.
2. Ship is to be sailed independently at best speed in order to cross 15° W. at dawn on 16th.
3. Commander Eastern Sea Frontier is requested to sail and route ship to R/V in 15° W. accordingly.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested (a) to provide route from R/V to Clyde. (b) sail CAIRO to provide A/A escort from R/V (c) arrange A/S sweep by destroyers ahead of A.T.15 X from R/V to North Channel. (d) arrange special sweep of route through North Channel for mines.
5. Maximum Fighter escort is to be provided from R/V.
6. Convoy is expected to arrive Clyde p.m. 16th and arrangements will be made to ferry personnel for Northern Ireland to Belfast in small troop ships as soon as possible after arrival.
7. QUEEN MARY is to leave Clyde for Freetown as W.S.19 W on 22/5.
8. Air Ministry is requested to arrange for special protection whilst at anchorage in accordance with my 1045/18. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1919B/30).

LEINSTER.

Escorts returning with S.D.26 are urgently required for further duty on arrival in U.K. Request LEINSTER may be turned round with all despatch. (D.O.D.(H), 1922B/30 to A.C.I.C.)

U.R.24.  
S.D.26.  
U.R.23.

On return from R.U.21, SARDONYX and SALADIN are to boiler clean and will be required for U.R.24 sailing from Loch Ewe May 15th. SHIKARI and SCIMITAR will escort S.D.26 to Minches and will then proceed to Loch Ewe subsequently escorting U.R.23 sailing from Loch Ewe May 8th. (C. in C. W.A. 1943B/30).

S.C.80.

S.C.80 delayed by head wind now moderating. P.C.S. 056° 50' N., 015° 37' W., 095° 6 knots. (C.T.U. 24.1.14, 2004Z/30).

H.X.186.

H.X.186 position at 2000B/30 056° 26' N., 012° 09' W. E.T.A. 055° 43' N., 007° 00' W. at 1630B/1. Escort ROSELYS Clyde Portion. CHURCHILL B Portion, remainder proceeding Londonderry. (CHURCHILL 2017Z/30). Request you sail NARVIK to meet H.X.B.186 in 055° 43' N., 007° 00' W. at 1430Z/1. (N.O.I.C.Liverpool, 2203Z/30 to N.O.I.C., Londonderry)

W.S.19.

Composition, Escorts and Dates. (A.C.N.S.(H), 2256B/30). See Lion Copy.

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2256B/30 April OUT

TO: C. in C. Western Approaches 764 DATE: 30.4.42  
R.A. (M)

- 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
- H.C.S.O. Mersey
- H.C.S.O. Clyde
- H.C.S.O. Avonmouth
- H.C.S.O. Milford Haven
- H.C.S.O. Newport
- H.O.I.C. Londonderry
- H.O.I.C. Newport
- F.O.C. North Atlantic 859
- C. in C. South Atlantic 121
- R.A. West Africa 628
- C. in C. East Indies 194
- C. in C. Eastern Fleet 645
- C. in C. Mediterranean 644
- C. in C. Home Fleet 486
- R.A. (D) Home Fleet 352
- OPNAV
- COMINCH
- C. in C. America & West Indies 653
- H.M.S. MAURITIUS
- H.M.S. BILVOIR
- H.M.S. HURSLEY
- H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE
- H.Q.C.C.
- H.Q.P.C.

NAVAL CYPHER (Ad. Cy.Out), NAVAL CYPHER (D. O.T.T.)  
and TYPE A U.S.A.

FROM: Admiralty.

Convoy W.S.19 carrying military personnel and stores for the East will be ready to leave U.K. for Freetown on 10th May.

2. Ships will sail from the following ports:-

Avonmouth	Personnel	HIGHLAND MONARCH
Mersey	Personnel	ATHLONE CASTLE
		MORETON BAY
		MONARCH OF BERMUDA
		HIGHLAND BRIGADE
		ORMONDE
		SCYTHIA
	Stores	LANARKSHIRE
Clyde	Personnel	CLAN MACARTHUR
		PASTEUR
		STRATHNAVER
		STRATHAIRD
		MOOLTAN
		U.S.S. ORIZABA
	Stores	U.S. Army Transport BORINQUEN
		SUSSEX

878<sup>13</sup>

- 2 -

3. S.S. AKAROA carrying service personnel for Bermuda, Jamaica and Trinidad will be ready to leave Newport on 9th May. She is to be sailed to R/v. with convoy off Oversay. She will part company to proceed independently to Bermuda as directed by Admiralty.

4. HIGHLAND MONARCH will complete embarkation 7th May and is to be sailed as requisite to Clyde to attend Convoy Conference.

5. All ships can maintain a speed of 15 knots except MORETON BAY and AKAROA 14½ knots who should be placed as leaders of columns.

6. Ocean escort from Clyde H.M.S. MAURITIUS and GARNARVON CASTLE.

7. Destroyer escort (a) BELVOIR and HURSLEY will provide through escort to Freetown being detached as necessary to fuel at Ponta Delgada.

(b) 2 destroyers to cover convoy until BELVOIR and HURSLEY rejoin after fuelling. These two destroyers will then proceed to Ponta Delgada fuel and return to U.K. direct or as ordered by Admiralty.

(c) 4 destroyers to return from the limit of prudent endurance.

8. Admiralty will promulgate route.

9. Main Convoy Conference will be held at Greenock a.m. 10th May.

10. R.A.(M) is requested to detail two destroyers in accordance with para. 76(D) to R/v. with convoy a.m. 11th May.

11. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to provide escorts as in para. 76.(c) and arrange for sailing of all portions of convoy to R/v.

2256B/30

D.O.D. (H)

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

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
Hd. of M. (13)  
D A/S W  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (2)

D.T.D. (2)  
D.T.D. (H)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D. of S.T.  
D.N.I. (4)  
Duty Captain (2)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
A.E. (3) Above has been passed to  
OPNAV.  
C.C.L.S.

JH

879

War Diary.

30.4.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements. Departure for exercise EAGLE, CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, GEORGETOWN, WISHART, PARTRIDGE, ITHURIEL. Returning to harbour at 1800/30. (F.O.C.N.A. 0530A/30 to Admty.)

My 0530A/30th. Ships returned to harbour. (F.O.C.N.A. 1854A/30 to Admty.)

VELOX with OFFA and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. E.T.A. 2015/30. (VELOX 0845/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Arrival VELOX, WRESTLER escorting LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. (F.O.C.N.A. 2102B/30 to Admty.)

French Shipping. Passings 29/4 BELLE ISLE, MARECHAL LYAUTEY both full Pescagel Kermaria. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 0905A/30 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

Control of Air Services in Morocco and French W. Africa by Naval Authorities. Following is from American Sources Graded B.2 by Americans. Confidential circular has been issued by Darlan to all C.Os in Morocco and French West Africa instructing that all air services are to be put immediately under control of Naval Authorities. All existing air force personnel of army and air force will be replaced at once by Naval air personnel. 2. This circular stated to have been received April 22nd and details from two independent sources. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1646B/30 to S.O.I. Med., Malta and Freetown.)

N.I.D. Comment. Though probable that all forces have been put under control of naval authorities, it is considered doubtful that there is sufficient naval personnel to replace that of Army and Air Force.

German A/C. 2 German A/C passed Cape Roca 1950/29 course S. 1 German A/C passed Peniche 2000/29 course S. (B.N.A. Lisbon 1835/30 to S.O.I. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

Units at Casablanca. Air R/C Casablanca a.m.30/4 at 15,000 feet shows no alteration major units. Both lines of nets in place round JEAN BART. (2) Opposition by A/A and 7 fighters encountered. Only 1 fighter attacked wounding gunner and damaging aircraft. Remaining six merely circled. (F.O.C.N.A. 2232/30 to Admty.)

War Diary.

30.4.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Vichy Aircraft reports sighting at 1355/29 in 21° N. 17° 10' W. 1 destroyer 2 submarines large ocean types, course 306°, speed 8 knots, no colours or identification marks. At 1415/29 in 20° 30' N. 17° 10' W. 7 merchant vessels, Vichy French, course 360° 10 knots and 1 ship which may be sloop or escort vessel.  
(R.A. W. Africa 0003Z/30 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)  
My 0003Z/30 A/C reported sighting 6 motor vessels heavily laden in 022° 15' N. 017° 00' W. at 1312/30 course 020° 10 knots.  
(R.A. W. Africa 2357Z/30 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

Movements. Departure 29/4 WILD SWAN, BOREAS R/V MALAYA.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 0057Z/30 to Admty.)

Movement 1800 G.M.T. 30/4.  
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed.  
PARTHIAN 40½° N. 45½° W. 077° 11  
PHOEBE 42° N. 52½° W. 079° 16  
MOSDALE } 47° N. 48° W. 241° 15  
WINCHESTER }  
GLASGOW 21° N. 37° W. 308° 16½  
GLENGYLE 14° N. 27½° W. 348° 16  
ALCANTARA 01° S. 25° W. Searching Blank  
DIOMEDE Arriving Montevideo. 281° 12  
(D.O.D.(F) 0938Z/30 to Opanav (R) Commaveu.)

Overdue Shipping, TREDINNICK due Capetown 21/4 from New York not arrived. CONNECTICUT due Capetown 24/4 from Port Arthur not arrived.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 0955Z/30 to Admty., C. IN C. S.A. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O.(I) Kingston, Montevideo)

W.S.17. Your 0302/29 and my 1303/27. CAMERONIA see my 1739/28. MENDOZA is in place of LLANDAFF CASTLE and is now expected to be ready to join convoy. Name of ship after SAMARIA in para 5 is CAMERONIA.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1050B/30 to D. of S. (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C.E.I., P.S.T.O. Egypt, F.O.R.S. Commodore Durban P.S.T.O. India.)

My 1303/27 para 5. Add to list of ships to call at Mombasa MENDOZA requiring water and 600 tons furnace oil.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1529B/30 to N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C. E.I. REVENGE, DAUNTLESS, CHESHIRE, C. in C. E.F. R.A.3. P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. India, F.O. Red Sea, D. of S.T. N.O.I.C.E.A. and Z.)

Arrival 0830 departure 1400/30 WIVERN. *See next page - (Movements)*  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1825Z/30 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.W. Africa, (R) Admty.)

My 1303/27 para 5 delete FRANCONIA.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1931/30 to C. in C. E.I.(R) DAUNTLESS, REVENGE, CHESHIRE, N.O.I.C. Durban, R.A.3rd B.S., P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. India, N.O.I.C. E. Africa & Nairobi, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, F.O.C.R.S.F. D. of S.T.

/Sailing ...

War Diary.

30.4.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Sailing of Convoys. Revised programme for sailing S.L. convoys four days after arrival of O.S. convoy allows only four days rest for convoy Commodores at Freetown and allows no margin for sickness. Suggest for consideration that two Commodores R.N.R. be sent in next O.S. convoy, one to return in each of new two S.L. Commodores will then spend approx. 14 days at Freetown and an overlap will be established to provide against sickness.  
(R.A.W.A.F. 1201Z/30 to C. in C. W.A. 48.)

EXMOOR Sailed EXMOOR (S.O.) CROOME in company for  
CROOME. Mombasa, S. of A. 15½ knots E.T.A. Mombasa  
0700/5 routed as in C. in C. E.I. 1110Z/18/4/41.  
(Cdre. Durban 1220Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

Movements 2000/30/4.  
Summary. EGRET and 3 escorts with S.L.108 015° 30' N.  
021° 20' W. 009° 7½ knots.  
WIVERN about 011° 40' N. 017° 20' W. to  
Freetown 16 knots. *See Med. page*

COWSLIP one M.L.005° 20' N. 017° 05' W. to Freetown 11 knots.  
BRIDGEWATER 005° 15' N. 013° 50' W. to Freetown 11 knots.  
CANNA on patrol 006° 20' N. 014° 10' W.  
MORRIS DANCE off Robertport.

KELT off Marshall. TAMARISK, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU with S.T.21  
003° 20' N. 011° 40' W. 104° knots 8½. ✓  
HYDRANGEA, SNOWDROP with O.S.S.25 001° 55' N. 013° 05' W.  
165° knots 9 to equator thence to Freetown knots 12½.

WILD SWAN, BOREAS, 001° 30' N. 013° 25' W. to R/V with MALAYA  
1/5 18 knots.

MANXMAN 001° 50' S. 001° 50' E. to Simonstown 18 knots.

MALAYA 004° 10' S. 006° 45' W. routed 002° 50' S. 012° 10' W.  
005° 20' N. 014° 20' W. 16.5 knots.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 013° 30' S. 000° 50' E. 312° 10.5 knots.

GLENGYLE 014° N. 027° 45' W. 350° 16 knots.

ALCANTARA patrol Northern half I 34 A. and B.E. of 026° W.  
(R.A. West Africa 1229Z/30 to Ships in Area P (R) Admty.,  
C. in C. S.A.)

MANXMAN. MANXMAN sailed at 1215Z/30. S. of A. 19 knots.  
E.T. of A. Simonstown 1600B/6/5.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1230Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.  
R.A. W.A. Admty. C. in C. E.F. . . . , MANXMAN.)

WHITEHAVEN. Simonstown departure 1410Z/30 WHITEHAVEN for  
Durban for onward passage to Med. S. of A.  
11 knots E.T.A. Durban 0600Z/4/5.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1615B/30 to Admty. etc.)

/French ...



882

War Diary.

30.4.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

French  
Ships.

My telegram No.197. Information has been received by French Authorities that orders for these ships to return to France were countermanded but that they have been warned to be ready at 43 hours notice.  
(Brazzaville, 1730/30 to F.O.)

RIMUTAKA.

RIMUTAKA has arrived Freetown with O.S.25 to avoid delay intend to sail her with W.S.18 declared speed 14½ knots.  
(R.A. West Africa 1825Z/30 to Admty. (R)  
C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Simonstown departure 1830Z/30th BIRMINGHAM for Mombasa in accordance with my 1137/29th S.of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. 0600Z/7th May shift to W/T organisation V at 1400Z/5th May.  
(C. in C. S.A. 2300B/30.)

Mediterranean.

MONKEY  
WEST DEAN  
sunk.

In a raid on Malta on 28/4, MONKEY, water boat, and WEST DEAN, tug, were sunk, and there was further damage, to Dockyard Offices.  
(D.O.R. 967, 2/5.)

Malta,  
Air raids.

Malta's A.A. Artillery had destroyed 100 enemy planes by midday today during month of April.  
(C. in C. Malta 0045/30.)

I.259 C.S.R. 30/4. 29th 4 alerts 1519 1615 1642  
1717 hrs. Me.109s Macchi 202s 6 JU.88s 5 probable Cant 107Bs  
Luqa, 1 airman wounded telephone exchange other buildings  
damaged craters dispersal. P.R.U. Spitfire damaged 6 Spitfires  
up, no interceptions A.A. destroyed 1 JU.88.  
Night 29th/30th. Alert 1908 hrs. 3 raiders 2 illuminations  
A.A. fired. 30th 4 alerts 0655 0911 1122 1146 hrs. ME.109s  
24 JU.88s 19 JU.87s Hal Far casualties, craters aerodrome  
Luqa 1 night Beaufighter serious damage M.T. destroyed craters  
dispersals runway 1 JU.88 destroyed 3 JU.88s serious damage  
by eight Spitfires one Spitfire damaged in combat pilot  
uninjured A.A. destroyed 1 ME.109 damaged 1 JU.88.  
Part 2. Deliveries.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1845/30 to Air Min.)

883

War Diary.

30.4.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

IRIS  
(Greek,  
2500 tons.) Greek IRIS on Baltim charter to M. of W.T.  
cargo 2500 tons chrome grounded in 31° 19'  
30" N. 33° 7' 30" E. about 1800/19/4.  
Refloated by BRIGAND and ST. MONANCE 1430/22/4  
and towed Port Said. Prior to arrival of tugs,  
HUSAS, PROTEA attempted tow without success.  
No agreement signed. Vessel at Port Said.  
No.2 hold leaking.  
(R.A. Alexandria 1009C/30 to Admty.)

IERAX. Your 1715/24. Greek C. in C. would prefer  
IERAX to proceed to Port Sudan in accordance  
with my 1303/17 being passed to D.S.R. provided  
that no further dock work is required.  
(C. in C. Med 1224C/30 to C. in C. E.I.)

Cyprus. Appreciation of possible enemy seaborne and  
airborne attack. Reinforcement of garrison.  
Details.  
(Mid. E. 1330/30 to Air Min. S.S.O)  
See Lion Copy.

OSIRIS. Your 0443/10/4. Request early decision on  
future of OSIRIS in view of Capt.(S) 1 1031/29.  
(C. in C. Med. 1318C/30 to Admty.)

Defence of Aden. Report by signal defensive measures that have  
been taken against midget S/MS and human  
torpedoes at Aden.  
(C. in C. Med. 1555C/29 to F.O.C. Red Sea  
Force.)

Turkish Navy. Proposal by Adm. Kelly that British S/M Cmdr.  
should work with 2 flotillas to teach them  
modern ideas.  
(B.N.A. Ankara 16350/30 to Admty.)

ALLIANCE. My 1300/30/11/41 tug ALLIANCE sunk by mine at  
2045/29. Casualties (details).  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1701/30 to D. of S.T.)

MAURO CROCE. Departure 29 Genoa.  
(Barcelona 1725/30 to D. of S.T.)

/PORPOISE ....

883A

# MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

1330/30th April

Date 30/4/42  
Recd. 2145

From Mideast.

Addressed Air Ministry Special Signal Office.

IMPORTANT

IZ.135. CC/32 30/4.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief.

Ref. Troopers 82722 (M.O.5) and Mideast CS/917 both dated 17/4.

1. Appreciation of possible enemy seaborne and air-borne attack on Cyprus, and reinforcement data are as follows.

2. Agree no repeat no indication at present of any enemy intention to occupy Cyprus.

3. We remain of opinion that any large scale attack by air and/or sea is unlikely unless enemy obtain possession of aerodromes in Southern Anatolia. In worst case we should then get 3 weeks notice before attack develops on Cyprus.

4. Seaborne attack supported by cruisers or destroyers extremely unlikely owing to lack of fighter cover, unless seizure of portion of island has been previously effected by airborne attack (see next para.). Open to air attacks or night attacks by our light surface forces. Also complicated by need for refuelling forces in Aegean. Seaborne attack supported Italian battle fleet considered even less likely.

5. Airborne threat without possession South Anatolian aerodromes unlikely. Would expect 2 to 3 weeks normal warning. If indications of normal type usually received from London are lacking, we might in worst case get a minimum warning time of 2 to 3 days.

6. Our approved garrison for island is as follows. Three brigade groups plus 1 Infantry bn., 1 armd. regt., 5 Indian State Force bns. A.A. 28 hy., 60 lt. guns. 1 Fighter Squadron to be increased to 3 when attack is imminent. 1 T.B.S.A.R.(?). sqdn. Half A.C. Sqdn.

2.

7. Of this approved garrison there are at present in the island 1 Brigade group plus 1 bn., 3 I.S.F. bns., 2 batteries 25 pdrs. A.A. 16 hy. 12 lt. guns. 1 flight A.C. sqn. We propose to augment this as follows:-

- (a) Locate 1 fighter sqn. on island with flight detached at Haifa. Move to take place in 3 weeks.
- (b) Increase land garrison by battery 25 pdrs.
- (c) Complete full scale of weapons (excluding A.A. of which we are generally short), vehicles, stores and ammunition held for approved garrison, army and R.A.F., soonest possible.
- (d) Provide fuelling and maintenance facilities for M.T.Bs.

8. Following is position regarding reinforcement to full garrison vide para. 6.

(a) Estimate 2 further fighter sqdns. could be ready to operate from island within 96 hours of order to move.

(b) Estimate that sufficient merchant shipping to complete approved garrison could be made available in 14 days from day of warning. By using H.M. ships for personnel this could be reduced to 10 days.

(c) Conclusion. Provided measures in para. 7 have been completed, normal warnings to be expected of airborne threat sufficient to enable us to reinforce island in time.

1330/30.

Circulation - Col. Jacob, S. of S. for Foreign Affairs, C.A.S., C.6 Telegrams War Office, War Registry Admiralty.

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 5th 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) (2)  
 D. of P.(2)  
 E.P.S.  
 Head of M.  
 Head of Air

Recd. in Admiralty  
0249/1.

I.P.(2)  
 N.I.D.10  
 W.D.  
 D.N.I.(4)  
 D.C.(2)  
 D.D.I.C.(2)  
 D.N.A.D.  
 D. of L.D.

884

War Diary.

30.4.1942  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PORPOISE  
P.34.

Capt.(S) 10's 0955/29th. PORPOISE proceeding from 035° 05' 019° 55' through 031° 42' 028° 44' P.34 passing through 034° 55' 020° 05' and 031° 54' 028° 57' to arrive Alexandria searched channel 0530C on 5th and 8th respectively. (Capt. (S) 1 1745/30 to PORPOISE and P.34.)

Vichy  
Shipping  
movements.

Meter Algiers 29/4 B2.

Departures	For
26/4 BELAIN DESNAMBUC	Marseilles.
26/4 ST. MARIN	Marseilles.
27/4 CHATEAU YQUEM	Sete
28/4 GG DE GUEYDON	Marseilles.

Arrival 28/4 ST. FRANCOIS from Marseilles (49 trucks). Dakar 29/4 B.2. 29/4 CAP LE DIABAT arrived. My Meter 1727/18 CAPRICORNE arrival not departure. My Meter 1753/25 ELORN carried fuel oil from Jibuti. (B.A.D. Washington 1833Z/30 to Admty.)

S/Ms for  
Meditn.

Paras. 3 and 4 of my S.M. 04325 of 14/4 also refer to proposal in C. in C. Med's 1908/28 Additional 'T' Class other than new construction cannot be sent from U.K. without reducing the essential proportion of British operational S/Ms required in Home Waters. P.211 is expected to leave U.K. for Gibraltar mid May followed by later 1940 'S' Class as they come forward. (F.O.S. 2221B/30 to Admty.)

Reports by  
V.A.Malta.

Whilst I intend to signal whenever damage to Naval interests is considerable, request whether signals such as my 1941/30 (NoT.in W.D.) and previous similar signals are of value or only duplicates of the combined services report. (V.A. Malta 2224B/30 to G. in C. Med.)

Drifting  
Mine.

Intercept 2137 G.M.T. FUK informed Toulon one drifting mine in 42° 56' N. 08° 31' E.. (Burnham on Sea T.O.D. 2350/30)

885

War Diary.30.4.1942  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Naval A/C requirements. My 1047/29th. Hurricanes IIs can be converted to sea Hurricanes on board INDOMITABLE. Could these A/C together with bomb racks be made available from African resources. (C.in C. E.F. 1033Z/30 to Admty.)
- ATHENE. Departure ATHENE at 1230Z/30. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1234Z/30 to Admty.)
- B.D.Vs. Your 1603/28. (1) Intend sending following 4 B.D.Vs and one trawler to Mombasa, (a) B.D.Vs BARRIER and BARRICADE (vide my 1901/24 (b) Trawler TEAL or JAN DE WAELE (vide my 1352/29) (c) B.D.Vs BARSTOKE and BARONIA as soon as their defects have been completed Colombo. (2) Above vessels together with BARFOAM and BARCLOSE now at Kilindini should meet requirements in your 1603/28 not to Admty. or C. in C. E.F. (3) Para.1 (e) of my 1310 (?20th) is cancelled. (C. in C. E.I. 1244Z/30 to B.S.3.)
- WARSPITE, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE. WARSPITE, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 1406Z/30 to Admty.)
- MANXMAN. Arrival 29th MANXMAN. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1450Z/30 to Admty.) *See p 853*
- F.A.A. requirements. Your 1645B/19/4. Facilities for naval aircraft in East Africa. Air Min. are willing to provide increased facilities required on understanding that all six disembarked squadrons will be accommodated at existing aerodromes so that large scheme of aerodrome construction is not involved. Detailed arrangements to wait outcome of discussions on the spot. Present scheme represents considerable increase on original proposals and that it may not be possible for Air Ministry to undertake further extensions. (Air Mins. 1538/30 to Admty.)
- Mines for aircraft. Air H.Q. India have asked for supply of A. Mark V. mines for use by aircraft operating in that theatre.  
2. Supply is already in hand and Admiralty are anxious to develop aircraft minelaying offensive, but it is essential that planning of operations should remain a Naval responsibility.  
3. Request information on following points.  
A. Whether you have consulted with General Wavell or A.O.C. as to general policy.  
B. Whether it is agreed that planning is to be Naval responsibility.

# MOST SECRET

885A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1326B/30th April

OUT

Date 30.4.42

To C. in C. Eastern Fleet, 625,  
Repeated C. in C. East Indies, 172,  
S.O. Force F, 47,  
C. in C. South Atlantic, 101,  
B.S.3. 112,  
C. in C. Mediterranean, 627.

Naval Cypher O.T.T. & Naval Cypher (F) RECIRCULATION

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT AIDAC

Your 0421/26 not to C. in C. Mediterranean.

(A) Disposal of Naval forces in IRONCLAD after completion or cancellation of the operation. <sup>(Occupation of Madagascar)</sup>

(i) To Eastern Fleet.

RAMILLIES, DEVONSHIRE, ILLUSTRIOUS, PAKENHAM,  
INCONSTANT, DUNCAN, ANTHONY, ACTIVE, JASMINE,  
NIGELLA, AURICULA.

(ii) To South Atlantic

GENISTA, THYME, CYCLAMEN.

(iii) To Mediterranean Fleet.

HERMIONE, JAVELIN and all Bangors.

(iv) To Gibraltar.

LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, LOOKOUT.

Your paragraph (B) and (C). Reply will be made shortly.

1326B/30

1st Lord

D.S.D.(2)

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

1st S.L.

D.D.I.C.(2)

2nd S.L.

Hd. of M.

3rd S.L.

D.A/S.W.

5th S.L.

D.N.A.D.

V.C.N.S.

I.P.(2)

A.C.N.S.(H)

W.D.

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

Dep. Controller )

A.C.N.S.(W)

Hd. of S.W.R. ) Bath

Naval Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D. of P.(2)

D.N.I.(4)

Duty Capt.(2)

E.P.S.

886

30.4.1942  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Mines for  
aircraft  
contd.

4. It is realized that maintenance, testing and preparation of mines presents problem. Question of setting up special organisation is under consideration including provision of second mine carrier and issue ship similar to

PROME. 5. Mines A Mark V. can be laid by all types of aircraft capable of carrying 1000 lb bombs.

6. Mines A. Mark I-IV stocks of which are already held on E.I. Station can be laid by Wellingtons and all later types of British medium and heavy bombers in addition to torpedo aircraft. When laid by bombers parachutes are required. One hundred parachutes are in MANXMAN.

(D.D.O.D.(M) 1817B/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

Air  
Operations.

WX 3357. A.294. Intell. Summary No.46 on information recd. up to 1800 hours 30/4 Burma-Akyab bombed 29/4 no details available. Andaman Islands - Hudson? A/C over Port Blair 29/4 reported 2 twin engine flying boats in harbour. Very heavy A.A. fire. Aircraft damaged and crash landed at Akyab. Observer wounded Bay? of ? Bengal. No enemy activity 29/4. (Air H.Q. India 1820/30.)

Appointment  
of Deputy  
Flag Officer  
India.

Your 0458Z/26 para 1(a) it is not clear what is intended by term "coastal trade" and whether this is meant to include convoys such as Colombo-Bombay.

2. In view of the necessity for (a) rapid diversion of shipping in the event of Japanese U-boat or surface ship attack. (b) Close liasion with M. of W.T. representative and P.S.T.Os. (c) N.C.S.Os being responsible to one authority for routeing instructions, it would appear preferable for C. in C. E.I. to remain responsible for the control and routeing of all shipping at sea, F.O.C.R.I.N. being responsible for the safety of shipping in port. (Admty. 2321B/30 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I. F.O.C.R.I.N. Armindia.)



887

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.A/C  
Recognition  
Signals.

Several requests received by Navy Dept. for introduction of some recognition signal whereby aircraft can ascertain whether warships are friendly or otherwise, as it is felt that for lack of this, opportunities of attacking enemy ships may be missed. Basic principle that aircraft, when making recognition signals, are only identifying themselves to friendly surface craft (other than submarines) is clearly understood by Navy Dept.

2. It has been explained to Navy Dept. that reason why aircraft are not permitted to challenge warships is

(a) By day, danger of signal not being seen by the warship, resulting in attack on friendly ship; and

(b) By night, undesirability of friendly ship having to use a light in replying.

It is admitted a reliable challenge by aircraft is desirable if it overcomes these objections. Until such means of aircraft challenge is developed we contend that aircraft must rely on knowledge of appearance of ships and good operational intelligence.

3. As this matter is about to be raised at a W.C.B. Sub-Committee meeting early next week, request any further reasons why any challenge procedure from aircraft is at present precluded.

(B.A.D., 0015Z/30 to Admty).

Movements.

St. Johns N.F. 29/4. Arrivals MORDEN ex O.N.87. MAHONE ex Halifax escorting L.C.9. Departures GANANOQUE to Halifax escorting C.L.28. COWICHAN to Halifax escorting C.L.29.  
(F.O.N.F., 0128Z/30 to Admty).

U/B fixes  
by D/F.

Within 30 miles 39° N., 72° W., at 2315Z/29.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0203Z/30)

Within 60 miles 43° N., 69° 30' W., at 2317Z/29.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0430Z/30)

Within 100 miles of (A) 46° N., 38° W., at 0135Z/30

(B) 37° 30' N., 58° W., at 0317Z/30.

(N.S.H.Q., 1008Z/30).

Within 60 miles of 34° 30' N., 75° 30' W., at 0242Z/30.

(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1113Z/30).

Within 60 miles 37° N., 58° W. at 1331Z, 1423Z, 1513Z, and 1533Z.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1658Z/30)

Position restricted to within 30 miles of 36° 30' N., 57° W.

(N.S.H.Q. 1909Z/30).

Possibly within 50 miles of 43° N., 68° 30' W., at 1512 and 1526Z/30.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1926Z/30).

Within 100 miles 37° N., 59° W., at 1938Z.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2325Z/30).

Trawlers for  
Colon.

Jamaica departure N.Z. Trawlers TUI, INCHKEITH, KILLIEGRAY, SCARBA, SANDA. E.T.A. Colon 1800R 2/5.

(Capt. in C. Jamaica 0625R/30 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

/U/B...

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B sighted. Intercepted 0415 G.M.T. S/M sighted 34.19 N., 76.31 W., at 0113Z/30. 300137. Controlling Station Arlington Virginia radio. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0634/30).

PARTHIAN PARTHIAN arrived Bermuda with defects. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1013P/30) Details of defects. Probable delay 14 days. Further report will be made. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2332P/30 to Admty).

MERIDA, ACONCAGUA (overdue). Your 1107/25 MERIDA and ACONCAGUA arrived Colon and New York respectively on 20/4. Request your remarks. (D.T.D., 1050B/30 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

O.N.86 My 1748Z/29. (N.T. in W.D.) For O.N.86 read O.N.89. (F.O.N.F., 1058Z/30 to Task Unit No. 24.1.1).

GULFWING U.S. GULFWING due Guanta 23/4 from New York not arrived. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1114R/30 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D. Washington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). See Opnav 1505/2/5.

DANIELS GETSON. Panama DANIELS GETSON sailed St. Thomas 19/4 Barbados not arrived. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1121R/30 to C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D. Washington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Curacao, Shipping suspended. My 1022/28. This action was taken in view of (?dire) shortage of tankers and on assumption that it is now preferable to retard flow of traffic rather than risk further heavy losses. In absence of adequate craft to take offensive action or provide escort, propose to suspend British tanker traffic for about 5 days by which time it is hoped U/Bs will have to leave on homeward passage. Is this policy concurred in. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1142P/30 to Admty). Concur. (D.T.D., 0100B/1) Your 1012P/28th Aruba all berths occupied and U.S. Authorities anxious to secure berths for U.S. controlled shipping. Curacao becoming congested. (S.N.O. Curacao, 1546QR/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.) S.B.N.O. Curacao 1546/30. Sail tankers as necessary to release berths for U.S. Controller tankers. Minimum number only to be sailed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2312P/30 to S.N.O. Curacao N.C.S.O. Aruba).

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Defence of  
Chilean  
coastal  
waters.

It is clear from B.A.D. Washington's 1629/29/1 and your 1135/20/2 that it is desire of U.S.A. and ourselves Chile should secure her coastal waters with her own means.

My 1240Q/17 shows this is not being done.

In estimating U.S. reaction to idea of British Naval Mission I hope due weight may be given to fact we are more likely to be able to persuade Chilians to act than are America due to close relationship in past between British and Chilian Navy and consequently familiarity with each other's methods.

British Mission is only suggested as war time expedition to obtain maximum value from existing Chilian Naval Forces.

(B.N.A. Santiago De Chile, 1224Q/30 to Admty).

A.M.1929B/16th please see B.A.D. 1947Q/26/2 and 2047A/27/3

(N.T. in W.D.) I have now received from Vice Admiral Willson a memo. on Axis activity in South Chile. This report describes various investigations made, principally as the result of information communicated from British sources. The investigations have all produced negative results. U.S. naval attache will proceed southward from Santiago about 10/5 to examine entire coast as far south as Magallanes. Suitable naval observer is now en route to Magallanes and will open his office at Punta Arenas during present week.

State Dept. would in my view frown on activities of any British Naval Mission as they regard S. American States as part of defence of Western Hemisphere and within their strategical control.

3. Reference A.M.2219A/18/2 Japanese ship bases in South Chile would be about 3,000 miles from focal points off Panama.

4. Memo is being sent Admty. by air mail.

(B.A.D. Washington, 1617Z/30 to Admty).

Routeing.

Amendments to RICHMACRI.  
(Washington, 1410/30).

SERPA PINTO

My 1249/29. SERPA PINTO (description)  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1411Z/30, to C.T.F. 23.,  
C. in C. A.F. (U.S) Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in  
C. A.W.I., Comdr. Caribbean Sea Frontier,  
R.A.W.A., F.O.C.N.A. Gib).

Oil fuel  
at Halifax.

Admtys. 1800Z/29th is being passed to you  
Comply with this request as soon as fuel situation  
permits.  
(N.S. Ottawa, 1450Z/30 to S.C.N.O. Halifax).

Suspicious  
Vessel.

STRATHALLAN reports suspicious vessel, hull  
down and steering 140°. My position 021° 38' N.  
059° 41' W. steering avoiding course. 1400 G.M.T.  
30th. Description.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1603P/30 to Admty. B.A.D.  
Washington, C. in C. U.S.F. Opnav N.S.H.Q.  
Ottawa, (R) S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica)).

890

War Diary.30.4.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

CLARKIA Departure 30th CLARKIA Trinidad 1/5.  
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1700 /30 to Admty).

U-boat ( ?Below surface) S/M contact attacked in 045°  
attacked. 46' N., 057° 53' W., result not known.  
(COWICHAN, 1730Z/30).

U-boat In view of Opanav's 1529Z/30 propose taking convoy  
search. to position of Cape Cod Canal entrance. Request  
permission to carry out intense search with  
MONTGOMERY in area N., of Nantucket to prudent  
endurance of fuel. Refuelling in Boston.  
(C.T.U., 24.18.1., 1740Z/30 to Opanav).

Routeing of Difficulty has been experienced making certain  
Shipping from diversions. Request you will arrange for  
G. of ships routed from Gulf of Mexico Ports through  
Mexico. Caribbean to Africa and South America to be  
supplied with a reference position which will  
designate coastal route as far as Cape  
Hatteras and one about 30° N., and 75° W., coastal route should  
be supplied to these ships. Similarly if ships are routed  
through Florida Strait they should be given two reference  
positions in Caribbean and one for Kingston, Jamaica.  
(C. in C. W.I., 1833P/30 to N.S.H.Q.)

French B.A.D. Washington 1833Z/30 see Mediterranean.  
Shipping movements.

ASHKHABAD, ASHKHABAD sunk by torpedo 34.19 N., 76.31 W.,  
HARRY GEORGE 0113Z/30. HARRY GEORGE SEIDEL torpedoed. *See next page*  
SEIDEL. Approx. 10° 50' N., 62' W., 1230Z/29. No  
details. One S/M sighted 12° 52' N., 60° 29' W.,  
0355Z/30.  
(C. in C. U.S.F., 1847/30 to Admty for O.I.C.)  
See also 2056.

Russ. ASHKHABAD torpedoed 300° 113' 19 miles South Cape Lookout  
47 survivors landed Morehead City by LADY ELSA. Believed all  
accounted for DERRYHEEN reported 23 now advised 27 crew and one  
passenger still missing in two boats Master and 15 crew  
picked up. Confidential destroyed.  
(Opanav, 2110/30 to Spenavo).

Unknown 2150 G.M.T. SSSS WUOT 17° 01' N., 66° 03' W.,  
ship attacked. attacked not hit but expect another. B.A.D  
pass to Cominch and Opanav.  
(Bermuda, 1922P/30 to Admty).

/Towage....

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Towage of floating dock. Your 2237/29. No suitable tugs available in Canada.  
(2) Tugs mentioned in my 1558/17 para. two will be ready to proceed Mid May and W.J. HARAHAH is also available. My 1555/29 not to all addressees refers.  
(3) These lend lease tugs are not considered suitable to tow the 3,000 ton wooden floating dock.  
(4) Would necessity to partially submerge Dock in event of bad weather prevent it carrying necessary extra fuel for tugs.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1922Z/30 to B.A.D.)

TAIGETE, ARCOLA. Position of TAIGETE and ARCOLA at noon 30th April 22° 16 N., 45° 48 W. C. and S.  
(S.B.N.O. TAIGETE, 2000/30 to Admty).

Aruba - Trinidad Convoys. My 2105/29 para. 2. C. in C. U.S. Fleet considers institution of Aruba - Trinidad convoys is not possible at present while concentration of force near French W. Indies is necessary. Further consideration will be given later.  
2. We have pointed out that it is necessary to keep going supply from Curacao and Aruba and that advance notice of protective measures for tankers is required so that numbers on this particular run can be regulated.  
3. Since there is no firm prospect of the U.S. providing escorts between Aruba and Trinidad you may wish to consider possibility of allocating an R.N. group temporarily for that purpose. If such a measure is contemplated we could discuss control with Navy Dept. It is probable they would wish group to operate under Comcarib.  
(B.A.D., 2053Z/30 to Admty). Reply Admty. 1043/1.

U/B attacks on M/Vs. Opnav, serial 1. FEDERAL American tanker torpedoed and sunk 30/4 20.15. N., 76.05 W. 14 known survivors.  
HARRY G. SEIDEL, American tanker, reported 29th now confirmed sunk 6 miles East Los Testigos Island. *See p. 890*  
WLA PA (As received repetition being obtained) British torpedoed 1/5 29.15 N., 80.20 W.  
(Opnav, 2056/30 to Admty).

Japanese transports at Parang. Five Japanese transports supported by A/C and two destroyers landed troops despite heavy losses, at Parang (7° 22' N., 124° 16' E) Alaska. Japanese interest in Alaska-Aleutian area has been noticed since air attack on Japan.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 2111Z/30 to Admty W.O. Air Min. C. in C. E.F.)

Signalling positions of ships in Convoy. D.T.D., 2121B/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.

War Diary.

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

BUCTOUCHE. E.T.A. 0400Z. I.P. bottom end burnt out and has been drawn. Running on 3 cylinders. Request berth. Ship hard to manoeuvre.  
(BUCTOUCHE, 2122Z/30 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.)

CHENANGO overdue. CHENANGO (Pan). due Baltimore 22nd from St. Thomas not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2247Z/30 Admty. U.S.C.N.O. C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica).

R.9. My 1202/21. US.N.O.B. Bermuda has issued following local S/M notice. R.9 leave patrol station 300 miles 040° from Bermuda at daylight 30/4 arriving Bermuda 1000P on 3/5. Proceed submerged during daylight and surface during dark. S. of A. (?100) miles a day. Bombing restrictions 15 miles each side and 50 miles ahead and astern of estimated position.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2342P/30 Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa B.A.D. Washington, C.O.A.C., S.O.(I) Kingston).

O.N.92  
O.N.93 C. in C. W.A. has concurred my 1231/26 Task Unit 24.1.3 should therefore be designated to escort O.N.92 instead of O.N.93 as given in your 1730/27.  
(C.T.F. 24., 2355/30 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F. C.T.G.24.7).

893

30.4.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Time at W.F.153. Standard time at Fiji has been  
Fiji. resumed. (A.C.N.B. 0951Z/30.)

Situation. Air Force 99 from C.W.R. 29/4. Seven Mile Aerodrome Port Moresby attacked by 8 Zero fighters at 0048Z and 0252Z 29th. One Allied A/C slightly damaged first raid two 2nd. 9 heavy bombers attacked new aerodrome Laloki near Seven Mile at 0200Z. No damage. 4th. raid reported 0355Z 29th. No details received.

2. Tulagi reported air raid 1752Z 29th. No details available.
3. Extensive enemy air R/C 29/4 N.E. coast New Guinea between Salamaua Flores.
4. Enemy air R/C Nauru 29/4 and Madang (New Guinea) area 27/4.
5. Unidentified A/C reported at Dorby (W.A.) 28/4.
6. One A/C bombed Koepang aerodrome 28/4 causing several fires. No shipping observed.
7. 6 A/C bombed buildings and 20 A/C on Lae aerodrome 29/4. Caused fire. Zero fighters intercepted possibly damaged. Easter Island no shipping sighted by one A/C on R/C Port Moresby Bougainville New Britain area 29/4. Attacked by five Zeros one shot down, one probably damaged.
9. Small craft no other activity observed at Kieta by air R/C 29/4.
10. Zero fighter crashed Cape Rodney (New Guinea) 29/4 pilot captured.
11. One A/C attacked small enemy Lugger Tanimbar Island 29/4 no damage observed.
12. Allied destroyer reported enemy S/M near Rodondo Island (Wilson's Promontory Victoria) at 1234Z 29th. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne 1121Z/30 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. E.I. C.O.I.S. Colombo. N.Z.N.B. C.Z.M. Opanav, C. in C. U.S. P.F. C. in C. U.S. A.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions. (D.D.I.C. 1429B/30, 1428B/30.)