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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.LÜTZOW,
PRINZ EUGEN
and HIPPER
at sea.

An enemy main unit, believed to be the LÜTZOW escorted by 4 destroyers and a T.B. was sighted at 1110 by aircraft east of the Skaw northbound at 15 knots. At about 1630B visual R/C of Trondheim showed TIRPITZ in her usual position, PRINZ EUGEN and 4 destroyers in 63° 20' N. 8° 20' E. steering a south-westerly course, and HIPPER in 63° 28' N. 10° 8' E. steering north-east. The LÜTZOW, in the northern part of the Kattegat had turned to a southerly course by that time, but it is not known whether she again proceeded northwards later.

DUKE OF YORK → C. in C. Home Fleet at noon B.S.T. was in 66° 33' N. 12° 1' W. proceeding to Hvalfiord with WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, LONDON, TUSCALOOSA and 12 destroyers in company.

NIGERIA → 10th C.S. with ONSLOW and ICARUS was in 68° 21' N. 7° 15' W. steering for Hvalfiord at 24 knots. SOMALI, MATCHLESS, FORESIGHT, and FORESTER being detached at 1201 with TRINIDAD survivors to fuel. MINERVE and P.37 were ordered to patrol positions off the coast of Norway, to intercept the enemy.

The sailing of Convoys P.Q.16 and Q.P.12 was postponed today, apparently on account of the failure of the Russians to provide adequate air cover in their area (c.f. 30 Mission, 1511C/15.)

QUEEN MARY arrived in the Clyde today from U.S.A. with troops.

WALLACE was damaged in collision with S.S. BELTOY in Convoy F.N.9 about 1700 today and was towed to Sheerness.

British Air Operations.

It is reported from Gibraltar that a Sunderland reported an engagement with a motor vessel having a submarine in company at about 1230Z yesterday in 44° 7' N. 9° 9' W. The course and speed of the enemy were reported to be 100°, 17 knots.

The Russians report that one of their naval aircraft today sank an enemy destroyer.

A U/boat was probably sunk by a Whitley off Sunderland.
(D.O.R. 1002, W.D. 20/6, page 584 June)

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attack on
Plymouth
Sound.

Six Me.109s made a low level attack on Plymouth Sound at 1252 today, without any previous warning or plot. Minor damage was caused to WOLVERINE and B.V.7. CLEVELAND and BROCKLESBY shot down one of the enemy and seriously damaged a second.

The 4th M.S. Flotilla, sweeping off the Suffolk coast was unsuccessfully attacked today by 3 Dorniers.

Convoy F.N.⁷⁰₉ was unsuccessfully attacked by one Do. 217⁷ off Southwold this evening; fighters shot down the aircraft.

Mining.

43 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night off north-west Germany.

M.V. ARDUITY was mined and sunk this afternoon about 15 miles S.E. of Spurn Point.

North Atlantic.

MALAYA, ITHURIEL and PARTRIDGE are to operate under the orders of F.O.C.N.A. until further instructions.

German ships LESSEE and JOAO PESSOA are reported fully loaded and ready for sea at Bilbao.

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Malta.

During the past week, apart from one attack on WELSHMAN at Malta by 55 bombers who received heavy punishment day raids have been light and were directed against the aerodromes: as many as 100 fighters per day were used by the enemy. Only 31 night bombers came over during this period. Aerial photographs show a steady decrease of German bombers in Sicily, possibly accounted for by losses over Malta.

During the week the enemy lost 55 aircraft destroyed, 42 probably destroyed and 53 damaged. Malta now has local air superiority over the enemy.

249 Sqdn. which arrived at Malta on 21/5/41, shot down its 100th enemy aircraft today.

PROTEUS.

S/M PROTEUS reports having hit with 2 torpedoes a 4000 ton ship in a southbound convoy in 38.39 N. 20.22 E. on 2/5. Ship was later beached. At 1545/5, in 37.08 N. 21.20 E., she sank a heavily laden 60-ton schooner by gunfire after removing the Greek crew, who cheered lustily throughout the gunnery practice.

*OTTO LEONHARDT. (Torpedo Attack Register)
3682 tons.

Wellingtons continued their nightly attacks on the port of Benghazi this week.

East Indies.Diego
Suarez.

S.O. Force F reports that Diego Suarez could be made most valuable to the Fleet, although the dock will not take 8-in. cruisers. Machine shops are undamaged and the French willing to operate them. At present the only labour available is from the Fleet.

America and West Indies.

Two or three ships are reported to have been attacked by U-Boats today off the Mississippi Delta one near the Bahamas and a large tanker is reported sunk off Grenada.

/QUEEN MARY ...

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

QUEEN MARY.

U.S. Navy Dept. states that QUEEN MARY arrived at New York 6 hours before her E.T.A. which rendered the surface and air escort ordered to meet her useless. Suggestions to avoid this in future are made today by B.A.D.

BEDFORDSHIRE
overdue.

BEDFORDSHIRE one of the 24 A/S trawlers recently lent to U.S. Navy, has not been heard of since 2000/11 when patrolling off Cape Lookout, N. Carolina, and is presumed lost with no survivors. A U/B was reported in the area that night.

Sunk by U.558 on 12/5. See p. 390.

Australia.

A.C.N.B.

A reply to the Admty. inquiry as to the extent to which A.C.N.B. still functions consequent on inclusion of Australia in S.W. Pacific Area under a U.S. Naval Commander is given in A.C.N.B. 0541/16.

Three air attacks were made on Lae Aerodrome today.

S.S. WELLEN was slightly damaged by gunfire from an enemy submarine off Newcastle this morning, but arrived in harbour safely.

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Force "W".

Broad Pendant of S.O. Force "W" was struck at 0900/14th.
(V.A.2. 1832B/16).

Technicians from "Magnet 4".

Your 1231/15. No.
(D. of S.T. 2034B/16 to P.S.T.O. West of Scotland).Movements.

T.F.38.

Task Force 38 consisting of U.S.S. WASP, BROOKLYN, WAINWRIGHT, LANG, EDISON, STERETT and INGRAHAM have been ordered to leave U.K. for Hampton Roads on 18/5 or as soon as WASP is ready to sail.

2. EDISON and INGRAHAM have been ordered from Londonderry to Clyde where remainder of destroyers will arrive with WASP to join BROOKLYN.

3. F.O.1/c Greenock is requested to sail ships as requisite on 18th May or when WASP is ready.

4. Route from position "R", 270°. Oversay Lt. 6 miles through.
"S" 55° 20' N. 14° 58' W. "T" 54° 02' N. 27° 05' W.
"U" 49° 05' N. 44° 56' W. "V" 46° 30' N. 52° 00' W.
thence to Argentia.
(D.O.D.(H) 0016B/16 to C. in C.W.A.).

*TRIDENT.

P.46, P.614,
O.10

See p.491

S.3s 1547/10 and 1702/12. Vessels arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0031B/16).

* Sailed 15/5 for Seidisfjord - see p.462.

WELSHMAN.

1.F.O.C.N.A. 2142/12 and 1304/13. WELSHMAN can be taken in hand for repair on 25/5 at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

2. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail WELSHMAN for Tyne accordingly.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1138B/16).
Arrived WELSHMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1653B/16).

SOMALI
MATCHLESS
FORESIGHT
FORESTER
C.S.18 10th C.S.
ONSLOW.
ICARUS.
INTREPID.

My P.C.S. are 068° 21' N. 007° 15' W, 240° 24 knots.
Detaching SOMALI, MATCHLESS, FORESIGHT, FORESTER with all TRINIDAD survivors to Seidisfjord at 1201 to fuel and await orders. C.S.18. in ONSLOW.
C.S.18 10th C.S. E.T.A. Hvalfjord with 10th C.S. ONSLOW, ICARUS about 1130B tomorrow.
(C.S.10. 1201B/16 to C. in C.H.F.).
C.S.10 1201B/16. After fuelling at Seidisfjord.

/SOMALI.....

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SOMALI MATCHLESS FORESIGHT and FORESTER, proceed Greenock.
2. R.A.(D) Home Fleet is requested to sail INTREPID for Hvalfjord tomorrow.
(C. in C. H.F. 1525B/16).
Following is a repetition of C. in C.H.F. 2006B/16 to R.A.D.H.F. Begins. My 1525/16 para.2.
INTREPID is not to be sailed until further directions. Ends.
(A.C.I.C. 2152B/16 to R.A.D.H.F.).
My 2200B/16.

Following will require accommodation on arrival. Numbers are approximate.

(A) Survivors from TRINIDAD and EDINBURGH; Captain Saunders, Officers R.N. 61 (2 wounded), Ratings R.N. 694 (40 wounded) Merchant Navy Personnel 18.

(B) Passengers from Murmansk; Officers R.N. 10 Officers Army 2, Officers Foreign - Polish Minister and 3, Officers Merchant Navy - Commodore Anchor and 3, Ratings R.N. 26, Merchant Navy Personnel 32, Army and R.A.F. Personnel 19.

(C) H.M.S.SOMALI has one half tons of gold on board, consigned to U.K.

(F) C. in C.H.F's 1525/16. Expected 0700B/19 with MATCHLESS, FORESTER, FORESIGHT in company.

(Capt.D.6. 2200B/16 to N.O.I.C.Greenock). Proceed to pass Switha 2100 to-morrow to Hvalfjord routed through 058° 50' N, 007° 08' W thence through Reykjanes Passage. 2. On arrival complete and await orders from C. in C.H.F. (R.A.D.H.F. 2251B/16 to INTREPID). *p. 495. (TRINIDAD sunk 15/5)*

CHARLESTOWN. My 1119/13. Intend to sail CHARLESTOWN via Sleet Sound at 1700 tomorrow. E.T.A.Clyde Boom 0530/17.
(R.A.M. 1227/16).

QUEEN MARY. Estimated time arrival QUEEN MARY in company 2000B/16.
(CAIRO 1432B/16 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).

Arrived CAIRO.
(N.O.I.C.Lamlash 2050B/16).
QUEEN MARY arrived 2119/16.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock. 2125B/16).

Home Fleet. Following is a repetition of C. in C.H.F. 1240B/16 to A.C.I.C. Begins. My P.C.S. at 1200B/16 66° 33' N. 12° 01' W. 275° 17½ knots, proceeding Hvalfjord. WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, LONDON, TUSCALOOSA and 12 destroyers in company. E.T.A.1200Z/17. A.C.I.C.recypher and pass to C.S.10. Ends.
(A.C.I.C. 1455B/16 to C.S.10).

/TYNEDALE.....

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.TYNEDALE
KRAKOWIAK.

A.M. 1033/13. Request you will sail these two destroyers to rejoin Plymouth Command. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1747B/16. to C. in C. Portsmouth).

P.552.

C.C.N.F. 1732/11.

1. Suggest following amendments to route for P.552 From (b) to (f) $059^{\circ} 01' N$ $025^{\circ} 00' W$ then to (d) omitting (c).
2. Convoy S.C.83 approaching R/V in $057^{\circ} 04' N$. $026^{\circ} 08' W$. at 0800Z/18 from $057^{\circ} 02' N$, $028^{\circ} 01' W$. speed 7 knots. U.S. destroyers ^{WILLARD} DUANE and BADGER from Iceland will join convoy at above R/V.
3. Request F.O.(S) will notify P.552 of convoy and destroyer movements. C. in C. W.A. will inform latter of S/Ms route. (C. in C.W.A. 2137B/16 to F.O.(S)).
**Cruising C.W.A.*

Operations.N.W. Norway
S/M Patrol.

P.46 left Lerwick 0603B/16 unescorted and on surface at C.O.'s discretion routed as follows.
 (a) 088° Out Skerries 6 miles.
 (b) $069^{\circ} 58' N$. $008^{\circ} 10' E$, thence Zone 33.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick. 0605B/16).

O.10. Left Clyde 13th for Lerwick and patrol under operational control of S.3.

(Capt. S.7. 1626B/16. to B.D.Z.).

S.9s 1451/13. P.614 and O.10 are to remain at Lerwick at 2 hours notice until further orders.

(F.O.(S) 1736B/16). *See p. 489.*

Norway
Coastal
S/M
Patrol.

Proceed on surface at discretion at best speed through $061^{\circ} 01' N$ $000^{\circ} 02' W$ to patrol vicinity $061^{\circ} 50' N$ $004^{\circ} 02' E$. Total bombing restrictions arranged.

(F.O.(S) 1252B/16 to P.37).

P.37. left Lerwick 1304B/16th on the surface at discretion of C.O. unescorted by following route.

(a) 088° Out Skerries, 6 miles. (b) $069^{\circ} 40' N$. $008^{\circ} 35' E$. thence patrol in Zone 31.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1305B/16).

A.M. 1056/13, para. B.

1. P.37 is to proceed on surface by day at C.O.'s discretion to patrol vicinity of position M. $61^{\circ} 50'$ North $04^{\circ} 02'$ East.
 2. MINERVE is to be sailed as soon as ready and is to proceed towards position M.
 3. P.37 and MINERVE are to patrol alternatively in position M as arranged by S.9. withdrawing to Seaward as necessary to charge.
 4. Object Cruisers and above.
- (F.O.(S) 1411B/16 to Capt.S.9.).

/(A).....

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Norway (A) MINERVE is to be sailed to waiting position.
Coastal 061° 30' N 002° 30' E. and to arrive in M. (061°
S/M 50' N. 004° 02' E.) for patrol at 0400B/16.
Patrol (B) P.37 is to withdraw to westward at 0400B/18.
Contd. (C) MINERVE is to withdraw to westward at 2200B/18.
(D) Subsequently MINERVE and P.37 will patrol in
position M as follows:- P.37 from 2200B/18 until
1600B/19. MINERVE from 1600B/19 until 1000B/20, and thereafter
S/Ms are to relieve each other in position M at intervals of 18
hours.

(E) When withdrawing to westward S/Ms are to keep to northwards
061° 50' N until well clear and on return are to approach
position M from southwards.

(F) Object cruisers and above.

(Capt.S.9. 1617B/16).

Capt.(S) 9 1617B/16. Intend to sail MINERVE 2000B/16 proceeding
on surface at C.O.'s discretion routed as follows:-

A. 091° Out Skerries 5 miles. B. 061° 03' N. 000° 16' E. to
waiting position. C. 061° 30' N. 002° 30' E.

S/M leaves position (C) proceeding on surface at C.O.'s
discretion through position D. 061° 40' N 003° 56' E so as to
arrive in position (M) at 0400B/18.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1809B/16).

MINERVE sailed for patrol.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 2017B/16).

My 1252 to P.37. Proceed to position N. 061° 20', 004° 05'.

(F.O.S. 2106B/16).

F.O.S. 2106B/16 refers P.37 and MINERVE only.

P.37 proceed to position N. 061° 20' N 004° 05' E.

MINERVE proceed as in S.O. Subs. Lerwick 1809B/16, except after
position (B) read to wait at position.

C. 061° 20' N. 002° 30' E. thence through position.

D. 061° 10' N. 003° 56' E, so as to arrive in position N. at
0400B/18.

G. 1617B/16 for position M read N. 061° 20' N. 004° 05' E, then
follow routine laid down in my 1617B/16 keeping North of 061°
20' N when withdrawing to westward. German cruiser PRINZ
EUGEN, may be southbound.

(Capt.S.9. 2205B/16).

Patrols. 3 Chasseurs patrolling Q Z S 271 returning to
St. Helens at daylight.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1517B/16).

2 M.Ls patrolling Lands End to Lizard.

2 M.Ls patrolling Lizard to 04.30.W.

2 M.Ls patrolling 04.30 W to Start.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1550B/16).

No patrol tonight but 3 M.Ls leave Dover at 2330 in an Easterly
direction.

(V.A. Dover. 1744B/16 to CALPE).

/Denmark....

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Denmark
Strait
Patrol.U.S. Cruiser WICHITA on patrol "White."
(A.C.I.C.1534B/16).Combined
Operation.

Request you will sail PRINCESS BEATRIX direct to DORLIN (Salen) to embark R.M. Commando after their inspection by C.C.O. PRINCESS BEATRIX is then to proceed direct to Portsmouth calling Clyde if necessary. Above programme to be cancelled if PRINCESS BEATRIX cannot reach Salen before 0600/18. She should then be sailed for Clyde.
(V.A.C.T. 2011/16 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Q.Q.2.

Your 1734/16. DAPPER is required to be at Tilbury P.M. 23rd for operation Q.Q.2.
(C. in C. Nore. 2151B/16 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Exercises.A/C
Exercises
with
THUNDERBOLT.

Your 1103B/15.
These trials were arranged by Admiralty and I understand have been cancelled. THUNDERBOLT is being taken in hand for refit on 19/5.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1328B/16 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

British Air Activity.Bombing
Restrictions.

(A) Request total bombing restriction as follows. Details.
(B) P.552 cannot fire yellow smoke candles for recognition purposes.
(F.O.(S) 1046B/16 to H.Q.C.C.(R) P.552).
My 0915/15. Cancel surface vessel bombing restrictions forthwith.
(H.Q.C.C. 1405/16).

Bombing
Operations.

Day 10/5, tonight 12/13 May and night 13/14 today 15/5 all inclusive. No operations took place. On night 15/16, 43. A/C laid mines, Sylt Causeway was hit with 2 bombs, and one small M/V was attacked and left in flames S.W. of Samsø Island
(H.Q.B.C. 1457/16).

Brixham
Balloon
Barrage.

In view of constant air attacks on Brixham Harbour approval is requested for a balloon,

/barrage.....

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Brixham
Balloon
Barrage.
Contd.

barrage at Brixham. A temporary barrage of six naval balloons limited to 300 feet has been arranged locally. This request is additional to the existing approval to fly balloons at altitude by day whenever a tanker is at Brixham. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1541/16 to C. in C. Plymouth).

A/C for
771
Squadron.

C. in C.H.F.'s 1725/28/4. To meet requirements of Home Fleet 4 target towing Skuas or Rocs from 776 Squadron are to be transferred to 771 Squadron as soon as possible. (D.N.A.D. 1614B/16 to R.A.N.A.S.).

Air
defence of
Russian
Convoys.

Your 1616/11 para.1.
1. Concur in the setting up of organisation in Archangel and aircraft landing at Vaenga aerodrome if necessary, and thence flying to Archangel. Air Ministry agree to these arrangements.

2. R.A.F. personnel, two spare aircraft and stores required for base organisation are embarked in EMPIRE BAFFIN and LOWTHER CASTLE. These two ships, together with EMPIRE LAWRENCE should be diverted to Archangel if ice conditions permit.
3. It is intended to sail all Cam ships to Archangel in future.
4. Concurrence of Russians to these arrangements should be obtained through 30 Mission.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2215B/16 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Enemy Air Activity.C.S.10
reported.

You were reported by long-range enemy A/C at 0945B/16.
(D.D.I.C. 1053B/16 to C.S.10).

C.in C. H.F.
reported.

You were reported by long-range enemy A/C at about 1015B/16.
(D.D.I.C. 1106B/16 to C. in C.H.F.).

4th M/S
Flotilla
attacked.

Help "Uphill."
(4th M/S F. 1324/16).
Help "Uphill." 52° 46' N. 2° 47' E.
(4th M/S F. 1335/16).

CARDIFF
CASTLE.

Help O10L W.T.17.
(CARDIFF CASTLE 1343/16. to Yarmouth W/T).

/Plymouth.....

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16.5.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth Sound bombed B.V.7 and WOLVERINE damaged. One A/C destroyed One A/C damaged.

At 1252/16. 6 M.E.109s made low level attack on Plymouth Sound, they approached from East without any previous warning or plot, machine-gunned and dropped bombs of which two near missed Merchant Ship at "E" Buoy, one near missed B.V.7 BROCKLESBY proceeding out through Western entrance machine-gunned. WOLVERINE outside Western entrance near missed by two bombs. One enemy Aircraft shot down into Sea 1/2 mile South of Picklecombe. Second enemy Aircraft believed seriously damaged.

Damage and Casualties. B.V. 7 - Minor damage. WOLVERINE - Minor damage. One waterborne Balloon shot down into sea. Killed One Rating in WOLVERINE. Three slightly wounded by M.G. fire in BROCKLESBY.

Active Defence. CLEVELAND, BROCKLESBY and WOLVERINE opened fire on enemy, two former shooting down one M.E.109 and seriously damaging another vide.(B). Owing to lack of warning, haze and speed of attack ground defences did not engage.

K. Waterborne Balloons were close hauled for Sunderland F/B expected at Mount Batten shortly after 1300/16. One dead enemy Airman picked up from crashed aircraft.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1617/16).

(1) Off Break Water Light Plymouth Sound at 1245/16. 1 M.E. 109 shot into sea by combined close range weapon fire of CLEVELAND and BROCKLESBY. Another ME.109 severely damaged by CLEVELAND. BROCKLESBY, 3 ratings wounded, slight superficial damage. Low level machine gun attack on BROCKLESBY.

(CLEVELAND 1826B/16).

My 1603/5. WOLVERINE further delayed by damage from near miss. Anticipate sailing 20/5.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1744B/16 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Convoy. Enemy A/C are bombing convoy "Numeral". My position 52° 25' N. 2° 2' E.
(WALLACE 1709/16.).

TRINIDAD sunk.15/5. Following from Capt.Saunders late of TRINIDAD 1. H.W.O. 83 shadowing by aircraft of TRINIDAD and escort started 0730B/14. Attack developed at 2154B/14 in (?073°) 44' N. 023° 54' E. by JU.88s dive bombing (?all ships). But at 2237B/14 6 torpedo bombers attacked TRINIDAD from each quarter and shortly afterwards torpedoes were released. One JU.88 dive bombed to 400 feet obtaining one hit between bridge and (group omitted) turret starting a fire, and one hit or near miss the starboard hand caused list.

3. 2 further torpedo bomber attacks on TRINIDAD in pairs from port quarter and beam and a few more bombs dropped. Shadowing continued until about 0300B/15.

5. At least 20 dive bombing attacks in all (?mainly) varying in accuracy from near misses to very wide. One JU.88 shot down. Torpedo bombers first circled very low in line ahead, then turned together to attack in line abreast releasing at long range on quarter or beam. Very faint hearted.

6. Fire rapidly spread between decks and to bridge out of control. Ship abandoned about 0110B/15 and sunk by 2 torpedoes from MATCHLESS. Survivors taken off in destroyer.

7. Casualties about one officer. 60 naval ratings. (?20) Merchant Navy.

(SOMALI 2231B/16 to Admt.)

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

SCOTT. S.N.3.B. will now probably be laid on 11/6.
If circumstances allow you are to clean boilers in Seidisfjord or other convenient place when they become due. If however survey can be completed without exceeding 600 hours steaming, this can be accepted as maximum.
(R.A.M. 1210/16 to SCOTT).

Operation "Tincture." Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m./18th in the manner described in my 1207/10/9/41 (D.M.S. 1241B/16 to F.O.I.C.Milford Haven).

Lowestoft Area. 1 Red Magnetic detonated at 1250 vicinity 3B buoy. (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 1345/16, 2155B/16, 1015B/17).

Harwich. At 1355/16, one magnetic mine detonated by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C.Harwich. 1739B/16).

ARDUITY (British 304 tons) Sunk. ARDUITY reported sunk by mine off Protector Overfalls at approx. 1905/16. Total crew of 7. landed at Chapel St. Leonards and proceeding ROYAL ARTHUR. (F.O.Humber 2101/16).

Minefield off Aldborough. M.S.IV reports 72 mines cut on 15th and 47 today. Great difficulty in sinking mines, all vessels running out of .305 ammunition. Attacked today by three Dorniers. Bombs missed. Flotilla refuelling, though 2 ships with 2 MLs are being sent out tomorrow to area to sink mines. M.S.IX. is proceeding tomorrow to do two laps in K, formation in former Q.Z.X.706 and then continuing operation Q.S.6. (C. in C.Nore. 2230B/16 to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Two Destroyers. A.M. 2233B/15. Two Destroyers seen proceeding down Ofot Fiord from Narvik. (D.D.I.C. 0055B/16 to A.I.G.47 and A.I.G.21).

LÜTZOW. 1 Battle cruiser, 5 destroyers, 57° 30' N. 1215, course 350° speed 15 knots, 1110, clear. (A/C T.Sqdn. 1145/16 to 16 Group).
Enemy main unit believed German Armoured Ship LÜTZOW escorted by 5 destroyers sighted by aircraft East of the Skaw Northbound speed 15 knots at 1110. (F.O.(S) 1409B/16 to S/Ms).
One Capital Ship (Deutschland Class), 4 destroyers, 2 small craft

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

LÜTZOW. 58° 05' N, 10° 50' E. course 180°, 12 knots.
One destroyer 58° 12' N, 10° 40' E. course 170°
10 knots.

(A/C 1630/16 to 18 Group)

At 1110B/16. R/C A/C reported 1 Battlecruiser, 5 Destroyers off Goteborg in 57° 30' N, 11° 15' E, course 350°, speed 15 knots. Photographs confirm above force to consist of LÜTZOW, 4 Destroyers and one T.B.
(D.D.I.C. 1736B/16 to A.I.G. 21, A.I.G.47).

Swinemunde. Swinemunde.

Transport activity has been reported at the end of April as follows: (a) 4 10,000-ton passenger vessels making ready, one with seaplane on board and one armed with 10 A/A guns. Other 2 were marked R.E. 39 and H.E.11 respectively.

(b) Navy has taken over extensive accommodation close to Rathaus barracks at Sportsplatz and many houses.

(c) The beach is now forbidden area.

(d) Possible Naval aerodrome between Heringsdorf and Gothauser.

(e) My 1541/12, paras.(c) and (d). Further evidence establishes these invasion craft as tank landing craft. Graded B.3.
(N.A.Stockholm 1329/16).

Northern Norway. 13/5 V Varanger Fiord one Destroyer in 69° 15' N. 14° 53' E, one U-Boat in 70° 09' N. 30° 41' E,

one Destroyer Convoy sailed, Kirkness for Vardo.

Tana Fiord one Destroyer in 70° 15' N, 13° 12' E, one Destroyer in vicinity Westerholm, one unknown ship possibly Cruiser course North. 14/514/5 of Andoy Island, one U-Boat, Kongs Fiord one Destroyer.

(Ad.Miles 1446C/16).

Trondheim

Visual R/C Trondheim about 1630B/16

TIRPITZ.

1.TIRPITZ in usual position.

PRINZ EUGEN.

2.PRINZ EUGEN not in usual position.

HIPPER.

3.One large unit possibly Cruiser and 4 Destroyers in 63° 20' N, 08° 20' E. Course 225°.

4. One large unit, in 63° 28' N. 10° 08' E. Course N.E.

(D.D.I.C. 2046B/16).

My 2046/16. Interpretation of photographs confirms TIRPITZ in usual position. Para.3, cruiser is PRINZ EUGEN. Para.4 unit is HIPPER.

(D.D.I.C. 2201B/16).

PRINZ EUGEN, has temporarily squared stern fitted which may make wake appear greater than normal.

(F.O.S. 2331B/16 to S/Ms).

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

Am over Enemy S/M in 43° N. 4° W. When last seen was on surface and observed to dive on a course 090°, speed 6 knots.
(A/C 1500/16 to 19 Group).

Navigational.

Ice. Ice R/C 15th May report Brash ice 42 miles 337° and 113 miles 284° from Straumnes Light. Fast ice 3 miles to N. and N.W. of Brash.
(A.C.I.C. 0415B/16).

Further air R/C shows little change in ice conditions which remain very bad in North Gorlo. Ice edge Gorodetsky. Sweeping still impossible.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0859B/16).

→ Bear Island.

Report urgently what the weather conditions are likely to be in the area to the eastward, westward and southward of Bear Island from now until 1st July.
(1st S.L. 1059B/16 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.).

Float
adrift.

One Float Q Z S 298 adrift. Request Q Z.H.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1225/16).

→ Bear Island.

Your 1059/16. Forecast of weather vicinity of Bear Island during June is not to be made until end of May when it can be obtained first hand from meteorological office Moscow. Average over 14 years in June as follows. Prevailing winds N.E. and E force 4. 9 days snow squalls, 24 days completely over-cast, 12 days fog. Tranquillization of (?flow of) broken ice may be expected this year south of island during first half of June. Growlers may be met 60 or 70 miles south of island or about 40 miles south of ice edge. Similar conditions for remainder of this month. Am personally more confident in Arctic pilot see (corrupt group) 2 1934 page 22.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1744Z/16 to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects.

BRIGHTON.

My 1928B/30/4. BRIGHTON taken in hand by Messrs. John Brown and Messrs. David Rowan for examination of machinery. Estimated time required 7 days.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1404B/16).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

Convoy F.N.⁷⁹9. WALLACE BELTOY (Collision). Two tugs proceeding Yarmouth now. If seaworthy proceed Harwich otherwise Yarmouth Road. Are tugs for WALLACE, BELTOY or both? (C. in C.Nore 1740B/16 to WALLACE). Departure Tug CHAMPION to assist. WALLACE (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1804B/16). My 1717. Holed above and below waterline port side centre boiler room. Slight flooding in other 2 boiler rooms which will be controlled by pump when steam has been raised. BELTOY has only slight damage forward and can continue with convoy WALLACE requires tug but is not in danger of sinking. (WALLACE 1815B/16). Have been taken in tow by GUILLEMOT proceeding Harwich. My position 1.5 miles east of 3 B Buoy speed 5 knots. BELTOY is proceeding with convoy to Tyne. (WALLACE 1912B/16). Departure Tug DIVERSION at 1804. Tug KROOMAN at 1858 to assist WALLACE. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1923B/16). SEDGEFLY and (corrupt signal letters) have taken over tow. Leaks are under control and have steam in number 4 boiler. Cannot arrive Cork before 0400. Intend to proceed in tow direct to Thames passing B. 8 buoy at daylight. Request hospital boat on arrival for 1(one) cot case and 2 non cot cases all burns. (WALLACE 2201B/16). WALLACE damaged in collision with S.S.BELTOY in F.N.⁷⁹9 about 1700 today now in tow of tugs proceeding to Harwich. Holed above and below waterline centre boiler room slight flooding in other boiler rooms. BELTOY proceeding with Convoy. WINDSOR has relieved WALLACE as escort for F.N.⁷⁹9. *See next page.* (C. in C.Nore 2246B/16). My 2246/16 WALLACE now proceeding to Sheerness in tow. (C. in C.Nore 2334B/16).

SPERANZA. Drifter SPERANZA has developed engine defects and onward sailing will be delayed. (N.O.I.C.Hartlepool 2137/16).

Shipping & Convoys.

C.T.16. TEXAS. C.T.16. A.M.1831/11. U.S.S. SEAC TRAIN TEXAS speed 16½ knots will sail from Clyde in convoy C.T.16. 2. Ship will embark 168 service personnel for Halifax, N.S. 3. Cominch is requested to issue instructions for onward voyage from Halifax. (D.O.D.(H.)0015B/16).

/W.N.83.....

500

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.N.83. My 1230/15. Sailed, but all ships now returned Kirkwall owing to weather. (N.C.S.O.Kirkwall 1030/16).
- QP 12. May 16th Kola Inlet arrived Capt.(D) 3rd with INGLEFIELD and ESCAPADE. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1121B/16 to C. in C.H.F.).
- C.W. and Admiralty. 1938/16.
C.E. In order to meet the requirements of Cargo discharge and obtain the maximum turn round it will be necessary to sail C.W. and C.E. Convoys on the same day. Convoys passing each other in the vicinity of Dungeness. This is considered acceptable at this time of year.
2. Escort for each Convoy will be approx. half the existing scale and will consist of one Destroyer, three or 4 M.B.B. Vessels, two or three M/S trawlers. 4 M.Ls. It may be possible to augment the Destroyer escort when more Destroyers are available in this command. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to say whether any Chasseurs or A/S trawlers are available as escorts.
3. Propose to sail CE.80 20th May and C.W.81 on 22nd May latter with reduced Escort. Commencing with C.W.81 number of Merchant Ships in convoy will normally be Maximum 14, Minimum 10.
4. Sailing dates for remainder of May to be as follows. (C. in C.Nore 1224B/16 to C. in C.Portsmouth).
- P.Q.16. P.Q.16 and Q.P.12 are not to be sailed until further orders.
→ Q.P.12. (D.O.D.H. 1425B/16 to C. in C.H.F.etc).
Sailing of P.Q.16 and Q.P.12 delayed until further orders. TRIDENT, SEAWOLF are to proceed to Seidisfiord as previously ordered. (F.O.S. 2001B/16).
- F.N.⁷⁹_{A9}. Join convoy "Arrowhead" as soon as possible. (D.16 1727/16 to WINDSOR).
See previous page. Rear of F.N.⁷⁹_{A9} anchored in fog near 3 B Buoy Van may be still under way. (WALLACE 1744B/16 to C. in C. Nore. WHADDON).
WALLACE's 1744/16. Inform WINDSOR of situation and whether she is required with van or rear. (C. in C.Nore 1815/16 to WHADDON).
C. in C.Nore's 1815. Take up position Q. Convoy in one body but (corrupt group) Straggler South of 3 C Buoy. Weighing now. (WHADDON 1904B/16 to WINDSOR).
From May Island proceed at 20 knots to meet F.N.⁷⁹_{A9}, relieving WINDSOR who has already relieved WALLACE, Convoy due Flamborough Head 1700/17. (C. in C.Rosyth 2217B/16. to LEEDS).

/OUBA.....

501

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

OUBA. D.S.T.1327/16. Owing to restricted space available in Loch Ryan in protected waters and draft of ship, request she remains Belfast Lough and that transfer to train ferry takes place there a.m./17. Train ferry would have to be used in either case. Very early reply required.
(N.O.I.C.Stranraer. 1937/16 to Admty.).

W.S.19X. Following is proposed embarkation programme for convoy W.S.19.X. Details.
(D.S.T.1952B/16).

D.S.27. Your 1513/15. Cannot agree..
(D.S.T. 2035B/16 to P.S.T.O.West of Scotland).

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BLAIRDEVON,
LOCH OSKAIG.

Have not contacted BLAIRDEVON. My position 040° 42' N. 008° 48' W. Request instructions. (LOCH OSKAIG, 0150B/16 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) SCOTTISH, IMPERIALIST, ALOUETTE.)

Sunderland
A/C attack
on Motor
Vessel.

(This is a repetition of my 0402B/16.)
Sunderland A/C Number W.3983, Number 10 Squadron, 19 Group reports engagement with Motor Vessel having S/M in company at about 1230Z/15 in 44° 07' N. 09° 09' W. R.A.F. Gibraltar CHQ/OPS 531 dated 16/5 addressed 19 Group refers.
(2) Description of M/V.
(3) Course and speed 100° 17 knots.
(Gibraltar, 0510B/16, 1728B/16 to Admty.)

TORBAY.

Your 1311/15. Request time and date of crossing 009° E. may be signalled. (F.O.C.N.A., 0910B/16 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1, S/MS on Patrol, S.O. Subs. Malta, TORBAY.) Reply V.A. Malta 1041/17.

→ JEAN BART.

American report 15/5 JEAN BART will be engaged in Target Practice from mooring port using her 4 guns of 380 mm. Date to be given shortly.

Citizens warned to protect window glass. Information confirmed by notice in French Press which adds that JEAN BART is (now finished). (C.S.A. Greenleaves, 1042/16 to S.O.I. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., for D.N.I.)

German
Shipping.

German vessels 51 JOAO PESSOA and 53 LESSEE fully loaded ready for sea. (Consul Bilbao, 1230/16 to Admty.)

→ R/C
Casablanca.

Usual R/C Casablanca 0801/16. JEAN BART (?with) booms (? in) place, and GLOIRE in usual berth. PRIMAUGUET at jetty Transversal. Entrance boom wide open. (F.O.C.N.A., 1234B/16 to Admty., etc.)

See p. 504

TRAVELLER,
P. 43.

TRAVELLER and P.43 are to proceed on surface at discretion from 043° N. through A. 037° 30' 010° 00'. B. 225° Cape St. Vincent 15 miles to R/V escort in position C. 350° Cape Spartel

5 miles.

TRAVELLER should pass A at 1100B/23, B. at 1630B/23 and arrive C at 0730B/24.

S/M P.43, should pass A. at 0300B/25, B. at 1030B/25 and arrive C at 0730B/26.

If unable to comply within 2 hours S/M should report.

Bombing restrictions arranged.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1310B/16 to TRAVELLER, P.43, (R) P.211, Capt. (S) 5, C. in C. Plymouth, Admty., F.O.S., Capt. (S) 3.)

/P. 211 ...

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

P. 211. Onward route for P. 211 on surface at C.O. discretion through -
D. 037° 01' 010° 59' at 1030B/25.
E. 036° 30' 010° 01' at 1530B/25 to R/V with escort in
C. 350° Cape Spartel 5 miles at 1000B/26.
If unable to comply within 2 hours you should report.
Bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1356B/16 to P. 211, (R) TRAVELLER, P. 43, Admty.,
F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5.)

Blockade. Your 1355, 1357 and 1400/11 (repetition of 1314/11) para. IV. Portuguese M. of M. agrees to furnish information required. Portuguese ships over 1000 tons rarely go north of Vigo.
(ii) Your para. VII. N.C.S.O. Lisbon states not all masters of Eire vessels call on him for route. Embassy have therefore been requested to notify Eire Minister here that in future all masters should call at shipping office on arrival at Lisbon and at least 24 hours before sailing and give information required otherwise we cannot accept any responsibility for vessels' safety. Request N.A. Dublin may be notified he should inform Eire Authorities there in same sense.
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 1641B/16 to Admty.)
Your 1357B/11. My Ambassador concurs Spaniards are to be informed of details suggested in your para 5, but he is of opinion and I agree this notification should be of semi-official nature and not take the form of a note, as if a note is sent we cannot very well act before reply is received.
I propose therefore to notify Spanish Under Secretary of Mercantile Marine on 18/5 that in future we must consider any vessel of over 1000 tons moved N. of Vigo without previous advice and outside territorial waters may be attacked, no matter what their markings. My Ambassador is of an opinion and I agree we may from 21/5 attack any vessel observed in this area outside territorial waters and unnotified, bearing in mind we are not answerable for Portuguese shipping.
Ambassador is fully aware of urgency preventing further blockade runners such as FUSIJAMA but still stresses answer as general rule of treating Spanish shipping with delicacy.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 1818/16 to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) Admty.)

Malta
Spitfires,
EMPIRE
CONRAD.

Your 1652/15. Important that the 32 Spitfires should be flown from EAGLE at the earliest possible date after arrival of EMPIRE CONRAD. Request you will arrange accordingly.
Air Min. are signalling A.O.C. on same subject.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1723B/16 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med.)

/Bombing ...

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Bombing restrictions. Request total bombing restrictions in following areas. Area: G.13 0730/25 - 1830/25. G.14 1200/23 - 0100/24. G.14 0500/25 - 0300/26. G.15 0800/23 - 1800/23. G.15 0001/25 - 1100/25. G.16 1700/22 - 1400/23. G.16 0230/24 - 1330/25. G.17 1400/24 - 0130/25. G.25 2000/23 - 0200/24. G.26 2300/21 - 1600/22. G.26 0230/23 - 2000/24. G.27 1000/22 - 2300/22. G.27 1730/23 - 0830/24. All times zones minus two. (F.O.C.N.A., 1 40B/16 to Admty., H.Q.C.C., (R) F.O.S.)

Damaged U/B, Cartagena. My 1058/13. British Consul Cartagena reports German S/M cannot be repaired and crew not interned. Crew living inside Arsenal and are allowed in streets because Portugal gives same treatment to Britishers. U.573. (F.O.C.N.A., 1834B/16 to Admty.)

French Shipping. Gibraltar 1045/16. French minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE, THÉSÉE full deck cargo barrels eastbound. 1301 French armed trawler LA SERVANNAISE, French ships HOGGAR, ARCTURUS laden deck cargo, producer gas lorry drums, and agricultural implements. BOURGES laden deck cargo, 3 motor lorries, 4 large cases believed aeroplanes westbound. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1943B/16 to Admty., C. in C. Med., R.A. West Africa, S.O.I. Kingston.)

U/B A/C report. Transit A/C reported S/M with large conning tower in 043° 40' N. 008° 25' W. at 1117 G.M.T. 16/5 steering south. (F.O.C.N.A., 2032B/16 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

R/C Casablanca. A. 245, 16/5. PRU/Gib/W1/16/5. 807 Squadron sortie dated 16/5 time 1950 shows Casablanca on distant oblique photo JEAN BART at usual position. Torpedo boom faintly visible. LA GALISSIONNIERE C/R almost certainly at same berth and probably DUGUAY TROUIN C/R apparently remains at Phosphate Quay. Only 2 C.Bs now visible 1 of which lies outside entrance and the other moored stern on to end of Phosphate Quay. On 15/5 2 C.Ts lay outside entrance and another was moored to jetty Delure. Only 4 S/Ms now visible at S/M berth. Other naval units apparently remain as on 14/5. Entrance boom partly open. (P.R.U. Gibraltar, 2120/16 to Air Min., Admty., H.Q.C.C.)

MALAYA, ITHURIEL, PARTRIDGE. MALAYA, ITHURIEL and PARTRIDGE are to operate under your orders until further instructions. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2242B/16 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F.)

/Suspected ...

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Suspected German ship. Following is a repetition of my 1456B/16 (Recd. undecypherable in W.R.) (Begins) My 0402/16. Photographs show ship to be flush deck type with passenger accommodation amidships and similar in most respects to German S.S. MAGDEBURG. 2. Photos being sent to D.N.I. by first available A/C. (Ends). (V.A.C.N.A., 2354/16 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

W.S. 18, Bullion for Suez. Freetown 2243/4. Request you arrange onward conveyance of 31 cases of bullion in EMPRESS OF JAPAN by first opportunity to Suez. Report name of vessel used. (D. of S.T., 0052B/16 to N.L.O. Durban, (R) P.S.T.O. South Africa.)

Air R/C Dakar. My 1555Z/15. R.A.F. report destroyer is still in Dakar. (R.A. West Africa, 0225Z/16 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

W.S. 19. Following personnel arriving Freetown in W.S.19 will require onward conveyance. 2. Following 9 personnel are for onward conveyance by air to Middle East. 3. Request you arrange accordingly. (D. of S.T., 0257B/16 to S.T.O. Freetown, R.A. West Africa.) Following transport sailed U.K. 10/5 in Convoy W.S.19. (Details.) (D. of S.T., 1558B/16 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., R.A. W.A., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.R.S., C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Overdue shipping. CHR. KNUDSEN from New York, EMPIRE PRAIRIE from Halifax, due 12/5 not arrived. (S.O.(I.) Capetown, 0910Z/16 to Admty., etc.) As amended 1908B/16.

EMPIRE AMETHYST. Your 1954B/14. EMPIRE AMETHYST no further news (my 1009Z/1 refers). (S.O.(I.) Freetown, 0950Z/16 to Admty.)

/HECLA ...

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- HECLA. HECLA arrived Simonstown 0730/16 and is being docked. Casualties 17 killed, 116 injured. Names and further signal regarding damage follow.
(C. in C. S.A., 0953B/16 to Admty., (R) HECLA.)
- DUMANA. R.A.F. Depot ship DUMANA will be ready as from 24/5 to proceed from Bathurst where she is now stationed to South Africa for drydock and exchange of native crew.
2. Request you will arrange for her to be sailed accordingly. Her estimated speed is 8 knots.
3. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should make necessary arrangements for docking etc.
(D. of S.T., 1110B/16 to S.T.O. Bathurst, (R) S.T.O. Freetown, R.A.W.Af., C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
- CARLISLE. CARLISLE's destination is Plymouth.
(D.O.D.(F), 1311B/16 to R.A.W.Af., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, A.S. Devonport, CARLISLE)
- PRETORIA CASTLE. Leave patrol at 1800/18 and return to Freetown through 005° 02' N. 021° 03' W. arriving at 0800/21.
(R.A. West Africa, 1340Z/16 to PRETORIA CASTLE, (R) ALCANTARA, C. in C. S.A., Admty., T.F. 23, C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)
- ABDIEL. Your 1229/12. Anticipate ABDIEL will be ready to sail from Durban with 2 shafts available 5/6.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1355Z/15 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., ABDIEL, N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne.)
- THAMES. Sail Dutch tug THAMES for Kilindini S. of A. 11 knots E.T.A. 22/5 direct route.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1605Z/15 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Admty., C. in C. E.I., F.O. 3rd B.S., N.O.I.C. Kilindini, S.O.(I) Kilindini.)
- S.L. 110, RAGNHILDSHOLM. Sailed in S.L. 110 RAGNHILDSHOLM Sweden (? under escort) with 2 Finnish Officers and 2 Finnish crew. These men not removed as ship would have been seriously (? delayed) and investigation shows they have removed at Calcutta and Capetown and then re-embarked.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1655Z/16 to Admty., N.C.S.O. Belfast.)

/SOUDAN ...

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SOUDAN missing. ^{/H.T. & W.D.} Your 1709 SOUDAN not with convoy. Commodore of convoy reports last seen down at bow at 1815Z/15. This was reported to GAMBIA. (CAPETOWN CASTLE. (CARLISLE, 1816B/16 to C. in C. S.A.)
(Reported as
See 15/5 - p 473.)

MONTICELLO. MONTICELLO ex Italian ship CONTE GRANDE left Rio de Janeiro 15/5 under U.S. flag destination believed to be Philadelphia. (S.O.(I.) Montevideo, 2024Z/16 to Admty.)

→ ARCHER. Proceed at best speed to destination. (R.A. West Africa, 2137Z/16 to ARCHER, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions. Weekly state ⁹¹⁶ 17/5.
Freetown EDINBURGH CASTLE, PHILOCTETES, 3 Corvettes.
Freetown area SHROPSHIRE, WIVERN, BRIDGEWATER, 5 Corvettes.
Cape to Freetown MILFORD.
Bathurst BORES, WILD SWAN.
Bathurst area DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, VELOX, ABERDEEN, HARTLAND, IBIS, 1 Corvette, PELICAN, DEPTFORD, FOLKESTONE, CLARE.

→ Ascension area ARCHER.
Pointe Noire area ~~COLOMBO~~ VINDICTIVE, 1 Corvette.
Lagos (Nigeria) 1 Corvette.
I. 34D ALCANTARA, PRETORIA CASTLE.
U.K. VANSITTART, BRILLIANT, VIMY 4 Corvettes.
Noumea from U.K. 1 Corvette.
(R.A. West Africa, 2157Z/16 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., B.A.D.)

* See 14/5 - p 445.

M.A.R.I. My 1751Z/8 (N.T. in W.R.) Further amendments to M.A.R.I. (S.O.(I.) Freetown, 2201Z/16 to all N.C.S.Os.)

Lifeboats adrift. Intercept Slangkop Radio (begins): Lifeboats adrift in approx. 185° 50 miles from Cape Agulhas any ship picking up boats report to C. in C. 2147 G.M.T./16 ends. (Valentia Radio, 2231/16 to Naval Wireless Admty., Adm. Devonport.)

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Bi-weekly A. 692, 16/5.
Opsum No.21. Night 12-13/5. 14 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting fire near Cathedral Mole. Further results obscured by heavy cloud. About 4 enemy aircraft laid mines off Delta Coast during night, 4 Beaufighters up did not sight. 2 mines exploded off Port Said following morning. Night 13/14. 11 Wellington bombed Benghazi Harbour bombs bursting on Moles. Two Wellingtons attacked 2 ships outside harbour obtaining near misses 1 possible hit, 1 Wellington missing. 2 enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria area, no damage. 2 Beaufighters unable intercept. Further 2 enemy aircraft operated off coast, believed laying mines. Night 14/15. 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour results obscured by cloud. 1 Wellington unable to reach Benghazi bombed alternative target, Martuba No. 2 landing ground, starting 3 fires.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 0957/16.)

Enemy Convoy, Cancel my 1957/15 and 2013/15. R/C shows TURBULENT. convoy to have been diverted. Suggest vicinity $031^{\circ} 50' 019^{\circ} 30'$ as productive area for the next few days.
(Capt. S.1, 1011C/16 to TURBULENT.)
At 1735C/16 P.C. and S. of 1 M/V, 1 destroyer, $035^{\circ} (? 04')$ $017^{\circ} 59' 170^{\circ} 10$ knots. Aircraft intend attack dawn.
(Capt. S.1, 1845C/16 to TURBULENT.)

Malta Your 1652/15, para. 1 and 2. This can be Spitfires, accepted.
EMPIRE (V.A. Malta, 1159B/16 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., CONRAD. C. in C. Med.)

R.A.T.E. Admty. 2259/6. R.A. R.J.R. Scott will hoist his flag as R.A. Training Establishment, at Alexandria on 18/5. After he has taken over duty and appreciated situation as regards training and drafting for Mediterranean, which must in the main apply also to E.I. and S.A. Stations, proposed to send him by air to Kilindini about 1/6 to survey whole problem, proceed other place(s) in E. or S. Africa if after consultation with F.O.I.C. Kilindini it appears desirable to survey possible sites for training establishment in area. Do you concur?
(C. in C. Med., 1230C/16 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)
Concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1044B/20.)

Hospital Your 2000/14. Para 3 (A) concur. Para. 3 (B) Ships. concur generally. Time of sailing, route, S. of A. and E.T.A. will be broadcast in P/L by Alexandria and Malta on 500 kc/s, and ships will be told to report their position every 6 hours in P/L on 500 kc/s, this, signal also being rebroadcast by Alexandria and Malta. This information will be promulgated as soon as possible before the movement takes place.
(C. in C. Med., 1312/16 to Admty., (R) V.A.M., H.Q.M.E.)

/Suez ...

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Suez. Navigation. (S.O.I. Colombo 1528Z/16) See
Massawa. East Indies.
Navigation. (S.O.I. Colombo 1532Z/16) See
East Indies.

SULLBERG ? Arrived.
(German) (Cartagena, 1615/16 to M.W.T.)

Messina, Photo R/C a.m./16th. Messina. 2 Cavour battle-
Palermo. ships, 2 8" cruisers, 2 6" cruisers, 4 destroyers
1 submarine.
Palermo, 1 destroyer in dry dock.
(V.A. Malta, 1710B/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Malta Air I. 297, 16/5. C.S.R. Malta, Part 1, 15th.
Report. 4 alerts, 1340 hours, 20 Me.109, Macchi 202s,
1 R/C Ju.88, 2 Macchi 202s. (?) 1 Me.109
destroyed, 1 Me.109 probably destroyed, 1 Me.
109 damaged by 6 Spitfires. 1504 and 1618 hours, rescue
search by unknown enemy aircraft, 4 Spitfires, no combat.
1829 hours 6 Me.109s, 3 Ju.88. ?Ta Kali, craters aerodrome,
Beaufighter no interceptions, A/A fired. Night 15th and 16th
alert 0101 hours, 4 raiders, no damage, Beaufighter no inter-
ceptions, A/A fired. 16th, 3 alerts, 0425 hours, 20 Me.109s,
1 R/C Ju.88, 6 Spitfires up, no combat, A/A Fired. 0910 hours
approx. 20 Me.109, some with bombs, 5 Macchi 202, 4 Cant 1007,
1 Ju.88. Ta Kali, 2 airmen killed, 1 wounded, 1 Spitfire
destroyed, another damaged, craters dispersal, 1 Cant 1007,
1 Macchi 202 probably destroyed, 2 Me.109 damaged by 16
Spitfires. 2 Spitfires damaged in combat, 1 crash landed,
pilots safe, A/A fired. 1234 hours, 26 Me.109, 10 Macchi
202, 1 Ju.88. Kalafrana, no damage, 1 Macchi 202, 1 Me.109
destroyed, 1 Me.109, 1 Macchi 202 damaged by 13 Spitfires.
1 Spitfire damaged in combat, pilot safe, A/A fired. 249
Squadron which arrived Malta 21/5/41 scored its 100th victory
today.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1715/16.)

Situation Central Medn. Malta successfully reinforced
Report 214. with 60 Spitfires from U.S. Carrier WASP. (06:30:00)
WELSHMAN with stores passed into and out of
Malta. E-Boats trying to intercept off Malta
driven off and damaged by BERYL and TRUSTY STAR.
2. Operation M.G.2. See my 1016/12 and my 1942/14 to 1st
S.L. Number picked up 630.
3. Western Desert. Several U-Boat sightings and attacked by
aircraft. 2 bomb hits claimed by Blenheim at 1336/12 in
31.16 N. 28.46 E. U-Boat considered certainly damaged. RAMB
IV bombed and sunk in Alexandria Channel at 0900/10 see my
2232/10. Casualties heavy among patients from Tobruk.

/4. Alexandria ...

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Situation Report 214. (Contd.)
4. Alexandria. Human torpedo attack night 14/15. See my 1951/15 and R.A.L. 2034/15. Enemy failed to penetrate harbour defences. 3 craft identified. 4 men captured, clothing of 2 more recovered. Minor air raids nights 9/10 and 13/14, (? no) naval damage, one enemy shot down by gunfire 9/10.
4. Levant. Enemy mining offensive continued by aircraft and possibly U-Boats. S.S. HAV mined at 1700/1 (?) MOUNT OLYMPUS at 1705/14 and S.S. FRED shortly afterwards all off Port Said. MOUNT OLYMPUS total loss. HAV beached. FRED beached but may not be seriously damaged.
5. AMBER and later other A/S craft attacked firm contact at 1145/14 in 31.24 N. 32.29 E., result uncertain.
6. OILSHIPPER entered Aegean 0415/8 and was dive-bombed at 0715/9 off Suna. She has twice been beached since but refloated and is still making progress.
7. Submarines. On 2/5 PROTEUS hit with 2 torpedoes*4,000 ton ship in southbound convoy in 38.39 N. 20.22 E., ship later beached. At 1545/5, in 37.8 N. 21.20 E. PROTEUS sank by gunfire heavily laden 60-ton schooner after allowing Greek crew to abandon ship. Greeks cheered lustily throughout the gunnery practices. Publicity A.2.
8. Loss of URGE see my 2132/9. ORUC REIS turned over to Turkey 9/5.
(C. in C. Med., 1808C/16 to Admty.) *OTTO LEONHARDT. 3682 Tons.
(Torpedo Attack Register.)

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.VALIANT,
INDOMITABLE,
REVENGE,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Your 0705Z/11 para. 1. According to Capt. Supt. 1420B/13 to C.in C. Med. only, VALIANT's refit should be completed on 24/6 and as she should not require a long work up she should be available for service considerably earlier than you suggest.

(2) Could INDOMITABLE defects be made good by 1/6?

(3) State of affairs regarding fitting of additional armour to 'R' class is realised. Unlikely that it will be possible to fit armour for REVENGE and ROYAL SOVEREIGN during their forthcoming refits but steps will be taken to send it to Durban as soon as practicable.

(1st S.L., 0141B/16 to C.in C. E.F.)

Reply: C.in C. E.F. 1450/19.

CHITRAL,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

My 1157/15 not to all addressees (N.T.in W.D.) and your 0518/15. Request you will sail CHITRAL as soon as essential defects are complete to join any search or rescue operation you may have arranged before she proceeds to Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I., 0337Z/16 to Cdre. W.Australia. (R) A.C.N.B., C.in C. E.F., Admty.)

Salaya
Harbour.

Comply with Admty. 1635/13 passed to you. (b: 419.) (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0433Z/16 to INVESTIGATOR.)

Naval
Aircraft.

Policy agreed between C.in C. E.F., S.O.(A) E.F., and Com. N.A.S. Eastern Theatre for naval aircraft in Ceylon. (C.in C. E.I., 0540Z/16 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

PANGKOR
defects.

PANGKOR arrived Karachi 0431Z/16 with engine room and asdic defects. Estimate 10 days to effect repairs. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0626Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Drafting
Organisation.

Reply to Admty. 2259B/6. (C.in C.E.I., 0855Z/16 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

VILLE DE
MAJUNGA.Extract from a Fairmiss Telegram:-
French Ship VILLE DE MAJUNGA.
(Mombasa, 0913Z/16 to D.S.T.)S.S. NANKIN
bombed.

S.S. NANKIN gunned and bombed by unknown aircraft in 026° 43' S. 089° 56' E. at approx. 0900Z/ (?10th). (C.in C. E.I., 1018Z/16 to S.and A. E.I.) W.D. Note. A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0741Z/16 gives date of this incident as 10/5. See Australia.

/ Trincomalee ...

E.I.
571A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 05402/16 MAY IN

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 16/5/42.
Recd. 1606

NAVAL CYPHER C BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet,
S.O.(A) E.F. C. in C. Ceylon, Cmdr. N.A.S.
Eastern Theatre, Group 222, S.N.S.O. Durban,
S.N.S.O. Simonstown.

IMPORTANT

643. Following is summary of policy agreed
between C. in C. Eastern Fleet, S.O.(A) E.F. and Cmdr.
N.A.S. Eastern Theatre for naval aircraft in Ceylon on
23rd April 1942 S.O.(A) E.F. 1519F 23rd April not to
all addressees.

(a) 6 Sea Hurricanes to be used for defence of Ceylon
until they can be released then to Coimbatore or Cochin
as reserve for H.M.S. INDOMITABLE.

(b) Fulmars of 273 Squadron R.A.F. and Albacores of
818 Squadron R.N. to be put into storage at Coimbatore
as soon as released from defence of Ceylon.

(c) 814 Squadron to Cochin Bombay or Africa as soon as
released from defence of Ceylon. C. in C. East Indies
1219Z 26th April and A.M. 1459B 2nd May indicates
action taken to implement first part of this policy for
803 X and 814 Squadron. 273 Squadron remaining at China
Bay 818 Squadron is stationed Katukurunda for
reconnaissance and reserve short range striking force.
Provisioning action for these squadrons so far as stocks
were available was taken on basis of 3 months maximum
operating from Ceylon. Since then all F.A.A. aircraft
and stores have been diverted to Africa. There are
already many shortages 814 lost all unit equipment in
H.M.S. HERMES and 803 X Squadron never had any.
Present state of squadrons summarized as follows.

<u>Squad. No.</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Unit equipment held</u>	<u>Tools held</u>	<u>Spares held</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
814	12 Sword- fish	10%	60%	One month's supply	Aircraft not fitted A.S.V. L.R.T. or Beacon
803 X	6 Sea Hurricanes	Nil	30%	Most items nil	Sharing facilities and equip- ment with No. 30 Squad. R.A.F.

818/.....

<u>Squad.No.</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Unit equipment held</u>	<u>Tools held</u>	<u>Spares held</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
818	Pool of 10 Albacores	Sufficient for 5 aircraft	70%	1 month's supply few items only	6 pilots one observer all aircraft except one due 180 hrs. and/or new engine in 3 weeks time.

222 Group states period these squadrons required for defence of Ceylon may be 6 months. It would appear that policy as regards retention of Fleet Air Arm aircraft for defence of Ceylon was not framed to cover such a prolonged period. The misunderstanding between R.A.F. and Fleet Air Arm would not have occurred if time had permitted of discussion between S.O. Aircraft Carriers and A.O.C. Ceylon. The R.A.F. are themselves in a very bad state as regards spares, tools and general user stores and although they are helping as far as they are able and action is being taken to make or purchase equipment and tools locally if it is decided to make provision for the operation of a squadron for 6 months it will be necessary to take immediate action to obtain from Durban or Simonstown necessary stores and spares to augment to scale of 6 months the stock retained in Ceylon. Request approval.

0540/16

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D. (F), D.N.A.D.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
4th 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.
D.N.A.D. for action
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Hd. of M.
Hd. of Air.
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.T.S.D.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Bellairs.
D.A.M.
D.A.M. R.
D. of S.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of L.D. (2)

0855Z/16 May.

511A E1. 113

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 17.5.42.

Received 0600.

Naval Cypher C by cable

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet. C. in C. South Atlantic.

648. Your 2259B 6th May establishment of local drafting organisation for purposes mentioned in 2nd para has already been found essential and drafting section of my office has progressed growing to present strength of one Paymaster Licut. and 4 writers plus one Licut (E) and one Signal Boatswain.

(ii) As regards location three requirements are involved (a) drafting pool. (b) Training establishment. (c) Rest camp.

(iii) Consider essential that drafting pool should be located in or very near main fleet base. Time in transit between two ports may be a month or more. In the past Colombo has been the geographical centre of the station and the one port to which all ships came sooner or later for rest refit and exercise. Colombo was therefore the obvious site of the pool with the added advantage that ratings from U.K. for disposal could be diverted to ships from Durban and Bombay.

(iv) While the Eastern Fleet is operating as a whole from Kilindini a change is obviously needed. Steps are already in hand to transfer drafting section to Kilindini and it is proposed to transfer pool there if or as soon as accommodation is available. When fleet moves east again, the pool (or a large part of it) will need to move too. This probably prevents inclusion of South Atlantic Pool in same organization.

(v) Location of Training Camp must be determined by facilities. Workshops are needed for training engine room ratings and sea for A/S training. Of Indian Ocean Ports Durban and Bombay alone seem suitable but Bombay is already occupied with R.I.N. Training and projected R.N. and R.I.N. A/S School, and atmosphere of Durban is perhaps unsuited for study. Recommend both be investigated but as immediate measure suggest use of Alexandria.

(vi) Conditions of life afloat on station are not pleasant and rest camp to provide change of climate and environment is essential. Since main chance of making survey of it occurs during refit, its location must be governed by nearness to refitting port. Colombo is well catered for by Diyatalawa. Bombay has in the past had the use of army camp at Deolali but believe Army may now require sole use. Inquiry in progress and site for naval camp being investigated in case required. Nairobi and Durban require investigation.

(vii) Combined organization in South Africa (last paragraph A.M.). This is attractive if combined with "ready use" drafting pools at fleet bases but I have no personal knowledge of the Union and prefer not to give a considered opinion.

(viii) Summary of recommendations. Drafting pool at Kilindini or possibly Nairobi. Training initially at Alexandria but Durban and

/ Bombay.....

511^D

Bombay to be investigated. Rest camp at Bombay in hand.
Durban and Nairobi to be investigated. Nairobi drafting pool
and rest camp would of course be combined.

(ix) In view of changes in command that are about to
take place I assume Commander Robinson would visit Kilindini first.

(x) Request C. in C. Eastern Fleet and C. in C. South
Atlantic will remark.

0855Z/16.

- 2nd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- D.P.S. (2).
- N.A. 2nd S.L. (2).
- Ops. (3).
- O.D. (5).
- D.T.S.D.
- C.W. (2).
- I.P. (3).
- W.D.
- M. (5).
- N.O.P.S. 280/42/M)
- D. of P. (3).
- P.D.G.
- E.A.P.

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Trincomalee Moorings. C.in C. E.I., 0543Z/4 para.3. First and second class moorings are urgently required for use of Eastern Fleet at Trincomalee. Request early report as to number and class of moorings which could be provided from stock or by lifting from Calcutta or other Indian ports, giving estimated time required. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1208B/16 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) C.in C. E.I., C.in C. E.F.)

M.B. 5. Convoy sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1229Z/16 to Admty.)

Union Censorship. Pass following message to - D.D.M.I., D.H.Q. Pretoria from Robertson. Admiral informs that all messages must pass South Africa Censorship in Union. Follows they must then be sent in code which completely impracticable. Suggest authorise me censor messages from South Africa point of view. Only present problem disclosure presence of South Africa Air Force. Obtain advice of Louis Esselen then ask London instruct Admiral accordingly. Military and Naval censorship covered here. (Ends.)
(S.O.Force F., 1259C/16 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

Diego Suarez Dockyard. S.O. Force F reports (a) Diego Suarez dockyard could be made most valuable to fleet (b) dock will * take 8-inch cruisers. Now occupied by SPIND, WARTENFELS. (c) Ship (?slip) is repairable. (d) 1 caisson undamaged which is enough. (e) Adjacent machine shops undamaged and French willing to operate them. (f) At present only labour available is from Fleet. 2. I consider development of this yard to be of highest importance and request necessary dockyard and other experts may be flown out to examine facilities and report what is required to make dockyard efficient. (C.in C. E.F., 1305Z/16 to Admty. (R) C.in C.E.I., C.in C.S.A.).
* The word "not" was inserted later.

Suez. Instructions for entering.
(S.O.I.Colombo, 1528Z/16 to All concerned QCA 475).

Navigation, Massawa. Massawa. Southern searched channels. (details). 2. Ships keep to starboard. 3. Passage of this Channel should be made in daylight.
(S.O.I.Colombo, 1532Z/16 to All concerned QCA 476).

U.S. Dispositions. My 1237B/6. Following changes in dispositions of U.S. Forces:-
Battleships: NEVADA - Repairing at Bremerton.
Aircraft Carriers: ENTERPRISE } South Pacific Area.
 HORNET }
8" Cruisers: PENSACOLA }
 CHICAGO }
 VINCENNES }
 SALT LAKE CITY } In South Pacific Area.
 NORTHAMPTON. }
 INDIANAPOLIS - At Brisbane.

See p. 522
(Mobe. trans ts)

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

U.S. Dispositions. (contd.) 6" Cruisers: ST. LOUIS - Escorting to Pearl Harbour.
DETROIT - At San Francisco.
See p. 516 SAN DIEGO - At Balboa.
ATLANTA - Left Pearl Harbour 10/5.
BOISE - Due San Francisco 16/5.
NASHVILLE - At Pearl Harbour.
RICHMOND - At Tonga Tabu.
HONOLULU - At Samoa.
CONCORD)
TRENTON) - en route Balboa.
(D.O.D.(F) 1536B/16 to C.in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.,
A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q.)

Air Report. A. 929 16/5. Intelligence summary number 62 on information received up to 1800 16/5. Burma. - Akyab attacked by Wellingtons 15/5, bombs across runways causing considerable damage. Aerodrome buildings and town machine gunned, no serviceable aircraft seen. Aerodrome apparently not in use by enemy, no opposition. Bay of Bengal. 2 Hudsons 15/5 covered same areas as 14/5. 2 Hudsons R/C. off Hooghly and seawards 15/5, no enemy sightings. Ceylon-Coastal patrols and Catalina. Patrols 15/5 300 miles East of Ceylon - negative. (A.H.Q. India, 1715/16).

Bases. 88870. Cipher (M.O.12a) 16/5. Your 11688/G 12/5. Priority Indian Ocean bases under examination. You will be informed earliest. (W.O., 1930/16 to C.in C. India.)

Aircraft My 1635/10/4 and S.O. A.C.E.F. 0733/13. Shipping
Airscrews. details as follows:
(D.of S. 2038B/16 to FORMIDABLE)

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.→ VANQUISHER
WEYBURN.Your ^{*}1855Z/15 (N.T.in W.D.) VANQUISHER and WEYBURN searching independently in area until 0300Z/16 then proceeding Halifax. Weather report.

(VANQUISHER, 0158Z/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

** See U/B, below.*S/M
R.18.

U.S. S/M R.18 departing New London on direct route to position bearing 020° distant 300 miles from Mount Hill Light, Bermuda, will pass 7 miles east of Montauk Point at 0100Z day 19.

Advancing 100 miles per day submerged during daylight. Surfaced or submerged at discretion during darkness. Bombing restrictions requested 15 miles each side 50 miles ahead and astern estimated positions.

(C.in C. U.S. Fleet, 0311/16 to Admty. etc.)

→ U/B.

A/C reported possible S/M in 046° 33' N. 057° 05' W. at ^{*}1855Z/15. U.S.S. BUCK and U.S.S. BRISTOL investigating.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0314Z/16 to Admty.)

** See VANQUISHER, WEYBURN, above.*U/B
attack.

Intercepted 0340 G.M.T./15. de WNU (New Orleans Radio). WGBC 1. Sub attack 26.40 N. 89.10 W. 2205/15. Commandant 8th Naval District. Controlling Station Kenner Radio. (Portishead Radio, No T.O.O., Recd.0605/16).

P.552
S.C.83.

(A) C.C.N.F. 1732/11 para.2. Amend route as follows. From (B) to (F) 59° 01' N. 25° 02' W. thence (D) omitting (C). (B) Convoy S C 83 approaching 55° 35' N. 32° 20' W. at 0800Z/17

thence 57° N. 28° W. thence R/V in 57° 04' N. 26° 08' W. S.of A. 6½ knots. U.S. Destroyers ^{* WILLIAM D.} DUANE and BADGER from Iceland (C) will join convoy at above R/V, estimated speed 15 knots. (C) Total bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.S., 0723B/17 to P.552 (R) Admty. etc.)** Cruising Cuba.*St.Lucia
defences.

Your 1242P/15 (Anti-torpedo material in DRAMATIST). Should this be used at Vieuxfort as defences of Port Castries appear satisfactory? (R.N.O. St.Lucia, 0931Q/16 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Your 0934/16 (0931/16/5 intended) Length is insufficient for this purpose. Baffle should be laid at Port Castries in place of or in addition to present obstruction, which cannot be regarded as completely satisfactory from anti-torpedo point of view.

(C.in C. A.W.I., 1852P/16 to R.N.O. St. Lucia).

BRABANT
(torpedoed
14/5).

S.S. BRABANT torpedoed 011° 32' N. 062° 43' W. at 0200Z/14. 12 survivors landed at Trinidad. N O B pass to Comcarib. (F.O. Trinidad, 1032Q/16 to C.in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. etc.)

/ U/B ...

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B. Coast Watcher report: unidentified S/M sighted at Channel Head 047° 28' N. 059° 07' W. at 0540/16, half submerged steering in a N.W. direction. Estimated speed 10 - 12 knots. (F.O.N.F., 1126Z/16 to C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

U/Bs. Master of Brazilian Schooner HYAT at Georgetown reports sighting A.M./6, 2 S/Ms under way 10 miles off shore between Cape Orange and Cayenne. At noon same day sighted two more of smaller type. That night Master sighted 3 brilliant blue flares in sky. (S.O.(I) Jamaica., 1208R/16 to Admty. etc.)

Tankers and Shipping Routes. My 1132/13 para.3. Delete first 10 words and substitute "All shipping from Gulf of Mexico bound for U.K. including tankers". (2) Attention is called to para. 5 of same message. (C.in C.A.W.I., 1302P/16 to All N.C.S.O's C.S.A's and R.O's holding routeing instructions at Atlantic Ports. Jamaica Intelligence Area. (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica). Correction made in 1132/13.

BEDFORDSHIRE overdue. H.M. Trawler BEDFORDSHIRE has not been seen or heard of since 2000/11 when she was patrolling off Cape Lookout, North Carolina. Search by surface craft and aircraft has been carried out since 12/5. No cause of loss nor evidence of loss can be given, but a Submarine was reported that same night in the same area. Considered ship must now be presumed lost with no survivors. Further enquiry will be held when other vessels on patrol return when a report will then be made accordingly. (B.A.R.M., 1302Z/16 to Admty.)

My 1302/16. /
1. H.M.T. STELLA POLARIS reports that when in 34° 52.5' N. 75° 34' W. at 2342/11 a loud explosion was heard to Southward.
2. This was not investigated. 3. At 0630/12 a torpedo was fired at H.M.T. ST.LOMAN patrolling in 34° 11' N. 76° 27' W.
4. BEDFORDSHIRE orders for night of 11/12 May were to patrol between No.4 buoy, approx. 34° 53' N. 75° 31' W. and No.14 buoy, 34° 18' N. 76° 24' W.
(B.A.R.M. 1900Z/16 to Admty.)
/ Presumed loss of trawler BEDFORDSHIRE. *Sum 12 by U.558. See 12/5 - p. 390*

M.A.R.I. amendment. Your 1635Z/15 (N.T.in W.D.) Following is repetition of A.M.1712B/14 repeated to you. (Begins). From Admty. pass to F.O.'s I.C. and N.C.S.O.'s Amendment No.9 to M.A.R.I. - Sect.II part (i) (b), delete "ON (South)". (Ends). (D.T.D.1308Z/16 to Opnav)

/ U.S. ...

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.S. and
Convoy
Routeing.

Effective forthwith. C.in C. U.S. Fleet has assumed cognizance of matters pertaining to convoy and convoy routeing in lieu Opnav. Messages pertaining foregoing to be addressed accordingly. Request addressees notify forces their commands.
(C.T.F.24, 1351/16 to F.O. N.F., C.O.A.C., C.in C. W.A. (R) Cinclant, Opnav, C.in C.U.S. Fleet).

Trinidad
Shipping.

In view of Admty 1412/16 (N.T.in W.D.) should ships be sailed to Gulf and westward of Trinidad?

Your 1421/16.

(N.O.I.C.Trinidad, 1421Q/16 to C.in C. A.W.I.) Ships bound for Curacao and Aruba should await escort. Other ships should be sailed and will be diverted at sea by me if necessary.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 2302P/16 to F.O.I.C. Trinidad (R) Admty. S.O.I. Jamaica).

KENOGAMI,
attack on
U/B.

Carried out 6 attacks on contact at 0815Z/16th in 049° 03' N. 064° 02' W. Contact faded after last attack. 33 charges fired. Search abandoned at 1045Z when dense fog closed down. Weather report.
(KENOGAMI 1430Z/16 to C.O.A.C. (R) Opnav etc.)

U.S.
Dispositions.

My 1151B/6. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Atlantic:-
Battleships: NEW YORK - Left Iceland 12/5 for U.S.
WASHINGTON - At Iceland.
Aircraft WASP - Due depart U.K. 18/5
Carriers: for U.S.
RANGER - Due Trinidad 22/5.
LONG ISLAND - Left Norfolk 10/5.
8" Cruisers: TUSCALOOSA } - At Iceland.
WICHITA }
6" Cruisers CINCINNATI } - In Caribbean area.
SAVANNAH }
JUNEAU }
MILWAUKEE - Left Ascension 14/5 for patrol.
OMAHA - Left Pernambuco 11/5 for patrol.
PHILADELPHIA - Off New London
BROOKLYN - In U.K.
SAN JUAN - At Casco.
MARBLEHEAD - Repairing
MEMPHIS - Left Trinidad 11/5 for Martinique.
SAN DIEGO - Proceeding Pacific.
(D.O.D.(F) 1458B/16 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C.A.W.I. N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- KOSMOS II. Your 1821/15. KOSMOS II should be sailed.
(D.T.D.1504B/16 to S.B.N.O. Curacao).
- Ice report (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1515Z/16 to Admty. etc.)
May 15.
- TIBERIUS Due Port au Prince 12/5 from New York, not
(Dutch) arrived.
(S.O.(I.) Jamaica, 1517R/16 to Admty.)
- O.N. Concur Admty.1101B/15. For O N Convoys,
Convoy C.T.F. 24 continue to arrange Westomp and
Routeing. C.O.A.C. Halifax designated onward route from
062° W. and breaking off point.
(Opnav, 1540/16 to Admty.etc. as amended 1630/18)
- Halifax, Ref.Cominch 1901Z/23 para.H. In view of
Newfoundland commencement of coastal convoys between Boston
Commands, and Halifax it is desirable to promulgate
boundaries. boundaries of C.O.A.C. Halifax and F.O.N.F.'s
Commands. Until such time as new boundaries of
Eastern Sea Frontier have been established,
proposed to use limits laid down in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1940Z/25/3
to Opnav only. This signal gave the eastern and southern
limits of Canadian QJA area as lines joining the following
positions:
A. Cape Murchison 063° 15' N. 064° W.
B. 047° N. 047° W.
C. 043° N. 049° W.
D. 042° N. 066° W.
E. Lurcher Shoal lightship, thence following the northern
boundary of Eastern Sea Frontier to West Quoddy Head. Dividing
line between C.O.A.C.Halifax's and F.O.N.F.'s commands will be
the same as that laid down in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2155Z/6/6 1941,
not to Cominch, which gives western and southern limits of
F.O.N.F.'s command, 57th meridian in the Straits of Belle Isle
thence down west and south coast, Newfoundland to Ramea Island
light 47° 30' N. 57° 24' W. thence a line drawn 135° to the
seaward limit of command.
(N.S.H.Q., 1555Z/16 to Cominch (R) Admty. etc.)(as amended
1805Z/17) Concur (Cominch 2130/20).
- S/M U.S. Submarine Notice. R.9 leaves Bermuda
R.9. 2330Z/17 proceeding submerged in daylight,
surfaces or submerges in darkness to patrol
station 440 miles bearing 052° from Bermuda.
Speed 90 miles per day. Total bombing restrictions.
(Opnav, 1621/16 to C.T.F. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29., C.T.G.23.4.,
U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH, C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F. (R) C.T.F.25, Admty.,
C.O.A.C., N.O.B. Bermuda, C.in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

/ Route ...

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War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Route Instructions. Your 1232/15. (A) We anticipate N.S.H.Q. will continue to send inter-station Vescas to Jamaica obtained from information given in Merco signals. We have particularly requested Opanav to arrange for Mercosignals from Galveston, New Orleans, Jacksonville to be repeated to S.O.(I) Jamaica as in existing Vesca routine. Now that Tampa, Key West and Charleston are independent they are also being ordered to repeat Vescas to Jamaica and Opanav will be asked to continue this routine with Merco. (B) Hoped that British R.O.'s will be able to draw U.S.R.O.'s attention to existing arrangements for Caribbean routeing. (N.S.H.Q. 1621Z/16 to C.in C. A.W.I., (R) B.A.D., Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica) See also Admty. 2247B/16.

Ocean Escort Groups. Detachment of mid-ocean group B 5 reduces lay-over time of remaining groups to extent that it is impracticable for mid-ocean escorts to continue from Westomp to Sydney (C.B.) as proposed in para (?a) of my 1901Z/23/4. Request your comments on proposition that ships for St. Lawrence and Sydney (C.B.) make Halifax for further escort as in para.G. B.A.D. Washington informed. (C.in C. U.S.Fleet, 1623/16 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.) Reply: Admty. 1307/21.

BRITISH COLONY (torpedoed 13/5) My 1430/15. Further enquiries show all secret documents thrown overboard in deep water in weighted steel box. Vessel seen to sink. 1 submarine which spoke to Master of lifeboat is described as very large, 2 guns, 6-inch and 4-inch, noticeable, square conning tower not stream lined. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 1630/16 to Admty.)

PARTHIAN. My 1052/15 PARTHIAN delayed 48 hours. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1632P/16, to Opanav (R) Admty. etc.)

Sailing PARTHIAN when ready about 18/5 through point
R. 034° 30' N. 053° 00' W.
S. 035° 30' N. 038° 00' W.
T. 034° 40' N. 023° 00' W. thence to Gibraltar. N.O.I.C. Bermuda pass to N.O.B. Bermuda.
(C.in C. U.S.Fleet 1716/16 to N.O.B. Bermuda)
W.D. Note. Comment on U.S. action in sailing PARTHIAN, see C.in C. A.W.I. 1101P/17.

M.T.B. 338, explosion. Explosion followed by fire occurred on board M.T.B. 338 while hauled up on Archer Coal Co. slip. Boat complete wreck. No serious casualties. Enquiry will be held. Cause at present not known. (F.O.I.C. Trinidad 1701Q/16 to C.in C.A.W.I. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy S.C.84. My 1333Z/14 ST. CROIX will sail with BROADWAY to overtake S.C.84. (F.O.N.F.1701Z/16 to Opanav (R) Admty. etc.)

ROBIN TUXFORD, U/B. Following from Georgetown B.G.1200Z/16, SSSS ROBIN TUXFORD, U.S. Submarine sighted 11° 36' N. 050° 19' W. Britman Washington pass to Cominch and Opanav. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1713P/16 to Admty.)

TABORFJELL. Your 1639/15 3 survivors from TABORFJELL landed here 7/5 and were sent to Halifax Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission by Norwegian Consul without contacting this office. (N.C.S.O. St.John's N.F., 1721Z/16 to N.S.H.Q.)

QUEEN MARY, E.T.A. of troopships. Navy Dept. states QUEEN MARY arrived New York 6 hours before her E.T.A. which rendered the surface and air escort which had been ordered to meet her useless. In order to avoid this in future propose this special class of troop transports should be instructed either to adjust arriving on time at port of destination or R/V or alternatively to break W/T silence 24 hours beforehand on H/F if their time of arrival will be more than one hour different from E.T.A. (B.A.D. 1727Z/16 to Admty.)

U/B. Grand Cayman reports BWKR B2 submarine sighted 0830N15/5, 3 miles E. of Grand Cayman. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1747/16 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy Escort System. In accordance with recommendations of cognizant authorities system proposed in my 1901/23 will begin with convoys H.X.191, S.C.85, O.N.S.92. U.S. C.N.O. informed. (C.in C. U.S.Fleet, 1846/16 to Admty. etc.)

T.F. 38. Admty. 2235Z/15 (?2335/15 intended - repetition of 0016/16 (N.T.in W.D.) para.5 refers to provision of onward route to Hampton Roads for Task Force 38). Complied with para.5. (C.in C. U.S.Fleet, 1847/16 to C.in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S.)

TRINIDAD. Will not now proceed to U.S.A. for repairs. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1850B/16 to B.A.R.M.)

DORELIAN (Br.) Due Port au Prince 7/5 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1901R/16 to Admty. etc.) Arrived Montreal, See 1854Z/18.

/ U/B ...

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

U/B reports. Sub attack and sighting summary. AMAPALA shelled 26° 40' N. 89° 10' W. approx. 2232Z/15. M/V reports seeing explosion and vessel on fire followed by sound of gunfire at 28° 42' N. 90° 13' W. 0915Z/16. ALCOA PURITAN, 2 torpedoes 75 rounds fired 50 hits. ONTARIO approx. 120 rounds of 3 and 5-inch shells. TUSCALOOSA CITY 18° 25' N. 81° 31' W. 1921Z/4. 3 torpedoes. BIDEVIND U - 45 type. Plane attacks sub on surface 35° 35' N. 74° 35' W. Approx. 1635Z/15. Plane attacks sub on surface 36° N. 74° 50' W. 1629Z/15 with possible damage. YO - 61 sights sub 24° 40' N. 82° 40' W. 0447Z/16. Opnav and B.A.D. informed.
(C.in C. U.S. Fleet, 1906/16 to Admty. (R) C.C.S.F., C.E.S.F., C.Q.S.F.)

U.S. dispositions. 17/5. This is Atlantic Fleet location sheet No.22. SAVANNAH at Bermuda, NORTH CAROLINA at Casco Bay, T.F.36 is due at Trinidad on 21/5, 2 destroyers are due at New York on 19/5, TEXAS and PHILADELPHIA are at Hampton Roads. (Cinclant, 1915/16 to Admty.)

O.N.592 survivors. S.S. BURY, Rescue ship ex O.N.592, arrived with 178 survivors.
(N.C.S.O. St.Johns N.F., 1931Z/16 to Admty. as amended 1400Z/17).

U/B CALDWELL. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimates S/M in approx. 041° 30' N. 062° W. steering W. at 1600Z/16.
(N.S.H.Q., 2003Z/16 to CALDWELL (R) Admty.etc.)

U/Bs. S/M sighted by Clipper at 1750Z/16 11° 22' N. 62° 00' W. Army plane sighted another at 13° 20' N. 169° (?69°) 30' W. at 1230Z/16.
(Cominch, 2020/16 to N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.in C. A.W.I., Admty.)

Shipping Routeing Signals. Your 1851B/15. Due to C.in C. A.W.I. not having proper code suggest S.O.(I) Kingston forward route and Merco 825 to C.in C. A.W.I.
(C.in C. U.S.Fleet, 2022/16 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Kingston, C.in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

U/B. S/M sighted 1 mile off Cape Magdalen steering N.E. at 1915Z/16.
(Halifax, 2025Z/16 to Admty.)

COMAYAGUA. Deliver to Spenavo for action (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Opnav Serial 16. COMAYAGUA, Honduran, torpedoed and sunk 14/5 19° 26' N. 81° 30' W. 35 crew and Master picked up.
(Opnav 2050/16.)

/ Route ...

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Route Your 1232P/15.
Instructions. 1. Giro contains instructions to U.S.R.Os only for making Merco and U.S. Route Signals.
2. Substitution of Merco for Vesca signals is not intended to affect operation of British interstation Vesca and Route Signal System. Your Para.A. In North American continent U.S.R.Os. will repeat to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, who in turn will repeat necessary information to S.O.(I) Jamaica and C.in C.A.W.I. British System is flexible and permits of special arrangements at certain ports, e.g. Ottawa. Routeing Summary, art.700, sub para.(c), provides for New Orleans, Galveston and Jacksonville to repeat their reports direct to S.O.(I) Jamaica. O.R.S. has not been officially accepted but is favourably regarded by Navy Dept. and Giro is largely based on it. Would similar arrangements for certain specific ports meet requirements of C.in C. A.W.I.? Your Para.(B). Principles of through routeing are contained in N.C.S.I. 395 Sect.17. B.A.D. is requested to approach Navy Dept. with a view to inclusion of similar instructions in Giro Chap.II para.14 and also to promulgate to addressees list of ports where U.S. Routeing Officers are or will be appointed.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2247B/16 to C.in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)

PENELOPE. Due Bermuda 0900P/17 to fuel. E.T.A. New York will be communicated in due course.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 2312P/16 to Opanav etc.)

War Diary.16.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

A.C.N.B. and S.W. Pacific Area. Your 2107B/10. Inclusion of Australia in S.W. Pacific area means that U.S. Naval Commander is responsible for operational control of the seagoing squadron placed under his command. He is located in Navy Office, Melbourne, and maintains close liaison with Australian C.N.S. The Operational, Planning, Intelligence and Shipping Control Staffs of U.S. and Naval Board are combined. Put briefly therefore, his responsibility is operational and this of course includes protection of shipping. There is no clear line of demarcation and it is not intended that there should be. Australian Navy Dept. still functions under Minister for the Navy and the Naval Board who have administrative control of Australian Naval Forces and all Naval Shore Establishments such as Dockyards, Armament Depots, Naval Store and Victualling Yards and W/T Stations. Naval Board control all new naval ship constructions and are responsible for local defence. Australian C.N.S. remains adviser to Commonwealth Govt. on Naval matters and attends meetings of War Cabinet and War Advisory Council. Australian C.N.S., the C. in C. Australian Army (Gen. Blamey) and the Chief of Air Staff, R.A.A.F. form the Chiefs of Staff Committee. All recruiting for R.A.N. and all matters relating to interior economy of Australian ships are Naval Board responsibility. The Directive to U.S. Admiral states that he is not responsible for internal administration of Australian forces under his command. (A.C.N.B., 0541Z/16 to Admty.)

Situation. Serial number 114 from C.W.R. 15/5. Merchant ship reports on arrival Fremantle 14/5 following intercept received 0850Z/10. "Q Q Q Q A A A A 026° 43' S. 089° 56' E. NANKIN gunned and (? bombed)", and another at 0906Z "Abandon ship".
2. Medium size merchant ship observed in Huon Gulf 0415Z/15 heading Lae. 3000 ton M/V reported arrived Salamoia 0530Z/15.
3. 1 enemy A/C again reconnoitred Nauru 15/5.
4. A number of aircraft reported departing Salamoia 0315Z/15 direction unknown. (A.C.N.B., 0741Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Departure Adelaide 1602Z/15 for Albany, GERALDTON, Port Moresby 0500Z/15 CESSNOCK, for R/V with SWAN, Port Melbourne 0201Z/16 for Tongatabu, U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, Adelaide 0039Z/15 for Fremantle, STUART. Arrival Williamstown 0030Z/16, U.S.S. PAUL JONES. (A.C.N.B., 1454Z/16 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet, Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

16.5.1942.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1409B/16, 1412B/16.)

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK arrived at Hvalfiord at 1540B today with WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, TUSCALOOSA, LONDON and 12 destroyers. C.S.10 in NIGERIA with KENT, LIVERPOOL and 2 destroyers also arrived.

PRINZ EUGEN and 4 destroyers were sighted at 1200 today in 59° 40' N. 5° 20' E., steering N.E. At 1605 they were in 59° 12' N. 5° 15' E., steering south. Two Beaufighters were sent to shadow the enemy and a striking force of 27 Beauforts with torpedoes, 12 Hudsons to provide a diversion with high level bombing, and a fighter escort of 8 Beaufighters and 6 Blenheims was sent to attack off Lister at 2020. Two hits with torpedoes are claimed; 5 Me.109s were shot down and 9 of our aircraft are missing.

* MINERVE is returning to Lerwick with defects and P. 46 has been ordered to relieve P.37 off the coast of Norway. * *arrive 9 - See p. 533 -*

Four destroyers were seen in Kristiansand South at 0715 today; these must have been the destroyer screen seen with LUTZOW yesterday, but LUTZOW herself was not seen.

1000 East Coast, Channel and Ocean convoys have now sailed from the Thames with a loss of less than 0.05% of the ships convoyed.

British Air Operations.

12 Bostons escorted by 12 Squadrons of fighters attacked Boulogne docks today.

War Diary.

17.5.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

LOCH OSKAIG and ALOUETTE were unsuccessfully attacked by 2 F.W. aircraft off Cape Espichel this evening.

Mediterranean.

Operation
L.B.

CHARYBDIS, ARGUS, EAGLE and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar today to fly off Spitfires for Malta. At 2358B CHARYBDIS attacked a probable submarine in 36° 25' N. 1° 50' W.

Four E-Boats were operating off Malta in the early hours of this morning apparently engaged in minelaying. One was damaged by the coast defences or by a mine and was sunk later by aircraft; the E-Boat had mines on board; the vessel was German and one Italian was taken prisoner. A second E-Boat is also considered to have been sunk by the coast defences.

East Indies.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet sends today his proposals and recommendations for the organization of the Eastern Fleet and Station when the title of C. in C. East Indies lapses (see 6/5).

America and West Indies.

U-Boats are working in the Gulf of Mexico, off Florida, in the Greater and Lesser Antilles and Curacao area. In view of increased U-Boat activity in the Trinidad area N.O.I.C. Trinidad

/Has ...

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War Diary.

17.5.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

9 ships
torpedoed.

has discretion to suspend sailings at any time, depending upon what patrols are in the area. The captain of the U-Boat which sunk S.S. BETH 135 miles E.S.E. of Barbados made the significant remark to the Master: "I suppose you are bound for Freetown from Trinidad also". A ship was shelled and is believed sunk 330 miles S.W. of Kingston, one was sunk 40 miles west of Grenada, one in the Caicos Passage, one 100 miles south of New Orleans, two in the Halifax - Cape Sable area, and one or two were sunk further to the south-eastward.

Australia.

Seven mile aerodrome and Bomana Aerodrome were temporarily rendered unserviceable by attacks by Japanese heavy bombers at 2328Z today.

War Diary.

17.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Troops in Iceland. Following from Chiefs of Staff. Your 1701Z/15.
1. Consider final relief of British Troops in Iceland should take place before September as relief after that date difficult and Bde. wanted in U.K.
2. Additional British shipping contribution may enable this earlier relief and this will be cleared up in our reply to Black No. 4.
(Air Ministry, 1225Z/17 to Britman, Washington).

NELSON, It has been decided that NELSON and RODNEY are to
RODNEY. proceed as early as practicable to join the Eastern Fleet.
C. in C. E.F. states that provided R.D.F. calibration, initial day and night low angle full calibre and A/A firings have been carried out he prefers that remainder of working up be completed on his station.
The following movements are proposed:-
NELSON to leave U.K. with W.S.19 P on 30/5.
RODNEY to leave U.K. on 5/6 to overhaul NELSON at Capetown on 26/6.
In order to embark passengers and stores for passage both ships are required to call at the Clyde for at least 24 hours before sailing.
PATHFINDER and PENN to escort RODNEY instead of W.S.19 P.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1900B/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

Flag of C.S.18. The flag of C.S.18 is to be transferred from ONSLOW to MANCHESTER at 1200Z/18.
(C. in C. H.F., 2249B/17).

Movements.

ASHANTI, Arrived your 1706/15.
MARTIN. (A.C.I.C., 0530B/17 to R.A.D.)

SOMALI, C. in C. H.F., 1525/16, para.1. Arrived Seidisfiord
MATCHLESS, 0305/17.
FORESIGHT, (A.C.I.C., 0533B/17).
FORESTER. C. in C. H.F. 1525/16. Have detached FORESTER to Scapa routed West mine barrier to land critical surgical cases as P.M.O. of TRINIDAD considers this essential to save life.
(Capt. D.6., 0536B/17 to R.A.D.)
Sailed Seidisfiord 0800B FORESTER, 0915B, SOMALI, MATCHLESS, FORESIGHT.
(A.C.I.C., 1020B/17).
Destination SOMALI and MATCHLESS after disembarking survivors is Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 2014B/17 to R.A.D.)

INTREPID. My 2251B/16 is postponed. INTREPID is not to sail until further orders.
(R.A.D., 0922B/17 to INTREPID)

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War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

KENYA. E.T.A., 1145/19.
(KENYA, 1029/17 to A.C.O.S.)
Intend sailing KENYA 1330B/18 to arrive Scapa
exercise area 1000B/19.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1254B/17).

P.552 Estimated P.C.S. of P.552 at 1759Z/17, 058° 04' N.
028° W., 059° 9 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 1342Z/17 to C.T.U., 24.1.4)

DUKE OF YORK,
WASHINGTON,
VICTORIOUS,
TUSCALOOSA,
LONDON,
NIGERIA,
KENT,
LIVERPOOL. Hvalfjord arrivals C. in C. H.F., in DUKE OF YORK,
WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, TUSCALOOSA, LONDON,
12 destroyers. C.S.10 in NIGERIA, KENT, LIVERPOOL
and 2 destroyers.
(A.C.I.C., 1540B/17).

PRINCE LEOPOLD,
CATTISTOCK. Intend to sail PRINCE LEOPOLD for Portsmouth as
requisite to pass Sand Head Buoy at 2315 tomorrow.
CATTISTOCK will act as escort to Dungeness,
subsequently returning as ordered by C. in C.
Nore.
(C. in C. Nore, 1706B/17).

WELSHMAN. Admty. 1138B/16. Intend to sail WELSHMAN p.m./18 for Port ZA.
E.T.A. Sleat Sound 1230B/19.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1751B/17). *See p.533*

TRIDENT. My position uncertain, visibility half mile.
Estimate will be delayed 6 hours.
(TRIDENT, 1945B/17 to A.C.I.C.)

Operations.

N.W. Norway S/M Patrol. My 1939/16. Para. C. Amend to read P.46 vicinity
of 63° 15' N., 02° 15' E., searching for force
landed Catalina thence north eastwards for Zone K.
33.
(F.O.S., 0013B/17).

Combined Operation. Cancel my 2011/16. Owing to uncertain result of
PRINCES & BEATRIX full speed trial, request you
will sail her for Clyde when ready. R.M.
Commando will proceed overland to Greenock and
be ready for embarkation there a.m./19.
(V.A.C.T., 0130/17 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

/Norway...

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Norway Coastal S/M Patrol. F.O.(S) 0958/17. (1) MINERVE proceeding to position O 062° 01' N., 004° 07' E., adjusting speed so as to arrive 0400B/18.
2. P.37 and MINERVE are to patrol in position O following routine as in my 1617/16 para. (B), (C), and (D). Substitute position O for M in para (D).
3. When withdrawn to westward submarines are to keep North of 062° 01' N., and on return are to approach position O from southwards.
(Capt. S.9., 1051B/17).
*MINERVE is returning to Lerwick with defects. P.46 is to proceed towards position (O) 62° 01', 04° 07' and relieve P.37 as ordered by S.9. Total bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.S., 1216B/17).
F.O.(S) 1216/17. Amend my 1051/17 as follows.
(1) For MINERVE read P.46.
(2) Delete para. (3) and substitute when withdrawing to westward submarines are to keep south of 061° 58' N., and on return are to approach position O from northward.
(Capt. S.9., 1405B/17). * See pp 532 & 533 - Arrived

Offensive sweep. Weather permitting carry out following sweep tonight Sunday all available M.G.Bs. of 6th and 8th Flotillas with 1 M.T.B. of 1st Flotilla proceed from 54A Buoy to R.B.10 and thence sweep north to vicinity R.B. 14 and back to R.B.10 returning to R.B.28 if no activity develops.
Force to be 30 miles off Coast by daylight and is to use full challenge procedure while returning. Report boats detailed and E.T.D. No.54A Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 1128B/17 to BEEHIVE).

Denmark Strait Patrol. Situation ?(21)57 tonight ?(WICHITA) on patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C., 1506B /17).

Patrols and Offensive sweep. Night 17/18. M.Ls. 138 and 141 patrolling QD.6 and 7 combined.
M.Ls. 200 and 201 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and North East Spit buoys, E.T.D.2245, E.T.R.0530/18.
M.G.Bs. 324, 328, 330 and M.T.Bs. 34, 70, 32 on offensive sweep between Berck Buoy and Cape D'Alpreche, E.T.D.2200 and 2230 respectively.
(V.A. Dover, 1931B/17).

War Diary.

17.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Homing of C.C. A/C. It is of vital importance that striking forces from Coastal Command should be able to home with certainty on to one of our aircraft shadowing enemy surface forces.

Request you will impress on all concerned the importance of the above and arrange for the necessary training.

If ship targets are required for the above training, Admiralty should be informed.

(1st S.L., 0151B/17 to C. in C. C.C.)

Special Fleet R/C. Cancel Admty. 1016B/15. (D.O.D. (H), 1215B/17).

Bombing restrictions. Request total bombing restriction forthwith for 30 miles either side of a line joining 064° 03' N. 002° 40' E., and 062° 05' N., 004° 05' E., until 0400B/18.

(Capt. S.9 1235B/17 to H.Q.C.C., (R) P.46).

Cancel total submarine bombing restrictions 35 miles either side of line joining 60° N., 01° W., and 62° N., 00° 30' E. forthwith.

(H.Q.C.C., 2230/17).

Cancel total submarine bombing restrictions in Area 14 West of 01° E.

(H.Q.C.C., 2350/17).

Air R/Cs. Request R/C in following priority (A) P.R.U. Narvik. (B) P.R.U. Trondheim (C) R/C of route Trondheim to Tromso. (C. in C. H.F., 2147B/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

Mining.

N.L.61 My 1851B/16. Operation N.L.61 postponed owing to weather. (V.A. Dover, 0152B/17).

S.N.16 E. Intend to carry out S.N.16 E as follows. Details. (R.A.M., 1302/17) See Lion Copy.

→S.N.72 Your 0415/16. It is hoped to lay S.N.72 on 1/6. Your 0126. 48 hourly ice R/C in this vicinity between now and the end of the month. (R.A.M., 1308/17 to A.C.I.C.)

→S.N.72 Concur in programme proposed in R.A.M's 2154/13. S.N.3 B. (C. in C. H.F., 1356B/17 to Admty).

ARDUITY (Mined 16/5). Wreck of ARDUITY located in 240° Inner Dowsing Overfals Buoy 4.25 miles. (F.O. Humber, 2133B/17).

530
A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1302/17th May.

From : R.A.(M).

Date: 17.5.42.

Recd : 1946.

R.A.F. BY T/P.

Addressed : Admiralty, C. in C. Rosyth, Repeated
A.C.O.S., F.O.S., C. in C. Home Fleet, H.M.S. ADVANTURE,
Air Ministry, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.18 Group,
No.14 Group.

IMPORTANT

- Admiralty 1626/15 not to all addressees. Intend to carry out operation S.N.16.E., as follows
- (a) Surface mine field laid from North East to South West
 - (d) H.M.S. ADVENTURE
 - (e) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter escort from 2145 until darkness 20th May. Initial rendezvous off Duncansby Head. Also fighter protection from dawn 21st May until Westward of Pentland Firth.
 - (f) From 057 degs 03' North, 001 degs 24' 24" West. to 056 degs 57' 001 degs 31'
 - (g) 1225 20th May
 - (j) Direct to Pentland and then by searched channel to 090 degs Buchanness 5 miles. Thence direct to Start of lay.
 - (k) 18 knots while westward of Pentland Firth 22 knots while eastward of Pentland Firth.
 - (l) 0300 21st May
 - (n) Direct to No.27 Buoy thence as for outward passage.
 - (o) Port Z.A. 1810 21st May.
 - (w) 7 miles 15 knots.
 - (x) Mark XVII A/XVII one star set to 10 feet below chart datum.
 - (y) Full outfit. Standard line
 - (z) B.N. and H.D. Routine throughout.

1302 /17

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H).

A.C.N.S.(W).

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H)(2).

D.D.O.D.(M).

D.D.I.C.(2).

D.C.(2).

D.A./S.W.

Hd. of M.

Hydrog.

D.M.S.

D.N.I.(4).

D. of P.(2).

I.P.(2).

W.D.

Advance Copy D.D.O.D.(M).

D.C., D.O.D.(H).

P.

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Q.S.8., Operation Q.S.8. No sweeping today. Two
Q.S.6. sweepers and two M.Ls. sank 19 floating mines in
this area. About 20 more were observed in approx.
52° 50' N., 02° 51' E., Operation Q.S.6, M.S.9
reports that he swept 32 British and 1 German X
star mine. One mine detonated in sweep, mine
sunk, several others holed.
(C. in C. Nore, 2306B/17).

Enemy Intelligence.

PRINZ EUGEN. Report graded B.2. Formation of enemy warships
with air escort passed Askevold 61° 21' N., 05°
05' E., at 0320B/17, speed 15 knots, course South.
(D.D.I.C. 0919B/17).
One pocket Battleship, 4 destroyers, Bommel F.D., position 190°
Finnaas 3, course 045° 15 knots.
(A/C 1200/17 to 18 Group).
One cruiser, 4 destroyers, position 59° 43' N., 5° 26' E., course
045°.
(A/C, 1230/17 to 18 Group).
One pocket battleship, 4 destroyers at 1200 in 059° 40', 005°
20', course 045° 15 knots.
(F.O.S., 1256B/17).
One Cruiser 4 destroyers, position 59.12 N., 05.15 E.,
course 180° speed 20 knots.
(A/C 3Aqv, 1605/17).
PRINZ EUGEN and 4 destroyers were in 59° 12' N., 5° 15' E., at
1605/17, course 180° 20 knots.
(D.D.I.C., 1720B/17 to A.I.G., 21 A.I.G.47).
One cruiser, 5 destroyers, bearing 180° 5 miles, steering 120°
position 58° 30' N., 5° 31' E.
(A/C 7HRX, 1906/17).
My 1256. This was PRINZ EUGEN, subsequently 'sighted as in
Admty 1730.
(F.O.S., 2137B/17).

LÜTZOW. My 1409/16. LÜTZOW and destroyers were sighted
by aircraft at 1630 yesterday steering South,
but may well have to proceed northwards later.
(F.O.S., 1017B/17 to S/Ms.)
Heavy Cruiser was sighted E. of Bornholm by Swedish warship about
12/5. Graded D.3. Inference LÜTZOW. Graded Z.B.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1304/17).
O.I.C. Comment: LÜTZOW is known to have been in the Baltic,
and was sighted by A/C in the Kattegat on 16/5, proceeding North.
LÜTZOW position unknown, but possibly Kristiansand South.
(F.O.S., 2137B/17 to S/Ms).

Cruisers off (a) One heavy and two light cruisers were
Gdynia. reported off Gdynia May 12th. Graded D.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1304/17).
O.I.C. Comment. This report is probably correct.
Photographic R/C on 15/5 showed light cruisers
LEIPZIG and EMDEN in Central Baltic.

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

TIRPITZ,
HIPPER. Photographs of Trondheim 0900/17, show TIRPITZ in usual position, and HIPPER in berth previously occupied by PRINZ EUGEN.
(D.D.I.C., 1720B/17).

U-Boats.

U-boats reported. Your 0510B/16. (See North Atlantic). Request information whether photograph was obtained and whether ship can be identified.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1216B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Beaufighter reports U-boat course N.W. 6 knots. 60° 58' N., 02° 52' E., at 0835B/17.
(D.D.I.C., 1354B/17 to C. in C. H.F.) (F.O.S., 1439B/17).
My 1439/17. Possibly another U-boat North or North East Shetlands.
(F.O.S., 1507B/17 to S/Ms).

Navigational.

Yarmouth. 8B. Buoy reported damaged and extinguished.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1715B/17).

No. 4 Buoy. Number 4 buoy struck by ship of convoy and badly damaged.
(VALOROUS, 1909B/17 to C. in C. Nore).
VALOROUS 1909/17. No. 4 Buoy now reported missing from Station. Trinity House will replace tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2045B/17).
My 2045/17. Supt. T.H. now reports impossible replace before 19/5.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2155B/17).

Casualties & Defects.

WALLACE (Damaged 16/5). Arrival tug DIVERSION. Tow of WALLACE passed to tug CHAMPION at B.8. Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1131B/17).
Sheerness for London. Arrival WALLACE in tow at 1410.
(C. in C. Nore, 1426B/17).

MINERVE (?Corrupt group) (Corrupt Group) R joint blown starboard engine now ready can not be changed at sea. Suggest proceed to North of Fetlar Island. Expect to be ready 1700.
(MINERVE, 1330B/17 to Capt. S.9).
Your 1216B/17. E.T.A. Lerwick, 1900.
(MINERVE, 1400B/17 to F.O.S.)

/My...

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

MINERVE. My 1939/16.
Contd. Para. (E). Cancel and substitute MINERVE vicinity 61° 22' N., 01° 31' E. Returning to Lerwick probably on the surface. E.T.A. 1900/17. (F.O.S., 1412B/17).
Your 1330/17. Proceed to Lerwick. (Capt. S.9., 1455B/17 to MINERVE).
MINERVE arrived. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2011B/17).

WELSHMAN Cancel my 1138/16. Arrangements have now been made for WELSHMAN to be taken in hand at Greenock on 20/5 for examination of port stern gland and shaft and for essential repairs.
3. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail WELSHMAN for Clyde accordingly. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2244B/17). *S. p. 528.*

Shipping & Convoys.

KYLE CASTLE, Intend sailing KYLE CASTLE and UNDERWOOD to
UNDERWOOD. Kirkwall from Sorvaag at 1930 today escorted by KINGSTON AMBER and LEICESTER CITY. KYLE CASTLE onward to Aberdeen, UNDERWOOD onward Leith. Speed 9 knots. Route. CONQUEROR will sail in company breaking off at 1100/18 and returning to Thorshavn. Request air escort. (?N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1036B/17).

DARICA. My 1305B/25/4. Request information as to whether this group has arrived at Freetown. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1231B/17 to Admty).
Your 1231/17. All arrived 15/5 except DARICA who is due about 26/5. (D.O.D. (H), 1810B/17 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Use of Cowes as Assembly Port. With reference to the meeting held on 11/5 re security in Isle of Wight, the question was raised as to the desirability of changing the assembly port of the convoys, at present Cowes, out of this area from a security aspect. Is this matter being dealt with at Admiralty, observing that Trade Division was not represented at the meeting. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1437B/17 to Admty).

Convoys from Thames. Their Lordships congratulate all concerned on the successful sailing from the Thames of 1000 East Coast Channel and Ocean convoys with a loss of less than half of one per cent of the ships convoyed. (A.C.N.S. (T), 1918B/17 to C. in C. Nore).

/LITTLE...

War Diary.

17.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

LITTLE EMMA. Faroese LITTLE EMMA arrived Akureyri 1900/16. Vessel did not call at approved port for clearance and no E.T.A. signal has been received regarding her.
(A.C.I.C., 1945B/17 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).

P.Q.16 and
Q.P.12 My 1737B/11, para. 2 and 3. Sailing of both Convoys has been postponed.
(C. in C. H.F., 2011B/17 to A.I.G., 47).

Sailing of
C.E. and
C.W. Convoys. Your 1224/16. Concur with proposals but request consideration may also be given to possibility of running convoys on alternate days. This proposal has the disadvantage of leaving only a narrow margin for the turnover of escorts as the destroyer escorting a C.E. would return immediately with a C.W. and the balloon vessels escorting a C.W. would return immediately with a C.E.
(2) There would be however the following advantages - (A) Destroyers would be away from Portsmouth for 48 hours instead of 72. (B) Mobile balloon ships escorting C.W. convoys could turn round South of Selsey and return with C.E. convoys. By not going on to Southampton mileage and servicing would be reduced. (C) The Eastern approach channel to Spithead is used by ships exercising. By both convoys using this channel on the same day it would be left clear for exercises on alternate days.
(3) If the proposal in para one is agreed to suggest sailing dates for remainder of May should be as follows.
(4) Whenever possible a Chasseur or A/S Trawler will be detailed as additional escort.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2027B/17 to C. in C. Nore).

War Diary.

17.5.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MINNA. C. in C. Plymouth 1248/15 outward route from position E through (F) 040° 59' N. 014° 30' W. (G) 220° St. Vincent (Cape) 15 miles thence Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0924B/17 to MINNA, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth.)

→ VIDETTE, Owing to defect(s) VIDETTE is not able to take part in operation L.B.
Operation L.B. (F.O.C.N.A., 0959B/17 to Admty., (R) EAGLE.)
Cancel my 0959/17. VIDETTE sailed 1535B.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1546B/17 to Admty., (R) EAGLE.)

French Shipping. Passings 16/5. HOGGAR, BOURGES laden. ARCTURUS laden westbound. THESEE laden eastbound.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1037/17 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

Situation Report. Area Z 2002B/17 ferry DARICA 29° 10' 25° 13' 162°, 8. Convoy (? noon position) S.O. MAURITIUS 026° 24' 025° 23' 191°, (? 14).
(F.O.C.N.A., 1322B/17 to N.A. Station.) *See next page.*

→ Operation L.B. Departure 0950 WISHART, PARTRIDGE, ITHURIEL, 1015 ARGUS, CHARYBDIS, 1330 EAGLE, ANTELOPE, WRESTLER, WESTCOTT (? practice) and operation L.B.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1334B/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

LOCH OSKAIG. Have not overtaken BLAIRDEVON. My position 039° 06' N. 009° 30' W. Speed 10½ knots.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1400B/17 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) IMPERIALIST, ALOUETTE.)
Your 1113B/17 (N.T. in W.D.) acknowledged. Intend to leave patrol area 0001B/18 for R/V.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1546B/17 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) IMPERIALIST, ALOUETTE.)

LOCH OSKAIG My 2018B (N.T. in W.D.) twin engine F.W. flying bombed. 300 feet due S.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 2032B/17 to Gibraltar.)
Enemy bombing position 38° 44' N. 9° 36' W.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 2040B/17 to Gibraltar W/T.)
A second now attacking.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 2042B/17 to Gibraltar W/T.)
Second F/W, course S. 50 Fleet (? feet) position 308 Espichel 15.
(ALOUETTE, 2045B/17 to V.A.C.N.A.)
My 2018 and 2042. Both F/W beat off, last seen opening south 300 feet.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 2050B/17 to Gibraltar W/T.)

/Engagement

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War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

LOCH OSKAIG
(bombed).
(Contd.)

Engagement reported between H.M. Trawler and F.W. A/C 1845 G.M.T. today 4 miles N. of Cape Roca. A/C dropped 2 bombs near ship. (A.2.) One A/C reported down. (B.3.)
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 2230B/17 to S.O.I. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

JONQUIL.

Your 0447B/16 acknowledged. Tanker not met (?). My P.C.S. at 2202B 030° 29' N. 018° 35', 062°, 9 Acting in accordance with your 1204B/12 para. 6. (JONQUIL, 2204B/17 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)

R/C
Casablanca.

Visual R/C Casablanca 1900/17 major Unit no change.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2252B/17 to Admty., etc.)

South Atlantic.

W.S. 19.
CASTLETON,
VELOX,
MAURITIUS.

W.S.19. CASTLETON reports E.T.A. 020° 00' N. 0430Z/19 S. of A. 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots. P.C.S. at 1600Z/16 033° 14' N. 023° 55' W. 191° 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots. All safe.
(C. in C. W.A., 0756B/17 to R.A. West Africa, (R) MAURITIUS.)

VELOX has been ordered to R/V with you in 019° 30' N. 026° 20' W. at 1500Z/19. VELOX leaves Convoy S.L.110 p.m. 18/5 in approx. 019° 20' N. 022° 10' W. Assumed that C. in C. S.A. 1409B/12 (Presumably C. in C. W.A. 1409B/12 intended) not to VELOX will be complied with as endurance of our destroyers is very limited.
(R.A. West Africa, 1221Z/17 to MAURITIUS, (R) VELOX, Capt. (D) 18.)

To avoid U-Boats alter course forthwith to new position (P) 26° N. 22° W. thence to (Q) 19° N. 20° 30' W. (R) 12° N. 21° W. thence to Freetown omitting (X) and (Y).

2. MAURITIUS pass to Commodore.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1327B/17 to MAURITIUS, (R) R.A.W.Af., HURSLEY, F.O.C.N.A.)

Cancel my 1221Z/17 and R/V orders with (? escort of) S.19 in my 0925Z/15 not to MAURITIUS. Convoy W.S.19 diverted from about (? 029°) N. 024° 35' W. to new position P. 026° N. 022° W. thence new position Q. 019° N. 020° 30' W. thence new position R. 012° N. 021° W. omitting positions X and Y.

VELOX to leave Convoy S.L. 110 as necessary to R/V with convoy W.S.19 in approx. 020° 05' N. 020° 40' W. at 1400Z/19 and join escort to Freetown.

(R.A. West Africa, 1833Z/17 to VELOX, (R) MAURITIUS, Capt. (D) 18.)

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War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

S.T. 23, HYDRANGEA, TAMARISK, AMARANTHUS escorting S.T.23
 O.S. 27. sailed 0800/18 to R/V with O.S. 27 in position
 R. 006° 46' N. 015° 25' W. at 1100Z/19. Amend
 route of O.S. 27 from position Y to A. 006° 24'
 N. 015° 01' W. G. 003° 30' N. 013° 44' W. omitting position Z.
 On R/V W.A. escorts are to escort Freetown ships to Freetown.
 Corvette(s) will escort Cape and coast ships to South.
 (R.A. West Africa, 0843Z/17 to Escort O.S. 27, (R) TAMARISK,
 HYDRANGEA, AMARANTHUS, Capt. (D) 18.)

Situation Situation 2000/17. All positions N. and W.
 Report. unless otherwise stated.

CANNA and PICT Patrol Sector T.

WIVERN 003° 50' 013° 50' to Freetown 12.

MILFORD 004° 05' 012° 30' to Freetown 13.

BRIDGEWATER 4 escorts with L.S.5 002° 30' 012° 15' to 003° 32'
 013° 44' to Freetown 7½.

ST. WISTAN 003° 55' 003° 05' to Lagos 8.

COLOMBO 000° 35' 001° 55' 283° 17.

PRESIDENT HOUDUCE 000° 15' S. 001° 55', 295°, 9.

ARETHUSA 001° 35' S. 001° 15', 103°, 23.

VINDICTIVE, SNOWDROP 004° 05' S. 009° 55' E., 101°, 11.

ARCHER 010° 30' S. 007° 15', 152°, 13½.

ALCANTARA, PRETORIA CASTLE Patrol I.34B.

(R.A. West Africa, 1204Z/17 to A.I.G. 150.)

GAMBIA,
 TETCOTT.

Simonstown 0730Z/17 GAMBIA for Mombasa routed
 (?R).1 and in accordance with C. in C. E.I.
 1110/18/4/1941, S. of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. 0500Z/23.
 Shift to W/T organisation V at (? 02 or 14)00Z/22.
 TETCOTT (? for) Durban by route R.1, S. of A.
 18 knots, E.T.A. 0700Z/19.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1235B/17 to Admty., etc.)

Vesca
 System,
 Montevideo.

A.M. 1710/25/12/41 and your 1325/27/12/41 desired
 to effect extension of Vesca system in Montevideo
 Intelligence area before Busra comes into force
 (details).

5. Request you will make necessary arrangements
 to bring this into force in Montevideo Area as
 soon as possible.

(D.T.D., 1246B/17 to C. in C. S.A., (R) S.O.I.
 Montevideo.)

CITY OF
 CAPETOWN
 undamaged,
 SOUDAN mined,
 presumed
 sunk.

GAMBIA's 1839/15 and D. of S.T. 2033B/17. CITY
 OF CAPETOWN is undamaged and is proceeding but
 SOUDAN was mined in approx. 36° 10' S. 20° 22' E.
 at 1830/15 and is presumed to have sunk. One
 boat load of survivors picked up, search being
 made for the others.

(C. in C. S.A., 1326B/17 to Admty., (R) D. of
 S.T.)

/Reported ...

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War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Reported
Enemy
Transmission. Your 1656/11 not to S.O.(I) Freetown, these signals were not from U-Boats. Probably Portuguese. Details of types of U-Boat M/F transmissions are given in C.B. 4002. (D.N.I., 1751B/17 to S.O.I. Capetown, (R) C. in C. S.A., R.A. West Africa, B.A.D., S.O.(I) Freetown.)

Mediterranean.

TURBULENT. My 1845/16. At 0115C/17 P.C. and S. of enemy
Enemy Units. 033° 46' 018° 22', 150°, 9 knots.
(Capt. S.1, 0205/17 to TURBULENT.)

If A/S activity is too great you may proceed to 032° 01' 019° 31' remaining North until 2330C/17 or to 032° 59' 019° 26' remaining North until 0601C/?18.

(Capt. S.1, 1527C/17 to TURBULENT, (R) THRASHER.)

By 2330C/18 establish patrol in 032° 47' 018° 51'. Further orders follow.

(Capt. S.1, 1921C/17 to TURBULENT.)

At 2325C/17, A/C reported P.C. and S. of 2 merchant ships 1 destroyer 32° 2' 19° 29' 000°, 10 knots.

(Capt. S.1, 2359P/17 to TURBULENT, (R) THRASHER.)

TORBAY. Your 0910B/16. Estimated TORBAY crossed 009° E. about 2200B/21.

(V.A. Malta, 1041B/17 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

D.C.O. Your 1134/15. Other services concur.
Med. (C. in C. Med., 1104C/17 to Admty.)

Air Summary, Cositrep 359. 2. Air. Summary for week
M.E. ending 16/5 Wellingtons continued nightly attacks Benghazi Port. Successful operation against Ju.52 traffic Crete to Derna reported

Cositrep 355. Enemy aircraft attacked our destroyer force. Beaufighters shot down 1 enemy aircraft damaged 6. Another Beaufighter shot down 1 of 2 aircraft which attacked shipping off Delta and damaged second. Enemy also mined off Delta Coast and dropped some bombs on Alexandria.
(C. in C. M.E., 1136/17.)

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- CÖETLOGON. Departure 16th CÖETLOGON, French, Sete.
(Barcelona, 1256/17 to M.W.T.)
- Black Sea. Situation report. Crimea. Although not officially stated here it is probable that Kerch is in German hands and that Russians no longer hold any fixed line. 2. Considerable surprise felt at collapse of Russian front. 3. Not known here is Russians authorised to try and evacuate.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1426C/17 to Admty., Ad., Miles.)
- C. in C. Adm. Harwood arrived Alexandria a.m. today Sunday, intend to transfer command on Friday 22/5.
(C. in C. Med., 1502/17 to Admty.)
W.D. Note:- Appt. of Rear-Adm. Sir Henry Harwood as C. in C., with acting rank of Admiral, in succession to Adm. Sir Andrew Cunningham, announced 18/5.
(Times, 19/5.)
- Messina, R/C. My 1710B/16. No change at Messina a.m./17.
C. in C. Med. pass to S.O.(I) Alexandria.
F.O.C.N.A. pass to S.O.(I) Gibraltar.
(V.A. Malta, 1540B/17 to F.O.C.N.A., EAGLE, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., etc.)
- THRASHER. If A/S activity is too great you any proceed to 039° 35' 018° 50' remaining north until 2001C/18.
(Capt. S.1, 1635C/17 to THRASHER.)
- Haifa Sweeping. Minesweeping summary for week ending 16/5/1942. Sweeping carried out twice daily. 1 blue mine detonated (050°?) 1.9 miles Cape Carmel at 0831C/14.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1811C/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- Malta Air Report. E-Boat action. I. 299, C.S.R. 17/5. Part I.
17th, alert 1452 hours. 4 Me.109s rescue search, 2 Spitfires up, no combats. 1620 hours, unknown number Me.109s, 2 Me.109s probably destroyed, 1 Me.109 damaged by 11 Spitfires. Night 16/17.
Alert 0101 hours, 8 raiders, Hal Far, 1 Spitfire damaged, 3 Br.20s destroyed TC 1 Beaufighter. 4 E-Boats illuminated, coastal artillery probably destroyed 1, damaged another. 17th, 8 alerts, 4 Hurricanes and 2 Spitfires off before dawn silenced and stopped fire from damaged E-Boat 35° 53' N. 14° 38' 30" E. and left it sinking. 109s later bombed and sank it; mines seen on the boat. 0400 hours, 7 Me.109s some carrying bombs, 1 Do.24, no damage. 1 Me.109 destroyed by 2 Spitfires. 0452 hours, 10 Me.109s escorting 1 Ju.88. 1 Ju.88 destroyed by 6 Spitfires. 0640, 4 Me.109s, 2 probable /Macchi ...

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta Air
Report.
E-Boat
action.
(Contd.)Macchi 202s, 1 Do.24. One Do.24 damaged by 5 Spitfires. 0712, unknown number Me.109s, 1 Me.109 destroyed by 2 Spitfires, 1 Spitfire damaged in combat, pilot safe. 0813, 5 Me.109s, 2 Spitfires up, no combat. 0914, 2 Macchi 202s machine gunned Hal Far, no damage.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1920/17.)

I.299, 17/5.

Part 2.
2 Spitfires up, gave chase and damaged Macchis. A/A fired. 1000 hours, 20 Me.109s, 1 Do.24, 2 Me.109s destroyed, 1 Do.24 2 Me.109s damaged by 8 Spitfires. 1 Spitfire shot down, pilot killed. A/A fired. 1107 hours, 2 Me.109s search, 2 Spitfires up, no combats. 1250, 8 Me.109s one Do.24.
(H.Q. Malta, 1928/17.)June
Malta
Convoy.D.S.T. 0426/2. S.S.T.O. Colombo 0301/16 and P.S.T.O. India 1309/15. As neither ABBEKIRK nor KINA II can now arrive in time propose allocating CLAN MACAULAY in their place reducing the number of ships to 11. CLAN MACAULAY has full cargo of frozen meat and proportion required can remain on board. Only other ship of suitable speed which could be allocated is GLENARTNEY at present loading ammunition for Australia and it is considered undesirable to withdraw her from present service.
(C. in C. Med., 2015/17 to Admty.)

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Operation "Ironclad" Press Reports. Your 1235/14 is incorrect. Understood with Hartin before he left that a large portion of his story would be given to S.A. press and released simultaneously with his full story in London. (S.O. Force F. 0047C/17 to Admty.)

Africa Station Limits. Request your remarks on C. in C. South Atlantic's 0857/15. (1st S.L. 0145B/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

Italian Repatriations. My 1702/24/4. (1) Ships are being sailed at slower speed on return voyage. Same route. (2) VULCANIA left Berbera 0600Z/16, 8 knots, independent. (C. in C. E.I. 0437Z/17 to E.I. Stn.)
Embarked 2403 Italian repatriates on VULCANIA sailed ex Berbera (?0930 or 0830) hours 16/5. (G.O.C. in C.E.A. 1320/17 to W.O. etc.)
From Political. Further my 23756 of 13/5 (a) VULCANIA loaded with (numbers) left Berbera 0830 hrs. 15/5. (b) SATURNIA loaded with (numbers) expected leave 18/5. Grand total 4890. (c) Special mail for Italy (details) from evacuees and P.O.W. have been despatched to Port Elizabeth. Your 83476 (M.O.11) of 20/4 refers. (d) Second pair ships arrived Berbera 15/5. GIULIO CESARE commenced loading 16/5 at rate 700 per diem. (G.O.C. in C. E.A. 1330/17 to W.O.)

Movement Summary, Number 39 dated 17/5. Ref. summary number 37, Serial No.7 arrived Addu Atoll 16/5. Ref. summary number 38, Serial No.5 due Durban 18/5. Ref. summary number 35, Serial No.9 returned to Fremantle.

Serial Number.	Ship	From	To	Remarks.
1	B.D.V.PRINCE DE LIEGE.			
	B.D.V.GRAF VAN VLAANDEREN.	Colombo 14/5	Addu Atoll 18/5	thence Seychelles.
2	SHOREHAM TULIP	Colombo 16/5	Bombay 20/5	escorting M.B.5.
3	CORFU	Aden 15/5	Bombay 21/5	escorting DUNERA.
4	DANAE	Khor Kuwait 14/5	Mombasa 22/5	
5	WORCESTERSHIRE	Mombasa 19/5	Aden	escorting BURMA

(C. in C. E.I. 0602Z/17.)

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17.5.1942
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

HINDUSTAN ETHIOPIA VARSOVA.	ETHIOPIA and VARSOVA with troops and stores sailed escorted by HINDUSTAN 0740/17, due Karachi 0330/19 S. of A. 12 knots. (2) Convoy and standard route (E) 020° 45' 070° 10' (B) 022° 05' 068° 46' (ETHIOPIA standard route VARSOVA 7 miles starboard. (3) Commodore Master of ETHIOPIA. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0751Z/17 to Admty.)
BRITISH JUDGE.	Arrived 17th BRITISH JUDGE, torpedoed. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0917Z/17 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Colombo.) Not understood. See C. in C. E.I. 0525Z/18.
ANNA ODLAND (reported overdue.)	Your 0845/11 ANNA ODLAND was due Aden 5/5. See Merchant Shipping 514. She arrived and left for Suez. (C. in C. E.I. 1044Z/17 to S.O.I. Capetown.)
BOSTON SEAHAM WHITEHAVEN.	Your 1151Z/14. Request you will sail BOSTON and SEAHAM forthwith for Mediterranean as they are required for the Malta convoy. 2. You may retain WHITEHAVEN till sweepers from Force F. can relieve her. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1206B/17 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Force F. C. in C. Med.)
HERISLE.	Following received from tug INTENT sent to assist you with HERISLE (Begins). What is position of HERISLE? Not in vicinity Formosa Bay, T.O.O. 1350/17 (ends) (F.O. E.A. 1240Z/17 to DAUNTLESS.)
Air Report.	A.931 Intelligence summary number 63 of information received up to 1800 17/5. Burma 2 Blenheims attacked Akyab 16/5 bombed runways. One 3000 ton M.V. at main jetty. No opposition. Photographic R/C Rangoon River 16/5. One large merchant ship in centre River and smaller merchant ship on jetty and in River. Blenheim attacked Magwe 14/5 dropped bombs aerodrome and was attacked by 3 Navy "O" fighters one of which was probably destroyed. Bay Bengal, 2 G/R Hudson 16/5 areas as 14/5 no enemy movement. (H.Q. India 1600/17 to Air Min.)
SINGU PALMOUTH	Your 0443Z/17 (N.T.in W.R.) Intend sailing SINGU escorted by PALMOUTH p.m./18 arriving Trincomalee p.m./21 routed direct. Your 1039/11 will be complied with. (?N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1621Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

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17.5.1942
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Eastern
Fleet.

Re Flag and other appointments for administration and organisation at bases, etc.
(C. in C. E.F. 1632Z/17 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
Inquiry re para 9.
(Admty. 2231B/20.)

Shipping
Routes
Indian
Ocean.

C. in C. Western Australia's 0518/15, not to Admiralty and your 1834/8/3 para 5. The attack suggests the enemy know this turning point. Presume you will therefore move position S.
(C. in C. E.F. 1641Z/17 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty., Cdre W. Australia.)
Reply: This is being done.
(C. in C. E.I. 0325Z/18.)

Persian
Gulf Port
Defence.

My 0914 18/4 (Um Gasr project dead N.T. in W.D.) Intention is now that 10th Army will develop the port when labour and material available. Progress much retarded and anti-mine arrangements will be kept in abeyance for the present.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1700Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

Madagascar
Meteorology.

Your 1210B/12. There is an efficient French meteorological station in Antsirana, but consider French personnel should be replaced by Union meteorological personnel.
(S.O. Force F. 2317C/17 to C. in C. S.A. (R)
C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I. Admty.)

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE

1632 z/17th May.
IN.

From : C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date: 19.5.42.

Reed : 0905

NAVAL CYPHER D BY CABLE.

Eastern Fleet Staff.

Addressed : Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. East Indies
D.C. in C. Eastern Fleet, F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. East Africa
& Zanzibar

The Home and Mediterranean Fleets are provided with well ordered bases with all possible amenities and with large efficient staff and the fleets return to them on completion of each operation.

2. Their supply problems have been solved and are now properly organized and efficient. Arrangements for the well being of the men of the Fleets are of high order. The Fleets are trained and their operational problems are no longer new.

3. None of these factors apply here where an untrained Fleet has to be administered from number of unorganized bases.

4. To ensure that the best possible use is made of our meagre resources I am compelled to ask for considerable strengthening of my Staff and particularly of my administration staff.

5. The well being of personnel who are serving under trying conditions of tropics and who will have no opportunity for proper recreation until (our) bases are developed, alone demand special attention.

6. A Senior Officer for administrative duties is required permanently at main Fleet H.Q. (see para. 8 below) and an active service Captain appointed as Capt of the Fleet to accompany the Fleet and to deal with its administrative problems when away from its main H.Q.

7. In addition, the following are my proposals and recommendations for organization of Eastern Fleet and Station when title of C. in C. East Indies lapses in accordance with your 2020/6th.

8. Kilindini.

(a) R.A. Denkwort's title of Chief of Staff Eastern Fleet to lapse; to be entitled Deputy C. in C. Eastern Fleet and given rank of Acting V.A. (Note Commodore Edwards will be Chief of Staff Eastern Fleet and in flagship and I recommend he be given rank of Commodore first class as in the other 2 Fleets).

N.P.

/ (b).....

(b) Deputy C. in C. Eastern Fleet have as assistant
(?a) Commodore (operational) and a Commodore (administrative).

(c) F.O. East Africa and Zanzibar to operate and administer Kilindini Base and such other bases and anchorages as may be established on East African Coast and Islands in West Indian Ocean.

9. Ceylon.

Flag Officer Ceylon to be responsible for all Naval matters in Ceylon, Addu Atoll and Chagos, development and defence of bases therein, local defence, and in co-operation with Flag Officer India, Control Local Ceylon trade, shipping and movements.

10. India.

Flag Officer India assisted by Flag Officer as Deputy; command of R.I.N., Naval Adviser to Government of India and to C. in C. India, control of India coastal trade and movement, all Naval matters in Persian Gulf. (Note organizing approval for this change is given by the Government of India, Flag Officer Ceylon will have to carry out much of above duties as are at present carried out by C. in C. East Indies.)

1632Z/17

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

Changes in F.O. and other appointments.

1st Lord,
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
Nav. Sec.

Sec.

Parl Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.C. (2).

D.O.D. (F) (2).

D. of P. (2).

Hd. of M. (2) for action.

D.T.S.D.

D.N.I. (4).

Hd. of C.W.

N.A. 2.S.L.

E.P.S.

D.P.S.

N.

P.D.G.

E.A.P.

D.S.D.

D. of L.D.

L.P. (2).

W.D.

Adm. Blake.

N.P.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Coastal Convoys. First K.N. convoy comprised only 8 ships, no British ships of requisite speed being ready. Standstill order in Gulf was mainly responsible for small number.
(2) First K.W. convoy (as recd. ?K.S.intended) comprised 25 ships; apparently some British Tankers which left New York on 10th and 11th failed to arrive Hampton Roads in time.
(3) Navy Dept. is concerned about safety of ships traversing Gulf and possibility of extending convoy system from Key West to Galveston or other Gulf port is under examination. Lack of suitable Gulf assembly port is a difficulty. Enquiry will probably be made whether we can at least temporarily concentrate nearly all loading in Galveston district.
(4) No decision about reduction of convoy speed? but it seems this is sure to come. Unescorted ships are still forbidden to pass through Florida Strait. Reduction of speed and extension to Gulf must result in opening out cycle considerably.
(B.A.D., 0055Z/17 to Admty.)

P.552. Estimated position P.552 at 2359B/16 056° 18' N. 033° 42' W. course 063° to 057° 25' N. 030° 00' W. speed 9 knots.
(C.in C. W.A., 0131B/17 to C.T.U.24.1.4).

U/B. C.in C. U.S.Fleet estimates 1652/16 1 S/M Halifax area.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0553Z/17 to CALDWELL (R) Admty. etc.)

Movement Summary. 1800 G.M.T. 17/5.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
ALCANTARA } PRETORIA } CASTLE }	02° S. 22° W.	Patrol	Blank
Transport QUEEN ELIZABETH	07° N. 38° W.	317°	25
DIOMEDE	27° S. 42° W.	045°	12
S/M.P.552	57½° N. 29° W.	059°	9

(D.O.D.(F) 0817Z/17 to Opnav (R) Comnav)

Curaçao Convoy. 1st Convoy sails Curaçao to eastward Monday 18/5. Escort HAVELOCK and LAVENDER. Dispersal Point 010° 30' N. 059° 15' W. Escort vessel then proceeds to Trinidad to escort any vessels ready to sail for Curaçao and Aruba. Escort vessel should arrive Trinidad p.m./21 and will have personnel, mail and stores for Trinidad. Intend sailing convoy approx. 3 or 4 day intervals.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 1039QR/17 to C.in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. etc.)

U.S.orders to PARTHIAN. C.in C. U.S.Fleet 1716/16. orders U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda to sail PARTHIAN, a British warship on passage across Atlantic under British W/T control throughout and not forming part of U.S.Forces, from

War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.S. orders to PARTHIAN. (contd.) a British dockyard port. In accordance with accepted procedure for U.S. Strategic area I asked C.in C. U.S. Fleet to issue a route, but I cannot accept this further trespass on my right to issue sailing orders to a British ship under these circumstances. Grateful if you would take this matter up as strongly as possible. It would appear that U.S. Authorities have no regard whatever for our feeling in these matters. I have always consulted N.O.B. Bermuda before sailing ships in so far as this affects local defence.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1101P/17 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)
Reply: B.A.D., 2245Z/18.

FORT QU'APPELLE. SSSS BKBB (FORT QU'APPELLE) 40° 00' N. 63° 30' W. lifeboat DE VAU.
(C.O.A.C. T.O.R. 1103 G.M.T./17 to Ships in Area GB7A) W.D. Note:- Different position is given in C.in C. U.S.F. 1816Z/17, q.v.

Shipping Routeing Signals. C.in C. U.S. Fleet 2022/16. Resultant delay in receipt by me of route signals would be quite unacceptable and S.O.(I) Jamaica could not handle the recoding involved. While I am responsible for diversion of ships it is imperative that either (A) I should be supplied with U.S. code to enable me to receive route signals direct or (B) route signals should continue to be sent in British code to me by British R.Os. Consider duplication and additional cable traffic which would result from (B) makes this most undesirable. This objection applies in the case of Vescas and Mercog and I suggest that over-lap envisaged in Busra, Sect.J. para.2 should not apply to either route signals or Vescas. I have asked B.A.D. to obtain for me by 30/5 2 copies of Shipping Control Cypher No.1 to enable (A) above to be put into effect. Request early approval of this action.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1152P/17 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.A.D.)
Your 1732P/14 para. 1, presume that you have been or are now being supplied with U.S. Shipping Cypher No.1 for decoding Merco and Route signals.
(D.T.D. 1243B/17 to C.in C. A.W.I. (R) B.A.D.)
See also Admty. 1222B/18 and B.A.D. 1945Z/18.

PENELOPE. My 2312/16. PENELOPE will be ready to leave Bermuda for New York 1200 GMT tomorrow 18/5. Request route.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1202P/17 to Opanav (R) Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F.)
Your despatch 1202P/17. Route vessel named through P 32.45 64.42 Q 35.00 66.30 R 39.30 71.45 thence Ambrose.
(C.in C. U.S. Fleet, 1932/17 to C.in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F.)
Leave Bermuda at 1200 G.M.T. 18/5 and proceed to New York direct unless route requested from Opanav in my 1202/17 is received when this is to be followed. PENELOPE acknowledge.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 2202P/17 to PENELOPE (R) Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., Opanav, C.E.S.F.) W.D. Note:- Cancelled by 0047P/18.

/ U/Bs ...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- U/Bs
Trinidad. S/M sighted by A/C 011° 40' N. 062° 33' W. at 1210Z/17.
Unknown ship presumed sunk off Saline Point during night of 16th/17th.
S.S.COLIN (Panama) broke down in 012° 16' N. 063° 06' W. Assistance sent. Combined A/S operations in progress. Force employed U.S.S.BARNEY, U.S.Ship TURQUOISE (corrupt group) 19th M.T.B. Flotilla.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1212Q/17 to C.in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty. etc.)
- Key West-
Norfolk
Coastal
Convoys. A.M.1159B/6/4 not to Cominch and B.A.D.(N.T.in W.D.) and A.M.1212A/25/3 are cancelled. N.S.H.Q.1640Z/14 not to Cominch and B.A.D. refers.
(D.T.D.1242B/17 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.in C.A.W.I., (R) Cominch, B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica)
- U/Bs,
Trinidad. In view of increased U-boat activity in Trinidad area, use your discretion whether to suspend sailings at any time depending upon what patrols are in area.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1302 P/17 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad)
- O.N.592
Survivors
in BURY. My 1931/16. Read 178 survivors.
(N.C.S.O. St.John's N.F., 1400Z/17 to Admty.)
- O.N.Convoy
Routes. Your 1540/16, O.N. convoy routes.
Request that in replying to Admty. recommendations for routes you will indicate positions on onward route to West of 52.00W so that Admty. can promulgate full route and standard route.
(D.T.D., 1431B/17 to C.in C.U.S.Fleet (R) Cinclant, etc.)
- BEDFORDSHIRE. My 1302/16. Body of Sub Lt. T. Cunningham R.N.V.R. of BEDFORDSHIRE washed ashore 15/5 near Ocracoke Inlet, North Carolina. Ref. A.F.O.647/40 propose ship be paid off to date 11/5/1942 and crew posted as missing presumed killed. List of Personnel on board is being reported by SAKER II.
(B.A.R.M., 1516Z/17 to Admty.)
- Convoy
Titles. My 1705/24/4. Amend L.C. to read Sydney to St.John's N.F., and C.L. to read St.John's N.F. to Sydney. Add:- H.S., Halifax to Sydney. S.H., Sydney to Halifax. H.J., Halifax to St. John's N.F. J.H., St.John's N.F. to Halifax.
See P. 409. 12/5/42
- Q.S., Quebec to Sydney C.B. Q.S.S., Quebec to Sydney C.B. (Slow)
S.Q., Sydney C.B. to Quebec. S.Q.S. Sydney C.B. to Quebec (Slow)
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1525Z/17 to Admty. etc.) (Original in Summaries Folder)

/ BURNHAM ...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- BURNHAM, Intend to sail BURNHAM escorting S.S.VANCOLITE, S.S.BRITAMER and S.S.ALAR to Bermuda to refuel thence Halifax arriving 1600Z/29/5. E.T.A. Bermuda 2200Z/24. S.of A. 9 knots. N.O.B. pass to Comcarib.
(F.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1632Q/17 to C.in C. A.W.I.
(R) N.S.H.Q., Admty. etc.)
- Dakar-Tunis, Dakar 9th and 10/5 B.2.10/5, departures JAMAIQUE, Intelligence. CONGO, CARBET, for South beyond ZIGUINCHOR (escort LA SURPRISE)? 11/5 (As recd.) departures CAP BLANC (2000 tons Titanium ore), (ARCHMDE ULT) FORT ARCHAMBAULT intended, LIPARI, ELORN, North (escort DUMONT DURVILLE). Arrivals 9/5 from North with usual escort OUERGHA, CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE, MONTAIGNE. Tunis 15/5 B.O. French Tankers SUDEST and NOROIT being transferred to Italians. French crews have been paid off. ST. ALAIN arrived from Marseille (16 Renault trucks).
(B.A.D., 1639Z/17 to Admty as amended 1813Z/18)
- H.X.190. Sailed WITCH, HAMILTON, SASKATOON, SOREL western local escort H.X.190.
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1705Z/17 to Admty. etc.)
- U/B Reports. Sub attack and sighting summary. SUN torpedoed 28° 41' N. 90° 19' W. 0900Z/16 is now proceeding up Mississippi. WILLIAM C. MCTARNAHAN torpedoed 28° 52' N. 90° 20' W. 1550Z/16. Vessel possibly FONT QUAPPELLA (?FORT QU'APPELLE) attacked by sub. 39° 33' N. 62° 58' W. approx. 0303Z/17. Panair sights sub. 1° 22' N. 62° 00' W. 1750Z/16. Plane sights sub 13° 20' N. 69° 30' W. 1230Z/16, 34° 20' N. 77° 00' W. 1441Z/17. M/V sights sub 12° 36' N. 62° 11' W. 0800Z/17. Plane attacks sub 42° 24' N. 69° 29' W. 1730Z/16. Patrol vessel depth charges sub 26° 40' N. 79° 55' W. 0344Z/17.
(C.in C. U.S.Fleet, 1816Z/17 to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- MADISON, My 2147/12. New York group altered course to 260. WILSON, Position at 1000Z/17 is 42.26 N. 50.47 W. PLUNKETT. (C.in C. U.S.Fleet, 1845/17 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.in C. A.W.I.)
- Wreckage, Aircraft reported wreckage and 3 lifeboats with survivors. survivors. at 1715Z/17 in 043° 11' N. 067° 18' W. At 1800Z/17 reported survivors rescued by Canadian fishing Schooner.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1909Z/17 to C.in C. W.A., Admty.)
- AKAROA AKAROA due Bermuda from U.K.21/5 will be transporting Naval personnel to Jamaica. Would much appreciate escort if this could conveniently be arranged.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1912P/17 to C.in C. U.S.Fleet, (R) Admty., B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica).

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

PAN CRESCENT Admty. pass to R.A. West Africa. My 2021/21/4
 CAPE NEDDICK. not to C.E.S.F. or Commandant 6th U.S. Naval
 District Charleston. Following cargo ship under
 U.S. Army Charter expected ready to sail
 Charleston for Monrovia dates indicated. PAN
 CRESCENT 21/5 to arrive about 2/6. CAPE NEDDICK
 6/6 to arrive about 17/6.
 (C.in C.U.S.Fleet, 2139/17 to R.A. West Africa.
 (R) C.in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), C.T.F. 23, Admty.,
 B.A.D., Commandant 6th U.S. Naval District
 Charleston, Connav., C.E.S.F.)

Movements. Bermuda arrivals PENELOPE, U.S.S. SAVANNAH and
 LANSDALE, U.S. S/M R.1. Arrival and departures
 U.S.S. ALBEMARLE with BENSON and MAYO. Departures
 U.S. S/M R.9. ~~2-16/5~~ 16/5 - b 516.
 (C.in C.A.W.I., 2153P/17 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.,
 N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Sugar Your 1142/15. Para. 2 A and B Confirmed.
 Cargoes. 2. Para. 2 C also confirmed subject to following.
 Minister of Food naturally desires to exercise
 some influence over loading points where
 considerations other than safety are involved. Ref. Trujillo
 telegram No.9 of 4/5, repeated S.O.(I) Jamaica, confusion probably
 arose because sugar co-ordinator had not been fully briefed.
 This was rectified by a cable sent yesterday by Minister of Food
 to Robinson.
 3. In future you may expect that Sugar Co-ordinators will be
 fully briefed. You should therefore be able to determine
 loading points after weighing the wishes of the Ministry. If
 these are found to conflict with safety requirements of ships,
 Minister of Food will accept your decision unreservedly.
 (D.T.D., 2218B/17 to C.in C. A.W.I. (R) S.O.I. Jamaica, Brit.Min.
 Ciudad Trujillo)

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War Diary.17.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Convoy
S. U. 4.Sailing telegram.
(Cdre. W. Australia. 0820Z/17 to Admty.).

Situation.

Serial Number 115 from C.W.R.16/5.
Lae Aerodrome thrice attacked 16/5. 1955Z/15,
8 B.25s destroyed 1 Zero fighter on ground
shot down 1. Large fires caused amongst buildings. 8 Seaplanes
sighted moored off Lasanga Island (35 miles S. of Lae). A/A and
M/G fire ineffective. 0325Z/16, 8 B.25s scored direct hits on A/A
positions and large buildings. 5 damaged heavy bombers observed.
No Seaplanes at Lasanga, fires caused in earlier raid still
burning. 1 B.25 missing. Rapid Light A/A fire encountered.
0355Z/16, 4 B.26s scored 2 near misses on A/A positions
situated on old wreck in harbour. 3 heavy bombers on aerodrome
possibly damaged. 1 small boat probably sunk.
(2) Air R/C 16/5 reports enemy shipping as follows. 1 transport
off West coast of New Ireland near Namatanai, course 315° at
2325Z/15. 1 transport about 8,000 tons, 1 destroyer 001° 50'
S. 154° 47' E. course 350° speed 10 knots at 0210Z/16. 2 cruisers,
1 destroyer, 001° 31' S. 152° 56' E. course 345° speed 20 knots
at 0044Z/16.
(3) Intercepted 1034Z/16. S.S. WELLEN U.S.S.R. being gunned by
enemy S/M 033° 00' S. 152° 30' E. Vessel arrived Newcastle
1629Z/16. Slight damage and minor casualties.
(4) P.O.W. reports KOMAKI MARU has been sunk at Rabaul wharf by
Allied bombing.
(5) Evidence that at least 8 Kawanisi 4-engined flying boats are
operating vicinity of Tulagi.
(6) 1 B.17 possibly damaged a 4-engined flying boat at Deboyne
Island 0301Z/16.
(7) Ref. Serial 104, para. 7 existence of enemy aerodrome at Tovot
disproved.
(A.C.N.B. 1638Z/17 to Admty. etc).

Movements.

Departure Noumea 0040Z/6, U.S.S. MEREDITH
Departure 1250Z/16 MANOORA and MILDURA for Vila.
Arrival Noumea 0725Z/17 CHEVREUIL.
(N.Z.N.B. 2156Z/17 to Admty.).
Arrival Darwin 0348Z/16. WARRNAMBOOL escorting MAKO. Departure
Thursday Island 0028Z/16. TOWNSVILLE escorting BABINDA.
Arrival Brisbane 0220Z/17 ALSEY.
(A.C.N.B. 2156Z/17 to Admty, etc.)

U-Boat Campaign.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1404B/17, 1416B/17, amended 1538B/17).

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War Diary.

18.5.1942
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C.S.18 hoisted his flag in MANCHESTER today.

A vessel which was in Cherbourg on 16/5 and was in Kiel on 3/5 has been identified as a probable raider and may leave Biscay for operations in the near future.

An A/S patrol of destroyers or corvettes is to be established at the entrance to Seidisfjord when ships become available.

S/Ms P.46, P.37, P.614 and O.10 are to proceed to positions on north west Norway patrol to cover the passage of convoys P.Q.16 and Q.P.12. Later, UREDD was sent. 5-19/5-p.585.

A large enemy unit, probably LÜTZOW, was sighted in Kvarnes Fiord (Christiansand South area) at 1420 today. A German warship is reported from Stockholm to have been sighted off the Skaw passing into the Kattegat about 1000 today; PRINZ EUGEN could have been in this position.

U.S. Task Force 38 (WASP, BROOKLYN and 5 destroyers) left the Clyde today for the U.S.A.

Mining.

48 Aircraft laid 141 mines last night in north-west German areas.

Enemy
Minefield
off Cromer.

Magnetic and acoustic mines were found today near Smith's Knoll and in the War Channel to the north westward. Magnetic mines were detonated today in the Harwich area.

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War Diary.18.5.1942
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

The Brazilian SS COMMANDANTE LYRA, from Victoria (Brazil) to Pernambuco was torpedoed 160 miles S.W. of St. Paul's Rocks but reached port.

SS TISNAREN was torpedoed and sunk at 2230 G.M.T. in 3° 38' N. 32° 11' W.

3 28 32 11"

Commandante Alfredo Cappellari

Mediterranean.

Operation
L.B.
Attack by
French
fighters.

A Catalina on advanced R/C for EAGLE was shot down by 2 French fighters 20 miles north of Algiers. ITHURIEL picked up the crew, 2 of whom were wounded. Two Fulmars were sent by ARGUS to cover ITHURIEL and one of them shot down a French Dewoitine which was about to attack his consort. Owing to renewed attacks by French fighters ITHURIEL had to sink the Catalina, One of our Fulmars was shot down.

CHARYBDIS attacked a S/M at 0830 today in 37° 5' N. 1° 6' E.

Seventeen Spitfires were flown off from EAGLE at 1440 in 37° 36' N. 3° 0' E. and 6 Albatrosses at 1930 in 37° 29' N. 4° 2' E; the latter all returned soon afterwards with defects. The force was reported at 1720 by enemy aircraft and was attacked by torpedo bombers from 2130 to 2215, but no damage was caused.

America and West Indies.

The first convoy sailed from Curacao to the eastward today escorted by HAVELOCK and LAVENDER. The dispersal point is about 100 miles to the eastward of Trinidad, and the escort vessels then proceed to Trinidad to escort any vessels ready to sail for Curacao and Aruba. It is intended to sail these convoys at 3 or 4 day intervals.

/Local ...

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War Diary.

18.5.1942
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - contd.

4 ships sunk
2 unsuccessful-
fully
attacked.

Local convoys from Key West through Florida Strait have also been established.

Two ships were unsuccessfully attacked by U-boats today and four were sunk.

Two ships were torpedoed at the south end of Yucatan Strait and one near Navassa I (between Jamaica and Haiti).

A large British tanker was torpedoed 340 miles E.N.E. of Barbados, and a U.S. ship about 300 miles E. of Barbados. A ship is believed to have been missed by 2 torpedoes east of Wilmington, and SS FORT BINGER was hit by a torpedo which failed to explode, about 150' E.N.E. of C. Cod; the ship opened fire on the U-boat and estimates that she obtained 3 hits.

Australia.

U.S. heavy bombers attacked shipping in Kupang Harbour at 0345Z today, causing damage to transports.

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War Diary.18.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Refit of
VICTORIOUS.My 1831/28/4 and your 1837/2. VICTORIOUS will not now be available until FURIOUS has worked up.
(C. in C. H.F. 1508B/18 to Admty.)Movements.

INTREPID.

My 2006/16. Request you will sail INTREPID for Hvalfjord forthwith.
(C. in C. H.F. 0153B/18 to R.A.D.)
Sailed INTREPID for Hvalfjord. E.T.A. 2300B/19.
(R.A.D. 1217B/18.)LEDBURY
BLACK RANGER.LEDBURY and BLACK RANGER E.T.A. 0800Z/18.
(A.C.I.C. 0219B/18 to R.N.O. Seidisfjord.)

TRIDENT.

E.T.A. entrance Seidisfjord 0600. Request Seidisfjord W/T Stn. transmit every quarter of hour for my D/F.
(TRIDENT 0347B/18 to A.C.I.C.)
Your 1405B/15. TRIDENT arrived Seidisfjord at 0650B/18.
(A.C.I.C. 0855B/18.)

P.54.

Intend to sail P.54 1515B/20 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE for Clyde. E.T.A. 0800B/21.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 0922B/18.)

FORESTER.

Scapa arrival FORESTER.
(A.C.O.S. 1025B/18.)
Proceed passing Switha 2100 today to Tyne for repairs at Wallsend.
(R.A.D. 1315B/18 to FORESTER.)

AJAX.

AJAX expects to arrive at Sheerness p.m. 22nd.
(C. in C. Nore 1030B/18.)

KENYA.

Sailed KENYA in accordance with my 1254B/17.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1334B/18.)

WAINWRIGHT.

Sailed Comdesron 8 in WAINWRIGHT direct to Hvalfjord. E.T.A. 1630Z/20. Speed of advance 18 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1647B/18.)

/T.F.38. ...

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War Diary.18.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- T.F.38. Sailed Task Force 38 in accordance with A.M. 0016B/16. For WAINWRIGHT read TRIPPE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1654B/18.)
- SOUTHDOWN Return to Harwich forthwith keeping $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of centre line of channel between 3C and 3A buoys. (C. in C. Nore 2044B/18 to SOUTHDOWN.)

Operations.

- N.W. Norway (1) F.O.S's 1009B/18. Submarines are to proceed to their zones after passing through 091° Out Skerries 5 miles leaving Lerwick as follows. P.614 at 1900B/18 direct to Zone 27. O.10 at 2300B/18 direct to Zone 25.
- (2) Submarines are to adjust their speeds to arrive in their zone at 0900B/22 and are to proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. Total bombing restrictions will be asked to cover their routes. (Capt. S.9 1125B/18 and 1245B/18.)
- P.46 and P.37 are to leave patrol tonight proceeding well clear position O and then on the surface at C.O.'s discretion as follows: 1. P.46 leave at 2100B/18 through A 063° 55' N. 002° 45' E. B 069° 59' N. 008° 50' E to Zone 33. 2. P.37 leave at 2359B/18 through A 063° 40' N. 002° 20' E. B 070° 01' N. 009° 05' E to Zone 31. P.614 and O.10 leave Lerwick at 1900B/18 and 2300B/18 respectively for Zone 27 and 25 direct. Adjust speed to arrive in their zones at 0900B/22. (Capt. S.9 1855B/18.)
- P.614 left Lerwick unescorted on surface at C.O.'s discretion passing through 090° Out Skerries 5 miles, thence direct to patrol in zone 27. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 1907B/18.)
- My 1652B/18. Paras (E) and (F). Cancel and substitute E. P.37 vicinity 62° 55' N. 02° 50' E. probably on the surface through 63° 40' N. 02° 20' E. and 70° 01' N. 09° 05' E. to patrol in Zone K.31.
- F. P.46 vicinity 63° 18' N. 03° 20' E. probably on the surface through 63° 55' N. 02° 45' E. and 69° 55' N. 08° 50' E. to patrol in Zone K.33. (F.O.S. 1936B/18.)
- O.10 left Lerwick on the surface at discretion of C.O. and unescorted, routed through 092° Out Skerries 5 miles, thence direct to patrol in zone 25. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 2045B/18 and 2047B/18.)
- Q.Q.2. Cancel my 2151/16. Owing to defects in DAPPER F.O.I.C. London is requested to inform P.L.A. that YANTLET will be required for operation Q.Q.2. (C. in C. Nore 1145B/18.)

/Seidisfiord ...

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War Diary.

18.5.1942
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Seidisfiord
A/S Patrol.

A/S patrol of destroyer or corvette is to be established at entrance to Seidisfiord when ships become available.
(C. in C. H.F. 1213B/18 to ALYNBANK.)

Combined
operation.

C.C.O.1921/13. Intend sailing PRINSES BEATRIX with R.M. Commando on board at 0930B tomorrow for Portsmouth. E.T.A. 2000B/20.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1816B/18.)

Patrols.

Departure WALPOLE at 1820 to Patrol "D".
(F.O.I.C. Humber 1911B/18.)
Night 18/19 M.Ls 196 and 201 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and North East Spit Buoys, E.T.D.2300, E.T.R. 0530/19.
(V.A. Dover 1919B/18.)

British Air Activity.

TRINIDAD.
Russian
Fighter A/C.

TRINIDAD passage from Kola Inlet. Weather conditions perfect. No P.E.3s turned up, Snoopers did.
(C.S.18 1259B/18 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

254 Sqdn.
Proposed
transfer.

Owing to the shortage of such aircraft and the need for anti-shipping R/C and strikes on the East Coast, Coastal Command propose to transfer No.254 Squadron, at present at Chivenor, to this area and to discontinue the routine escorts provided for Irish Mail and G.W.R. vessels (Conflict I, II, III, and IV).

2. It is intended to transfer a Hudson Squadron to St. Eval in lieu, which could be used for these duties if a threat develops.

3. Before concurring in these proposals your remarks are requested.

(A.C.N.S.(H.) 1340B/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Air
protection of
Russian Convoys.

Your 2215B/16. Soviet Naval Staff concur.
(Ad. Miles 1514C/18 to Admtty.)

Bombing
operations.

On day 16/5 no operations. On day 17/5, 10 A/C bombed Boulogne. On night 17/18, 4 A/C attacked the docks at Boulogne.
(H.Q.B.C. 1645/18.)

/Attack ...

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18.5.1942
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - contd.

Attack on Trondheim on 27/4. TIRPITZ raid April 27th. My 1801/16/2, para (d). Wing Commander Bennett survivor of Trondheim raid states information concerning smoke screens contained in my signal was not made available to crews who carried out operations. He considers knowledge of this information might have made considerable differences on his method of attack. (N.A. Stockholm 1741/18.)

Enemy Air Activity.

DEER LODGE (U.S. 6187 Tons) damaged. DEER LODGE bombed this morning when lying in roads after completing discharge. Tug in attendance. Apparently holed near stern. (3) Understand gunner slightly wounded. No other casualties. (4) There are indications of increasing enemy air activity and town is also being more heavily bombed. (Cormack 1430B/18.)

Jan Mayen. Jan Mayen reports A/C seen 0755/0810, R/C of ice South Coast. Probably F.W. Condor. Returned S.E. (A.C.I.C. 1837B/18.)

Mining.

Search Sweep off Aberdeen. (1) On 19/5 commencing at 0600, available Paddle Minesweepers of M/SF.7th and DUNBAR are carrying out a double Oropesa searching sweep alongside a route the centre line of which passes the following positions:
A. 057° 01' N. 001° 51' 18" W. (charted position of number 27 buoy)
B. 056° 57' N. 001° 31' W.
C. 057° 08' N. 001° 27' 30" W.
D. 057° 22' 30" N. 001° 35' W.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1051/18.)

P.W.20A. Prepare to carry out P.W.20A close to eastward of P.W.20. (C. in C. Nore 1222B/18 to BEEHIVE.)

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated 2 red magnetic mines, one at 1316 in 52° 54' 12" N. 02° 05' 30" E. and one at 1320 in 52° 54' 24" N. 02° 05' 36" E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1357B/18 and 1753B/19.)

Harwich. Six Magnetic mines detonated by motor minesweepers in the following approx. positions. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1856B/18 and 2247B/18.)

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War Diary.18.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

E-boat. Suspect E-boat 52° 3' N. 3° 25' E. at midnight, course westerly.
(C. in C. Nore 0047B/18.)

Probable Raider. Vessel which was in Cherbourg on 16/5 and was previously in Kiel on 3/5, has been identified from photographs as a probable raider and may leave Biscay for operations in the near future.
(D.D.I.C. 1221B/18.)

LÜTZOW or PRINZ EUGEN. Large naval unit 058° 08' N. 008° 10' E., photos impossible, no other naval units seen.
(A/C Duty V. 1420/18 to Wick.)
Large naval unit probably LÜTZOW sighted in Kvarnes Fiord 58° 08' N. 08° 10' E. at 1420 today.
(D.D.I.C. 1610B/18 to A.I.G.21.)
German warship reported as LÜTZOW sighted off Skaw passing into Kattegat about 1000 this morning. Graded A.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1730/18.)
Comment - Either PRINZ EUGEN or LÜTZOW could have been in this position at the time stated.
German warships. My 1744/12. (A) LÜTZOW on reaching Trondheim is expected to remain there for a while pending completion of defence measures at Tromso. One of these measures is low level smoke making apparatus upon which Germans now place considerable faith. Graded A.3.
(B) GRAF ZEPPELIN still at Gdynia is now being fitted with 12 4-barrel 40 millimetre pompoms flying deck level. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1754/18.)
N.I.D. Comment. Both reports graded B.3.

Transports to Norway and Finland. Sea transport. (1) Norway. (a) 10 large transports arrived Oslo May 10th with Alpine troops. B.3. (b) Above should mark 1st large sea transport to be expected to Norway, there being only a few coastal defence units to complete movement. Graded A.2.
(2) Finland see my 1329/16. In view of bomb damage to accommodation at Rostock and other ports it is anticipated that Swinemunde may be used as embarkation port for divisions expected to go to Finland very shortly. Destinations will mainly (?be) Abo and Kotka. Graded A.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1759/18.)
N.I.D. Comment:- This is the first indication that the movement of troops to Norway is to be terminated. If the enemy proposal is to stop movements when hostilities in Finland begin, this would be the probable date. N.I.D.I.E.19/5.

War Diary.

18.5.1942
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational

B.1 Buoy. Light on B.1 buoy extinguished.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1016/18 and 1205B/18.)

Casualties and Defects.

FORESIGHT. After disembarking survivors and completing with fuel FORESIGHT proceed direct to Hull for repairs.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0946B/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

WALLACE. Sheerness departure WALLACE in tow of tugs ADVICE and PERSEVERANCE for Blackwall.
(Cdre. Sheerness 1014B/18.)

BLACKMORE. Your 1843B/29/4. BLACKMORE reports over heating of starboard tail shaft. Necessitates docking before ship is available for service.
(Capt. (D.) Greenock 1104/18.)

WOLVERINE (Bombed 16/5.) WOLVERINE damaged by near miss on 16/5 causing cracked sliding foot to starboard H.P. turbine and damage to auxiliary machinery. Ship is at Devonport. No other damage of consequence at present reported.
(Capt. (D.) Plymouth 1240/18.)

UIVER (Dutch m/s.) My 1105B/18. ^{M.T.A. W.D.} Sailing delayed due to fractured air pump shaft.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1736B/18.)

FRANCIS JANICE. M.F.Vs FRANCIS and JANICE arrived at Ardrossan with defects which will take minimum 7 days to make good.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1805B/18.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.16. A.M. 1425B/16. Convoy P.Q.16 is to be prepared to sail in the immediate future as a convoy of 25 ships or as a convoy of 35 ships. Nominal list of ships will follow.
Q.P.12. Q.P.12 is to conform as directed by C. in C.H.F.
(1st S.L. 0016B/18.)

My 2004/27/4. This ship (GOLKOVSKY) was lost and Soviet Lieutenant was not a survivor, therefore there will be no F.D.O. in EMPIRE LAWRENCE in P.Q.16. Request another be available to sail from Archangel in Q.P.13.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0951B/18 to Ad. Miles.)
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE will not sail in P.Q.16. Inform Master accordingly on arrival at Seidisfjord.
(D.T.D. 1235B/18 to VOLUNTEER.)

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War Diary.

18.5.1942
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- WAR PINDARI. ^{AT. W.D.} Your 1646/17. Arrived Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 1027B/18 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)
- C.T.16. C.T.16 intends to sail A. 2300B/18.
B. Unescorted. C. ~~SEATRAN~~ TEXAS.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1225B/18.)
- W.S. 14W.
(QUEEN MARY.) *Sailing schedule - See p. 564. (S. & L. T. i.)*
- Sailing of C.E. and C.W. Convoys. Your 2027/17/5. It is appreciated that certain advantages would be gained as enumerated in your para 2 but in addition to the disadvantage stated in your para 1 an additional strain would be imposed on the minesweeping forces which are already depleted by Consular requirements which in themselves involve additional sweeping in the Alexandra Channel.
2. It is preferred therefore to try the arrangement set out in my 1224/16/5 and to review the situation if necessary at the end of May.
(C. in C. Nore 1426B/18 to C. in C, Portsmouth.)
- S.L.109. Your 2019B/13. Convoy met at R/V referred to in your 2019B/13 by 37th Escort Group at 0620Z/18. Convoy course 08°, seven and half knots. BLACK SWAN requests instructions as to splitting into fast and slow portions. My P.C.S. 034° 39' N. 016° 57' W., 082°, 12.
(LANDGUARD 1745Z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)
- P.Q.17. Your 1318/14. Confirmed interpreter is Russian and will be available for P.Q.17. My 0951 refers to arrangements for Q.P.13.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1731B/18.)
- OS, ON and ONS convoys. Local convoys between Aruba and Trinidad and from Key West through Florida Strait having been established, ON (South) convoys will not be run except in special circumstances.
All shipping of convoys speed, including tankers, for ports in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean West of 79° W. must therefore be sailed in ON or ON(S) convoys. Tankers and other vessels of 8½ knots and over bound for Caribbean Ports east of 79° W. should be sailed in OS convoys. In order to reduce delay following from restriction to a particular category of convoy, it is important that N.C.S.Os at loading ports should know the probable times of sailing of OS convoys and that Masters should appreciate that failure to keep to scheduled arrival times at Ocean Routeing Ports may result in missing a convoy and being delayed for a period of ten days.
(D.T.D. 1747B/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.

18.5.1942
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

EMPIRE
CONRAD.

My 1420/11. Request you will sail EMPIRE CONRAD escorted by AZALEA and SPIREA as soon as possible. 2. Weather forecast is unsuitable at present for M/Ls. (C. in C. W.A. 1823B/18 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

P.Q.18.

C.A.M. Ship PRIMROSE HILL has been allocated for inclusion in convoy P.Q.18. (D.T.D. 2128B/18.)

War Diary.

18.5.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CASTLETON CASTLETON left Ponta Delgada 1815 G.M.T. 17/5 escorting Tanker FRONTENAC as ordered. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0845/18 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty. D.N.I.)

TORBAY Onward route through M. 037° 07', 000° 38' E., at 0200B/25 N. 180° Cape de Gata 23 miles at 0430B/26 to arrive Gibraltar 0900B/27. If unable to comply within 3 hours you should report. Bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1106B/18 to TORBAY (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) l. S.O. Subs. Malta).

F.W. A/C LOCH OSKAIG. LOCH OSKAIG reports 2050/17 2 F.W. beaten off Lagosta Head flying South at 300 feet. B.N.A. Lisbon's telegram of 17/5 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1144B/18 to Admty).

CLYDE CLYDE ready to sail on cargo trip p.m.22/5. Request confirmation sweeping and disembarking arrangements can be made for arrival about 28/5. (F.O.C.N.A., 1150B/18 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. F.O.S.) *Reply - Med. - p 567.*

Engagement between H.M. Trawler and F.W. A/C. My 2230B/17. No confirmation report A/C down. 2 German A/C seen off Sagres soon after action. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1229B/18 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty).

Operation L.B. Attack on British aircraft by French A/Cs. Pass to air authorities. Catalina on advanced R/C for EAGLE reported shot down by 2 French fighters 20 miles north of Algiers. Both pilots badly wounded. A/C serviceable. Reserve Catalina leaves now to contact EAGLE with spare pilot to recover A/C if practicable. (F.O.C.N.A., 1250B/18 to Admty. C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, EAGLE.)

Catalina crew saved 2 wounded 1 serious, machine sunk by gunfire. Attacked by French fighter, 1 Fulmar shot down pilot saved observer lost. Arriving Gibraltar 0600B/19. (ITHURIEL, 1526B/18 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) EAGLE).
Ref. 1526/18 from ITHURIEL. I have ordered ITHURIEL to rejoin EAGLE forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A., 1637B/18 to Admty).

Am complying with your 1635/18 (1637/8 intended). Was returning owing to seriousness of pilots' condition. (ITHURIEL, 1700B/18 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) EAGLE).
Resume for (May?) 18. One Sunderland A/S escort ahead of Force L.B. 0945 - 2145. One Catalina A/S crossover (0505 or 0500) E? North of 38.30 N., 06.45 - 0045/19. One Catalina A/S crossover

/South...

War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. con LI.

Operation south of 38° 30' N., 06° 30' attacked by
L.B. Attack French fighter A/C at 1150 and forced to land in
on British aircraft by sea 20 miles North of Algiers. Both Pilots
French A/Cs. wounded 1 seriously crew rescued by ITHURIEL and
Contd. A/A sunk by gunfire R/10 Sqdn. whilst giving A/A
protection was attacked by 2 French Fighter A/C
but drove them off. 1 Catalina despatched to
assist at 1250 recalled 1655.

One Fulmar from Force L.B. shot down pilot saved.

(R.A.F., Gibraltar, 1810/18 to Air Min, H.Q.C.C.)

At 1620 G.M.T. Enemy A/C reported that the force sighted at
1520 G.M.T. had altered course to about 300°.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2212B/18 to S.O. Force W. (R) Admty. C. in C.
Med., V.A. Malta.)

O.S.28.

TOTLAND.

TOTLAND has developed bad leak in condenser. Am
detaching her to Ponta Delgada to effect repairs
with instructions to rejoin O.S.28 on completion.
Expected time required 16 hours. E.T.A. Ponta

Delgada will be made by TOTLAND 24 hours before arrival. P.C.S.
at 1300Z/18 044° 34' N., 022° 00' W., 196° 7½ knots.

(WESTON, 1300Z/18 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

M.L.
Flotilla.

Departure 27th M.L. Flotilla for escort duty
Westwards.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1302B/18 to Admty.)

Op. "Style"
(Spitfires
from
EMPIRE CONRAD
for Malta).

Your 1652/15. Code word for this operation
is "Style".
(D.O.D. (F), 1332B/18 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.
Med., V.A. Malta, Air Min).

→ JEAN BART.

American Report 18/5 (Fact). Now sufficient water
at half tide to tow JEAN BART to Outer Harbour.

This would take 12 hours work including removal
of nets and may occur tonight for big gun trials which are
scheduled in local press for 0700 hours tomorrow. Believed
gun trials from present position would cause damage to port
installations. Fuel on board stated to be 600 tons.

(Green Leaves Tangier, 1825/18 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty for
D.N.I.)

→ R/C
Casablanca.

P.R.U. 1900/18. JEAN BART occupies her usual
position. So far as can be seen Naval Units now
present comprise three Cts. one possibly three D S
two possibly three ELAN EVS and one S/M.

Pilot sighted one large S/M 10 to 15 miles N. of Casablanca
course 050° speed five knots. No further report will be issued
on this Sortie.

(P.R.U. Gibraltar, 2130Z/18 to Air Min. Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.

18.5.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S.18.

HECLA,
SOUDAN

Probably
mined.

Request fullest details of mining of HECLA and SOUDAN.

2. Is it quite certain it was not torpedoes fired by S/M.

(1st S.L., 0010B/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

Your 0010/18. It is not certain that HECLA and

SOUDAN were mined, but inference is that they were so because (1) Ships were in waters that could be mined (2) no S/M or track was seen (3) convoy was going at 14 knots (4) more than 2 hours of daylight separated the incidents (5) GAMBIA saw a floating mine in the vicinity.

(C. in C. S.A., 0158B/18 to Admty).

-> CARLISLE escorting Durban portion of convoy W.S.18 less SS. SOUDAN arrived.

(Cdre I/C Durban, 1003Z/18 to Admty etc).

CITY OF CAPETOWN not damaged. SOUDAN mined off Agulhas and sank 1930/15. No casualties. Some survivors have reached Capetown search for remainder continues. (?Impon) and G.O.C. Second Division have been informed.

(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1029B/18 to D. of S.T.)

Your 0158/18. Request you will report why the convoy was allowed to proceed over an area in which mines might be expected at any time in view of (a) The knowledge that mines had been laid in the Cape area; (b) DURBAN's sighting of SPEYBANK on the 13/3 on the South West side of the Agulhas Bank.

(1st S.L., 1803B/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

Air R/C
Dakar.

My 1121Z/10 now intended to limit aerial R/C of Dakar to 1 day a week unless there is reason to suspect important movements are likely to have taken place.

(R.A. West Africa, 1045Z/18 to Admty (R)
F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

Movement
summary.

2000Z/18. Area Q. CILICIA off Tristan da Cunha. CANTON, SHROPSHIRE Patrol in Area K.36 (B) and C GAMBIA, TETCOTT about 032° 33' S., 029° 24' to

Durban 18 knots. CARLISLE leaves Durban p.m./18 for (?Calicut) 17 knots. *See p. 565.*

(C. in C. S.A., 1211B/18 to S.A.S. Sqdn. (R) Admty)

Madagascar use
of ships ex
W.S.18.

Am informed by defence that orders are expected for a South African Brigade consisting of 3000 Europeans 2000 non Europeans with 1200 vehicles to proceed to Madagascar. Defence can get Brigade ready for shipment in about a week from date

order is given but are enquiring as to shipping possibilities. In view of large numbers ex W.S.18 awaiting on carriage to Mideast until semi-monsters return recommend that ships released from Madagascar be all (?utilised) only alternative would be to use turn round ships ex W.S.18.

(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1223B/18 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.

18.5.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

W.S.19 W. Convoy W.S.19 W. consisting of QUEEN MARY carrying service personnel will be ready to leave Clyde for Freetown p.m. on 22/5.

2. Speed 25 knots.
3. Admty will promulgate route.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to:-
 - (a) Sail QUEEN MARY (b) Sail CAIRO to provide A/A escort from R/V off Oversay to 18° W., (c) Arrange air and destroyer escort from Oversay R/V or A/S sweep ahead of convoy as necessary to 18° W.
 - (d) Arrange special sweep of route through North Channel for mines.
5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to ensure that sailing orders include instructions that QUEEN MARY is to arrive Freetown Fairway Buoy one hour after high water.
(D.O.D. (H) 1346B/18 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock).

*{Should be under Home Command, Shipping
(7 Lowrys - p 559*

5.5. BRITTANY Master of BRITTANY reported 18/5 that on 22/4 report of suspicious vessel in company with 2 masted schooner. ships. When first sighted both appeared stopped small boat passed between schooner and ship and returned to schooner. Both last seen steering 160° 5 knots schooner possibly in tow. Description of larger vessel as follows: modern type cargo ship high raking stem low stern short funnel 2 masts (?gun) apparently mounted on forecastle deck built with deck-house. (ii) Also sighted 16/4 in 014° 15' N., 070° 30' E., 5 2 masted dhows hove to with mizens furled. Weather calm with light breeze.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1424B/18 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

ROMULUS (Norwegian) attacked by U/B 9/4. ROMULUS reports vessel attacked by U-boat 9/4 in 36° N., 58° 30' W., U-boat machine gunned ROMULUS who replied with 4 inch gun, fifth round of which alleged to have hit U-boat.
2. Report not received by me until after vessel had sailed. S.O.(I) Aden requested to obtain further details together with report.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1453B/18 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., R.A.W.A., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Aden).

W.S.18 REINA DEL PACIFICO, EMPRESS OF CANADA. W.S.18. There is no objection to REINA DEL PACIFICO and EMPRESS OF CANADA proceeding independently at their best speed after the Capetown and Durban portions of W.S.18 have joined.
(2) Request you will report your intentions.
(D. of S.T., 1503B/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

W.S.19 Convoy W.S.19 6 hours early.
(R.A. West Africa, 1605Z/18 to VELOX, WILD SWAN, BOREAS, (R) MAURITIUS.)

War Diary.

18.5.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CARLISLE Sailed 1530Z/18 for Simonstown routed R. 2. positions 1, 2 and 3 thence through A. 037° S., 021° E. B. 036° 30' 019° 30'. C. 034° 37' 018° 12'. E.T.A. 0900B/21 S. of A 15 knots.
(Cdre I/C Durban, 1611Z/18 to Admty, C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I. etc).

ALCANTARA Leave patrol at 1200Z/20 and return to Freetown passing through (a) 04° 10' N., 20° 30' W. E.T.A., 0700/23.
(R.A. West Africa, 1759Z/18 to ALCANTARA).

VINDICTIVE, SNOWDROP. Arrival Point Noire 18th VINDICTIVE, SNOWDROP. Departure 18th VINDICTIVE for Simonstown E.T.A. 1300Z/25. Shift W/T organized from P to Q at 2200/19.
(B.N.L.O. W. Africa, 1810/18 to Admty).

Operation "Ironclad" Press Reports. Your 1235/14 and S.O. Force F's 0047/17 with which I fully concur. Remarks.
(C. in C. S.A., 1847B/18 to Admty (R) S.O. Force F. N.O.I.C. Durban).

Mediterranean.

Announcement of loss of Destroyers. Your 2047C/13. Reasons. It is not customary or possible to inform Cs. in C. in advance of announcement of loss of ships on their station. My 1542A/28/12 refers.
Policy of informing next-of-kin before announcing loss is unchanged but on occasion is departed from when it is considered desirable.
(1st S.L., 0151B/18 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy M/Vs TURBULENT. At 0506C/18 P.C. and S. of 2 large merchant ships 037° 15', 015° 55' 140° 16 knots.
(Capt. S.L., 0955C/18 to TURBULENT).
Switch on "Rooster" from 0001 to 0330. Carry out homing procedure from 0100 to 0300 in accordance with operation "Pidgeon". If target is found flare will be dropped N.E. of it every 15 minutes from 0100; air striking force will attack about 0230/19. All times zone minus 3.
(Capt. S.L., 1001C/18 to TURBULENT).
At 1730C/4 (18 intended?) 2 merchant ships, 3 destroyers, 034° 05', 017° 30'.
(Capt. S.L., 1915/18 to TURBULENT).

/Operation...

War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Operation Conditions suitable.
 L.B. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1037B/18 to EAGLE (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
 At anchor at Messina at 1140B/18. 2 Battleships
 and 4 Cruisers in Harbour.
 (V.A. Malta, 1319C/18, 1736B/18 to EAGLE).
 "Oilskin" landing now "Balsam" in (?touch).
 (V.A. Malta, 1815B/18 to EAGLE, (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med.,
 Admty).
 My 1815/18, arrived safe.
 (V.A. Malta, 1901B/18 to EAGLE, (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med.,
 Admty).

Alexandria Minesweeping summary. 2 mines (?observed) on
 Minesweeping. (?surface) 2 and 7 cables outside Great Pass
 Beacon swept 11th and 12th. First fired
 acoustically second as if Sammy. MASCIMRIM
 daily searching sweep. These mines believed to
 have been laid by A/C 8/5.
 (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1053C/18 to Admty (R)
 C. in C. Med).

E-boat H.Q., R.A.F., Med., C.S.R. No. I.299 dated May
 Action, 5th (?1920/17/5 intended). (i) E-boat believed
 night 16/17. to be German A type (ii) 4 mines seen 1 side of
 boat and 2 the other.
 (V.A. Malta, 1251B/18 to C. in C. Med., (R)
 Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian prisoner of war ex German "A" type E-boat destroyed by
 coast defences or striking mine a.m./17 states:-
 (1) Five German E-boats left Augusta at 1700/16, 4 on minelaying
 and his boat, being the fifth, on special mission with two
 Italians to carry out R/C of coast in rubber boats from Zonkor
 Point for 2 miles towards Grand Harbour.
 (2) Mission which was to test practicability of close approach
 to shore incompletely fulfilled owing to unexpected exposure
 of searchlights.
 (3) Prisoner was diver trained in Davis apparatus, presumably
 an S.L.C. rating. Reason given for his use on coast R/C task
 being ability to escape using diving apparatus if fired on.
 (4) Action with M.L.130 caused casualties on both sides and
 Germans took prisoners estimated as 4 or 5 and some wounded.
 (5) Action with BERYL and TRUSTY STAR claimed as attack on
 British cruiser and 1 German E-boat was lost.
 (6) Total German E-boats at Augusta stated to be 8 or 9 and
 partially confirmed as "A" type.
 (7) Intend sending prisoner who is highly communicative to
 Middle East by first air opportunity.
 (V.A. Malta, 2315/18 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty etc).
 (W.D. Note BERYL and TRUSTY STAR action - 10/5/42).
 My 2315/18. Following is brief report of action between coast
 artillery and E-boats night 16/17/5.
 (i) E-boats first detected by R.D/F at 0100/17 within 5 miles
 of coast in St. Paul's Bay area but searchlight sweep failed to
 illuminate. At 0120 however 4 vessels retiring to northwards at
 speed sighted and engaged with few rounds until out of range.
 (2) At 0145 R.D/F indicated boats returning but fire and

/illumination...

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

E-boat illumination withheld until well in range.
Action (3) At 0205 4 boats were illuminated close
night 16/17 together and stopped. On being engaged by 4 bat-
Contd. teries boats took drastic avoiding action and
made smoke breaking off action at 0225 in position
065° St. Elmo 4½.

(4) At 0235 explosion occurred in direction of their (?retirement)
and enemy circled a position about 28 St. Elmo 8 miles for
about 1 hour.

(5) After this only 2 vessels were plotted receding to north-
ward.

(6) At dawn 1 boat sighted stopped E of Marsaxlokk and
engaged by coast defence and subsequently by Hurricanes and
Messerschmitts and sunk.

(7) Conclusions. (a) R.D.F. on this occasion most effective.
(b) Reaction of searchlights and coastal artillery effective
but boats extremely difficult to see except at speed.
(c) At least 2 E-boats sunk.
(V.A. Malta, 2316B/18 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty etc.as
amended 1011B/19).

New My 1502/17. Now intended that ? command should
C. in C. be transferred on Wednesday 20/5 and Adm.
Pridham-Wippell will leave Cairo by air 21/5.
(C. in C. Med., 1751C/18 to Admty).

T.L. having appointed Act. Adm. Sir Henry Harwood K.C.B., O.B.E.,
as C. in C. Mediterranean Station, his flag is to be hoisted
in QUEEN ELIZABETH at 0800/20 and transferred to MEDWAY at
0800/21. (2) Flag of Act. Adm. Henry D. Pridham-Wippell
K.C.B., C.V.O. is to be struck in MEDWAY at sunset on 20/5.
(C. in C. Med., 1757C/18 to S. & A. Med., (R) Admty etc).

CLYDE. ^{See p. 561.}
Your 1150/18 CLYDE will use Marsaxlokk Bay only
for disembarking. Unlikely that approaches can
be swept so all possible precautions must be
taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1837B/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B at My 1112/12 R.O. Cartagena Spain reports 6 torpedoes
Cartagena. apparently total carried and ammunition have been
U.573 landed. He states U-boat can not be repaired.
(A.N.A. Madrid, 1839/18 to D.N.I., (R) S.O.(I)
Gib).

HAV. (Nor.)
"H.K.D." Admty. 1216 of 8/10/41. M.V. "HKD" mined 1700/16?
(mined 14/5) Sunk 31° 17' 57" N., 32° 21' 9" E. Damage
(details). Fear possibility vessel broken in two.
Operations and temporary repairs if successful
will be lengthy. CONFEDERATE will proceed on completion at ?
American Steamer SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH.
(Fleet Salvage Officer, E. Med., 1844C/18 to Admty).

See B.R 1337 - p. 175.

/Malta...

War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. I.301. 18.5.1942. C.S.R. Malta. Part 1. 17th
2 alerts 1539 hours, approx. 30 Me. 109s Macchi
202, Re.2001. 2 Re. 2001s probably destroyed
1 Re. 2001 damaged by 20 Spitfires. 2 Spitfires
damaged in combat, 1 of these crash landed, 1 pilot seriously
wounded, other unhurt. 1700 hours, numerous fighters and
rescue aircraft. 6 Spitfires up no combats.
Night 17/18. Alert 0032 hours, 2 raiders coast not crossed,
1 Br. 20 destroyed by Beaufighter. A/A fired.
18th 4 alerts. 0345 hours, 20 Me. 109s (Re?) 2001s. 3 Re. 2001
destroyed by 4 Spitfires, 1 Italian prisoner, 1 aircraft in
good condition. 0645 hours, unknown number of fighters. 2
Spitfires up, no combats. 0728 hours, 6 Me. 109s. 1 Me. 109
destroyed, 1 Spitfire shot down, another damaged. Pilots
wounded, 1 seriously. A.A. fired. 0829 hours, 26 Me. 109s.
Macchi 202s. 4 Me. 109s destroyed, 3 Me. 109s probably destroyed
1 Me. 109 damaged by 13 Spitfires, 4 Hurricanes. 1 Hurricane
shot down, pilot killed. A.A. fired. 1 German prisoner. 1402
hours, 27 fighters and rescue aircraft, 6 Spitfires up, no
combats.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1845/18).

Second part of my I.301 18/5/42.

Night 17/18. Wellington night shipping sweep 2302 hours 3 D/Rs
2 M/Vs 5000 tons, 100° Syracuse 10 miles course 165° 18 knots.
4 Albacores despatched, 2 returned mechanical trouble.
Remainder sighted 0006 hours 2 possible M/Vs 035° Kalafrana
118 miles, course 140° 15 knots, but went on to R/V with
Wellington. Owing to faulty flares in Wellington and one
prelighting in tube Albacores could not be shown target.
Deliveries for night 17/18, 4 Beauforts, 2 Wellingtons, 1 Hudson
ex Gibraltar, 1 Lodestar ex Middle East arrived; 4 Beauforts,
1 Wellington, Hudson, Lodestar, left Middle East same night.
1 Wellington damaged on take off crew safe. 17 delivery
Spitfires arrive evening 18th.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1850/18).

MOUNT OLYMPUS Admty. 1216 of 8/10/41. SS. MOUNT OLYMPUS,
underwater explosion 14/5 broken in 3 places with
top bridge awash, 31° 20' 48" N., 32° 21' 24" E.
Deemed total loss. In ballast.
(Fleet Salvage Off. E. Med., 1902C/18 to Admty).

FRED Admty 1216 of 3/10/41. SS. FRED underwater
explosion 14/5. Engine room slowly flooded.
Vessel now beached 31° 17' 00" N., 32° 20' 54" E.
lying in 20 feet water. Since vessel beached filled throughout
except No. 1 hold through bulkheads and tunnel. Recommended
divers examine with possibility plugging and pumping out vessel.
In ballast.
(Fleet Salvage Off. E. Med., 1904C/18 to Admty).

ARETHUSA Your 2214/14. ^{H.T. n. W.D.} Programme A. You should not fuel
at Durban.
(C. in C. Med., 1910C/18 to ARETHUSA).

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Troops for
Madagascar.

22nd. East African Brigade total strength 5227 is required to be moved from Mombasa to Madagascar. Brigade ready to embark 30/5. Shipping arrangements.
(D.S.T. 0201B/18 to P.S.T.Os India and Simonstown).

Shipping
Routes
Indian
Ocean.

Your 1641/17. This is being done.
(C. in C.E.I., 0325Z/18 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty, Cdre. W. Australia).

Flag
Appointments
India.

Your 1836/13. (N.T. in W.D.). 1. 0458/26 was originated by C. in C. E.F. addressed Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I. F.O.C.R.I.N. Armindia. 2. Following is a repetition of my 1022/7 (begins) C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. E.I. from, F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty's 2321/30 does not seem to fit in with your proposals. Ref. para. 2 B and 2 C, these are reasons for control being exercised from India. Operational factor is also omitted from Admty's 2020B/6. Request your views in order that I may submit definite proposals. (Ends).
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0421Z/18, to C. in C.E.I. (R) C. in C.E.F., Admty.)

BRITISH
JUDGE.

N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0917/17 not understood. BRITISH JUDGE was torpedoed on 28/2. Has she been torpedoed again?
(C. in C.E.I., 0525Z/18, to F.O. Kilindini.)

W.S.18
Escort.

Your 0302B/18. Following is a repetition of C. in C. E.F. 1403Z/10 (begins) B.S.3 (R) Deputy C. in C. E.F. C.S.3, N.L.O. Durban, C. in C. S.A. Admty, from C. in C. E.F. Request you will sail a (? Battleship) as soon as convenient escorted by FOXHOUND and ARROW to Durban for escort of W (? S) 18.
(C. in C.E.I. 0632Z/18 to Admty.). *See 13/5 - p 47.*

ATLANTIS.

Your 1222/12 hospital ship ATLANTIS will sail 0400/19.
(?D.S.R. Bombay 0812Z/18 to S.O. Force F).

Diego
Suarez
Resources.

My 2314/15. Sect.2 para.7. Delete first sentence and substitute: When in working order and necessary stores and material provided, port should be able to undertake moderate refits and repairs, including damage repairs to cruisers and below. Dock will not, however, take 8" cruisers and monitors.
(S.O. Force F, 1019C/18 to Admty.).

/Carriers.....

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18.5.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. contd:-

Carriers My 1632/15. Aircraft Carriers can be released now.
Force F. I only await the instructions referred to in
Admty 2240/16. (Hush Distribution, N.T. in W.D.).
(S.O. Force F. 1021C/18 to C. in C. E. F., (R)
Admty.).

Madagascar. (A) FRANCONIA, MARTAND, NAIRNBANK with 13th
DEVONSHIRE Brigade and their M.T. stores will be ready to sail
PANTHER. on Wednesday 20th.

(B) ORONSAY and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL with prisoners
and persons for repatriation (see my 0029/13)
will also be ready to sail Wednesday 20th.

(C) Subject to instructions you are sending vide your 2240/16
para.4 intend to (? provide escort) as follows:- for (A)
Ocean escort DEVONSHIRE, A/S Escort, to 010° S. 2 corvettes
for (B) PANTHER escort to Durban (see my 1003/11) and additional
A/S Escort until clear of Madagascar Waters.
(S.O. Force F. 1023C/18 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A.
C. in C.E.I.)

ROYAL K.R. and Ad Instn. 1187
SOVEREIGN While moored in Bombay Harbour ROYAL SOVEREIGN
Collision. stern swung into bows of merchant ship FOREST,
also moored. Latter not considered to blame.
FOREST remaining Bombay for unknown period.
No damage to ROYAL SOVEREIGN. FOREST holed
4 feet above present waterline over length of 18
inches.
(ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1129Z/18 to Admty).

EASEDALE. My 2230/11, (2223/11 intended) .Regretted that
EASEDALE will have to be retained for the present
in view of poor storage facilities ashore even
(corrupt group) filling all tins and drums available.
(2) Her present cargo for which no other storage exists is 360
tons 73 octane 230 tons 100 octane.
(3) I do not know what arrangement War Office have made for
further supplies but a petrol carrier would seem to be best
solution.
(S.O. Force F. 1147C/18 to C. in C.S.A., N.O.I.C. Durban).
Request further instructions as to early supply of petrol ship
as storage facilities at Diego Suarez are inadequate to keep
aircraft and M.T. mobile. EASEDALE is being retained temporarily
but Navy urgently require her release.
(Force 121 2028/18 to W.O.).

Shipping My 1834/8/3 for (C).
Routes. (1) Para.4. Alter position Q to read 020° 30' S.
077° 30' E.
(2) Para.5. Alter position S to read 024° S. 088°
E.
(3) Adjacent stations are requested to conform.
(C. in C.E.I. 1232Z/18 to E.I. Stn. (R) Admty.).

/CHITRAL....

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. contd:-

CHITRAL.

^{NT. N.D.}
Your 0536/18. Request CHITRAL be sailed to Mauritius routed through 027° 10' S. 080° 02'.
(C. in C.E.I. 1425Z/18 to A.C.N.B.). *S. p. 579*

F.O.E.A.

Rear-Adm. C.G. Stuart D.S.O., D.S.C., (Ret.) has been appointed F.O. East Africa & Zanzibar in succession to Rear Adm. A.D. Read, to date 12.5.42. (Naval Secretary 1501B/18 to C. in C.E.F., etc).

Shipping
Facilities
Diego
Suarez.

Requirements governing ships at Diego Suarez are essentially. (A) Draft on arrival not to exceed 26 feet (B) Ability to off load all lifts with own gear.
1 deep water quay only available. Fresh water at present available 450 tons daily maximum by water barge. Provisions nil. Bunkers from shore nil. Essential next destination known earliest possible, to avoid unnecessary delay after discharge.
(S.T.O. Diego Suarez 1730C/18 to D.S.T. (R) C. in C.S.A. C. in C. E.I. etc).

Anchorage,
Defence.

Your 0543/4 para. 6 (a) request (1) information source from which seven 6 inch guns were obtained; (2) do they include six already allocated to New Zealand by A.M. 1934/14/3 and 1331/30/3 or have these been shipped as in your 1344/14/4?
(D. of L.D. 2125B/18 to C. in C.E.I., (R) C. in C.E.F.).

M/S Craft
Kilindini.

Your 1151/14 A.T. 1206/17 and A.T. 1824/18 not to C. in C. Med. All these "Bangors" are urgently required in Mediterranean.
2. The following corvettes allocated to you are fitted for minesweeping:- FREESIA, TULIP, NICELLA, VERBENA, (A.C.N.S.(F) 2214B/18 to C. in C.E.F., (R) C. in C. Med).

Madagascar
Transport.

Intend sailing MAHOUT and CITY OF HONG KONG tomorrow Tuesday for Kilindini for provisions and fuels and thence for final destination. MAHOUT has original cargo less 207 vehicles.
CITY OF HONG KONG original cargo less 101 vehicles 12 3.7 A/A guns and associated stores.
(S.O. Force F. 2345C/18 to Admty.).

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- PENELOPE.** Leave Bermuda at 1200C/18 and proceed to New York through position P. 32.45 N. 64.42 W. Q. 35.00 N. 66.30 W. R. 39.30 N. 71.45 W. thence to Ambrose L.V.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0027P/18 to PENELOPE, (R) Admty., etc.)
Cancel my 2202/17 (PENELOPE to leave Bermuda.)
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0047P/18 to Admty., etc.) *Ann: N.Y. 19/5 - Pink List.*
- RIMOUSKI.** Request instructions whether RIMOUSKI is to proceed Halifax for R.D.F. or proceed direct St. Johns N.F.
(RIMOUSKI, 0325Z/18 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.O.A.C.)
- FORT BINGER** Intercept from Chatham, Mass. radio. **FORT**
torpedoed. **BINGER** 43.01 N. 67.03 W. being shelled,
abandoning ship. (Ends) 0245/18.
(Valentia Radio, T.H.I. 0347/18.)
Intercepted 0252 G.M.T. position 43.01 N. 67.3 W. **FORT BINGER**
torpedoed, shelled, and abandoning ship. 0151/18. Controlling
Station Camperdown Nova Scotia radio.
(Portishead Radio, T.H.I. 0452/18.)
Intercept from Chatham, Mass. radio. **FORT BINGER** 43.01 N.
66.59 W. torpedoed. (Ends) 0211/18.
(Valentia Radio, 0430/18 to Admty.)
Note difference in longitude.
- FORT** A. 803, 18/5. Search for lifeboats survivors
QU'APPELLE. from SS. **FORT QU'APPELLE.** Search unsuccessful
Lifeboats. due to fog and rain 1 Canso A. 162 Br. Sqdn.
on patrol 0820 off 2214 on escort for convoy
X.B. 20 found 1 lifeboat and 2 rafts of
survivors 43.11 N., 66.18 W., at 1705 and directed their
successful rescue by nearby schooner.
(A.O.C. E.A.C., 0520/18.)
- BURNHAM,** Sailed **BURNHAM** in accordance with my 1632/17.
escort of (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0702Q/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.,
tankers. (R) Admty., etc.)
- First** Departures **HAVELOCK** and **LAVENDER** with convoy.
Curacao - (N.C.S.O. Curacao, 1030QR/18 to Admty., etc.)
Trinidad
Convoy.
- Shipping** M.A.R.I. Sect. IV, para. 8 (2) and (3). It is
Routes. assumed that intention is to establish lane
between vicinity of 52° W. and vicinity of
St. Paul's Rocks in order to reduce risk of collision. Ships
should therefore be routed direct between the approx. gaps in
these 2 vicinities.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1202P/18 to A.I.G. 129, R.O. Barbados, R.O.
St. Lucia, (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

/PRIMROSE ...

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.PRIMROSE,
RESTIGOUCHE.

Your 1300B/13. Request PRIMROSE be allocated to Task Unit No. 24.1.11 escorting O.N. 100. 2. N.O.I.C. Cardiff's 1132/2. Request RESTIGOUCHE if ready in time be also allocated to this Task Unit.
(C.C.N.F., 1218Z/18 to C.T.G. 24.7.)

Premature
Arrivals of
Transports.

Your 1727/16. Request you will ask Navy Dept. to take such action as they consider necessary to prevent this occurring with QUEEN ELIZABETH. 2. It is preferred that ships should break W/T silence to report rather than that they should delay arrival.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1219B/18 to B.A.D.)

Shipping
Routeing
Signals.

Your 1152/17, concur. My 1243/17 refers.
(D.T.D., 1222B/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

M.A.R.I.

Now that ships in O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys remain in convoy till arrival at Halifax, Sydney (C.B.) or Cape Cod Bay and cannot therefore break W/T silence, it is suggested that M.A.R.I. Sect. II para. 9 should be cancelled except in so far as it applies to independently sailed ships. These instructions have been temporarily suspended for all shipping vide my 2232/14/1 and 1442/7/5.
(D.T.D., 1243B/18 to N.S.H.Q.)

STANBANK,
U/B.

Survivors British SS. STANBANK state U-Boat of large size, light grey over all, 2 guns one large forward of and one small abaft high narrow conning tower. Blunt high bow. Badge on conning tower was silvery grey streak forked lightning on pink shield. Letters H and N appeared above top left and right hand corners respectively. Number 26 below shield.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 1256P/18 to Admty., (R) Opnav.)

SAN ELISEO.

Following received at 1720 G.M.T. (begins) SSSS 15° 20' N. 54° 18' W. SAN ELISEO torpedoed.
(Bermuda, 1533P/18 to Admty.)

BRUSH,
BISCAYA.

BRUSH Norwegian, and BISCAYA Norwegian, overdue Argentinia Newfoundland since 11/5 from Portland.
(N.S.H.Q., 1537Z/18 to Opnav, Admty., etc.)

BENCAS.

BENCAS Norwegian overdue Argentinia N.F. since 12/5 from Sydney (C.B.)
(N.S.H.Q., 1547Z/18 to Opnav, Admty., etc.)

/BATNA ...

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

BATNA SS. BATNA torpedoed and sunk in 52.09 N. 33.56 W. (torpedoed (approx.) 12/5. My T.O.O. 1603Z/18 with list of survivors follows. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F., 1601Z/18 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.) 12/5.)

Convoys and routeing. Your 1431B/17. Cominch convoys and routeing will indicate onward route positions for O.N. convoys in his reply to Admiralty's recommended route. (Cominch, 1631/18 to Admty., (R) C.O.A.C., C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q.)

Auxiliary Carrier Aircraft. Your 1501/11/4. A. Shortage of Swordfish makes it necessary to bring the later Auxiliary Carriers from U.S.A. to U.K. without T.B.R. aircraft. The last T.B.R. Squadron to form for this purpose will be 840 for BATTLER. My 1716/5 and 2213/12, During 1942, one Martlet Squadron would be formed in U.S.A. per month from 15/6 and one S.O. 3.C. Squadron per month from 1/11. B. Intend all 1942 Auxiliary Carriers shall be equipped with Swordfish. TRAILER, TRACKER, PURSUER, SEARCHER and RAVAGER are to carry Martlet four. The rest British built fighters. Of the 1943 Auxiliary Carriers 5 are to be equipped with S.O. 3.C and 7 with Swordfish. Anticipated all 12 will carry American Fighters. (5th Sea Lord, 1636B/18 to B.A.D.)

EMPIRE DELL SS. EMPIRE DELL torpedoed and sunk in 50.00 N. (torpedoed 30.30 W. at 2353Z/12. My T.O.O. 1650Z/18 12/5.) follow with list of survivors. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, 1648Z/18 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.) Corrected position, 53.00 N. 29.57 W. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, 1359Z/20.)

BITER. When ready for sea and after embarking 836 Sqdn., request you will sail BITER for Clyde in a suitable convoy. 2. Any aircraft or other suitable cargo awaiting passage should be shipped provided ship is not delayed thereby. 3. On arrival in U.K. ship will carry out trials and work up in Clyde area. 4. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. W.A., BITER will be administered by F.O.I.C. Greenock. (D.O.D.(H), 1734B/18 to B.A.R.M., (R) B.A.D., Cominch, etc.)

LLANOVER SS. LLANOVER torpedoed and sunk at 0007Z/12 in (torpedoed 52.50 N., 29.04 W. No casualties. 12/5.) (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1735Z/18 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/ONEIDA ...

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ONEIDA. Have you any news ONEIDA (U.S.) due New York 8/5 from O.N. 89? (D.T.D., 1807B/18 to D.N.I. Ottawa.) Reply: 2306/21.

Vichy Intelligence. Dakar 12th and 14/5. B.2. In my 1639/17 for LOT read ELORN. 12/5, AUVERGNE, CAPITAINE LE DIABAT sailed for Rufi 17. CAP LOPEZ arrived, Casablanca 16th B.2. 13/5, arrival CAID FASSI from Agadir, NANCÉEN from Marseille and GABRIEL GUISTHAU from Marseille (coal and coke). 14/5, ILE DE BREA from Oran (Military camions coal and wine for Dakar), PONTET-CANET from Lisbon, DAHOMEY from Marseille (coal and general for Dakar), MARCEL JEAN from Mazagan and MAROC from Marseilles (100 tons camions and explosives, coal). (B.A.D., 1813Z/18 to Admty.)

Ice Bulletin 18/5. (C.T. 24, 1818/18 to Admty.)

SAN VICTORIO. SAN VICTORIO (British) sank off Grenada probably p.m. 16/5. One survivor in hospital. Further report will be made. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1837Q/18 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., etc.)

DORELIAN. Your 1901/16. DORELIAN arrived Montreal 7/5. Admty. 1727/26/4 not to B.A.D. refers. (N.S.H.Q., 1854Z/18 to S.O.I. Kingston Jamaica, (R) Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)

CRISTALES (torpedoed 12/5.) SS. CRISTALES torpedoed and sunk in 52.55 N. 29.50 W. at 0210Z/12. My 1901Z/18 follows with list of survivors. (N.C.S.O. St. John's, 1858Z/18 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Oilers, T.H.Convoys. It would be a great help if not more than 2 oilers on Admiralty service could be permitted to sail in T.H. convoys for onward convoy to Iceland (C) or U.K. Request your remarks. (D.T.D., 1900B/18 to N.S.H.Q.)
See p. 577
My 1900B/18. If you concur request if not already sailed BRITISH GOVERNOR and VANJA now loaded at Trinidad for Admiralty may be included in next T.H. convoy is one is sailing shortly. (D.T.D., 2345B/18 to N.S.H.Q.) Reply: N54Q, 2015Z/19, pp. 608-609.

/Shipping ...

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Shipping
Routeing
Signals.

C. in C. A.W.I. 1152/17. Navy Dept. do not agree to alternative (A) because issue of voluminous code to another authority is not considered to be justified to cover temporary situation while C. in C. remains a diversionary

authority.

(2) Navy Dept. have no objection to alternative (B) for British controlled shipping. They understood when the terms of Busra were discussed that the duplication involved should be accepted during the transition period which they hope will be short.

(3) Navy Dept. understand that C. in C. A.W.I. will not need Merco signals direct but that he will receive necessary "digested" information from S.O.(I) Jamaica and N.S.H.Q. (B.A.D., 1945Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., S.O(I) Jamaica.)

U/B Summary.

Opnav and B.A.D. informed. Sub. attack and sighting summary. NORLANTIC torpedoed and shelled and sunk 12.13 N. 66.30 W. approx.

1350Z/12. FORT BINGER torpedoed and shelled 43.01 N. 67.03 W. approx. 0204Z/18. C.J. BARKDULL 2 torpedoes believed missed 34.45 N. 75.38 W. 1010Z/18. Sub. believed sighted on surface by destroyer 11.52 N. 62.39 W. 1830Z/17. Plane sights sub. on surface 36.05 N. 74.55 W. 0100Z/18. Plane attacks sub. reported alongside AMAPALA 27.00 N. 89.10 W. approx. 0005Z/15.

(Cominch, 2014Z/18 to Admty., for O.I.C.)
Opnav serial 17 and 18. AMAPALA (Hond.) sunk by shell fire 1640R/15 in 20° 40' N. 89° 17' W. Papers destroyed. 56 survivors. BRABANT (Belg.) torpedoed 0200Z/14 in 11° 32' N. 62° 43' W. Papers sunk with ship, 12 survivors landed. Trinidad by Nor. GLITTRE. NORLANTIC American torpedoed and sunk 12/5 12° 13' N. 66° 30' W. 17 survivors. W.C. McTARNAHAN American tanker torpedoed 16/5, 28° 52' N. 90° 20' W. 28 survivors. Ship still afloat. SUN American tanker torpedoed 16/5 28° 41' N. 90° 19' W. but proceeding up Mississippi. FORT BINGER British torpedoed and shelled 18/5 43° 01' N. 67° 03' W.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2117Z/18 to Action Comnav, London, Admty., (R) Info N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Escort for
KENTUCKY.

British Tanker KENTUCKY ready to sail Delaware Cape daylight 23/5 for Clyde. Provide escort for 24 hours from time of departure.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2035/18 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) Admty., etc.)

TABORFJELL.

N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1721/16 not addressed Connav. Request immediate report sinking TABORFJELL (Nor.)
(N.S.H.Q., 2044Z/18 to N.C.S.O. Halifax, (R) Connav, Admiralty., F.O.N.F.)

/H.T. and ...

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War Diary.18.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

H.T. and T.H. My 1652/14. Following tankers are allocated
Convoys Canadian Naval Store Controller and will be
sailed so far as practicable in H.T. and T.H.
convoys.

(ii) Intended so far as possible to use Caripito as loading
port but certain ships will necessarily have to load with
Colombian crude at Cartagena to be discharged at Portland
(Maine) for pipeline to Montreal. Motor vessels TRONTOLITE,
REGINOLITE, VANCOLITE, ALAR, POLYCASTLE, BRITAMSEA, BRITAMER,
FENJABE. SS. CITIES SERVICE FUEL. Motor vessels CALLIOSLATE,
CLIO, SS. STANVAC WELLINGTON, Motor vessel J.H. SENIOR, steam-
ships F.Q. BAROUS, STANVAC CAPETOWN, Motor vessel PHEOBEYE,
steamships LOIDA, WALLACE E. PRATT.
(N.S.H.Q., 2150Z/18 to C.O.A.C., (R) Admty., etc.)

U.S. Orders Your 1101/17, C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1927/1 and my
to PARTHIAN. 2135/1 were intended to clarify the position,
namely, that a British Man-o-War sailing from
U.S.A. would be routed by Opnav until its
arrival at a port in the area of British strategic control.
2. Bermuda being a U.S. area the N.O.B. was used by C. in C.
U.S. Fleet as an agent through whom to pass the route, and
U.S. signals giving a route invariably start with the wording
"Sail the ship in question".
3. Therefore though U.S. Authorities are responsible for
routeing British Men-of-War I agree that it would have been
more polite for N.O.B. to have requested you to issue sailing
instructions on receipt of the route ordered by Cominch.
(B.A.D., 2245Z/18 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty.)

U.S. Serial 22. Changes my 1520/12 locations.
Dispositions. Atlantic. BBS. NEW YORK due same city 19/5.
CVS. WASP en route Argentina. RANGER due
Trinidad 20/5. LONG ISLAND at Panama. CAS.
AUGUSTA due 20/5 Trinidad. C.L.S. JUNEAU, CINCINNATI due
New York 20/5. SAVANNAH at Bermuda. MILWAUKEE on patrol
St. Paul Rocks. PHILADELPHIA at Norfolk. SAN JUAN at Navy
Yard, Boston. BROOKLYN en route Argentina. MEMPHIS at San Juan.
OMAHA on patrol.
Pacific. B.B.S. at San Francisco NEW MEXICO, IDAHO, TENNESSEE,
MISSISSIPPI, COLORADO, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA. C.L.S. CONCORD,
TRENTON, due Balboa 19/5. ST. LOUIS at Pearl. NASHVILLE left
14/5.
Soupac. C.A.S. INDIANAPOLIS left Melbourne 16/5 for Bleacher.
CHESTER left latter place 15/5 for San Francisco. C.L.S.
ATLANTA Suva area.
Souwespac. C.A.S. CHICAGO, SALT LAKE CITY. Opnav informed.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2249Z/18 to Admty., (R) Comnav.)

/Shipping ...

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18.5.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Shipping C. in C. A.W.I. 1732/14. When Giro comes into
Route effect on 30/5 in the areas named in Opnav's
Instructions. 1818/12, Opnav fully recognises that C. in C.
A.W.I. and N.S.H.Q. will be responsible for
diversion of British controlled ships as
hitherto and that this arrangement shall continue until Busra
is brought into full effect by agreement. It is expected by
Navy Dept. that until then B.R.Os. will pass route signals
addressed to C. in C. A.W.I. for British controlled shipping.

2. Navy Dept.'s understanding is that C. in C. A.W.I. will
continue to get M.A.R.I. and M.A.C.R.I. and any temporary
instructions issued by Opnav until Busra is brought into full
effect. Once responsibility for diversions has been taken
over by Opnav, Navy Dept. do not consider that it will be
necessary for C. in C. A.W.I. to receive route instructions
or route signals in order to ensure the routeing of British
ships is satisfactorily carried out. Admty. and N.S.H.Q.
will continue to receive route instructions and route signals
and will be in a position to make suggestions to Navy Dept.
and in their view it will not be necessary for another British
Authority to supervise the routeing of British ships for which
U.S. Authorities will be responsible.

3. As regards responsibility of C. in C. A.W.I. that B.R.Os.
carry out their duties in the proper manner after Opnav has
assumed full responsibility for all shipping, Navy Dept. does
not consider this necessitates routeing signals being sent
to C. in C. A.W.I. If an N.C.S.O. issues a wrong route Navy
Dept. will correct it by diversion. If an N.C.S.O. proves
generally unsatisfactory it will be represented in general
terms to C. in C. A.W.I.

(B.A.D., 2341Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.,
S.O.I. Jamaica.)

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War Diary.

18.5.1942.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Enemy Intelligence, Rabaul, etc. Confirmed that forces remaining in Rabaul area include Gunboat division 8, C.in C. 4th Fleet and (?full) S/M division. Cruiser division 18 in Truk area. 5th Cruiser division and a Destroyer division returning to Japan via Truk. S/M connected with air activity in Marshalls. By D/F weather reporting Marus at 019° N. 167° E. 006° N. 175° E. 010° N. 176° E. S/M at 017° N. 155° E. Bulletin 64. Movement of heavy bombers from Marshalls to Rabaul expected. (C.in C. Pacific Fleet, 0301Z/18 to N.S.H.Q., C.in C. E.F.)

CHITRAL. Your 0337Z/16 to D.N.O. West Australia. CHITRAL not required for convoy or rescue operations. Presume you will give CHITRAL instructions in view of raider activity in Indian Ocean. (A.C.N.B., 0536Z/18 to C.in C. E.I.)
Reply: See C.in C. E.I., 1425Z/18. p. 571.

Situations. Serial No. 216 from C.W.R. 17/5. 9 Zero fighters attacked Port Moresby at 0005Z/17. No damage reported. 8 P.39's 7 P.40's intercepted and destroyed one Zero. 2 Zeros hit by A/A fire possibly forced down. One P.40 shot down, one P.39 crashed in landing, one damaged.
(2) 5 Merchant ships 2000 to 5000 tons, 1 vessel 500 tons, sighted in Koepang area 17/5 by air R/C. On Koepang aerodrome 8 bombers 15 fighters. One fighter took off but did not intercept. Slight and inaccurate heavy A/A fire.
(3) Enemy A/A positions reported Tulagi area as follows. Makambo (Tulagi Harbour) Gavvau and Halavn (E.side of Gavvau harbour).
(4) Vessel using searchlights observed off Marau Island (Solomon Is.) 1600Z/15. One T.97 Kawanisi 4-engined flying boat flew over at 1800Z.
(5) Allied air R/C Goodenough Bay Woodlark Island west Bougainville Area on 17/5 was negative.
(6) 2 unidentified aircraft possibly Zero fighters sighted 17/5 between Goodenough Island D'Entrecasteaux (group) and Mainland course N.W.
(8) 17 enemy aircraft reported over Witu group (N.W. Station Willaumez Peninsula New Britain) at 0001Z/17 course E.
(9) Independent native report confirmed 9 vessels were sunk in East Guadal Canal Area during enemy occupation of Tulagi and also states there were only two survivors from 3 transports sunk. (A.C.N.B., 1301Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. U.S. Destroyers PAUL JONES and BULMER left Melbourne 0045Z/18 for Sydney. U.S. Destroyer FARRAGUT escorting CREMER left Brisbane 0800Z/17 for Noumea. U.S. Destroyer PERKINS escorting CAOLA arrived Sydney 1300Z/17. (A.C.N.B., 1501Z/18 to C.in C. Pacific Fleet, Admty. etc.)

/ U-BOAT

War Diary.

18.5.1942.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1405B/18, 1456B/18).

19.5.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

LÜTZOW and two destroyers were reported by aircraft at 1004 today in 60° 18' N., 5° 1' E. (near Bergen) steering 290° at 8 knots. PRINZ EUGEN was seen by P.R.U. this evening at Kiel with 4 destroyers. The only other main units in the port are SCHARNHORST and NÜRNBERG. C. in C. H.F. points out that the movement of the LÜTZOW increases the surface threat to the north Russia convoys and the likelihood of breaking out into the Atlantic; the Home Fleet cannot cover the passages effectively whilst covering the convoys.

With regard to the failure of the Russians to provide the promised air escort C. in C. H.F. considers that the Government underestimate the danger to the convoys, especially from the air, against which he can provide no adequate defence. In spite of his repeated protests Cabinet Ministers have again been making speeches whose effect can only be to encourage the enemy to increase his scale of attack and show increased enterprise. As soon as he does so a disaster is certain.

British Air Operations.

R/Cs of Narvik and Trondheim today were prevented by the weather.

Enemy Air Operations.

Murmansk was bombed last night. SS. DEER LODGE was damaged and the Navy building, where the British quarters are situated was hit and near missed. Iokanka has been bombed for several days in succession by, it is reported, young German bombing pilots under training for attacking White Sea convoys. Mines have also been laid.

A Condor F.W. aircraft which attacked Jan Mayen today is believed to have been shot down by A/A fire.

War Diary.

19.5.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Several magnetic and acoustic mines were detonated today in the enemy minefield off Cromer.

North Atlantic.

Visual R/C of Casablanca this morning showed that JEAN BART was near the harbour entrance, heading to seaward.

It is reported from Corunna that a large German submarine entered Ferrol on 17/5, went into the Naval Yard and left the same night.

South Atlantic.

A Brazilian ship is reported to have been attacked by a U-boat in the Fernando Noronha area today.

Mediterranean.

A Wellington this evening bombed a merchant vessel and 3 destroyers 35 miles off Tripoli, and later Albacores attacked with torpedoes. One destroyer was seen to be on fire.

19.5.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

The advantages and disadvantages of Diego Suarez as against Kilindini and its associated anchorages as the fleet base in the Indian Ocean are discussed in a message from the Admiralty today. No decision has yet been arrived at. A fuelling base for main fleet units is to be developed at the Seychelles. The priority of bases in the Indian Ocean has not yet been settled.

America & West Indies.

All tankers, including those sailed in O.N. (South) and O.S. Convoys, bound from U.K. South American, South and West African ports and Gibraltar to oil ports in the Caribbean are to be routed to Port of Spain, Trinidad for convoy.

3 Ships
torpedoed
2 sunk.

Only 3 ships are reported torpedoed today, one of which eventually made Barbados whilst the others were sunk 60 miles S.S.W. of New Orleans and 150 miles N.W. of Cape San Antonio respectively.

19.5.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

30 Military Mission (Moscow).

Lt.General Macfarlane left for U.K. today. N.L.O.R.A, G.J.A.Miles has assumed duties as head 30 Military Mission. (30 Mission 1118/19).

North Russian Convoys.

New factors affecting protection of Convoys. Details. (C. in C.H.F. 1616B/19). See Shipping.

Possible break-out of LUTZOW.

Precautions. See Movements.

SILJA.

H.M.Whaler SILJA transferred to U.S.S.R. May 15th. Ship's company embarked for passage in BOADICEA and VENOMOUS. (Murmansk - 92nd List.) (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1703B/19).

Movements.

SOMALI MATCHLESS FORESIGHT.

(?Clyde) arrival Capt.(D) 6 in SOMALI, MATCHLESS, and*FORESIGHT with Survivors and passengers from Murmansk. (N.O.I.C.Greenock 0805B/19).* See p.590

P.552.

My. P.C.S. 058° 26' N. 021° 50', 097°, 9. (P.552 0930Z/19 to F.O.S).

R/V with ALECTO at 1130B/21 in position E. 57° 01', 8° 30' for escort to Rothesay. Total bombing restrictions are in force within 30 miles radius of R/V from 0800B/21 until further notice. (Capt.S.7. 1541B/19 to P.552).

Trawlers for Tilbury.

Request C. in C.Nore will sail 8 trawlers, C. in C. W.A. 2 trawlers, and C. in C. Rosyth 2 trawlers from those listed in enclosure to A.L. M.M./S 0275/42 dated 5th May, 1942. Trawlers from W.A. and Rosyth Commands should arrive in Tilbury by p.m./27. Trawlers from Nore Command as required. (D.M.S. 1225B/19).

/Possible

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19.5.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMANDS.Movements. Contd.Possible
break-out
of LUTZOW
RENOWN
KENYA.

In view of movements of LUTZOW and consequent increased possibilities of a break-out, intend RENOWN should sail from Scapa on 23/5, for Hvalfjord.

2. V.A.2 is requested to sail RENOWN with KENYA and 3 destroyers accordingly.
(C. in C.H.F. 1348B/19, 1554B/20).

SPEEDY.

My 1756B/17. ^{/N.T. in W.D.} Please add a further 24 hours to all times.
(F.O.Humber 1721B/19).

29th M/L
Flotilla.

My 1420/11. If weather is suitable 29th M/L Flotilla is to be sailed with EMPIRE CONRAD.
(C. in C. W.A. 1747B/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

PATHFINDER
PENN.

Intend retaining PATHFINDER and PENN at Scapa as screen for NELSON and RODNEY during working up practice, thence proceeding Clyde with NELSON for boiler cleaning before complying with your 1900B/17;
(R.A.D. 2149B/19 to Admty.).

Operations.Combined
Operation.

Sailed PRINCESS & BEATRIX in accordance with my 1816B/18. E.T.A. 2000B/21.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1012B/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Six Hunt Class destroyers are required to be at Portsmouth by p.m./21 for an operation.

2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to provide two, C. in C. Plymouth three, and C. in C. Nore one.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1619B/19).

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

TUSCALOOSA on patrol "White."
(A.C.I.C. 1646B/19).

N.W. Norway
S/M
Patrol.

1. Intend sailing UREDD escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Dundee 2001B/19 for Lerwick. E.T.A. 2300B/20.

2. UREDD is to complete fuelling Lerwick, after which S.O. S/M Lerwick is requested to sail her at best speed through 70° 10' N, 10° 30' E. to patrol Zone K.29.
(Capt. S.9. 1809B/19).

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Attack
on
PRINZ EUGEN.

(17/5)

Although I have no definite information concerning damage to PRINZ EUGEN I am hopeful that the gallant attack delivered by your striking forces with their fighter escort met with well deserved success.

Please convey my sincere thanks to all concerned.
(1st S.L. 0040B/19 to H.Q.C.C.).

Deeply grateful for your kind message. Durston's efforts deserved a more positive result and we are all very disappointed. We shall pull it off soon. Joubert.
(A.O. C. in C.C.C. 1100/19 to 1st S.L.).

Bombing
Restriction.

Request total S/M bombing restrictions 30 miles either side line joining 068° 10' N, 002° E and 072° 28' N. 016° 50' E. from 0001/22 until further notice.
(F.O.S. 1559B/19 to H.Q.C.C.).

254 Sqn.
Proposed
Transfer.

A.M.1340B/18. The recent immunity from attack of those regular daylight services within easy reach of enemy bases has probably been due to the presence of fighter escort.

2. For the Hudson squadron mentioned in para.2 of A.M. to be of any value they would have to escort or be on protective patrol.

3. Owing to the urgent need of the aircraft elsewhere I concur in the proposed arrangements as long as the present situation regarding enemy activity in this area persists.

(C. in C. W.A. 2338B/19 to Admty.).

Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk
Bombed.

Navy building where British quarters situated was bombed last night, one direct hit and 12 near misses. No British casualties. Some difficulty owing to suspension of telephone and

other services.
(Cormack 0930B/19 to Admty.).

Iokanka
bombed.
German anti-
convoy
Training.

The comparatively unimportant port of Iokanka has now been bombed for several days running and yesterday two attacks were made by 17 JU 88s. Russian staff here informed me that young German bombing pilots are being trained at Kirkenes and Petsamo for attacking White Sea convoys. They fly about 30 - 40 miles from Economia to

Meridian 042° E, and have instructions if no ships are sighted to unload their bombs on Iokanka. It is thought they will act in concert with U-Boat patrol being established between Svyatoi Nos and Kanin Nos.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1502B/19 to Admty.)

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

DEER LODGE (Bombed 18/5). During air attacks 18/5 S.S. DEER LODGE was holed by a bomb. She has been towed to Murmansk for repair. British Naval H.Q. at Murmansk received one direct hit, 12 near misses, no casualties. (S.B.N.O. North Russia. 1702B/19).

Deal bombed on 18/5. During an air raid at Deal at 0630/18 damage was caused to R.M. Barracks, Deal, North Barracks, and very slight at South Barracks. (S.C.E. Chatham 1735/19).

Jan Mayen. A/C probably damaged. Jan Mayen reports attacked by Condor F.W. Opened fire and probably hit A/C. Explosion heard and smoke seen in sea on horizon. (A.C.I.C. 2330B/19).

Mining.

NL.61.A. My 1919/18. ^{/N.T. & W.D.} N.L.61.A. and operation of M.G.B. 330 and R.154 cancelled owing to deterioration in weather. (V.A. Dover 0406B/19).

Minefield off Cromer. S/A sweepers detonated acoustic mine at 1355/19 in 52° 54' 50" N., 02° 03' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1433B/19).
3 L.Ls and 1 SA type(A) sweepers detonated 1 acoustic and 5 red magnetic mines between 1525 and 1530 today, between position 52° 53' N 02° 10' E and 57 buoys. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1704/19).

LL Sweepers detonated 5 Red magnetic mines between 1630 and 1635 in circle with radius $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from position, 52° 55' N 02° 4' E. Also by same sweepers 3 Red magnetic mines between 1645 and 1650 along a line 296° from above position. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1929B/19).

Available ships of 4th M.S.F. are to carry out clearing sweep of Q Z.X 718 commencing tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore 2232B/19 to M.S.4. (R) F.O.I.C. Yarmouth);

Operation "Tincture." Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" in the manner described in my 1207/10/9/41 by A.M./24th. (D.M.S. 1823B/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.).

SCOTT. If no operational signal has been received from R.A.(M) by 2359 G.M.T./21st, I shall require to refuel to continue survey.

Request permission to fuel at Seidisfjord. Would arrive Hvalfjord 0230Z/23 or alternatively Seidisfjord 1200Z/24. (SCOTT 2101B/19 to A.C.I.C.).

/.Q.S.6...

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. Contd.

Q.S.6. Operation Q.S.6. M.S.9 reports 9 mines cut yesterday, 18 sunk. 38 mines cut today, 32 sunk. Flotilla returning to Harwich for fuel and stores. On returning whilst carrying out a search sweep outside both sides of Channel between No.4 Buoy and 3 B Buoy, four mines exploded in sweep in position 087° 2.4 miles from 3C Buoy.
(C. in C.More 2238B/19 to Admty.).

U-Boats.

Possible U-Boat reported. "Saebol" A.E.S. 7 at 1016/19 reports one small vessel bearing 342° 8 miles, course 310° , 14 knots. This has not been identified. Possibly a submarine.
(A.C.I.C. 2255B/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Unit. By D/F at 0035Z/19 unknown enemy unit, probably small surface craft, was in approx 51° 30' N 2° 40' E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 0430B/19).

LUTZOW.

One Pocket Battleship, 2 destroyers, in 60° 18' N. 5° 1' E, course 290° , speed 8 knots.
(A/C D.Sqdn. 1004/19 to 18 Group).

At 1004/19 in 60° 18' N. 5° 1' E., flying at 100 feet, sighted at 800 yards ahead PB and 2 large DRS probably "Beitzen" class 290/8. P.B thought to be LUTZOW as control tower was not massive structure and was set well forward of funnel. D flew alongside at distance of 800 yards to landward in and out of cloud base of 100 feet. No action by any of ships which did not appear to see D; possibly because D had mountain background. Disposition of ships DR PB DR. D climbed to 500 feet into cloud to avoid being sighted.

Investigation on landing indicated depth of water insufficient for PB in position stated. Crew admits possibility of position being unreliable as R/C was handicapped by bad visibility and very low cloud.

(Sumburgh 1315B/19 to 18 Group).

1 Capital ship Deutschland Class, 270° , 1 mile position 60° 20' N, 5° 15' E. 2 Merchant vessels not exceeding 10,000 tons, 090° 1 mile position 60° 8' N, 5° 15' E.
(A/C Z Sqdn. 1445/19 to 18 Group).

Probable Raider. Vessel which was in Cherbourg on 16/5 and was previously in Kiel on 8/5 has been identified from photographs as a probable raider. She had probably proceeded to a Biscay port and may shortly be leaving for operations.
(D.D.I.C.1130B/19 to H.Q.C.C.).

/A.M...

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Probable
Raider.
Contd.A.M. 1228B/18 and F.O.C.N.A., 1202B/19 to
Admiralty. Description of probable Raider is as
follows. Details.
(D.D.I.C. 2128B/19).PRINZ EUGEN.
SCHARNHORST.
NURNBERG.An A.2. report states a German warship was
sighted at 1000/18 off Skaw entering the Kattegat.
Comment: As LUTZOW was seen off Bergen at 1004/19,
it is considered above report refers to PRINZ
EUGEN.
(D.D.I.C. 1249B/19.).P.R.U.Sortie at 1915/19 shows:- Kiel. PRINZ EUGEN and four
Destroyers arrived. PRINZ EUGEN Berthed at Wik commercial harbour
where she lies protected by boom. SCHARNHORST and NURNBERG
remain in same positions and are only other major Naval Units in
port.
(P.R.U.Benson 2347/19).Narvik
Trondheim.No R/C Narvik or Trondheim today owing to weather.
(D.D.I.C. 1905B/19).Navigational.North
Russia.Iokanka. (A) light buoy 264° Medeji Island
lighthouse permanently removed. (B) 284° Vitte
side light beacon 9.5 cable dangerous wreck not
to be approached nearer than one cable.White Sea. Krasnagorski light relit characteristic
same as Admty list of lights number 942 except colour changed
to red. Visibility 6 miles.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1417B/19).Casualties & Defects.

BJAAKI.

Sail NIMBLE forthwith to assist Iceland Fish
Carrier BJAANKI in 58° 50' N. 8° 34' W at
0850 today. STKENAN, who is standing by will
be instructed to home NIMBLE on 500 K/cs.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 0959B/19 to N.O.I.C.Stornoway).Your 0850B/19. Tug is being sent from Stornoway. Stand by and
escort to harbour.

(C. in C.W.A. 1010B/19 to ST KENAN).

Sailed NIMBLE to comply with F.O.I.C.Greenock's 0959/19.
(N.O.I.C.Stornoway 1022B/19).Established contact with distressed (Vessel?) and am attempting
to get tow line on board. Wind West force 7 heavy sea and swell
shall I proceed Glasgow or Fleetwood.

(NIMBLE 2015B/19 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

/AZALEA.....

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. Contd.

AZALEA. Your 1823B/18. AZALEA reports heavy knock on H.P.Engine, leaks on Nos.3, 4, and 5 oil fuel tanks and No.1 boiler. Consider H.P. engine not fit for voyage of more than 2 days. Minimum time estimated to make good this defect and boiler leak at Milford Haven is seven days which would entail stoppage of work on mine sweepers preparing for overseas. Leaks in oil fuel tanks require further examination and repairs may be beyond local resources. Request instructions.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1225B/19 to C. in C.W.A.). *See p.593*

Castaways. Castaways in boat estimated to be in position 13 miles South of Bolt Tail at 1350B. H.M.Yacht DUENNA and M.L.1035 also searching. Whitley and Lysander may be circling.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1355/19 to NEWPORT).

FELIXSTOWE. S.N.7 gear has arrived today. Request permission to delay sailing until a.m./25th in order to fit.
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth 1551B/19).

FORESIGHT. Sailed FORESIGHT for Scapa en route for Hull in accordance with R.A.D. H.F. 0946B/18 amended by 1143B/19. E.T.A. 1200B/20.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1617B/19). *See p.584*

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.16. My 1057/14. para.4. Delete "Personnel Ship Q.P.12. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE." *See next page*
(C. in C. H.F. 0138B/19 to A.I.G.47, S.B.N.O. North Russia).

A.C.I.C. is requested to sail P.Q.16 on 20/5.
2. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to sail Q.P.12 on 21/5. Convoy may be sailed 24 hours on either side of this date to take advantage of suitable weather.
(C. in C.H.F. 1102B/19).
F.O.(S) 1914B/12. Request you will detail escort for submarine.
2. S.B.N.O. North Russia 2233/13 which refers F.O.(S) 1914/28 para.(E) is being passed by you for information.
(C. in C.H.F. 1251B/19 to C.S.10).
My 1057B/14 para.2.

Following are to form 10th C.S, NIGERIA, NORFOLK, KENT, LIVERPOOL, ONSLOW, ORIBI.

(2) Object is to cover P.Q.16 and Q.P.12 against enemy surface attack, but 10th C.S. is not to proceed east of 012° E.unless by doing so it can ensure contact with important enemy ship.
(3) C.S.10 is requested; (a) after convoy conference to proceed in NIGERIA with ONSLOW, ORIBI, ASHANTI, MARTIN and ACHATES to Seidisfjord and arrange sailing escorting submarines and Force "Q" to join convoy. (b) to arrange R/V with remainder of 10th C.S and proceed to take up cover position.
(C. in C. H.F. 1346B/19).

/Following....

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.P.Q.16./Q.P.12.
Contd.

(1) Following new factors affect Russian convoys.
(A) Movement of LUTZOW. This increases surface threat, especially east of Bear Island, where adequate protection cannot be provided. It also greatly increases likelihood of breaking out into Atlantic by one or more units. Situation is now very favourable for such a move and Home Fleet cannot cover passages effectively while covering convoys.

(B). Enemy has shown ability to bomb 350 miles from bases. This exposes convoys continuously to air R/C and attack during 5 days of perpetual daylight, a strain to which no other convoy escort has ever been exposed. We have no air support of any sort in spite of requests summarized in my 2247B/12. Russians promised C.S.18 they would provide short range fighter escorts for TRINIDAD to 50 miles from coast and long range to 200 miles. Short range turned back 5 miles out, long range never seen, weather perfect. As far as is known Russian aircraft have not yet operated (?East) of Murmansk coast.

2. I have the impression that Government underestimate danger to convoys particularly from the air, against which I can provide no adequate defence. This is borne out by recurrence, in spite of my repeated protests, of speeches by the Cabinet Ministers whose effect can only be to encourage enemy to increase scale of attack and show increased enterprise. As soon as he does so a disaster is certain.

(C. in C.H.F. 1616B/19 to Admty.).

Request escort of P.Q.16 may be informed Russian P.E.3 long range Fighters are twin-engined low wing monoplanes with twin rudders and in line engine which strongly resembles M.E.110.

They may be expected within 200 miles radius of Kola Inlet to cover Convoy being relieved later by Russian Hurricanes.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1622B/19 to C.S.10).

My 1346/19. Intend providing additional cover in DUKE OF YORK with WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, LONDON, WICHITA and 10 destroyers.

(C. in C.H.F. 1818B/19 to C.S.10).

LLANSTEPHAN Proceed with VOLUNTEER and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE CASTLE. to Reykjavik at best speed.

(Deleted from P.Q.16. See p. 590) (A.C.I.C. 0938B/19 to GARLAND).

Your 0918B/19. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE has been despatched to Reykjavik. GARLAND and VOLUNTEER now oiling Seidisfjord.

(GARLAND 1125Z/19 to A.C.I.C.).

Your 0721Z. GARLAND and VOLUNTEER proceeding best speed to comply. *N.T. in W.D.*

(GARLAND 1230Z/19 to A.C.I.C.).

B.B.76.
OGM.84
CAIRO.

See next page (16.5.1942)
CAIRO will be required for special escort leaving Clyde 22/5. CAIRO is to part company with B.B.76 and is to proceed into Milford Haven on passing. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail CAIRO with O.G.M.84 and to Clyde on completion. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0957B/19 to CAIRO).

/U.R.25.

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War Diary.

19.5.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

U.R.25. U.R.25. Request you will detail two "S" Class Destroyers for U.R.25 returning with R.U.25. (C. in C. W.A. 1041B/19 to Commdre.Londonderry).

W.S.19.W. Admty. 1346/18.
(QUEEN MARY.) (1) N.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to comply with paragraph 4 (D).

(2) Following destroyers are detailed for A/S escort, KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, LEAMINGTON, BEAGLE, and one "S" Class.

(C. in C. W.A. 1046B/19).

Admty. 1346/18. Request you will sail CAIRO to comply with paragraph 4 (B).

(C. in C. W.A. 1047B/19 to N.O.I.C.Belfast).

Convoy W.S. 19.W. A.M. 1346/18.

Route R/V in 270°. Oversay 6 miles at 0400Z/23 thence through positions:

E. 55° 40' N, 13° 59' W., F. 55° 20' N., 18° 01' W.

G. 50° 00' N, 27° 58' W., H. 39° 35' N., 32° 30' W.

J. 27° 40' N, 30° 41' W., K. 14° 02' N., 25° 50' W.

L. 09° 36' N, 18° 37' W.

thence to Freetown.

2. H.Q.C.C. and H.Q.F.C. have been informed of route to position G.

(D.O.D.(H.) 1838B/19).

Channel Commencing with C.W.81 on 22/5. Channel convoys
Convoys will be sailed on a 2 day cycle.
Cycle. 2.Number of merchant ships in each convoy will normally be maximum 14, minimum 10.

3. Escort for each convoy will be reduced to approximately half that hitherto provided and will normally consist of 1 destroyer, 3 or 4 mobile balloon barrage vessels, 4 M.Ls and 2 or 3 M/S trawlers sweeping ahead.

When available A/S trawler or Chasseur will be detailed as additional escort.

4. It is appreciated that this cycle will leave insufficient time for the normal convoy conference to be attended by C.O. of escort. Arrangements are being made by N.C.S.O. Thames to produce a standard convoy diagram for the use of all N.C.S.Os concerned which it is hoped will obviate the necessity for C.O. of escort to attend conference.

(C. in C.Nore 1152B/19.).

C.W. and My 1154/19. N.C.S.O.Thames and N.C.S.O. Ports-
C.E. mouth are requested to promulgate the timetable
Convoys. of each C.W. and C.E. on the day previous to sailing, adhering to the times of passing Dumpton and Sandhead Buoys as given in my Forecast of sailings. No.11 Group is to be included in the Address.

2. No. 11 Group are requested to provide the same scale of protection and escort for each convoy as provided hitherto without further application.

3. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to promulgate names of escorts for each convoy as soon as known.

4. Joining and breaking off position for Shoreham and Newhaven ships will be 2 miles 180° from Beachy Head.

(C. in C.Nore. 1156B/19).

/Atlantic....

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

Atlantic Convoy Escorts. Your 2010/18 and Cominch's 1623/16. Suggest Western local escort groups should escort ships for Sydney and St. Lawrence direct to Sydney and not via Halifax. 2. Until information as to Western local escort group organisation is available it is difficult to make concrete proposals but in the opinion of S.O. in VANQUISHER these ships are doing insufficient sea time at present. (C. in C. W.A. 1158B/19 to Admty.).

EMPIRE CONRAD. My 1823/18. ROTHER is being sailed to replace *AZALEA defective. Request you will sail EMPIRE CONRAD escorted by ROTHER and SPIREA as soon as possible. (C. in C. W.A. 1517B/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

My 1747/19. Request you will sail 29th M.L. Flotilla with EMPIRE CONRAD. (C. in C. W.A. 2247B/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven). * See p. 590.

Troopships from Clyde to Belfast. Intend sailing from Clyde boom following troopships. (A) LEINSTER 16 knots at 2330/19 ROYAL DAFFODIL 18 knots at 2340/19, PRINCESS MAUD 18 knots at 2350/19. (B). MAID OF ORLEANS 20 knots at 0200/20, BEN MY CHREE 22 knots at 0210/20, CANTERBURY 22½ knots at 0220/20. E.T.A. Belfast boom. Group (A) 0530/20 Group (B) 0700/20. Request air cover. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1545/19).

W.S.19 P. Intend to sail ⁹GEORGETOWN GINGITOWN or SALISBURY with W.S. 19 P. and to comply with para. (2) of A.M. 1930/19 (C. in C. W.A. 2305B/19 to F.O.C.N.A.).

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. My 1753/12.

1. NANKIN attacked by raider in 26° 43' S. 89° 56' E. at 0900Z/10. No evidence of a Japanese raider operating in this area so German raider, probably raider "E", considered responsible.
2. Photographic R/C shows that a probable raider which was recently at Kiel has passed down Channel and was in Cherbourg on 16.5.42. She has probably proceeded to a Biscay port and may shortly be leaving for operations.
3. Following ships overdue are additional possible raider casualties: CHRISTIAN KNUDSEN due Capetown 12.5.42. from New York. EMPIRE PRAIRIE due Capetown 12.5.42 from Halifax. Total number of overdue ships since 1/3 which may have been raider casualties in S. Atlantic is now 12. Estimated that raider which attacked NANKIN must have entered Indian Ocean not later than 1/5, therefore any raider activity since that date in S. Atlantic probably attributable to Raider H. (D.D.I.C. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 2127B/19 to B.A.D., A.I.G.13. etc.)

North Atlantic.

R/C Casablanca 1900B/18 Major units no change.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 0118B/19 to Admty., C.in C. Med.,
 C.in C. S.A., C.in C. Plymouth, R.A.W.Africa,
 Opnav, P.R.U.Gib.0900/19)

Visual R/C Casablanca 0730B showed JEAN BART moved and now in the vicinity of Harbour entrance heading to seaward.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0956B/19 to Opnav, Admty. etc.)

My 0956. Photos show JEAN BART lying parallel to and approx. 200 feet from jetty Delure immediately within harbour entrance ships facing eastwards tug in attendance

- (ii) Other 2 main units no change.
 - (iii) Harbour entrance boom partly open.
- (F.O.C.N.A. 1222B/19 to Admty. etc.)

JEAN BART. American report 19/5 (fact). JEAN BART moved last night to Grande Jettée Delure and is now in position from which she could proceed to sea without difficulty. At 0730 hours she commenced single gunfire at 30 minute intervals.

(Greenleaves Tangier, 1812/19 to S.O.I. Gibraltar (R) Admty (for D.N.I.)).

Photo R/C Casablanca 1840/19 show JEAN BART in same position as at 0730. Position where Tug lay and French Cruiser GLOIRE's usual berth not covered. (?Submerged object) indistinctly visible at French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET's usual berth.

Outer boom partly open.

(P.R.U. Gib., 2010/19, F.O.C.N.A. 2330B/19).

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

TOTLAND. E.T.A. (?Ponta Delgada) 0730Z/20.
(TOTLAND, 0615N/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)
TOTLAND probably arriving Ponta Delgada 20/5 for repairs to condenser. Request necessary arrangements.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0910B/19 to R.O. Ponta Delgada).

CLYDE. Following received from V.A. Malta. (Begins).
Your 1150/18 CLYDE will use Marsaxlokk Bay only for disembarking. Unlikely that approaches can be swept so all possible precautions must be taken T.O.O. 1827B/18 (Ends.) Freight of CLYDE is as follows:
Request confirmation that urgency of situation warrants risk entailed to CLYDE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1042B/19 to C.in C. Med. (R) Admty., V.A.Malta,F.O.S.)
See p.600

Italian Shipping. FIDELITAS left for Castro 18/5 to load Iron Ore. (Bilbao, 1125/19 to Admty.)

U/B at Cartagena. Cartagena reports U/B number as 232, not 212. (N.A. Madrid 1155/19 to D.N.I.)
See Admty.1638B/21.
Your 1254/5. British Consul Cartagena reports S/M number is 232.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1228B/19 to Admty. for D.N.I.)

Re Raider identified in Cherbourg. Your 1221/18 (N.T.in W.D.) Request description of raider.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1202B/19 to Admty.)

Bombing restrictions. Ops. 148 19/5. G101. From 0200/20 to 0800/24 institute submerged bombing restrictions 55 miles either side of a line joining 46° 29' 13" 30' and 42° 59' 13" 30'.
(H.Q.C.C., 1208/19 to R.A.F.Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Op.L.B. Your 1250/18. Request full particulars of attack on Catalina and Fulmar may be signalled as soon as possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 1309B/19 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C.in C.Med., V.A. Malta).

EAGLE reports 6 Albacores took off but returned defective. (F.O.C.N.A., 1616B/19 to Admty., C.in C. Med., V.A.Malta, (R) EAGLE).

Engagement H.M.Trawler and F/W aircraft. My 1229 (N.T.in W.D.) Shore report indicates 2 aeroplanes coming from north at 20 minute intervals carried out these attacks. 2 aircraft Cateo sighted at short intervals passing Segres steering east.
(B.N.A.Lisbon, 1313B/19 to S.O.I.Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)

/ C.A.F.O. ...

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19.5.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.L.B.
Operation.(Spent 4 hrs
for Malta.)

C.A.F.O. 834/41 * definitely S/M (A) CHARYBDIS
(B) 0829/18/5 (C) 037° 07' N, 001° 05' E.
(D) 3 (E) PARTRIDGE hunted subsequently.
(CHARYBDIS 1500/19 to ? F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc).
* Attack by surface craft on S/M.
C.A.F.O. 834/41 probably S/M; (a) CHARYBDIS
(b) 2350B/17/5 (c) 036° 30' N. 001° 50' W.
(d) 3 (e) No hunt.
(CHARYBDIS 1502/19 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc).

LANDGUARD
LULWORTH
defects.

E.T.A. Gate 1830B/20 BIDEFORD, HASTINGS and
LULWORTH in company. Following defects in
LANDGUARD and LULWORTH.
(LANDGUARD 1538/19 to F.O.C.N.A. etc).

BESSEL
(German).

Reported that only the 2 German tankers have
Spanish guard on board and at night only.
2. Yet BESSEL known to have had special tanks
fitted when at Ferrol in early 1941. There is
also evidence that she has been used previously for provisioning.
U-Boats. 3. Is there any reason for failure to place guard also
in this ship?
(Vigo 1652B/19 to B.N.A. Madrid, Admty (for D.N.I.) (R) S.O.(I)
Gibraltar).

Shipping
Summary for
H.M. Ships.

Your 1700/25/. This is not considered desirable
for North Atlantic Station in view of (A)
Facilities for recognition between Men of War and
Merchant Vessels. (B) Large amount of extra W/T
traffic involved. (C) Frequent non adherence of
M.S. to prescribed routes and time tables would render such
information of little value.
(D) Recent reductions in N.C.S.O's staff would require it be
made good.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1700B/19 to Admty.).
/ Lack of shipping information by ships entering a new station.

Blockade.

My 1815/16. Semi-official warning in shape of
Aide-Memoire was given to Under Secretary Merchant
Marine by Shipping Attache on 18/5.
Under Secretary is taking urgent steps as desired. He will also
supply us with list of all ships regularly concerned. In view
of unavoidable delay in advising all port captains, owners,
agents he begged us not to apply new measures for one week at
least.
Need of time for organising on his part is genuine and I submit
all vessels over 1,000 tons not notified, outside territorial
water North of Vigo should only be attacked after 26/5. Request
immediate confirmation so I may reassure him in view of his
genuine desire to co-operate. Of course, ships without markings
can be attacked any time. This warning is definitely understood
to apply only to Spanish vessels all of which carry national
markings.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 1919/19 to Admty. etc).

/27th....

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

27th Motor Launch Flotilla sighted by A/C. C.in C. Plymouth's 1830/19. This was the 27th M.L. Flotilla. (F.O.C.N.A. 1958B/19 to Admty. (R) C.in C.Plymouth)

French A/C at Casablanca and Dakar. Following is a repetition of Tangier's 1832/19 (Begins). There are now 25 Dewoitine pursuit planes at Casablanca manned by Naval pilots. These men mean business. 25 others also navy manned are at Dakar. American grade A 1. (Ends). My 1246/30/4 not to Admty. refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 2304S/19 to Admty. (for D.N.I.) S.O.I. Malta, S.O.(I.) Freetown).

U/B entered Ferrol. Large German S/M entered Ferrol 17/5 went into Naval Yard and left at night of same day. (Corunna 2355/19 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar and B.N.A. Madrid.)

South Atlantic.

Ship torpedoed. Following has been received from Olinda Radio. SSSS SSSS SSSS De WUAY \nearrow 2° 58' S. 34° 10' W. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 0319Z/19 to Simonstown, Admty.)
 \nearrow WUAY = ELI D HOYLE (Vide A.E.) Another version gives signal letters GUAK →

Following has been read. S/M attack 02° 58' S. 34° 10' W. (Rio de Janeiro, T.O.R. 0407Z/19)
Intercepted 0428G.M.T. Controlling station Rio de Janeiro Radio. S/M attack 02° 58' S. 34° 10' W. (Portishead Radio T.H.I.0628/19 to Admty.)

W.S.18. REINA DEL PACIFICO, EMPRESS OF CANADA. Your 1503/18. Ships have been instructed to proceed independently at best speed after R/V off Durban. (C.in C. S.A.1004B/19 to Admty. (R) C.in C. E.I., C.in C. E.F. etc.)

Shipping Routeing. Ref. M.A.R.I. amendment No.7. This does not affect ships routed from South America to New York. Ships to New York should be routed diversely either side of Bermuda to destination and arranged to arrive 50 miles from Sandy Hook at daylight. Admty.1806B/9/5 1942. (S.O.I.Freetown, 1020Z/19 to B.A.N.A.Rio, N.C.S.O. Monte Video, N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, N.C.S.O. Santos, N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, N.C.S.O. Para).

/ Vichy ...

War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Vichy Convoy. Vichy convoy sighted 1450/18 16° 7' N. 17° 8' W. steering 10° 8 knots. Comprising following ships - Merchant ships PROVIDENCE, ST. CYRILLE, *CEVENNES, 2 unidentified ships 4,000 tons each, 1 Tanker, 1 Fantasque Class Destroyer. All Merchant Ships light.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1205Z/19 to S.O.I. Gibraltar (R) D.N.I. Admty.) * See next page.

A/C report, Vichy Shipping. A/C reports of Vichy shipping on 18/5 as follows:-
At Grand Bassam 1 merchant ship of 5,000 tons.
At Port Bouet 1 merchant ship 3-4,000 tons, 5 merchant ships 6-8,000 tons, 5 merchant ships of 3-4,000 tons, 1 vessel possibly destroyer of 1,500 tons, 2 escort vessels of 1,000 tons.
At Conakry. 2 merchant ships of 2,000 tons and Salvage vessel, wharves well laden no troop movements seen.
At Ziguinchor 1 merchant ship of 4,000 tons and 1 merchant ship of 6,000 tons.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1231Z/19 to Admty. D.N.I. (R) S.O.I. Gibraltar) See 1003/20.

Overdue shipping. Greek KOUMOUNDOUROS due Lourenco Marques 14/5 from Colombo not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1325Z/19 to Admty. etc.)
ELG due Capetown 15/5 from New York not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1335Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

W.S.18 A. Convoy Telegram.
W.S.18 B. (1) W S 18 A to Aden, W S 18 B to Bombay.
(2) 1300Z/19.
(3) R/V with Durban portion end of Durban swept channel 0800Z/23. (Ships, Routes and Escorts).
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1353Z/19 to Admty. etc.)
Capetown departure FROBISHER with part W S 18 to R/V with Durban portion.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1405Z/19 to Admty. etc.)
Capetown departure ALBATROSS to join W S 18.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1658Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

SOUDAN & HECLA 147 AM 0010/18/5 and my 0158/16/5 HECLA leading (mined starboard column experienced one heavy explosion 15/5). presumably from a mine at 1559/15 PVS were not streamed D.G. was on.
(2) GAMBIA went to her assistance and escorted her to Simonstown convoy proceeded unescorted and shortly after 1800 SOUDAN felt 2 sharp explosions also presumably from a mine ship sank about 1930. D.G. not on.
(3) Convoy did not stream PVS till ordered to do so by me signal arrived too late for SOUDAN.
(4) No explanation yet why rescue ship was not detached to stand by SOUDAN in accordance with form A1 issued by N.C.S.O. Freetown.
(5) Further report will be rendered by letter when various signals made by me have been answered.

/ (6) ...

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19.5.1942.

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

- SOUDAN (mined 15/5). (contd.) (6) I am concerned at number of M/Vs not equipped with PVS and at unreliability of some others suggest immediate attention to this. (C.in C. S.A., 1442B/19 to Admty.)
- EDINBURGH CASTLE. 826. My 1545/27/4 not to C.in C. S.A. and my 1652/21/4. Request I may be informed of arrangements for a relief for EDINBURGH CASTLE. American S/M can not be received at Freetown until EDINBURGH CASTLE has been relieved. I repeat I must confirm that fractures of boiler stays referred to in para.4 of my 2001/29/4 are imminent. (R.A. West Africa, 1517Z/19 to Admty. (R) C.in C. S.A.)
- TETCOTT. TETCOTT sailed for Mombasa routed through position A 029° 20' S. 033° 50' E.; B 025° 037° 10'; C 021° 038° 50'; D 015° 30' 041° 58'; E 010° 041° 58', thence Mombasa. E.T.A. Mombasa 0600Z/24. S.of A. 16.5 knots. (Cdre.i/c Durban, 1554Z/19 to Admty. etc.)
- ARETHUSA. Arrival Pointe Noire 19/5 ARETHUSA. Departure 19/5 ARETHUSA for Simonstown and Capetown. E.T.A. Capetown 0800Z/23. (B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1703/19 to Admty. (R)C.in C. S.A., R.A. West Africa).
- COMMANDANTE LYRA. (Brazil) torpedoed. Report received that COMMANDANTE LYRA was torpedoed in 001° 30' S. 031° W. at 1825/18. (S.O.I) Montevideo 1742Z/19 to Admty. (R) C.in C. S.A., R.A. West Africa, S.O.I. Jamaica).
- LARGS, CORINTHIAN. F.O. Western Patrol informs me LARGS and CORINTHIAN have been placed under my administration. C.Os. inform me they are intended for escort duty on West Coast of Africa and I intend to so employ them pending further information. (R.A. West Africa, 1759/19 to C.in C. S.A., Admty.)
- Freetown D/F unreliable. All bearings taken by Freetown in H/F D/F station since 1800/18 are unreliable. While course is being investigated request all bearings reported may be treated with reserve. (R.A. West Africa, 1806Z/19 to Admty.)
- CEVENNES (French) Following from M I 6 (Begins). Free French Mission reports CEVENNES sailed from Dakar about 1/5 known to have on board 1607 tons Palm kernels consigned Marseilles to the Section Chief Staff Officer N.C.I. in transit direct to Algemeen Nederlandsche Sondernening Kipdurp 21 Antwerp (ends). M I 6 has seen bill of lading dated 1/5. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1815Z/19 to S.O.I) Freetown (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

See previous page
/ SERINGA ...

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

SERINGA. Cancel my 2151/15. SERINGA arrived Pernambuco 19/5.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2029Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Aircraft for R/C. Since departure of 710 Sqdn. in ALBATROSS it has been necessary for the F.R.U.777 Sqdn. to carry out certain R/C duties and A/S patrols in connection with convoys. Roc Aircraft are considered unsuitable for these duties, in Tropics, and it is intended to appropriate 1 Walrus and 1 Albacore or Swordfish for these duties.
(R.A. W. Africa, 2059Z/19 as amended 1430Z/21 to Admty. (R) C.in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

EAGLE Operation L.B. Albacores have not arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 0351B/19 to EAGLE. (R) F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. Med., Admty.) See F.O.C.N.A.1616B/19 in North Atlantic, for explanation.

TURBULENT. Act. independently in area C. Consider traffic still heaviest Benghazi.
(Capt.S.I., 1031C/19 to TURBULENT)
See also 1809C/19. p.601.

Malta. Military and air situation report for week ending 16/5.
(Govr. Malta, 1040/19 to C.in C. M.E. (R) W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

URGE, possibly mined. CLYDE. F.O.C.N.A. 1150/18 and your 1837/18. Possibility that URGE was mined as well as OLYMPUS cannot be ignored. 2. Use of another vessel as a mine bumper was the custom in Home Fleet during winter of 1939/1940 when the sweeping in and out of S/Ms was not possible. 3. Fully understood that your small vessels are few and far between but, if a mine bumper cannot be provided for CLYDE, her sailing is to be postponed.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1313B/19 to V.A.Malta) Reply: V.A.M.1411/20.
See p.595

CELENO ALBARO Italian Tanker CELENO in ballast arrived from Trieste 19/5, may form convoy with ALBARO and other vessels here for Burgos. N.L.O. Black Sea advised.
(S.O(I) Istanbul, 1558C/19 to S.O.I.Med. (R) D.N.I.)

/ Malta ...

600 A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1040/19th May IN

From Governor & C. in C. Malta. Date 19.5.42.

Recd 1445.

Cipher

Addressed C. in C. Middle East, repeated War Office.

IMPORTANT.

050632 G1268/R Cipher 19/5.

Military situation report for week ending 16 May 42. one enemy intensified attack on H.M.S. WELSHMAN on 10 May received severe trouncing. Effort thereafter greatly reduced. Mainly consisted of fighter sweeps in force. Some night raiding and E boat activity. Occasional use of Fighter Bombers with little effect.

Daily scale enemy effort

Date	JU.88s	JU.87s	Other Bombers	Main Targets
10 May	15	35	5 Cant	H.M.S. WELSHMAN
11 May	4	Nil	Nil	Hal Far Luqa
12 May	7	Nil	3 Cant	Hal Far Ta Kali
13 May	Nil	15	Nil	Hal Far Luqa
14 May	10	Nil	Nil	Luqa Ta Kali
15 May	5	Nil	3 Savoie 84	Ta Kali
16 May	3	Nil	5 Cant	Ta Kali

Also as much as 100 fighters per day ME 109s Macchi 202s some Falcho. Total of 31 night bombers in addition bombs wide spread. 1 JU 88 4 Br 20s night raiders destroyed.

16/17 May. Four E boats illuminated by C.A.S.L.S. night. Tigne and Rocco Btys engaged 22 rounds. One probably destroyed one immobilised. Latter attacked by Hurricanes and then by ME 109s who set on fire.

Aerial photos show steady decrease of German bombers in Sicily. Possibly accounted for by losses over Malta.

Enemy aircraft casualties. By A.A. destroyed 3 JU 88s 4 JU 87s 1 ME 109 probably destroyed 1 JU 88 damaged 2 JU 88s 2 ME 109s by R.A.F. destroyed 8 JU 88s 9 JU 87s 3 Cants 4 Br 10s 16 ME 109 7 Macchi 202s probably destroyed 7 JU 88s 10 JU 87s 2 Cants 1 Br 10 18 ME 109s 3 Macchi 202s damaged 9 JU 88s 10 JU 87s 1 Cant 26 ME 109s 1 Macchi 202 2 S.M. 84 total destroyed 55 probables 42 damaged 53.

2. Own.....

2. Own Tps. H.M.S. WELSHMAN arrived 10 May with 82000 rds Bofors ammn. Unloaded within 5 hrs mainly by R.A. personnel. Heavily attacked but reinforced fighters heaviest ever barrage over ship and use of smoke screen surprised enemy one stick within ten yards caused slight damage casualties. A.A. amn. restriction reimposed on 12 May. Western Inf. Bde. formed and started operating 13 May. Located high ground near Rabat. Role mobile reserve. Consists of 4 Buffs 8 Kings Own 1 D.L.I. Comd. Lt. Col. Brittorous. Inf. working parties on aerodromes continue. Party for serving and maintaining Spitfires reduced to 250 men on account reduced scale attack but 1500 men now on pen building also. R.E. Bomb Disposal Sec. disposed of 55 U.X.B.S. totalling 11 tons

3. Military and Civil damage slight.

4. Army casualties. 4 O.R.s killed. 1 Officer 3 O.R.s wounded.

5. Conclusion reinforcement fighters improved organisation based on experience and large scale assistance of Army to other services have enabled us obtained local air superiority. Enemy now concentrating on wearing down fighter strength and bombing attacks almost stopped temporarily.

1040/19

Received from War Office 0820/20

	War Office Distribution:-	
1st Lord	<u>Internal</u>	
1st S.L.	S. of S.	Q(OS)3
2nd S.L.	C.I.G.S.	E. in C.
3rd S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.	E. (Ops)
4th S.L.	A.C.I.G.S.	D.F.W.
5th S.L.	D.M.O. & P.	D.D.F.W. (A)
V.C.N.S.	D.D.M.O. (O)	F.W.5.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	M.O.1.5.	D.M.T.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.M.I.	M.T.1.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.D.M.I. (I)	D.G.A.M.S.
Nav. Sec.	M.I.3.14.	D.D.G.A.M.S. (Ops)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D. of Sigs.	Casualties.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	Sigs. 1.	<u>External</u>
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.S.D.	Col. Rolleston (Col. of)
Duty Capt. (2)	S.D.2.	C.N.S. (Admiralty)
D.D.I.C. (2)	D.A.A. & C.D.	C.A.S. (Air Ministry)
D. of P. (2)	D.D.A.A. & C.D. (A)	Col. Jacob.
D.N.I. (4)	D.D. of R.	Hd. of War Reg. (Ad.)
D.N.A.D.	A.A.1.4.	A.M.C.S. (Air Min)
E.P.S.	D.D.S.D. (Air)	S. of S. Foreign Off
D.C.D.	A.O.1.	
D.T.S.D.	D. of O.	
D. of L.D.	D.D. Of O. (L)	
Hd. of M.	A.G.1.	
D.M.S.	Q.M.G.	
D.A/S.W.	D.Q.M.G.	
D.T.M.	D. Ops.	
Press Division	D.D.I.P.	
W.D.	I.P.1.	
I.P. (2)	D.G.A.E.	

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta Air I.307. C.S.R.19th May. Part 1. 18th.
Report. 1540 hrs., Fighter Sweep 22 Me.109 and Macchi 202.
1 Me.109 destroyed by 13 Spitfires, A/A damaged
1 Macchi. Night 18/19. Beaufighters standing
Patrol, no alerts. 19th, 4 alerts. 0723 hrs., Fighter sweep
6 Me.109, 2 Spitfires, no combat. 0919 hrs., Fighter sweep
15 Me.109, 2 Spitfires, no combat. 1132 hrs., Fighter sweep
10 Me.109, 1 attacked by 2 Spitfires, no claims, A/A fired.
1308 hrs., 9 Me.109s, 5 Re.2001, 3 Cant.1007 at 23,000 feet.
Luqa, no damage; elsewhere, 2 soldiers wounded, 1 civilian
killed, 1 Cant. 1007 destroyed, 1 Re.2001 and 1 Cant 1007 damaged
by 20 Spitfires. 2 Spitfires damaged in combat, pilots unhurt.
A/A fired.
(H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1630/19)

Enemy 1 Merchant Ship and 1 Destroyer sighted by
Units, aircraft p.m. today should pass 031° 50' 018°
TURBULENT. 40' about midnight. Aircraft will search until
0300 and drop flares to west of target when
found. Use "Rooster" at your discretion from
2300 to 0300. Homing procedure from time of finding enemy
until 0300. A S/M was reported in your area about 1300 today.
(Capt.S.I., 1809C/19 to TURBULENT). *See p.600.*

Hospital Hospital ship is required at Tobruk on 23/5.
Ship. Am holding her at Alexandria until a reply is
received to my 1312/16.
(C.in C. Med., 1845C/19 to Admty.)

Greek- Your 2202C/4. Crews for additional corvettes
manned and Destroyers should be sent to U.K. in accordance
Ships. with A.M.2003B/25/4. Presume these personnel
are the same as those in your 1159C/7/4.
Numbers available and date of taking passage
should be reported. Consider it undesirable that more than 25
per cent of any class of ship on any one station should be manned
by Greeks. Allocation of Greek-manned ships to other Commands
will therefore be considered as necessary with particular regard
to increasing Greek efficiency.
(Hd.of M., 2150B/19 to C.in C. Med.)

THRASHER. Leave patrol and proceed through 036° 58' 020° 38'
034° 40' 023° 09' thence direct to arrive
Alexandria searched channel 0600C/26. If able
to arrive 25th report E.T.A.
(Capt.S.I., 2351C/19 to THRASHER).

HUSH - MOST SECRET

OUT

601A

HUSH MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

0316B/19th May

OUT

To: C. in C. Eastern Fleet 936.

Date: 19.5.42.

NAVAL CYPHER O.T.T.

From: Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE AIDAC

HUSH MOST SECRET

Personal and private from First Sea Lord.

(A) You will be aware how nervous the Australians are about being invaded and they suggest sending them an aircraft carrier which is out of the question.

(B) What would your reactions be to a suggestion that three "R" Class should be sent to Australia as an anti-invasion force but not repeat not for general work in the S.W. Pacific Area until such time as you could berth them in the Ceylon area?

(C) You will be informed on Wednesday, 20th May, that BRUTUS will not repeat not take place, but you will be required to provide forces for JULIUS.

0316B/19

for Sec. to 1st Sea Lord.

1st Sea Lord (2) Only
(No circulation other than this to be made either to this signal or reply).

Reply: C. in C. E.F. 16012/19,
see HUSH file, page 112.

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

W.S. 17. Intend sailing returning W.S. 17 ships as follows. ALMANZORA 21/5, WINDSOR CASTLE 22/5, SAMARIA 22/5, NIEUW HOLLAND 23/5, CAMERONIA 24/5, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNVELT 26/5.
(P.S.T.O. India, 0515Z/19 to C. in C. E.I.)

Aerodromes, Sec. of State's 204 of 1/4 to Governor, para. 6 (A). Are these amendments R.A.F. requirements in addition to F.A.A. 2 squadrons? Request information. R.A.F. R/C party arrived Mauritius today from C. in C. India to explore and advise on para. 6, items (A) (B) (C). Contour of Choisy and preliminary laying out ready for Lieut. Cdr. Noad's visit. Your 1259A/23/3 refers. Intend to continue this work in accordance with your signalled instructions unless you order me to include R.A.F. R/C parties requirements.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0723Z/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I., Civil E. in C.)

E.F. Carrier If Carriers will be in harbour for more than one week I would like to land as many squadrons as possible.
Sqdns. (S.O.A.C. E.F., 0747Z/19 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Com. N.A.S.)

W.S. 17B. Arrival 0331Z RANCHI with W.S. 17B. Departure 0541Z CENTURION, SCOUT, S. of A. 12 knots.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0809Z/19 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., etc.)

Minesweepers Mombasa left 19/5 0340 G.M.T. SEAHAM, BOSTON.
for (F.O. E.A., 0902Z/19 to C. in C. E.I., (R)
Mediterranean. Admty., etc.)

CENTURION, CENTURION S. of A. 11 knots E.T.A. Aden 1230Z/25.
SCOUT. SCOUT E.T.A. Colombo 0600Z/25.
(N.O.I.C. Bombay, 0907Z/19 to N.O.I.Cs. Aden, Colombo.)

Corvettes, I consider it is necessary to keep 3 corvettes at Diego Suarez to provide A/S protection at entrance until a boom is in place.
Diego 2. Asdic is out of action in CYCLAMEN, Suarez. FRITILLARY, JASMINE; last 2 require docking to fit new domes as ships have grounded. 3. Intend therefore to retain FREESIA, NIGELLA and GENISLOSA (? GENISTA) for the present and sail THYME and CYCLAMEN for Durban, and FRITILLARY, JASMINE to Kilindini unless it is preferred they proceed to Durban for docking.
(S.O. Force F, 1045C/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)
Reply from C. in C. E.F., see 1646/21.

/Fleet ...

War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Fleet Base, It is necessary to come to a clear decision
Diego Suarez whether the fleet base in Western Indian Ocean
or Kilindini. is to be at Kilindini and its associated anchor-
ages or at Diego Suarez.

2. Some of the advantages and dis-advantages of these two alternatives appear to be as follows:-

(A) Strategic position. Diego Suarez is better placed.

(B) Anchorage. Diego Suarez can take whole fleet whereas Fleet would have to be spread between Kilindini and associated anchorages.

(C) Air Reinforcement. Easier at Kilindini.

(D) State of Defences. Kilindini is being progressed. State of Diego Suarez as in S.O. Force F's 2314/15.

(E) Intelligence Security. Better at Kilindini, but it is hoped to obtain essential requirements in this respect in Madagascar.

It would appear that there must be very strong reasons as regards C, D and E to outweigh the important advantages of Diego Suarez as regards A and B.

(1st S.L., 1103B/19 to C. in C. E.F., Dep. C. in C. E.F.)

Reply: C. in C. E.F., 0615Z/21.

Routes,
independent
ships.

For N.C.S.Os.

(1) Route signals of merchant ships sailing independently which zigzag during part of the voyage are to include 2 speeds of advance (A) when zigzagging. (B) when not zigzagging.

(2) N.C.S. instructions will be amended accordingly.

(C. in C. E.I., 1234Z/19 to N.O.I.Cs. E.I. Stn.)

Development
of Diego
Suarez.

Your 1305/16. See my 1740/10 addressed C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I. and N.O.I.C. Mombasa.

(D. of D. Bath, 1247^B/19 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

Refits of
VALIANT,
INDOMITABLE.

Your 0141/16, para. 1. Cdre. Durban has been requested to keep me informed. Para. 2. No. (C. in C. E.F., 1450Z/19 to Admty.)

D/F of
Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings indicate German raider within 600 miles of 030° S. 090° E. or Antipodal at approx. 0500Z/19.

(C.O.I.S. Colombo, 1540Z/19 to Admty., etc.)

Your 1540/19. Bearings were of U-Boat in Florida Strait.

(D.D.I.C., 2330B/19 to C.O.I.S. Colombo.)

/Diego ...

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War Diary.19.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Diego Suarez Repatriations. In my 0029/13 and 0031/13. I stated my intentions of sending naval and military persons who did not wish to co-operate with (? us) limited number of their families to Durban at early opportunity, and in my 1023/18 I stated these persons and prisoners of war would be ready to sail tomorrow Wednesday in ORONSAY. *See repatriation of naval & military personnel from Durban*

2. Arrangements on these lines are proceeding.
3. Message now received from High Commissioner through C. in C. S.A. indicates Union of South Africa are not willing to accept either prisoners or families.
4. Quite impossible to retain prisoners here. Their accommodation, guarding and feeding could not be undertaken and it would be dangerous to release them. Repatriation must proceed in accordance with stated intentions of H.M.G.
5. From shipping point of view so convenient an opportunity may not occur again. ORONSAY and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL must return to complete with provisions which have been used to maintain Force F.
6. In view of above circumstances I intend proceed with evacuation of prisoners in ORONSAY.
7. If prisoners cannot be received by South Africa and if they cannot be landed at Durban and sent to Southern Rhodesia request ORONSAY may be diverted as necessary after completing with food at Durban.
8. Approximate numbers and categories.
9. Capt. Pirie is being flown to Durban in advance with full details.

(S.O. Force F, 1809C/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
Cable earliest full text of terms of surrender of Diego Suarez and expedite reply to 88437 (M.O.11) 14/5. 2. We desire that neither service personnel nor merchant seamen nor civilians of military age who have been captured, have surrendered, or otherwise become disposable, shall be repatriated without first examining here possibility of making repatriation conditional upon reciprocal arrangements for release of our people held by Vichy. State whether terms of surrender preclude this or can be constructed to permit it.

3. Do terms of surrender cover also enemy captured in battle?
4. Give approx. numbers enemy personnel by following categories.

(W.O., 2245/19 to Force Comdr. 121 Force.)

Seychelles, defence. Following amendment has been approved to defence plan for Seychelles contained in my 2321/25/2:-
Function of the base. For "Fuelling base for light craft" read "Fuelling base for main fleet units".

Anti-aircraft defences. Delete "4 Heavy A.A. and 4 Light A.A. guns to protect flying boat base", and substitute: "16 Heavy A.A. and 8 Light A.A. guns to protect the anchorage, oil fuel tanks and flying boat base".

(Head of M., 1943B/19 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

Japanese Unit. At 1900/19 bearing Aden 183° (C) Trincomalee 242° (C) frequency 7740, Japanese unit WIMA probably submarine in 012° S. 044° E.
(C.O.I.S. Colombo, 2357Z/19 to E.I. Stn.)

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War Diary.19.5.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West IndiesFOAM
(sunk 17/5)

Fishing Trawler FOAM shelled and sunk by S/M in 043° 20' N. 063° 08' W. at 1620 G.M.T./17. 17 survivors landed at Halifax 18/5. Search being carried out for 4 more survivors. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0055Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

→ FORT BINGER
action with
U/B.

SS FORT BINGER torpedoed and shelled in 043° 01' N. 067° 03' W. at 0200Z/18. FORT BINGER opened fire and estimated 3 hits. S/M fired 4 red flares and broke off engagement. FORT BINGER arrived Yarmouth N.S. p.m./18. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0115Z/19 to Admty. etc.) See also reference to this action in air report, A.O.C.E.A.C. 0526/19, 0915/19.

C.O.A.C. 0115/19. Request report previous movement SS FORT BINGER. No information here. (N.S.H.Q. 1649Z/19 to Admty.)

Master of FORT BINGER was told to return to U.K. if he did not contact convoy O.N.92. Request he be asked to explain why he did not carry out his orders.

(D.T.D. 1924B/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Reply. 1851/20.

My 0115 19th torpedo failed to explode. FORT BINGER suffered superficial upper deck damage only. Flares were not fired by S/M but were dropped by aircraft. 1 killed and 2 men seriously wounded.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1936Z/19 to Admty. etc.) *See p. 608.*SAN ELISEO
torpedoed.

Following has been received. 14° 42' N. 55° 52' W. torpedoed, want assistance. (SAN ELISEO 0255 G.M.T/19) (Portishead Radio 0503/19.)

→ Air Report.

A.812 Z.129 19/5. Operations 18/5. All times G.M.T. One Canso A. 162 BR airborne 0415/18 proceeded to position where FORT BINGER was being shelled by U-boat.

Unable to see U-boat but dropped flares and fired Very pistol to frighten off U-boat. Survivors report U boat ceased firing as soon as flares were dropped. Aircraft landed Sydney 0902. (A.O.C. E.A.C. 0526/19, 0915/19.)

U/B
Positions.

Request that daily estimate of U/B positions west of 40° W. originated by F 35 may be cabled to Admty. for D.N.I. as formerly. Distribution will be limited. (D.D.I.C. 0954Z/19 to Cominch.)

BISAYA.
BRUSH
BENCAS.

Your 1537/18 and 1547/18. C.T.F.24 reports BISAYA, BRUSH and BENCAS departed Argentia for Greenland at 0900Z/14. No report received at this Office of their arrival at Argentia. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1155Z/19 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. etc.) Arrived see N.S.H.Q. 1529Z/20.

/M.T.B. ...

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War Diary.

19.5.1942
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

M.T.B.
collision.

During A/S operations to seaward of Island night of 17th M.T. Boats 332 and 333 were in collision in 011° 32' N. 062° 57' W. 333 reached harbour 1500/18 with badly damaged side but 332 is still missing. Air and surface search still continuing and Venezuela Authorities warned.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1232Q/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.
(R) Admty. etc.)
My 1232/19 M.T.B. 332 located and returning.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1702Q/19.)

U/B.

S/M reported in 008° 10' N. 058° 14' W. at 1145Z/19.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1302Q/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.
(R) Admty. S.O.I. Jamaica.)

ST. CATHAN -55.
HEBE
collision.

U.S. Court of Enquiry into loss of H.M.T. ST. CATHAN finds that collision and resultant losses were not due to fault, negligence or inefficiency of anyone in ST. CATHAN or connected therewith, that lookouts in SS HEBE were insufficient and not alert, and that lack prompt rescue action by HEBE contributed to loss of life.
(Washington 1530Z/19 to Admty.) *S. 12/4 P. 389*

Bahamas.

Your 1732/15. Cancel my 2035/16/3 (Instructions re ships keeping clear of Bahamas.)
(Cominch 1539Z/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

K.S.
K.N.
Convoys.

Navy Dept. state Convoy K.S.502 sailing 20/5 will have limited speed 8 knots and Convoy K.N.102 sailing 21/5 will have limited speed 8½ knots.
2. Decided tentatively that if accumulation of shipping in assembly ports demand it every 3rd convoy north and southbound will have limited speed of 8½ knots.. This may be reduced to 8 knots occasionally.
(B.A.D. 1637Z/19 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. A.W.I., M.W.T. New York.)

TABORFJELL
(torpedoed
30/4.)

Your 2044/18. N.C.S.O. St. Johns 1721/16 was first intimation survivors ever landed and no advice received here of survivors en route Halifax. Senior survivor, second Officer, now interviewed and reports TABORFJELL (Nor) torpedoed and sunk at 0450Z/30/4 95 miles due East of Cape Cod 3 survivors landed St. Johns N .F. 7/5 by S/M P.552 whose C.O. took full reports. List of survivors follows.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1646Z/19 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Connav, Admty. F.O.N.F.)

/Shipping ...

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War Diary.19.5.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Shipping Routeing. T. Giro if placed in effect 30/5 only provides for routeing and reporting of United nations shipping and not for diversions or holding or releasing British managed shipping from Panama, Central America, West Indies, and Continental U.S. and Bermuda. U.S. is willing to undertake holding or release such shipping from ports and areas mentioned provided shipping from Caribbean via Trinidad for U.K. or Canada by ocean routes will be continued on request from U.D. (?U.K.) or Canada if they consider the necessity for movement overbalances the risk involved.
(U.S. Navycom, Washington 1655Z/19 to Action Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. A.W.I. Bermuda, Information C.E.S.F., C.C.S.F., C.P.S.F. C.G.S.F.)
Reply: Admty. 1159/21.

Ice bulletin 19/5 C.T.24, 1821/19 to Admty.

Canadian Minesweepers. A.M. 1714Z/6/10/1941.
(1) Intend to sail FORT YORK and TADOUSAC in company on 21/5 routed from St. Johns N.F. by Great Circle to (N) 059° 01' N. 025° 01' W.
On arrival at (N) ships have orders to proceed direct to Scapa if fuel permits with safe margin but if not to proceed to Iceland (C) for fuel.
(2) If proceeding direct E.T.A. Scapa 29/5.
(F.O.N.F. 1825/19 to Admty. N.S.H.Q., A.C.O.S. (R) C.C.C.S., TADOUSAC, FORT YORK, A.C.I.C., Commodore WESTERN ISLES, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, Canadian H.C. London.)

LISE (sunk 12/5) I.D. form S.A. Telegraphic report (A) LISE (B) sunk (C) 100 miles N.E. Curacao 12/5 0315, course not known (D) same as (C) but 0330 (E) on surface (F) too dark to be seen but gun explosions heavy also light machine guns used. 8 survivors arrived Barranquilla 18/5 similar number reported arrived Curacao 19/5.
(R.O. Barranquilla, 1832/19 to Admty.)

FORT QU'APPELLE. Torpedoed and sunk in 039° 50' N. 063° 30' W. at 0235Z/17. C.Bs thrown overboard. 3 men killed. 34 survivors landed Shelburne by H.M.C.S. MELVILLE at 1800Z/19.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1901Z/19 to Admty. etc.)
FORT QU'APPELLE torpedoed 16/5 at 2245 in No.2 hold starboard side. At 2335 another struck No.2 port side. Abandoned ship at 2330. 0030/17 Nos. 1 and 2 hatches blew up, ship was then seen to sink rapidly last seen of her was at 0100 above time (GP) SATS. The second torpedo struck abreast No.2 port the blast smashed the port lifeboat containing most of the (?passengers). Ship carried 4 bag special mail 1 bag consular mail 104 bags parcel mail all taken aboard at Kingston. Following is crew list.
(? Halifax 2145Z/19 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty.)

/BEDFORDSHIRE ...

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War Diary.19.5.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

BEDFORDSHIRE Regret to advise that H.M.T. BEDFORDSHIRE is overdue. unreported since 2000/11 when she was on patrol off N. Carolina coast. (Cominch 1915Z/19 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
(Sunk by U.558 12/5.) *Sun 12/5-p.390 714/5-12-515*

Caribbean Tankers. Pass to N.C.S.Os. All tankers, including those sailed in O.N. (South) and O.S. Convoys, bound from U.K. S. American, S. and W. African ports and Gibraltar to oil ports in Caribbean are to be routed to Port of Spain, Trinidad, for Convoy. (D.T.D. 1927B/19 to F.O.I.Cs etc.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. ESSO HOUSTON sunk 2 torpedoes vicinity 13 10 N. 56 50 W. 0030Z/13. SKOTTLAND torpedoed and sunk 43 07 N. 67 18 W. 1610Z/17. Trawler shelled and sunk 43 20 N. 63 08 W. 1620Z/17. COMMANDANTE LYRA believed torpedoed 02 59 S. 34 10 W. 2114Z/18. FORT BINGER claims 3 hits on Sub. Sub sighted on surface 26 25 N. 79 45 W. 1745Z/18. Submerged Sub sighted 25 37 N. 80 W. 1912Z/19. Sub reported 08 10 N. 58 34 W. ?145Z/19. Panair sights Sub 36 23 N. 69 40 W. 1435Z/19. Surface craft attack Sub 36 09 N. 74 54 W. 2400Z/17 probable damage, 25 39 N. 80 03 W. 2258Z/18, 25 28 N. 79 52 W. 2200Z/18. Plane attacks Sub 14 35 N. 56 37 W. 1322Z/19 possible damage. *Sun p 605.*
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2001Z/19 to Admty. for O.I.C.)
Connav Serial 19. SKOTTLAND Nor. torpedoed and sunk 1210 QUEEN CITY (as recd ? 1210 Q intended) 17 in 43° 07' N. 67° 18' W. 23 survivors, 1 lost. Correct AMAPALA lat. to 26° 30' N. FORT BINGER reached Yarmouth. ESSO HOUSTON, American Tanker, torpedoed and sunk 150 miles east of Barbados on 12/5. 18 survivors, papers believed destroyed. SAN VICTORIO, British Tanker, torpedoed and sunk 16/5 11° 40' N. 62° 33' W. 1 survivor. Papers sank with ship. CHALLENGER, American, torpedoed and sank 17/5 12° 35' N. 62° 11' W. 55 survivors. (Admty. pass to Spenavo for action).
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2012/19 to Comnav (R) N.S.H.Q.)

B.X.17. Arrived SNOWBERRY escorting B.X.17. (S.O.I. Halifax 2015Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

H.T. and T.H. Convoys. Your 1900B/18. Only escorts available for H.T. and T.H. convoys are 2 groups of 2 corvettes each. In view of lack of air or other cover during most of passage do not consider more than 6 tankers can be included in each convoy. 2. In the event that 6 tankers under charter to Canada are not ready for the convoys there is no objection to Admty. Oilers being included to bring convoy up to 6 tankers. 3. C.O.A.C. as Chairman of Canadian Oil Committee, East Coast, has been given the task of organizing and operating these convoys. 4. C.O.A.C. is to keep F.O.I.C. Trinidad informed of approx. dates on which T.H. convoys should leave Trinidad and names of Canadian Tankers which should be included. 5. C.O.A.C. is requested to inform

[Page 4 amended, see 2135/28/5.]

/necessary ...

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War Diary.19.5.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.H.T. and
T.H. Convoys
contd.

necessary authorities if Tankers mentioned in Admty. 2345/18 can be included in next T.H. convoy. 6. If Admty wish to use T.H. convoys to accelerate Tanker movements via Halifax it is for consideration that increased escort forces be allotted. No additional Canadian Escorts are available.
(N.S.H.Q. 2015Z/19 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C. etc.)
Reply Admty. 1728/22.

BETH
(sunk 17/5)

Arrival 1900 zone time/19 2 lifeboats 21 survivors including Master ex BETH, Norwegian, torpedoed 135 miles E.S.E. Barbados. Vessel sank, hit by 2 torpedoes, 2020/17 Secret documents thrown overboard in weighted boxes by master. 3rd lifeboat with 10 crew missing. Master considers may make for Tobago 48 hours. Request air search. Significant remark made by Capt. of S/M to Master "I suppose you are bound Freetown from Trinidad also". Enemy large S/M, 2 guns, Captain of German Nationality. Names of survivors in my 2145/19 to Admty, pass to Norwegian shipping Trade Mission, all well.
(Harbour Master, Barbados 2140/19 to Admty.)

Canadian
Tankers.

My 2150/18. Canadian Oil Controller reports SUNOIL, now Philadelphia, CITIES SERVICE TOLEDO, now Baltimore, and (?3) additional tankers to be (?employed) shortly have been allocated for Canadian requirements. (2) Proposed loading ports for these 5 tankers Cartagena or Covenas, to discharge Portland; proposed they proceed in U.S. convoys to and from loading ports if Cominch approves.
(N.S.H.Q. 2110Z/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) Admty. etc.)

U/B.

SS OCEAN HONOUR sighted S/M at 1233Z/19 in 043° 52' N. 064° 25' W. Arrived Halifax undamaged at 2327Z/19.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 2354Z/19 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation.

Digest 6. Serial No.117 from C.W.R. 18/5. B.17s attacking shipping Koepang Harbour 0345Z/18 made 2 direct hits on 3000 ton transport and possible hit on another of 6000 tons. 4 merchant ships one of 12000 tons and one possibly destroyed (?destroyer) sighted in Koepang Area. One S/M 010° 30' S. 124° 22' E.

/(2) ...

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War Diary.19.5.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Situation contd. (2) 16 T-99 long nose heavy bombers escorted by 15 Zero fighters attacked Seven Mile Aerodrome, Port Moresby at 2328Z/17, damaging water main, telephone lines. 18 heavy bombers simultaneously attacked Bomana Aerodrome destroying 5 drums of fuel oil and causing minor damage to buildings. Both Aerodromes temporarily unserviceable. Enemy losses one H/B certain, 3 probably, 1 Zero probably, 2 damaged. P.39s intercepted, 1 missing, 1 slightly damaged in combat, 2 destroyed, 1 damaged on ground.

(3) Following enemy shipping reported Solomon Islands. 2 vessels reported as light cruisers off Cape Marsh (Pavu Island) at 0700Z/17. 1 large transport, 1 destroyer anchored Gavutu Wharf 1930Z/17.

(4) Enemy air R/C over area N. of Port Moresby 18/5.

(5) Ref. serial No.116 para 3 photographic R/C 17/5 revealed enemy A/A positions on Tanambogo Island. Oil dumps reported at Gavutu Wharf, Havallo and Tanambogo.

(6) Ref. serial No.113, para 6. air R/C 18/5 reported no activity Deboyne Island.

(A.C.N.B. 1157Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

U.S. Dispositions. My 1536B/16/5. Following changes in distribution of U.S. Forces. Battleships. NEW MEXICO, IDAHO, TENNESSEE, MISSISSIPPI, COLORADO, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, At San Francisco.

8" Cruisers - INDIANAPOLIS - Left Melbourne 16/5 for Tonga Island. CHESTER - Left Tonga Island 15/5 for San Francisco. CHICAGO, SALT LAKE CITY - In S.W. Pacific. 6" Cruisers - CONCORD, TRENTON, Due Balboa 19/5. ST. LOUIS at Pearl Harbour. NASHVILLE left Pearl Harbour 14/5. ATLANTA Suva area.

(D.O.D.(F) 1655B/19 to C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q.)

Fiji. J.S.M. 235. Proposed agreement by American Staff for defence of islands.
(J.S.M. 1831Z/19 to C.O.S. London.)
See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1421B/19, 1425B/19.)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E. 1831Z/19th May.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From J.S.M. Washington. Date. 19.5.42.

Recd. 2342.

Addressed Chiefs of Staff, London.IMPORTANT.

IZ 334. J.S.M. 235. Reference J.S.M. 216.

Pending any formal agreement between U.K. and U.S. Governments as to terms and conditions under which U.S. will become responsible for Military Defence of the Fiji Islands, a working agreement has been proposed by American Staff as follows:-

2. "For the period of the War and for six months thereafter, the terms and conditions under which United States forces occupy the Fiji Group of Islands shall be, in so far as they are applicable, the same as those now in operation for the leased bases, as set forth in the 'Agreement for the Use and Operation of United States Bases', signed in London 27th March 1941, and supplemented by the agreement regarding local defense signed in Washington 30th August 1941. Such modifications or interpretations of the above-quoted agreements as may be found necessary to suit local conditions shall be agreed between the Governor of the Fiji Islands and the Commanding General of the U.S. Forces in Fiji. Should these authorities be unable to agree on any point of substance, it shall be referred for decision to the respective Governments."
3. You will note similarity between proposed agreement and that which concerned Ascension Island. Americans believe that necessity for formal agreement between Governments need never arise.
4. New Zealand Minister in Washington has indicated his concurrence with proposed agreement, though pointing out Fiji is Crown Colony.
5. Please let us have your comments or agreement.

1831Z/19

Circulation by Air Ministry:

Col. Jacob.

S. of State For. Affairs.

War Reg., Admiralty.

C.C. Tels.

C.A.S.

610^B

-2-

Received from Air Ministry.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. to 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D. of P. (2)
E.P.S.
Hd. of M.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.N.I. (4)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
Admiral Blake.
Admiral Bellairs.

MMC.

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.

AH 199 2241

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20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

W/T intercepts indicate that a raider or supply ship probably left a Bay of Biscay port early this morning.

British Air Operations.

At 0045 today a strike of 14 Beauforts and 17 Hudsons was despatched to the Stadtlandet area to attack the LUTZOW, but did not carry out any attacks. LUTZOW was sighted by aircraft at 0355 today in 62° 44' N. 6° 34' E., steering 40° at 20 knots, escorted by 4 destroyers and a T.B. At 0745 today she was in Trondheim Leden 63° 31' N. 9° 10' E., on course 60°.

42 aircraft bombed targets at St. Nazaire last night.

The weather was unsuitable for R/C of Narvik and Trondheim today.

Enemy Air Operations.

Last night was marked by a recurrence of long range bomber activity. Between 2345/19 and 0100/20 enemy aircraft bombed the Humber area indiscriminately.

Some barges were unsuccessfully attacked off Newhaven this morning. The enemy aircraft were subsequently engaged by M.Ls 142 and 137 and one of them was brought down near Beachy Head.

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20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Enemy aircraft laid mines last night between the Tees and Spurn Head.

Further magnetic and acoustic mines were detonated off the Norfolk coast today.

North Atlantic.

Operation
L.B.

CHARYBDIS, EAGLE, ARGUS and 6 destroyers returned to Gibraltar early this morning from flying off Spitfires to Malta.

Mediterranean.

Rear-Admiral (acting Admiral) Sir Henry Harwood hoisted his flag today as C. in C. Mediterranean in succession to Admiral Sir Andrew B. Cunningham.

24 Wellingtons from Egypt left to bomb Heraklion Aerodrome last night, but only 8 located the objective.

Aircraft from Malta reported bomb and torpedo hits last night on a northbound convoy of one merchant ship and 3 destroyers.

Tanker EOCENE from Alexandria is heavily escorted convoy for Tobruk was torpedoed at 2128 off the coast of Egypt.
The need for small tankers for the supply of petrol to the Western Desert is now acute.

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20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Port F is required as an operational base, that is, an anchorage where the Fleet can fuel in safety and remain for a few days at a time.

A merchant ship was unsuccessfully attacked today by a 4 engined flying boat in the Bay of Bengal, off Gopaldur.

America and West Indies.

8 ships
attacked,
7 sunk.

Seven or eight ships are reported to have been attacked today by U-Boats, two off the S.W. end of Cuba, one (in Convoy O.T.) 90 miles N.W. of Trinidad, one 50 miles W. by S. of Tortuga, two 400 to 550 miles to the eastward and south-eastward of Bermuda and one east of Wilmington; at least 6 of these were sunk.

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

→ RENOWN C. in C. H.F., 1348B/19. SOMALI, MATCHLESS,
ECHO detailed.
(R.A.D. H.F., 0957B/20).

NELSON,
RODNEY. Admty. 1900/17. Concur subject to V.A.2
reporting ships will be adequately worked up.
(C. in C. H.F., 1303B/20).

→ SOMALI,
MATCHLESS. Intend to sail for Scapa (A) Capt. (D) 6 in
SOMALI at 1830B/21, E.T.A. 1430B/22 (B) .
MATCHLESS at 1200B/22, E.T.A. 0400B/23.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1706B/20).

P.552 My 1541/19 passed to C. in C. W.A. as my 1253/20.
For ALECTO read BORAGE.
(Capt. S.7., 2307B/20 to P.552).

Operations.

K.C.5 (a) Operation K.C.5. M.T.Bs. 55, 54, 49, 50.
(b) 20th/21st May. (c) Yarmouth (d) 285° W W
12 miles. (e) Coastal shipping (f) 050° 15' N.,
(g) Match (h) 3 R I Y (i) stated D North of 050°
20' N., (j) Carry out operation.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1117B/20).

Combined
operation. A.M. 1619/19 para. 2.
Owing to defects which have occurred in some
destroyers of 15th D.F. C. in C. Nore is requested
to provide 2 and C. in C. Plymouth 2.
(D.O.D. (H), 1140B/20).

Your 1140/20. KUJAWIAK and ATHERSTONE detailed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1606B/20 to Admty).

Denmark
Strait
Patrol. Estimated 2157 situation tonight.*
(A.C.I.C., 1734B/20).
*U.S. Cruiser TUSCALOOSA on patrol "White".

Patrols. Patrols tonight. 1. 2 M.Ls. patrol N with
trawlers. 2. 2 M.G.Bs. (L) Q.E. 6 A.
3. 2 M.G.Bs. (L) vicinity 052° 12' N., 002° 20'
E. 4. 3 M.G.Bs. (S) R.B.25.
5. 4 M.G.Bs. (S) Q.E. 14 A with 2 M.Ls. operating
in vicinity Ostend. (C. in C. Nore, 1740B/20).

Night 20/21. M.Ls. 200 and 201 from Ramsgate patrolling between
Dumpton and North East Spit buoys. E.T.D.2245, E.T.R. 0530/21.
(V.A. Dover, 1820B/20.)

/N.W. Norway...

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

N.W. Norway
S/M Patrol
(UREDD).

Capt. S.9., 1809B/19 para.2. Intend sailing vessel about 0200B/21 on completion of fuelling. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2023B/20 to A.C.O.S.)

Eight
M.L.Cs. for
operation.

Eight M.L.C.fit for operations will be required to go in an overseas Convoy leaving Clyde about June 2nd.

2. Full crews, maintenance staff, stores and spares should accompany the craft. (C.C.O., 2049B/20 to V.A.C.T.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing
restrictions.

My 1559/19. For 0001/22 read 1200/21. (F.O.S., 1239B/20 to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. H.F.) Institute total S/M bombing restrictions 30 miles either side of a line joining 068° 10' N., 002° E. and 072° 30' N., 016° 50' E., from 0001B/22 until further notice. (C. in C. H.F., 1316B/20).

A/C for
Coastal
Command.

Your 2133/14. This is a further indication of necessity referred to in my 2247/12 for greatly increased allocation of aircraft to coastal command. (C. in C. H.F., 1413B/20 to Admty).

Bombing
Operations.

Day 18/5 to day 19/5, no operations. On night 19/20, 28 A/C bombed the docks at St. Nazaire, Havre was attacked, and one 4,000 lb. bomb is reported dropped on No. 8 Dock at Ostend. (H.Q.B.C., 1703/20).

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber Area
bombed.

Between 2345/19 and 0100/20 approximately 30 A/C operated over Humber Area. The object appeared to be indiscriminate bombing, including bombs dropped at Donna Nook, Humberston, Withernsea,

Spurn and Hull. Several A/C did not cross the coast, but there is no evidence to suggest minelaying on any scale. (F.O. Humber, 0125B/20).

Attack on
barges off
Newhaven.
One A/C
crashed.

Attack made by 2 Me.109s. 1050/20 on Group "Hurdle" South of Newhaven. 2 Bombs dropped, no damage observed. A/C flew Eastwards and were engaged off Beachy Head by M.Ls. 142 and 137, one brought down, crash landed 2 miles North of Beachy Head. Appears little damaged. Pilot in custody. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1230B/20).

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Mine clearance off Yarmouth. Commander Hammond is leaving Harwich with drifter FISHER BOY and yacht ESMERALDA and will arrive Yarmouth Roads about 1800 today. He has special gear for mine recovery and you are to afford him such facilities as are safe for using this gear in one of the 4th M/S Flotilla. Reasonable delay in clearing minefield can be accepted in view of importance attached to recovery of a complete mine and sinker.
(C. in C. Nore, 1052B/20 to S.O. 4 M.S.F.)

P.W. 20 A. Weather permitting carry out operation P.W. 20 A tonight. Details as ordered in my 1222/18. Covering Force. One unit M.G.B. (S) with one M.T.B. Q.E.14 A as near dusk as visibility allows moving to position 18 miles 170° from centre of Q.E.14 A when M.Ls. are approaching "Lay". All units are to be 30 miles off the coast by daylight and are to use full challenge (?procedure) whilst returning.
(C. in C. Nore, 1112B/20 to BEEHIVE).

SCOTT. Your 2101/19. Approved.
(A.C.I.C., 1134B/20 to SCOTT).

S.N.16 E. Sailed ADVENTURE.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1222/20).

Yarmouth. Positions of 4 magnetic mines detonated today near 57 Buoy and one acoustic near 54 D Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1702B/20, 1815/20, 1951B/20, 0945B/25).

Enemy Intelligence.

PRINZ EUGEN, SCHARNHORST, NÜRNBERG. Photographic R/C Kiel at 1915B/19. PRINZ EUGEN in Wik Commercial Harbour. SCHARNHORST in Southern floating dock. NÜRNBERG at entrance to inner dockyard basin.
(D.D.I.C., 0240B/20).

LÜTZOW Enemy 1 Cruiser 1 Destroyer. Position 62° 30' N., 5° 35' E., at sea. Course and speed unknown.
(A/C U. Sqdn. 0305/20 to 18 Group).
One capital ship DEUTSCHLAND class, 5 destroyers, in 62° 44' N., 6° 34' E. in Leads. Course 040° 20 knots.
(A/C M. Sqdn. 0355/20 to 18 Group).
Photographs at 0745/20 show LÜTZOW with 4 destroyers and 1 T/B on course 060° in Trondheim Leden, 63° 31' N., 09° 10' E.
(D.D.I.C., 1232B/20).

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Dutch
Coast.
Buoys and
Batteries.

The following is an extract of M.G.B.74 report received in BEEHIVE's 1044/18. (Navigational and coast defence) (C. in C. Nore, 1518B/20 to Admty).

Enemy Ship

A.M. 1221B/18. W.T.I. indicates a raider or supply ship probably left a Bay port early this morning. (D.D.I.C., 1711B/20).

Probable
Raider.

A probable raider 7,000 tons, previously in Kiel on May 3rd was in Cherbourg on 16th May and may leave for operations in near future. Description. (C. in C. W.A., 1928B/20).

Narvik,
Trondheim.

No R/C Narvik and Trondheim today. Weather unsuitable. (D.D.I.C., 2109B/20).

U-Boats.

U-boats
reported.

There may be a U-boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1325B/20 to CASTLETON). My 1305B/20. This now appears less probable. (D.D.I.C., 1551B/20 to Escorts O.N.94).

By D/F at 1409Z/20 a U-boat within 40 miles of 47° 30' N., 14° 30' W., probably E. Bound.

(D.D.I.C., 1712B/20 to P.43, TRAVELLER, P.211)

U-boat transmitted probable shadowing reports on 13768 K/cs at 1506Z/20 and at 1639Z/20. Bearings of these transmissions were indefinite but covered estimated positions of all units addressed.

(D.D.I.C., 2025B/20 to Escorts O.N.94, C.T.16, O.N.95).

Hydrophone effects S/M 5½ miles 230° Marwick Head.

(M.L. 252 2046/20).

U/B estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1639Z.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2133/20 to C.T.U., 24.1.3).

Navigational.

Liverpool
Bay.

Following received from S.3. begins. P.212 reports striking bottom in about 10 fathoms when diving for trim in Liverpool Bay in approx. 286° Bar L.V. 9.5 miles. State of tide 1 hour before L.W. neaps. 1022B/20, Ends. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1505/20 to Hydrographer).

No.4
Buoy.

No. 4 Buoy appears behind 1.2 miles 134° from Chart position. (VERSATILE, 1618B/20 to C. in C. Nore).

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War Diary.

20.5.1942.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- 2 Barges. On passage to Tilbury with two barges in tow, believed lost by H.M.T.* VENETIA. **Not identified.* (ST. MELLONS, 0830/20).
- BJAAKI Unless situation necessitates your continued escort (Broke return to base forthwith. down 19/5). (C. in C. W.A., 0906B/20 to ST. KENAN).
- FORESTER, FORESTER arrived Tyne 19/5, and FORESIGHT arrived¹⁷ Hull 22/5 with shell damage. A certain amount of repair work has been done at Murmansk. (R.A.D., 0955B/20 to Admty).
Proceed passing Switha 0800 tomorrow to Hull for repairs. Speed between 21A and 17 buoys is not to exceed 10 knots except in emergency. (R.A.D., 1447B/20 to FORESIGHT).
Consider new steam drum will probably be required. Request Admiralty representative may visit FORESIGHT at Hull. E.T.A. Hull a.m./22. Intend FORESIGHT should be used as a 2 boiler ship if delay otherwise would be excessive, as has already been approved for FORESTER. (R.A.D., 1821B/20 to Admty).
- MINERVE. Intend sailing MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH at 0700B/21 for Dundee. E.T.A. 0900B/22. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1115B/20).
- WOLVERINE My 1603B/5, 0954B/18. Owing to damage by near (Bombed 16/5). miss do not anticipate sailing WOLVERINE before 1/6. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1537/20 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- AZALEA. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1225/19. AZALEA can be taken in hand forthwith by Gordon Allison Birkenhead for main engine and boiler defects. AZALEA is urgently required and F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to report after inspection whether it is considered essential to repair leaks in oil fuel tanks before sailing. (D.O.D. (H.), 1640B/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1225B/19. AZALEA now reports No. 2 boiler defective due to tubes leaking. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1845B/20).
Admiralty 1640B/20. In view of engine and boiler defects intend sailing AZALEA with O.N.M. 97 p.m./21 to vicinity of Skerries thence independently. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2011B/20).
- SALAMANDER Defects to Port engine piston red packing recently developed prevent sailing to present programme. (SALAMANDER, 1735/20 to C. in C. Rosyth).

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X.188 H.X.188. Average speed 8.79 knots. Fog encountered first 3 days but weather generally good. No stragglers, all ships accounted for. (D.T.D., 1119B/20).
- P.Q.17 Your 1707/17. Concur. It is hoped to sail 4 M/S with P.Q. 17. (C. in C. H.F., 1304B/20 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)
- O.G.M.84
CAIRO. My 0957B/19 amend last sentence. CAIRO is to proceed to Belfast with O.G.M.84. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1511B/20 to CAIRO).
- W.S.19 W.
(QUEEN
MARY). Your 1047B/19. Intend to sail CAIRO 2200Z/22 to R/V with W.S.19 W at 0400Z/23. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1515B/20).
W.S.19 W. Intend sailing passing Clyde boom 2300B/22 to R/V CAIRO, KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, LEAMINGTON BEAGLE, and SARDONYX at 0600B in 270° Oversay 6 miles, thence in accordance with Admty. 1838B/19. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1734B/20).
- P.Q.16
Q.P.12. During passage of P.Q.16 and Q.P.12 1 Russian sub. will be operated in areas 10 B and 11 B and another in Coastal Area 2. My 2158/3 and my 1040/4. This area will not be occupied. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1702B/20 to Escorts P.Q.16 and Q.P.12).
- EMPIRE
CONRAD. Sail ROTHER and SPIREA escorting 29th M.L.F. and EMPIRE CONRAD in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1420B/11 and ?2247B/19. ROTHER replaces AZALEA. S.O.A. 10 knots. In event of separation ROTHER remains with EMPIRE CONRAD. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2009B/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

See also p/7-621 7622

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War Diary.20.5.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Movements. 0430 EAGLE, CHARYBDIS, ITHURIEL, WESTCOTT.
0700 ARGUS, WRESTLER, ANTELOPE, WISHART,
PARTRIDGE, 0730 HYTHE, SALVONIA.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0748B/20 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,
V.A. Malta.)

TOTLAND. TOTLAND arrived Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T. 20/5.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0955/20 to S.O.I.
Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

Report of Firing. Firing heard off Cascaes 1730 G.M.T. 19/5.
(B.N.A. Lisbon 1046B/20 to S.O.I. Gibraltar
(R) Admty.)

R/C Ferrol. PRU/GIB/W1/19/5. Sortie G/130 dated 19/5.
Visual R/C only because of camera failure.
Two M/Vs, one of which crew consider to be
target required seen in sea road of El Ferrol
west of Naval Harbour and quarter mile North of
Punta Leiras.
(P.R.U. Benson 1130/20 to Admty. etc.)

MIRROR Cable repairs. My 1158A/15/4. Repairs (A) completed. Repairs
(B) uncompleted owing to breaks in cable
extending for 50 miles. MIRROR awaiting further
instructions from Cable and Wireless.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1152B/20 to Admty.)

Operation L.B. ITHURIEL detached at 1147B/18 when in 37° 21' N.
02° E. to assist Catalina down in sea in reported
position 20 miles North of Algiers having been
shot down by French fighters.
Attack on British A/Cs by French A/Cs. (2) Two Fulmars sent from ARGUS to cover ITHURIEL.
Pilot of one of these states he shot down French
Dewoitine at 1435B which was about to attack
his consort.
(3) At 1400B in 33° 15 miles from Cape Caxine while taking
Catalina in tow ITHURIEL was circled by 3 French fighters
which subsequently attacked a Sunderland also in company.
ITHURIEL engaged and drove off these fighters.
(4) At 1450 ITHURIEL, having rescued crew of Catalina, sighted
and engaged 4 French fighters which then shot down Fulmar.
(5) ITHURIEL slipped tow and rescued Fulmar pilot, subsequently
sinking Catalina in view of strong probability of further air
attack.
(6) ITHURIEL rejoined EAGLE at 2100B, having transferred 1
seriously injured pilot to relief Catalina from Gibraltar.
(EAGLE, 1240B/20 to Admty. Air Min. C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C.N.A.
R.A.F. Gibraltar, ARGUS, ITHURIEL, V.A. Malta.)

/Your ...

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War Diary.20.5.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. conts:

Operation L.B. Attack on British A/Cs by French A/Cs - contd. Your 1309/19 and EAGLE's 1240/20. Catalina in 37° 1' N. 2° 50' E. course 77° height 1500 feet at 11(?)5/18 sighted 4 small merchant vessels about 10 miles distant between A/C and Algiers. 2 appeared to be on fire. (2) Catalina altered course to investigate and sighted 2 Dewoitines approaching from south. Catalina turned to seaward but Dewoitines attacked scoring hits and badly wounding Captain and second pilot. Catalina returned fire scoring possible hits on 1 Dewoitine which made for coast. (3) Second Dewoitine joined by 6 others and circled Catalina when on water. (F.O.C.N.A. 1520B/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, EAGLE.)

Force H. Can I be informed whether Force H. is to be reconstituted. I gather from A.T.2039/15 (? 2035/15 intended) that 'L' Class Destroyers will be returning but have had no news about S.O.F. and HERMIONE. Mails for these are still being returned to G.P.O. London and there is a quantity of stores on hand for them. (F.O.C.N.A. 1256B/20 to Admty.) *Reply: 1636B/24.*

R/C Casablanca. Photo. R/C Casablanca 0803/20 shows JEAN BART (?returned) to usual berth. Torpedo boom not yet replaced. GLOIRE in usual berth. PRIMAUGUET usual berth not covered. (F.O.C.N.A. 1302B/20 to Admty. etc.)

Attack on U/B. Ref. C.A.F.O.834/41 (a) PARTRIDGE (b) 0826B/18 (c) 037° 07' N. 001° 05' E. (d) 24 (e) 0945B (corrupt group). (PARTRIDGE 1400B/20 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt.(D)13, Admty. for D.A.S.W., H.M.S. CHARYBDIS.)

See next page

Escort Vessels. Your 1056B/19 (N.T.in W.D.) and A.M.1828B/18 (N.T.in W.D.) 2. AZALEA delayed by defects and has been replaced by ROTHER.

3. EMPIRE CONRAD and 29th M.L. Flotilla escorted by SPIREA and ROTHER leave Milford Haven 1900B/20.

4. Request HYTHE and RYDE may be sailed so as to relieve SPIREA and ROTHER as far North as their endurance permits as return of SPIREA and ROTHER to U.K. for further escort duty is urgent.

(D.O.D.(F) 1751B/20 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Your 1751B/20 request I may be informed when SPIREA will rejoin my command.

(F.O.C.N.A. 2244B/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

See pp 619 & 622

/A.M.1751B/20 ...

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War Diary.

20.5.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Escort
Vessels -
contd.

A.M.1751B/20 not to SPIREA and ROTHER. HYTHE and RYE will meet EMPIRE CONRAD and 29th Motor Launch Flotilla in (Y) 41° 42' N., 14° 59' W. at 1200B/24 to relieve SPIREA and ROTHER. (F.O.C.N.A. 2328B/20 as amended 1716B/21 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, (R) SPIREA, ROTHER.) *See p. 619*

A/C
report.

One A/C identity unknown distant 3 miles course 180°. My position 39° 51' N. 9° 14' W. (CORATO 2044B/20 to Gibraltar W/T.)
W.R. Note. Pass this message to IMPERIALIST, and F. 607. Emergency Air Attack
1 A/C bearing 300° from Espichel distant 9 miles. (IMPERIALIST 2115B/20 to Gibraltar W/T.)

Operation
L.B.
Report.

Operation L.B. Force sailed 1300, day 1. 17/5.
2. 2358 CHARYBDIS attacked Swirl of believed U-boat in 036° 25' N. 001° 50' W, no contact.
3. 0830 day 2 CHARYBDIS and PARTRIDGE missed by 3 torpedoes in 037° 05' N. 001° 06' E.
*PARTRIDGE attacked firm contact; no observed result. F.O.C.N.A. 1704/18 refers. 4. 1147 see my 1240/20. 5. 1330 attempted to fly off Spitfires. C. 37° 30' N. 2° 35' E. but insufficient wind. 6. 1440 wind 7 knots. Flew off 17 Spitfires in 37° 36' N. 3° 00' E. 7. 1720 force reported by JU.88; shadowed until 2009. 8. 1930 flew off 6 Albacores in 37° 29' N. 4° 02' E. 2000 to 2100 Albacores returned all with excessive oil temperature and low pressure; cause under investigation (see 1820B/21.)
9. 2130 to 2215. Attacked by about 6 torpedo A/C, possible S.M.79. EAGLE and ARGUS near missed; no damage or ? casualties.
10. Day 3. JU.88 shadowed from 036° 50' N. 000° 10' W. to 036° 20' N. 001° 45' W. 11. 1110 Swordfish A/S patrol force landed in sea. Engine failure; crew rescued.
12. Throughout day 3 from various causes ARGUS had only 4 fighters serviceable.
13. All times zone minus 2.
(EAGLE 2120B/20 to Admty, Air Min. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta.) * *See previous page.*

Blockade.

Your 1919/19. Warning will be considered operative after 26/5.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2239B/20 to N.A. Madrid,(R) C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C.N.A. N.A. Lisbon.)

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War Diary.

20.5.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ENGADINE. Departure ENGADINE for Mombasa S. of A. 14 knots E.T.A. 012° S. 2100Z/26 E.T.A. Mombasa 0800Z/28.
(S.O.I. Capetown 0954Z/20 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I. etc.)

A/C report, My 1231Z/19 cancel shipping as stated at Port Vichy shipping. Bouet and substitute 1 merchant ship of 8000 tons, 5 merchant ships of 3 to 4 thousand tons 1 destroyer and 2 escort vessels.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1003/20 to Admty. (for D.N.I.)
(R) S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

Appt. of R.A.T.E. Your 1230/16th. Concur.
(C. in C. S.A. 1044B/20 to C. in C. Med.)

Vichy Convoy. Ref. my 1205/19. Escort now identified as Elan Class (? patrol vessel), not destroyer.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1044Z/20 to S.O.I. Gibraltar (R) Admty for D.N.I.)

WILD SWAN. Intend to sail WILD SWAN as additional escort to EMPRESS OF RUSSIA sailing about 22/5. WILD SWAN, who is proceeding to U.K. for docking, can screen EMPRESS OF RUSSIA while COLOMBO is fuelling at Ponta Delgada. WILD SWAN will then proceed to Gibraltar with ~~###~~ stores ~~###~~ and ratings for MALAYA vide F.O.C.N.A.'s 1244B/17/5 to R.A.W.A. only.
(R.A. West Africa 1111/20 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A. MALAYA, COLOMBO.)

ORONSAY S.O. Force F. 1809/19 (N.T. in W.D.) De(*) has Diego Suarez made it clear that Union Authorities cannot accept Repatriations. the deportees from Madagascar even for passage to Rhodesia.
2. Alternatives are (a) divert ORONSAY to Mombasa or Dar Es Salaam. (b) to retain ORONSAY at Durban with personnel on board and under guard until time as opportunity occurs to repatriate them. This is highly undesirable and would be unpopular with the Union (c) Divert ORONSAY to U.K. or tranship them direct to some ship on passage.
3. Very early decision is requested.
(C. in C. S.A. 1435B/20 to Admty. (R) S.O. Force F., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.) * Remainder of name corrupt.
Reply: Admty 0127B/21.

/PHEMIUS ...

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War Diary.20.5.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

PHEMIUS. My 1353Z/19 PHEMIUS returned 1900Z/19 with paravane defect and will be sailed independently at 1600Z/20 on convoy route. S. of A. 14 knots E.T.A. Aden p.m. 5/6. S.O. of Escort W.S.16 is requested to pass to V.Cdre of Convoy in ORDUNA. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 1448Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Summary. 2000Z/20.
(C. in C. S.A. 1533B/20)
See Lion Copy.

Shipping Routeing. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Cancel A.M.1725A/19/3 para.2.
(D.T.D. 1707B/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

CAMBRIA. CAMBRIA sailed 1200Z/20 for position 2 miles from mouth of Santos River where due daybreak 21/5 afterwards proceeding to Santos.
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1717Z/20 to Admty.)

ELG. My 1335/19 cancelled. ELG arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1904Z/20 to Admty.)

Paravanes. When in less than 200 fathoms (?paravanes) are to be used.
(C. in C. S.A. 2031B/20 to S.A. Station.)

ARCHER. Your 1931/9 (a) 8 cased fuel Martlets A/C due Capetown in SS HARPAGON 23/5 (b) estimated A/C can be erected at Wingfield in 10 days from date of receipt. (2) Following serviceable A/C in A.R. 6 Hurricanes, 2 Swordfish. (3) Request instructions if any Walrus are required. (4) ARCHER due Capetown 23/5.
(C. in C. S.A. 2315B/20 to Admty. (R) ARCHER, C. in C. E.F. S.O.(A)E.F., Comms Kilindini.)

MOST SECRET

624A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1533B/20th May

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 20.5.42.
Recd. 1910.

NAVAL CYPHER '3.M.' BY W/T

Addressed South Atlantic Station Squadron Repeated Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

~~176.~~

(Movements summary) 2000Z/20th May. Area Q H.M.S. VINDICTIVE
015° degs. 10' South 009° degs. 30' East to Simonstown 12½.

ARCHER with MANAAR 022° degs. 10' South 003° degs. 30' East
134° degs. 14.

H.M.S. CANTON H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE patrolling in Area K 36 A
and C.

H.M.S. CARLISLE from Durban E.T.A. Simonstown 0700Z/21st.

H.M.S. CILICIA off Tristan Da Cunha.

H.M.S. FROBISHER H.M.S. ALBATROSS with W 8 18 Capetown
portion 037° degs. 00' South 021° degs. 30' East to Durban 12.

ENGADINE 035° degs. 00' South 019° degs. 55' East to
Mombasa 14.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS from Simonstown E.T.A. Capetown 0600Z/21st.

(b. in b. 4.a. 1533B/20th May A.A. Station
Adm (A) Admty)

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

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) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C. (2)
Duty Capt. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Head of M.

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War Diary.20.5.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.E. Air Report. A. 698 19/5 Bi-Weekly Opsum No.22.
15/16 May 12 Wellingtons left to bomb Benghazi Harbour, 4 only reached objective owing to bad weather, these started fires on Cathedral, Central, and Juliana Moles. 16/5. 6 Baltimores which left to bomb Benghazi Harbour returned owing to dense cloud over Western Cyrenaica. Night 16/17. 11 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour, hits on wrecks converted into landing stages and on moles started one fire.
17/5. 6 Baltimores bombed ship in Benghazi Harbour from 17,000 feet, no hits, 5 enemy fighters patrolling over Benghazi did not attack. 1 JU.88 reconnoitred Alexandria at 25,000 feet, 2 Hurricanes did not sight.
Night 17/18 May. 15 Wellingtons carried out special search for enemy shipping off Benghazi, no shipping sighted at sea or in harbour. 7 Wellingtons bombed harbour installations starting small fire on central Mole.
18/5 4 Martlets, 32 Hurricanes, 4 Fulmars shipping protection, 5 Me.202s made high level bombing attack on El Adem in morning. No damage or casualties.
Night 18/19. 7 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour, bombs bursting on moles, also in area occupied by converted wrecks A.S.V. Wellington on search of Gulf of Sirte for enemy shipping reported by R/C Maryland previous day sighted 4 vessels about 80 miles N.W. Benghazi. Albacore torpedo strike standing by unable to take off owing to bombing Sollum area by 6 enemy aircraft 1 Hurricane sortie unable to intercept.
2 enemy aircraft reported over Gulf of Arabs during night believed searching for our shipping. 3 Beaufighters did not sight enemy. 19/5. 6 Baltimores attacked shipping in Benghazi Harbour from 15000 feet. Heavy cloud prevented assessment results but bombs fell in inner harbour area.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1012/20, 1046/20, 1058/20.)

PORPOISE. In view of A.M.1313/19 PORPOISE is to be held pending further report from V.A. Malta.
(C. in C. Med. 1206C/20 to Capt. S.I. (R)
V.A. Malta etc.)

Alexandria, Attack was made on night 14/15 May by human
Human Torpedo torpedoes.
Attack 14 - 2. A loop crossing was registered at 2315 but
15/5. no contacts were made by A/S patrol craft either
before or after. No second crossing was
registered. 3. H D A V entrance gave contacts
at 0125 and 0143 and on both occasions 6 pairs 5 pdr. charges
were fired in entrance within 3 minutes of contact.
4. Human torpedoes accounted for as follows :- A. Blown up
by crew E. of Ras-el-Tin at 0430/15. Crew not yet captured.
B. Exploded on foreshore at Mex at 1030/15. Crew arrested
ashore. C. Crew recovered from wreck at inshore entrance of
Great Pass. Torpedo not found. 5. Prisoners state attack
failed owing to A. Parent submarine and human torpedo unable to
fix their position owing to dazzle effects of shore searchlights
which were kept burning intermittently throughout the night.
Possible enemy were expecting agent ashore to show light.
B. Effect of underwater charges severe. 4 boats were each
dropping 5 pdr. charges at rate of 10 per hour.
(C. in C. Med.1352C/20 to V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A. etc.) /Enemy ...

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War Diary.20.5.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy Minelaying, Malta. BERYL, CLYDE. A.M. 1313/19. (i) Recent minelaying has only been detected off Valetta Harbour. My 1709/12 refers. URGE and OLYMPUS sailed from Marsamxett and not Marsaxlokk. (ii) No vessel here with sufficient (corrupt group) for bumper. (2) BERYL will now be completed as sweeper on 25/5 and will be available to sweep CLYDE into Marsaxlokk from end of S.E. Searched channel. (3) CLYDE would bottom in Bay on arrival and subsequently unload shells on pier during dark hours bottoming in bay each day. Expect scale of enemy air effort should allow this without undue risk. (4) In above circumstances and with aid of M D U, consider CLYDE can be accepted. (V.A. Malta 1411B/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.S., F.O.C.N.A.)

Malta Air Report. W.X.917 (Pt.1) I.310. C.S.R. Malta 20/5. 19th 1723 hours, fighter sweep 6 ME.109s, 16 Spitfires up, no combats. Night 19/20. 1826 hrs. 4 JU.88s dusk attack Ta Kali, craters dispersals, 1 unserviceable Spitfire destroyed, light A/A damaged 2 JU.88s. Alert 0400, 5 raiders, bombs sea, 1 probable Cant 1007 destroyed by Beaufighter, 20th, 5 alerts. 1355 hrs. 6 Me.109s, bombs Ta Kali, 1 bomber? damaged, 4 Spitfires, no combats. Night 19/20. Wellington 8 shipping sweep 2108 hours, 1 medium M/V, 2 D/Rs, later joined by another D/R (090° or 290° corrupt) Tripoli, 35 miles, course 350° 15 knots 4 500 lb GP 1 second delay bombs dropped from 2000 feet scoring hits. 2230 hours, 3 Albacore attacked, smoke screen, 2 torpedoes dropped, probable hits M/V and 1 D/R, Wellington saw fire on D/R. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1630/20, 1650/20.)

GALLANT, (under repair.) My 1600/13 to Admty. only. Situation regarding GALLANT is as follows (details)
6. 3 4.7 inch guns have been allocated and 2 M. 0.5 inch mountings have been loaned to Army and 1 3 inch H.A. has been lost in ABINGDON.
7. In view of above approval is requested for removal of items of machinery and equipment including electrical gear which may be useful for other ships of Class and that instructions re disposal be given.
8. Recommended no further structural material or equipment for GALLANT be sent until a later date when conditions have improved materially. (A.S. Malta, 1730B/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

TRITON. 1 destroyer and 3 trawlers on patrol in Sanctuary. No shipping expected in area on account of enemy mines. S/Ms are not to cross the 50 fathom line before 1001 by which time sweepers will have completed. Sweepers must be given a wide berth. S/Ms may dive in Exercise Sanctuary or Searched Channel. (Capt. S.1. 1901C/20 to Gr. S/M TRITON, (R) THRASHER, Capt.(S) CORINTHIA.)

/TURBULENT ...

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War Diary.

20.5.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

TURBULENT.

If A/S activity is too great proceed to vicinity of 033° 28' 016° 46' remaining South until 0001C/23. Further orders follow. (Capt. S.I. 1951C/20 to TURBULENT.) Cancelled by 0655C/21, q.v.

War Diary.20.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Air Report. A. 935, 19/5. Intelligence summary No. 65 on information received up to 1800 hours 19/5. Burma. Blenheims attacked barges and river craft Sitlaung and Manalein areas 18/5. R/C of Lushyi Hills 18/5 reports no movement except 20 sampans north of Ganges. One Hudson dropped bombs near jetty at (? Akyab) 18/5. No movement seen. Photographic R/C Port Blair 18/5. One vessel, 8 4-engined flying boats 8 single-engined floatplanes and 2 fighters airborne. Ceylon. Coastal patrols and Catalina patrol 399 miles S.E. of Ceylon negative. (Air H.Q. India, 0230 G.M.T./20.)

German Re transport to Canada.
Prisoners. (D.S.T., 0257B/20.)
See America and West Indies.

Port F. For C.O.S. from Gen. Wavell. Please give immediate official decision whether Port F is required or not. Certain commitments have already been entered into and it is most desirable that we should know at once how we stand. (Arminia, 0600/20.)
Reply: Air Min., 1440Z/21, Chiefs of Staff (India) 57. For Chiefs of Staff. Arminia's 0600/20. Port F is required as an operational base, that is to say an anchorage where the Fleet can fuel in safety and remain for a few days at a time. My 1913/9 (N.T. in W.R., ? corrupt reference) to Admty. only refers. (C. in C. E.F., 1405Z/20.)

Italian GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO will be bunkered and
Repatriations. watered to capacity by p.m./24. Intend instructing N.O.I.C. Berbera to sail them 25/5. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0654Z/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I., etc.)

Movements. Summary No. 40 dated 20/5/1942.
(C. in C. E.I., 0703Z/20.)
See Lion Copy.

NORVIKEN Norwegian SS NORVIKEN bombed by Japanese A/C
(bombed 9/4) on 9/4 no direct hits, but near miss stated to have burst main steam pipe in engine room. Ship was abandoned by crew while about 6 miles off shore and ran aground in approx. 35 miles South of Batticoloa.
2. Ship was found to be on fire on night 10/4 evidently as a result of complete abandonment by crew and looting by local natives.
3. Salvage Officer reports ship broken in two forward of bridge and gutted by fire. Neither practical nor economical to attempt salvage.
4. Unnecessary loss of this valuable ship is considered to

/have ...

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

628A

From C. in C. East Indies.

070 $\frac{1}{2}$ /20 May.

Date 20.5.42.

Recd. 1457

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities East Indies Station, negative C B C,
Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, Australian Commonwealth
Naval Board, Melbourne, F.O.C. Red Sea Force.

IMPORTANT.
AIDAC.

711. Movements summary number 40 dated 20th May 1942.
Reference summary number 38 (ii) H.M.S. SUTLEJ due Colombo 22nd
(vi) H.M.S. MANXMAN arrived Mombasa 16th reference summary number 39
(v) H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE left Mombasa 18th.

Serial No.	Ship	From	To	Remarks.
1.	H.M.A.S. LISMORE	Bombay 21st May	Off Karachi 23rd May to South Island	H.M.I.S. HINDUSTAN from Karachi thence patrol B P 44 and B A 22 for 200 miles then both return Bombay.
2.	H.M.S. RANCI	Bombay 20th May (approximate)	Colombo	-
3.	H.M.I.S. JUMNA	8 degree channel 21st May	Colombo 23rd May	Returning from patrol duty.
4.	Reference summary number 38 after (vi) insert (vii) H.M.S. NAFLER arrived Mombasa 17th.			
4.	H.M.S. BARONIA	Colombo 18th May	Addu Atoll 23rd May	Thence Seychelles.
5.	H.M.S. FALMOUTH	Addu Atoll 19th May	Trincomalee 22nd May	Escorting SINGU.
6.	H.M.S. ASTER	Colombo 19th May	Trincomalee 21st May	Escorting (Norwegian) VARDAS and SPHINX MONARCH.
7.	H.M.S. TRUANT <i>See next page.</i>	Colombo 18th May	-	On patrol.
8.	H.M.S. CHITRAL	Fremantle 19th May (approximately)	Trinkitat	-
9.	LORD GREY	Seychelles 18th May	Colombo	-
10.	BATHURST and Dutch S/M. K.11	Colombo 21st May	Bombay	Routed about 50 miles off shore.
11.	TEAL	Seychelles 16th May	Mombasa	-

12./.....

628B

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 12. | Motor Launch
1057 | Durban
13th May
(approximately) | Mombasa
- | |
| 13. | KELANTAN | Mombasa
15th May | Durban
23rd
(?Mombasa) | - |
| 14. | H.M.S. SCOUT | Bombay
20th May
(19th - see p. 602) | - | To about 500 miles
operating off
Bombay on escort
duty thence
proceeding to
Colombo via
Nine degree
channel. |

0703Z/20

Advance copy Ops. and O.D.

- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N. 1st S.I.
- Capt. Pin Admty Hse.
- Ops.(3)
- O.D. 8.
- O.D.(5)
- M.(2)
- C.I.C.
- Mails.
- Movts.
- I.P.(3)
- D.A.S.W.
- D.P.S.
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(C)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.D.O.D.(H)
- D.B.D.(2)
- D. of L.D.(2)
- E.P.S.
- F.O.(S) by courier
- File X.

DB

629

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

NORVIKEN
(Bombed, 9/4)
(Contd.) from
p. 628.

have been due to premature abandonment by Officers and crew and complete lack of any initiative to save her by returning to her after she had grounded.
(C. in C. E.I., 0708Z/20 to Admty.)

ATHENE,
ENGADINE.

As from 20/5 ATHENE and ENGADINE will be administered by Commodore Naval Air Station and operated by him under C. in C. E.F.
(C. in C. E.F., 0916Z/20 to ATHENE, ENGADINE,
(R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., R.A.A.,
F.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar, Commodore N.A.S., Admty.)

M.B. 5.

Arrivals SHOREHAM, U.S.S. STURGEON with Bombay portion of M.B. 5.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0921Z/20 to Admty., etc.)

C. in C. E.F.
Military
Adviser.

C. in C. E.I. 0334/10, concur. Request action in accordance with paras. 2 and 3.
(C. in C. E.F., 1505Z/20 to Admty., (R)
C. in C. E.I., Mid-East for First R.M. Group M.N.B.D.O.)

K. 15,
TRUANT.

TRUANT left Colombo for patrol 19/5 routed 40 miles south of Dondrahead thence between Great Nicobar and Achin Head. You are to keep south of 004° 50' N. until after 24/5.
(S.O. S/Ms. Colombo, 1531Z/20 to K. 15.)

Air Report.

A. 938, 20/5. Intelligence summary number 66, on information received up to 1800 hours 20/5. Burma. Hudson bombed Akyab aerodrome 19/5.

Direct hit on 2 out of 7 fighters. Attempted interception by 3 Navy Os avoided by evasive action. Three Blenheims attacked Akyab 19/5 (or 14/5 corrupt). Hits on runways and in dispersal area. 2 fighters believed damaged. 12 barges seen towed off Kalaywa.
(Air H.Q. India, 1735/20.)

GENISTA.

S.O. Force F's 1045/19.
Request you will arrange to relieve GENISTA as early as practicable, so that she may return to her station.
(D.O.D.(F), 1826B/20 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Landing ...

War Diary.20.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Landing craft Madagascar, disposal. Your 1219/7. Following L/C are survivors:- M.L/C.18, plus 2 Ferries sunk but possibly salvable. Assault L/C 27. L.2 C, 3. R-Boats 22. Proposals for transporting these to India. (S.O. Force F., 1845C/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)
Reply: Admty. 1747/22.
See also D.S.T. 2320/21.

M/S Craft. No further local defence M/S craft can be sent to you from Home Waters at present. 2. 6th Trawler Group consisting of 4 A/S-M/S Trawlers at Capetown and 2 'LL' Trawlers of 171st Group now on passage to E.I. Station should proceed to Diego Suarez for local minesweeping at that port and/or Seychelles. Remaining 2 'LL' Trawlers of 171st Group should proceed to Kilindini. (D.M.S., 1900B/20 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. E.I., etc.)

"Bathurst" Minesweepers. Ref. Admty. 2005A/18/3 para. 3 (ii) and (iii). Present state of Imperial account "Bathursts" appears to be as follows.
2. Request you will arrange mutually for vessels to be transferred from S.W. Pacific to Far Eastern Fleet, R.I.N. vessels ready being transferred at same time.
3. From figures available endurance of 'LL' fitted "Bathursts" under reasonable weather conditions not expected to exceed 2,000 miles at 10 knots.
(D.M.S., 1901B/20 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.W. Pacific, (R) A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.I.)

F.O. Ceylon, shipping control. Your 1632/17, para. 9. Is it intended that F.O. Ceylon should assume responsibility for routeing and control of ocean going shipping throughout E.I. Station, and what will be division of responsibility between F.O. India and F.O. Ceylon as regards coastal shipping?
(A.C.N.S.(T), 2231B/20 to C. in C. E.F.)

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Air Raid
on Japan.

J.S.M. 236. I Z 339.
Marshall gave us some information on recent air raid on Japan at today's meeting, based on report by Gen. Dolittle, who led raid and has returned here and been awarded Congressional Medal. Aircraft went in very low rising to 1500 feet to bomb. 80% hits on targets claimed including one warship under construction on slipway. Mitsubishi Aircraft Factory well hit by incendiaries. Japs warning system very poor. Only about 30 fighters were seen, very few of whom engaged. A.A. fire ineffective. Aircraft struck bad weather with low visibility west of Japan and had to land where they could in China. Information not complete, but gather some 18 - 20 aircraft took part. None was brought down in Japan. (J.S.M., 0021Z/20 to Chiefs of Staff.)

SS. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

If you will be more than one hour late or early on your E.T.A. you should break W/T silence on H/F, inform C. in C. A.W.I. of amended E.T.A. 24 hours before you will arrive.
(N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 0133 G.M.T./20 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).
My 0133 G.M.T./20. This is at request of U.S. Authorities in order to enable Naval escort to meet you which is preferable to delay in your arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1333 G.M.T./20 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).

U/Bs.
KENOGAMI.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimates 2025Z/19 probably 2 submarines in Gulf of Lawrence South of Anticosti and in vicinity of Magdalen Island. (N.S.H.Q., 0215Z/20 to KENOGAMI (R) Admty etc).

German
prisoners,
BRAZIL,
MONTEREY.

Request whether U.S. Authorities would agree to use of BRAZIL or MONTEREY on return voyage to U.S.A. to move 800 German merchant service prisoners of War in India to Canada. (D.S.T., 0257B/20 to B.A.D.)
Unlikely that U.S. authorities will agree. (B.A.D., 2145Z/20 to D.S.T.)

SYLVAN ARROW
torpedoed.

Ship torpedoed in 011° 25' N., 062° 18' W., at 1100Z/20. S/M attacked in 010° 54' N., 061° 58' W., at 1200Z/20.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0842Q/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
My 0842/20. Torpedoed ship was SS. SYLVAN ARROW from O.T.1 U.S. Destroyer BARNEY assisting escort.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1052Q/20 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty etc).

Movement
Summary.

1800 G.M.T./20.
(D.O.D. (F), 0910Z/20) See Lion Copy.

/Air...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0910Z/20th May

OUT

To OPNAV.
Repeating Comnavcu.

Date 20.5.42.

TYPE 'X' U.S.A.

From Admiralty.Movement summary 1800 G.M.T. 20th May.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Speed</u>
PARTHLAN	Leaving Bermuda	077° degs.	9 <i>See p. 634</i>
Transport QUEEN ELIZABETH	24° degs. North 55° degs. West	317° degs.	20
LAVENDER } HAVELOCK }	11½° degs. North 60° degs. West	097° degs.	10
BURNHAM } escorting } 3 ships }	17° degs. North 63½° degs. West	349° degs.	9
ALCANTARA	Equator 24° degs. West	040° degs.	14
DIOMEDE	32° degs. South 46° degs. West	224° degs.	12
N.A. 9.	48½° degs. North 47° degs. West	055° degs.	13.3.

0910Z/20.5 Opnav (R)

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

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) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

D.A/S.W.

D.D.I.C. (2)

Duty Copt. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Head of M.

A.E. (4) & for Comnavcu (Above has been passed to OPNAV).

632

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Air Report. A.820 20/5. Z.168. All Times G.M.T. Operations
FORT 19/5.

QU'APPELLE. At 0030 34 survivors in lifeboat from torpedoed
SS. FORT QU'APPELLE were located by Canso A 162
BR Sqdn. after 2 days search in bad weather
and rescue vessel picked them up postn. 40.38 N., 64.32 W.
Aircraft forced to land Moncton due weather.
(A.O.C., E.A.C., 0945/20).

KOENJIT
(sunk 12/5).

R.O. Dominica reports Dutch KOENJIT, Halifax
to Capetown, torpedoed and sunk at 2235/12 071°
425 miles from Barbados. Master and 24 survivors
arrived Dominica 19/5. One boat with 13 missing.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0952P/20 to Adnty).

S O S.

2114/18 May

Following from C.T.G.23.2 (Begins): Picked up
S O S Brazilian ship torpedoed 002° 59' S., 034°
10' W., at 2114Z. Abandoning ship. Send planes
to cover possibility of night shelling and have relief planes
at area daylight. Inform Brazilian Authorities T.O.O. 0228/19.
(Ends).

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1127P/20 to S.O.(I) Montevideo S.O.(I)
Freetown, (R) Adnty).

N.D. Note. - Brazilian ship COMMANDANTE LYRA.

FORT BINGER
(torpedoed
18/5).

Your 1649Z/19. Following is repetition of
A.M.1924/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax. Master of
FORT BINGER was told to return to U.K. if he
did not contact convoy O.N.92. Request he be
asked to explain why he did not carry out his
orders.

(D.T.D., 1222B/20 to N.S.H.Q.)

Your 1924/19. Master states he proceeded as instructed and
during dark hours believed he was contacting convoy. At
daybreak no sign O.N.92 and considering himself too far out to
return he proceeded independently.

(C.O.A.C., 1851Z/20 to Adnty).

TOLKEN
(torpedoed
13/5).

TOLKEN, Swedish torpedoed and sunk in 51° 50' N.
33° 35' W., at 1045Z/13. 32 survivors landed
Halifax 1900Z/19 by rescue ship BURY, two others
left at St. Johns N.F. None missing.
(C.O.A.C., 1243Z/20 to Adnty etc).

U.S. Orders
to PARTHIAN.

Your 2245/18. I quite understand, but suggest
that, to avoid misunderstandings in future,
routes should be passed direct to the British
Naval Authority if the ship is in a British port
e.g. Bermuda, Trinidad, Jamaica. This authority will then
issue sailing orders after consultation with the authority
responsible for local defence.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1302P/20 to B.A.D. (R) Adnty).

War Diary.20.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.O.N.94
U/B.

D/F bearings at 0952Z/20 indicate a U-boat in your vicinity, possibly reporting you. (D.D.I.C., 1305B/20 to Escorts O.N.94).

M.A.R.I.

Amendment No. 11 to M.A.R.I. Sec. IV para. 8. sub-paras (1) and (2) first sentence, cancel words "or West."

Add sub-para. 4 "Ships on passage between West African ports and Bermuda or North American ports north of Jacksonville or West Indies are to be routed diversely either side of direct route, keeping north of the lanes in paras. (1 and 2) above" (D.T.D., 1315B/20 to Cs. in C. etc).

Danger
Area.

A danger area has been proclaimed at Cape Fear, North Carolina. Shipping now diverted to outside this area by amendment 13 to M.A.C.R.I. These restrictions, however, will not apply to shipping in and out of Wilmington until a later date. Advance notice will be given of temporary closing of port of Wilmington after which all shipping into danger area must cease. A future amendment to M.A.C.R.I. will contain instructions for entering and leaving Cape Fear River after re-opening port of Wilmington. For the present R.O. shall instruct Masters of Vessels bound for Wilmington to proceed as heretofore but shall also caution them to give right of way to all vessels conducting operations within the announced danger area. Atlantic Sea Frontier Commander pass to R.O. within their frontier. (Comnav Washington, 1345/20 to Admty).

EMPIRE DELL.

My 1648/18, corrected position 53.00 N., 29.57 W. (N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 1359Z/20 to Admty).

EASTMOOR,
raft.

Life Raft marked SS. EASTMOOR picked up 12/5 38.48 N., 64.13.30 W., by AERO DE ALENQUER (Port). Life raft estimated to have been in water 6 weeks. (N.S.H.Q., 1436Z/20 to Admty).

COCLE
(torpedoed
12/5).

COCLE, Panamanian, torpedoed and sunk in 052° 37' N., 029° 13' W., at 0600Z/12. 38 survivors landed Halifax 1900Z/19 by rescue ship BURY, 1 burial at sea, 3 missing. List of survivors follows. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1448Z/20 to Admty etc).

NORLAND
torpedoed.

Following received from GYG at 1658Z/20 (begins) SSSS NORLAND torpedoed 31.22 N., 55.47 W. (Ends). B.A.D. pass to Opanav and Cominch. (Bermuda, 1503P/20 to Admty).

SSSS 31° 22' N., 55° 46' W. NORLAND torpedoed at 1700 G.M.T. De VOKI. (Halifax, N.S., 1732/20 to Admty).

/BRUSH...

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

BRUSH,
BISCAYA,
BENCAS. Cancel my 1537/18 (BRUSH and BISCAYA overdue). Both ships arrived Argentia May 11. Cancel my 1547/18.* Ship arrived Argentia 12/5. (N.S.H.Q., 1529Z/20 to Connav, Admty etc).
* (BENCAS overdue).

SKOTTLAND (torpedoed 17/5). SKOTTLAND Norwegian torpedoed and sunk 043° 07' N. 067° 18' W., at 1610 G.M.T./17. Vessel sank in 4½ minutes. Books went down with ship. My 1708 giving names of 23 survivors landed Boston and missing follows.
(Boston, Mass. 1601Z/20 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

PARTHIAN My 1632/16. PARTHIAN has been further delayed. Probable date of sailing p.m./22.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1622P/20 to Opnav, (R) Admty etc). *See p. 631A 1632*

M.A.R.I. Amendment No. 12.
(D.T.D., 1636B/20) See Lion Copy.

U/B positions. 20/5 S/M estimate of positions.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1704/20 1715/20 to All Commands in Area Addressed interested in S/M position report).

KUPA,
SILJESTAD Arrived 20/5 2 life boats with 39 survivors from KUPA including master of vessel sunk by S/M in 014° 50' N., 052° 50' W., 1805 GM.T./15 Secret documents locked in Chart Room, vessel seen sinking, Master considers compromise impossible. On 15/5 vessel picked up 31 survivors from SILJESTAD those abandoned ship at same time but later separated. Names of survivors see my 1800/20.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1730/20 to Admty).

U/B U/B estimated your vicinity by D/F at 1506Z and 1655Z, may have made a sighting report on you..
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1830Z/20, to C.T.24.1.5.
(R) Admty etc).

Curacao-
Trinidad
convoys. Normal routeing signals for ships sailing in Curacao - Trinidad convoys, such as S.B.N.O. Curacao 1209/17 not sufficient as it does not indicate clearly what ships are in convoy and therefore not subject to diversion by C. in C.

A.W.I.,
2. A special convoy sailing telegram in addition to the routeing signal, should therefore be made to above addressees in the following form:

Para 2 cancelled. See CILAWI. 1132P/6/6.

634A. /JN/

1636B/20 May

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To C. in C. America & West Indies 70
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 700
C.O.A.C. Halifax
F.O.C. North Atlantic 283
C. in C. South Atlantic 668.
R.A. West Africa 28
S.O.(I) Jamaica
A.C.I.C. 657

Date 20.5.42.

Repeated COMINCH
B.A.D. Washington 598

NAVAL CYPHER (X)

From Admiralty.

Pass to F.O.'s i/c and N.C.S.Cs.

Amendment No.12 to M.A.R.I.

Section II, para 14 (1), cancel all up to and including para. (B) (3) and substitute:-

(1) Shipping proceeding from one port to another on the U.S. and Canadian East Coast is to be routed coastwise and, where it is applicable, in conformity with M.A.C.R.I. (All such shipping of the requisite speed is to proceed in appropriate coastal convoys).

(2) Ships proceeding to and from Caribbean ports east of 79° West, are to be routed as follows:-

(a) Ships from and to U.S.A. East Coast ports, in conformity with M.A.C.R.I.

(b) All ships from and to Canadian East Coast ports and independent ships from and to U.K. ports, (i) either side of Bermuda, (ii) enter or leave by any of the passages between Cuba and Trinidad, such passages to be traversed in daylight.

(c) Tankers dispersed from O.N.(South) and O.S. Convoys and from South American, South and West African ports and Gibraltar, to be routed diversely to Trinidad for onward convoy, approach to be made from varying directions including from Northward and Westward, using any passages in the Lesser Antilles Chain.

(d) Eastbound tankers from Aruba and Curacao to proceed in convoy to dispersal point outside Caribbean Sea.

(3) Ships proceeding to and from Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean ports west of 79° West are to be routed as follows:-

(a) Ships of 15 knots and over from Canadian East Coast and U.K. ports, sailed independently, to be routed either side of Bermuda but not within 150 of the coast between 30° N. and Nantucket Island. Leave and enter by Florida Strait.

(b) Ships sailed in O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys remain in convoy to Boston, thence independently via Cape Cod Canal and Long Island Sound to Hampton Roads in accordance with M.A.C.R.I. Thence in convoy to Key West for onward routeing.

(c) Ships of under 15 knots bound for Canadian East Coast and U.K. ports, proceed to Key West for convoy or onward routeing to Hampton Roads. Thence to be onward routed independently in conformity with M.A.C.R.I. via Long Island Sound and Cape Cod Canal to Boston. Thence in convoy to Canadian destination or to Halifax for convoy to U.K.

...../(2) Sub-Para. (4)

- (2) Sub.Para. (4) After "ships" insert "to and from Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean". Cancel words "para.11" at end of paragraph.
- (3) Sub.Para. (5) (a) Omit reference to Providence Channel.
- (b) Add "tankers to be routed in accordance with (2)(c) and (d) above".

16363/20.

for D.T.D.(983)

- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A.1st.S.L.
- Cps.(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)

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20.5.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Curacao- (A) Ref. number of convoy. (B) Time of sailing.
Trinidad (C) Name and destination of vessels sailed.
Convoys. (D) Escort. (E) S. of A. (F) Route.
Contd. (G) Point of dispersal.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1918P/20 to N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Kingston).

A.S.3. Task Force 34 consisting of TEXAS, BERNADOU, COLE, DALLAS, LUDLOW, escort troop convoy A.S. 3, sailing Charleston Scar 27/5, speed 14 to M.O.M.P. via prescribed route with all or part of escort. C. in C. U.S. Fleet will route via Bermuda to M.O.M.P. in 26° W. Admty pass to R.A.W.A.F. R.A.W.A.F. Pass to Alusnob, Freetown. (Cinclant, 1925Z/20 to Admty).

U/B Reports. Sub. Attack and sighting summary. NICARAO torpedoed and sunk 25° 20' N., 74° 19' W., 0215Z/16. GULF OIL, 2 torpedoes, sunk 28° 08' N. 89° 46' W., 0341Z/17. HEREDIA 2 torpedoes at 29° N., 90° 34' W., 1650Z/19. Unknown vessel attacked by sub. at 39° 22' N., 74° 10' W., 1318Z/20. EASTERN SWORD 2 torpedoes U.88 type. ALCOA PARTNER sunk, 1 torpedo, 1 shell at 13° 32' N., 67° 57' W. 0430Z/26. AURORA sunk 3 torpedoes and shelled, U.88 type. Panair sights sub. 19° 55' N., 73° 20' W., 1220Z/19. Plane sights sub. 11° 40' N., 61° 45' W., 1402Z/19. Ferry pilot reports sighting submerged sub. 04° 21' N., 04° 23' W., 19/5. Sub. reported 34° 30' N., 77° 09' W., 2330Z/19, 27° 37' N., 88° 15' W., 2337Z/19. Mine sweeper attacks sub. 33° 25' N., 68° 15' W., 1400Z/19. Opnav and B.A.D. informed. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1944/20 to Admty for O.I.C.)

K.14, Your 2244/12. Dutch S/Ms K.14 and K.15 can be
K.15. accepted at Philadelphia. U.S. Authorities would prefer them to come early July if possible. (B.A.R.M., 2026Z/20 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F., etc).

St. Lawrence Ref. appendix. 2 to memorandum N.S. 10 48 - 48 -
Convoys. 22 dated 1/4/1942. In order to simplify St. Lawrence convoys all Quebec to Sydney convoys will be known as Q.S. and numbered consecutive. All Sydney to Quebec convoys will be known as S.Q. and numbered consecutively. Convoy speeds will be arranged by N.O.I.C. at sailing Ports as circumstances require. N.O.I.C. Halifax pass to .A.O. Com'g, E.A.C. (N.S.H.Q., 2045Z/20 to Admty., (R) Cominch, Opnav, etc.)

RANPURA, Your 1734/18 and my 1919/13. Following tentative
BITER. arrangements are being made:- (i) RANPURA to proceed to New York about 10/6 where she will embark American Troops.
(ii) BITER and RANPURA to proceed to Halifax and sail with N.A.11 on 16/6.
(iii) Escort arrangements are still under consideration. (B.A.D., 2059Z/20 to Admty).

/Shipping...

War Diary.20.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Shipping Routes. For all U.S. routing and reporting officers. Amendment 1 to Giro chap. 1. para. 2 and chapter 11 para. 14, add the following:
"Vessels routed to ports having a reporting officer only shall be given through routing instructions to a port having a routing officer or a return route to port of departure (see list for U.S. Area of strategic control routing officers chap. 11 para 25 and for continental U.S. in Hydrographic Bulletin)"
Chap. 11 para 25, insert routing officer after all reporting centres except Kingston and Barbados Island change reporting to routing Aruba Island. Reporting centres: Mexico City, Guatemala, Bogota, Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Caracas, Trujillo City Havana pass to all reporting or routing officers your area.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2125/20 to Admty).
Your 2247/16. Navy Dept. will amend "Giro" to include instructions for through routing.
(B.A.D., 2125Z/20 to Admty).
Your 1232/15, last sentence U.S. routing officers are as listed in "Giro" with the addition that reporting centres are also routing officers except at Kingston and Barbados.
(2) Add to list St. Thomas V.I. Also change reporting officer at Aruba to Routing Officer.
(B.A.D., 2131Z/20 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty etc).

Halifax, Newfoundland. Concur boundaries your 1555Z/16.
(Cominch, 2130/20 to N.S.H.Q.).

U/B U-boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report of a Convoy or important unit at 1639Z.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2133/20 to C.T.U. 24.1.15).

Convoy Q.S.S.1. My 1917Z/19 (N.T. in W.D.)
(A) Q.S.S. 1 A stragglers 8 knots.
(B) Father Point 2000Z/20.
(C) Prisoners C.S. Woodswift. (D) MARS and TITUS Netherlands routed as in my 1701Z/19.
(N.O.I.C. Quebec, 2138X/20 to Admty C.O.A.C.)

Ice. Iceberg medium thickness reported at 1915Z/20 in 046° 26' N., 052° 58' W.
(C.O.A.C., 2148Z/20 to British and U.S. Warships r Area D. (R) N.S.H.Q., Opanav).

SERINGA SERINGA (British) previously reported overdue arrived Pernambuco 19/5.
(N.S.H.Q., 2204Z/20 to Admty Connav etc).

/Algiers...

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

Algiers intelligence, M.T.Bs. Algiers 18/5 C.O.6 Type VT B Motor torpedo boats numbered 2 to 7 expected at Oran from France. Speed 50 knots, armament one 1.5 inch 2 machine guns and two 18 inch torpedo tubes. (B.A.D., 2207Z/20 to Admty).

N.I.D. Comment. M.T.Bs. No. 2 to 9 were built between 1922 and 1928 and were reported officially to have been scrapped. There are however later boats in existence .

CHALLENGER. My 0436/27 /4. CHALLENGER (U.S.) torpedoed 17/5 S.O.(I) Capetown please pass to C. in C. S.A. (N.S.H.Q., 2216Z/20 to C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica, S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Capetown).

Key West Convoys. As slow ships are now being accepted for convoy at Key West following amendment is to be made to my 1132/13:- Insert at beginning para. 5 "All ships of under 12 knots bound East Coast of U.S.A. and Canada (including those for H.X. and S.C. convoys) from Caribbean Sea Ports West of 079° West are to be routed to Key West for instructions." (C. in C. A.W.I., 2222P/20 to All N.C.S.Os. C.S.As. and R.Os. holding routing instructions at Atlantic Ports, Jamaica and Intelligence Area. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Working-up Base. Reply to Admty 1304/7. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2251P/20) See Lion Copy.
Reply: Admty 2001 B/20.

SAN ELISEO. SAN ELISEO, British arrived 1930 zone time 20/5. Serious torpedo damage. Master requests survey and escort before proceeding Trinidad speed reduced 6 knots. Master sent Wireless message indicating time of arrival here. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 2255/20 to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I., etc).

SILJESTAD (torpedoed 15/5). Captain and 16 survivors SILJESTAD arrived 20/5. Vessel torpedoed 420 miles 073° from Barbados 15th Master slightly injured. Second lifeboat missing. Request air search. 3 British ratings transferred to ARCOLA, Italian, A.M./18. Secret documents went down with ship. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 2315/20 to Admty).

8211

2251P/20th May.

637A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

Date. 21.5.42.

From. C. in C. America and West Indies.

Recd. 1956.

Naval Cypher X By W/T.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated B.A.D. Cdre. i/c Bermuda.

106. Your 1304/7. Bermuda is considered the only practicable base on America and West Indies Station for working up A/S craft as no other port combines the following.

- (A) Facilities for maintenance of S/ms.
- (B) Facilities for dealing with teething troubles of new ships.
- (C) Good asdic condition.
- (D) Adequate gunnery working up facilities.

2. To enable requirements to be met as nearly as possible approval for the following main proposals essential.

(A) During hurricane warning or N.E. gale all A/S craft must be in north dockyard basin or at sea. Total number at any time must therefore not exceed 12. Consider 100 could still be worked up in six months with this limitation.

(B) Dockyard fuel tank 'C' to be used exclusively for diesel fuel. There is ample stowage in 'A' and 'B' tanks for British and U.S. needs of boiler fuel.

(C) For following reasons Fleet Air Arm Unit must be moved from dockyard to Boaz Island as planned in Admiralty Letter C.E.in C. 13680/37/232 and of 6th December 1937 but suspended on receipt of Admiralty Letter A 0360/39 of 4th November 1939 modified scheme in temporary construction is proposed.

- (i) So that accommodation now used by F.A.A. may be available for A/S and S/M base personnel.
- (ii) To reduce congestion in dockyard area, from the operational point of view.

3. Berthing difficulties preclude use of Bermuda for working up of B Y M S in addition to A/S craft. Further signal will be made when it has been decided whether Jamaica or Trinidad are suitable for B Y M S. Ability to effect engine repairs will probably be deciding factor.

4. Should Bermuda become a working up base for A/S craft it will be necessary to emphasise to U.S. Authorities that none repeat none of vessels concerned are available for operational purposes except in case of real emergency, and that they are under purely British control unless lent for temporary operation of this nature.

5. If the above is approved in principle request I may be informed by signal as soon as possible in order that the work involved in removing F.A.A. to Boaz Island may be put in hand without delay and temporary arrangements worked out to cover the period until Boaz Island is ready.

2251P/20.

* Most secret distribution.

Controller.	O.D. (5)		
Vice Cont.	Ops. (3)	D.A.M. (2)	Dep. Cont. (3)
4th S.L.	D. of S.	D.A.M.R.	D.N.C. (2)
5th S.L.	O.I.C. (2)	D.N.I. (5)	D. of D. (4)
V.C.N.S.	D.T.S.D.	C.E.in C.	D. of S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.M.S.	D.N.A.D.	C.E.in C.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.M.S. Citadel	D.T.S.D.	Hd. of S.W.R.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D. of L.D. (2)	D.G.D. (2)	
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)	D.S.D. (2)	I.P. (3)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of D.	W.D.	
D. of P. (3)	D.N.C.	Ad. Bellairs	
N.A. 2nd S.L. /ir.	M. (6)	D.A./S.W. (2) (A/SW 851/42) for action.	

Reply: Admty 2001B/30.

War Diary.

20.5.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Serial number (?118) from C.W.R. 19/5.
All harbours between Cape Gloucester, and Cape Orford New Britain examined during allied air R/C 19/5. No signs of seaplane activity observed. Probable tanker 3000 tons observed 70 miles west Rabaul course 250° speed (?8) knots.
(ii) There is indication enemy supply ship and small warship are using Tightampier Straits (West New Britain) extensively en route for Rabaul to Lae - Salamoia.
(iii) Air R/C over Amboina 19/5 reports 2 merchant ships in harbour 6 aircraft on aerodrome and new runway under construction. One enemy fighter intercepted.
(iv) One Kawanisi 4 engine flying boat reported made thorough R/C 17/5 of plain on North Coast Guadal canal steering 009° 30' S., 160° 20' E., believed suitable for aerodrome site. (A.C.N.B., 0859Z/20 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-boat positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1430B/20, 1432B/20).

War Diary.

21.5.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Visual R/C of Trondheim this morning showed TIRPITZ in her usual berth and two main units, later identified by P.R.U. as LUTZOW and HIPPER in Lo Fiord. Five destroyers are in Hopleeven Fiord.

Convoys
P.Q.16,
and Q.P.12.

Convoy P.Q.16 (35 ships) sailed from Iceland at 0100B today. NIGERIA, NORFOLK, KENT, LIVERPOOL, with ONSLOW and ORIBI are to form the 10th C.S. and are to cover the passage of P.Q.16 and Q.P. 12. DUKE OF YORK, WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, LONDON, WICHITA 5 fleet destroyers and 4 Hunts will provide additional cover; the Hunts will be replaced on 24/5 by 4 U.S. destroyers. Five British and 2 Russian S/MS will be patrolling during the passage of the convoys, and SEAWOLF and TRIDENT accompany the convoy. The Russian D.C.N.S. has informed Admiral Miles that the arrival of P.Q.16 is being treated as a special operation. Two hundred aircraft will assist in its protection. Not less than 50 bombers will attack the enemy aerodromes. Convoy Q.P.12 (15 ships) sailed from Murmansk today.

British Air Operations.

A/S patrols were carried out today by Hudsons and Sunderlands in the Rockall and St. Kilda Flannan Is. area to search for a U-boat sighted early this morning. The U-boat was attacked and is believed to have been damaged. M.Ls. from Stornoway were sent out to patrol.

Mining.

ADVENTURE reported Operation S.N.16 E. completed at 0330B today.

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21.5.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

U-boat
attack on
O.S.28.

Convoy O.S.28 was attacked by a U-boat in the early hours of today about 140 miles E.S.E. of Santa Maria, Azores. One ship was sunk and R.F.A. MONTENOL was badly damaged and was sunk later by gunfire as she could not be towed.

F.O.C.N.A. recommends that ARGUS should be sent to U.K. with unserviceable aircraft etc. Her slow speed constitutes a serious drag on any force to which she is attached operationally in the Mediterranean.

America & West Indies.

The C. in C. U.S. Fleet has asked if the Admiralty can provide temporarily a further 15 or 20 corvettes for use on the east coast of the U.S.A. so that an equivalent number of vessels could be transferred to the Caribbean to deal with the serious U-boat situation there and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The first Halifax to Trinidad convoy (H.T.1) sailed today, escorted by H.M.C.S. SUDBURY and THE PAS.

Six ships are reported to have been attacked by U-boats today, off Fort de France, off the west coast of Jamaica, off Cape Corrientes (S.W. Cuba), in the east part of the Gulf of Mexico in the west of Florida Strait, and 270 miles east of Delaware Bay respectively.

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Murmansk.
Use during
summer.

Your 2121/14. In principle Admiralty see no reason to differ from Admiral Miles' 1129/13/4 paras. B and C, but position must depend to great extent on reception facilities for actual ships. D. of S.T's 1646/15 to you for Pearson, Ives, and Cormack refers regarding draft of American ships.
(D.T.D., 1314B/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Movements.Cover for
Convoys P.Q.16
and Q.P. 12.

For movements see Shipping.

RENOWN,
KENYA.

RENOWN taken KENYA under your orders and sail for Hvalfjord passing Hoxa Gate at 1730B/23.
(ii) R.A.(D).H.F. is requested to sail SOMALI, MATCHLESS, and ECHO as screen.
(iii) Route through 058° 45' N. 008° 05' W.
(V.A.2, 1406B/21.)

29 M.L.F.
SPIREA,
ARMERIA.

1. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 2009/20, my 1751/20, and F.O.C.N.A's 2244/20. SPIREA is to accompany 29th M.L. Flotilla to Gibraltar.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for ARMERIA upon completion of refit to work up for two days at Londonderry and to arrive at Liverpool p.m. 26th. ARMERIA will accompany ROTHER in further escort duty referred to in my 1751/20.
3. On her arrival at Gibraltar F.O.C.N.A. is requested to onward route ARMERIA to Freetown.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1546B/21.)

Operations.N.W. Norway
S/M Patrol.

UREDD left Lerwick 0215B/21 proceeding on the surface at C.O's discretion unescorted routed (A) 087° Out Skerries 5 miles (B) 070° 10' N. 010° 30' E. thence to patrol in zone K.29.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0217B/21.)
Para. C of my 1812/12. For MINERVE read UREDD. Submarines will arrive in their zones on 22/5 except UREDD arriving 24/5.
(F.O.S., 0832B/21.)

Interception
of Enemy
Vessels.

Last night 20/21 three M.G.Bs with R mines and three M.T.Bs were despatched to intercept off Blanc Nez and Ambleteuse respectively a group of vessels detected at 2330 by R.D.F. between Dunkirk and Gravelines on a westerly course. Enemy vessels however entered Calais at 0200 and were probably therefore not larger than trawlers.
(V.A. Dover, 1029B/21.)

/Q.Q. 2 ...

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War Diary.

21.5.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Q.Q. 2. After sinking in pre-arranged position No. 2 Unit will be under operational control of F.O.I.C. Harwich as H.M.S. SUNK HEAD FORT. Cable ship ALERT will run cable from ROUGHS FORT and connect up as soon as possible. Escorting sweeping and towing craft will return to Harbour under the orders of their own S.O. (C. in C. Nore, 1120B/21.)

Sweep by Night 21/22.
S.G.Bs. Three S.G.Bs from Newhaven on offensive sweep along enemy coastal route between Cape Dalprech and western limit of Dover Command passing C.2 buoy at 2300, E.T. R/V 0500/22. (V.A. Dover, 1744/21.)

Northern Disposition of N.P. Trawlers at 2000 tonight.
Patrol T.R. 2 NORTHERN GIFT. T.R. 3 KINGSTON AGATE.
Trawlers. (A.C.O.S., 1547B/21.)
Request Northern Patrol trawlers may be redispersed on line T.R.30 to 39 from 25/5, priority to be given to lines from T.R.36 to southward. (C. in C. H.F., 1628B/21 to A.C.O.S.)

EDINBURGH. Track chart of EDINBURGH's movements prior to
Track Charts torpedoing on 30/4 and composite track chart of
of Actions. destroyer action on 2/5 were lost in TRINIDAD. Request Commander Honiwill be instructed to prepare further copies which should be forwarded at first opportunity direct to C. in C. H.F. (C.S.18, 1633B/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

British Air Activity.

Air Cover Fully realise importance air cover P.Q. 16
for Convoy but, owing shortage Catalinas, available
P.Q. 16. Liberators required for Fleet R/C. Signal at once if you can operate 2 Sunderlands from Akureyri. This is sole reinforcement I can give you.
(H.Q.C.C., 1018B/21 to H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland.)
Detach 2 Sunderlands to Akureyri forthwith, landing first at Reykjavik. Detachment approx. 5 days.
(H.Q.C.C., 1600/21 to 15 Group.)
H.Q.C.C.'s 1600/21. Alusna reports following received from C.T.G. 24.6. Begins. Long range R/C will be provided by U.S. Catalinas along convoy route to approx. K. Ends.
2. A.C.I.C. is requested to co-ordinate air R/C.
(D.O.D. H., 2314B/21 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C.)

/Patrol ...

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - Contd.

Patrol. Request patrol "Lotus III" may be established tomorrow.
(C. in C. H.F., 1901B/21 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen attacked. Following from Jan Mayen. Opened fire on Heinkel 111 attacking (corrupt group) ?station three times 0603.
(A.C.I.C., 1141B/21.)

Mining.

S.N. 16E. Operation S.N. 16E completed.
(ADVENTURE, 0330B/21.)

North Russian waters. Admiralty 1204/21/3 to S.B.N.O. North Russia and Q.Z.R. (?71) (see 1707/9/5.)
C. in C. Northern Fleet has requested me to send British minesweepers to search 2 channels 4 miles wide through this area for passage of Soviet S/Ms. As this operation is likely to meet with opposition if detected request information whether it is considered worth the risk. Propose requesting 2 Soviet destroyers to cover minesweepers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0910B/21 to Admty., (R) Ad. Miles, C. in C. H.F.)

"Tincture". My 1823/19. Request "Tincture" may be completed by 0800/23.
(D.M.S., 1157B/21 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Harwich. One magnetic mine detonated by M.M/S at 1258 in 52° 01' N. 01° 46.6' E. and one at 1424 in 51° 52.5' N. 01° 39' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1513B/21, 1844B/21, 2142B/21.)

Minefields off Lowestoft and Cromer. M.S. 4 has cleared area bounded by following positions (A) 52° 23'12" N. 02° 01'36" E. (B) 52° 29'00" N. 02° 03'42" E. (C) 52° 28'30" N. 02° 07'30" E. (D) 52° 22'36" N. 02° 05'42" E. One mine detonated in sweep in 147° 30' E. Buoy 3.9 miles. One mine cut in 144½° 30' Buoy 4 miles. Latter was towed to Lowestoft but exploded whilst being beached. No injuries to personnel.
M.S. 9 reports no sweeping done in operation Q.S.6 today owing to fog; a number of floating mines sunk in area. One mine exploded in sweep in 132° one point eight miles from No. 3 Buoy, whilst carrying out a 50 per cent search of the area between the searched channel and three miles to the eastward of it between 54A buoy and 3B buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 2352B/21.)

War Diary.

21.5.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

North Norway
2 Destroyers
sunk.
1 Destroyer
damaged.

May 19th Russians reported off Soroy Island one U-Boat, Vest Fiord one destroyer. 20/5 vicinity Vardo one destroyer, Fugloy Sound one destroyer.
(2) Russian submarine sunk enemy destroyer in Varanger Fiord on 14/5. On same day Naval aircraft damaged destroyer which is believed to have sunk later. On 16/5 Naval aircraft sunk an enemy destroyer off ? Varloy.
(Ad. Miles, 1248C/21 to Admty.)

Trondheim.
TIRPITZ,
LÜTZOW,
HIPPER.

Visual R/C of Trondheim a.m. today shows TIRPITZ in usual berth and two main units in Lo Fiord. (D.D.I.C. 1309B/21.)
My 1309/21.
Photographic confirms TIRPITZ in usual berth, two main units in Lo Fiord are LÜTZOW and HIPPER. In addition five destroyers located in Hopleeven Fiord.
(D.D.I.C., 1720B/21.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats
reported.

Enemy submarine has made a first sighting report at 0211/21 G.M.T. of a convoy or important unit probably S.L. 109 Fast, S.L. 109 Slow, or O.S.28. (D.D.I.C., 0507B/21 to Escorts S.L. 109, O.S. 28.)

Am over enemy S/M in 57° 40' N. 14° W. When sighted observed to submerge on a course 070°.
(A.O. 15 Group, 0606/21.)
Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in 57° 5' N. 13° 40' W. Was observed to submerge.
(A.O. 15 Group, 0703/21.)
Am over enemy sub in 57° 32' N. 11° 55' W. When first sighted was on surface and then observed to submerge.
(A.O.C. 15 Group, 1431/21.)
My 1430. No attack. Bombs hung up.
(A.O.C. 15 Group, 1445/21.)
Following has been read.
"Blip" position 57° 5' N. 9° 17' W. Disappeared 5 miles "Daisy".
(A.O.C. 15 Group, 1710/21.)
Am over enemy sub in 58° 4' N. 10° 48' W. Enemy on surface, course 090° speed 6 knots.
(A.O.C. 15 Group, 1746/21.)

/Attacks

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21.5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - Contd.

Attacks on Convoy O.N.S.92 on Nights 11/12 and 12/13 May.

Discussion with C.T.U. 24.1.3 concerning attacks on O.N.S.92 brings out following information and tentative conclusions.

(A) Presence of S/Ms detected by H.F./D.F. prior to attack.

(B) S/M located by offensive sweep 17 miles ahead of convoy prior to attacks.

(C) First attack occurred one hour and twenty minutes after sunset. S/M observed to surface inside of convoy before firing torpedoes. Submerged approach from flank improbable due to time element and operations of escorts on flanks during afternoon concluded that S/M made submerged approach from ahead.

(D) Concluded that at least two S/Ms were trailing from ahead. The one contacted on surface could not have delivered attack. Possible that use of two S/Ms was intentional ruse to distract escort with one U-Boat while second U-Boat joined convoy area by submerged approach. This enemy tactic best employed from position ahead of convoy.

(E) Visibility excellent during afternoon enabling S/M to spot disposition of escorts. Front of convoy temporarily unprotected while ships in van conducting sweeps.

(F) S/Ms sighted on surface as far as 27 miles from convoy under conditions of unlimited visibility.

(G) S/M submerged Eskye tactics observed by GLEAVES showed use of bursts of speed coupled with violent fish-tailing. These tactics successfully prevented attack at times in spite of good initial contact.

(H) Skill and determination of S/Ms not consistent with failure to follow up and inflict further damage. Concluded that S/Ms involved here eastbound and short of fuel and torpedoes.

(I) Snowflake used first sweep and disclosed submarines presence inside of convoy. Snowflake useful when submarine inside of convoy otherwise possibly of greater use to enemy than convoy. Discipline and control in use of Snowflake very important.

(J) Submarines heard making and receipting for signals on 500 kcs. during period of attack.
(C.T.F. 24, 1415/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 57° 32' N. 11° 55' W. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A.O.C. 15 Group, 1510/21.)
P.C.S. of enemy S/M 57° 32' N. 11° 55' W., 060°, 5.

(A.O.C. 15 Group, 1535/21.)
Sail available M.Ls. to patrol on line between 330° Flannin Isles 10 miles and 330° Flannin Isles 60 miles. A/C report U-Boats in 057° 32' N. 011° 55' W. at 1510B/21, steering 60°, which may be damaged.
Continuous air R/C is being maintained.
(C. in C. W.A., 1639B/21 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Ice. Following received from Jan Mayen. Drifting ice East of old station and on horizon round island.
(A.C.I.C., 0213B/21.)

Nore No. 4 Buoy reported 1.2 miles 150° from charted position.
No. 4 Buoy. (C. in C. Nore, 2111B/21.)
(VIVACIOUS, 2345B/21.)

Casualties and Defects.

BJAAKI Position at 1000 B.S.T. 54° 32' N. 4° 11' W.
(Broke down E.T.A. 1701.
19/5.) (NIMBLE, 0720/21.)

OAKLEY, My 1506B/19. ^{RT. W.D.} OAKLEY delayed by defect.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1029B/21.)

SHAFTESBURY. S.C. 84. SHAFTESBURY (? missing) (? dawn) 21st.
Searched 30 miles astern without result.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1440Z/21 to Opnav.)

Shipping and Convoys.

ARUNDEL Admty. 1914/20. As vessels of this size and
CASTLE. draught cannot proceed more than 6 cables inside
entrance of Loch until Port of Cairnryan is
operating, request A/S patrol be provided to
seaward during this and all such visits.
(N.O.I.C. Stranraer, 0018B/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 0018B/21. As it is understood that stay of these vessels
will not exceed a few hours. Special A/S protection is not
considered essential.
Efforts should be made to reduce the stay in port to a minimum.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1034B/21 to N.O.I.C. Stranraer.)

P.Q. 16. (A) P.Q. 16. 0100B/21st May.
(B) From U.K. OCEAN VOICE (Commodore), EMPIRE
SELWYN (Vice Commodore), Medium Frequency

Direction Finding LOWTHER CASTLE, Medium Frequency Direction
Finding ATLANTIC, Medium Frequency Direction Finding EMPIRE
LAWRENCE, EMPIRE BAFFIN, EMPIRE ELGAR, PIETER DE HOOGH, ARCOS,
EMPIRE PURCELL.

From United States. CHERNYSHEVSKI, REVOLUTSIONER, ALCOA
BANNER, R.H. LEE, CITY OF OMAHA, NEMAHA, HEFFRON, CITY OF JOLIET,
MINOTAUR, SHCHORS, STEEL WORKER, MAUNA KEA, WEST NILUS, MICHIGAN,
MASSMAR, ALAMAR, STARI BOLSHHEVIK, EXTERMINATOR, CARLTON, JOHN
RANDOLPH, HYBERT, AMERICAN PRESS, AMERICAN ROBIN, SYROS,
MORMACSUL.

/(C) ...

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21.5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q. 16. (C) HAZARD S.O., RETRIEVER, NORTHERN SPRAY, MAJESTY, LADY MADELAINE.
(Contd.) (D) Position H at 0200B/23.
(E) ASHANTI, S.O., MARTIN, GARLAND, ACHATES, VOLUNTEER, HONEYSUCKLE, ROSELYS, STARWORT, HYDERABAD. Submarines TRIDENT, SEAWOLF. A/A escort ALYNBANK.
(F) Position M.Y. at 1400B/30. Approach course 224°.
(G) 8 knots.
(A.C.I.C., 0205B/21.)
Arrived Seidisfjord 1455B/21 C.S.10 in NIGERIA with ONSLOW, ORIBI, MARNE, ASHANTI, MARTIN, ACHATES, GARLAND, VOLUNTEER.
(A.C.I.C., 1635B/21.)
Request you will sail Comdesron 8 in U.S. Destroyer WAINWRIGHT with U.S. Destroyers ROWAN, RHIND, and MAYRANT to arrive Seidisfjord on 23/5.
(2) After fuelling they are to sail from Seidisfjord as necessary to R/V with Battle Fleet in position (A) 065° 50' N. 013° 01' W. at 0600B/24. Battle Fleet will steer 040° from position (A).
(C. in C. H.F., 1424B/21 to C.T.F. 99.)

S.C. 82. S.C. 82. Average speed 6.8. knots. Weather generally good but some fog 4th to 10th May. One straggler on account of engine trouble. All ships now accounted for.
(D.T.D., 0937B/21 to Cominch.)

N.U. 193. Do not get to southward of your route.
(C. in C. W.A., 1042B/21 to CASTLETON, ST. MARYS.)

Small Craft Routes. My 1328/15/4. N.A.Bs or other small craft which are unable to maintain convoy speed or are clearly unsuitable for a night passage may proceed by inshore routes.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1044B/21.)

Atlantic Convoy Escorts. Following are my remarks on the question of releasing escort for Mexican and West Indian waters:-
1. Present available strength of mid-ocean and Gibraltar groups averages 5 ships, that of Sierra Leone groups 4 ships. It is not considered that these groups should be reduced except in the very last resort.
2. Present harbour-time of mid-ocean groups averages 7 days on either side. During the summer trans-Atlantic escort could be run by ten groups instead of eleven as now, averaging 5 to 6 days in harbour either side, but the position would have to be reconsidered if large diversions from the Great Circle route become necessary. Again bad weather conditions might entail delays in convoy programme. Such delays, however, would be considerably minimised if evasive steering were the exception rather than the rule as at present.

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Atlantic
Convoy
Escorts.
(Contd.)

3. To put a ten-group system into operation, Group B.7, due ^{Argentina} May 25th, could be sent to Caribbean, and H.X. 192 and succeeding H.X. Convoys could sail two days later than present schedule to allow groups to step up for the homeward journey. The paper strength of B.7 is 2 destroyers and 7 corvettes, and the available strength one destroyer and 5 corvettes. Corvette strength of this group is unlikely to exceed 5 for some months, owing to refitting programme.
4. Employment of Western local escorts should be examined with a view to reducing the number of groups, as these ships do not appear to be doing sufficient seetime. Consideration should be given to combining H.X. and S.C. Convoys to Westomp.
5. Inquiry should be made as to the employment of the Canadian corvettes released when groups A.1 and A.2 were disbanded.
6. Employment of Freetown corvettes should be examined, as it was expected that some would be released for other duties when Western Approaches Groups gave through-escort to Freetown.
(C. in C. W.A., 1511B/21 to A.C.N.S. (T))

HOPETARN.

M.V. HOPETARN speed 12 knots carrying R.A.F. personnel and stores will be ready to leave Liverpool p.m. 26th for Gibraltar.

2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide escort of 2 corvettes and to sail the ships accordingly proceeding south of Ireland.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1849B/21.)

BEN-MY-CHREE,
LADY OF MANN.

Your 1635/20. Both ships will be fully watered and fuelled before sailing.

BEN-MY-CHREE has sufficient endurance to reach Clyde without fuelling in Faroes if she return at 16 knots. Alternatively she could fuel at Loch Ewe.
(D.O.D. (H.), 2004B/21 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

W.S. 19P.
W.S. 19Q.

Dates, composition, and escorts.
(D.O.D. (H.), 2032/21.)
See Lion Copy, (p. 648A)

MOST SECRET

2032/21 May
OUT

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MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

To C. in C. Western Approaches 345.

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
- N.C.S.O. Mersey
- N.C.S.O. Clyde.
- N.C.S.O. Avonmouth.
- N.C.S.O. Milford Haven.
- N.C.S.O. Newport.
- N.O. i/c Londonderry
- N.C. i/c Newport.
- F.O.C. North Atlantic 389.
- C. in C. South Atlantic 696.
- R.A. West Africa 46.
- C. in C. East Indies 663.
- C. in C. Eastern Fleet 4.
- C. in C. Mediterranean 204.
- C. in C. Home Fleet 13.
- R.A.D. (H.F.) 439.
- COMNAV.
- C. in C. America and West Indies 96,
- NELSON
- BLACKMORE
- DEWENT
- H.Q.C.C.
- H.Q.F.C.

NAVAL CYPHER A.C.O. and
NAVAL CYPHER (D) O.T.T.

From Admiralty.

Convoy W.S.19P carrying military personnel and stores
for the East will be ready to leave U.K. on 30th May.

2. Ships will sail from the following ports

Newport	Personnel	CATHAY
Avonmouth	"	STAFFORDSHIRE.
Mersey	"	VICEROY OF INDIA
		ARAWA
		CHRISTIAN HUYGENS
		ANDES
		STRATHALLAN
		ORONTES
	U.S. army transports	CHRISTOBAL
		MEXICO
	Stores	ORARI
		NEW ZEALAND STAR
		TALISSE
		POELAU ROEBIAH

Clyde....

648^B

Clyde

(2)
Personnel

WARWICK CASTLE
BRITANNIC
OTRANTO
LACONIA
AQUITANIA
ORCADES
SANTA RUSA
MCANDREW
SANTA ELENA
JAVA

U.S. Army Transports.

Stores

3. CATHAY and STAFFORDSHIRE will complete embarkation on 27th May and are to be sailed as requisite to Clyde to attend convoy conference.
4. All ships can maintain a speed of 15 knots except ARWA, TALISSE and POELAU ROEBIAH 14 knots and STAFFORDSHIRE 14½ knots who should be placed as leaders of columns.
5. Ocean escort from Clyde H.M.S. NELSON.
6. Destroyer escort
 - (a) BLACKMORT and DERWENT will provide through escort being detached as necessary to fuel at Ponta Delgada
 - (b) 2 destroyers to cover convoy until BLACKMORT and DERWENT rejoin after fuelling. These two destroyers will then proceed to Ponta Delgada and fuel. One is then to proceed to Gibraltar the other to return to U.K. direct or as ordered by Admiralty.
 - (c) 6 destroyers to return from the limit of prudent endurance.
7. Admiralty will promulgate route.
8. Main convoy conference will be held at Greenock a.m. 30th May.
9. R.A. (M) is requested to detail 2 destroyers to make up numbers referred to in para.6 (c) above and rendezvous with convoy a.m. 31st May.
10. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to provide remainder of escorts as in para.6 (b) and (c), and arrange for sailing of all portions of convoy to R/V.
11. Unless otherwise ordered AQUITANIA is to be detached when in the vicinity of the Azores to proceed on ahead at best speed adjusting her time of arrival so as to pass Freetown Fairway buoy in daylight one hour after high water. Ship will be known as W.S.19Q from time of parting company from W.S.19P.

12.....

MOST SECRET

12. S.O. of Escort is to inform R.A. West Africa of AQUITANIA'S expected time of arrival as soon as practicable after she has been detached.

2032/21

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

- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Hd. of M. (13)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of S.T.
- D.T.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.N.I. (4)
- Duty Captain (2)
- Admiral Blake
- E.P.S.

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3

g

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21. 5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- MARIT II. MARIT II not arrived Ponta Delgada.
(S.O.I. Gib, 0925/21 to S.O.I. Kingston (R) Admty.
N.S.H.Q.).
- TORBAY 2 or 3 Italian U-Boats on patrol between
U/Bs. Sardinia and Cape Bon.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1106B/21 to TORBAY). *See p. 654.*
- FIDELITAS. Italian Vessel 56 returned to Bilbao 21st
fully loaded ready for sea.
(Consul Bilbao 1117/21 to Admty. (R) M.E.W. etc)
(D.S. 990).
- U/B at Your 2355/19. Please endeavour to ascertain
Ferrol on number of Submarine.
17/5. (D.N.I. 1146B/21 to Consul, Coruna).
- LANDGUARD. T.L. congratulate you and 40th Escort Group
on resolute attacks on U-Boats and successful
protection of Convoy S.L.109.
(D.A.S.W. 1332B/21 to LANDGUARD).
- Attack on Following received from Tangier (begins) American
Catalina report 19/5 as follows. Adm. Fenard and Chief
by French of Staff of General in Command of Aviation in
A/Cs. 18/5. French Africa have been consulted with ref. to
British Catalina Seaplane incident off Coast of
Algeria on 18/5. People interviewed advised
French Dewoitine 520s on patrol in Algerian Territorial waters
encountered this plane approx. 15 to 20 miles off Guyotville.
Stated that French signalled British plane to leave this
vicinity when suddenly they were fired at by British Gunner,
whom French believed was nervous and inexperienced. Fire was
returned and Catalina shot down but she made successful landing.
Shortly afterwards British Destroyer appeared on the scene
rescuing crew of seaplane and attempting to tow Catalina. Tow
was eventually abandoned and Destroyer then fired on plane,
sinking Catalina. One Dewoitine French plane was lost in
the operation and no other details are yet available. 1839/20.
(Ends).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1502B/21 to Admty. etc).
- MONTENOL. What is present situation regarding MONTENOL?
(U/B attack Is ship able to steam and what is extent of
on 0.5.28) damage sustained and state of weather?
See p. 640 (F.O.C.N.A. 1514B/21 to WOODRUFF (R) Admty.).

/Your.....

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. conts:-

MONTENOL Contd. *(U/B attack on O.S. 28) See p. 640.* Your 1514B/21. MONTENOL hit in engine room. Boarded daybreak. Engine room flooded, upper deck awash, 10° list. Towing impracticable. Sunk by gunfire. Weather report. TOTLAND in company, 035° 23' N. 022° 23' W. (corrupt group) 14 knots. 2 misses MONTENOL, 3 misses NEW BRUNSWICK. (WOODRUFF, 1840Z/21 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.).

Casablanca. Photographic R/C Casablanca 1035/21 shows JEAN BART in usual berth with double torpedo boom. Cruisers usual berth not covered. (F.O.C.N.A. 1612B/21, to Admty, etc).

U/B at Cartagena. Your 1155/19 - This number cannot be accepted without further verification. Endeavour ascertain name of Captain. (D.N.I. 1638B/21 to N.A.Madrid).

Blockade Runner, Ferrol. From visual R/C 19/5 believed blockade runner in Ferrol. Report urgently if true and make all possible arrangements to ensure immediate report of sailing. (D.N.I. 1702B/21 to Consul, Corunna.).

HYTHE RYE R/V. My 2328/20 and C. in C. W.A. 1043/21 for position Y read 041° 42' N, 014° 59' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1716B/21 to Admty, C. in C.W.A. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, *SPIREA, ROTHER). * See p. 641

Operation L.B. EAGLE ARGUS. EAGLE's 2120B/20 para.8. No cause has been found of low oil pressure. Filters of 3 aircraft now show traces of whitemetal Oil used Aero Shell 100. (2) Only 1 spare engine and no facilities for stripping or experienced Taurus personnel at

Gibraltar. (3) 15 Officers of Albacore Squadron at present accommodated in EAGLE using cabins of disembarked squadrons now urgently required for R.A.F. officers. (4) Alternative ? action (A) send ARGUS to U.K. with Albacores and 807 squadron plus unserviceable aircraft to capacity, but leaving 3 serviceable Fulmars at Gibraltar. (B) Albacore aircraft to be shipped to U.K. at first opportunity. (C) Experienced Taurus maintenance party, spare engines, tool kits and stores to be sent from U.K. to change engines, and service aircraft. (5). In any case propose Albacore crews be sent to U.K. for further training in R.3039 night torpedo attack, or disbandment. (6) Strongly advise 4 (A) as I feel ARGUS is not pulling her weight here, she seldom gets an opportunity of going to sea, might be of great value at home for deck landing training, and occupies valuable space in this congested harbour. Her slow speed constitutes a serious drag on any force to which she is

/attached.....

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. contd:-

Operation attached operationally in Mediterranean.
L.B. (F.O.C.N.A. 1820B/21 to Admty.(R) C. in C.Med.etc).
EAGLE.
ARGUS.
Contd.

German A/C. German aeroplane passed Cape Roca 2115/20th
steering South.
(B.N.A.Lisbon. 1849B/21 to S.O.(I) Gib.).

French Ships. Gibraltar 1430. ENGAGEMENTANTE, S.S. GABRIEL-GUIST-
HAU, FAUZON, LIPARI, all full latter troops and
civilian passengers. Coaster S-MARTIN-LEGASSE
trawlers BRITIA, TATIANA, AUGUSTE-DENISE, B.769,
All full Eastbound.
(S.O.(I) Gib 1859B/21).

South Atlantic.

Madagascar Your 1435/20. ORONSAY should continue towards
Repatriations, Durban. Further signal will be made.
ORONSAY. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0127B/21 to C. in C.S.A.).
DUCHESS OF S.O. Force F's 1023/18. Unless further orders
ATHOLL. to contrary are given, ORONSAY and DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL should continue from Durban to U.K.
2. They should load in Durban. 3 Request report of
anticipated date of sailing from Durban.
(D.S.T. 0230B/21 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown).

Defences - Establishment of Command Headquarters are for
Capetown, reasons mostly political not proceeding as well as
Durban. I had hoped. All services still work in
Inter-Service scattered watertight compartments and efficient
Co-operation. co-operation especially with air coastal forces
is extremely difficult.
(2). On Prime Minister's return from Libya next
week I intend to fly to Pretoria to try and straighten out matters
with aid of High Commissioner.
(3) I am particularly concerned over inadequate state of defences
at Capetown and Durban against air attack from carriers and
should welcome Admiralty appreciation of this possibility. My
1748/15 (1748/15/4 intended) refers.
(C. in C.S.A. 1005B/21. to Admty.).

M.A.R.I. Text of Amendment No.7.to M.A.R.I. is to be
re-numbered as Sect. II, para. 14, sub-para.9
and inserted immediately after Section II, para.
14 sub-para.8.
(D.T.D. 1334B/21 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.A.W.I.
etc).

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Contd.

W.S.18.A. My 1353Z/19. Mombasa ships leave convoy route
W.S.19 B. at 005° 30' S. E.T.A.Mombasa daylight 30/5.
Route. LLANDAFF CASTLE leaves at position P,E.T.A
Diego Suarez daylight 29/5.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1341Z/21 to Admty. C. in C.E.I.
etc).

PRETORIA Ref your 1237B/13, in view of submarines in Verdes
CASTLE. area intend PRETORIA CASTLE should patrol in
vicinity of 10° N. arriving there a.m/27 and
remaining on patrol until W.S.19 and AQUITANIA
have passed through area, when she will proceed to U.K.
(R.A.W.Africa 1435Z/31 to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty.).

MERCATOR. Ref. letter 777/36/17/4/42 addressed to D.N.I.
from B.N.L.O.West Africa. As it seems possible
that MERCATOR could be usefully employed at
Freetown either as depot ship for American submarines (A.M.
1627A/23/3 refers) or as base ship for M.Ls, B.N.L.O. has been
asked if crew is available and if ship could be sent here for
examination.
(R.A.W.Africa 1516Z/21 to Admty.).

Mines off C. A.M. 1803/18.
Agulhas. Not only Agulhas Bank but the whole Cape area
must be considered as possibly mined but to route
ships outside this area takes them into latitudes
where heavy weather must be expected particularly at this time of
year. As a general rule borne out by experience I consider it an
unseamanlike proceeding to send ships with heavy deck cargoes
into those areas and this view is borne out by the frequent
protests which are received from Masters of ships so routed, nor
will endurance always permit.
(2) The repair of weather damage to ships is already a serious
cause of congestion in ports and the prospects of an increase,
cannot be contemplated lightly. Appreciation of SPEYBANK's
encounter with DURBAN and CHESHIRE was that SPEYBANK having laid
minefield off Table Bay during night of 12/13th March and wishing
to get away to the South Eastward shaped a course in accordance
with assumed character. Meeting DURBAN she altered course to
Southward as soon as darkness fell and met CHESHIRE next morning.
Times speed and distance fit.
(4) Mine risk in area was appreciated as follows:- (A) previous
minefield had been laid to South of Cape Agulhas. (B) No reason
to suppose SPEYBANK was minelaying when sighted by DURBAN.
(C) Distance from land or focal points, depth of water, heavy seas
and strong current appeared to make minelaying in that particular
area an unprofitable operation.
(5). Routes in use were designed to avoid area mentioned in para.
(A) and to give adequate dispersion. They were not moved South
for reasons given in para.(1).

/It....

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War Diary.21.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. conts:-

Mines off C. (6). It is possible mines have been more recently
Aguilhas. laid. This view is supported by receipt from
TETCOTT that on 17th May when astern GAMBIA in
position 35.24 S 21.12 E. she saw a floating mine
which might have been cut by GAMBIA's paravanes. This area had
been constantly used by shipping.
(7). Reference A.M.S.I. paras. 1 and 9 N.C.S.Os by my instructions
warn ships and convoys that minefield in Cape area render waters
dangerous. I accept full responsibility for not specifically
adding that paravanes are to be streamed.
(C. in C. S.A. 1519B/21 to Admty.).

DUCHESS OF DUCHESS OF YORK diverted 1730/21 to Position G
YORK. direct. 030 W Chop date 23/5. E.T.A. Halifax
30/5.
(R.A.W.Africa 1803Z/21 to N.S.H.Q.).

Dakar. Visual R/C Dakar harbour 1600Z/21 shows no
change in Naval Units.
(R.A.W.A.F. 2135Z/21 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Small My 2001/9. When can small tankers be expected
tankers for to arrive Middle East? Request immediate reply.
Western (P.S.T.O. Port Said 0101C/21 to D.S.T) See also
Desert. 0855/21.

TURBULENT. Cancel my 1951/20. Ras Tayones area still
considered most productive.
(Capt.S.I. 0655C/21 to TURBULENT).

M.E.Signal Following for Chiefs of Staff from Cs-in-C.
Resources. Re lack of signal reinforcements. Signal
resources which are already short and fully
extended are liable to be faced with commitments
next few months which would lead to serious reduction service
provided and may result in breakdown.
Request urgent consideration signal position Middle East and early
despatch of reinforcements.
(Mideast, 0850/21).

/EOCENE.....

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War Diary.

21.5.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

EOCENE
torpedoed. My 0101/21. Situation is now acute. EOCENE
was torpedoed last night.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 0855C/21 to D.S.T.).
EOCENE, British tanker, 4,216 tons, Alexandria to
Tobruk, torpedoed off Egyptian coast.
(D.S. 990).

CLYDE. My 1411/20. Request you will hold CLYDE for the
present. Further signal is being made.
(V.A. Malta 0941B/21 to F.O.C.N.A.).

TORBAY. Notification of Italian U/Boats
(F.O.C.N.A. 1106B/21).
See North Atlantic. *p. 649*

Transport
Accommodation. Your 1015B/11. Only increase carried to vessels
in Middle East as accommodation on MELBOURNE
STAR and DORSET an extra 800 on each. No
further increase owing to quick turn round.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1500C/21 to D.S.T.).

Enemy
Mining
Malta. A.M. 2355A/24/12/1941. Request any later
information on M/L from enemy aircraft.
(V.A. Malta 1520B/21 to C.in C. Med (R) Admty.).

Malta Air
Report. I. 311 21/5. C.S.R. Night 20/21. 1948 hours 5
Raiders.
21st, 4 alerts 0357 hours, 5 ME 109s bombed
Hal Far, 2 airmen killed, 1 seriously wounded.
2 Spitfires up, no combat. 1029 hours, fighter
sweep, 9 ME.109s, 1 ME.109 destroyed by 8 Spitfires. 1238 hours,
fighter sweep 3 ME.109s. 2 Spitfires up, no combat.
(.H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1615/21).

SULLBERG. Departures 21/5 SULLBERG. Marseilles.
(Cartagena T.H.I. 1850/21 to M.W.T.).

21.5.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P.44 DILWARA and CAP ST. JACQUES, B.P.44 with troops and stores for Basra and KHEDIVE ISMAIL with troops and stores for Karachi sailed at 0100Z/21 escorted by LISMORE to position (G). (Route).
4. S. of A to position G, 10 knots, thence best speed.
5. E.T.A. KHEDIVE ISMAIL Karachi 0800Z/23, DILWARA Rooka Filipinos 0130Z/27, CAP ST. JACQUES Filipinos 1900Z/27. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0128Z/21 to Admty).

BRITISH Your 0525Z/18 no vessel put in here for repairs owing to further damage caused by heavy weather in Mozambique Channel.
JUDGE. (N.C.S. Kilindini, 0515Z/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

Fleet base, Your 1103B/19. Assume that proposal to use Diego Suarez Diego as a Fleet base is contingent on British occupation of the remainder of Madagascar.
or 2. Diego is somewhat closer to Addu and Colombo Kilindini. and is nearer half way on the Aden-Capetown route than Kilindini but is more open to surprise attack than the latter, which should be well covered when Seychelles - Diego long distance air R/C is fully established.
3. When moorings have been laid and making allowance for ships absent, refitting, and on escort duties, Kilindini should be able to accommodate the Fleet with Manza as occasional overflow for some minor units. Movements of heavy ships are restricted by tidal considerations.
4. Extensive A/T baffles would be necessary before Diego Suarez could be used with safety.
5. Air defence and Fleet Air arm repair facilities are much better at Kilindini which has easy access to Nairobi and South African resources.
6. Diego lends itself better to the establishment of fixed defences but the most effective defence is air striking force on well distributed aerodromes. Kilindini has the advantage in this respect.
7. Intelligence security of Diego should be better than Kilindini when all Madagascar is in our hands, owing to proximity of Portuguese East Africa and impossibility of maintaining effective control of frontier.
8. Fleet repair and storage facilities proposed and in hand at Kilindini will remain a national asset, any work executed at Diego will presumably benefit French interests.
9. Kilindini has the advantage of a large Hinterland as a source of supply thus avoiding the use of sea passage and reducing shipping requirements.
10. Health and recreational facilities are better at Kilindini than at Diego Suarez.
(C. in C. E.F., 0615Z/21 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.I.)
For para. 11 see 1321/22.

SUMATRA. A.M. 1306/26. Concur in proposals. Until such time as boilers have been retubed her employment will be limited principally to Convoy duties.
(C. in C. E.F., 0630Z/21 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.I., B.S.O.)

War Diary.

21.5.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ARCHER A.M. 2352/10 (re possibility of ARCHER being
Aircraft. used in connection with June Malta convoy.
Report whether 10 Martlets are available etc).
just received. None at Kilindini. C. in C. E.F.'s
1810/18 (?1840/18 intended) indicates present position.
(Com. N.A.S., E.I., 0944Z/21 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.,
C. in C. E.I.)

Port F. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 57.
Port F is required and we approve proposals in
para. 1 of F.O.C.R.I.N. 0631/10 regarding its
preliminary development.
2. No armaments or underwater defences are to be allocated to
Port F until the priority of bases in Indian Ocean has been
settled.
(Air Min., T.O.O., 1440Z/21 to Armindia, C. in C. E.I.,
C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Diego Suarez My 1809/19 para. (?8) correct numbers as follows:
Repatriations. French Officers 111, French other ranks and
ratings 836, Senegalese 402, Germans 55, Italians
70, civilians 5, wives 26, children 44.
(S.O. Force F., 1204C/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
S.A.)

PANGKOR, Your 1244/27/4. Owing to shortage of A/S vessels
KEDAH. on E.I. station, PANGKOR and KEDAH will continue
to work under your orders.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1503B/21 to C. in C. E.I., (R)
C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.)

Coal F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 0612/23. Request you will give
Shipments, consideration to sailing additional colliers to
Calcutta. Calcutta to load coal for West Coast India and
Middle East. It is not possible for any
additional shipments to be made from South
Africa and it is understood that there is an urgent demand
for increased stocks in these areas.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1509B/21 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N.)
No operational objection see C. in C. E.I., 0747Z/22.

A.942 21/5.
Air Report. Intelligence Summary No. 67 on information received up to 1800 hours 21/5. Bay of Bengal - 1
T.97 4 engined flying boat attacked British M/V
off Gopaldur 20/5, with bombs and machine gun fire. Ship
continued to harbour. Fighter patrols over shipping Hooghly
area 20/5.
(Air H.Q. India, 1640/21).

/Corvettes...

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

16470/21st May.

IN

656A

From S. O. Force "F"

Date. 22.5.42.

Recd. 1255.

Naval Code & by W/T & T/P

Addressed Admiralty Repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet C. in C.
East Indies N. O. I. C. Diego Suarez C. in C.
South Atlantic.

IMPORTANT.

150. Consideration has been given to the Naval personnel required at Diego Suarez to enable the Base and dockyard to function.

(2) The personnel sent out in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Aidee Memoire dated 20th March 1942 issued to N. O. I. C. bringing into force E P S has been supplemented for immediate requirements by the enlistment of H. M. S. AURICULA crew consisting of the following 1 (one) P. O., 2 L/S, 9 A/B/O/S, 1 (one) E R A 4th class, 3 Stoker P/O, 1 (one) Stoker, 2 Telegraphists/Ordinary Telegraphist, 3 Signalmen/Ordinary Signalmen, 1 (one) Coding and, 1 (one) leading supply assistant, 1 (one) leading cook. In addition 1 (one) writer and 2 leading telegraphists have been supplied from other fleet resources.

(3) These numbers are insufficient even if port is only to be used as a small repair or fuelling Base.

The following additional personnel are necessary for the duties shown: (A) S. O. (I) office, Visual Signalling and W/T Station, Administrative staff. 1 (one) C. P. O., 14 A. B. / O. S.'s 2 Yeomen of Signals, 1 Petty Officer Writer, one Electrical Artificer, 2 Wiremen.

(B) Dockyard repairs, store keeping and over seeing. One Lieutenant or Sub. Lieutenant (E), one Chief Shipwright, one Shipwright, 7 E. R. A. (including 2 boiler-makers and one Copper-smith) 3 S. P. O., 12 Stokers, 2 Wiremen.

/(O)

656^B

(C) Barracks working party, boat crew, dockyard police. ~~41 (one)~~ C.P/O or P./O, 5 P/O's or Leading Seamen or N.C.O's, 20 A.B's Ordinary Seamen or Marines.

(D) Operational, Intelligence and N.C.S. duty. 3 Lieuts or Licut. Commanders R.N., R.N.R. or R.N.V.R.

(4) At least 6 trawlers together with the necessary base maintenance staff should be provided for local A/S patrol and (corrupt group)

(5). Whether the port becomes a fleet base or only a small repair and fuelling base, some seaward defences must be provided together with all necessary personnel for operating and maintaining them, number for which will no doubt be arranged according to approved standard scale.

(6). Requirements of S.T.O. have already been forwarded in my 1028 16th May.

(7). The need for earliest despatch of personnel referred to above is urgent if base is to be of early operational value to the Fleet.

16470/21.

Advance copies to Cps., O.D.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | C.W. (2) | I.P. (3) |
| 1st S.L. | N. | W.D. |
| 2nd S.L. | D.P.S. (2) | E in C. |
| 3rd S.L. | A.C.R. | T/P for Dep. Contr (3) B |
| Vice Contr. | D of L.D. (2) | D (4) |
| V.C.N.S. | M (6) for action | E in C. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | D of S.T. (2) | B.A. 907. H |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D.T.D. (4) | |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | D.T.D. (M) | |
| Sec. | D.T.D. (O) | |
| Nav. Sec. | E.A.P. | |
| P.A.S. (8) | P.D.G. | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D. 57 O.B. | |
| N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T) | A.G.R.M. | |
| N.A. 2nd S.L. (2) | D.T.S.D. | |
| Ops (3) | D.B.D. | |
| O.D. (5) | D of P. (3) | |
| D.N.I. (4) | D.A./S.W. | |
| O.L.C. (2) | D.M.S. | |
| D.S.D. (2) | D.M.S. Cit. | |

War Diary.

21.5.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Corvettes, S.O. Force F's 1045/19. With exception
Kilindini, WHITEHAVEN, who is required to proceed Mediter-
Diego Suarez. ranean, Kilindini has no effective minesweeping
or local A/S craft.

As JASMINE and FRITILLARY have*proceeded to
Durban to dock I consider protection of Diego Suarez should be
carried out by Destroyers attached to Force F and at least
2 Corvettes released forthwith for duty Kilindini.

(C. in C. E.F., 1646Z/21 to Admty (R) S.O. Force F).

Reply: Admty. 1844/22.

* 3211. 15002/22. See
p. 684

Diego Suarez. Re requirements to enable base and dockyard to
function.

(S.O. Force F., 1647C/21 to Admty)

See Lion Copy.

Zigzagging My 1540/13 and your 1102/18/12/1941 and
subsequent amendments. Consequent on introduction
of new B.A.M.S. organisation it is necessary to
revise instruction to merchant ships re zigzagging. Request
you will indicate, by reference to new B.A.M.S. areas, in which
parts of your station merchant ships are to zigzag.
(D.T.D., 1741B/21 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

K.14, B.A.R.M's 2026/20. Request you will signal
K.15. programme for Dutch S/M K.14 and K.15.
(D.O.D. (F) 1818B/21 to Dep. C. in C. E.F.)

121 Assault Force. Following joint views of Gen. Sturges and
myself are submitted for consideration of Chief
of Staff:- Instructions in Admty. 2245/14 show
that assault force of 121 is about to be
dispersed. Naval (?Assault)Cdr. and Staff go to Beira together
with landing craft and crew. Beach party and communication
ratings with assault ship go to U.K. Destination of 29th Inf.
Bde. is unknown.

2. The ship, Staff, personnel down to most junior ranks in
Crew and party under S.N.O. (?A.L.C.) and in 29th Inf. Bde. are
now welded into a first class fighting team. This team has
been tried, done well and with battle experience behind it
should do even better. It may well be the highest trained
long range amphibian force in existence.

3. We suggest serious consideration be given to its retention
as a depot assault force for future operations.

(S.O. Force F., 2141C/21 to Admty).

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War Diary.21.5.1942
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Convoy Administration. 1. C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 2015/14 was originated due to convoy and routeing section, which corresponds to our Trade Division, being transferred from Opnav to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.

2. Consequent on this change the division between C. in C. U.S. Fleet and Opnav is now that between Operations and Administration. Administration includes Intelligence, W/T Intelligence, 'Y' and Communications.

3. The cable address and call signs quoted in C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 2015/14 should be employed for all Vesca, route and other messages on trade subjects. These have been introduced to differentiate between C. in C. U.S. Fleet's Ordinary Code Room and Trade Code Room.
(B.A.D. 0015Z/21 to Admty.)

NORLAND torpedoes. Received 0155 G.M.T. SSSS 31.22 N. 55.47 W. NORLAND torpedoes gunned and abandoning ship 1720/20.
(Portishead Radio 0155 G.M.T./21.)

FAJA DE ORO (Mexican) torpedoes. Intercept de WAX, Hialeah radio, Florida (begins) SSSS FAJA DE ORO torpedoes at 0225 G.M.T. position 23.30 N. 84.24 W. Adios at 0235 G.M.T. SSSS ELIZABETH (U.S.) torpedoes. ELIZABETH being shelled 21.35 N. 84.48 W. at 0215 G.M.T. (ends)
(Valentia Radio, 0249/21 to Admty.)
Received at 0356 G.M.T. de Portrush Radio. Intercepted at 0343. ELISABA (ELIZABETH) unread being shelled 21.25 N. 84.48 W. Torpedoes 13.40 N. 85.24 W. at 0125 G.M.T. SS FAJA DE ORO.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0556/21 to Navycharge Greenock.)
W.D. Note.- Positions in both cases differ from Valentia 0249/21.

Shipping Routeing. U.S. Navcom Washington 1655/19. Should be grateful if you would undertake holding or releasing of shipping mentioned, subject to proviso as suggested. It is assumed that Admiralty, C. in C. A. & W.I. S.O.(I) Jamaica and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa will be kept informed of all such restrictions and the lifting thereof.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1159B/21 to Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Shipping Route Instructions. B.A.D. 2054/18 (2341Z/18 intended ? Re route signals in connection with diversion of ships by C. in C. A.W.I) and (2 corrupt groups). Request I may be informed if Admty. are in agreement with these views.

2. With regard to periods from 30/5 until diversions are taken over by Opnav an early decision is desirable in order that necessary instructions may be issued by N.S.H.Q. and myself to B.R.O.S. to keep me supplied with route signals in British Code. As regards Merco signals I agree with para B. of B.A.D. 2054/18.

3. With regard to the period after Opnav has taken over diversions, my views remain as stated in my 1732/14.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1222P/21 to Admty.(R) B.A.D. etc.)

/U/B Fixes ...

658A

MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET~~

MESSAGE

OUT

0919Z/21st May

To:- OPNAV
repeated COMNAVEU.

Date. 21.5.42.

U.S. (X)

~~From:- Admiralty~~

Movement summary 1800 G.M.T. 21st May.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Speed</u>
BURNHAM escorting 3 ships	21° degs N. 64° degs W.	356° degs.	9
Transport QUEEN ELIZABETH	30° degs N. 61° degs W.	317° degs.	24
ALCANTARA	04° degs N. 20½° degs W.	058° degs.	15
DIOMEDE	35° degs S. 49½° degs W.	223° degs.	12
Convoy N.A.9	52° degs N. 40° degs W.	057° degs.	13.3.
Convoy C.T.16.	52° degs N. 32° degs W.	245° degs.	15.

0919Z/21 *to Opnav (R) Comnavcu*

for (D.O.D. (F))
~~184~~

- 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.C. (2)
- D.A./S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.

Advance copy sent A.E.

AMT

A.E. (4) & for COMNAVEU

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War Diary.21.5.1942
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.U/B
Fixes by
D/F.Locality 31° N. 73° W. at 0902Z/21.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1232/21)
Shadowing O.N.94 at 0021/21.
(Cominch 1408/21.)CASTLE
HARBOUR.Your 1340/5/2 to C. in C. A.W.I. CASTLE HARBOUR, propose to remove dome and fit cover plate to trunk with welded top plate after arrival of EVADNE. Ship will then not require further docking and docking plan will be amended as necessary.
(C. i/c Bermuda 1238P/21 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.)PARTHIAN
sailing.My 1622/20. For 22/5 read 25/5.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1242P/21 to Opnav (R) Admty.etc.)Ocean Escorts
B.5 Group.Your 1623/16 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2251/18 (N.T. in W.D.) As we are not aware how forces available to C.O.A.C. Halifax are being employed it is difficult to comment on these proposals, but on the whole we favour your proposal. N.S.H.Q.'s 2251/18, an escort of only 2 ships as in proposal (d) appears unacceptably weak.
(A.C.N.S.(R) 1307Z/21 to Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

O.N.94

D F at 0021 indicates U-Boat your vicinity still shadowing O.N.94.
(Cominch 1408/21 to C.T.U. 24.1.5 (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q. C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C.)? EMPIRE
FLINT.BR EMPIRE ?FLACK due Trinidad 12/5 from Lagos not arrived.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1516R/21 to Admty.)
W.D. Note. Presumed EMPIRE FLINT (See 1305B/23)

K.N.102

Convoy K.N.102 proceeding from anchorage 2000 G.M.T/21 S. of A. 8.5 knots due Norfolk 26th. (List etc.) If any last minute changes in time of sailing procedure disposition takes place this will be signalled to you immediately. This procedure will be carried out henceforth.
(B.R.O. Key West 1545Z/21 as amended 1737Z/24 to Norfolk (R) Admty. etc.)
As amended 2348Z/23.
My 1545/21, convoy sailed 1800 G.M.T. due Norfolk 25th.
(B.R.O. Key West 2222Z/21 to Norfolk (R) Admty. etc.)

/CITY OF MELBOURNE ...

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21.5.1942
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

CITY OF MELBOURNE.
(sunk 13/5) Entire crew of CITY OF MELBOURNE arrived Barbados 21/5. Vessel torpedoed and sunk by gunfire 13/5 016° N. 054° 20' W. Secret documents thrown overboard weighted box. Names of crew, my 1625/21.
(Harbour Master, Barbados 1604/21 to C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Jamaica.)

FAUNA
(sunk 17/5) Following received from Turks Island (Begins) Dutch Steamer FAUNA torpedoed and sunk Sunday midnight in Caicos passage. Captain and 27 survivors arrived this morning T.O.O.1530/21 (Ends).
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1635R/21 to Admty. etc.)

O.N.95 Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.2, WITCH (S.O) HAMILTON, SASKATOON, SOREL.
(F.O.N.F. 1721Z/21 to T.U.24.1.14.)

Navigation Lights. Instructions to merchant ships regarding burning of navigation lights are now being revised to accord with new B.A.M.S. areas. At present no instructions are issued as to burning of dimmed lights in G.B.M.S. area 11. Request you will ascertain from Cominch what instructions, if any, it is desired to institute for new area 6C.
(D.T.D. 1737B/21 to B.A.D. (R) N.Z.N.B.)
Reply. B.A.D. 1855/22.

STRATHALLAN air protection. STRATHALLAN reports air protection as follows. Each contact with ship was by single aircraft except where otherwise stated. Number of individual aircraft not determined as distances not always suitable for reading identity numbers.
26/4 one contact 5 minutes, 27/4 three contacts 8,7 and 10 minutes, 28/4 no contact, visibility 30 miles cloud base 8000 feet, 29/4 seven contacts 9,14,7,7,8,139,65 minutes and add two aircraft for 3 minutes. Ship adhered to courses and distances ordered and passed Hams Bluff St Croix 0930/29/4.
(D.T.D. 1742B/21 to N.C.S.O. Colon.)

Tankers, Mexico. My 1330/15. These tankers should be sailed if and when restrictions on shipping movements in Gulf of Mexico have been lifted.
(D.T.D. 1834B/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R)
C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

PLOW CITY torpedoed. Received 1837 G.M.T. de unknown station. SSSS (PLOW CITY) torpedoed 38.53 N. 69.0 W. Acknowledged by Portishead Radio but controlling station possibly Tuckerton New Jersey.
(Portishead No T.O.O. Recd 2232/21.)

/H.T.1

660A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1645Z/21st May IN

From C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date 21.5.42.

Recd 2106.

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed N.A. Escort Force, C. in C. Western Approaches.

IMPORTANT.

At 2000 G.M.T. / May 21st

positions

O N 94. Task Unit Number 24.1.5, 048° 05' North 048° 20' West 268° 7, altering in 051° 00' West to 304°.

O N 92. Task Unit Number 24.18.7, Cape Cod portion 042° 15' North 067° 20' West, 268° 8.

B. X. 19. Task Unit 24.18.6, 042° 45' North 070° 15' West 055° 7.05, altering in 043° 53' North to 098° (? and) in 066° 43' West to 145° ^{Fort York} FORT YORK.

TADOUSSAC sailed St. Johns N.F. Great Circle to U.K.

SHEDIAC sailed St. John's N.F. to Halifax.

C L 41 GEORGIAN 046° (? 40') North 056° 25' West to Sydney (C.B.), 8.

U.S.S. GULL, FAUNCE, vicinity 046° 30' North 057° 20' West to Argentia, 7.

O.S.S. 1. A. KENOGAMI, DRUMMONDVILLE, 047° 45' North 060° 20' West to Sydney (C.B.), 7.

KENOGAMI rendezvousing S H 3 in Sydney (C.B.) approaches. S Q S. I. A.

CHEBABUCTO 048° 10' North 063° 55' West in (group incomplete) 8.5.

MEDICINE HAT from Gaspé.

2 Merchant ship WOODSTOCK 049° 10' North 064° 05' West to Sydney (C.B.), 8.

H S 3 WEYBURN, UNGAVA, 044° 30' North 062° 50' West to Sydney (C.B.), 7.5.

urgency

H. T. ^{one} SUDY THEPAS 044° 20' North 063° 30' West 179° 9 ^{see next page}

X. B. 21 COLUMBIA CALGARY 043° 55' North 064° 00' West 224° 7.5 altering in 065° 35' West to (? 4).

U.S.S. ^{JOHN C.} SPENCER due Boston p.m./21st from East.

LA MALBAIE, MONCTON, due (? Col) PICTOU 22nd from Halifax.

(Copy Halifax 1645Z/21. to N.A. Escort Force C.C.W.A.)

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) and D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S. D.O.D. (H) (2) D.D.I.C. (2)
- A.C.N.S. (M) D.O.D. (F) (2) I.P. (2)
- A.C.N.S. (H) Duty Capt. (2) W.D.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2) D.A./S.W. D.T.D. (2) D.T.D. (C)
- N.A. 1st S.L. Hd. of M. D.M.D. (M) A.E. (3)

JF

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War Diary.21.5.1942
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- H.T.1. Sailed SUDBURY and THE PAS escorting H T 1.
(S.O.I. Halifax 1908Z/21 to Admty. etc.)
See Medicine page.
- C.S.As and B.R.Os. Your 1024/23/4, 2208/15/4 and related signals. Following has been agreed by Foreign Office.
(a) Belligerent Countries. N.C.S.Os may sever connection with consulates, arrange quarters with U.S. Officers, wear uniform and have title of British Routeing Officers. (b) San Pedro de Maceris. As there is no U.S. Routeing Officer and Parry is housed in Consulate he is to continue for the present to wear plain clothes and to be described as Consular Shipping Adviser. 2. Agreement of F.O. is being sought to use of Title of B.R.O. for all our Routeing Officers throughout the Americas.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1936B/21 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)
- Tankers, Trinidad. Request you will hold all tankers now at Trinidad which are due to sail to eastward overseas. If proposals in my 1226/21 are concurred with and put into operation these tankers should be sailed to Curacao in T.O. convoy for inclusion in outward convoy.
(D.T.D. 2010B/21 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) S.O.I. Jamaica, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)
Admty. 2010/21, comply.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2212P/21 to F.O.I.C. Trinidad, (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. LAMMOT DUPONT torpedoed shelled and presumed sunk near 27.10 N. 57.10 W. 1920Z/23/4. FREDEN attacked four torpedoes missed 35.45 N. 69.35 W. 1330Z/4. RUTH LYKES shelled and presumed sunk 16.36 N. 78.25 W. 2200Z/16. HEREDIA sunk, three torpedo hits. PLOW CITY chased by sub. 38.48 N. 68.30 W. 1318Z/21 torpedoed 38.53 N. 69 W. approx. 1828Z/21. SYLVAN ARROW O T - 1. Panair sights sub. on surface 11.34 N. 68.33 W. 1640Z/20. Destroyer attacks sub. on surface, unsuccessful attempt to ram, dropped seven depth charges 38.09 N. 73 W. 0055Z/21. Plane sights sub. on surface 24.05 N. 81.30 W. 1930Z/19. Sub reported by patrol boat 27.10 N. 79.52 W. 1830Z/21. (Cominch 2029/21 to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- WITHERINGTON damaged. WITHERINGTON reports in collision with Merchant ship SAMUEL BAKKE at 1920Z. Port bow seriously damaged. WITHERINGTON's position not known but was proceeding Boston I. Vessel to meet Merchant ship BOSTON CITY from Cape Cod Canal. Latter ship has not joined B X 19.
(C.T.U. 24.18.6, 2052Z/21 to Comdre. 1st U.S. District Boston, (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.E.S.F. C.T.24, H.S. H.Q. WITHERINGTON.)

/DURBAN ...

War Diary.21.5.1942
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

DURBAN. DURBAN expected to be ready to sail from Norfolk p.m.10/6 and will proceed to Bermuda in accordance with your 2230/11. Request destination in U.K. be communicated. Intended to be routed via Halifax to U.K. as her endurance at 17 knots is not sufficient for direct passage from Bermuda. (B.A.D. 2152Z/21 to Admty.)

U.S. request for escort vessels. Following for Admiral Little and Admiral Nelles from First Sea Lord. C. in C. U.S. Fleet asks if we can provide temporarily a further 15 or 20 corvettes for use on the East Coast of U.S. so that an equivalent number of vessels could be transferred to the Caribbean to deal with the serious situation in that area and in the Gulf of Mexico. My reply sent through Admiral Stark is as follows.

A. Total number of completed corvettes, including R.C.N., is 200, of which 10 have been transferred to U.S.N.

B. These 190 British and Canadian Corvettes are disposed as follows:-

(i) A total of 47 on the Gibraltar, Freetown, Mediterranean, South Africa, Pacific Coast and Indian Ocean Stations.	
(ii) The 143 remaining are disposed as follows:-	
North Russian Convoys	6
Trans-Atlantic escorts based in U.K.	37
Based in Canada and Newfoundland	78 (see note)
R.N. Corvettes lent to Caribbean	8
Gibraltar Convoys	14
	<hr/>
	143

Note:- Of these 78, two groups have been allocated for U.S. Coastal escort duty and four corvettes are being temporarily employed on special Canadian Tanker convoy between Halifax and Dutch West Indies.

C. We have no corvettes employed in U.K. Home Waters except 7 ships of the Duck Class which are not ocean-going and which have not been included in the numbers given in Para.A.

D. Roughly one-third of the numbers given in Para.B are always non-available due to refits and repairing damage.

E. Each of the Trans-Atlantic, Freetown and Gibraltar convoys have an average of five escorts of all kinds and I do not think we can possibly reduce them.

F. At the present time our escorts are doing 24 days at sea out of every 38 days, and as long as we maintain this proportion of sea time to harbour time it is impossible to release any of our escort vessels.

G. In view of the emergency in the Gulf of Mexico, I am prepared as a temporary measure to reduce the number of groups in the Mid-ocean escorts to 10, which would release one group for use on the East Coast. Group would be B.7 which comprises at present 1 destroyer and 5 corvettes, due Argentinia 25/5. This would mean that Mid-Ocean escorts would do 24 days at sea out of 35. This could only be maintained so long as we are able to adhere fairly closely to the Great Circle route across the Atlantic, and provided convoys are not delayed by bad weather.

H. I am sure you will agree that our ships should not be called upon to do this additional sea time unless both American and Canadian escorts are being equally hard worked.

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War Diary.21.5.1942
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U.S. request
for escort
vessels -
contd.

I. I do not know what proportion of sea time your escorts are doing, but if they are not working to the standard given in Para G. could they not do so and thus provide some of the escorts you require for the Gulf of Mexico?

J. I am repeating this signal to C.N.S. Canada and, if their escorts, including local escorts, are not already working to the standard given in Para G. I hope he will feel able to do so and thus provide some vessels for the Gulf of Mexico.

K. If, by working to the standard given in Para G. the three of us can provide more than the 20 corvettes you ask for, then I consider we should provide as many as possible in order to make a real job of the Caribbean menace.

(Admty. 2305B/21 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Personal for C.N.S. Canada from 1st S.L. I hope you will be able to play up to proposal I have made in A.M. 2305/21 in answer to Adm. King's appeal, and that in the circumstances you will forgive my referring to the amount of sea time your ships are doing, which I realise is entirely your concern. (1st S.L. 2312B/21 to N.S.H.Q.) See C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1720/25 for decision not to reduce numbers of ocean escorts.

Reply from C.N.S. Canada - 1712Z/25. *See also Admty. 0205B/27 p. 805 and 1650Z/27. r CNS Ottawa 1650Z/27. p. 908B.*

ONEIDA.

Your 1807/18 addressed D. of N.I. Ottawa only. ONEIDA U.S. passed through New York 7/5 and arrived Boston 8/5. Regret omission of Vesca report.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2306Z/21 to Admty. C.S.A. at Boston and New York.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation.

Serial No.119 from C.W.R. 20/5. 5 B 17s attacked Koepang aerodrome at 2335Z/19, scored 2 direct hits on ground aircraft, 10 bombs on intersected runway, and 4 bombs in building area caused fires. 4 fighters took off but no interception.

(2) 4 Hudsons set out to attack shipping Dilli Harbour at 0800Z/20 but observed only white luggers at jetty, no aircraft on aerodrome.

(3) Enemy reported interrogating natives at Coughland Harbour and Visale on Guadalcanal (Soloman Is.)

(4) Raid number 53 on Port Moresby by 12 Zero fighters at 2150Z/19. 11 P.39s and 6 P.40s intercepted. Hits claimed on 4 Zero. One P.39 shot down one P.40 damaged.

War Diary.

21.5.1942
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation
contd.

(5) One enemy seaplane off Nauru travelling North East at 0130Z 18th.
(6) Indication enemy use aerodrome at Hopoi (near Lae).
(A.C.N.B. 1134Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

Mines.

Your 0359/5. Mine production rate now 5000 per annum and total output will be utilised for defensive mining on Australia Station for at least 12 months, but this policy can be reviewed at any time if Admiralty require mines for offensive operations. Not possible to increase capacity of present factory beyond 6000 per annum. Please state whether this increase is required. Full stowage requirements for Swan Island will not be available for 6 months. At Fremantle stowage in open available shortly. Request further shipments of mines be deferred until further signal is made. Request necessary technical instructions for all mines concerned be despatched before shipment of mines vide your 2017/21/3 para 10.
(A.C.N.B. 1517Z/21 to Admty.)

ACHILLES.

Arrival Suva 1759Z/21. Departure 2107Z/21
E.T.A. Samoa 0300Z/23.
(N.Z.N.B. 2345Z/21.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1445B/21, 1449B/21.)

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War Diary22.5.1942
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Photographs of Trondheim at 1010B today showed TIRPITZ, LUTZOW and HIPPER in the same positions as on 21/5.

North
Russia
Convoy.

/LEDBURY & BLACK RANGER, See 11/5-p.333.
Force Q, ALYNBANK, HONEYSUCKLE, ROSELYS, STARWORT, SEAWOLF, TRIDENT and HYDERABAD sailed from Seidisfiord this afternoon to R/V convoy P.Q.16 to refuel the escorts on 27/5. HONEYSUCKLE is detailed as escort to the two submarines. *See p.673.*
NORFOLK, LIVERPOOL and KENT left Hvalfiord today to R/V with C.S.10 in NIGERIA to provide close cover for Convoy P.Q.16.

3 M.Ls sailed from the Humber this evening, to investigate Danish fishing vessels in 54° 50' N. 2° 35' E. which are believed to report our outgoing aircraft to the enemy. Two vessels were brought in.

Commencing with C.W.81 today the Channel convoys are to sail on a 2 day cycle.

Mining.

About 30 enemy aircraft operated in the Humber area last night, possibly minelaying.

Bomber Command laid 57 mines last night off La Pallice, Verdon and Lorient.

East Indies.

INDOMITABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, HERMIONE and 6 destroyers arrived at Mombasa today from Diego Suarez.

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War Diary.22.5.1942
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

GRIPSHOLM. Swedish vessel GRIPSHOLM under American charter has been granted safe conduct for voyage Gothenburg to U.S. and eventual return.

GRIPSHOLM sails from Gothenburg for New York on 23/5 and will follow the standard route for Swedish vessels specified in my 1143/7/10/41. Vessel is not to be interfered with while following this route. Particulars as follows. N.A. Stockholm is requested to instruct Master to report position every 24 hours as in case of Swedish ships engaged on authorised trade between Sweden and U.S.A.
(Hd. of M. 1055B/22.)

Renaming of
Portuguese
Trawlers.

^{/N.T.A.W.D.}
Your 1055/22. The Portuguese names of these trawlers are to be erased from the ships before they leave Milford. The following names are to be substituted. POLO NORTE to be renamed MOONSHINE. ESTRELLA D'ALVA to be renamed SUNBURST. ESTRELLA DO NORTE to be renamed STORMCENTRE.
(Adty 2156Z/22 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Movements.

L.23. L.23 exercising off Blyth from 1000 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0830/22 to VERDUN, EGRET.)

MACKAY
AJAX.

Part company at B 8 buoy and proceed to Sheerness.
(C. in C. Nore 1000B/22 to Capt. D. 16.)

ROTHER.

On relief proceed at best speed from Y to (Z) 049° 59' N. 013° 01' W. thence Q Z F 18 to Milford Haven unless otherwise routed by C. in C. Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 1034B/22 to ROTHER.)

PHOEBE.

When ready for sea PHOEBE should be sailed for Scapa to work up.
(D.O.D.(H) 1304B/22 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

WELSHMAN.

It is intended that WELSHMAN should make a further trip to Malta carrying Spitfire engines (20), smoke, ammunition and R.A.F. personnel (114.)
2. Ship will probably sail p.m./27 from Clyde to fit in with Operation "Style". F.O.C.N.A. is requested to signal as soon as possible time and date she should arrive at Gibraltar.
3. F.O.I.C. Glasgow is requested to arrange alongside berth for embarkation of stores and report to Admiralty berth allocated.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1614B/22, 2029/22.)

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War Diary.22.5.1942
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

4th M.G.B.F. Ref. C. in C. Plymouth's 1602B/21. There are now no M.G.Bs of 4th M.G.B.F. available at Portland.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1640B/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

S/Ms. Positions of submarines at 0800B/23 and movements for following 24 hours (A) TRIDENT and SEAWOLF with P.Q.16 (B) P.46, P.37, P.614, O.10 in zones K.33 K.31 K.27 and K.25 respectively (C) UREDD vicinity 66° 40' N. 06° E. probably on surface through 70° 10' N. 10° 30' E. for Zone K.29 (D) P.211 vicinity 43° 35' N. 14° W. dived by day due 42° 59' N. 14° 01' W. 2300/23.
(F.O.S. 1654B/22.)

QUENTIN QUENTIN will probably be required to leave U.K. in company with PATHFINDER and PENN about 5th June.
PATHFINDER
PENN. 2. Request you will arrange for her to complete working up and boiler cleaning as necessary so as to be ready by this date.
(D.O.D.(H) 1816B/22 to R.A.D. (H.F.))

Operations.

Iceland - ^{/N.T. & W.D.} Your 1258/21* CUMBERLAND will be sufficiently worked up to sail for patrol "Black" on 27/5.
Faroes
Patrol. MANCHESTER on 1/6. This allows no spare days for practice.
(V.A.2 1010B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)* *See next page*

Interception Weather permitting interception patrol tonight
Patrol. is - One unit M.G.Bs (S) to vicinity Q.E.14A as early as visibility permits. S.O. has freedom of action in area bounded by 51° 20' N. and 03° 10' E., but is not to go further into Dover area unless in action. Force to be 30 miles off coast by daylight and is to use full recognition procedure while returning.
(C. in C. Nore 1100B/22 to BEEHIVE.)
One unit M.G.Bs (S) to 52° 30' N. 4° E. as early as visibility permits. At 0100/23 this unit is to move to Southern End of R.B.14 and sweep Northward to centre of R.B.16, returning via R.B.23 if no activity develops. The force is to be 30 miles off Dutch Coast by daylight and is to use full challenge procedure while returning.
(C. in C. Nore 1102B/22 to F.O. Yarmouth.)

/Investigation ...

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War Diary.22.5.1942
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

Investigation of Danish fishing vessels. At least 20 Danish fishing vessels reported in approx, 54° 50' N. 2° 35' E. 16 Group have reason to believe such craft report our outgoing aircraft to enemy. 4 M.Ls are to leave Humber so as to arrive in this position at about 0530/23. Object of operation to investigate activities of fishing boats and to discourage their use of this area.

Procedure. Look for boats carrying W/T and if possible bring one in via Gap C. Any boat offering resistance or attempting to evade search to be sunk and crew brought in. If practicable inform boats that in future they are liable to be fired on by our aircraft if found in this area. If none have W/T one boat should be brought in for examination.

Keep lookout for heavily armed trawlers acting as guard. M.Ls are not to become engaged with such trawlers.

Air co-operation. Hudson aircraft will maintain R/C over area from first light. Beaufighters will also be over area from 0530.

Communications. Report M.Ls detailed and time of sailing. (C. in C. Nore 1250B/22 to F.O.I.C. Humber (R) Admty.)

Your 1250B/22. M.Ls 198, 230, 185 and 190 sail at 2045 today Friday.

(F.O. Humber 1458B/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

My 2141B/22 M.L.190 returned at 2255 with engine defects. (F.O. Humber 2300B/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Admty. 1730/20th. ^{/N.T. & W.D.} Your opportunity may occur this evening.

Supply (F.O.S. 1633B/22 to P.211, P.43.)

Ship.

RENOWN My 1554/20th (not to all addressees)

Patrols (i) For KENYA read *CUMBERLAND. (ii) RENOWN is "White" and requested to maintain one cruiser on patrol "Black". "White" using CUMBERLAND, KENT and U.S. Cruiser TUSCALOOSA. (iii) TUSCALOOSA sailed for patrol on 18/5. Normal time on patrol is 6 days.

(iv) V.A.2 is requested to sail KENYA 24/5 for patrol "Black".

(v) Admiralty recypher and pass to all addressees.

(C. in C. H.F. 2128B/22 to V.A.2 RENOWN (R) H.F. ships Operational.)

* See previous page

British Air Operations.

Air protection of Convoys Russian D.C.N.S. has informed Admiral Miles that P.Q.16 and Q.P.12. the arrival of P.Q.16 is being treated as a special operation and about 200 aircraft mostly from Red Army will assist in its protection. Not less than 50 bombers will attack enemy aerodromes.

(1st S.L. 0008B/22 to C. in C. H.F. Escorts P.Q.16.)

/Your 1901/21 ...

War Diary.

22.5.1942
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations - contd.

Air protection Your 1901/21. Patrol "Lotus III" will be of Convoys established a.m./22.
P.Q.16 and (D.C. 0351B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
Q.P.12. Admty. 0351/22 "Lotus III" not yet in
contd. operation owing to weather.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1455B/22 to C. in C. H.F.,
C.S.10, A.C.O.S. (R) Admty.)

Cancel my 2043B/21 not to Admty. or H.Q.C.C. Air Escort will be provided for P.Q.16 by Northrop Aircraft until convoy crosses lat. 068°. Between lat.68° and 69° by America P.B. Y. From lat. 69° to limit of prudent endurance about lat. 069° 30' N. by Sunderlands. Only 2 Sunderlands are available so that near 069° 30' N. they will only be able to be with convoy for about one hour in each 12 hours. Sunderlands will not carry Depth Charges.

(A.C.I.C. 1459B/22 to C.S.10, (R) C. in C. H.F. Admty. Commob, Escort P.Q.16, H.Q.C.C.)

Whilst I am at sea request you will arrange "Sentry"(3) and "Lotus" to patrol to cover convoys, in addition to P.R.Us of Trondheim and Narvik. (2) Request "Sentries" "Polar""Bear" and "Frice" patrols may be established if there is an indication of a break out. (3) Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C.

(C. in C. H.F. 2013B/22 to Admty. (R) A.C.I.C. C. in C. Rosyth H.Q. C.C., C.S.10, A.C.O.S.)

R/C of A.CC/G7/22/5. C. One Catalina to make R/C of Spitzbergen. Spitzbergen to locate personnel and establish their nationality. Route Sullom Voe south Cape Isfjord Cap Linne Barentsburg Advent Bay

Kongsfiord on completion R/C is required of ice edge south of Spitzbergen to Jan Mayen A/C to return if possible to Sullom Voe all operational forms to be rendered in cypher 'Most Secret'.
(H.Q.C.C. 1321B/22 to B.18 Group.)

Enemy Air Operations.

A/C over Humber. Between 2300/21 and 0100/22 about 30 enemy A/C operated in Humber Area. A/C seemed uncertain of their position owing to low cloud base of 1000 to 2000 ft. No low flying A/C reported, average height 4000 ft. A/C covered a wide area from Spurn to Wash. (Inshore) Spurn to H.3 and 62 D. buoy. Possible mine-laying, but not confirmed by sightings. No reports of A/C over the river.

(F.O. Humber 0101B/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

Convoys Convoy S.L.109 has probably been reported by S.L.109 and long range enemy aircraft.
S.L.109F. (D.D.I.C. 1246B/22, C. in C. W.A. 1356B/22 to BLACK SWAN.)

Convoy S.L.109F has probably been reported by long range enemy aircraft.
(D.D.I.C. 1406B/22 to GEORGETOWN.)

My 2202 (N.T.in W.D.) Para 1 from 1219B to 1229 Focke Wolfe made homing signal on 443 kc/s as for outward bound convoy. (BLACK SWAN 2204B/22 to Admty., C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Rosyth, Captain (D) Liverpool, H.M.S. GEORGETOWN.)

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War Diary.

22.5.1942
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 0835, 308° 2.75 miles from 57 buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0907B/22, 0945B/25.)
S.A. Sweepers detonated acoustic mine at 1055 212° 4. cables from 57 buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1132B/22, 0945B/25.)

Minefield off Aldeburgh. Operation Q.S.6. M.S.9 reports clearance completed. 15 mines swept today making total of 95. Check sweep being carried out tomorrow. M.S.4 reports area cleared today bounded by following positions.
(A) 52° 20' N. 2° 03' E.
(B) 52° 20' N. 2° 07' 12" E.
(C) 52° 27' N. 2° 06' 30" E.
(D) 52° 27' N. 2° 11' 26" E.
One mine detonated in sweep in 145° 3C buoy 4.75 miles. One mine swept in 145½° 3C buoy 4.55 miles and has been towed to Lowestoft. Operation being continued tomorrow.
(C. in C. Nore 2306B/22.)

W.P.160 Position W.P.160 will be at 0300 23rd 255° Trevose Head 12 miles. Large mine reported 1900 22nd position 2 miles North West of Wolf Rock.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2316B/22 to BROCKLESBY.)

Enemy Intelligence.

R/C of Trondheim. Photographs of Trondheim at 1010B/22 show TIRPITZ, LÜTZOW and HIPPER in same positions as on 21/5.
(D.D.I.C. 1517B/22.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. 1 S/M bearing 025° distance 3 miles, course 270°. My position 61° 17' N. 1° 57' E.
(A/C V. Sqn. 1023/22 to 18 Group.)

Patrol for damaged U-Boat. My 1639B/21. If nothing found by 1800B/22 M.Ls are to return to Base.
(C. in C. W.A. 1536B/22 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

Attack on U-Boat. Am over enemy submarine in position 62° 14' N. 0° 29' W.
(A/C N. Sqn. 1830/22.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 270° estimated speed 10 knots.
(A/C N. Sqn. 1830/22.)
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges. Estimate 2 hits.
(? N/Sqn. 1830/22.)

/U-boat ...

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War Diary.22.5.1942
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - contd.

U-boat. Am over enemy submarine in position 60° 17' N.
6° 58' W. submerged. Course 270 speed unknown.
(A/C 2000/22.)
1 submarine bearing 250° distance 6 miles
course 270 speed 10 knots. My position
62° 2' N. 1° 5' W.
(A/C 2110/22.)

Navigational.

Off Cromer. Light on wreck buoy in 053° N. 001° 49' E.
extinguished.
(VANITY 0010B/22.)

Casualties and Defects.

MINERVE. My 1837B/21 MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH
passed Rattray Head 2330/21.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0051B/22.)
Arrived. (*Dundee*)
S.9 0937B/22.)

Tugs in White Sea. One Rescue Tug is stationed Iokanka and two
in Dvina. Request H.M. Ships proceeding White
Sea may be informed that application for tugs
should be made to S.B.N.O. Archangel.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0929B/22 to Admty., S.B.N.O.
North Russia (R) C. in C. H.F., Admiral Miles.)

FORESIGHT. ^{/Hull} Arrival FORESIGHT at 0945/22.
(F.O. Humber 1000B/22.)

STRAIDE. Two wing furnace crowns dropped at 1900B/21
fires drawn boilers blown down. Proceeding on
two to Clarendon. D K a.m. 23rd.
(STRAIDE 1110B/22 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

SAXIFRAGE. ^{/N.T. in W.D.} My 1214B/19. Owing to defects SAXIFRAGE will be
unable to sail.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1456B/22.)

CAIRO. My 1503B/18. In view of CAIRO's present
commitment, cleaning of boilers is postponed
to 25/5.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1515B/22.)

/TRINIDAD ...

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War Diary.

22.5.1942
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

TRINIDAD. It appears desirable that a Board of Inquiry should be held regarding the damage to TRINIDAD on 29/3, and as ship's company are now at Devonport that it should be ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. Do you concur? (1st S.L. 1825B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 1825/22nd. Concur.
(C. in C. H.F. 2002B/22 to Admty.)

BRIGHTON. My 1404B/16. Defects and proposed tests. Anticipate work will be completed on 28th May. Propose that on completion ship proceed on service for 7 to 10 days, returning thereafter to Glasgow for further examination.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1916/22 to Admty.)

WELSHMAN. Progress report.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2201/22.)

SPEY
(Corvette) SPEY was in collision with gate vessel when leaving harbour p.m. 21st damage sustained necessitating repairs which will be completed 29th May.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2247B/22.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Russian Convoys. Personal from First Lord and First Sea Lord, for such action as you consider desirable. We are fully aware of the ordeal to which both the merchant ships and escorts of P.Q. and Q.P. convoys will be exposed during their passage.
2. Absolutely essential to deliver to Russians these armaments and munitions.
3. The Russian air forces are making a great effort to assist you.
(Admty. 0105B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

P.Q.16 and Q.P.12. The following 35 ships for North Russia sailed Reykjavik 21st May in P.Q.16 (List as A.C.I.C. 0205B/21.)
(D.T.D. 0939Z/22 to Cominch.)

My 1346/19. On completion KENT is to return to Hvalfiord and remainder of 10th C.S. are to proceed to Scapa.
(2) My 1837/12 para (7) Force Q. For "Tuesday 26th May" read "Wednesday 27th May".
(3) Admiralty recypher and pass to all addressees.
(C. in C. H.F. 1223B/22 to C.S.10, KENT, LEDBURY (R) A.I.G.47)

/Intend ...

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War Diary.22.5.1942
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- P.Q.16 and Q.P.12 contd. Intend to proceed DUKE OF YORK with WASHINGTON, VICTORIOUS, LONDON, WICHITA 5 fleet destroyers and 4 Hunts, passing Hvalfiord Boom at 0130B/23. Route north of Iceland to pass through position A. 065° 50' N. 013° 01' W. at 0600B/24th.
- (2) After 4 U.S. Destroyers have joined from Seidisfiord and Fleet destroyers have fuelled, Hunts will be detached and force will proceed to cover Russian convoys.
- (3) On completion, force will proceed to Scapa.
- (4) Admiralty recypher and pass to all addressees.
- (C. in C. H.F. 1414B/22 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, H.F. Operational.)
- Sailed NORFOLK, LIVERPOOL, KENT to R/V ^{with} C.S.10. Sailed U.S. Dest. WAINWRIGHT, U.S. Dest. MAWRANT, U.S. Dest. ROWAN, U.S. Dest. RHIND for Seidisfiord (Iceland) (A.C.I.C. 1428B/22.)
- Following have been sailed to R/V convoy in position H.
- *Force Q, ALYNBANK, HONEYSUCKLE, ROSELYS, STARWORT, SEAWOLF, TRIDENT, HYDERABAD. HONEYSUCKLE detailed as submarine escort vessel. (C.S. 10 1602B/22, A.C.I.C. 2050B/22)
- The following 15 ships sailed Murmansk 21st May for Iceland (C) in Q.P.12. SOUTHGATE, PAUL LUCKENBACH, CAPE RACE, TEXAS, EMPIRE MORN, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, KUS BASS, ZEBULON B. VANCE, SCOTTISH AMERICAN, SEATTLE SPIRIT, TOPA TOPA, EXPOSITOR, NORMACRIO, BAYOU CHICO, ALCOA RAMBLER. (D.T.D. 1647Z/22 to Cominch.)
- Sailed 1600B from Seidisfiord ROSELYS, ALYNBANK, HONEYSUCKLE, STARWORT, HYDERABAD, TRIDENT, SEAWOLF, *LEDBURY and *BLACK RANGER. (A.C.I.C. 2050B/22.)
- * Force Q. See 11/5 - p. 333
- O.S.28. If you anticipate difficulty in fuelling inform R.A.W.A.F. who is requested in that event to supply local escort if available from vicinity of Bathurst. (C. in C. W.A. 0948B/22 to WESTON.)
- O.S.28. All Escort Vessels with exception of WOODRUFF have refuelled. WOODRUFF complete with fuel 23/5. Local escort from Freetown not required. (WESTON 1445N/22.)
- Escorts for Mexican and West Indian Waters. My 1511B/21. If proposals in para 3. are adopted, consider that westbound Convoy should sail one day earlier than scheduled in order to equalise harbour time on either side. First convoy to sail earlier to be nominated subsequently. (C. in C. W.A. 1029B/22 to A.C.N.S. (T))
- O.G.84 From position (C) steer direct to (E) omit (D). N.P. N.U. (C. in C. W.A. 1717B/22 to escorts of O.G.84.)
- O.N.(S) Post Sailing Telegram. convoys. (D.T.D. 1820B/22)
See Folder W.10.

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War Diary.

22.5.1942
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

EMPIRE
HEYWOOD.

EMPIRE HEYWOOD fitted with anti-torpedo net dropped astern showing N U C light at 0030Z/22nd. SHAWINIGAN detailed at 0730Z/22nd to search for and stand by her and to report situation. No report so far received. O.N.95 position at 0200Z/23 045° 29' N. 040° 55' W. course 258° speed 9.6 knots.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14 2030Z/22 to SHAWINIGAN, Opnav.)

W.S.19 W.

My 1734B/20 sailed. Codeword Pillbox.
E.T.A. Freetown 0800N/30.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2304B/22.)
W.S.19 W. sailed 2255/22.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 2310/22.)

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B A.M.0006B/22. (N.T. in W.D.) U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 60 miles of 37° 30' N. 30° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 0405B/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HYTHER, RYE. My 1716B/21. Sailed 0810 HYTHER, RYE. (F.O.C.N.A., 0918B/22 to Admty etc).
As SPIREA is now accompanying 29th M.L. Flotilla to Gibraltar HYTHER is to assume T patrol on passing Cape Spartel until further orders.
2. RYE is to proceed meet EMPIRE CONRAD in accordance with sailing orders.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1130B/22 to HYTHER, RYE (R) SPIREA, ROTHER, Admty. C. in C. W.A.) See also 1208B/22.
RYE sailed from Gibraltar at 0800B/22 at 12 knots through 250° Cape St. Vincent 5 miles to R/V 1 merchant ship 8 M.Ls. and 1 corvette in 041° 42' 014° 59' as additional escort to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1208B/22 to P.43, P.211).
Following is a repetition of My 1208/22 (to P.43, P.211)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1236B/22 to TRAVELLER).

P.R.U. Aircraft. My 1322/7 and 1202B/13. I am still without any serviceable P.R.U. Aircraft. Maryland sent 19/5 unable to do any R/C since arrival and still unserviceable. No further news of Mosquito promised.
(2) With uncertainty of trend of French Situation frequent R/C of Algiers and Oran, and daily R/C of Casablanca most desirable. Fulmars which I have been obliged to use are not fitted for vertical photography and too slow. S.O.(I)'s 2304/19 refers. No R/C of Algiers and Oran since 3/4. Numerous other P.R.U. Commitments outstanding.
(3) Admty. pass to A.O.C.C.C.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1112B/22 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med., V.A.M.)

Attack on Catalina 18/5 by French fighters. Your 1502/21. Request you will report urgently whether in fact;-
(a) Warning was given by French fighters.
(b) Catalina was first to open fire.
(Head of M., 1136B/22 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

Your 1136/22. Catalina sighted some vessels towards French shore. Turned in to examine and almost immediately sighted 2 French fighters who came at him down sun. Catalina immediately turned away from Coast and descended to sea level, meanwhile fighters overtook, circled once, then each fighter carried out one attack with cannon opening fire at 700 yards. Catalina returned fire at range of 300 yards. Your (A) Circling was not taken to be a warning. (B) No.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1434B/22 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med., V.A.M.)

/Spanish...

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Spanish Sailings to U.S.A. Sailings Spanish steamers for U.S.A. ports south Norfolk (not Norfolk, Virginia) now finally agreed by Germans. (?Shipping) Dept. established in German Embassy to grant authorisation in reference case. First authorisation given yesterday 21/5 permits departure (?MOTOMAR) from Seville for Baltimore with cargo including wine and olives. Ship sailing within one week. Passenger Hull Atlantica Company sailings will be resumed before end of June. This is official. (N.A. Madrid, 1333/22 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc).

ARCOLA There were no H.M. Ships in this area. Italian Tanker ARCOLA safe passage (?Suez Canal) estimated 18.17, 42.09, 68 8½. (F.O.C.N.A., 1354B/22 to Admty etc).

ALOUETTE A/C 3 (?aircraft) probably F/W course 180° 1,000 feet, my position 180 Espichel 6. (ALOUETTE, 1409B/22 to Gibraltar W/T).

P.44 Intend sailing P.44 for working up patrol south of Alboran Island p.m./24. (F.O.C.N.A., 1436B/22 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty etc).

Casablanca R/C. Visual R/C Casablanca 0900/22. JEAN BART in usual berth, boom not observed. Cruisers berth not observed. Entrance of boom half open. (F.O.C.N.A., 1600B/22 to Admty etc).

CORRIENTES Rumoured that 8 Germans have arrived by air as crew for German SS. CORRIENTES and that this vessel has been provided with provisions. (Las Palmas, 1600/22 to Admty).

SUEVIA suspected cargo. Spanish SUEVIA reported sailing tonight 22nd from Leixoes for northern Spanish Port with valuable cargo for Germany. (R.O. Oporto, 1826/22 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty).

Damaged U/B at Cartagena. My 1302/14. It is now 20 days since U-boat entered Cartagena and we have not yet had any statement of time to be allowed for repairs. Incident is we fear following the familiar lines of Ceuta and Tangiers.

2. Your difficulties are appreciated but we are most anxious for an early report on - (a) what you consider is the real condition of the U-boat. (b) whether she can be made seaworthy at Cartagena. 3. If the answer to (b) is no, request you ask Ambassador to press for immediate internment of U-boat and crew. 4. Effective internment of crew is at least as important as internment of U-boat. (Hd. of M., 2303B/22 to N.A. Madrid, (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

/Ferrol...

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22.5.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Ferrol. Your 1702/21 Pro Consul Guyatt just returned from Ferrol reports no enemy shipping movements whatever at Ferrol since my last report. (R.O. Corunna, 2350/22 to Admty (R) N.A. Madrid).

KENTUCKY U.S.A. Tanker KENTUCKY is to be fitted with paravane equipment on arrival Gibraltar about 1/6. Ship fully loaded and time available probably not more than 7 days. This may exclude fitting clump and chain or "A" Frame. If so, "Chain Harness" type which can be fitted in 5 days should be fitted. Any variation of this or other types can however be accepted, main essential being that ship is provided in the time available and gear remains serviceable for one voyage. (D.T.D., 2358B/22 to F.O.C.N.A., C.S. Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

→ **AMARANTHUS** AMARANTHUS E.T.A. St. Vincent 1200/25 with mail for Consulate. Ship will not require oil here or provisions. Ship is to be met and will sail immediately mails have been transferred. (R.A.W.A., 0943Z/22 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent (R) Admty etc). *See p. 679*

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Your 1453/8/4 and R.A.W.A's 1104/9/5. Request (a) How many cylinders in DUNNOTTAR CASTLE have been modified to new design and whether reliability of these is satisfactory, and (b) Whether general reliability of engines would be considered acceptable if remaining cylinders were similarly modified. (D.O.D. (F) 1127B/22 to C. in C. S.A. (R) R.A.W.A.) Your 1127B/22. (a) From information available number 7 port cylinder only modifying, modification not considered satisfactory. (b) Experience does not appear to warrant similar modification. (C. in C. S.A., 1745/22 to Admty).

Dispositions. Situation 2000/22 MILFORD off Bathurst to Freetown 13. WIVERN, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU off Freetown to Bathurst 11. AMARANTHUS 008° 50' N. 015° 15' W., to St. Vincent, 13. (R.A.W.A.F., 1205Z/22 to A.I.G., 149). *See p. 679*

/ORONSAY...

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

ORONSAY, My 0127/21. ORONSAY is to continue to U.K. via
 Madagascar West Africa as scheduled.
 Repatriations. Present intentions are (a) French civilians and
 families. Should be sent to Southern Rodesia.
 Govt. are being asked to receive them. (b)
 Senegalese should be put off in West Africa. (c) French
 European Officers and other ranks. Decision as to their rights
 to be repatriated will be taken soon. Whether they are brought
 on to U.K. from West Africa will probably depend on this decision
 (d) Italians and Germans will be brought to U.K. in ORONSAY
 if Union Govt. cannot accept them.
 (A.C.N.S. (F), 1227B/22 to C. in C. S.A. (R) S.O. Force F., etc).

Meteorological Your 0914/15. Arrangements are being made for
 section for an advance party of S.A. A.F. Meteorological
 Diego Suarez. section to proceed to Diego Suarez within 2 or 3
 weeks to make necessary arrangements. Request
 information whether a Naval Meteorological officer
 is already present. If not a Naval Meteorological
 L.O. from South Africa will be sent.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1247/22 to C. in C. E.F.)

Ships ex Your 1307/20th. All 4 ships require repairs at
 W.S.18. Capetown which it is hoped to complete by date
 mentioned. Length of voyage in days is stated
 against each ship. E.T.A. will be signalled on
 sailing. EMPRESS OF JAPAN 27th, 17 days DUCHESS OF BEDFORD
 and AORANGI 27/5, 23 and 22 days respectively, MALOJA 30/5 25
 days.
 (2) There are only 1,000 German prisoners of war now in Union
 but they cannot be moved to Capetown in time to embark. There
 are also no guards available at present.
 (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1635B/22 to D.S.T. (R) C.T.F., 24
 R.A.W.A.F etc).

Boats, Following received from Commodore Londonderry
 Freetown. (quotes 1239B/21 re harbour service boats
 and submitted that steps may be taken to improve
 such services at Freetown).
 (C. in C. W.A., 1738B/22 to R.A.W. Africa).

ARCHER. Important that ARCHER should proceed with minimum
 delay at her best speed to Mediterranean.
 2. She may remain at the Cape a maximum of 24
 hours to remedy defects reported in her 2212/18.
 3. None of the aircraft referred to in your
 2315/20 is required by ARCHER but providing no
 delay is incurred 6 serviceable Hurricanes may be
 embarked for transport to Mombasa.
 (D.O.D. (F), 1738B/22 to C. in C. S.A.

/W.S.19...

22.5.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

W.S.19 Arrival 22/5 MAURITIUS, CARNARVON CASTLE,
HURSLEY, BELVOIR, BOREAS, WILD SWAN, VELOX with
W.S.19.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1847Z/22 to Admty etc).
Request next bunker port for W.S.19.
(S.S.T.O. Freetown, 2306Z/22 to D.S.T. (R) R.A.W.A.)

WILD SWAN Your 1111/20. WILD SWAN can be taken in hand
for refit at Portsmouth on arrival in U.K.
(D.O.D. (H), 1916B/22 to R.A.W.A.)

Italian Italian ships SATURNIA, VULCANIA, DUILLO, GIULO
repatriation CESARE route markings. These ships are not to be
ships. interfered with if on prescribed route.
SATURNIA and VULCANIA arrive Port Elizabeth 27th
May. DUILLO and G. CESARE 25th May.
(C. in C. S.A., 1941B/22 to Ships in areas P. & Q)

DIOMEDE Defect has developed in port main engine which
will be investigated on return to harbour. Ship
will be out of action till it has been remedied
Nature of defect is not yet known. Report will
be made as soon as possible.
(DIOMEDE, 2045/22 to C.T.F. 23 (R) C. in C.
A.W.I., U.S.C.N.O. S.O.(I) Montevideo, Alusna,
Montevideo).

VAN GALEN. My ? 1422B/22 (N.T. in W.D.) Neth. Destroyer
VAN GALEN returned to Simonstown.
(C. in C. S.A., 2045B/22 to S.A. Sqdn. (R) Admty).

O.S. 28 Departures 22/5 WIVERN, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU,
AMARANTHUS, escort of NEW NORTHLAND and R/V with
O.S. 28.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2241Z/22 to Admty etc).

See p. 677

Mediterranean.

THRASHER. My position 040° 14' 018° 54'. E.T.A. 0615C/28.
Weather.
(THRASHER, 0401C/22 to Capt. S.1. (R) TURBULENT,
C. in C. Med., V.A.M.)
A submarine was sighted in your area at 1320C
today.
(Capt. S.1., 1715C/22 to TURBULENT).

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Recognition from air of coastal Forces M.T.Bs. M.A/S.Bs. and M.Ls. Directions. (C. in C. Med., 1330B/22 to S. & A).

Malta Air Report. I.313 22/5. C.S.R. Malta. Night 21/22. 2104, 4 Raiders bombs land, no damage, beaufighter no interception, 22nd, 3 alerts. 0520, fighter sweep 4 Me. 109s. 4 Spitfires up, no combat. 0610, fighter sweep 2 Me. 109, 6 Spitfires up, no combat. 0904, 20 Me. 109s, 4 bombed Hal Far, no damage, 1 Me. 109 destroyed by 8 Spitfires. (H.Q., Malta, 1715/22).

Vessels for Turkey. Following from Adm. Kelly. You will hear through F.O. that Turkish Govt. have accepted offer of 15 H.D.M.Ls. and ask that original contract for 8 submarine chasers should still hold good after war. I anticipate T.L. will wish to exchange new contract for former and trust they will stand firm, (N.A. Ankara, 1721C/22 to Admty).

TAKU. TAKU leaving vicinity Alexandria about 2100C/22 and proceed through 032° 28' 027° 40', 032° 58' 026° 23' 032° 58' 020° 30' to patrol in area C south of 35° N., between 14° and 020° 30' E. (Capt. S.l., 1731C/22 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A.M. etc).

VALE FORMOSA II. Your 1815/9 to F.O.C.N.A. At Gibraltar crew of VALE FORMOSA II reported that they had been attacked by Italian submarine in Gulf of Genoa, because their ship had been less than 12 miles from the shore. F.O.C.N.A. reports that ship was attacked with gunfire by British submarine on 26/4 in 043° 45' N., 007° 53' E. She was thus within the sink-at-sight zone and 50 miles off her authorised route. When fire was opened, ship hoisted Italian flag and was not recognised as approved carrier of Swiss cargo until range was closed to 500 yards. Submarine spoke in Italian only. Ship was searched at Gibraltar and a fuze-cap believed to be the only evidence of the submarine being British, was removed. We, therefore, have the alternatives of saying nothing and allowing the crew to accuse the Italians, or of stating the truth and complaining of the facts set out in para.2 Request you consult Ambassador and report which course you consider we ought to adopt. (Hd. of M. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1805B/22 to N.A. Lisbon) Reply: N.A. Lisbon, 1516B/25.

P.42. See 10/5
P.304.

/OLYMPUS...

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22.5.1942.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

OLYMPUS,
(Mined
8/5).

Having interviewed personally the 3 senior surviving ratings of OLYMPUS, full report of which follows, I am satisfied:-

- (a) That she was mined forward when on surface some 45 minutes after leaving Valetta.
- (b) Took about 7 minutes to sink, enabling 90 out of 99 Officers and men to take to the water and start to swim ashore. Of these only 9 reached shore having taken 4 to 5 hours on the journey, although it would appear that a very much larger number got very close. All were unaided.
- 2. I consider the following precautions should be taken for submarines when in dangerous waters off Malta.
 - (a) Escort of crash rescue craft in addition to minesweeper or mine bumper.
 - (b) Submarine to evacuate and shut off two forward compartments providing diving in an emergency is not impaired.
 - (c) Crew to wear life belts.
 - (d) Lookout organisation ashore to be warned to keep lookout on expected bearing of submarine.
- 3. I will instruct Captains (S) concerned in the sense of 2 (b) and (c) above.
- 4. I do not consider submarines should approach or leave Malta during full moon period at present.
(F.O.S., 1822B/22 to Admty).

PORPOISE.

Cancel my 1206/20 in view of V.A.M's 2205/21*not to F.O.S.
(C. in C. Med., 2013C/22).
*(Hush Most Secret Distribution N.T. in W.D.)

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.GLENEARN
Repair.Can a reply yet be made to my 0158/10/4?
(D. of D. 0153B/22 to C. in C.E.I.).Troops for
Madagascar.My 0631/21. Your 0255 and 0256/20. Am
despatching RAJULA due Mombasa 2/6.
ANTENOR due 2/6 these ships are in addition to
NOVA SCOTIA and SAMARIA.
(P.S.T.O.India, (?)735Z/22 to D.S.T.).Your 0631/21. NOVA SCOTIA, SAMARIA and ANTENOR are not now
required. SAMARIA and ANTENOR should proceed direct to U.K.
Via Capetown. NOVA SCOTIA should await further orders.
(D.S.T. 1839B/22 to P.S.T.O.India).Your (?)735/22 and my 1839/22. RAJULA will not be required.
(D.S.T. 0124B/23 to P.S.T.O India).Coal
Shipments
Calcutta.A.M. 1509B/21, There is no operational objection
to this at present. Presume you will take the
necessary action in conjunction with Director of
Shipping movements.
(C. in C.E.I, 0747Z/22 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty.).

Port F.

(A) Water carriers. (Requirements).
(B). A small cargo ship for carrying stores
between Okha and Port F is also required to
carry stores required for work on reefs and islands.
(Requirements). (C) A base ship for accommodation may also be
required. Recommendations will follow on return of R/C party.
(D) Your concurrence to (A) and (B) requested.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1003/22 to C. in C.E.I. (R) Admty, C. in C.E.F.
etc).
Concur (C. in C.E.I., 1028Z/23) (1400Z/26).F.O. Ceylon.
Shipping
Control.Your 2231/20.1. Duties of F.O. Ceylon are as
stated in para.9 of my 1632/17. Routeing
and control of ocean going shipping will be
carried out by C. in C. E.F. or his deputy.
2. F.O. India will control surface vessels allocated for
protection of Indian coastal trade. F.O. Ceylon will exercise
control when escorts or trade are in Ceylon waters, which will
be considered to include coast of India South of 10° N.
This should only be necessary when immediate rerouteing
is required to avoid submarines, to reach a defended port, or for
entry into and sailing from terminal ports in Ceylon.
(C. in C. E.F. 1107Z/22 to Admty (R) C. in C.E.I.).
Reply: Admty 1537/24.A/C
Recognition.Policy agreed for India and Ceylon by Army and
R.A.F. and U.S. Authorities. Request Naval
aircraft may be instructed to conform.
(F.O.C.R.I.N.) 1114Z/22 to C. in C.E.I.).

/Fuel...

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Fuel at Diego Suarez. S.O. Force F's 1147/18. Request some other arrangement may be made for storage and supply of spirit at Diego Suarez as a Fleet attendant tanker cannot be spared for this. EASEDALE is urgently required for service with Eastern Fleet.
(C. in C. E.I., 1114Z/22 to C. in C.S.A.(R) S.O. Force F. etc).

BROOMDALE. My 1611/15th. When will R.F.A. BROOMDALE be released please? Her absence leaves me without 100 Octane at Seychelles.
(C. in C.E.I., 1116Z/22 to S.O. Force F(R) C. in C. E.F. etc).

Fleet Base. Following is repetition of para. 11 of my 0615Z/21.
(11) Taking all the above into consideration I consider that we should stick to Kilindini as the main base(Ends).
(C. in C.E.F., 1321Z/22 to Admty (R) C. in C.E.I.).

ARCHER. A.M. 1823/16 and 2352/10 not to C. in C. Med. Request immediate report whether six complete Martlets less crews can be provided for ARCHER or alternatively whether six Martlet arrester hooks can be transferred to C. in C. Med, by Air for conversion of six Martlets of 805 Sqdn. If the first alternative is possible 805 Sqdn would be required to provide flying and maintenance crews.
(D.N.A.D. 1433B/22 to Com.N.A.S.E.I.(R), C. in C.E.F., C. in C.E.I. etc). *Approved A.C.N.S.(F).

Trincomalee. Your 1006B/21, para. (1) re Moorings and A.M. 1208B/16. Trincomalee should have priority for moorings. Request reply to my 1205B/16.
(D. of L.D. 1455B/22 to F.O.C.R.I.N.(R) C. in C.E.I, C. in C.E.F.).

MANCHESTER CITY, JAY. Ref.A.M. 1256/9 and 1252B/15 MANCHESTER CITY and JAY should be sailed as soon as practicable to Diego Suarez.
(D. of L.D. 1538B/22 to C. in C.E.I.).

GUARDIAN. Baffle laid. Intend sailing for Kilindini a.m./23, E.T.A. 1315Z. Fuel required.
(GUARDIAN, 1631Z/22. to F.O.3 B.S, N.O.I.C. Kilindini).

/Dispersal.....

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22.5.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Dispersal
of Landing
Craft,
Madagascar.

Your 1845/20. Para.3.(b) approved. Para.3 (d) see D. of S.T's 2320/21. Further signal will be made about remainder.
(D.O.D.(F) 1747B/22, to S.O. Force F,(R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A).

FRITILLARY
JASMINE.

Diego Suarez. Departure 22/5 for Durban, 1500Z
FRITILLARY, JASMINE, S.of A. 12 knots, routed West of Madagascar, and by southbound shipping lane. E.T.A.Durban breakwater 1200Z/28.
(S.O. Force F, 1843C/22 to Admty, C. in C.E.I, C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F., N.O.I.C.Durban, (R) RESOLUTION, N.O.I.C.Diego Suarez.).

Corvettes,
Kilindini
Diego Suarez.

S.O. Force F. 1045/19, A.M. 1826/20 and C. in C. E.F. 1646/21. FRESSIA and NIGELLA are to proceed to Kilindini. THYME and GENISTA are to remain at Diego Suarez until relieved by FRITILLARY and JASMINE or until no longer required.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1844B/22 to C. in C.E.F., S.O. Force F.(R) C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.I.).

War Diary.

22.5.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PRESIDENT TRUJILLO (torpedoed 21/5.) Dominican Government report PRESIDENT TRUJILLO (Dominican) which left Fort de France 1300 local time yesterday 21/5) torpedoed one hour later. Destination of ship unknown here. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 0007R/22 to Admty., B.A.D., C. in C. A.W.I.)

WITHERINGTON, S. BAAKE, collision. E.T.A. Boston 0900 G.M.T. Following casualties. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to inform Admty. (WITHERINGTON, 0032Z/22 to Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, N.L.O. Boston, C.O.A.C. Halifax, (R) VERITY.)

WITHERINGTON with serious damage to port bow is being taken in hand for permanent repair at Navy Yard Boston. Job number 198. (B.A.R.M., 1648Z/22 to Admty.)

WITHERINGTON was in collision at 1920Z/21 with SS. SAMUEL BAAKE Norwegian bound Halifax. SAMUEL BAAKE is considered to be at fault. WITHERINGTON sustained serious damage. Rough estimated time to repair from 4 to 6 weeks. (? WITHERINGTON, 1900Z/22.)

BETH (torpedoed 17/5.) Your 2140/19. 3rd lifeboat with 9 survivors arrived Tobago 1730/20. Now here all well. Does this complete report? (Port of Spain, 0832Q/22 to Admty.)

Movement Summary.

1800 G.M.T./22.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Transport QUEEN	37° N. 69° W.	313°	23
ELIZABETH			
BURNHAM escorting 3 ships	24½° N. 64½° W.	357°	9
DIOMEDE	36½° S. 53½° W.	300°	12
Convoy N.A. 9	54° N. 32° W.	066°	13.3
Convoy C.T.16			
	49° N. 41° W.	238°	15

(Admty. 0833Z/22 to Opnav.)

FORT BINGER. Request you repeat your 1851Z/20 regarding FORT BINGER to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (D.T.D., 1204B/22 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat at Sosua. Ciudad Trujillo reports submarine refuelled Sosua 0040 to 0400 11/5 (? 15/5). Fuel believed brought by lorry probably Santiago. States informant usually well informed but unable verify. Can security investigate? (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1217R/22 to Admty. for Security Co-ordination, C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)

/DARINA ...

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.DARINA
(torpedoed
20/5.)

(M.V. tanker)

Following received from BRITISH ARDOUR (begins) -
Master and 17 survivors DARINA rescued, were
torpedoed 029° 17' N. 054° 25' W. 2000 G.M.T./20
2 boats with survivors still adrift, 1600/21.
(ends.)
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1313P/22 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.,
etc.)

CUIYABA.

Admiralty pass to R.A. West Africa*. Brazilian
SS. CUIYABA travelling under safe conduct
repatriated Axis personnel and nationals
departing Rio de Janeiro about 30/5 for Lisbon and return.
Ship is 6489 gross tons painted grey and travelling fully
illuminated. "Diplomats Brazil CUIYABA" and national flag
painted each side. Ship should not be molested or interfered
with by U.S. Forces. Opanav informed.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1353/22 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet,
C.T.F. 23, Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I., C.C.S.F.,
R.A. West Africa, F.O.C.N.A.)
* Passing action being taken by W.R.

Shipping.

Opanav 1828/12. If you concur will issue
orders placing Merco in effect from 2400 G.C.T.
30/5 in areas mentioned. Admty. 1752/20
(N.T. in W.D.) As yet only small number Vescas
received here which can be decoded. This has
been taken up with B.A.D.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1416Z/22 to Admty.)

Exam.
Service.
Mine.

W.J.A. 87. (1) Examination service in Gut of
Canso commenced 21/5. (2) Floating mine
reported 21/5 037° 48' N. 057° 21' W.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1420Z/22 to Q.J.A. Messages.)

CRISTALES
(torpedoed
12/5.)

CRISTALES torpedoed and sunk in convoy at 0155
G.M.T. 12/5 in 052° 45' N. 029° 30' W. Second
Officer believes all Con. Books and inter alia
all naval bags went down with ship. All hands
believed saved. My 1627 following gives names
of survivors landed here by U.S. Coast Guard
Cutter SPENCER.
(B.R.O. Boston, 1626Z/22 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

MOUNT PARNES
(torpedoed
12/5.)

MOUNT PARNES, Greek, torpedoed and sunk in
convoy at 0153 G.M.T. 12/5 in 052° 45' N. 029°
30' W. Survivors report master took care of
confidential books. All hands believed saved.
My 1648 follows giving names of survivors landed
here by U.S. C.G. Cutter ^{SPENCER} SPENCER.
(B.R.O. Boston, 1628Z/22 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/ U/B ...

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B attack on Convoy. Your 1415/20 (N.T. in W.D.) para. (J). It would be appreciated if full texts could be forwarded to Admty. by signal. (D.N.I., 1726B/22 to C.T.F. 24, (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

H.T. & T.H. Convoys. Your 2015Z/19. Grateful for your assistance. We should like to accelerate tanker movements as suggested in your para. VI., but it is unlikely that increased escort forces will become available for this service, and M.O.W.T. has been informed that this convoy is solely for Canadian tankers to and from Halifax, and, when space permits, for an occasional Admty. tanker for the Fleet. (D.T.D., 1728B/22 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C., F.O.I.C. Trinidad, etc.)

Convoy ? H.T. 1. ^{/21/5. See p. 661.} Sailed H.M.C.S. SUDBURY, H.M.C.S. THE PAS escorting H.(?T).1. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1810Z/22.)

Navigation Lights. Your 1737/21. U.S. Authorities state that they wish ships in this area to comply with the general instructions contained in G.I.R.O. chap. 3, sect. B. para. 9. (B.A.D., 1855Z/22 to Admty., (R) N.Z.N.B.)

Routeing of tankers. Cancel my 1132/13th, 1302/16th, 1732/18th and 2222/20th on receipt of M.A.R.I. amendment 12. Tankers from Caribbean Sea east 079° West for U.K. are still to be routed via Freetown unless otherwise ordered. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1903P/22 to A.I.G. 131.)

BAJA CALIFORNIA overdue. BAJA CALIFORNIA (Honduras) sailed Gibara Cuba 14/5 (? for) Tampa not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., 1928Z/22 to Admty., etc.)

CELANDINE. Sail CELANDINE for Halifax to pass Chesapeake Light Vessel 1700Z/25 thence positions (C) 37.00 N. 74.00 W. (D) 42.00 N. 63.20 W. speed 12 knots. (Connav, 1959/22 to Com. 5, (R) C.E.S.F., Cinclant, etc.)

THOMAS AND EDITH. THOMAS AND EDITH due Halifax 10/5 from St. Johns Newfoundland not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., 2008Z/22 to Admty., etc.) Cancelled, see 2242/23.

/H.D. 21 ...

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War Diary.22.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

H.D. 21. H.M.C.S. OTTAWA sailed escorting H.D. 21.
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 2115Z/22.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. MERCURY SUN torpedoed and presumed sunk 21.01 N. 84.26 W. 0500Z/18. WILLIAM J. SALMON, one torpedo hit, presumed sunk, 20.08 N. 83.46 W. 1900Z/18. ISABELA presumed attacked and sunk 20 miles off Navassa Island 0400Z/18. TROISDOC

→ shelled and sunk 18.15 N. 79.12 W. 1630Z/21. Unknown vessel attacked 20° N. 73.53 W. 1230Z/22. FOAM, U.45 type. Plane sights submarine submerged 39° N. 74.40 W. 2100Z/21. Submarine attacked by surface and aircraft 25.47 N. 79.56 W. 2025Z/20. Submarine sighted by M/V 28.50 N. 91.40 W. 1108Z/22. Details of U.352. Docked Flensburg 28/11. Departed for Saint Nazaire via Trondheim 20/1/1942 arriving 5/3. Departed Saint Nazaire middle April. Present in Saint Nazaire during Commando Raid. Opnav and B.A.D. informed.
(Cominch, 2037/22 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Tankers, suspensions lifted. My 2101/15. These tankers may now be sailed provided that U.S. Naval Authorities place no further restrictions on shipping movements in Gulf of Corcovados, Mexico.
(Ottawa, 2126Z/22 to C.S.A. New Orleans, (R) New York, Admty.)

→ TROISDOC (sunk 21/5.) U.S.S. MOHAWK reports picking up total crew of 18 Canadian SS. TROISDOC sunk by submarine shell fire in 18.15 N. 79.12 W. at 1630Z/21.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2137P/22 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.D., S.O.I. Jamaica.)

German prisoners from India. My 1555/21.
(1) Understood U.S. Authorities are asking U.S. Consul General Bombay by cable to find how many evacuees, missionaries, etc., are being embarked in BRAZIL and how many remain for MONTEREY on which information decision will be based.
(2) War Shipping Administration suggest you should get into touch with U.S. Consul General with view signalling information to B.A.D. Washington as to what balance accommodation is likely to be available in MONTEREY for prisoners of war. Time would thus be saved in obtaining a decision here.
(B.A.D., 2215Z/22 to P.S.T.O. India.)

Aircraft, Recognition Signals. Your 1334/3. U.S. Army have suggested possibility of Warships acknowledging by day aircraft identification signals by making R R R followed by the challenge letter with the idea that this gives the aircraft additional proof that the Warship is friendly. It has been pointed out to U.S. Authorities that inference of not receiving the correct

/acknowledgment ...

War Diary.

22.5.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Aircraft,
Recognition
Signals.
(Contd.)

acknowledgment would be that the surface craft was hostile and attack on friendly vessels might result. On the other hand it must be admitted that if the aircraft can read the first part of the acknowledgment, namely R R R, they should normally also be able to read the single letter which follows. Request Admiralty view, if possible in time for W.C.B. Sub Committee meeting on 26/5. (B.A.D., 2327Z/22 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation.

Digest. Serial No. 120 from C.W.R. 21/5. Photographs taken after attack Koepang reported in my serial 119 para. 1 shows 6 bombers amidst fighters on aerodrome and several fires including 1 aircraft and probably fuelling dump on fire, also evidence of direct hits on 2 fighters 1 bomber, near misses on 1 fighter 2 bombers. Merchant ship 3000 tons shown off Koepang. (2) 5 B.26s attacked Lae at 0245Z/21, destroyed 2 heavy bombers 1 zero fighter and probably 1 possibly shot down. 15 zero and 5 bombers observed on aerodrome. 2 B.26s slightly damaged. Intense A/A fire encountered. (3) 1 destroyer 5 merchant ships at anchor off Ambon observed by air R/C 21/5. (A.C.N.B., 1144Z/22 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1427B/22, 1439B/22.)

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War Diary.

23.5.1942
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoys
P.Q.16
and
Q.P.12.

C. in C. Home Fleet sailed from Iceland at 0115B today as arranged. (See 21/5) Destroyers with him are FAULKNER, INTREPID, ICARUS, ECLIPSE, BLANKNEY, FURY, LAMERTON, MIDDLETON, WHEATLAND. U.S. destroyers WAINWRIGHT, MAWRANT, ROWAN and RHIND from Seidisfiord are to R/V with him tomorrow morning to replace the 4 Hunts. C.S.10 in NIGERIA left Seidisfiord with 8 destroyers this morning to R/V with the remainder of the 10 C.S. and provide close cover for P.Q.16.

The air R/C of Narvik today failed on account of weather; but at 1100 TIRPITZ was seen in her usual position off Trondheim, with 2 large unidentified Naval vessels at the warship berths in Lo Fiord.

S.B.N.O. North Russia reports today that the Russians have provided for Convoy Q.P.12 an additional escort of 2 Destroyers, an additional escort of Fighter A/C from 1900/21 until 1100/22, an A/S patrol of 2 Seaplanes in the approaches, and 2 submarines as cover on patrol. He adds however that the enemy coastal Aerodromes have not yet been bombed.

At 1728 RENOWN with 3 Destroyers left Scapa for Hvalfiord, where CUMBERLAND left Scapa at 2210 to join her.

At 1615B today in a heavy head sea off N.W. Ireland the escorts of QUEEN MARY were unable to maintain an adequate speed and returned to their bases, having detached QUEEN MARY to proceed independently at her best speed (for Freetown.)

British Air Activity.

At 1011B Adty. assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping C. in C. H.F. informed of all further Air R/C movements affecting the Fleet; and at 1705 the A.O.C.in C. Coastal Command suggested that, as the available strength of long-range A/C for those purposes is only 3 Catalinas and 2 Liberators, these should be saved as far as possible so that a maximum cover may be provided during the critical period from 26th to 27th May.

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War Diary.

23.5.1942
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

C.S.10 was reported by Enemy A/C between 1600 and 1800 today.

One Heinkel A/C carried out a R/C of Reykjavik Harbour at 0455B this morning at a height of 1200 feet.

Mining.

One Ground Mine is reported today to have been detonated by Sweepers in the Thames Estuary at 2244/22; one Acoustic and 2 Magnetic Mines were detonated today off Yarmouth, and 3 Ground Mines off Harwich.

Aircraft laid 64 mines off Sassnitz and Swinemunde last night.

U-Boats.

A U-Boat reported by NORTHERN SUN at 2220 in 58° 48' N. 3° 30' W. was being hunted tonight by her and WILTON, assisted by PATHFINDER and QUENTIN.

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War Diary.

23. 5. 1942
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

The ports of Bardia and Sollum have been opened with skeleton base parties.

The large Italian floating dock at Massawa has been raised and can be repaired afloat.

The Greek S/M TRITON has successfully completed a passage from Alexandria to Malta with stores. PORPOISE sails today with stores.

A Swordfish attacked a submarine 30 miles north east of Daba (western end of Arabs Gulf) today; 3 250-lb depth charges fell within 5 yards, the stern of the U-boat rose 40 ft. out of the water then disappeared rapidly. The U-boat is presumed to have been destroyed.

America and West Indies.

Convoy T.O.1 sailed today from Trinidad for Curacao and Aruba, escorted by HAVELOCK and U.S. P.C.453. The controlling routing and diverting of O.T. and T.O. convoys is being handled by the U.S. authorities, through F.O.I.C. Trinidad for the present until their organisation is set up, after which the U.S. will gradually take over.

Convoy J.H.1 from St. Johns N.F. arrived at Halifax N.S. today escorted by SHEDIAC.

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War Diary.

23.5.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RENOWN.
CUMBERLAND.
SOMALI.
MATCHLESS.
ECHO.

CUMBERLAND will proceed with RENOWN p.m. today in lieu of KENYA. CUMBERLAND raise steam accordingly. RENOWN passing Hoxa 1730B Admiralty's 2345B/22 refers.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1000B/23).
Scapa departures H.M.S. RENOWN, SOMALI, MATCHLESS, ECHO. E.T.A. Hvalfiord 1030Z/25.
(A.C.O.S. 1728/23).
Scapa departure CUMBERLAND.
(A.C.O.S. 2210/23).

ROTHER.

At 2000A/23 my P.C.S. are 044° 52' N, 015° 52' W, 182° 9. I assume that (I?) continue to Gibraltar.
(ROTHER 2200B/23).

Operations.

Convoys
P.Q.16.
and
Q.P.12.

Operations to cover Convoys
See Shipping.

Iceland -
Faroes
Patrol.

KENYA proceed as necessary A.M. tomorrow to carry out patrol "Black" 30th. C. in C.H.F. 2128/B/22.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1035B/23 to KENYA).

Northern
Trawler
Patrol.

Your 1628/21. At 0800/25 following Northern Patrol trawlers will be on patrol; KINGSTON AGATE T.R.36, NORTHERN FOAM T.R.35, KINGSTON AMBER T.R., 34, CAPE PORTLAND T.R.33.
(S.O.N.T. 1210B/23 to C. in C.H.F.).

S/M
Patrols.

Position of submarines at 0800B/24 and movements, for following 24 hours.
(A) TRIDENT, SEAWOLF with P.Q.16.
(B) Q10, P.614, P.37, P.46 in zones K 25, K 27, K.31, and K.33 respectively.
(C) UREDD, 69° 40' N, 09° 50' E. probably on surface through 70° 10' N. 10° 30' E. for Zone K.29.
(F.O.(S) 1742B/23).

Combined
Operation.

My 2049/20 and Admiralty's 1321/22. Request you will arrange.
(C.C.O. 1815B/23 to V.A.C.T.).

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Home Fleet
R/C.Admiralty have assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping C. in C. H.F. informed of further air R/C in connection with Fleet movements.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1011B/23).Bombing
Operations.Day 20/5 today 22/5, both inclusive, no operations.
On night 22/23, 3 A/C bombed St Nazaire.
(H.Q.B.C. 1440/23).Bombing
Restrictions.Request bombing restrictions may be imposed forthwith until midnight 29th as follows:
(a) On the West by a line drawn 215° (T) from Bishop Rock to 48° N. thence 128° to the French coast.
(b) On the East by a line along meridian 5° W. from the English coast to 48° N, thence bounded by the French Coast.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1513B/23 to H.Q.F.C.).

Patrols.

C. in C. H.F. 2013B/22. I must draw attention to the fact that only 3 Catalinas and 2 Liberators comprise the available strength in long-range A/C for Fleet R/C. In view of the limited number of A/C, it is suggested that these should be conserved as far as possible so that during the critical period of 25-27 May the maximum possible air cover may be provided.
(A.O.C. in C. H.Q.C.C. 1705/23 to Admty.).Enemy Air Activity.Attacks
on
Iokanka.Your 1502B/19. Request following further particulars:- (a) Dates of attacks on Iokanka
(b) Numbers and type of aircraft taking part.
(c) Bases from which they are thought to have operated.
(D.D.I.C. 1153B/23 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Convoy P.Q.16.

Convoy Reported by A/C. See Shipping.

A/C over
Reykjavik.Heinkel 111 carried out R/C of Reykjavik harbour at 0455B/23 from height of 1200 feet. After circling harbour aircraft proceeded on course 330°. Supposition that aircraft approached across Iceland from eastward. Not observed at Hvalfjord.
(A.C.I.C. 1957B/23).Mining.

S.N.72.

Propose to carry out as follows. Details (R.A.M.0900/23) See Lion copy.

/Thames...

MOST SECRET

0900/23rd May.

694A

MESSAGE

IN

From R.A. (M)

Date 23.5.42.

Recd. 1921

R.A.F. Cypher (28) by T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Home Fleet, C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C., Rept. C. in C. Western Approaches, A.C.O.S., R.A.D. Home Fleet, C.S.10, C.S.18, Air Ministry Whitehall, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., H.Q. No.18 Group, H.Q.No.14 Group.

Propose to carry out operation S.N.72 as follows

- (a) to lay moored magnetic mine field S.N.72 from south to north.
- (d) One H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRINCE, H.M.S. ADVENTURE, H.M.S. PORT QUEBEC, H.M.S. AGAMEMNON, H.M.S. MENESTHEUS, H.M.S. BRICHTON, H.M.S. CASTLETON, H.M.S. NEVAEK, H.M.S. ST. MARY'S
- (d) 2 G. in C. Home Fleet is requested cover operation.
- (e) anti s/m air escort is requested as far as can be arranged.
- (f) from (i) 066 degs 31' 30" N. 023 degs 11' 48" W. through (ii) 066 degs 49' 30" 023 degs 11' 48" to (iii) 067 degs 22' 06" 023 degs 33' 06"
- (g) 0100 May 30th
- (j) through position (i) 060 degs 18' N. 009 degs 00' W. (ii) 063 degs 30' 013 degs 00' (iii) 064 degs 30' 013 degs 20' (iv) thence coastwise by mostly (g) North ward of Iceland.
- (k) 13 knots
- (l) 1700/1st June.
- (n) through position (i) 067 degs 17' N. 024 degs 19' W. (ii) 066 degs 49' 025 degs 10' (iii) thence by most (g) through Reykjanes Passage to Butt of Lewis.
- (o) and (p) Port Z.A. 1700 4th June
- (w) 51 miles 14 knots
- (x) M.Mark I/XVII 1(one) Star setting to 25 unmounted
- (y) full outfit
- (z) as for 2 lines ships in area B throughout.

Remarks. (j) will be detached as necessary (at the start of laying) to refuel in Hvalfiord arriving there about 0300B/2nd June.

0900/23.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(H), D.D.O.D.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (10)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.C. (2)
D.E.O.D. (M)
D.N.I. (4)
Admiral Blake
D.M.S.
I.P. (2)
W.

MOST SECRET

694B. ^{Key}

From War Registry.

Date. 29/5/42.

CORRECTION.

R.A.(M)'s signal T.O.O. 0900/23,
concerning operation S.N.72, should be corrected
as follows:-

(1) In line 16 read:- "(iv) Thence coastwise
by most direct route northward of Iceland".

(ii) In line 21 read:- "(iii) Thence by
most direct route through Reykjanes Passage" etc.

(iii) In line 28 read:- "Remarks. Destroyers
will be detached" etc.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D of F.(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.C.(2)
D.D.C.D.(M)
D.N.I.(4)
Adm. Blake.
D.N.S.
I.P.(2)
W.D.

A.

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War Diary.23.5.1942
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.

- Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 2244/22. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1104/23.)
- "Tincture" Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m.26th in the manner described in my 1207/10/9/41.
(D.M.S. 1106B/23 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- Off Cromer. S.A. Sweepers detonated 1 Acoustic mine at 1335 in 52° 54' 12" N. 02° 05' 06" E.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1357B/23 and 1310B/26.)
LL Sweepers detonated 1 red magnetic mine at 1426 in 52° 50' 18" N. 02° 10' 54" E. 1 Blue magnetic mine at 1427 in 52° 50' 06" N. 02° 11' 00" E.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1541B/23 and 1310B/26.)
- Harwich. Three ground mines detonated by MM/S at 1424, 1456, 1534 respectively. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1743B/23 and 2207B/23.)
- Enemy Intelligence.
- Two Trawlers. Following is a repetition of F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 1102B/23 to C. in C. Nore. M.G.B.21 reports sighting one trawler in 52° 47' N. 04° 24½' E. and another in 52° 51' N. 04° 25' E. at 0217/23 and 0227/23 respectively. Also several small sailing vessels between these positions and green light flashing 4 every 6 secs in approx. 52° 53' N. 04° 19½' E. Presence of M.G.Bs known to the trawlers. No action taken. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore 1434B/23 to Admty.)
- Trondheim Narvik. Visual R/C of Trondheim at 1100/23 reports TIRPITZ in usual position, two large unidentified naval vessels in Lo Fiord present in warship berths. R/C of Narvik failed due to weather.
(D.D.I.C. 1757B/23.)
- U-boats.
- U-Boats attacked. C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) NASTURTIIUM. (B) 1318/18/5 and 2101/19/5. (C) 55.20 N. 25.46 W. and 56.11 N. 16.37 W. (D) 43 and 20. (E) 1638/18/5 and 2216/19/5.
(NASTURTIIUM 0805/23.)

/S/MS ...

War Diary.

23.5.1942
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats contd.

S/Ms
attacked
by A/Cs. In 62° N. 4° 17' W.
(A/C 15 Group 1140/23, 1145/23.)
In 64° 35' N. 23° 18' W.
A/C I.B.B.O T.O.R 1608Z/23, 1613/23, 1616/23.)
In 64° 34' N. 24° 30' W.
(A/C HL6 T.O.R 1641/23, 1655/23, 1658/23.)

S/Ms
sighted
by A/Cs. In 61° 50' N. 3° 32' W.
(A/C 15 Group 1240/23, 1330/23.)
In 64° 33' N. 23° 30' W.
(A/C HL6H 1640/23.)

S/M
suspected. Am investigating suspicious oil patch in
64° 33' N. 23° 30' W.
(A/C HL6H T.O.R 1614/23.)

U-Boat
reported. One submerged submarine position 58° 48' N.
03° 30' W.
(NORTHERN SUN 2220/23.)
If visibility permits proceed to 058° 48' N.
003° 30' W. to hunt U-boat (?by) report at
2200 by NORTHERN SUN.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2301B/23 to WILTON.)
Proceed forthwith to hunt U-boat reported
by NORTHERN SUN at 2220. WILTON and NORTHERN
SUN searching in vicinity.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2340/23 to PATHFINDER, QUENTIN.)

Navigational.

Thames
Estuary. Light on No.4 South Edinburgh Buoy extinguished.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0928/23.)

Rosyth. Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1110/23.)
Cancel my 1110/23.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1414B/23.)

Casualties and Defects.

FELIXSTOWE. FELIXSTOWE unable to sail as arranged 25.5.42.
Full power trials not satisfactory. Anticipated
amended sailing date a.m. 29/5.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1520B/23.)

KEPPEL. My P.C.S. 055° 34', 011° 24', 090° 10 knots.
Am returning to Londonderry with big end bearing
to steering engine running.
(KEPPEL 1730B/23.)

HARRIER. S.O.6th MSFs 1942B/4. Arrangements have been

/made ...

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War Diary.

23.5.1942
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. contd:-

HARRIER
contd.

made for refit of HARRIER to be carried out at Hull.
(D.M.S. 1753B/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

CHOCTOWS:

A.R.B. CHOCTOWS delayed with engine and dynamo defects. Anticipate she will be ready to proceed on 27/5.
(F.O. Humber 2025B/23.)

TRINIDAD.
Board of
Inquiry.

As Captain and survivors of TRINIDAD are now at Devonport request you will convene a Board of Inquiry into the damage sustained by that ship on 29/3. No written report of the incident has yet been received by Admiralty and Captain L.S. Saunders should make one to C. in C. Plymouth direct.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2336B/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoys
P.Q.16 and
Q.P.12.

Sailed 0115B/23. DUKE OF YORK with U.S.S. WASHINGTON, H.M.S. VICTORIOUS, U.S.S. WICHITA, H.M.S. LONDON, FAULKNER, INTREPID, ICARUS, ECLIPSE, BLANKNEY, FURY, LAMERTON, MIDDLETON, WHEATLAND.
(A.C.I.C. 0145B/23.)

Your 2045/1/4, para (f) (Convoy Q.P.12) 2 Soviet destroyers provided additional escort. Fighters provided additional escort from 1900/21 until 1100/22 when low cloud and bad visibility prevented further flights. 2 seaplanes provided anti-S/M patrol in approaches. 2 S/M providing cover, one in area 11 B, 10 B 2nd in area 2. Coastal aerodromes not yet bombed.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1318B/23.)

Long range enemy R/C aircraft are operating in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1746B/23 to C.S.10, P.Q.16.)

For information one Rescue Tug is stationed at Iokanka and two in Dvina. Application for this form of assistance should be made to S.B.N.O. Archangel.
(D.T.D. 1851B/23 to P.Q.16.)

Following ships in P.Q.16 have provisions for Kola inlet :-
EMPIRE PURCELL, ATLANTIC, EMPIRE SELWYN, ARCOS, LOWTHER CASTLE, EMPIRE LAWRENCE. All of these have been selected to be taken to White Sea. As this will make provision situation here even more critical, request (?destination) of first 4 may be reconsidered.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2001B/23 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

C.S.10 and Convoy P.Q.16 were reported by enemy A/C between 1600 and 1800/23.

(D.D.I.C. 2028B/23 to C.S.10, P.Q.16.)

/W.S.19 P. ...

War Diary.23.5.1942
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

W.S.19 P. Admiralty's 2032B/21 para 9.
 1. Commitments of six available destroyers of 17th Division are as follows :-
 A. Four for S.N.72 from 30/5 to 4/6.
 B. Two for D.S.27 from 22nd to about 28th May and for D.S.28 from 3rd to about 10th June. This leaves no destroyers available for W.S.19 P.
 2. It is understood that C. in C. W.A. would provide one Esse for duties with D.S.28 which would release one of 17th Division for W.S.19 P.
 3. Decision is requested.
 (R.A.M. 0902/23 to Admty.)
 Your 0902/23. D.S.28 will not sail before 11/6. Request you will confirm that you can now provide the two destroyers asked for in A.M. 2032/21 for W.S.19 P.
 (D.O.D.(H.) 1919B/23 to R.A.M.)

FLYING KESTREL. Your 1017/10 and A.M. 1825/12. Route to
 EMPIRE LAWN. Freetown as follows.
 AUCHMACOM. (C. in C. W.A. 1207B/23 to F.O.C. Milford Haven.)

C.T.17. On arrival of Convoy N.A.9 in Clyde F.O.I.C.
 BUCK. Greenock is requested to sail U.S. Destroyers
 BRISTOL. BUCK and BRISTOL to Londonderry. C.T.G.24.7
 is requested to arrange that they be sailed to the Clyde in time for C.Os to attend Convoy
 Conference prior to sailing of convoy C.T.17 about 3/6.
 (D.O.D.(H.) 1515B/23.)

QUEEN MARY. At 1615B/23 detached W.S.19^w in 055° 45' N. 013° 21' W. to proceed independently at best speed.
 Reducing destroyer screen and CAIRO unable to maintain adequate speed owing to heavy head sea. At 1330B KEPPEL fell back with steering engine defect and at 1515B SARDONYX dropped back owing to sea. Have ordered both ships to return to base. CAIRO, BEAGLE, DOUGLAS returning in company, course 095°, speed 18 knots.
 (CAIRO 1832B/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
 BEAGLE and DOUGLAS are to return forthwith to Merville at best speed.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1918B/23 to CAIRO.)
 You may meet DUCHESS OF RICHMOND about 0200Z on opposite course.
 (D.O.D.(H.) 1929B/23 to QUEEN MARY.)

HOPETARN. A.M.1849/21. Route for HOPETARN from Liverpool via QZF.18 to position :-
 K. 180° Fastnet 15 miles. L. 50° 01' N. 14° 02' W. M. 43° 58' N. 17° 00' W. N. 36° 30' N. 11° 31' W. O. 36° 03' N. 06° 59' W. thence to Gibraltar.
 (D.O.D.(H.) 1931B/23.)

War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

UNBEATEN. Intend sailing UNBEATEN painted dark grey with light grey number p.m.26/5 for U.K.
UNBEATEN Cross 043° in 012° 10' at 0800B/1/6
F.O.S. is requested to arrange onward route.
F.O.S. 1149/8/1 (S/Ms on passage to U.K.)
(A) 4 Mark 4 (B) 8½ knots surface. 100 miles by day diving
(C) Fit for patrol in emergency.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1406B/23 to Admty (R) F.O.S. C. in C. W.A. etc).

U/B entered R.O. Corunna's 2355/19. Spanish (Corrupt Group) Ferrol. Readil admits German U-boat entered Ferrol forenoon 17/5 with Air-compressor trouble, anchored near German Tanker but was immediately ordered to move into Naval Harbour by Authorities. She completed her own repairs and left same evening. She had no communication with shore except with Spanish Authorities and received no assistance whatever and took no supplies. Ministry of Marine state they should not as neutrals gratuitously inform me arrival and departure of belligerent Warships which observe International Law. Nor will they communicate number (corrupt group) maintaining this is only incident of its kind. (B.N.A. Madrid, 1414/23 to D.N.I., (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

LUANGO (Portuguese). LUANGO stopped by German S/M 2100 G.M.T. 21/5 in 037° 25' N., 030° 54' W. (A.1). (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1503/23 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty).

A/C French Units. A/C reported sighting at 0755 G.M.T. 23/5 1 enemy cruiser, two S/Ms 1 French merchant ship 160° Cape Kantin 10 miles course 40° 12 knots. Comment. Enemy cruiser considered probably French Contre Torpilleur. (F.O.C.N.A., 1625B/23 to Admty R.A. West Africa).

SCHARLACH-BERGER. German vessel 55 arrived 22/5 expected complete loading iron ore 25/5. (H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1707/23 to Admty (R) M.E.W.)

HYPHE, CLYDE. HYPHE on patrol in W.A. to Straits. CLYDE will be carrying out diving exercises in Gibraltar Bay a.m. 24/5. (F.O.C.N.A., 1738B/23 to TRAVELLER).

French Shipping. Following extract from Fairmiss Telegram:- Arrivals 23/5. PONTET CANET French. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1815/23 to D. of S.T.)

MALAYA Intend sailing MALAYA escorted by 5 Destroyers 1600/25 for day and night firings to Eastward Gibraltar returning on completion. (F.O.C.N.A., 1822B/23 to Admty).
Cancel my 1822/23. (F.O.C.N.A., 1225B/24 to Admty).

/VIDETTE...

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

VIDETTE

My 1002B/21 (N.T. in W.R.) para. (5) detach VIDETTE to return to Gibraltar adjusting speed to arrive daylight 25/5.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1854B/23 to LANDGUARD (R) VIDETTE Admty. C. in C. W.A.) See 1131B/24.

Blockade,
Spanish
Coast.

Pass to Air Min. C. in C. Plymouth (R) B.N.A. Lisbon N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. My 1818/16 Shipping Attache and I have had a long interview with Under Secretary of Merchant Marine. Matter more complicated than appeared at first. Under Secretary states there are approx. 150 ships over 1000 tons engaged in coastwise traffic in this area and notification of 72 hours in advance of all movements will involve flood of signals besides being subject to last minute modifications. For instance coal cargoes from Gijon are frequently changed owing to sudden requirements. Pending fool-proof organization of such an information service and provision of a list of D.Gs. of vessels likely to be concerned with full description and Silhouettes I have felt it wise only to insist notification today of all sailings inward and outward of vessels in Chaleur Bay area to or from overseas ports. This notification has been promised today and will be sent as later signal when received. Meantime Under Secretary has been asked to give warning that all coasters pass outside zone of 6 miles from coast at their peril. They will be permitted to remain within territorial waters but it is not always feasible to do so.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 2022/23 to Admty).
My 2021/23 following Spanish Vessels engaged in overseas traffic will be in zone concerned between 27/5 and 30/5 inclusive (N.A. Madrid, 2032/23 to Admty) As amended 2020/25.

ARGUS,
F.A.A. A/C
to Gib.

ARGUS is required to transport Naval Aircraft from U.K. to Gibraltar.
2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail ARGUS for U.K. routed so as to pass through position (X) 46 N. 17 W. at 0600B/26.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail 2 destroyers to R/V in the above position to relieve escorts from Gibraltar and to route ARGUS onward to Clyde.
4. ARGUS should embark 4 aircraft for her A/S protection on the way home.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2059B/23 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)
Operation "Pickford" see 0218/24.
Your 2059/23 and my 1820/21 para. 4 A. Are Albatrosses to be embarked?
(F.O.C.N.A., 2212B/23 to Admty).
Your 2212/23.. No.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2329B/23 to F.O.C.N.A.).

JONQUIL

My P.C. and S. at 2201A/23 034° 14', 017° 22' 075° 8. Tanker in company.
(JONQUIL, 2211A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty).

/Blockade...

War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Blockade Runner Ferrol. Your 0245/23 (?1702B/21 intended) Minister of Marine told me today no blockade runner in Ferrol or any other Spanish Port.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 2230/23 to Admty (for D.N.I.)
(R) F.O.C.N.A.)

TRAVELLER Amend route to pass through 36° 30' 06" 40' thence to R/V. Do not go S. of 36° 10' until after 0530B. ARGUS and destroyers leave Gibraltar 0230B to Westward.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2306B/23 to TRAVELLER (R) ARGUS, PARTRIDGE).

South Atlantic.

Cline Point T.L. Base. Pending fulfilment of development scheme a temporary T.L. Base is being built at Cline Point. Description.
(R.A. West Africa, 0037Z/23 to Admty (R)
S.C.E., W.A., B.D.O., W.A., Comdre i/c Capt. A/P Freetown).

EMILE BAUDOT. Walvis Bay departure EMILE BAUDOT 0500/23 E.T.A. Capetown a.m. 27/5. Coastal and Cape Columbine thence through A. 034° S., 017° 10' E. B. 034° 30', 017° 30' G.R.C. Capetown S. of A. 8 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay, 0612Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O., Capetown).

W.S.18 RESOLUTION. N.C.S.O. Capetown's 1353/19 and 1341/21 Durban portion of W.S.18 escorted by RESOLUTION sailed 0700Z for R/V with Capetown portion. WESTERNLAND did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 0729/23 to Admty etc).
Sail RESOLUTION escorting W.S.18 routed as in C. in C. E.I. 1628 not to all addressees.
(Cdre. i/c Durban, 0801Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Kilindini).

ARETHUSA. Arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0851B/23 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., R.A. West Africa). *See next page - (Movements Summary)*

Bissagos Islands. My 1136/4/4. (N.T. in W.D.)
I have visited Bubaque and Uno Islands.

War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Bissagos Islands. German Palm Oil Firm is paralyzed and owes large sums of money, nearly all staff dismissed, machinery neglected and palm concession covered with undergrowth. No spare food in Bissagos Archipelago and my impression is these Islands impracticable for submarine as Channel winding narrow and shallow, with many dangerous moving sandbanks and numerous uncharted small islands. (C.R.O., Bissau, 1240/23 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Freetown).

Situation Report. Situation at 2000/23. WIVERN, COMMANDANT DROGOU, 011° 30' N., 017° 30' W., to Bathurst 12. AMARANTHUS 010° 05' N., 018° 20' W., to St. Vincent 13. MILFORD 009° 35' N., 015° 30' W., to Freetown 13. (R.A. West Africa, 1311Z/23 to Ships in Area P of S.A. Stn. N. of 008° N., Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

SOUDAN mined 15/5. My 0158/18/5. Further information. (2) Mine referred to in my 0158/18 para. 5 is same as in my 1519/21 para. 6 and was seen "in fading light". (3) Merchant ship in 35° 13' S., 19° 52' E. reports sighting floating mine 22/5. (4) Elucidation from AORANGI shows my 1740/19 (N.T. in W.D.) should read 16 for date in para. 2, not 15; Longitude in para. 4 is of course, East. (5) H.F/D.F. bearings at 2149/22/5 indicate possible presence of U-boat south of Agulhas B. (6) Consider possibility of two S/MS attacking W.S.18 on 15/5 cannot be excluded. Damage to HECLA is consistent with use of magnetic pistol torpedo. (C. in C. S.A., 1550B/23 to Admty). Reply: Admty 1747/24.

Fuel at Diego Suarez. C. in C. E.I., 1114/22 FORTOL will not be available before the end of June. There are no trawlers available on South African Station. (C. in C. S.A., 1655/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F. (?S.O. Force "F") Cmdre Durban)

Movements Summary. 2000Z/23 Area Q VINDICTIVE 29°15' S., 14° 40' E. to Simonstown 12½. ARCHER, MANAAR off Capetown from Northward E.T.A. 0600Z/24. CANTON patrol in K.36 A and C.SHROPSHIRE off Capetown E.T.A. 0400Z/24. CILICIA off Tristan Da Cunha. Corsica? ship 34° 18' S., 26° 12' E., to Durban 7. PLADDA, HILDASAY, SLUNA, SHAPINSAY off Simonstown to Durban by route R.8 ARETHUSA leaves Capetown p.m. 23/5 for Durban by route R.8. See previous page (C. in C. S.A., 1723B/23 to S.A. Station Sqdn. (R) Admty).

War Diary.

23.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Madagascar 051369. G/17946 cipher 23/5.
Repatriations. Request you see C.O. No. 35 of 21/5 to Wagon Lagos as amended by No.356 of 22/5.
Do not know whether Colonial Office consulted you but it is extremely undesirable that anti-British Vichy personnel should be repatriated through British West African Territory. For security and accommodation reasons I cannot have the European prisoners of war here.
Senegalese could be accepted if prisoners of war.
(G.O.C. in C. West Africa, 1840/23 to W.O.)
90517 cipher (M.O.5) Ref. S.O. Force F's 1809C/19 addressed Admty. Non-European wounded cannot easily be admitted Union hospitals. If any further casualties whether European or Native are to be sent to Union please consult beforehand with the Union Govt. through U.K. High Commissioner.
(W.O. 2310/23 to Force 121).

Zigzagging. Ships are to be instructed to zigzag between Capetown and Durban except those on routes R.8 and R.9 who have streamed paravanes.
(C. in C. S.A., 2121B/23 to S.O.(I) Capetown S.O.(I) Freetown for N.C.S.O. (R) Admty.
C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa S.O.(I) Kingston B.A.D. C. in C. W.A., R.A.W.A., C. in C. E.I., F.O.R.S. A.C.N.B.)
Modified See 1716B/24.

Mediterranean.

June Your 2015/17. CLAN MACAULAY is to be excluded and
Malta convoy will consist of 10 ships only.
Convoy. (D.S.T., 0013B/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Free French A. To what extent would you be inconvenienced
Sloops. if either or both LA MOQUEUSE and COMMANDANT DOMINE were withdrawn?
B. Under whose orders are these ships operating?
(1st S.L., 0317B/23 to C. in C. Med).
Reply: (C. in C. Med., 1102C/24).

Air Report. A.652 23/5. Bi-weekly Opsum 23. My Opsum 21 (or 20). 1 Ju.88 shot down by A.A. fire night 13/14 off Alexandria.

Night 19/20 24 Wellingtons left to bomb Heraklion Aerodrome. Owing to icing trouble en route and 8/10 cloud over Crete, only 8 Wellingtons located and bombed objective starting small fire. 2 Wellingtons bombed alternative target Tymbaki Aerodrome without visible effect. 1 Wellington missing, 5 Wellingtons successfully laid 7 mines in Approaches to Benghazi Harbour. Bombs also dropped to cover operation.

/Night...

War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. contd:

Air Report. Night 20/21. Day 16 Wellingtons targets area
Contd. Benghazi starting fires accompanied by explosions,
dump believed hit.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1012/23 to Air Min. H.Q.,
R.A.F., Malta).

Part 3 My A.652. 21/5. A Blenheim attacked submarine 20 miles
north Ras Uenna? 1 hit or near miss on stern with 250 lb.
anti-submarine bomb. Night 21/22. A.S.V. Wellington search
Gulf of Sirte located 4 ships about 20 miles south-south-west
Benghazi, 6 Albacores unable to contact vessels, 22/5 4
Beaufighters left to attack shipping sighted previous night
by A.S.V. Wellington in Gulf of Sirte. 1 Beaufighter attacked
tanker and escort vessel off Beskoan but had to break off when
attacked by enemy fighter escort.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1026/23 to Air Min. (R) H.Q., R.A.F., Malta)

TURBULENT. Proceed as in my 1951/20 but for 23rd read 25th.
(Capt. S.I., 1021C/23 to TURBULENT).

Anti S/M My 1202/22 (N.T. in W.R.) All A/S practice today
practice cancelled. AETOS and NEREUS return to Harbour.
cancelled. (R.A.D. Med., 1212C/23 to KONDOURIOTIS, AETOS,
NEREUS, JERVIS, (R) CORINTHIA, G.N.L.O., BROKE,
C. in C. Med., Capt. (D) 14, C.O.I.S., Capt. (S)
1, 201 Naval Co-op Group).

German Mine, Established that Germans are using new type of
New type, moored contact mine, which will be known as
(Type R). Type R. Description. It is thought this mine is
laid by E-boats.
(D.T.M., 1347B/23 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta,
F.O.C.N.A., A.C.O.S., S.B.N.O. North Russia
Admiral Miles, S.O. 1st M.S.F.)

R/C Messina Photos a.m. 23/5 Messina. 2 Cavours, 1 8" and
2 6" Cruisers, 4 destroyers 2 T.Bs. and 2 S/Ms
F.O.C.N.A., pass to S.O.(I) Gib. C. in C. Med.
pass to S.O.(I) Alexandria.
(V.A. Malta, 1459B/23 to C. in C. Med., (R)
Admty. F.O.C.N.A., S.O.(I) Alexandria, S.O.(I)
Gibraltar).

OLYMPUS Established from accounts of OLYMPUS survivors
Precautions that (a) She was mined forward when on surface
for S/Ms to about 45 minutes after leaving Valetta.
and from (b) She took about seven minutes to sink during
Malta. which 90 out of 99 on board took to the water,
but only 9 reached shore after 4 to 5 hours
swimming, but many others got very close.

2. Considered that following precautions should be taken for
submarines in dangerous waters off Malta.

(a) A minesweeper or minebumper to precede submarine.

(b) A rescue craft to provide additional escort.

(c) All on board to wear lifebelts.

(d) A lookout organisation to be established ashore on
expected bearing of submarine to enable additional assistance
to be sent.

(e)...

War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. cont'd.

OLYMPUS (e) Submarines should not approach or leave Malta during full moon period.
 Precautions for S/MS to and from Malta. Contd. 3. Subject to these conditions movements of submarines to and from Malta may be resumed. (V.C.N.S. 1508B/23 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A.)

→ PORPOISE

PORPOISE sails ^{for} Malta 1830C/23 routed from searched channel through 032° 30', 027° 40' and 034° 59' 017° 30' latter position about 1800C/28 thence as ordered by V.A. Malta. V.A. Malta 1653/22 (N.T. in W.R.) received. (Capt. (S) 1, 1509C/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Alexandria (one addressee corrupt) S/MS on patrol).

Situation (N.L.O. Black Sea, 1628C/23 to Admty, Adm. Miles).
 report. Crimea.

Mines off 1700C/22 Lighter R.67 in position 264 Ras-el-Tin
 Alexandria. 4 miles at 15 knots exploded Acoustic Mine. Boat damaged but towed in. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1631C/23).

Hospital Hospital ships may now be sailed. When at sea
 Ships. they should broadcast in P.L. on 500 k/cs. per sec. that they are Hospital ships, and their P.C.S. intervals of 6 hours. (C. in C. Med., 1805C/23 to Med., Stn).

Malta My 2301/19 not to C. in C. Med., (Hush, N.T. in
 Supplies. W.D.) and Governor Malta's 1343/20 para. 4 not to Admty. Request following additional information (D) Size of hose connection. (E) Rate of pumping. (V.A. Malta, 1900B/23 to Admty, C. in C. Med).

Situation Situation report 211. Central Mediterranean.
 Report. 17 Spitfires flown on to Malta from EAGLE on 18/5. Aircraft from Malta report bomb and torpedo hits on Northbound convoy of one merchant ship three destroyers in Tripoli area night 19/20.
 2. Western Desert. Petrol tanker EOCENE torpedoed by U-boat at 2128/20 in position 31° 56' N., 25° 15' E. while proceeding in heavily escorted convoy to Tobruk. EOCENE sank 0045/21, all crew saved. Unconfirmed reports night 21/22 of enemy small craft operating between Tobruk and Bomba. MT.Bs. operating and S.L.Cs. patrolling from Tobruk. Other landing craft being moved forward. APHIS at Tobruk. Ports of Bardia and Sollum opened with skeleton base party.
 3. Levant. OILSHIPPER arrived Smyrna p.m./16.
 4. Red Sea. Large Italian floating dock at Massawa has been raised and can be repaired afloat.
 5. Submarines. Greek TRITON has successfully completed passage to and from Malta with stores. PORPOISE sailing 23/5 with stores (C. in C. Med., 1931C/23 to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A.S. F.O.R.S.C.A.)

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War Diary.23.5. 1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Madagascar Repatriations. Difficult and urgent task of disposing of Vichy persons evacuated on ORONSAY largely depends on reply to paras 2 and 3 of War Office telegram to Commander 121 Force No. 89510 (M.O.11) of 19/5. Reply to these paras should therefore be made as early as possible.
(Hd. of M 0022B/23 to S.O. Force F.(R) C. in C. S.A.).

Your 0022/23 and W.O. 88 437 M.O. 11 just received. Terms of surrender were exactly stated in my 2355/8. They were set out in a document entitled "Conditions agreed upon regarding the unoccupied naval military and air forces in the Diego Suarez Area," which was signed by Col. Clerebault and myself. They applied also to enemy standards captured in battle.

2. In my view making repatriation of service personnel conditional upon reciprocity from Vichy is permissible but retention of merchant seamen or civilians of military age would violate terms of your 1943/1 (?May) para 4 (c), which were given in verbatim to Diego Suarez authorities.

3. It is possible that the Vichy French authorities may construe, the terms "Military employee" to mean all military personnel but I made it clear to the principals at the conference here that I could not agree to (word omitted) of all military personnel though consideration would be given to a selected few. My 0031/13 was drafted with this in mind. Wishful thinking may have caused them to give a more elastic interpretation to the agreement they signed.

4. Additionally it must be remembered that by H.M.G. instructions we announced our arrival as allies and that we have adopted policy of friendly though not apologetic appeasement since our occupation.

5. This as well as military (corrupt group) considerations in respect of guard and feeding and housing influenced my decision to grant concession to restrictions on number of Europeans to return to unoccupied Madagascar and of Senegalese to West Africa. It is suggested that repatriation to Metropolitan French (as received ? France intended) of all military and civilian personnel, perhaps on reciprocal basis, would have good effect on Vichy and Tanana(?r)ive Government.

6. Malgash soldiers as P.O.W. constituted useless mouths (one group missed) liability to guard. Propaganda value of their release from conscripted service in my opinion over-rides their potential danger as enemy soldiers.
(S.O. Force F. 1117C/23 to Admty (R) C. in C.S.A.).

THYME.

My 2149/20 and Admty 1844/22. THYME is to return to Diego Suarez forthwith. Report E.T.A. Acknowledge.
(S.O. Force F. 0329C/23 to THYME (R) C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.I.)

Movements.

^{Mombasa (P.L.)}
Arrival 23/5 GAMBIA and INCONSTANT.
(F.O.E. Africa 0630Z/23 to Admty.).

/Arrivals....

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. conts:-Movements
Contd.

Mombasa

Arrivals 22/5 INDOMITABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, HERMIONE, CROMER, POOLE, ROMNEY, CROMARTY, PAKENHAM, PALADIN, JAVELIN, ANTHONY, DUNCAN, ACTIVE. (F.O. East Africa 0920Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez).

Port F.

Your 1003/22/5 concur.
(C. in C.E.I., 1028Z/23 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty, Com, R.I.N, C. in C.E.F., D.S.R. Bombay).

Persian
Gulf
Mining.

Your 0618Z/4/5 and A.M. 0107B/22/4. Persian Gulf.

2. In view of your paras 1 - 6 no further action is proposed.

3. Your para. 8 Sufficient A/S forces would not be available to make a deep minefield effective, against submarines which, we think, are unlikely to penetrate Persian Gulf when valuable targets must exist in Quoin Island focal area. No further action to lay this minefield is therefore intended.

4. Owing to extreme shortage of air forces in India and Ceylon, stationing of air forces in Persian Gulf is not at present possible, but should situation deteriorate air forces could be moved at short notice from Middle East.

5. Facilities for operation of air striking forces from Bahrein and Sharjah are under consideration as an urgent matter.

6. Provision of an R.D.F. set at Khor Kuwait is intended. A further signal on this subject will be made.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0940B/23 to C. in C.E.I., (R) F.O.C.R.I.N, C. in C. E.F.).

Intell.
Summary
No. 69.

On information received up to 1800 hours 23/5. India. 2 Blenheims attacked river craft Mayu Creek 22/5. Direct hit on small steamer. Ceylon. Coastal patrols and Catalina patrol 300 miles East of Ceylon no enemy sightings. (Air H. Q. India 1628/23 G.M.T.)

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Movement Summary.	1800 G.M.T./23rd.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
		BURNHAM)	28°N. 64½°W.	357°	9
		Escorting)			
		3 Ships.)			
		Convoy)	46½°N. 47½°W.	239°	15.
		C.T.16.)	(D.O.D.(F) 0840Z/23 to Opnav (R) Comnav).		

O.N.97.

Sailing telegram.

- (1) 1000Z/23. (*London diary - Pink List*)
 - (2) 0800Z/27.
 - (3) HESPERUS, VANESSA, CLEMATIS, SWEETBRIAR, CAMPANULA, MIGNONETTE, BUTTERCUP, COLUMBINE, ORILLIA.
- (D.T.D.1018Z/23 to Cominch(Connav)).

British
Routeing
Officer.
"Broutoff"

Assume title of British Routeing Officer forthwith. Registered telegraph address "Broutoff" and report by signal when done.
(C. in C.A.W.I. 1044P/23 to N.C.S.Os Bermuda, Georgetown, Trinidad, Jamaica, Aruba, R.N.Os St.Lucia, Nassau, Antigua, Paramaribo, (R) Admty, C. in C.Bermuda, S.N.O. Curacao, S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

WITHERINGTON.

Your 1648/22 request all other defects which will not delay completion may be taken in hand concurrently.
(C.O.A.C.Halifax 1256Z/23 to B.A.R.M.(R) Admty, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A., C.E.S.F.)

ROODE ZEE.

Request you will sail rescue tug ROODE ZEE p.m. 24/5 by most direct route to Trinidad passing through Sombrero passage during daylight 28/5.
(C. in C.A.W.I. 1303P/23 to N.O.I.C.Bermuda).

EMPIRE FLINT.

Your 1516R/21 name received here as EMPIRE FLACK presume vessel is EMPIRE FLINT arrived Trinidad 10/5.
(D.T.D.1305B/23 to S.O.(I) Jamaica, (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D., S.O.(I) Freetown. S.O.(I) Capetown for C. in C.S.A.).

Convoy
T.O.1.

Sailed HAVELOCK U.S.ship P.C. 453 escorting T.O.1. Curacao Aruba. Final E.T.A. Curacao 1030Z/26.
(F.O.I.C.Trinidad 1412Q/23 to C.A.F.A.C.(R) B.S.N.O.Curacao, C. in C.A.W.I. N.C.S.O. Aruba. Admty, S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.A.D. Naval Operations Base Trinidad).

/Convoy.....

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy J.H.1. Arrival SHEDIAC escorting J.H.1. (S.O.(1) Halifax 1431Z/23, 2049Z/23).

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Arrival New York 22/5. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1448Z/23 to Admty (R) B.A.D.).

MOUNT PARNES (Greek) 12/5 torpedoed. MOUNT PARNES torpedoed and sunk in 52° 31' N, 29° 20' W. at 0412Z/12. 18 survivors landed Halifax 1830Z/21 by ALEX. Local Greek representative advises 7 landed New York, 2 Boston and 6 British gunners at port unknown. None missing. (C.O.A.C. 1459Z/23 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Connav, F.O.N.F.).

A.T.17. Your 1635/22nd. (1) U.S. authorities are planning to sail A.T.17 which will include DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, AORANGI, MALOJA on 1st July from New York. They request ships arrive there not later than 23/6 if they are to be loaded to full cargo capacity. (2) British army staff agree. (B.A.D. 1515Z/23 to D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. Simonstown);

WILLIAM BOYCE THOMPSON. WILLIAM BOYCE THOMPSON en route Curacao torpedoed 1805R/22 in 016° 27' N. 077° 51' W. torpedoed 22/5. Ship arrived Montego Bay intends sailing tonight Guantanamo C. in C.A.W. I.Com.10 informed. (S.O.(1) Kingston 1621R/23 to Admty, B.A.D. S.B.N.O. Curacao.) *See p. 712*

QUAKER CITY (U.S.A.) QUAKER CITY torpedoed 0830Z/18. 300 miles east of Barbados. 7 survivors landed here by U.S. Destroyer torpedoed 18/5. BLAKELY. 3 Other boats were got away and were heading for Barbados when last seen by third officer. (F.O. Trinidad 1622/Q/23 to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica, Harbour Master Barbados.)

Shipping Routes. Mari Sect. IV para. 8, sub para. (a) and your 1315/20. Grateful for confirmation that ships from Northern North American Ports, e.g. New York, bound Capetown should still cross 52.00 W. within distance stated from mainland coast. Abolition this restriction would by shortening voyage permit wider dispersal of initial routes by routeing officers to whom bunker capacity presents ever present difficulty. Restriction moreover appears to bring ships

/unnecessarily.....

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. contg:

Shipping routes. unnecessarily close to U-Boats patrolling East of Antilles and necessitates undue length of voyage countering Brazil current. C. in C.A.W.I. suggests possibility traffic being deliberately kept away from Central North Atlantic on account of recent reports outward bound raider, but nevertheless in general agreement, and concurs that points should be drawn your attentions.
Contd. (N.S.H.Q. 1635Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C.A.W.I.).
Reply D.T.D. 1943/26.

QUEEN OF A.M. 1611/21/11/41 not to all Addressees.
BERMUDA. On completion of refit about end July 1942 requested that one week's work up practices and flying off trials may be arranged for QUEEN

OF BERMUDA.

2. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to make necessary arrangements to enable the two Seafox aircraft allocated and at present at Halifax to be embarked at New York.
3. On completion of satisfactory trials and work up practices maximum number of troops should be embarked and ship sailed for U.K. in first convenient N.A. or A.T. Convoy.
4. On arrival in U.K. leave will be granted in one watch for R.N. Personnel retained on board during refit.
5. Requested that final date of completion and anticipated date of departure for U.K. may be signalled in due course.
(D.O.D.(F) 1725B/23 to B.A.D, B.A.R.M., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) Cominch, C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C.W.A. C. in C.S.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock, Combrax Portsmouth).

GLASGOW. Your 2014/22 (N.T. in W.D.) approved to fit total of 9 Oerlikon equipments in GLASGOW and land 0.5 equipments.
(Admty. 1731/23 to B.A.R.M.).

Aircraft Recognition Signals. Your 2327/22, second sentence, entirely concur vide para.1 of A.M. 1334/3.2. Consider responsibility for establishing friendly character must remain with aircraft. Ship will rapidly establish her character by her action. 3. Do not consider any reliance should be placed on visual signalling with aircraft for this purpose.
(D.S.D.1809B/23 to B.A.D.).

Shipping. Your 1416Z/22 not to other addressees, concur in your proposal to place Merco in effect as proposed in your 1218/28.
2. Regret that difficulty has been experienced in decoding Vescas. Hoped arrangements now being made through B.A.D. will remedy this position promptly.
(D.T.D. 1953B/23 to Connav, (R) C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.A.D.).

/U/B.....

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. contd.:-

U/B Attacks report. Connav Serial 23. OGONTZ American torpedoed and sunk 19/5. 23° 30' N. 86° 37' W. 22 survivors confidentials sank with ship. DARINA British tanker torpedoed 20/5. 29° 17' N. 54° 25' W. 18 survivors picked up. 2 boats still adrift. NORLAND Norwegian tanker ex EMPIRE PICT torpedoed 20/5 31° 22' N. 55° 46' W. (Opnav 1958Z/23 to Admty. Spenavo).

S/M Attack and Sighting Summary. OGONTZ torpedoed and sunk 23° 30' N. 86° 37' W. 1829Z/19. WM. BOYCE THOMPSON torpedoed 16° 26' N. 77° 55' W. 2343Z/22. *See p. 710* SAN PABLO shelled 20° 44' N. 86° 06' W. 1706Z/22. Submarine driven under by Aircraft. MERCURY SUN three torpedo hits. MV Sights Sub. 28° 50' N. 91° 40' W. 1108Z/22. 20° 55' N. 75° 31' W. 0915Z/23. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2006/23 to Admty for O.I.C. (R) C.E.S.F. C.G.S.F. Com. Carib S.F.).

AKAROA. Your 1919P/17 (1912P/17 intended). Regret no escort available. Air coverage will be provided (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2106/23 to C. in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty, C.O.A.C. Halifax, B.A.D. Comm. Caribbean S.F. N.O.B. Bermuda).

Tankers Trinidad. My 2010/21. If proposal concurred in, do you consider majority of tankers loaded at Trinidad, could be given safe anchorage at Curacao whilst waiting outward convoy. Presume you would only sail tankers for which safe anchorage available. (Admty. 2125B/23 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad (R) S.O.I. Jamaica, C. in C. A.W.I.)

K.N. 525 ? Your 1545/21. Check and repeat number of convoy received as K.N. 525. (Admty. 2152B/23 to B.R.O. Key West).

THOMAS AND EDITH. Cancel my 2008/22. Ship arrived Halifax 23/5. (N.S.H.Q. 2242Z/23 to Admty etc).

BUSHRANGER "S" Report. Antiqua reports receiving from British THURLAND CASTLE following intercepted S.O.S. BUSHRANGER S/M sighted 014° 28' N. 061° 17' W. at 1310 G.M.T. 23/5. (S.O.I Kingston 2256R/23 to Admty, C. in C. A.W.I. S.H.A.8, B.A.D. F.O.I.C. Trinidad).

WATSONVILLE (Pa.) WATSONVILLE torpedoed and sunk by S/M at 1615 6 miles from Kingston (St. Vincent) on true bearing torpedoed. 23/5. 221°. All officers and men rescued. Masters' books thrown overboard in weighted bag and sunk beyond recovery. Information from Master. (St. Vincent W.I. 2345/23 to Admty.)

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War Diary.23.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Jap U/B

Your 0950Z/22 (D/F bearing on Jap Submarine) not to A.C.N.B. Melbourne. WIMA bore 315° from an air force station near Jandakot W/T Station at about this time.
(A.C.N.B., 0207Z/23 to C.O.I.S. Colombo, Admty etc).

Situation.

Serial No. 121 from C.W.R. 22/5.
2 B.17s. attacking shipping Rabaul harbour 0315Z/22 made near misses on large transport, probable hit on docks. 7 vessels probably transports 8 to 10 thousand tons, 10 smaller ships and 1 large vessel possibly warship (?firing) A.A. were observed. 3 B.17s simultaneously attacked Vunakanau aerodrome. 30 to 40 heavy bombers and some fighters observed on ground. 2 bombs dropped near 6 heavy bombers. One B.17 damaged (2) Lae aerodrome attacked 0430Z/22 by 5 B.26s. Direct hits made on 2 bombers 2 hits near triangle position considerable flame and smoke observed 4 near misses made on tanker at anchor. 8 zero fighters intercepted, 3 destroyed, 2 probably destroyed. Airmanship of enemy pilots reported good, marksmanship poor. 8 zero fighters 7 heavy bombers observed on aerodrome and several other heavy bombers damaged in previous raid. Light A.A fire encountered. (3) Allied R/C 21/5 and 22/5 report no activity at Finschafen (New Guinea) Cape Gloucester (New Britain) Kessa (Solomon Is.) one medium vessel and small launches at Lorengau (Admty. Island).
(A.C.N.B., 1026Z/23 to Admty. etc).

Australian
Naval Manning
Commitments.

Your 1843Z/27/4 (N.T. in W.D.) Naval Board regret that in view of future local manning commitments including 2 Tribals 32 A.M.S. 21 corvettes, 31 Fairmiles, 41 H.D. M.L.S. and 8 M.T.B. several boom service and mining vessels and harbour craft connected with base development as well as very large requirements in connection with combined operations craft it is not possible to undertake the manning of additional vessels until end 1943 at earliest position will be reviewed again end 1942. General manpower position in Australia becoming serious.
(A.C.N.B., 1847Z/23 to Admty).

Movements.

Arrival Brisbane 0303Z/22 U.S. Cruiser SALT LAKE CITY and U.S. destroyer FLOUSSER.
(A.C.N.B., 1129Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. N.O. Wellington C. in C. E.F. C.O.I.S. Colombo, C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.))
Arrival U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX Fremantle 0242Z/23.
(A.C.N.B., 2349Z/23 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

23.5.1942.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1451B/23, 1514B/23).

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War Diary.

24.5.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Every effort is to be made to fit paravanes to suitable British vessels at ports throughout the world.

Home Commands.

R/C of Narvik and Trondheim today was prevented by the weather.

KENYA left Scapa this evening for Iceland - Faroes patrol.

North Atlantic.

It is intended to reconstitute Force H when circumstances permit with MALAYA, EAGLE, an A.A. cruiser, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT and LIGHTNING. The 3 latter have been placed temporarily under the orders of C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Admiral Syfret (Force F) will command Force H.

ARGUS sailed from Gibraltar today for U.K. to embark 12 Hurricanes and 6 Albacores for a further operation.

America and West Indies.

Five ships were attacked today, 3 off Camaguey, and one each off Kingston, Jamaica, Tortuga. A ship made a distress message in 55° 37' N. 36° 5' W.

24.5.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Allocation of Hunt class destroyers.

It has been decided to allocate the remaining 21 Hunt class destroyers as follows:-
4. It is hoped that the majority will be in service by the end of this year.
(V.C.N.S., 1857B/24).

Movements.

ARGUS,
BEAGLE,
DOUGLAS.

BEAGLE and DOUGLAS are to be sailed as soon as they have refuelled to R/V with ARGUS in 045° 59' N., 016° 59' W., at 0600B/26 and escort to U.K.
(C. in C. W.A., 0131B/24 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Arrived BEAGLE and DOUGLAS.

(Commdre. Londonderry, 0408B/24).

Sailed DOUGLAS and BEAGLE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 0131B/24.

(Capt. D. Londonderry, 0845B/24).

Onward route from (X) 45° 59' N., 16° 59' W., to (Y) 50° 01' N., 16° 02' W., (Z) 54° 58' N., 11° 01' W., (A) 55° 35' N., 07° 00' W., thence Clyde.

(C. in C. W.A., 1711B/24 to ARGUS).

BURDOCK

Request you will arrange for BURDOCK to be given a short work up on completion of refit; and for her subsequent sailing to Freetown to rejoin S.A. Command.
(D.O.D. (H), 1745B/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

UNBEATEN.

Your 1406/23. Onward route for UNBEATEN diving by day through A. 43°, 12° 10' B. 46° 01', 12° 10' C. 49° 05', 12° 06' D. 49° 30', 08° 01' to R/V as ordered by S.5 vicinity Lizard Head on 8/6.
2. H.Q.C.C. is requested to institute submerged bombing restrictions 25 miles either side of route as follows.
(F.O.S., 2131B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operations.

Convoys
P.Q.16 and
Q.P.12.

Operations to cover Convoys. See Shipping.

Two Danish
Fishing
Vessels.

Arrival M.Ls. 198, 230 and 185 escorting 2 Danish fishing vessels at 0710.
(F.O. Humber, 0735B/24.

Iceland -
Faeroes
Patrol.

Intend proceed in accordance with your 1035/23 at 1830 today. Position 060° N., 012° W., speed of advance 17 knots.
(KENYA, 1017/24 to R.A.D.H.F.)

War Diary.

24.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Q.Q.2 My 1752/12. Q.Q.2 postponed till 25/5. Add 25 hours to all times.
(C. in C. Nore, 1043B/24).

S/M off Plymouth. A S/M will be exercising off Plymouth as follows on 25th 1015 to 1415 area D, 1430 to 2000 area C, thence Plymouth and from 2300/25 till 1330 /26 area C and D, then to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1732B/24).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Patrols "Sentry III" and "Lotus III" flown from 1700/23 to 0130/24. Nil reports.
2. Owing to the need to conserve long range aircraft it is probable that these patrols can only be flown intermittently unless there are indications of enemy movement.
(D.O.D. H., 0215B/24 to C. in C. H.F., C.S.L?).
In order to conserve aircraft "Lotus" and "Sentry" patrols not flown today.
(D.O.D. H., 1920B/24 to C. in C. H.F., C.S.10).

A/C for ARGUS on 29/5. 801 Squadron with 12 Hurricanes complete and 822 Squadron with 6 Albacores fitted with internal auxiliary tanks together with Air and maintenance crews are to embark in ARGUS on 29/5 in the Clyde for an operation. 801 Squadron to be given priority. 801 Squadron complete and 822 personnel only will be disembarked in U.K. in about one months time.
(D.N.A.D., 1818B/24 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy P.Q.16 My 2028/23. It now appears unlikely that Convoy P.Q.16 was sighted.
(D.D.I.C., 1748B/24 to C.S.10, P.Q.16).

Mining.

Off Cromer LL sweepers detonated 1 red and 1 blue magnetic mine at 1320 in 52° 52' 15" N., 02° 10' E., and 52° 52' 20" N., 02° 09' E., respectively.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1417B/24 and 1312B/30).

Enemy Intelligence.

North Norway. Russians report 21/5 convoy left Trondheim proceeding North. Varanger Fiord one U-boat 22/5. Convoy sailed Kirkenes to Westward. 23/5, Varanger Fiord convoy proceeding south. One U-boat Fugloy Sound one U-boat.
(Ad. Miles, 1704C/24 to Admty).

24.5.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Narvik
Trondheim. Weather prevented Narvik and Trondheim R/C today.
(D.D.I.C., 2020B/24).

Two
Unknown Ships. Two ships, identity unknown, bearing 100°,
distant 6 miles, course 180°. My position 192
NNPE (undecipherable in W.D.) 35.
(TURBULENT, 2231C/24).

U-Boats.

U-boats
attacked. Suspected contact attacked in 61° 45' N., 5°
20' W.
(KERRERA 0110/24, 0115B/24).
By A/C in 59° 14' N., 7° 46' W. Depth charges
hung up.
(A.O.C. 15 Group 0732/24, 0740/24, 0820/24,
0935/24.)
By A/C in 59° 15' N., 9° 24' W.
(A.O.C. 15 Group, 1245/24, 1250/24, 1310/24).

Navigational.

62 Buoy. 62 buoy is 5 cables approximately to Eastward
charted position.
(WINCHESTER, 1500B/24).

Thames
Estuary. A.5 Buoy is reported to be approx. 133° 5 cables
from charted position.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1752/24) (C. in C. Nore,
1923B/24).

Technical.

Tapping
noises on
Asdics. Admiralty Message No. 79A of 17/1/42 is
cancelled.
(D.A/S.W., 1130B/24).

Type 251
R.D.F.
(HARVESTER). A.609 24th May. One A/C C.C.D.U. to investigate
type 251 installation in HARVESTER. HARVESTER
expected to leave Liverpool as convoy escort
26/5. Request C. in C. W.A. signal C.C.D.U.
point of interception desired. Trial No. 62.
(H.Q.C.C., 1225/24 to C.C.D.U. Ballykelly).

Casualties & Defects.

KEPPEL
(Steering-
engine defect
23/5). Arrived KEPPEL.
(Cdre, Londonderry, 0330B/24).

War Diary.

24.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.T.B. 229 HORNET's 1745/23 entered Newhaven on account of weather and engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0950/24).

P.551 (sunk 2/5). Asking if he can find out from officer survivors P.551 came to be approx. 95 miles from her patrol position at the time of her loss. (F.O.S., 1224B/24 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

MACBETH. Sailed tug JAUNTY at 1700B to assist H.M. trawler MACBETH in 063° 30' N., 017° 02' W. (A.C.I.C., 1947B/24).

SALAMANDER. My 1011/24. ^{/N.T. & W.D.} Repairs not satisfactory. Ship will not sail till 26/5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2151B/24).

Shipping & Convoys.

Fitting of Paravanes. Pass to D.E.M.S. Staff Officers. Attention is drawn to D.E.M.S. Tempy. Memo. No. Home 179 (Abroad 93) dated 13/1/1942. Every opportunity of fitting Paravanes to all suitable vessels should be taken. (D.T.D., 0105B/24 to A.I.G., 18, B.A.D. Washington S.B.N.O. Curacao, B. Consul Buenos Aires).

EMPIRE CONRAD. Your 2200/23. Confirm SPIREA is to continue with convoy to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A., 0202B/24 to ROTHER).

W.S.19 P. Return to Greenock with S.D.27. You will be required to sail with W.S.19 P. Leave Clyde 30/5. (R.A.M., 0948/24 to CHARLESTOWN, WELLS).

QUEEN MARY. My 0818Z/24. Correct W.S.19 W. P.C.S. to read 49½° N., 28½° W., 217° 25 knots. (D.O.D. (F.), 1322Z/24 to Opnav, (R) Comnav, Cominch).

North Russian Convoys. Communication with Russian A/C. Your 1245/9 and 1702/11. As Soviet Transmitting Officers embarked in C.A.M. Ships will be accompanied by a Russian as interpreter, it is not intended also to embark a Russian-speaking British Officer. 2. A Russian-speaking British Officer is available in Iceland (C) and it is intended that he should be embarked if Russians in any Q.P. Convoy fail to arrive. (D.T.D., 1341B/24 to Ad. Miles).

/Convoy...

War Diary.

24.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Convoy
P.Q.16.

E.T.A. 1900B.
(Capt. D.8., 1345B/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 2028/23. It now appears unlikely that convoy
P.Q.16 was sighted.
(D.D.I.C., 1748B/24 to C.S.10, P.Q.16 (R)
C. in C. H.F.)

QUEEN MARY,
QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Request you will report briefly any measures to
improve the arrangements for the escort, berthing
and turn round of the QUEENS which may have
come to your notice during the recent visit of
QUEEN MARY.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1919B/24 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C.
Greenock).

O.N.97
(SAXIFRAGE).

^{1/11.2.42.}
O.N.97. Cancel my 0159B/24. SAXIFRAGE delayed
by defects is to sail with next westbound convoy
after completion. C.T.F. 24 is requested to
sail her to join B.5. as convenient.
(C. in C. W.A., 2246B/24).

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24.5.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Operation "Style." Your 1240/23rd May. Confirmed.
(D.O.D.(F) 0055B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.).

ARGUS. Ref.A.M. 2059/23. ARGUS sailed escorted by
PARTRIDGE and ITHURIEL. Codeword "Pickford."
(F.O.C.N.A. 0218B/24 to Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

Op L.B. attack on British A/Cs by French A/Cs. Ref. EAGLE 1240B/20. You will no doubt have investigated whether the sinking of the Catalina by ITHURIEL was necessary.
(Admty. 0203B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.).
Your 0203/24. Catalina damaged by cannon fire could not be flown or towed for any distance.
(V.A.C.N.A.1242B/24 to Admty.).

Italian U/B. Bearings of Italian U/Boat 19F at 0423Z/24.
(D.D.I.C. 0654B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.).

H.G.83. VIDETTE. Your 0219/24. (W.R. Message requesting repetition of 1002/21 referred to in F.O.C.N.A.'s 1854/23).
My 1002/21, is sailing orders for escort of convoy H.Q.83. My 2018/21 refers.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1131B/24 to Admty.).

MALAYA exercises. Cancel my 1822/23.
(F.O.C.N.A.1225B/24 to Admty.).

U/B. S/M sighted 18 miles S.W.Sagres 1500/23 steering 062° (A.2).
(B.N.A.Lisbon 1243B/24 to S.O.I.Gibraltar (R) Admty.).

DROTTNINGHOLM (Swedish). A.M. 1803/5. DROTTNINGHOLM left Lisbon for New York p.m./22/5. Route reverse of that in A.M. 1803/5. Vessel is not to be molested.
(Head of M. 1306B/24 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.A.W.I. (R) N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, C.O.A.C.Halifax).

Force H. Intended to reconstitute Force "H" when circumstances permit with MALAYA, EAGLE an A.A. Cruiser, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT and LIGHTNING. 2.Mails and stores for HERMIONE should be returned to U.K. Those for "L" destroyers should be forwarded to Freetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1636B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.).

WB Note. FocNA. 1256B/20 refer.

/LOCH OSKAIG.....

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War Diary.24.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

LOCH OSKAIG. LOCH OSKAIG sailed ~~at~~ a.m./25/5 coastwise for patrol of Cape Roca. (F.O.C.N.A. 1740/24 to P.43. P.211).

P.44. My 1436B/22 sailed P.44. (F.O.C.N.A. 1828B/24 to C. in C.Med (R) Admty, V.A.Malta, F.O.(S) Capt.(S) 1, S.O.S.Malta).

R/C Oran. Photo.R/C Oran 0918/24 showed no (?major) unit present. (F.O.C.N.A. 1842B/24 to Admty, C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta).

P.R.U. Aircraft. Your 1112/22, 1 Long-range Spitfire should by now have arrived Gibraltar. Regretted no Mosquito can be made available. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1842B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) C. in C. Med.V.A.Malta).

R/C Casablanca. Photo R/C of Casablanca 1150/24. Major units no change. Pilots report only opposition 2 bursts of heavy A/A fire. (F.O.C.N.A. 1848B/24 to Admty. etc).

S/M Periscope. Look out for reported periscope in 008° 34' N. 013° 52' W. not confirmed by Officer of the Watch. (PRETORIA CASTLE, 1935Z/24 to PELICAN).

A/C One A/C bearing 350° distant 3 miles course 180°. My position 280° Espichel 8 miles (ALOUETTE 2047B/24 to Gibraltar W/T).

South Atlantic.

Raider description. Description of probable raider is as follows. (C. in C. S.A. 1029B/24 to S.A.Sqdn.(R) N.O.I.C. Durban. S.O.(I) Montevideo).

/PANTHER....

723

War Diary.24.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Contd.

- PANTHER. D.S.R. Bombay's 0832/18. C. in C.S.A. is requested to sail PANTHER to U.K. for repairs and to signal intended programme.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1556B/24 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F. S.O. Force F(R) C. in C.E.I., D.S.R. Bombay Capt.(D) 12).
- Saldanha Bay. Defences proposed.
(D. of L.D.1648B/24 to C. in C.S.A.). See Lion Copy.
- Zigzagging. My 2121/23. Zigzagging between Capetown and Durban. Cancel and substitute as follows; all ships of 10 knots and over are to zigzag in G.B.M.S. area 6 B between 019° E and 033° E except (A) in thick weather and (B) whilst paravanes are streamed on route R.8 and R.9.
(C. in C.S.A. 1716B/24 to S.O.(I) Capetown, S.O.(I) Freetown for N.C.S.O.(R) Admty. etc).
- SOUDAN. Your 1550/23. Para 5 and 6. D/F bearing at Mined 15/5 2149Z/22 was from U/S in area Azores - W.S.18. Newfoundland. U/B Tracking evidence, though not conclusive, points to no U/Bs being near W.S.18 on 15/5.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1747B/24 to C. in C.S.A.).
- MOUZINHO. Understand MOUZINHO due 25/5 for bunkers en route (Portuguese) Lisbon. 2. Presume precautions will be taken against use of W/T while in harbour. Ship should be held until 24 hours after W.S. has sailed.
(D.T.D. 1749B/24 to R.A. West Africa).
- Vichy Convoy. Vichy convoy sighted 24° 18' N, 15° 42' W. at 1155/23 steering 045. Vessels PROVIDENCE and 5 others, varying tonnage, 1 escort vessel, 8 A/C overhead.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1804Z/24 to S.O.I Gibraltar).
- Movements Summary. 2000Z/24 area Q. VINDICTIVE from Pointe Noire 12½ knots E.T.A. Simonstown 1300Z/25, CANTON about 033° (?05') S. 010° 00' E. to Capetown. CILICIA off Tristan da Cunha SLUNA, PLADDA, HILDASAY SHAPINSAY off Simonstown to Durban route R.8 ARETHUSA (?034°) 23' S. 026° 06' E. to Mombasa 19 knots.
(C. in C.S.A. 1835B/24. to S.A. Station Sqdn. (R) Admty).

/Dispositions.....

MOST SECRET

723A

M-E S S A G E

1648B/24 May.
OUT.

To: C. in C. South Atlantic.791. DATE. 24.5.42.

NAVAL CYPHER XF.

From. Admiralty.

Your 1542B/27/4 as amended by 1923B/3/5.

Paragraph 1. 3 (A) & (B)

1. It is proposed that Local Defences at Saldanha Bay be provided in 4 phases, and it is considered that the harbour will be a safer anchorage than Table Bay from attack by submarines on completion of phase I.

2. We consider that submarine attack is the chief menace to shipping in this area.

Phases proposed.

PHASE I. (a) Mount guns and searchlights available in South Africa.

(b) Lay Controlled Minefield to seaward of proposed line of booms provided weather conditions are suitable.

(c) Lay indicator loops.

(d) Lay indicator net close inside line Malagas and Tutton Islands.

PHASE II. - Lay Northern A/T Boom.

PHASE III - Lay two Southern A/T booms.

PHASE IV - Provide A/S net and gate ships between ends of Southern A/T Booms.

Paragraph 3 (C)

3. Noted that two in number 6" guns and four in number 12 pdrs. are available. Propose guns should be covered by Bcfors layout and not by four in number 20 m.m. automatic weapons.

Paragraph 3 (D) (E) & (G)

4. Proposals agreed. Being provided through London.

Paragraph 3 (H) & (J)

5. The question of adequate landing grounds and fighter aircraft should be referred to Union Authorities.

Paragraph 4 (A)

6. The necessity for a counter-bombardment battery which would be a long term project is being considered by Port Defence Committee in relation to other commitments.

7 /

723^B

Paragraph 4 (B) & (C)

7. Proposals agreed. Being provided through London with the proviso regarding searchlights that full consideration is given to the conditions under which these lights should be exposed.

1648B/24.

D. of L.D.(330)

- 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. 1st S.L.
- N.A. to A.C.N.S.(T)
- F.A.S.(S)
- F.A.S.(F)
- D. of L.D.(4) (L.D.003342/42)
- 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 M.(10)
- D. of S.T.
- D.A./S.W.
- Hd. of Air.
- D.G.D.
- D.A.S.(2)
- D.N.C.
- 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.S.
- 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

I.

724

War Diary.24.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Weekly state 23/5. Freetown, EDINBURGH CASTLE, PHILOCTETES, MAURITIUS, CARNARVON CASTLE, PRETORIA CASTLE, ALCANTARA, LOWESTOFT, CLARE, PELICAN, DEPTFORD, CORINTHIAN, WILD SWAN, BOREAS, VELOX, BRIDGEWATER, COLOMBO, BELVOIR, HURSLEY, LARGS, 4 Corvettes, Freetown area, WIVERN, MILFORD, 2 Corvettes. Lagos, 3 Corvettes. Takoradi Area, 2 Corvettes. On passage from U.K. 1 Corvette. On passage to U.K. 1 Corvette. On passage to U.K. 1 Corvette. U.K. VANSITTART, BRILLIANT, VIMY, 4 Corvettes. On passage to Cape, VINDICTIVE.
(R.A. West Africa 2213Z/24 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.I., C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., B.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Haifa Raid. C.A.F.O. 587/40. Hostile aircraft approached Haifa between 2254 and 2357/23. 3 bombs dropped in sea 10 to 15 miles due N. Haifa. Fighters up failed to locate. No damage, no casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 0951C/24 to Admty etc.)

LA MOQUEUSE, Your 0317/23, being passed to S.N.O. Levant
COMMANDANT Area. These ships are employed as escorts on
DOMINÉ. Levant coast. Their withdrawal would aggravate
already unsatisfactory position in which it is
not possible to provide adequate escorts on
both Levant and Western Desert routes simultaneously. In
addition, presence of these Free French ships in Syrian ports
is very desirable.
2. COMMANDANT DOMINÉ is now commencing 2 months refit of main
engines.
(C. in C. Med. 1102C/24 to Admty.)

S/M Admty. 1508/23. The following special precautions
Precautions in the submarine are eminently desirable when in
Malta. dangerous waters off Malta. The two forward
compartments to be evacuated and shut off
providing diving in an emergency is not impaired.
(F.O.S. 1113B/24 to S.1, S.8, S.10, (R) C. in C.
Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

Messina Photograph A.M./24. Messina. 2 Cavour, one 8" and
Augusta. 2 6" cruisers and 6 destroyers. Augusta. 8"
cruiser GORIZIA, surrounded by double net, and
4 destroyers. C. in C. Med pass to S.O. (I) Alex
F.O.C.N.A, Pass to S.O. (I) Gib.
(V.A. Malta. 1421C/24 to C. in C. Med (R) Admty etc
/Malta.....

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War Diary.24.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta I.319 24.5.42. C.S.R.Malta,
Air Report. 23rd. 17 ME.109s 4 bombed Hal Far, no damage,
Night 23/24. 2012 hours, 5 raiders, D.A. bombs
1 Ta Kali. Unserviceable for night.
24th 4 alerts. Part 2. Night 23/24. Wellington 8 shipping sweep,
2138 hours, 1M/V 2 D/Rs 180° Marettimo 25 miles, course N.15
knots. 3 Albacores despatched, 1 returned early engine trouble,
other 2 did not find.
(H.Q.R.A.F.Malta, 1715/24).

→ PROTEUS. PROTEUS leaves Alexandria at 1830C/24 and proceed
from searched channels through 032° 50' 027° 44'
033° 42' 026° 05' and 032° 59' 020° 30' to patrol
in area C South of 035° N between 014° and 020° 30'. E.
(Capt.S.1 1815C/24, to C. in C.Med (R) R.A.Alexandria, V.A.Malta
etc).

Orders to S/Ms Area C. Area C as in my 1815/24 within 30 miles of
Benghazi Light S/Ms are restricted to following
sectors except when in pursuit of enemy or when
moving to intercept. (X) PROTEUS between 190°
and 245°. (Y) TURBULENT until 0801C/31 then
THORN between 245° and 285°. (Z) TAKU between
285° and 045°. Beyond above limit submarines mentioned are
entirely (? unrestricted) in C unless ordered to particular
position. From 1801C/25 no submarine encountered West of 021°
E. is to be attacked. TURBULENT is to keep clear of sector Y
from 0801C/31.
(Capt.S.1 2031C/24 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Oerlikons. C. in Med. 1850/24. (Hush - N.T. in W.D., see
East Indies 0543/24, 2357/24).

Enemy Ships. Your 2231/24. (Report of ships sighted, N.T. in
TURBULENT. W.D.). Aircraft on the way to attack now.
(V.A.Malta, 2221B/24 to TURBULENT).
Shadow and attack (?Presumably) enemy altered
course at about 2300 to 125°.
(Capt.S.1. 2323C/24 to TURBULENT).

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War Diary.24.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Oerlikons, C.in C.Med. 1932/18 (Hush, N.T. in W.D.).
RANCHI. There are at Colombo 8 Oerlikon equipments
already allocated for British and Dutch
Warships and D.E.M.S. but not yet mounted.
These could be shipped to Mediterranean in RANCHI if urgently
required.
2. Type of mounting mark II A.
(C.in C. E.I., 0543Z/24, to Admty. (R) C.in C.Med. C.in C.E.F.).
Your 0534/24 (0543/24 intended).
Please comply with C.in C. Med's 1850/24. Hush, N.T. in W.D.)
(A.C.N.S.(F). 2357B/24 to C.in C.E.I.).

B.M.18. Departure SHOREHAM, TULIP escort B.M. 18.
(S.O.(I.) Bombay 0616Z/24 N.C.S.O. Bombay 0652Z/24
to Admty. etc.).

Movement No. 41, dated 24/5. (C.in C.E.I., 0723Z/24).
Summary. See Lion Copy.

Carriers Position of carrier forces searching for
disclosure raiders is very liable to be disclosed as M/Vs.
by M/Vs. so frequently fail to comply with C.A.M.S.I.7.
2. Following are proposals to deal with this
difficulty.

- (a) M/Vs. to be warned that naval aircraft may be encountered
in specified areas, e.g., Indian Ocean.
 - (b) Naval aircraft sighting M/Vs. will endeavour to remain
unsighted until joined by a second aircraft or two aircraft are
available to conduct examination, when approach will be made
with aircraft flying in close formation.
 - (c) Aircraft will close to 2 miles on beam of M/V down sun or,
if no sun, on starboard side and make 3 complete circles in
this position.
 - (d) After completion of 3 circles, one aircraft will be
detached to close and examine ship.
3. M/Vs. sighting aircraft who act in this manner are not to
make a wireless report.
(C.in C.E.F., 0859Z/24 to Admty). *Reply: Admty 1853B/25/6.*

Fuel at C.in C.E.I. 1114/22. Attempt now in progress
Diego to fill 2 Tanks in Dockyard Total Capacity 270
Suarez. tons with Petroleum. Tanks now holding Diesel
Oil. If successful EASEDALE will be released.
Further Signal in 2 or 3 days.
(S.O.Force F., 0912C/24. to C.in C.S.A.(R)
C.in C. E.I. etc.)

Diego Suarez, 1. Now that Force F has been dispersed, extension
Command. of operation abandoned for the present, and
Major-Gen. Sturges is installed as Fortress
Commander with task of holding Diego Suarez,
I consider that the General should become
superior Authority since future problems concerning our
occupation must be primarily his concern.
2. Arrangements for reinforcements and relief of assault
forces are in train. A "Modus Vivendi" is only outstanding

/question

MOST SECRET

726A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0723Z/24th May

IN

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 24.5.42.

Recd. 1616.

NAVAL CYPHER 'C' BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities East Indies Station Negative
C.B.C. Admiralty C. in C. South Atlantic Australian
Commonwealth Naval Board Melbourne F.O.R.S.C.
Commodore I/C. Durban.

IMPORTANT AIDAC.

773.

Movement summary number 41 dated 24th May 1942.
Reference summary number 39.

1. Boom defence vessel B.S. PRINCE DE LIEGE B.D.V. B.S.
GRAAF VAN VLAANDEREN due Seychelles 27th May.

Reference summary number 40

1. H.M.S. RANCHI arrived Colombo 23rd May.
9. LORD GREY due Colombo 26th May.
10. H.M.A.S. BATHURST and Dutch Submarine K 11 due Bombay
25th May.
14. H.M.S. SCOUT arrived Colombo 24th May.

<u>Serial</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Ship.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
1	H.M.S. ROSALIND	Bombay 21st May	Colombo 26th May	Escorting B M 18 A
2	SONAVATI	Bombay 23rd May	Karachi 26th May	Escorting YOMA.
3.	H.M.S. CERES	Basra 22nd May	Khor Kuwait	Blank
4.	H.M.S. ROYAL SOVEREIGN	Bombay 22nd May	Kilindini 30th May	
5.	H.M.S. BOSTON H.M.S. SELHAM	Mombasa 19th May	Adon 25th May	
6.	Cable ship NORDISKE	Mombasa 18th (21st)		position 013 degs. 30' North 053 degs. 30' East repairing cable
7.	BIRFORD	Kilindini 20th May	(? Port. Elizabeth) 28th May	
8.	H.M.S. INCONSTANT	Mombasa 20th May	Kilindini 23rd May	
9.	D.S. ISAAC SWEERS	Mombasa 23rd May	Durban Blank	

10/.....

726 B

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Ship.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
10.	H.M.S. ATHENE	Kilindini 21st May	Cape town Blank	
11.	H.M.S. PANTHER	Madagascar 20th May	Cape	Escorting ORONS DUCHESS OF ATH ROYAL ULSTERMAN
12.	H.M.S. ARROW	Beira 19th May	Durban 21st May	
13.	H.M.S. BENGADINE	Cape town 20th May	Kilindini 29th May	
14.	H.M.S. RESOLUTION H.M.S. PROBISHER H.M.S. ALBATROSS	Durban 23rd May	Kilindini, Escorting W S 1	
15.	(?H.M.S. CHITRAL)	Fremantle 19th May	Mauritius Blank.	
16.	H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE	(?Madagascar) 20th May	Bombay,	Escorting FRANCONIA, MART NAIRNBANK.
17.	H.M.S. GAMBIA	Simonstown 17th May	Mombasa 23rd May	
18.	H.M.S. TETCOTT	Durban 19th May	Mombasa (?24th May)	
19.	U.S. Oilcr TRINITY	Albany 3rd May	Abadan 5th June.	

07232/24.

Advanced copy sent Ops. C.D.

1st Lord	
1st S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	
A.C.N.S. (H)	Duty Capt. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	Head of M.
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.N.I. (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.T.D. (3)
D.A/S.V.	D.T.D. (M)
D.D.I.C. (2)	D.T.D. (C)
	D.S.D.
	D.M.S.

EML.

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War Diary.24.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Diego Suarez, question of policy and our suggestions on this
Command. are being forwarded to you.
Contd. 3. S.A. Air Force under Col. Melville is
established and a Bomber R/C Squadron
functioning. No provision of a fighter squadron
has been made.

4. Naval organisation of port including sea transport is on a
working footing and Act. Capt. Turner is functioning as
N.O.I.C.

5. Great deal of clearing and tidying up in dockyard has been
carried out by Fleet labour, dock has been pumped dry and work
commenced on repairs to damaged caisson.

6. Existing port facilities, necessary further requirements
and proposals for defence of port have been reported to you by
signal, and C.in C. E.F. C.in C. E.I. and C.in C. S.A. have
been informed of existing situation. A full survey of port
facilities and Coast Defences has been made together with
recommendation for development and defence base. Written
reports dealing with these matters in full are being forwarded
to you by Air Mail with copy to C.in C. E.F., C.in C. E.I.,
C.in C. S.A. 7. Communication by Naval Army and Air Force
shore W/T stations has been established with outside world.

8. In view of above I do not think my presence here is
necessary any longer and I propose that if C.in C. E.F. can
spare RAMILLIES to take me to Durban I should proceed there
with LAFOREY, LIGHTNING and LOOKOUT.
(S.O. Force F., 1041C/24, to Admty (R) C.in C. E.F., C.in C. E.I.
C.in C. S.A.). Reply: Admty. 1949B/25.

Madagascar. Situation and appreciation. (121 Force 1100/24
to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

MANCHESTER Ref: A.M. 1538B/22. MANCHESTER CITY and JAY,
CITY ready to proceed short notice.
JAY. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1140Z/24, to C.in C. E.I.
(R) Admty. etc.).

Defence of An indoor exercise is being held at Cairo about
Persia. 17/6 on defence Persia against German attack
from north. Main naval implication of this
exercise will be importance of preventing enemy
from shutting the land southern shore of the Caspian Sea.
Suggested you might wish to send representative to attend this
exercise. Copies of scheme are being sent to you and S.N.O.
P.G. by air mail.
(R.N., G.H.Q., M.E. 1222C/24 to C.in C. E.I. (R) S.N.O.P.G.,
C.in C. Med.)

F.O. Ceylon, Your 1107Z/22 not to F.O.C.R.I.N. This arrange-
Shipping ment is not considered satisfactory as regards
Control. ocean going shipping since the F.O. controlling
routeing and movements of merchant shipping
should be in close touch with M. of W.T.
representative India and have permanent offices where a plot of
movements can be kept. Arrangements hitherto carried out by
C.in C. E.I. at Colombo have been most satisfactory and unless
it is intended that Deputy C.in C. shall remain at Colombo it

/is

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24. 5. 1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.F.O.Ceylon,
Shipping
Control.
Contd.

is considered preferable that F.O.Ceylon should take over the duties as regards merchant shipping hitherto carried out by C.in C., E.I. Control would, of course, be exercised in accordance with policy issued by you or Admty. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1537B/24 to C.in C.E.F., (R) C.in C. E.I. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Air Report.

A.952 24/5. Intelligence Summary No. 70
On information received up to 1800 hours 24/5.
2 Blenheims attacked river craft on Chindwin
23/5. 2 camouflaged steamers and barges
attacked with bombs and machine gun fire.

Several believed damaged. 36 plus river steamers reported
between Kalewa and Thayaung. Direct hit obtained on pontoon
bridge Kangyi.
(A.H.Q. India, 1615/24).

Italian
Repatriations.

GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO sailed from Berbara
1740Z/24.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1906Z/24 to Admty) Numbers
embarked, etc. G.O.C.in C. E.Africa, 1205/24 to W.O.)

War Diary.

24.5.1942
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Supplies to Russia. Proposals from 1/7/42 to 30/6/43. C.M.J. No.16.
(J.S.M. 0103Z/24 to War Cabinet Offices, London)
See Lion Copy.

K.N.103. Convoy K.N.103 will proceed from anchorage 1100
G.M.T/24, S. of A. 10 knots, due Norfolk Vir.
28th. List, cargoes, destinations.
(B.R.O. Key West, Flo. 0252Z/24 to Norfolk (R)
Admty. etc.)

Movement Summary.	1800 G.M.T./24.			
	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
	BURNHAM			
	escorting	Approaching		
	3 ships.	Bermuda.	357°	9
	GODETIA D.S.	} 11° N. 60½°W.	090°	10
	JAN VAN BRAKEL		45° N. 55½°W.	265°
	Convoy C.T.16.	46½° N. 29½°W.	217°	25
	W.S.19 W.			
	(D.O.D.(F) 0818Z/24 to Opnav (R) Commaveu)			

Suspicious flares. Look outs report flares sighted Southward and Eastward of bar early morning 24th. British W.I. plane will search on departure, tug being sent to search to Antigua (?). Request additional air search.
(Harbour Master, Barbados, 0945/24 to F.O. Trinidad (R) Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

SAN VICTORIO. My 1837/18. SAN VICTORIO sunk by 2 torpedoes one each side at practically same time 2½ days out (? Aruba) position not known at 0015Z/17. Sole survivor states only 5 were able to leave ship which took fire immediately; Ryan picked up by U.S.S. TURQUOISE after 16 hours in the sea.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1112Q/24 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty.)
U.2 D. Article 13 (A) SAN VICTORIO (BR) (B) 16/5 approx. 2300 Q, approx. 11.45 N. 62.10 W. (E) and (D) not known (E) and (H) Blank (F) ship on fire throughout for two hours, then sank.
(G) 1678340 Gunner A. Ryan MAA/RA.
(F.O.I.C. Trinidad 1217Q/24 to Admty.)

B.5 Escort Group. Your 1944/13. Is it intended to transfer accounts to BEMBOW? If so additional staff will be required.
(F.O.I.C. Trinidad 1227Q/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I.)

U/B. Intercepted 1245 G.M.T. WGBCL De WSL. Submarine attack 20.40 N. 81.30 W. 1025 G.C.T. 1050Z/24. Usnavcom Washington. Controlling Station Amagansetradio.
(Portishead Radio No T.O.O./24 Recd.1506.)

/QUAKER CITY ...

MOST SECRET

~~MESSAGE~~ 0105Z/24 May.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From J.S.M. and British Supply Council, Washington.

Date. 24.5.42.

Recd. 0553Z

Addressed War Cabinet Offices, London.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

IZ. 330. C.M.J. No. 16. J.W.P.S. Nos. 16, 17, 18.

Following is amended draft referred to in C.M.J. No. 17. Begins.

1. The Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom have been giving the most serious consideration to the munitions of war which we can make available to the Soviet Government during the coming year. In addition to the possible limitation in the supply of shipping, the quantity of goods which can be delivered will be determined not only by availability of supplies but also by port and inland clearance capacity and protection from enemy attacks on ships, ports and communications. At the present moment the limiting factor to our ability to provide aid by the Northern Route is the quantity of shipping that can be escorted to ports of discharge. The limiting factor by the Southern route is inland transportation from Persian Gulf Ports.

2. Our respective Governments will make available for despatch from the ports of the United States, United Kingdom and other countries during the period 1st July, 1942, to 30th June, 1943, approximately 3,300,000 short tons to the Northern ports and 1,100,000 short tons to the Persian Gulf ports. In the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 1, it is our opinion that this is the highest practicable export programme from all sources at which we can now aim. Within the limits imposed from time to time by the factors mentioned we will supply the shipping necessary to lift that part of this programme for which U.S.S.R. ships cannot be made available. Provided always the ships are economically loaded.

3. The schedule of stores which the United States can make available has been drawn up in the light of the programme of requirements as submitted to the United States Government by the U.S.S.R. The schedule of stores offered by the United Kingdom has been drawn up on the assumption that Russia desires to continue to receive supplies on the scale agreed at the Moscow Conference. The stores listed in these schedules amount to approximately 8,000,000 short tons.

4. It will be necessary for the Soviet Government to select from these schedules a programme of particular supplies and munitions of war for procurement and despatch which will come within the amounts mentioned in para. 2. This programme should include all cargoes to be transported after 1st July, 1942, including protocol and non-protocol items either already on order or to be ordered.

5. It is to be understood this programme must be subject to variations to meet unforeseen developments in the progress of the War. But you may be sure that every effort will be made to deliver the particular supplies which you designate within the amounts mentioned in para. 2.

6. The United States will be pleased to extend financial arrangements to cover its part of the proposed new protocol and all adjustments thereof. The United Kingdom financial arrangements will continue as at present, i.e. cash-credit agreement of 16th August, 1941, to cover civil supplies, and lend lease agreement now under negotiation to cover warlike supplies, the terms of which have been agreed in principle.

7. We, of course, stand ready through appropriate officials to discuss with your representatives in Washington all detailed questions pertaining to the schedules listed below and any reasonable adjustments that may be desired.

8. Above all we want to assure you that we have a full understanding of the vital importance of your Front and the urgent necessities of moving supplies to it in the highest possible volume and in the shortest space of time.

9. With this in mind, we shall be glad to review the programme toward the end of this calendar year to see if increased quantities of munitions can be provided and delivered. Ends.

0103Z/24.

	Air Ministry Circulation:
1st Lord.	Minister of War Production.
1st S.L.	Sir V. Layton.
Controller.	War Reg. Admiralty.
4th S.L.	A.L.M.I. War Office.
V.C.N.S.	P.U.S. (O.G.)
A.C.N.S. (W)	Minister of Supply.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	Sir W. Reeces.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Mr. Weeks.
Secretary.	Mr. Turner.
P.A.S. (S)	M.A.P.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	Mr. A. Dunbar.
D. of P. (2)	Col. Jacob.
E.P.S.	Mr. Brand.
Hd. of H. (2)	Mr. Donaldson.
I.P. (2)	Mr. Flemming.
W.D.	S. of S. for Foreign Affairs.
D.N.I. (4)	Mr. Steel. F.O.
D.C. (2)	M. of W.T.
D.D.I.C. (2)	Minister of Food.
Admiral Blake.	Mr. Pateson, Ministry of Supply.
Admiral	Mr. T.G. Jenkins, Min. of War Transport.
Cunningham.	Mr. W.L. Frazer, Treasury.
64 O.B.I.	
D.T.D. (4)	
P.A.S. (PR)	
M.A.S. (2)	
Admiral Herman Hodge.	

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War Diary.

24.5.1942
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

QUAKER CITY (torpedoed 18/5) Your 1622Q/23. Captain's and Second Officer lifeboat 15 survivors in all arrived Barbados. Chief Officer lifeboat reported to be to northward and may miss Barbados. (Harbour Master, Barbados 1515/24 to F.O. Trinidad.)

SAGINAW, distress. 055° 37' N. 036° 05' W., require assistance. (SAGINAW 1715/24 to NERK (Any U.S. Ship) (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty.)

Convoy K.N.102. Your 2152/23rd (Requesting verification of convoy quoted in 1545/21 as K.N.525) my 1545/21 amend to read K.N.102. (B.R.O. Key West 1737Z/24 to Admty.)

S.C. Convoys. Commencing with S.C. sailing 29/5 N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. will route S.C. convoys to first position given in Admty. route, designate Westomp, and originate all other signals concerned with S.C. convoys normally originated by C.O.A.C. Halifax. Request N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. may be included in the address of all signals appertaining to S.C. convoys. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1750Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., Admty., Connav, C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.I., C. in C. W.A.)

Overdue Ships.	Port.	Name of Ship.	Note.
	San Juan	MAJORY (U.S.A)	Note. These first 3 were deleted by S.O.(I)Jamaica 1206R/27.
	Aruba	CHIPEWA (U.S.A)	
		NORFOLK (U.S.A)	
	Havana	LATTARO (Br.)	
	Colon	MERCURY SUN (U.S.A)	
	Puerto Plata	ROSARIO (Argentine)	
	(S.O.I. Jamaica 1812R/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)		
	TORONDOC (Br. overdue Trinidad.		
	(S.O.I. Jamaica 1813R/24 to Admty., (R) C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)		
	Reply. Admty 1553/27.		

Algiers Intelligence. Meter. Algiers 22/5 B.2.
1. On 14/5 CORNELIS II small Tug formerly Belgian VILLE DE TIPAZA BRESCOW transferred to Italians. See your Medal 109. 2. Do. RHEA sailed 18/5 reported sunk cause unknown. (B.A.D. 1841Z/24 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Comment: BRESCOU 325 G.T. VILLE DE TIPAZA 331 G.T. RHEA Tanker 2813 G.T. All French Registry.

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War Diary.24.5.1942
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

CLARE sunk, 1 torpedo 21.33 N. 84.39 W. 1346Z/20.
 GEORGE CALVERT sunk, 3 torpedoes, 23.04 N. 84.17 W.
 1804Z/20. SAMUEL Q BROWN sunk, 1 torpedo,
 20.15 N. 84.37 W. 0200Z/23. ROBERT TREAT PAINE
 shelled 20.53 N. 81.46 W. 1020Z/24. Planes
 attack Subs on surface, 1 38° 15' N. 74° 45' W.
 2100Z/23. 1 headed North which fired on plane
 near 02.35 S. 36.29 W. 1250Z/23. 1 35.05 N.
 75.40 W. 1827Z/24. Destroyer maintaining Sub.
 contact 01.51 S. 36.08 W. 2352Z/23. Sub. sighted
 following freighter 29.46 N. 81.14 W. 2350Z/23.
 Sub. reported sighted 31° 08' N. 80.41 W. 0810Z/24.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2031/24 to Admty., for
 O.I.C.)

Caribbean
Sugar Ships.

My 1302/29/4 para.3. Investigation shows that
 much sugar could be transferred between ports
 in Jamaica to reduce ship days in open anchorages
 at maximum extra cost of 35/- a ton. Sugar
 co-ordinator advises delaying decision about such transfer until
 crop is nearly over about end of June.
 2. No transfer will then be possible unless Jamaica Govt. has
 obtained release of lorry tyres by U.S. Rubber Control as
 stock is barely sufficient for present known requirements.
 Request support to Jamaica's demands.
 3. As U-boat activity in Caribbean persists propose steps be
 taken now to enable transfer of sugar to be effected at short
 notice if situation demands.
 (C. in C. A.W.I. 2226P/24 to Admty.)
 W.R. Note: Admty. 1916B/16/4 refers.

UNGAVA.

E.T.A. 0600Z/25. Request 48 hours for repairs
 to air pump and survey to No.1 boiler. Butt
 strap on some drums leaking.
 (UNGAVA 2305Z/24 to C.O.A.C. (R) Capt. (D).)

PEISANDER
overdue.

PEISANDER due Halifax 18/5 from Colon not
 arrived.
 (N.S.H.Q. 2311Z/24 to Admty. etc.)
 W.D. Note. Sunk 1700Z/17, see N.S.H.Q. 2058/26/5.

BAJA
CALIFORNIA.

My 1928/22 BAJA CALIFORNIA (Honduras) arrived
 Tampa 23rd.
 (N.S.H.Q. 2337Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.24.5.1942
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrivals Noumea U.S.S. SELFRIDGE escorting DOBBIN.
(N.Z.N.B. 0021Z/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Pacific.)

Situation.

Serial No.122 from C.W.R. 23/5.
Hudsons attacked shipping at Amboina 0928Z/22.
Near miss on 1000 tons merchantship. 5 Zero fighters intercepted, 1 shot down, 2 others probably destroyed. 1 Hudson shot down, 1 missing probably lost. Heavy A/A fire from destroyer and 2 merchant ships, light A/A fire from several positions on shore.
(2) Analysis of aerial photographs taken 20/5 shows 27 A/A positions around Koepang aerodrome.
(3) Enemy S/M reported by air R/C at 2254/21 014° 07' S. 162° 30' E. course 190°.
(4) 1 enemy R/C aircraft over Nauru 0130/23. (5) Tanker observed at Lae by air R/C 2130/22, my serial No.121 refers.
(6) 5 B.25s attacked Lae 0245/23. 2 near misses on large bombers but no further result observed. 8 Zero fighters intercepted, 2 B.25s missing believed lost. 4 unusually large heavy bombers on aerodrome similar B.17 twin engine single tail fin nose similar B.25. No tanker sighted. 1 enemy fighter dropped pear shaped bomb from position 1000 feet above and ahead of leader of allied flight who banked sharply, bomb exploded in A/Cs original course.
(7) 1 warship reported off Cape St. George (New Ireland) 2200Z/22 course S.
(8) Enemy R/C 23/5 over Port Moresby aerodromes.
(9) Allied air R/C 23/5 report no enemy activity Samarai - Rossel Island - Faisi - Tulagi area.
(A.C.N.B. 0924Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1430B/24, 1433B/24.)

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War Diary.25.5.1942.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Convoys
P.Q. 16.
& Q.P.12.*exalt
Tribun. Smith*

D.F. bearings suggest that Convoy Q.P.12 was sighted by a U-Boat at 0445Z today and that Convoy P.Q. 16 has been shadowed by one or more U-Boats since 2150Z/24. Both convoys were reported by enemy aircraft this morning, and at 1545 today an aircraft shadowing Convoy P.Q. 16 was homing U-Boats on to the convoy. A B.2 report states that LÜTZOW or HIPPER, 2 destroyers and a large tanker passed into Trondheim Leden at 0300B today, outward bound. There are indications that both LÜTZOW and SCHEER are now to be operated from Narvik and can be used to attack P.Q. 16 when east of Bear Island where we are unable to provide cover against surface forces. The U.S.S.R. were asked to employ submarines but refused on the ground that their S/MS cannot leave coastal patrol zones, though two or more were ordered to transmit W/T messages to simulate a concentration.

R/C of Trondheim and Narvik today was not possible.

RENOWN and CUMBERLAND arrived at Hvalfiord this afternoon with destroyer screen. One cruiser from CUMBERLAND, KENT and TUSCALOOSA is to be kept on Denmark Strait Patrol.

Enemy Air Operations.

Poole was attacked between 2350/24 and 0150/25. There is no evidence of minelaying, but a number of U.X.Bs remain both in the water and over a wide area on shore. The port was closed until 0600/29. There were no naval casualties.

Attacks on
P.Q. 16 and
Q.P. 12.

Convoy P.Q. 16 was attacked for three hours this evening by over 30 torpedo and dive-bombers about 240 miles E.N.E. of Jan Mayen Island. SS. CARLTON, with a fractured steampipe was taken in tow for Seidisfiord by NORTHERN SPRAY.

/Three ...

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War Diary.

25.5.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks on
P.Q. 16 and
Q.P. 12.
(Contd.)

Three enemy aircraft were destroyed, two probably destroyed and 2 damaged. C.A.M. Ship EMPIRE LAWRENCE flew off her Hurricane which destroyed one of the enemy and damaged another; the pilot was wounded but was picked up. C.A.M. Ship EMPIRE MORN with convoy Q.P. 12 flew off her Hurricane today, which shot down one F.W. 200 and subsequently crash landed in the sea, the pilot being killed.

Mediterranean.

C. in C. Med. in a message today points out how his operations against the enemy lines of communications are hampered by lack of air reconnaissance. He can think of no more remunerative employment for 12 Liberators in terms of injury to the enemy.

Laying of ground mines from enemy submarines has almost certainly taken place at Levant ports recently.

Enemy air raids on Malta were resumed today and some damage was caused at the aerodromes.

Wellingtons attacked with torpedoes and bombs a southbound convoy of 2 M/Vs and destroyers 135 miles N.W. of Benghazi, last night; results unknown.

East Indies.

Force F has been dispersed. C. in C. Eastern Fleet is to assume responsibility for allocation of naval forces to Madagascar.

War Diary.

25.5.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The responsibilities of Senior Naval Officer at Trinidad are to be transferred from the British to the Americans.

10 ships
overdue.

About 10 ships which sailed to or from this area recently are overdue.

U.S. destroyer BLAKELEY was torpedoed at 1400Z today off Fort de France, Martinique but arrived in port safely.

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War Diary.25.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Destroyer Special Escort Divisions. Following Destroyers are to form:-
 (A) Londonderry special escort Division.
 KEPPEL, LEAMINGTON, DOUGLAS, BADSWORTH, BICESTER, BRAMHAM.
 (B) Greenock special escort division.
 BULLDOG, BEAGLE, BOADICEA, ACHATES, AMAZON, BLYSKAWICA, BURZA, GEORGETOWN, RICHMOND, SALISBURY.
 (C) Liverpool special escort Division. MALCOLM, BROKE, WOLVERINE, ST. ALBANS, CHELSEA, MANSFIELD.
 2. These destroyers are not being organised into numbered groups, since in present circumstances they cannot work as groups.
 3. VOLUNTEER and WHITEHALL will be allocated to (B) units after conversion to two boiler ships.
 4. C.Os of KEPPEL, BULLDOG, and MALCOLM are being appointed with Status of S.Os of escort groups, and will act as senior officers of their respective special escort division.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1307B/25.)

Air/Sea Rescue Craft. M.Ls from Stornoway, Larne, Tobermory and Ardrishaig are to be available for special Air/Sea rescue operations from 3rd June for about 4 months. In addition 2 Corvettes or trawlers from Tobermory are to be kept at immediate notice for this purpose. Request you will take necessary action to co-ordinate special Air/Sea rescue arrangements in your command avoiding interference with A/S training as far as possible.
 (D.D.O.D. C.1619B/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Spanish Coastal Shipping. B.N.A. Madrid's 2022/23/5. As primary object is attack on possible oversea blockade runners all of which are understood to be of 5,000 tons or over I suggest that our immediate requirements will be met if limit of 1000 tons be raised and notification be given only of movements of vessels 2,500 tons and over. This should also simplify negotiations and reduce subsequent signalling.
 2. As regards immunity of Coasters within 6 mile limit although this might be accepted now to achieve early agreement I consider it will hamper R.A.F. Operations and if possible should later be reduced to 3 miles.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1655B/25 to Admty.)

GRIPSHOLM. Swedish SS GRIPSHOLM transporting American and Axis Diplomats and travelling under safe conduct was due to depart from Godeburg about 23/5 for New York at 16 knots. Prescribed routeing is 59° 10' N. 23° 40' W, 42° 30' N. 50° 40' W., 30° N. 70° W. Ship has distinctive markings as follows. Vessel will not be darkened. This vessel should not be molested or interfered with.
 (C.T.F. 24 2027Z/25 to T.F.24.)

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War Diary.25.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - contd.

CARADOC. A.M.2006B/9. It is no longer necessary to retain CARADOC until 30th May. Request you will report the date on which she will be ready for service. It is intended that she should sail independently from the Clyde to join the Eastern Fleet.
(D.O.D.(H.) 2154B/25 to R.A.D.)

Movements.

QUENTIN. Admiralty's 1816/22. Intend to sail QUENTIN to arrive Liverpool for boiler cleaning p.m./28. Request she may be sailed to arrive Greenock p.m. 4th June to comply with Admiralty's 1816B/22. (R.A.D. 0955B/25 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

ARGUS
BEAGLE
DOUGLAS. BEAGLE, DOUGLAS delayed about 3 hours by weather. Will approach position X from direction Y till contact is made.
(BEAGLE 1212B/25 to ARGUS.)

HAWKINS. My 1127B/18. Intend to sail HAWKINS from Needles 0830/26 for Scapa routed Admiralty message Q.Z.S 293 and D.C.1 route A and C, thence Spithead Routes, to carry out full power large repair trials down Channel. Speed of advance to Smalls 22 knots, thence 18 knots.
2. Expect to pass Start Point 1200/26, Longships 1615/26, Smalls 2315/26. E.T.A. Scapa 0700/28.
4. ATHERSTONE and KUJAWIAK will be sailed in company as surface escort if weather conditions are suitable for high speed as far as Eddystone, and thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1243B/25.)
My 1243/25 para 4. delete KUJAWIAK.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1448B/25.)
My 1243/25 amend para one to read: Intend to sail HAWKINS from Spithead 0630/26 for Scapa, routed Admiralty Message QZS 111 and 239, thence to 050° 27' 30" N. 002° 17' 00" W. and Admiralty Message QZS 293 etc. Para 2 times are unchanged.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2213B/25.)

DELHI. A.M.1259B/13, my 1602B/21 and N.O.I.C. Portland's 1640B/22. DELHI will be ready for service p.m. tomorrow. No surface targets are available.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1331B/25.)

RENOWN
CUMBERLAND
SOMALI
MATCHLESS
ECHO. Your 1728/23, and your 2210/23. Arrived.
(A.C.I.C. 1416B/25 to A.C.O.S.)

/WELSHMAN ...

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War Diary.

25.5.1942
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

WELSHMAN

A.T.1614/22. WELSHMAN is to be sailed to arrive Gibraltar on 1/6.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1610B/25 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Operations.

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

CUMBERLAND sail from Hvalfiord as necessary to relieve TUSCALOOSA on patrol "White".
R/V in 065° 30' N. 024° 40' W. at 0500Z/26.
On relief TUSCALOOSA returns to Hvalfiord.
(? Origin 0742B/25 to CUMBERLAND.)
Situation tonight. TUSCALOOSA "White".
CUMBERLAND sailing 2345 for Patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C. 1633B/25.)

Q.Q.2.

My 1206B/8. Operation Q.Q.2 is postponed.
(C. in C. Nore 1008B/25.)

Northern
Patrol.

Situation of Trawlers, Northern Patrol, 2000 tonight. T.R.36 H.M.S. KINGSTON AGATE.35 H.M.S. NORTHERN FOAM.34 H.M.S. KINGSTON AMBER.33
{H.M.S. CAPE PORTLAND}.
(A.C.O.S. 1508B/25.)

N.W. Norway
S/M Patrol.

At 0800B/26 O.10, P.614, UREDD, P.37, P.46 proceed so as to be in Zones K.26, K.28, K.30, K.32 and K.34 respectively by 2000B/26.
(F.O.S. 1628B/25 and 1712B/25.)

Combined
Operation.

Request you will sail M.G.Bs 312, 316, 317 and 326 so as to arrive Newhaven on 28/5.
(C.C.O. 2002B/25 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

British Air Activity

Patrols.

Patrols Lotus III flying from 1815/25 to 0215/26, Sentry III from 1510/25 to 2340/25.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1759B/25 to C. in C. H.F.)
Lotus and Sentry patrols in operation today.
2. It is intended to continue Lotus patrol with two aircraft tomorrow.
(D.O.D. (H.) 2315B/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

25.5.1942
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attacks on Iokanka. Your 1153B/23.

(1) Date	(2) Number of JU 88 taking part.	(3) Bombs dropped.
12th May	3	12
14th May	2	Mines number unknown.
17th May	12	38 and 4 mines.
18th May	17	40
19th May	16	48
20th May	2	4
21st May	11	40

Ceiling has varied from 2000 - 9000 feet.
Believed that planes operate from Petsamo and Kirkenes.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0950B/25 to Admty.)

Poole and district bombed. My 1045/25. Ref raid Poole district. A number of U.X.Bs remain both in the water and over a wide area on shore. No evidence of minelaying. On instruction from S.M.S.O. Portsmouth Port of Poole closed until 0600/29 unless otherwise signalled.
(N.O.I.C. Poole 1230/25 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Low level bombing took place at Poole and Brownsea Island between 2350/24 and 0150/25. No naval casualties, 9 civilians killed and 2- injured in Hamworthy and Canford Cliffs.
(N.O.I.C. Poole 1650/25 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Begins. Four Motor Land plane seen along South Coast 0955B. Weather foggy. Ends.
(A.C.I.C. 2353B/25.)

Convoy P.Q.16 and Q.P.12. Convoys reported and U-boats homed by A/C. See Shipping.
Mining.

Lowestoft. One Magnetic Mine exploded by Sweeper at 0720/25 in 190° 25 cables from 4 Buoy.
(Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 0825B/25 and 1026B/26.)

Sweeping channels for Russian S/Ms. Your 0910B/21. This is not a practicable operation until Russians can guarantee adequate air and surface escort.
2. There may be opportunities when our own surface forces will be available to assist.
(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1119B/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

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War Diary.25.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.Thames
Estuary
INTERNOS
(LL Drifter)
damaged.At 0717/25 one Mine exploded by Sweepers.
Details. INTERNOS sustained damage to hull
plating in vicinity of engine room. Site
swept three times previously 25/5.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1235/25.)

Humber.

Red Magnetic Mines exploded by LL Trawlers in
287° 62 D buoy 1.4 miles at 0849B and in
165° 62 D buoy 3 cables at 1048 today.
(F.O. Humber 1253B/25, 1945B/25, 1950B/25.)New Type of Your 1119/24. Confirmed.
German Contact (D.T.M. 1427B/25 to Ad. Miles.)
Mine.Operations
Q.S.6.
Q.S.8.M.S.9 reports that he swept two mines in each
line when carrying out a check sweep of operation
Q.S.6 on 23rd. Position of B.S.6 has been found
to be 142 degrees 1 point 2 miles from charted
position. A search was also carried out on a
front covering one mile each side of a line from a position eight
miles 090 degrees from Q buoy and extending there from in a
direction 020 degrees for sixteen miles. No mines were found.
It is intended to carry out another check sweep of B.S.6.
M.S.4 reports that a check sweep was carried out on 23rd in
late danger area Q.Z. S 721 with negative result. Ships of
4th M.S.F. are now coaling at Harwich and Yarmouth preparatory
to completing operation Q.S.8.
(C. in C. Nore 1520B/25.)Enemy Intelligence.LÜTZOW
or
HIPPERB.2 report states LÜTZOW or HIPPER, 2 destroyers,
and one large tanker passed into Trondheim Leden
at 0300B/25 outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1618B/25 to A.I.G.47, S/Ms on patrol,
A.I.G.21, S.B.N.O. North Russia etc.)Trondheim.
Narvik.Second and final R/C of Trondheim today failed
because of weather. Narvik was not covered.
(D.D.I.C. 1709B/25.)U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.Am investigating suspicious object on 59° 43' N.
2° 34' W. Possibly conning tower.
(A.O.C. 15 Group 0915/25.)
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted
on the surface and observed to submerge, course 320°, 10 knots.
(R.A.F. TCKN 0928/25.)
Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 59° 43' N. 2° 34' W.
Possible I have fuel remaining for 9 hours. Am returning to
base at 1045. E.T.A. 1130.
(A.O.C. 15 Group 1019/25.)Convoys P.Q.16 Sighted and shadowed by U-boats. See shipping.
Q.P.12.

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War Diary.25.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

62 Buoy. WINCHESTER'S 1500/24. Request Q.Z.H. and that buoy may be replaced as early as convenient. (C. in C. Nore 0933B/25 to Admty.)

Poole closed. See Enemy Air Activity.

Hvalfiord. Number one light buoy Hvalfiord extinguished. (A.C.I.C. 1415B/25)
(C. in C. W.A. 1723Z/25.)

East Culver. East Culver Buoy missing from station. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1642B/25.)

20T Buoy. Light on 20T Buoy is very dim. (VANITY 2331B/25 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Technical.

Test of R.D.F. Type 251. H.Q.C.C.'s 1225/24. Request you arrange with C.C.D.U. Ballykelly for HARVESTER to carry out this trial after leaving Moville. (C. in C. W.A. 1215B/25 to Commdre.Londonderry.)

Casualties and Defects.

ARAB. Boiler tubes leaking badly. Request permission to proceed Stornoway for repairs. (ARAB 1501B/25 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

GEMINI. From Valentia Radio. Following has been received begins. Pass to Port Director Reykjavik. 57° 20' N. 32° 20' W., wheel broken, 1624/26.Ends. (GEMINI 1745/25.)
Following received from Lands End Radio begins. Intercept 1724 G.M.T. De GEMINI. Require assistance, broken wheel, No.1 hold leaking 1715/25. (C. in C. Plymouth 1924/25 to Admty.)

RODNEY. Following from RODNEY begins. RODNEY is short of complement owing to 50 in hospital or sick on shore, 7 deserters and 26 under complement. Anticipated 20 will return from hospital. Consider shortage of 64 should be made good before sailing and suggest they should join Greenock 4/6. Details. (R.A.D. 1626B/25 to Admty.)

GLEN USK. Immingham departure at 1804 tug IRISHMAN to assist GLEN USK reported making water at 1716 and returning to Humber via 62D buoy with pumps out of action. ORVICTO ordered from Humber L/F to stand by until arrival of tug. (F.O. Humber 1815B/25.)
Am standing by GLEN USK. (QUANTOCK 1820B/25.)

GLEN USK Lon 15;.....
/Have ...

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War Diary.25.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects

GLEN USK contd. Have turned over GLEN USK to tug IRISHMAN at Humber Light Float. Am rejoining convoy. (QUANTOCK 2020B/25.)
My 1050B/25 returned at 2120/25 on account of damage due to weather. Tug IRISHMAN in attendance. (F.O. Humber 2135B/25.)

EMPIRE UNITY. Passing 30 Buoy escorting EMPIRE UNITY who has defective steering gear. Speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots. E.T.A. May Island 1130/26. (VELETA 2326B/25.)

MACBETH. My 1947/24. JAUNTY returned. (A.C.I.C. 2330B/25.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.16 and Q.P.12. D/F Bearings at 2150Z/24, 2345Z/24, 0015Z/25, and 0112Z/25 suggest that convoy P.Q.16 may have been sighted by one or more U-boats. (D.D.I.C. 0601B/25 to P.Q.16 Reptd. Q.P.12, A.I.G. 47.)

D/F bearings at 0445Z/25 suggest that convoy Q.P.12 may have been sighted by a U-boat.

(D.D.I.C. 0725B/25 to Q.P.12 Reptd. P.Q.16, A.I.G.47.)

D/F bearings suggest that convoy Q.P.12 was sighted by U-boat at 0445Z/25 and that convoy P.Q.16 has been shadowed by one or more U-Boats since 2150Z/24.

(D.D.I.C. 1134B/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

At 0745B/25. Convoy P.Q.16 was reported by enemy A/C.

(D.D.I.C. 1341B/25 to P.Q.16, A.I.G.47, S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

At 0647B/25. Convoy Q.P.12 was reported by enemy aircraft.

(D.D.I.C. 1400B/25 to Q.P.12, A.I.G.47, S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

At 1545/25 aircraft shadowing convoy P.Q.16 was homing U-Boats on to convoy.

(D.D.I.C. 1655B/25 to P.Q.16, A.I.G.47, S.B.N.O. North Russia, S/Ms on Patrol.)

There are indications that both LÜTZOW and SCHEER are now to be operated from Narvik and can be used to attack P.Q.16 when east of Bear Island where we are unable to provide cover against surface forces.

2. It would be a strong deterrent if the enemy were aware that numbers of U.S.S.R. submarines were operating in this area.

If these are not available suggest that as many as possible be sailed to simulate by W/T traffic and any other means a concentration in this area.

(A.C.N.S.(H.) 1930B/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, Ad. Miles, C. in C. H.F., C.S.10.)

Your 1930/25. Matters under considerations. There are five Soviet S/Ms in all on patrol including those in coastal areas which could be employed as suggested. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., C.S.10.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2349B/25 to Admty., Rept. C. in C. H.F., C.S.10, Ad. Miles.)

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War Diary.25.5.1942
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.H.X.190
H.S.190.

H.X.190. Ships of $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots and over are to proceed as H.S.190 fast escorted by 1 destroyer and 1 corvette. Name of ship in H.X.190 fast and escorts details to be signalled. Comdr. is to remain with slow section of Convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 0827Z/25 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)

HOPETARN.

C. in C. W.A. 2242B/24. Request you will sail ROTHER to R/V ARMERIA and SS HOPETARN at S.G.3 buoy 52° N. 5° 32' 30" W. at 0930B/27.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1001B/25 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

W.S.19 P.

Convoy W.S.19 P. My 2032/21 para 1.
Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1140B/25.)

W.S.19 P. (i) KEPPEL from Londonderry is to R/V with BUXTON escorting four ships of convoy at Bar Light Vessel 28/5 and escort to Clyde.

(ii) N.O.I.C. Liverpool to arrange time of R/V.
(iii) Destroyers to remain at Greenock on completion.
(C. in C. W.A. 1817B/25.)

KEPPEL, BUXTON, C. in C. W.A. 1817B/25. Request you sail KEPPEL to R/V with BUXTON, Bar Light Vessel, at 2000B/28.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2155B/25 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

P.W.161.

/K.T. ~ W.D.
My 1523B/24. BROCKLESBY and AGATHA sailed Needles 1230/25. Remainder postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1237B/25.)

O.N.598.

Because weakness of available escort and unless otherwise directed intend sailing PRIMROSE to reinforce O.N.598.
(C.T.G. 24.7. 1430B/25 to C.T.F.24.)

Eire Ships
for Spain.

Request that N.C.S.Os may be instructed when reporting sailings and routes of Eire ships to Iberian ports to repeat signal to V.A.C.N.A. and H.Q.C.C.
(D.T.D. 1938B/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.27
(LEINSTER)

D.S.27 arrived 2200B.
(A.C.I.C. 2300B/25.)

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25.5.1942.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passings 24/5. French Westward FRIMAIRE, ARAGAZ. (V.A.C.N.A. 0909B/25 to Admty. for M.E.W.). Gibraltar 1020. Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE, BONIFACIO, Light Deck Cargo Barrels and Drums. GRAND QUEVILLY, MONTESQUIEU, both full with Deck Cargo Motor Transport latter also agricultural implements, Trawlers LOUP DE MER, MONT CASSEL, Westbound. 1250. Minesweeper CHAMOIS, STRASBOURGEOIS, full, LORRAINE, in Ballast, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1831B/25 to Admty. etc.).

U/B TORBAY. S/M reported 036° 22' 001° 12' W. course - 250° at 0731B. A/C searching during daylight. You have submerged bombing restrictions only. (F.O.C.N.A. 1036B/25 to TORBAY (R) P.44).

Tangier Intelligence. From Greenleaves. American report Tug CORNELIUS arrived Zuarquon (? Zerken near Gabes) 19/5 to tow barge to Tripoli. German crew on board. Exact position Zuarquon is being requested. (Consul General, Tangier 1101/25 to S.O.I. Gibraltar (R) Admty, for D.N.I.).

N.I.D. Comment. Probably refers to CORNELIS II tug G.T.270 formerly Belgian (see B.A.D., 1841/24/5).

U/B at Cartagena. My 2202/23 M. of M. informs me that number of U-Boat is 282. (B.N.A. Madrid 1125/25 to D.N.I.).

BESSEL (German). Your 1652B/19. Only 3 German ships at Vigo have for some time been anchored at naval base at Rios and are under observation. Armed guards are on board the 2 tankers at night. I learnt from M. of M. that C.O. of Spanish Cruiser NAVARRA had apparently misinterpreted his instructions and not placed guard on board BESSEL. Nothing could go alongside her without observation either from naval base or guard on tankers. Minister has now, however, given orders in my presence that guard shall also be placed in BESSEL. (B.N.A. Madrid. 1222/25 to S.O.I. Gibraltar (R) Admty, for D.N.I.)

MALAYA exercises. Cancel my 1225/24th. Intend to sail MALAYA with 4 destroyers in accordance with my 1822/23. (F.O.C.N.A. 1248B/25 to Admty.). My 1248/25. Sailed MALAYA, VIDETTE, ANTELOPE,

WRESTLER, WESTCOTT. (F.O.C.N.A. 1716B/25 to Admty.). My 1716/25 Ships returned. (F.O.C.N.A. 2232B/25 to Admty.).

/U/B.....

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25.5.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B sighted by A/C. Transit A/C from Malta reported sighting U-Boat in 036° 22' N. 001° 12' W. at 0531Z/25 course 250° 10 knots. U-Boat crash dived on sight. Crew considered it resembled "Galvani" Class. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304B/25 to Admty.(R) C. in C.Med, V.A.Malta).

P.43. My 1310/16 and 1536/16. Escort P.43, LADY
→ P.211. HOGARTH. Escort P.211, HYTHE.
escorted. (F.O.C.N.A. 1310B/25 to P.43, P.211).

Blockade. Your 2022/23 and 2032/23 have been repeated to A.O.C. in C.Coastal Command for information. All similar messages should be repeated to him. (Head of M. 1347B/25 to N.A.Madrid, C. in C. Plymouth, Air Min, B.N.A Lisbon, F.O.C.N.A.).

Information 2 French S/Ms escorted by one surface vessel
→ P.211, P.43. will pass Straits about noon 26/5 and are not to be molested. (F.O.C.N.A. 1405B/25 to P.211, P.43).

Information One surface vessel escorting 2 French subs. will
TORBAY. pass westward through Straits at about 1200B/26. (F.O.C.N.A. 1409B/25 to TORBAY.).

Bizerta report of German occupation. Reports have been received here that Germans have occupied, or are about to occupy, Bizerta. My U.S.colleague has not yet received confirmation of this from U.S. Consul, Tunis, but U.S. Consul has mentioned recently increased infiltration of Germans into Bizerta. (Tangier 1510/25 to F.O.(R) Lisbon, Madrid, Gibraltar). Comment: Several similar reports recently, notably those put out by Tass agency suggesting Axis designs on Bizerta and Tunisia. No evidence of any Axis infiltration or activities other than those at the Armistice Commission. Steps are being taken to check this report.

German A/C. German A/C sighted off Cape Roca 2045/24 steering S. Probably same A/C passed Sagres 2140/24 steering E. (B.N.A.Lisbon, 1929B/25 to S.O.I Gibraltar (R) Admty).

Italian U/B. Bearings at 1752Z of Italian U-Boat 27 V. (D.D.I.C. 2041B/25 to F.O.C.N.A.).

/R/C.....

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War Diary.

25.5.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

R/C
Casablanca.

Photo. R/C Casablanca 1430/25. Major units no change.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2144B/25 to Admty. etc).

South Atlantic.

AMARANTHUS.

Your 0943/22 and A.M. 1240/22.

Unless it is absolutely essential that AMARANTHUS should deliver these mails she is not to enter

Cape Verde. Report situation.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 0034B/25 to R.A.West Africa).

My 0943/22 alter forthwith to R/V convoy O.S.28 as in my 2210/21 to AMARANTHUS only. You are not to proceed St Vincent. (Cape Verde Is.).

(R.A.West Africa 0055Z/25 to AMARANTHUS (R) Admty, B.N.A.Lisbon N.C.S.O.St.Vincent).

EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

My 1111/20. Have sailed EMPRESS OF RUSSIA escorted by LARGS and WILD SWAN at 0700Z/ 26. (route).

28/5 R/V off Bathurst with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and join escort (?). COLOMBO fuelling at Ponta Delgada. WILD SWAN to be detached at about 020° N. for Gibraltar fuelling 1/6 at Bathurst.

COLOMBO leaves EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at position E. at 1600Z/31 and rejoins at G at 1800Z/6.

C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide onward route from position K.

Request F.O.C.N.A. will detach LARGS after position G as necessary to R/V with Convoy O.S.29 and return to Freetown.

(R.A.West Africa 1215Z/26 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.W.A. (R) WILD SWAN, COLOMBO, LARGS.)

Movement
Summary.

2000Z/25 Area Q.(CANTON) ? off Capetown from the West E.T.A. 0800Z/26. CILICIA off Tristan da Cunha. PLADDA, HILDASAY, SLUNA, SHAPINSAY, about 034° 55' S. 019° 25' E. to Durban. VAN GALEN off

Capetown to Durban by route R.8 22 knots. CORSICA from Simonstown 7 knots E.T.A. Durban 27/5.

(C. in C.S.A. 1315B/25 to S.A.Station Sqdn.(R) Admty.).

/"Flower".....

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War Diary.25.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

"Flower"
Class
Corvettes
relief. Represented to me that in interests of health and efficiency "Flower" Class Corvettes based on Freetown should where possible be relieved after 1 year's service on that station. Reliefs could be provided from new construction and/or Western Approaches resources. Request your early remarks. (C. in C.W.A. 1445B/25 to C. in C.S.A., (R) Admty. R.A. West Africa).

MAURETANIA. MAURETANIA sailed 1710B/25 for Suez Personnel on board (Details) E.T.A. 0400Z/4/6. (D.S.T.O. Durban 1651Z/25 to S.S.T.O. Suez. (R) P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. Simonstown, D. of S.T. F.O.R.S.).

Movements. Departure 23/5 U.S. Cruiser ^{10MAHA} OAHU U.S. Destroyer MCDOUGAL. Arrival 24/5 departure 25/5 U.S. transport COAMO. (R.O. Pernambuco 1850Z/25 to Admty etc).

Eire Shipping to Iberian ports. Request that N.C.S.Os may be instructed when reporting sailings and routes of Eire ships to Iberian ports to repeat signal to V.A.C.N.A. and H.Q.C.C. (D.T.D. 1938B/25 to C. in C.S.A., (R) C. in C. Plymouth, V.A.C.N.A., H.Q.C.C.).

WILD SWAN. Your 1111/20. WILD SWAN may be required for other escort duties to Gibraltar after COLOMBO rejoins from Ponta Delgada. Further signal will be made. (D.O.D. (F) 2124B/25 to R.A. West Africa (R) F.O.C.N.A.).

OCEAN VIKING (British) "Q" Report. Following received QQQQ OCEAN VIKING 15° 30'S. 2° 20' W. suspicious vessel following. (Ascension W/T T.O.R. 2305Z/25 to Freetown W/T) My 2305 taking evasive measures heading east large fast vessel passenger ship type though bearing on starboard quarter still suspicious. (OCEAN VIKING 2335 GMT/25 to St. Helena).

Mediterranean.

Enemy Mining Malta. Your 1520/21. No further information available. As far as is known all mines dropped by aircraft in Eastern Med have been ground mines. 2. Laying

/of.....

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War Diary.25.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. conts: -

Enemy Mining of ground mines from enemy submarines has almost
Malta. certainly taken place at Levant Ports recently.
(C. in C.Med. 0935C/25, to V.A.M.(R) Admty.).

GORIZIA. Italian Cruiser GORIZIA at Augusta is berthed in
Augusta. favourable position for torpedo boat attack but
is surrounded by 2 lines of nets. Maximum 4
a/c, making their attack from same side, are
available. (ii) Is any information available as to (A) Efficiency
Italian net, (B) Chance of torpedo passing through the net,
(C) Chance of initial torpedo clearing a route for succeeding ones
(iii) Request very early reply as ship is expected to move.
(V.A.Malta 1002B/25 to Admty.(R) C. in C.Med).
My 1421B/24. Visual at 1005B/25 showed GORIZIA has left.
(V.A.Malta 1225B/25 to ? C. in C.Med (R) Admty. etc).
My 1225B/25, photograph confirms.
(V.A.Malta 1614B/25).
Your 1002B/25/5. A. Nets very similar to British A/T but
flotation and suspension weaker. B.Small. C. Best chance would
be attack in two ways with pistols set both contact, and non-
contact and hope that flotation of nets would be destroyed by
first explosion. Suggest also using 24 ft. depth setting in case
the net does not extend deeper than 20 ft.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1607B/25 to V.A.Malta (R) C. in C.Med).

Alexandria Weekly minesweeping summary. Channel swept twice
Minesweeping. daily until 21st, then once daily. R lighter
exploded acoustic mine outside channel 22nd
believed laid 8th.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1014C/25 to Admty.).

Drafting Your 2259/6 and C. in C. E.F. 0849/16. Consider
Organisation. most practicable and economical organisation would
be combined training centre and central drafting
pool for Mediterranean, Eastern and South
Atlantic Fleets, also central pool drafting office as part of
scheme with adjustment offices attached to staffs of respective
C. in C., using small ready use drafting pools as Fleet bases
to be kept as low as experience shows possible. Following are
some advantages.
3. R.A.T.E. A with Drafting Commander leaves Alexandria by air for
Kilindini on 31/5, subsequently proceeding to Durban and
Simonstown if found necessary.
(C. in C.Med. 1135C/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F., C. in C.E.I.
C. in C.S.A. R.A.T.E.).

Enemy Unit At 2141/24, P.C. and 3 of 200 ton barque 033° 20'
TAKU. 022° 01' 160° 5 knots.
(Capt.S.1. 1205C/25 to TAKU).

/"Hunt"....

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War Diary.25.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

"Hunt" Class Stabilisers. Your 1256/29/4. (re pros and cons of fitting stabilisers) Owing to heavy scale air attacks to be expected in Mediterranean consider increased accurate fire obtained by use of stabiliser is of greater value to "Hunt" Class on this station than increased endurance.
(C. in C.Med, 1221C/25 to Admty.).

Operation "Harpoon.". Your 1808/21(N.T. in W.D.) and V.A.Malta 1607/24. (N.T. in W.D.). Request 4 boats may accompany "Harpoon." This should enable V.A.Malta to (?keep) 2 serviceable
(C. in C.Med. 1301C/25 to Admty. (R).V.A.Malta, F.O.C.N.A.).

VALE FORMOSA II (Attacked 26/4.). Your 1805/22. As reported 421 R.S. 191 of 18/5 to D.N.I. Portuguese Naval Authorities are convinced that S/M was Italian. Consider best policy to say nothing. Ambassador concurs.
(N.A.Lisbon. 1516B/25 to Admty.).

Malta Air Report. I.323. 25/5. C.S.R. Part 1. Night 24/25. No raids. Part 2. Night 24/25. Wellington 8 shipping sweep 2207 hours 2 M/Vs 5000 and 1000 tons, 2 (?D/Rs) outside Albacore range 302° Benghazi 135 miles, course 160° 8 knots. Bombs dropped from 700 feet, 1 possible hit large M/V, D/R machine gunned. 2220 hours, 3 Mark 2 Wellingtons attacked, bombs dropped from 2000 feet, 4 straddled small M/V, large M/V and D/R machine gunned.
(H.Q.R.A.F.Malta. 1615/25).

June Malta Convoy. Following from Admiralty (0013B/23):- CLAN MACAULAY is to be excluded. Convoy will consist of 10 ships only (Ends). BULKOIL and CENTURION bring the number up to 12.
(C. in C.Med. 1719C/25, to V.A.Malta (R)Admty.

TURBULENT TAKU. By 2200C/27 establish patrols in vicinity position TAKU 034° 12' 018° 37'. TURBULENT 033° 57' 018° 43'.
(Capt.S.1. 1825C/25 to TURBULENT, TAKU.)
This was cancelled by Capt (S)1 0935C/26. q.v.

TURBULENT. You were probably sighted at 1500 today.
(Capt.S.1. 2017C/25 to TURBULENT).

/Enemy....

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25.5.1942.

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

Enemy Convoys. During period 1/4 to 13/5 26 convoys or escorted ships have passed East of Malta when in every case submarines have been available at sea for their interception. Only 9 of these convoys had air R/C. R/C and submarines made contact only 5 times of which 3 were successful. 7 of these convoys were single ships with 1 destroyer as escort.

2. Even when air R/C is available position errors prevent contact being made in about 50 per cent of cases.

3. In consequence of the above, submarines have been operated off enemy ports, and losses have been incurred owing to increasing efficacy of enemy's A/S measures and their increased scale in coastal waters.

4. A few aircraft of the right type would radically change this situation not only by increasing the number of contacts but by permitting us to attack shipping on ground of our own choosing when enemy A/S effort and risk to submarines is least.

5. We are developing means of homing by combination of D/F and RDF much more accurate than that used by enemy in Atlantic, but we cannot use it without aircraft of long range for twofold problem (A) Italy - Tripoli. (B) Italy - Benghazi. At present we cannot touch (A) and Wellington can only cover second night of (B), which is serious handicap.

6. Requirement is aircraft of (A) endurance sufficient to search, find and shadow for long enough to home the submarine. (B) Speed to reach Central Mediterranean from Egypt spending minimum time in daylight near enemy air Cyrenaica. (C) Armament to operate singly and cope with day and night fighters. (D) Long range ASV with homing attachment.

7. Liberator is obvious type. Catalina too slow, and we cannot count on Malta as air base. Inclusion 201 N.C.G. is essential.

8. On the above grounds and to counteract the effect of withdrawing 10th S/M.F. from Malta I can think of no more remunerative employment for 12 Liberators in terms of injury to the enemy, and I request that this proposal may receive most urgent consideration.

(C. in C.Med. 1931C/25 to Admty.). Reply: Admty 1256 B/27/7.

T. M. F. 26. 5. 42
C. G. = 1256 B/27/7

No immediate prospect of providing these Liberators other than the two Liberator Is which have been sent.

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.TANJORE
aground.Arrival BARQ 0230Z/25. TANJORE aground in
023° 54' N (?067°) 24' E.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0445Z/25, to Admty. etc.)
See 0348/28.

Air Report.

Burma. One Blenheim IV carried out offensive R/C
Chindwin River 24/5 between Sinhaung and Auktaung,
6 Sampans 3 Paddlesteamers, 12 Barges, river craft
at Auktaung machine gunned and hits observed.
(A.H.Q. India, 0450G.M.T./25).Trincomalee,
Port F.Your 1455/22. Admty Inspector of Moorings is
now examining moorings ex Calcutta at various
ports. 2. On receipt of his report C.in C. E.I.
is requested to inform me which moorings are
required at Trincomalee and Port F respectively when necessary
arrangements for shipment will be made.
F.O.C.R.I.N., 0555Z/25, to ? Admty (R) C.in C. E.I., C.in C.E.F.).
See also 1410Z/25.Enemy Use of
Twin-Engined
Bombers.Ref. our A.387 11/5* and your AX.514 16/5 (N.T.in
Admty) Reports of twin engined bombers received
from following sources. 1 report from Army A.A.
at Trincomalee, 4 from survivors from HERMES, 2
from Fighter Pilots at China Bay. Unlikely that
aircraft could have operated from Land bases and made such
perfect R/V with the Carrier Borne N.T.99, N.T.O, hence the
presumption that twins were also carrier borne. No further
confirmation available.
(Air H.Q.India, 0820/25 to Air Min. *Tactical notes Ceylon Area,
refers to "twin engined low wing bomber with retractable under
carriage, not yet identified, presumed carrier-borne".Dep.
C.in C.E.F.A.M. 2020/6. Rear Adm. Danckwerts will assume
appointment as Deputy C.in C. Eastern Fleet on
27/5.
(C.in C. E.F., 1021Z/25, to Admty).

Army Report.

12734/1 cipher 24/5. Total 3 river steamers,
23 Paddle steamers 9 barges Chindwin, north of
Kalewa, majority camouflaged. 12 paddle steamers
including 5 moored south of Yuwa, balance including 10 moored
between Yuwa and Thaugdut. 5 barges at Tamu. Comment. Paddle
steamers capacity probably 150 men or 90 tons. Recent rains
would permit navigation. Numbers seen suggest intention to
follow up but no evidence of more than 2 regiments 33 division
identified. Coast watchers report 1400/23 6 hostile flying
boats on the water one mile off shore 15 miles south of
Cocanada. Took off 1415 hours in N.E. direction.
(C.in C. India, 1130/25).

/POOLE

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War Diary.25.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. Contd.

POOLE
CROMER
CROMARTY
ROMNEY.

POOLE leaves Kilindini 0230Z/26 for Aden to await further orders from you. Ship needs docking as a result of serious mine explosion at Diego Suarez. Sweeping gear destroyed. CROMER, CROMARTY, and ROMNEY cleaning boilers and carrying out running repairs will be sailed about 30/5. ROMNEY's sweeping gear destroyed. New C.O. required for ROMNEY on arrival to replace Cdr. Sivewright who is being invalided home.
(C.in C.E.F., 1156Z/25 to C.in C.Med., (R) Admty. etc.).

Landing Craft ex Madagascar. Further to A.M.1747/22. Your 1845/20 para.1. If M.L.C.149 is a survivor it is desired that she be returned to U.K. Para. 3(A) Approved. C.in C. E.I. is requested to arrange for DERWENTDALE to load in India a cargo of furnace oil for discharge in U.K. Amount of cargo is left to discretion of master. Para. 3 (C) Approved.
Para. (E) Further signal will be made.
D. of S.T. and W.O. agree. A.C.N.S.(F) 1248B/25. to S.O. Force F. C.in C.E.I.).

Zigzagging. Your 1741/21. Propose merchant ships be ordered to zig-zag in area 7 A, 7 B, and 7 C as follows.
(a) When north of 015° S. and east of 065° E.
(b) Also in Arabian Sea when north of 015° N.
(c) Ships not to zig zag in Persian Gulf when west of 057° E.
(C.in C.E.I., 1301Z/25, to Admty (R) C.in C.E.F., etc.)

Intelligence for Ships. Before leaving Kilindini, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Durban or Capetown, S.O. of unit and C.O. of ships sailing singly are to ensure that the latest available Warship and Merchant Shipping Intelligence is obtained from the Local Navy Officer.
(C.in C.E.F., 1410Z/25, to Eastern Fleet).

Port F., Moorings. A.M. 1949/16.
(1) F.O.C.R.I.N. reports there are not suitable ships in Indian ports to lay moorings at Port F.
(2) B.D.V. BARLANE on passage to Aden is now at Bombay making good boiler defects and is the only suitable vessel available.
(3) Request BARLANE may be reallocated for laying moorings at Port F, proceeding to Aden on completion.
(C.in C.E.I., 1410Z/25, to Admty).

GUARDIAN. Intend GUARDIAN after loading to capacity with B.l.nets ex COMLIEBANK shall dock Durban, subsequently lay nets in Diego Suarez and Port Victoria, Seychelles.
(? C.in C.E.I., 1505Z/25 to C.in C.E.F., (R) Admty etc.).

/KIOTO

War Diary.25.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. Contd.KIOTO "Q"
Report.

QQQQ KIOTO. 20° 58' S. 38° 10' E. signalled by unknown vessel, challenge not answered. Slangkop W/T. 1530G.M.T./25, Burnham Radio, 1540 G.M.T./25. Intercepted 1925 G.M.T. de GRCD, Cancel my QQQQ KIOTO 1540 G.M.T. (Burnham Radio, 1620 G.M.T. Simonstown 1620 G.M.T./25).

Italian
Repatriations.

Embarked following Italian repatriates at Berbera. Total 2287 on DUILIO sailed 0945/24. Total 2197 on GIULIO CESARE sailed 2030/24. (G.O. C.in C., E.A., 1806/25).

Diego Suarez
Command.
S.O. Force H.

S.O. Force "F"s 1041/24.
A. Para. 1. Chiefs of Staff approve Gen. Sturges assuming duties of superior authority.
B. Para. 8. Adm. Syfret should return to Gibraltar as soon as practicable to resume duties as S.O. Force "H". He will retain title of S.O. Force "F" until re-assuming command of Force "H".
C. LAFOREY, LIGHTNING and LOOKOUT have been placed temporarily under orders of C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
D. C.in C. E.F. is to assume responsibility for allocation of naval forces to Madagascar. (V.C.N.S. 1949B/25 to C.in C.E.F. S.O. Force F.(R) C.in C.E.I. C.in C.S.A. F.O.C.N.A. V.A.3.).

FROBISHER.

After escorting LLANDAFF CASTLE to Diego Suarez FROBISHER is to be sailed to Mombasa. (C.in C.E.F., 1953Z/25 to S.O. Force F.).

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

SNOWBERRY. Your 1404Z/24 (N.T. in W.R.) Fuel not required defects. E.T.A. 1500Z/25 Asdic defective, require one rectifier (Wire) and one Gas Gap arrestor gear be forwarded to examination anchorage to effect necessary repairs. (SNOWBERRY, 0308Z/25 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

FRANK B BAIRD. Following received by Halifax W/T from ship using (Sunk 22/5). Call sign ZCWO T.O.O. 2245 G.M.T./24 "Canadian SS. FRANK B. BAIRD sunk by submarine gunfire 028° 05' N., 058° 50' W., at 1330 G.M.T./22. All 23 rescued". (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 0348Z/25 to Admty etc).

HAAKON HAUAN. SS. HAAKON HAUAN torpedoed about 35 miles S.W. pass posn. 28.45 N., 90.03 W. (HAAKON HAUAN. No. T.O.O. Recd. 0441/25). Received 0342 G.M.T. de WNU (New Orleans Radio), To WGBC 4 and 5, submarine attacking 28.45 N., 90.03 W., at 0228/25 NCD. Sub. off Perdido Bay heading southwest 2140/25 (as received). (Portishead Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 0610/25).

PARTHIAN My 1622/20 and 1942/21. PARTHIAN is again delayed. Further signal will be made. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1012P/25 to Opnav, (R) Admty etc).

Shipping Routes. Cancel my 1202/18 on receipt of M.A.R.I. amendment 13. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1102P/25 to R.O. Barbados, R.O. St. Lucia (R) Admty. etc).

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. Following from Tortola "From Capt. Campbell regarding vessel CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. To Coastguard St. Thomas or San Juan transmitted to Commissioner, British Virgin Islands. Captain's boat arrived today with 18 survivors (names). Both lifeboats left ship together and were in company 4 days. No one injured leaving vessel. Chief Officer's boat presumably steering W. by S. 260° from 022° 48' N., 058° 43' W. Please keep look out unless already arrived 24/5" (ends). British Consul R.O. St. Thomas V.I. intelligence Office proceeding Tortola 25/5. (R.N.O. St. Thomas, 1214/25 to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I., etc).

U/Bs Caribbean. Personal for C.N.S. from 1st S.L. I feel the result of introduction of convoy system on East Coast will be to drive U-boats into Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. Request as early reply as possible to my 2312B/21 (U.S. request for escort vessels). (1st S.L. 1221B/25 to N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

OESTELOIDE. (Brazilian) OESTELOIDE sailed Trinidad 10/5 for Para not arrived; have you any information? (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1223B/25 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad Georgetown, R.N.O. Paramaribo (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo, Admty. C. in C. A.W.I.) Reply S.O.(I) Montevideo 2219/27.

Escort for U.S. Ships. Your 1015/9 referring to my 2011/5 para 4 (A) U.S. Authorities wish to know if a delay of up to 48 hours could be accepted if necessary. (B.A.D., 1305Z/25 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) Admty).
My 1305/25. Admiralty's 1140B/25 (Re W.S.19 P. sailing postponed 24 hours) refers. (B.A.D., 1523Z/25 to R.A.W.A.)
Your 1305/25. This can be arranged if essential. (R.A.W.A., 2234Z/25 to B.A.D.)

BEATRICE (attacked 24/5). 22 Survivors from SS. BEATRICE attacked 1900/24 017° 21' N., 076° 07' W., landed Pigeon Island, details not yet available. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1306R/25 to Admty etc).

Tankers Gulf of Mexico. Request whether any restrictions on movements of Tankers in Gulf of Mexico are contemplated pending introduction of Convoy in that area. (A.C.N.S. (T), 1328B/25 to Cominch, (R) B.A.D. etc).
N.O.I.C. Kingston pass to S.O.(I) Kingston. Your despatch 1328B/25, negative. (Connav, 1954/25 to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Kingston).

RESTIGOUCHE, PRIMROSE. N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1857B/21 and my 1218Z/18 para.2 Grateful if effort could be made to expedite completion RESTIGOUCHE by 3 or 4 days so that she may sail to overtake 24.1.11 with O.N.100. Appreciate confirmation when information available and also that PRIMROSE can join same group. (F.O.N.F., 1344Z/25 to C.in C. W.A. C.T.24.7 etc).
Because of weakness of available escort and unless otherwise directed intend sailing PRIMROSE to re-inforce O.N.98. (C.T.G.24.7., 1430B/25 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, N.S.H.Q. Admty etc).

Cinclant, convoy telegrams. It is requested that Cinclant not, be included as information addressee in Convoy past sailing telegrams. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1440/25 to Admty).

Trinidad Sailings. Owners wish to sail ROSENBORN (Brit.) and CARTIERDOM (Brit.) to Mobile, speed both ships 6 knots. CARTIERDOC has not R/T. Your 1302/17 to F.O.I.C. (Suspension of sailings due to increased U-boat activity. Should these ships be sailed? Speed too slow for T.O. Convoy. (N.R.O. Trinidad, 1536Q/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Reply C. in C. A.W.I., 1822P/26.

/ROBERT...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

ROBERT TREAT PAIN, U/B. Havana reports (1) U.S. Ship ROBERT TREAT PAIN (A) shelled by two submarines 0600/24 116° true 100 miles Cabo Pepe Light, Isle of Pines (W) chased by one submarine two miles astern at 0632/24. U.S. Planes searched sighted nothing.
(2) Submarine reliably reported off Banes p.m./23.
(3) S.O.S. 23rd from ship off Cape Maysi too faint for name or position.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1541R/25 to Admty etc).

MAYFLOWER (U.S) U/B. Following has been recd. SSSS Received 1412 G.M.T. De NRWS (MAYFLOWER, U.S. Coastguard Cutter). 41.20 N., 69.15 W., engaging subs. V.C.S (MAYFLOWER, 1650/25).

Tankers, Trinidad. A.M. 2010B/21. Pending decision on proposal in A.M. 1226Z/21 eastbound tankers now at Trinidad ready to sail should be sailed to join appropriate O.T. convoys routed close to Trinidad
Dispersal routes of ships in O.T. convoys should be arranged with due consideration to latest intelligence as to U/B situation east of Lesser Antilles chain.
It may be necessary to amend instructions in second sentence of A.M. 2010Z/21 depending on any action taken on proposal in A.M. 1226B/21.
(D.T.D., 1712B/25 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) N.C.S.O. Trinidad S.O.(I) Kingston) Reply: C. in C. A.W.I., 1032/26.

U.S. Request for Escort Vessels. Your 2305B/21, I have been in touch with Adm. Little who informed me that Adm. King might wish to hold a conference at Washington to study this subject. It now appears doubtful if this conference will be held and I will reply to your signal shortly.

2. My impression is that U.S. Navy intends to use larger escorts for their coastal convoys than we have ever visualized. My St. Lawrence escort at present consists of only 1 Bangor Minesweeper plus new construction ship on passage Quebec to Sydney (C.B.)
(C.N.S., Canada, 1712Z/25 to Admty for 1st S.L.)
Personal for 1st S.L. Your 2126/21 (Circulated in Admty as 2305/21) I consider it unwise now to further reduce ships available in ocean escort, and will therefore seek other means for solution of Gulf of Mexico problem.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1720/25 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q. etc).

U.S. Navy and Trinidad. Your 1641/7. We agree that responsibilities of S.N.O. at Trinidad should now be transferred from British to Americans, and that para. 23 of A.B.C. 3 should be amended accordingly.
2. Intended shortly to relieve Sir Michael Hodges as S.B.N.O. Trinidad, by a retired officer serving in the rank of Captain. It would be convenient if an officer of greater seniority than this could be appointed as Senior U.S. Naval Officer.
3. We understand there to be no proposal at present for U.S. to relieve British of any of the operation or manning of vessels

/or...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.comT:-

U.S. Navy or equipment (as was suggested in Iceland).
and Trinidad In the event of such a proposal being made, we
Contd. feel that it will be more satisfactory for A/S
fixed defences to continue British-manned,
administered by the S.B.N.O. but under operational
control of U.S.
Your para 3. Sub.-para. (A) to (E) inclusive. Agree.
Sub-para. (F). Examination and inspection of British Merchant
Ships must continue to be carried out by British Officers.
Legal considerations make it essential for the exercise of
Contraband Control to be done by British also.
Sub.-Para. (G) Agree as regards harbour patrols but we prefer
that executive control of anchoring and berthing outside U.S.
Fleet anchorage should be exercised by British Officers.
Sub-paras. (H) and (I). We are averse to modification of
"Busra" as proposed in your para.4. Although as contended by
Cominch the situation has changed since the beginning of the year
it has not materially altered since "Busra" was concluded.
"Busra" sect. D. (c) seems designed to cover the very situation
which is now envisaged i.e. British N.C.S.Os. acting as agents
for the U.S. in an area commanded by U.S. Naval Authorities.
Sub-para. (J). Agree, with the proviso that our own cypher
organization and administrative communications are not interfered
with.
4. A separate telegram will be sent concerning training
restrictions at Piarco. The transfer of responsibility is likely
to make it still more difficult to ensure that Piarco training
facilities are not impeded. Suggested you should take the
opportunity when communicating decision in para .1 to re-inforce
your representations about Piarco.
(Head of M. Approved V.C.N.S. 1721B/25 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.
A.W.I.)

ELIZABETH. 36 survivors SS. ELIZABETH (U.S.) expected Havana
today.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1726R/25 to Admty etc).

U/B 25/5 Subs. estimate.
positions. (Cominch 1723/25 1726/25, to Admty).

E.P. THERIAULT British Schooner, attacked 0200/24, 20/5 50
miles W by S. Tortaga presumed lost, Master
entire crew arrived Havana.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1728R/25 to Admty etc).

Floating My 2339/11. Completion of "Bat 7" further
Dock. delayed. Dock now unlikely to leave before 24/6.
(B.A.D., 1843Z/25 to Admty (R) R.A.W.A.,
C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.25.5.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

N.A.10, C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail convoy
A.T.16. N.A. 10 carrying R.A.F. and Military personnel
on 3/6 in company with convoy A.T.16 to U.K.
2. Convoy N.A.10 comprises DUCHESS OF YORK and
BATTERY, destinations Liverpool and Clyde respectively.
3. Convoy A.T.16 carrying U.S. personnel will comprise U.S.
troopships ^{troopships} BARRY, SIBONEY, and MUNARGO. Destinations Belfast.
4. Speed of slowest ship 14 knots.
5. Escort will be provided by U.S. Task Force 35 comprised of
NEW YORK, NIBLACK, BENSON, GLEAVES, MAYO, LIVERMORE and KEARNY.
6. Route will be promulgated by Connav.
(D.O.D. (H) 1857B/25 to C.O.A.C.Halifax, (R) C.T.F.35 etc).
Para. 3 amended. See 1923/28.

PEISANDER PEISANDER torpedoed and sunk 1700/17 G.M.T. in 037°
(sunk 17/5) 24' N., 063° 38' W. Chief Officer reports C.
Books were thrown overboard in weighted bag by
Radio Operator. My 1902 following gives names of
survivors landed at Nantucket from 2 lifeboats.
Search for third boat continues. None known lost.
(B.R.O. Boston Mass. 1822Z/25 1902Z/25 to Admty
(R) N.S.H.Q.)

Shipping Observing that (a) O.N. and O.N.(S) Convoys now
Instructions. continue to Boston and (b) the instructions in
M.A.R.I. Sect. II para 9 and Sect. IV para. 12 have
been suspended in view of U/B danger, it is
proposed, if you concur, to cancel these
instructions.
(D.T.D., 1915B/25 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C.)
Reply: N.S.H.Q. 2213Z/26.
M.A.R.I. Amendment No. 14.
(D.T.D., 1919B/25 to C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.
C.O.A.C. etc).

Route My 1222/21 and related signals. In absence of
Signals, instructions to the contrary, I intend to
Codes. instruct B.R.Os. and R.Os. in Jamaica Intelligence
Area to continue to send Vescas and route signals
in British code to all same authorities as
hitherto until otherwise ordered, regardless of the fact that
U.S.R.Os. may be instructed to send similar messages in U.S.
Code. This is essential so far as I am concerned as I am not
to be supplied with U.S. code.
2. Presume U.S. Liaison Officers at Bermuda and at British
Ports in West Indies (B.A.D., 1705/3/4 refers) will be respon-
sible for sending these signals in U.S. Code.
3. At ports where there is no U.S. routing or reporting Officer
(e.g. San Pedro de Macoris) route signals and Vescas can of
course be sent in British code only.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1922P/25 to Admty (R) B.A.D, N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I)
Jamaica). Para. 2 cancelled by 2232P /26, q.v. Admty Reply:
1551/27.

/Your...

War Diary.

25.5.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. conts.

Route Signals, Codes - Contd. Your 1222/21. Ref. B.A.D's 1945Z/18 and 2341Z/18 para. 1. We should have preferred that you should be issued with shipping Control Cypher No. 1. as this would have (a) Avoided the duplication involved in your receiving Vesca and British Route signals for British Shipping; and (b) Given you a complete picture of Allied Shipping in your area. In view of B.A.D's 1945Z/18 it is proposed to accept alternative B in your 1152P/17.

2. When the terms of Busra were discussed the duplication was only intended to cover any loss of information due to the new system not immediately functioning at full efficiency. It was not intended that duplication should continue until the U.S. took over diversions.

3. It is recognised that when Busra has been brought into full effect you will no longer be able to exercise control over the routes of Merchant Shipping in your area. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1951B/25 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica).

T.H.2. N.S.H.Q's 2015Z/19 para 4. Request you will sail convoy T.H.2 approx. 4/6 with SUDBURY and THE PAS as escort. CLIO, STANVAC, *CAPETOWN, J.H.SENIOR, F.Q. BARSTOW and SUNOIL should be ready and convoy may be complete to six by inclusion of Admty tankers capable of 10 knots. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 2044Z/25 to F.O.I.C. Trinidad (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.(I) Jamaica). *? CAPETOWN CASTLE

U/B, Shipping Losses. Connav Serial 24 and 25 MARGARET U.S. and CONNECTICUT tanker overdue and both now considered lost. *WATSONVILLE Panama torpedoed and sunk 23/5 off St. Vincent Island entire crew rescued. CLARE torpedoed and sunk 20/5 21.33 N. 84.39 W. 14 survivors 26 missing. GEORGE CALVERT U.S. torpedoed and sunk 20/5 23.03 N., 84.17 W. 47 survivors. SAMUEL G. BROWN torpedoed and sunk 23/5 20.15 N., 84.37 W. (Connav, 2045/25 to Admty). * See next page.

Sub. attack and Sighting Summary. Unknown vessel presumably attacked and sunk 20.03 N., 81.50 W., approx. 1802Z/24. BEATRICE shelled 17.21 N., 76.07 W., 2345Z/24. HAAKON HAUAN torpedoed 28.45 N., 90.03 W., approx. 0220Z /25. Unknown vessel* torpedoed 39.42 N., 73.53 W. approx. 1900Z/25. Sub. sighted on surface by navy plane 38.25 N., 74.37 W., 1126Z/25. Sub reported vicinity 21.45 N. 70.30 W. Surface and aircraft attack subs on surface 17.23 N. 71.28 W. approx 0300Z/25 41.20 N., 69.14 W., 1355Z/25. Opnav and B.A.D. informed. (Cominch, 2054/25 to Admty for O.I.C.) *PERSEPHONE.

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War Diary.

25. 5. 1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

KOPPERSTON
(?U/B)

Following received from Portishead Radio.
Intercepted 2054 G.M.T. C. Q. de WSC SSSS de
KOPPERSTON, sighted suspicious object 39° 59' N.,
73° 59' W. Controlling station Nickerton Radio.
(Burnham on Sea Radio, No T.O.O./25 Recd. 2305/25)

Westbound
Convoy
Routes.

As instructions in M.A.C.R. 3 may be out of date
when ships arrive on U.S. Atlantic Coast and as
ships are convoyed during a part of their voyage
on that coast, N.C.S.Os. in U.K. have been
instructed not to give ships in westbound convoys
routeing instructions beyond Boston.
(D.T.D., 2118B/25 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C.)
Reply: N.S.H.Q., 1912/26.

U.S. Navy
Dispositions.

Serial No. 23. Changes my 182249 locations.
(Cominch, 2120/25 to Admty (R) Comnaveu)
See Lion Copy.

WATSONVILLE
(sunk 23/5).

Administrator, St. Vincent, reports SS. WATSONVILLE
torpedoed and sunk by S/M at 1615/23 in position
6 miles from Kingsley Town on true bearing 221°
All officers and men rescued. Nationality Panama,
recently transferred, owned by Antrobus Pacific
Com. New York, under charter with Alcoa Steamship
Co.
(Govr. Windward Isles, No T.O.O./25 to S. of S.
for Colonies.) *See previous page.*

MOST SECRET

760A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2120/25th May

IN

From Cominch.

Date 26.5.42.

Recd. 0820.

OPNAV 'X' BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty Repeated COMNAVEU.

Serial 23.

Changes my 132249 locations.

Atlantic. BBS TEXAS due Charleston 26th May.

WASHINGTON left Iceland (C) 23rd May/5.

CVS. RANGER due Norra Bay 28th May/5.

WASP due Norfolk 27th May/5.

CAS WICHITA left Iceland 'C' 23rd May.

AUGUSTA due Newport 28th May/5.

CLS MILWAUKEE, OMAHA, patrol near Rocas Island, and PHILADELPHIA
at Panama.

BROOKLYN due Norfolk 27th May/5.

MEMPHIS at Miami.

CINCINNATI overhaul until 20th June/6.

Pacific. BBS NEVADA ready about 1st October.

CCS SARATOGA at San Diego

LEXINGTON, YORKTOWN, ENTERPRISE, HORNET, in Central area.

CAS PENSACOLA, ASTORIA, NORTHAMPTON, PORTLAND, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS,
VINCENNES en route Pearl.

INDIANAPOLIS left Bleacher 22nd May for Pearl.

CLS DETROIT left San Fran 22nd May for Pearl.

ATLANTA en route Pearl.

ST. LOUIS left Pearl 23rd May.

HONOLULU due Pearl 27th May.

BOISE overhaul until 21st June.

Northern Pacific. NASHVILLE in Area.

Southern Pacific. CLS ACHILLES at Samoa.

LEANDER at Efate.

SouthWest Pacific. CHICAGO at Sydney.

PHOENIX left Fremontic 17th May. *Ret: 23/5. - See p. 713*

Opnav and B.A.D. Washington informed.

2120/25.

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

1st Lord

1st S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (H)

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

Duty Capt. (2)

A.E. (3) for COMNAVEU

D.A/S.W.

Head of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

D.N.A.D.

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25.5.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Serial No. 123 from C W R 24/5. Vunakanau Aerodrome, Rabaul, attacked by 3 B 26 at 0001Z/24. Direct hits on 2 heavy bombers. 19 bombs fell amongst 18 heavy bombers causing fire. 1 building set on fire. 1 B 26 damaged, 1 missing. No intercepts. Unusual intense heavy A/A fire and intense M/G fire encountered. (2) Allied air R/C 24/5 reports no shipping but three fighter aircraft Kavieng, 2 small vessels at Talamoa, and 5 large 7 small ships 8 seaplanes in Rabaul harbour. (A.C.N.B., 1138Z/25, to Admty. etc.)

Disposition. Main Naval Units, Australian Station, 25/5. Sydney. ARUNTA, KANIMBLA, MANOORA, WESTRALIA, Neth. Cruiser TROMP, U.S. Cruiser CHICAGO, U.S. Destroyers PARROTT, PERKINS, FUCHER, U.S. Aircraft Tender WRIGHT, U.S. Destroyer Tender BLACK HAWK, refitted ADELAIDE, LE TRIOMPHANT, U.S. Destroyer PRESTON, U.S.S. VICTORIA. Departure Sydney 22/5 for Noumea, U.S. Destroyers BULMER, PAUL JONES. Brisbane AUSTRALIA, HOBART, ALSEY, ATREUS, U.S. Cruiser SALT LAKE CITY, U.S. Destroyers FLUSSER, HELM, HENLEY, U.S.S. GRIFFIN U.S. Gunboat TULSA; repairing U.S. Destroyer WALKER. Due Brisbane 26/5 from Noumea, BUNGAREE, from Tangatabu, U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. * Not identified. Port Phillip, CANBERRA. Melbourne, repairing VENDETTA. Fremantle. VOYAGER U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX, U.S. Aircraft Tender HERON, U.S.S. OTUS, ERLING BROVIG, LANAKA, U.S. Destroyer PORTER. Departure Fremantle 24/5 on escort duty STUART. Albany (? U.S. S/M Tender HOLLAND). Exmouth Gulf (? U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS). (A.C.N.B. 1916Z/25). * Not identified.

NAGASAKI MARU Japanese announced 25/5 that the 5,268-ton mined liner NAGASAKI MARU sank near Nagasaki on May 13 with a loss of 13 persons killed and 26 missing. The sinking of the vessel was attributed to a Japanese mine. (The Times 26/5/42).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1452B/25, 1455B/25).

WILLIAM B. -
PRESTON -
-Plane Tender

War Diary.

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

SCHEER, LÜTZOW, and 4 destroyers were seen by aircraft at anchor at Bogen this forenoon. R/C of Trondheim failed.

British Air Operations.

The Chiefs of Staff send today a message outlining their appreciation of the most effective air action which can be taken against U-Boats in operation and building.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy P.Q. 16 was again reported by aircraft at 0115 today. There was also evidence of additional aircraft activity off the north coast of Norway. At 0740B U-Boats were being homed on to P.Q. 16 by shadowing aircraft. EMPIRE STARLIGHT at Murmansk was attacked again twice today and was further damaged.

Mediterranean.

H.M. Drifter EDDY was mined and sunk off Grand Harbour, Malta at 1630.

The advance of the enemy in Libya appears to have commenced today.

An aircraft claims 4 hits with bombs on a U-Boat at 2307 in 32.29 N. 24.43 E.

War Diary.

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet inquires today whether further operations to complete the occupation of Madagascar are contemplated and for how long it is intended to retain a battleship at Diego Suarez. M/S and A/S vessels and destroyers now allocated to Diego Suarez are urgently required elsewhere, especially at Kilindini and Seychelles where the present scale of defence in this respect is lamentably deficient. The Admiralty replied on 28/5 that further operations were not intended.

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H.F. destroyers.
Re-organisation.

On relief of Captain Todd in INGLEFIELD, intend to make the following re-organisation of H.F. destroyers.
2. "E"'s and "I"'s form part of 8th D.F.
3. Hunts form part of 6th D.F.
4. Ms. form part of 17th D.F. until arrival of MILNE. After arrival MILNE Ms. to become 3 D.F. (R.A.D. H.F., 1130B/26 to Admty).

U.S. Atlantic Forces.

My 1553B/19. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Atlantic:-
Battleships. TEXAS due Charleston 26th May.
WASHINGTON left Iceland (C) 23rd May.

Aircraft Carriers. RANGER due Narragansett Bay 28th May.
WASP due Norfolk 27th May.

8" Cruisers. WICHITA left Iceland (C) 23rd May. AUGUSTA due Newport 28th May.

6" Cruisers MILWAUKEE, OMAHA, on patrol near Rocas Island.
PHILADELPHIA, At Panama, BROOKLYN Due Norfolk 27th May.
MEMPHIS at Miami, CINCINNATI Refitting until 20th June.
(D.O.D. (F.), 1814B/26 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. A.W.I.)

M.G.Bs. at Portland.

/H.T. in W.D.
Admty. 1344B/26. Until return to Portland of M.G.Bs. 53, 52, 55, and 57 now at Dover, there are no vessels of 4th M.G.B. Flotilla available at Portland.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1855B/26 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Flag of V.A.2.

Flag of V.A.2 is to be transferred from NELSON to RODNEY at colours tomorrow.
(A.C.O.S., 2129B/26).

Movements.

ARGUS,
BEAGLE,
DOUGLAS.

My position approximate course and speed 046° 20', 016° 40', 010° 20. Please make P one's on 4400 kc/s at 1100B to enable me to D/F you. (BEAGLE, 0930B/26 to ARGUS).
Not met in 046° 45', 016° 45' at 1445B/26.

My course and speed 010° 18 knots.

(BEAGLE, 1507B/26 to ARGUS)
ARGUS in company with BEAGLE and DOUGLAS 047° 30' N., 016° 37' W. making good 16 1/4 knots. E.T.A., 1550Z/28.
(ARGUS, 1830B/26 to Admty).

WELSHMAN.

A.M.1614/22. WELSHMAN completed temporary repairs and loading of stores and proceeded down river to Tail O' The Bank 1000/26.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1033B/26).

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War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.WELSHMAN
Contd.

A.M. 1610B/25. Route for WELSHMAN: via Irish Sea thence Q.Z.F. 18 to A. 180° Fastnet 10 miles B. 048° 59' N., 014° 01' W. C. 040° 40', 013° 59', D. 230° Cape St. Vincent 15 miles, thence Gibraltar.

(C. in C. W.A., 1059B/26).

A.M. 1610B/25. WELSHMAN leaves Clyde about 1800B/28. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1508B/26).

P.45

1. It is intended to sail P.45^{to Holy Loch} escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1430B/31 via Sounds of Islay and Mill and the Minches for Scapa. E.T.A. 0630B/2.

(Capt. S.3., 1425B/26).

RUBIS.

Captain (S) 9 1629/25.

1. Intend sailing JAN VAN GELDER at 2230B/29 to R/V with RUBIS in position A. 055° 19' N., 006° W. at 0500B/30 and escort her to B. 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles. E.T.A. 2300B/31.

2. Thence RUBIS as routed by F.O.S.

(Capt. S.3., 1459B/26).

14th M.G.B.
Flotilla.

My 1445B/26. Returned Portsmouth owing to weather.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1530B/26 to V.A. Dover).

NELSON.

On completion of exercises p.m. tomorrow proceed to Clyde, thence acting in accordance with Admiralty 1900B/17.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1603B/26 to NELSON).

DELHI.

Request that efforts be made to complete DELHI's trials by p.m./6th June when ship will be sailed to Clyde for operations.

A period of six days from p.m./10 June to p.m./16 June will be available for ship to work up in the Clyde area.

On or about 20/6 DELHI will sail for Rosyth for her A.A. trials. (D.G.D., 2135B/26 and 0856B/27 to C. in C. Plymouth).

You are requested to sail DELHI for Clyde p.m./6th June.

(D.O.D. (H.), 2136B/26 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operations.Iceland -
Faeroes
Patrol.

Estimated position at 2000 tonight. KENYA on patrol South of Iceland.

(A.C.O.S., 1438/26).

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Trials of Type 251. HARVESTER. HARVESTER is to carry out trials of type 251 with Wellington aircraft. Arrangements. (Cmdre. Londonderry, 1653/26 to HARVESTER).

H.34 H.34 will be exercising in Area C off Plymouth from 0630B/27 till 1430B/28. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1911B/26 and 2218B/26).

British Air Activity.

Anti U-boat Measures. Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 186 referring to J.S.M. 239. Discussion of various alternative methods of air-attack. (Air Ministry, 0957Z/26) See Lion Copy.

Enemy Air Activity.

Southampton Area attacked. Air raid in Southampton area 26/5. Warning 1543, all clear 1625. No damage to report. (N.S.O. Woolston, 1650/26 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Convoy P.Q.16. Reported by A/C. See Shipping.

Murmansk. EMPIRE STARLIGHT attacked. EMPIRE STARLIGHT attacked. EMPIRE STARLIGHT attacked twice by bombers since yesterday. Second concentrated attack this evening by 10 planes. It was observed that among bombs dropped were several of apparently new type which exploded 40 feet above surface of water.

- (2) All bombs missed steamer but cracks on bulkhead appear extended.
- (3) No casualties but several of crew suffered from blast.
- (4) Gunners did good work and portions of one plane fell on deck though plane was not seen to fall.
- (5) As this is now fourth bombing attack on EMPIRE STARLIGHT decided to bring crew ashore and have arranged accommodation. (Cormack, 2217B/26 to Admty).

Mining.

Yarmouth LL Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1520 today in 065° 57 Buoy 5 Cables. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1537B/26 and 1312B/30).

Harwich. Magnetic mine detonated by M.M/S at 1326 in 52° 05.7' N., 01° 37' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1709B/26 and 1847B/26).

1st Lt. d
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. F1 (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
P.A.S. (S)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
~~S E C R E T~~
D.M. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C. (2)
E.P.S.
Hd. of M.
12. 2)

A

766A

OZ 287

T00 0957Z/26

T0D 1250/26

MOST IMMEDIATE

From:- Air Ministry

To:- Britman, Washington

OZ 287

26/5/42

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 186.

Reference J.S.M. 239. We agree with Admiral King's appreciation of situation in the Atlantic. We share his views on the vital importance of effective air action against enemy U-boats in operation and building, as well as against surface forces in harbour.

2. Day bombing against U-boat bases is rarely practicable, night bombing cannot be relied upon to affect seriously the operation of U-boats which are small targets in well-protected shelters, and whose crews are generally out of harms way; nevertheless, attacks on U-boat bases are being carried out where circumstances offer reasonable chance of success.

3. Attacks on U-boat building yards have already been considerable and are being increased. Night bombing only is practicable and, although the general effect on morale in Germany may be great, it must be recognised that with the present available effort no guarantee can be given that decisive material damage will be done to U-boat building resources. Weather and other factors often restrict the choice of targets, and as a result not more than 30% of the total bombing effort can be expected to apply directly to U-boat construction, even if the priority of these targets should override all others.

4. Attacks at sea not only dispose of the submarine but also destroy the valuable trained crew, which is equally important. The technique is improving both for day and night attacks.

/5.

5. Analysis of sinkings of merchant vessels, and of aircraft sighting of U-boats, reveals clearly that extension of the zone in which aircraft operate at sea affords greatly improved protection to shipping and opportunity for effective and powerful offensive against U-boats.

6. It is agreed that U-boats en route between their bases and their objectives cover wide areas but there is a distinct and vulnerable focal area in the Bay of Biscay. Attacks by aircraft in this area have shown considerable promise and steps are being taken to intensify them. This is a practicable operation and important success should be gained with a reasonable number of aircraft, but it is essential to extend the area with long-range aircraft so that the U-boat must surface within our zone of air operations. At present we have not enough long-range aircraft in the United Kingdom for this extension and additional aircraft would greatly enhance our prospect of success.

Even if U-boats are only forced to dive their operational period is reduced and the effect on the morale of the crews is considerable.

7. Whilst agreeing that the offensive against building yards is very important, we consider the air action most urgently required to deal with the immediate menace is a sustained and intensive attack against U-boats near their objectives, and on leaving and returning to their bases.

8. In balancing the claims on our resources for these two forms of offensive action it must be remembered that long range aircraft are not readily interchangeable. The training of crews and the technical equipment vary considerably.

9. It will be recognised that the long hours of daylight in Norway make air attack on surface vessels in harbour exceedingly difficult and uneconomical. Our experience at Brest emphasised the great effort required to ensure results, even at comparatively close range, in face of the scale of defences the enemy has developed. No reasonable opportunity to attack enemy surface forces by air or other means will be neglected.

T.O.O. 0957z/26

Circulation

Col. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
War Registry, Admiralty
C.6. Tels., War Office
C.A.S.

MOST SECRET

766B

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1700/26th May

IN

From Sullom Vow.

Date 28.5.42.

INT. GEN (X) BY T/P.

Recd. 1515.

RECIRCULATION

Addressed Form ORANGE to 18 Group. Repeated O.I.C. Admiralty,
H.Q.C.C.

IMMEDIATE.

(A) 1. SUL/02/26/5. (2) RO/G7/22/5 (3) Catalina P/210 Sea
Camouflage Captain F/L Healy Navigator P/O Schofield (4) Nil
(B) Special Recco. Airborne 1132/25 at 1148 met course from North
set? for South Cape at 2155 distance 18 miles Bear Island
Altered course for South Cape reached at 2328 at 2359 off Kapp Borthon
at 400 ft. directly overhead wrecked M/V 'USSR' on side 1500 tons
approx. Tall funnel stepped aft, wide clear deck. Possibly
timber ship No sign of life photographed. At 0035 W/T Station
at Kapp Linne apparently deserted made two circuits at 0035 coasted to
Advent Bay reached at 0100 Saw wreckage of HE 111 attacked by
P/210 on 12th May obviously abandoned No sign of activity sinking
through ice Photographed coasted to Gronfjorden reached at 0115.
Investigated burning wrecked village at 0118 Aldin Lamp flashed
from hut at entrance to Fjord position 78 degs. 05' North 14 degs.
10' East First flashed 'Fritham' then passed message "Ships sunk.
Nothing saved. Survivors here. Germans Advent Bay. Is daily
morning recco in force. Help essential" Message followed on
'Some Survivors' then message obscure either 'Sverdrup' or
'Svalbard' 'and wounded here' P/210 replied 'Recco when weather
O.K. Will organise help. God Bless' No signs of activity in
Kapp Linne or Advent Bay or any personnel seen except survivors
who flashed above message. For purpose of rendering assistance
to survivors there is a large lead in Isfjord on which an aircraft
might be landed and certainly could be in the near future. In
addition there is a very narrow and artificial lead presumably made
by survivors connecting main lead to a point in Gronfjorden near where
survivors are camped at 0145 set course from Kapp Linne for Akureyri
but discontinued recco owing to head winds and time spent at Isfjord.
Recco of Knadchuken not carried out and ice recco commenced on
leaving Kapp Linne. Whilst on recco at 0609 encountered thick fog
belt with sever icing. Altered course at 0617 to fly round east
side of fog belt all projecting parts of A/C two ins. thick ice
which formed between 0609 and 0917. Visibility Nil A/C forced
to fly at 20 ft. and unable to climb above. Discovered that with
33 ins. boost and 210 revs. maximum speed obtainable 85 knots.
At 0648 decided to return Base owing to message from Base giving
landing conditions and mean wind Landfall Yell Sound at 1416
Waterborne 1427/26 The port of recco carried out 100% effective
Ice recco report to follow. Photographs taken (H) 1. Spitzbergen
(2) 2310-0125 (3) 5 miles (4) 10/10 Stratus at 1000 ft.
(5) 315 degs. T 8 knots at 400 ft. (7) Hozy (8) Some fog south
Spitzbergen Severe ice in thick fog N.E. of Jan Mayen
T.C.O. 1700;

1700/26.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.C.D. (H) (2)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.L. 9.

D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
Hd. of M.
D.N.M.S.
Cdr. Holbrook
D.P.D.
Ad. Bloke
I.P. (2)
W.D.

War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

- Q.S.6. Operation Q.S.6.
 1. A total of 103 British mines were swept including 1 which detonated in BANGOR's sweep at the Otter. Mines were approximately 9 cables 122° from reputed position, otherwise correctly laid.
 2. A total of 138 British mines were disposed of.
 3. One German X star mine was swept and sunk by rifle fire in 52° 22' N., 2° 32½ E.
 (M/S 9, 1730B/26 to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER, 1 Pocket Battle Ship 1 Cruiser 4 Destroyers
 LUTZOW. Anchored at Bogen.
 Trondheim. (A/C 5 NTW 1030/26 to 18 Group).
 First R/C Ofotfiord 1030/26. Photographs show SCHEER, LUTZOW, and 4 destroyers at Bogen.
 Second sortie now being flown. Trondheim R/C failed.
 (D.D.I.C., 1710B/26).

North Russians report. 23rd May sailed from Bek Fiord
 Norway. unknown number of transports, Harstad 1 destroyer,
 Ingo 1 destroyer, Pers Fiord 1 Transport and 3
 Trawlers, course North. 25th May 71° 35', 23° 41'
 one submarine Ingo 1 destroyer.
 (Ad. Miles, 1614C/26 to Admty).

U-Boats.

U-boat U-boat attacked by escort of P.Q.16 may if damaged
 attacked. pass on the surface between zones K.26 and K.29
 before 0001 tomorrow.
 (F.O.S., 1607B/26 to S/Ms)

U-boat D/F bearings at 1810Z/26 indicate U/B on a line
 reported. 020°/200° passing through 71° N., 9° 30' E.
 (D.D.I.C., 2126B/26 to S/Ms)

Navigational.

8 B 8 B Light Buoy extinguished. Report not yet
 Light Buoy. confirmed.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1036B/26).

Skokholm Hydrographer's No. 48/H 010/42 dated 6/5/42.
 light. Propose to arrange for Skokholm light to be
 available only on request and when so exhibited
 to operate as follows:-
 (a) In clear weather to show every 3 minutes every 15 minutes
 at reduced power.
 (b) In fog or low visibility to show continuously at full power.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1815B/26).

War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- GLEN USK My 1815/26. Tug IRISHMAN and GLEN USK berthed Immingham at 0010/26. Tug YORKSHIREMAN with salvage officer in attendance. (F.O. Humber, 0030/26).
GLEN USK berthed Immingham Dock 0200/26. Water under control of salvage pumps. (Salvage Officer, 0230/26 to F.O. Humber).
- LANCASHIRE M.F.V. MADELINE CAMILLE caused slight damage to
COAST. SS. LANCASHIRE COAST at 0945/26 in Methil Roads. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1116/26).
- RESTIGOUCHE. Your 1344Z/25. It will be impossible to complete repairs to RESTIGOUCHE before 6/6. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1608B/26 to F.O.N.F.)
- GEMINI. 57° (720') N., 32° 20' W. Wheel broken. (GEMINI, 1624/26 to Navycharge, Greenock). Sailed Tug JAUNTY at 2100B to assist. U.S. GEMINI reported in 57° 55' N., 32° 19' W., at 1734/25. (A.C.I.C., 2118B/26).
- Survivors at Report of R/C by Catalina P/210.
Gronfiorden, Investigated burning wrecked village at
Spitzbergen. Gronfiorden. At 0118/26 Aldin Lamp flashed from hut at entrance to Fjord position 78° 05' N., 14° 10' E. First flashed 'Fritham', then passed message "Ships sunk. Nothing saved. Survivors here. Germans Advent Bay. Is daily morning R/C in force. Help essential". Message following on 'Some Survivors', then message obscure either 'Sverdrup' or 'Svalbard' 'and wounded here' P/210 replied "Recco when weather O.K. Will organise help. God Bless". No signs of activity in Kapp Linne or Advent Bay or any personnel seen except survivors who flashed above message. For purpose of rendering assistance to survivors there is a large lead in Isfjord on which an aircraft might be landed and certainly could be in the near future. In addition there is a very narrow and artificial lead presumably made by survivors connecting main lead to a point in Gronfjorden near where survivors are camped. (Sullom Voe, 1700/26 to 18 Group).
- HAWKINS. Have proceeded to Plymouth to make good defects due to failure of pads in thrust block port after H.P. Turbine. (HAWKINS, 1732B/26).
- ARUNDEL ARUNDEL CASTLE has grounded on East Mud
CASTLE. between numbers 1 and 3 buoys Newport approach channel. It is hoped to refloat vessel at high water a.m./27. Position is not considered dangerous. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1812B/26)

/BRIGHTON...

769

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BRIGHTON. My 1916/22. Source of salt water content in lubricating oil cannot be located and contamination must therefore be accepted. Intend to arrange for continuous separation at sea at oil temperature up to 140 F. Anticipate time required 5 to 6 days excluding circulation of oil, fuel, sea and full power trials. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2316/26).

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.16 Convoy P.Q.16 was again reported by aircraft at 0115/26. There was also evidence of additional aircraft activity off the North Norwegian Coast. (D.D.I.C., 0232B/26 to P.Q.16, A.I.G.47).

At 0704B/26 U-boats were being homed on to Convoy P.Q.16 by shadowing aircraft.

(D.D.I.C., 0739B/26 to P.Q.16, A.I.G.47, S/MS on Patrol).

Your 1930/25. 2 Russian Submarines in Areas 11 and 10 B and Area 2 have been ordered to transmit W/T signals when N. and N.E. of their respective Areas 26th May, 27th May. (?Further) help refused on ground that Submarines cannot leave coastal patrol zones.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0824B/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F., C.S.10 Ad. Miles).

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 0824B/26. D.C.N.S is going to try and persuade C. in C. Northern Fleet to move the submarines on coastal patrol out to area nearer convoy route.

Reinforcement of northern bomber force is held up by bad weather but every endeavour is being made to expedite this move.

(Ad. Miles, 1554/26 to Admty).

Russian report enemy A/C reported P.Q.16 73° 15' N., 10° 50' E., at 2010B, course 070° speed 8 knots, transmitted to Bardufos. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2242B/26 to Admty, C.S.10 P.Q.16).

S.C.83 S.C.83. Average speed 6.71 knots. Intermittent fog until 11th May, contrary winds 15th and 16th very good weather thereafter. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D., 1513B/26 to Cominch).

W.S.19 P. W.S.19 P. N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1026/26. MANSFIELD is to be sailed to arrive Barry Roads at 1000/28 and is then to escort CATHAY and STAFFORDSHIRE to Clyde. On completion of escort duty MANSFIELD is to proceed to Liverpool and will be required for duty with W.S.19 P sailing from Liverpool.

(C. in C. W.A., 1745Z/26 to WESTERN ISLES).

W.S.19 P. My 1817/25. Delete KEPPEL.

(2) Cancel Para. 3. BUXTON is to proceed Londonderry for exercises on completion of escort duty.

(C. in C. W.A., 1748Z/26).

Admty 2032/21. Route for W.S.19 P.

(D.O.D. (H.), 1855B/26) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

469A

MESSAGE

OUT

MOST SECRET

1855B/26th May

To C. in C. Western Approaches. 470. Date 26/5/42
F.O.i/c Greenock.
F.O.i/c Liverpool.
N.C.S.O. Clyde.
N.C.S.O. Mersey.

Repeated N.O.i/c Londonderry.
R.A.(M).
F.O.C. North Atlantic. 425.
R.A.W.Af. 109.
C. in C. Home Fleet. 162.
COMINCH.
NELSON.
BLACKMORE.
DERWENT.

Naval Cypher (Ad.Cy.Out) and Type X (U.S.A.)

From Admiralty.

A.M. 2032/21.

Route for W.S.19 P.:-

1. Rendezvous in position "A" 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 0600B/1/6 thence through positions

B.	55	02	North	14	59	West.
C.	52	05	"	20	58	"
D.	47	10	"	24	01	"
E.	39	35	"	22	38	"
F.	28	25	"	27	06	"
G.	15	20	"	27	32	"
H.	10	15	"	18	31	"

thence to Freetown.

2. Standard route.

L.	55	28	North	10	00	West.
M.	53	32	"	19	05	"
N.	49	24	"	23	18	"
O.	37	29	"	23	01	"
P.	24	55	"	27	50	"
Q.	13	51	"	26	45	"
R.	10	20	"	17	48	"

3. ARGUS is to part company at XX 44 10 North 23 30 West thence passing through YY 37 05 North 11 15 West to Gibraltar.

769^B

2.

4. AQUITANIA is to be detached at E routed as follows:-

T. 33 19 20 28.
U. 21 08 21 26.
V. 11 30 20 45.

thence to Freetown.

5. Estimated speed of advance

W.S.19 P. is 13 knots and
W.S.19 Q. is 21 knots.

6. H.Q.C.C. and H.Q.F.C. have been informed of route to position D.

7. Fighter Protection code word PLAGUE.

1855B/26.

D.O.D.(H)

1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D. of P.(2)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Duty Captain (2)
Admiral Blake
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.O.D.(M)

GMM

War Diary.

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

C.W.83

C.W.83 postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(C. in C. Nore, 1814B/26 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

O.S.29.

Have been delayed by gale. O.S.29 not met after
search back along route. My P.C.S. are 053°
 $25'$ N., $016^{\circ} 18'$ W., 213° ll.
(BRADFORD, 2320B/26).

771

War Diary.

26.5.1942
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M.2127B/19.
1. No further indications of position of Raider "E" or Raider "H".
2. MENELAUS which made QQQQ on 1/5/42 in South Atlantic without subsequent cancellation has now arrived in port.
3. There are indications that a raider or supply ship left a Biscay port on 20th or 21/5. This may be the ship referred to in A.M.2127B/19 para.2. Ship will in future be referred to as Raider "J" and silhouette will be circulated in W.I.R. (D.D.I.C. 1724B/26 to B.A.D., R.A.W.A., A.I.G.13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

P.44 French Units. 1 French Destroyer escorting 2 S/Ms course 290° position 035° 50' 003° 00'. Weather. (P.44 0010B/26 to F.O.C.N.A., Capt. S.)

French Shipping. Passings 25th. Eastward STRASBOURGEOIS full, LORRAINE in ballast. Westward GRAND QUEVILLY 1, MONTESQUIEU full up, BONIFACIO deck cargo, LOUP DE MER, MONT CASSEL. (F.O.C.N.A. 0905B/26 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

PARTRIDGE ITHURIEL. Pass through position A, 037° 58' N. 011° 50' W. thence through B, 36.25 N. 09.05 W. thence Gibraltar. Report E.T.A. Gate on passing through position A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1050B/26 to PARTRIDGE, ITHURIEL.)
My P.C. and S. 046° 37' N. 016° 08' W. 160° 15' (?knots) ITHURIEL in company. Weather report. (PARTRIDGE 2301B/26 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A., Capt.D.12, ARGUS.)

Spanish Shipping for U.S.A. Your 2052B/23 (Sent by W.R. requesting repetition of 1333/22) Repetition my 1333/22 :-
Sailings of Spanish steamers for U.S.A. ports South Norfolk (not Norfolk, Virginia) now finally agreed to by Germans. Shipping Dept. established in German Embassy to grant authorization in each case. First authorization given yesterday 21/5 permits departure MOTOMAR from Seville for Baltimore with cargo including wine and olives. Ship sailing within one week. Passenger Trans-Atlantic Company arrangements will be resumed before end of June. This if official. (Ends.) (N.A. Madrid 1157/26 to Admty.)

772

War Diary.

26.5.1942
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Use of Fulmars. Capt. of EAGLE has represented to me that Lieut. Fraser-Harris commanding 807 Sqdn. has expressed views to him regarding undesirability of using Fulmars for fighter protection of ships, which he states are shared most strongly by other flying crews of his squadron, which indicate clearly that if it is intended to use Fulmars again for fighter protection Lieut. Fraser-Harris should be relieved forthwith as C.O. 807 Sqdn. (2) Am informed there is no suggestion that he has personally lost his nerve but that morale of 807 Sqdn. as a whole is low. (3) No one in squadron considered suitable as relief.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1200B/26 to Admty.)

Dispositions. F.O.C.N.A. 1250B/26, 1922B/26, 2358B/26.
See Lion Copy.

Blockade, Spanish Coast. Your 2022/23. Our object is to have complete information of movements of larger vessels. Request report what would be the position if limit of ships whose movements are to be notified is raised (a) to 2,000 tons (b) to 2,500 tons.
(Head of M. 1300B/26 to N.A. Madrid.)

UNBEATEN. My 1406/23. Sailed UNBEATEN. Only such Q messages affecting passage held.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1516B/26 to Admty.)

TORBAY, information. P.42 sails 0815B/27 for exercises with 2 destroyers 10 miles east of Rock.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1536B/26 to TORBAY.)

ARAGAZ. Extract from a Fairmiss Telegram. French Ship ARAGAZ.
(Lisbon 1832/26 to M.W.T.)

MONBALDO. Arrived 25th MONBALDO Italian.
(Consul, Bilbao 1912/26 to M.W.T.) *See p. 773*

3rd M.L. Flot. C. in C. Med. 1301/25. Request you will prepare 4 M.Ls of 3rd M.L. Flotilla, arming them if possible as requested in V.A. Malta's 1607/24 para 2.
(D.O.D.(F) 1941B/26 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force T.)

/Axis ...

MOST SECRET

772 A

MOST SECRET

May

IN

From F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 26.5.42.
Rood. 1510.

NAVAL CYPHER A.'1' BY W/T

~~Addressed North Atlantic Station.~~

IMPORTANT

(Situation) Area X 1959B/26th

1. ~~Submarine H.M.S. UNDELMEN~~ sailing 1500/26th through 36.00 06.00 at 2100/26th and 36.30 07.01 at 0345/27th thence 8½ knots on surface until dawn 27th thence diving by day 2 knots. *Sailed - see previous page.*
2. H.M.S. JONQUIL H.M.S. ST. NECTAN escorting tanker ~~GGPN~~ {BENEDICK} 35.55 06.26 to Gibraltar, C.
3. H.M.S. ALCUETTE patrolling off Cape Roca. Leavos patrol about 2000 coastwise to Gibraltar 10. *(amended, see below) next page.*
4. H.M.S. LOCH OSEKIG patrolling off Lisbon. *(amended, see below) next page.*
5. H.M.S. STELLA CARINA H.M.S. LORD NUFFIELD escorting tanker ~~LDTR~~ {SLENDAL} 32.30 12.50 through 33.32 09.50 thence 51° 32'.
6. H.M.S. GERANIUM H.M.S. COLTSFOOT escorting tanker ANDREA BROVIG 30.16 13.46 through 31.17 16.40 thence 61° 10'.
7. H.M.S. SPIREA H.M.S. RYE ~~one~~ Merchant Ship ~~one~~ Flotilla Motor Launches 36.18 03.53 to Gibraltar 9½.

See below.

(FOCNA, 1250B/26. G.N.A. Sta)

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) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C. (2)
Duty Capt. (2)
I.P. (2)
Head of M.
W.D.

EML.

MOST SECRET

772 B

MESSAGE 1922B/26th May IN

MOST SECRET

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 26.5.42
Recd. 2102

NAVAL CYPHER (A1) BY W/T

~~Addressed: A.I.G. 63.~~

~~IMPORTANT~~

a) My 1250B/26th para. 3, amend to read H.M.S. ALCUETTE patrol off Cape Roca para. 4, add leave patrol 0500/27th coastwise to Oporto 10. Add new para 8. 27th Motor Launch Flotilla sails 1400/27th to rendezvous 4 merchant ships 22 Lisbon 10. Add new para. 9. (?PARTRIDGE), ITHURIEL, estimated 043 degs. 44' 015 degs. 10' 156 degs. 18.

(FOCNA 1922B/26 & sig. 63)

~~Advance Copies D.C., D.C.D. (H), D.T.D.~~

- 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.C.D. (H) (2)
- D.C.D. (F) (2)
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.

~~Situation area X 1959B 26th~~

MB

MOST SECRET

772 C

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2358B/26th May.

IN

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 27.5.42.

Recd. 0232.

NAVAL CYPHER A.1. BY W/T

~~Addressed A.I.G. 63.~~

~~IMPORTANT~~

My 1922 B/26th. Cancel my new paragraph 8
and substitute ~~M.S.~~ LADY HOGARTH sails 0500/
27th to rendezvous 4 merchant ships off Lisbon 8.

(FOCNA, 2358B/26, 6 AIG '63)

~~Advance copy Ops. O.D., Trade.~~

~~* Amending situation Area X. 1959/26.~~

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) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
Hd. of M.
W.D.

MOST SECRET

773

War Diary.26.5.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.Axis
Shipping,
Bilbao.

* MONBALDO arrived 25th to undergo repairs at Euskalduna shipyard. Ships 54 (DREPANUM) and 55 (SCHARLACHBERGER) fully loaded and ready for sea.
(Bilbao 1942/26 to Admty.) * ~~see~~ p. 772

ENSEIGNE
MAURICE
PRECHAC.

ENSEIGNE MAURICE PRECHAC broken down in 037° 51' N. 023° 45' W. at 2001B/26. HARTLAND endeavouring to tow. If possible send tugs or any assistance available.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2232B/26 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada Admty. etc.)
Cancelled, see 0746B/27.

South Atlantic.

OCEAN VIKING.

"Q" report made from 15.30 S. 2.20 W., or 15.50 S., 2.20 W.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0110/26, C. in C. Portsmouth, 0114/26, Cdre. W. Australia 0146Z/26, OCEAN VIKING 0118/26, Wick Radio No T.O.O/26.)
Cancelled.
(Freetown W/T 0800 G.M.T./26.)

C.M.28.

Request route for C.M.28 consisting of ARONDA and WESTERNLAND for (?Bombay) ASCANIUS for Mombasa expected sailing 30/5.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0732Z/26 to C. in C. E.I.
(R) C. in C. S.A.)

ASTURIAS.
QUEEN MARY
AQUITANIA.

Leave Simonstown p.m./27 and proceed to patrol in K.36, B and J.36 D until 4/6.
2. Then proceed through J.35, /34.D, /34.B., adjusting your movements to arrive H.34.D on 10/6.
3. Patrol H.30 D. and /35.A until 14/6 and then proceed to Freetown.
4. QUEEN MARY, Southbound is expected in 20° S. about 2nd/3/6. AQUITANIA, southbound is expected to cross Equator 12/6. Routes of these ships not yet known.
5. You are to keep within supporting distance of QUEEN MARY and AQUITANIA while they are passing through your patrol areas.
(C. in C. S.A. 1117B/26 to ASTURIAS.)

/CARLISLE ...

774

War Diary.

26.5.1942
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

CARLISLE. Following intended programme for CARLISLE.
Leave Simonstown 1500Z/26; Pointe Noire
0700Z/1/6 - p.m. 1/6; Freetown a.m. 7/6 -
a.m. 8/6; Ponta Delgada a.m. 15/6 - p.m. 15/6; Plymouth
a.m. 21/6. 2. (Route) S. of A. 14 knots.
3. R.A. West Africa requested to arrange route from Freetown
and fuel Ponta Delgada.
4. In view of reduced endurance considered ship should fuel
Bathurst before proceeding Ponta Delgada.
(C. in C. S.A. 1145B/26 to Admty., R.A.W.A. (R) CARLISLE.)

Sailed - See p. 774c

U/B Sunk. Capt. Port of Pernambuco reports wireless
False Report message received from C.O. Minelayer CANANEA
of disembarkation in Fernando de Noronha of
crew of a German submarine sunk by a British
ship.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1301Z/26 to S.O.I. Montevideo
(R) Admty. etc.)
Captain of Port now states report is false.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1430Z/26 to S.O.I. Montevideo
(R) Admty. etc.)

Dakar. Aerial R/C of Dakar at 1315/25/5 shows no change
in positions of Warships since 21/5. 6,
possibly 7 Submarines present including 3 in
Dry Dock. 1 Elan Class returned since 21/5.
No change Merchant Shipping in portion of
Harbour seen.
(R.A.W.A. 1331Z/26 to Admty.)

CUYABA. Repatriation of Axis Personnel and Nationals is
taking place in Brazil SS CUYABA sailing from
Rio de Janeiro 30/5 for Lisbon. "Diplomat
Brazil CUYABA" and National Flag each side,
is fully illuminated, 6500 G.T. painted grey.
(2) Ship travelling under safe conduct and is not to be
molested or interfered with if met.
(C. in C. S.A. 1415B/26 to S.A. Stn.)
No safe conduct, see Admty. 2353B/27.

Dispositions. 2000/26.
(R.A.W.A.F. 1503Z/26, 1549Z/26, C. in C.
S.A. 1850B/26.)
See Lion Copy.

WIVERN. Not met. Visibility 12 miles. My P.C. and
S. 019° 40' N. 020° 50' W. 180° 12 knots.
(WIVERN 1558Z/26 to R.A.W.A. (R) WESTON,
AMARANTHUS.)

MOST SECRET

1503Z/26th May.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From R.A.W.A.F.

Date 26.5.42.
Recd. 2007

Naval Cypher M. by W/T.

Addressed Ships in Area P. of S.A. Station S. of 8 Degs.
~~N. Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, N.O.I.C. Takoradi,
 R.N. O. Lagos.~~

~~IMPORTANT~~

Situation 2000/26th May.

All positions North and West unless otherwise stated. ~~H.M.S. PICT, H.M.S. BENGALI~~ off Freetown to section T. ~~H.M.S. MELT, LAERTES~~ patrolling sector T. ~~H.M.S. MAURITIUS, H.M.S. ALCANTARA~~ 6 escorts with W.S. 19 007° degs 50' 014° degs 15' to 006° degs 13' 015° degs 50' thence 167° degs 14. ~~H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER~~ 005° degs 01' 018° degs 35' to Freetown 10. ~~H.M.S. SPANIARD, H.M.S. PHYLLISIA~~ about 003° degs 10' 008° degs 50' to Freetown 6. ~~H.M.S. RUMBA~~ 003° degs 01' 003° degs 02' to Lagos (Nigeria) 5. ~~H.M.S. FANDANGO~~ 002° degs 15' 003° degs 45' 123° degs 10. ~~H.M.S. HYDRANGEA~~ 5 escorts with L.S. 6 about 002° degs 40' 004° degs 15' 233° degs 7. M/L with S.T. 23 005° degs 25' 001° degs 50' East to Lagos (Nigeria) 8. BRITANNY 2 B.D.V's 001° degs 55' south 006° degs 20' East to Pointe Noire 7.

(R.A.W.A.F.)

1503Z/26, to Ships in Area P. S. of 8° N., Admiralty etc)

~~Advance copy D.C., D.O.D. (F), D.T.D.~~

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.C. (2)
 D.A/S.V.
 Hd. of M.
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.T.D. (2)
 D.T.D. (M)
 D.M.S.
 D.B.O.D. (C)
 D.B.D.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1549Z/26 May

IN

From R.A. West Africa.

Date 26.5.42.
Recd. 1928.NAVAL CYPHER 'M' BY W/TAddressed Ships in Area 'P' of South Atlantic Station
North of 8 degs. North Admiralty C. in C. South
Atlantic N.O.I.C. Bathurst.IMPORTANT~~Situation report at 2000 26th May~~H.M.S. WESTON 7 escort with O 8 28 018 degs. 25'
020 degs. 55' to O 17 degs. 30' O 20 degs. 55' thence 158 degs. 31'H.M.S. FRIENDIA CASTLE on patrol O 10 degs. 30' O 24 degs.
30'. H.M.S. CORINTHIAN O 10 degs. 40' O 20 degs. 30' 289 degs. 12.H.M.S. PELICAN 4 escort with SL 111 O 11 degs. 10' O 19 degs.
15' 295 degs. 7.LARGS H.M.S. WILD SWAN O 09 degs. 55' O 16 degs. 01' to
Bathurst 14 1/2.*(RWA 1549Z/26 to Ships in Area P, N. of 8° N, North of ca)*
~~advance Copies D.C., D.O.D. (F), D.T.D.~~V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.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. (B)
D.T.D. (H)
D.T.D. (C)**MOST SECRET**

774 C.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1850B/26th May

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 26.5.42
Time 2216

NAVAL CYPHER M BY W/T & T/P.

~~Addressed S.A. Station Squadron. Repeated Admiralty.~~
~~IMPORTANT.~~

298. Movements Summary 2000Z/26th May area Q. H.M.S. CILICIA off Tristan da Cunha PLADDA, HILDASAY, SLUNA, SHAPINSAY, 034° deg. 55' South 022° deg. 21' East to Durban 6¹ EMILE BAUDET from Walvis Bay expected time of arrival Capetown 27¹⁵ ~~May~~ VANGALEN 034° deg. 40' South 024° deg. 58' East to Durban 22. H.M.S. CARLISLE left Simonstown 1500Z for route Pointe Noire 14. See p. 774.

(Acba, 1850B/26, & SA Sta (A) Admiralty)
~~Advance Copy Ops. O.D. C.I.C.~~

- A.C.N.S.(F).
- N.A.1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- Ops.(3).
- O.D.(5).
- O.D.8.
- D.A/S.W.
- O.I.C.
- D.P.S.
- M.(2).

- Mails.
- Movts.
- I.P.(3).
- W.D.
- D.N.L.O.(2).
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. Citadel.
- D.S.D.(2).
- W/T Board (2).
- File X.

775

War Diary.26.5.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - cond.

O.S.28. ROCKROSE, VIOLET R/V with O.S.28 in 10° 12' N. 18° 10' W. at 0800Z/ (?29). Convoy is then to split, ROCKROSE, VIOLET, ^{COMMANDER} DROGOU escorting Cape ships to dispersal position Q, 01° 02' N. 16° 30' W. remainder of escort escorting Freetown and Takoradi ships direct to Freetown.
(R.A.W.A. 1714Z/26 to Escorts of O.S.28)

W.S.19 Convoy sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1726Z/26, 1818Z/26.)

COLOMBO. COLOMBO E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0615Z/1/6 and requires 700 tons fuel, 40 tons water. Also provisions fruit and fresh vegetables if available.
(R.A.W.A. 1845Z/26 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

W.S.19 W. Convoy W.S.19 W. sailed U.K. 22/5.
(QUEEN MARY) 2. 9525 personnel are on board for Middle East and 15 for South Africa. Also 50 tons of stores for M.E. 3. Re bunkers.
(D.S.T. 1856B/26 to R.A.W.A., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

ARGUS. A.M. 2124/25. Anticipated that ARGUS will leave
WILD SWAN. U.K. with W.S.19 P. en route to Gibraltar. She will require to part company in position XX 44° 10' N. 23° 30' W. at daylight on 5/6.

WILD SWAN will be required to R/V ARGUS in position XX, having fuelled at Ponta Delgada, and escort her to Gibraltar. Timing of WILD SWAN's visit to Ponta Delgada should be arranged so that maximum fuel will remain on arrival at position XX.
(D.O.D.(F) 1937B/26 to R.A.W.A. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

ORONSAY. My 1227/22. Vichy personnel on ORONSAY are to be disposed of as follows.
(Hd. of M. 2013B/26 to C. in C. S.A.)

776

War Diary.

26.5.1942
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TURBULENT enemy unit. At 0120C/26 P.C. and S. of enemy 32° 37' 19° 23' 320° 13 knots.
(S.1, 0211C/26 to TURBULENT.)
A submarine was sighted in your area at 0930 today.
(Capt. S.1 1231C/26 to TURBULENT.)

TURBULENT TAKU. Cancel my 1825/25.
(Capt. S.1, 0935C/26 to TURBULENT. TAKU.)
By 2301C/28 establish patrol in vicinity of position TAKU 034° 02' 018° 44'; TURBULENT 033° 50' 018° 48'.
(Capt. S.1, 1921C/26 to TURBULENT, TAKU.)

PORPOISE. BERYL. Proceed through 035° 27' N. 014° 06' E. to R/V with BERYL in position ordered at 0001B/30. M.L. 126 will be in company with BERYL unless otherwise ordered. If unable to comply make E.T.A. if safe to do so and approach R/V on above route to arrive 0001B.
(V.A. Malta 1142B/26 to PORPOISE (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Malta Air Report. I. 325 26/5/42. C.S.R. Malta. 25th. 2 alerts. 1303 hours 3 Cant 1007s, 42 ME 109s and Italian fighters. Luqa, no damage. Elsewhere (damage and casualties)
1738 hours, 18 ME.109s, 6 bombed Hal Far no damage, others bombed A/A positions. (damage and casualties)
15 JU.88s after last night attacked Aerodromes Ta Kali, Hal Far, no damage. Luqa 2 Wellingtons damaged, etc.
Night 25th/26th. 1950 hours, 1 Raider, bombs Ta Kali, no damage.
2306 hours, 9 raiders, Luqa damage (Civilian casualties).
26th 5 Alerts.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1549/26.)

Mined Area. Q.B.70. Area between line joining 032° 12' N. 020° 03' E. and 032° 23' N. 020° 15' E. and Cyrenaican coast is dangerous due to British mines.
(C. in C. Med. 1558C/26 to Med. Fleet.)

Cyprus. 90985. Cipher (M.O.5) 26/5.
Personal for Gen. Auchinleck from C.I.G.S.
In view present trend enemy movement towards Eastern Mediterranean are you satisfied about present strength garrison Cyprus? Have measures in para.7 your CC/32 30/4 now been completed? Are you contemplating further reinforcement towards raising strength to approved garrison for Island?
(W.O. 1930/26 to C. in C. M.E.)

/EDDY ...

777

War Diary.

26.5.1942
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

EDDY
mined.

Regret loss of H.M. Drifter EDDY at about
1630 today, striking mine while returning
to harbour 1 mile off Grand Harbour. 8
missing. C.O. and 10 saved.
(V.A. Malta 2012B/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

778

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.A.23. B A 23, EGRA, ISLAMI, with troops and stores for Suez sailed 0630Z/26 escorted by MARGUERITE to position E.

2. (Routes).

3. S. of A. to position E, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots, thence best speed.

4. E.T.A.'s Aden EGRA 1500Z /31, ISLAMI 0500Z/1.

(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0642Z/26, to Admty).

B.M. 18A. Convoy B M 18 A arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0956Z/26, to Admty. (R)
C.in C. E.I., S.O.I., Bombay).

Coal Shipments, Your 1121 April (?1st). In present situation, Ceylon. while menace of enemy surface attack in Bay of Bengal has temporarily eased, I hope you will be able to increase shipping traffic from Calcutta sufficiently to permit adequate shipments of coal to Ceylon; our inability to obtain shipment of large stocks on order from Calcutta has produced a dangerous shortage on railways. There is also one cargo of rice at Calcutta we badly need. (C.in C. Ceylon 1043Z/26, to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Transports, Your 1849/25/5 to C.in C.Med. (Ref.Sea Persian Gulf. Transport work in Persian Gulf placed under general supervision of P.S.T.O. Egypt - N.T. in W.D. See no objection. Presume shipping under my control will not be interfered with without consulting me first. (P.S.T.O. India, 1155Z/26, to D.S.T. (R) C.in C.Med. etc.).

Madagascar Operations. Request information whether further operations to complete occupation of Madagascar are contemplated and for how long it is intended to retain a battleship at Diego Suarez.

Minesweeping vessels, A/S vessels and destroyers now allocated to Diego Suarez are urgently required elsewhere, especially at Kilindini and Seychelles, where the present scale of defence in this respect is lamentably deficient. (C.in C.E.F., 1157Z/26, to Admty. (R) S.O.Force F., C.in C.S.A. V.A.3). Reply Admty. 2029/28.

Port F. Your 1003/22 paras. A and B, concur.
(C.in C.E.I., 1400Z/26, to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R)
C.in C. E.F., etc.)

Diego Suarez, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez will assume N.C.S. and N.O.I.C. S.O. (I) responsibility as from 0900/27. Request he may be included in distribution of necessary Naval and Merchant shipping intelligence.
(S.O.Force F., 1606C/26 1607C/26 to Admty. etc.)

/Fuel

779

26.5.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

Fuel,
EASEDALE.

My 0921/24. After discharge petrol EASEDALE will have on board (details) stock of aviation spirit ashore sufficient 58 days. Intend sailing EASEDALE for Durban P.M./27. (S.O. Force F., 2330C/26, to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. etc.).

780

War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.ANNA
MAZARAKI.

Standing by ANNA MAZARAKI. Informed Master re tug. Master, crew remaining, 2 American passengers on board wishing to disembark. Fog, dark, heavy swell dangerous to boat work.
(QUINTE, 0050Z/26. to C.O.A.C. (R) WEYBURN. N.S.H.Q. etc).

U/B.

C. in C.U.S. Fleet 1717/25. Estimate S/M homeward bound in 028° N. (064°) W.
(N.S.H.Q. 0724/26, to SUDBURY, (R) Admty. (COTSWOLD, C. in C.A.W.I., C.O.A.C.)).

Movement
Summary.

1800 GMT/26.

Ship.	Position	Course.	Speed.
W.S.19.W.	30° N.	173°	25.
	31° W.		

(D.O.D. (F) 0830Z/26 to Opnav. (R) Comnavu Cominch.)

B.R.Os.

Your 1936/21 para. 1 (B) (N.C.S.Os to assume title of B.R.Os in belligerent countries, etc). Fully concur with Minister Ciudad de Trujillo's 0932/25 to F.O. which please see. Consider it very desirable that Parry should wear uniform.
(C. in C.A.W.I. 1024P/26 to Admty.).

Tankers
Trinidad.

Your 1712/25. C. in C. will adjust dispersal routes by G.B.M.S. depending upon the latest U-Boat intelligence.
(C. in C.A.W.I. 1032P/26 to Admty. (R) N.C.S.O. Trinidad, S.O.I Jamaica).

HECTOR
(sunk
24/5).

Dutch ship HECTOR torpedoed sunk 1010R/24. Position 020° 03' 081° 50'. Full complement arrived Kingston in F.Q. BARSTOW, except missing (2 names).
Ref. intercept from F.Q. BARSTOW 1710 G.M.T./24, this ship not attacked, reference was to survivors HECTOR.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1130R/26, to Admty, C. in C.A.W.I., B.A.D., F.O. Trinidad).

Giant
Liners.
Movements.

A.M. 2250/9. Information such as E.T.A. which may be necessary to enable S.T.Os on your station to take action should be communicated confidentially to them via Naval Channels. Routes should not be included. 2. Addressees pass A.M. 2250/9 to S.T.Os concerned.
(D.O.D. (F) 1132B/26. to A.I.G.19(R)B.A.D.)

/BRUXELLES....

781

War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.BRUXELLES
Reported
Sunk.

Following received (begins Addressed C.C.S.F. (R) N.O.B. Bermuda from Cominch. An intercept indicates that Belgian ship BRUXELLES from U.K. for West Indies or the Gulf lost by enemy action. Request confirmation, 1508/22. (Ends) Is anything known of this? (C. in C.A.W.I. 1249P/26 to Admty) Reply 1809/27.

Route Signals
Codes.

My 1922/25 and Admty 1951/25. Request you will issue necessary instructions to B.R.Os in Ottawa area for continuance of route signals and Vescas in British Code. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1252P/26, to N.S.H.Q.(R) Admty, B.A.D. S.O.I. Jamaica).

E.P. THERIAULT. My 1728R/25. Havana now reports may be floating derelict (S.O.I Jamaica. 1446B/26 to Admty etc). Drifted ashore, see 1525/27.

A.S.
Convoys.

Sailings of convoys A.S. from Charleston delayed until 28/5. Admty pass to R.A. West Africa. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet. 1516/26 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) C.T.F. 23 Admty. etc).

U/B.

U/Boat warning. S/M estimated by D/F in your vicinity at 1106Z may have made a sighting report on convoy. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet. 1524/26. to C.T.U. 24.18.2.).

TISNAREN.

Freighter TISNAREN bound Rio de Janeiro torpedoed (torpedoed 18/5). 2230 G.M.T./18, 003° 36' N. 032° 01' W. All crew and passengers landed safely Trinidad by S.S. GREEN MOUNTAIN. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1602Q/26, to Admty (R) C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Kingston).

Italian
Repatriation
crews.

S.B.N.O. Curacao 1649/14. Italian crews of tankers are not to be allowed ashore at St. Vincent or Las Palmas. 2. U.S. and Dutch authorities are being asked for permission to allow crews ashore under guard in small numbers at Curacao. (Hd. of M. 1643B/26 to N.C.S.O.s St. Vincent, Las Palmas).

U/B. Positions.

26/5 S/M estimate. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 1701/26, 1713/26, 1709/26, 1719/26)

Casablanca.

Meter. Shipping Arrivals and Departures. (B.A.D. 1731Z/26) See Lion Copy.

/U/B.....

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1731Z/26th May.

I N.

801
781A

From. B.A.D. Washington.

Date. 26.5.42.

Reed. 2340.

NAVAL CYBER X D BY CABLE.

Re-transmission at the request of D.N.I.

Addressed. Admiralty.

196 MESS

Casablanca 24th May B.2.

Departures for

19/5.	DAHOMEX.	Dakar.
19/5.	BOURGES.	Port Etienne.
	HOGGAR.	Dakar.
	ILE DE BREHAT.	Dakar.
20/5.	GABRIEL GUINIAU.	Oren.
	FAUZON.	Marseille.
	TATIADA.	Marseille.
	BRITTIA.	Marseille.
	STE. MARTIN LE GRASSE.	Marseille.
	OABRO.	Pontet.
	CANET.	Lisbon. (Phosphates)
	GUINE.	Veracruz. (419 civilian passengers)

Arrivals from

18/5.	BRITTIA.	Port Etienne.
	HOGGAR.	Marseille.
	ARCTURUS.	Marseille.
	CAID HASSAN.	South (Charcoal).
19/5.	MARCAI JEAN.	South (Charcoal).
	TATIANA.	Port Etienne.
20/5.	MARECHAL LYAUTEY.	Marseille. (164 troops).
	LOTRAIN.	Marseille. (349 tons chemicals. 3 trucks).
	MARIA.	Marseille.
18/5	LIPARI (100 troops 120 tons aviation material) Dakar 23rd May B.2	
23/5	TEMERAIRE sailed. OUERGHA Arrived.	

1731Z/26.

V.C.N.S.	O.I.C. (3)	D.T.D. (M)	D.S.D. 9.
A.C.N.S. (F)	O.D. (5)	D.T.D. (C)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.	D.E.W.D. (3)	
D.N.I. (4)	D.T.D. (2)	M. (4) & for War Office.	

782

War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B. Following has been read. Intercepted 15.46 Mt. De WSC. Unread O.Submarine sighted 14.31. 61.17.W. at 0410Z/26. 1340/26. Controlling station Tuckerton New Jersey Radio. (Portishead Radio No.T.O.O./26, Recd. 1820/26).

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. Report of sinking. 22.48 N. 58.43 W., 1515/11. (R.N.O. St.Thomas 1821/26 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Trinidad Sailings. Your 1536/25. Ships should be sailed. Your route signal 1411/17 showed ROSENBERG as sailed on 19/5. Presume this was an error. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1822P/26 to B.R.O.Trinidad (R)Admty B.A.D, S.O.I.Jamaica).

O.T. T.O. Convoys. It is not quite clear who is the authority controlling the routeing and any necessary diverting of O.T. and T.O. convoys. My 2029B/23 refers. Grateful for clarifications. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1836B/26 to Cominch (R) C. in C.A.W.I. F.O.I.C.Trinidad. S.B.N.O.Curacao S.O.(I) Jamaica C.C.S.F.).Reply: Connav 2050Z/28.

Westbound Convoy Routes. Your 2118/25. As ships proceed straight through Cape Cod Canal without contacting B.R.O,Boston, request route instructions may be given as far as New York until more efficient communication between Canal and Boston is established. (N.S.H.Q. 1912Z/26 to Admty).

Shipping Routes. Your 1635Z/23. A.M. 1826B/22. Amendment No.13 to M.A.R.I. (D.T.D.1943B/26. to N.S.H.Q.(R) C. in C.A.W.I.).

Trinidad Shipping Control. For Trinidad only. Your 0023/25 (N.T. in W.D.). For the present Vesca and route message will be sent by British N.C.S.Os in accordance with their existing instructions. Merco and route messages for all United Nations ships proceeding through U.S.Sea Frontier shall be sent by N.O.B.Trinidad to U.S.addressees only beginning 2400/31/5. This excludes from your report ships proceeding to Ports across Atlantic or to the East Coast of South America after leaving Trinidad. Busra will not be brought into full effect until further orders. British still control and route shipping from Trinidad until otherwise ordered. N.O.I.C. Jamaica pass to S.O.(I) Jamaica. (Connav 1954/26 to N.O.B.Trinidad (R) S.O.I.Wellington, C. in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q., S.O.I.Jamaica).

/O.N.....

SECRET.

MESSAGE

1821/26th May.

IN

782A

From: R.N.O. St. Thomas.

Date: 27.5.42.

Reed: 1050

Naval Shore Code (N11) by Cable

ADDRESSED: Admiralty, Repeated: C. in C. America and West Indies, D.N.I. Ottawa, S.O.(I) Jamaica.

Report of sinking of CAPE OF GOOD HOPE British
 Merchant Ship New York to Capetown. Military and
 general cargo. Owners Lyle Shipping Co. Glasgow.
 Latitude 022 degrees 48' North Longitude 058 degrees 43'
 West Tampa 1515 May 11th torpedo hit between hatches
 1 and 2, later submarine rose and fired 24 shells
 at 2 thousand yards from 1 point off starboard bow (so
 that gun would not bear) after crew left ship hitting
 18 times. Ship caught fire and 260 tons explosives
 blew up. Ship sank 1600 course south 019 degrees East
 10 knots ship was not (3 groups missing) ships guns
 1 4 inch L/A and 1 15 pounder anti-aircraft. 37 crew
 all behaved splendidly. No casualties from enemy
 action.

Enemy submarine about 300 tons newly painted
 grey hull and white round conning town 1(one) 4
 point 7 inch forward and one 2 point 5 inch anti aircraft
 gun abaft conning tower. No masts overhanging bows sloping
 stern. Italian officers very polite speaking excellent English.
 They did not board ship 1(one) boat landed at Tortola with
 18 including master where they remained for a few days
 amended list names.

Names /.....

Names	Rank.
A. Campbell	Master
MacNeill	Second mate
A Bradley	Chief Officer
D. MacDonald	Third Engineer
J. Bain	
T.M. Jenkins	first radio officer
G.G. Johns	Second radio Officer
T.S. Spierling	Third radio officer
H. MacKinley	Chief Steward
J. Bunting	Assistant steward
R. Smith	A.B.
W. Godden	A.B.
W. Vincent	A.B.
R. MacNiell	A.B.
McAlbraith	O.S.
K. Sewell	Deck hand
J. Bowler	Deck Hand
B James	Cairns.

These survivors were picked up by sailing boat SPARROW at 1230 May 23rd off Tortola British Virgin Islands.

2nd Boat not yet found. R.O. St. Thomas V.I.s has seen Admiral Hoover and staff today May 26th supplying material gathered from Master endeavouring to work areas for further search in light of that information. Orders have already been given for the search of these New areas.

S.S.S.S. procedure sent out until ordered into life boats.

C.B's were all placed in steel chests supplied both chests were thrown overboard in about 3 thousand fathoms and were sinking.

1821/26.

1st Lord.	Ad. Usbourne.	Press Division.
1st S.L.	I.P. (3)	D. of Salvage.
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (4)	C.C.R.T.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (M)	Hydrog.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.D. (C)	W.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.N.I. (5)	N.I.D. 10.
Ops. (3)	O.I.C.	D.S.D. (2)
O.D. (5)	Cdr Holbrook.	
D. of S.T. (2)	R.G.S.S. Cardiff by T/P.	M. (2)
		N.L.

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War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.O.N. &
O.N.(S)
Convoys.

Busra. Section F. As O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys do not now disperse suggest that 2nd sub para. referring to these convoys be deleted. This will bring the diversion of these convoys into line with H.X. and S.C. and they would continue to be given a Chop as at present. In the event of it being necessary at any time to disperse an O.N. convoy Admty would assume responsibility for these ships up to reaching first port of call.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2033B/26 to Cominch (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C. in C.W.A.).

→ PEISANDER
(sunk 17/5).

My 2311/24. PEISANDER torpedoed and sunk 1700Z/17 in 037° 24' N. 063° 38' W. list of survivors forwarded Admty by B.R.O. Boston. (N.S.H.Q. 2058Z/26 to Connav, Admty.etc).

LL
Minesweepers.

N.S.H.Q.'s 1420Z/8, not to Admty. Owing to delay in completion of new construction LL minesweepers STAR XVI and SUDEROY V are to be sailed for Sydney as soon as possible. On completion of working up of first two new construction LL minesweepers C.O.A.C. is to propose new allocation.
(N.S.H.Q. 2102Z/26 to F.O.N.F.(R) Admty. C.O.A.C. N.O.I.C.Sydney.).

Sinkings
by U/Bs.

Connav Serial 26. BRITISH COLONY torpedoed and sunk 13/5 014° 20' N. 058° 19' W. 40 Survivors landed at Barbados. One or two boats still missing. Confidentials unknown.

- PEISANDER torpedoed and sunk 17/5 037° (? 24') N. 065° 38' W. Entire crew survived. Confidentials destroyed. WILLIAM B THOMPSON, American torpedoed 22/5 100 miles south of Jamaica. Entire crew survived. Confidentials destroyed. BETH torpedoed 17/5 011° 48' N. 057° 32' W. 29 survivors ashore. Confidentials destroyed. BEATRICE shelled by submarine 25/5 in 017° 21' N. 076° 07' W. 22 survivors reported ashore near Jamaica. No further information.
(Connav.2107/26 to Spenavo, London, (R) N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F.).
- PEISANDER torpedoed and sunk 37-24.N 63.38 W. 1700Z/17.
PERSEPHONE sunk two torpedoes 39.44 N. 73.53.W. 1910Z/25.
CARRABULLE Shelled 26.18 N. 89.21.W. 0900Z/26. GOVERNOR JOHN LIND shelled 17.51 N. 73.44 W. 0455Z/26. HAAKON HAUAN one torpedo hit arrived port. U.S.S. BLAKELEY arrived Port. One torpedo hit 14.36 N. 61.10 W. 1400Z/25. Army Transport SICILIEN one torpedo miss 30.03 N. 86.19 W. 0730Z/25. WM. BOYCE THOMPSON arrived Port, one torpedo hit. COMMANDANTE LYRA arrived Port, one torpedo hit. AMAZONE one torpedo hit. TROIS DOC survivors state name HOLZ ABUE appeared on Submarine. Unknown vessel reported sunk 1802Z/24, identified as survivors from SAMUEL Q BROWN. Submarine reported sighted 21.46 N. 72.42 W course 150° 2146Z/25.
Aircraft attacked Submarines on surface. 34.03.N. 77.37.W. 2325Z/25. 34.15 N. 77.47.W. about 0030Z/26. 14.31 N. 61.17W.

/0410Z/26.

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War Diary.26.5.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. contd.:

Sinkings U/B Contd. 0410Z/26. Plane sighted periscope 40.20 N. 69.55.W. about 1720Z/26. M.V.sighted and fired on Submarine 27.35 N. 89.28 W. 1800Z/26. Plane reported Submarine 34.38 N. 75.40 W. 1935Z/26. B.A.D. Opnav C.G.S.F. C.C.S.F. C.E.S.F. informed. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 2135Z/26 to Admty for O.I.C.).

ISABELA. Port au Prince reports arrival 34 survivors U.S. ship ISABELA sunk off Tiburon, details awaited. (S.O.I. Jamaica 2129R/26 to Admty etc).

Shipping Instructions. Your 1915/25. Concur, but with reference to proposed cancellation of M.A.R.I. Sect. IV para. 12 suggest that M.A.R.I. Sec. 11, para. 12 (G) be borne in mind. (N.S.H.Q. 2213Z/26 to Admty (R) C.O.A.C. C. in C. A.W.I.).

Route Signals Codes. My 1922/25. Cancel para. 2. The words "British possessions in U.S. Strategic Areas" at the beginning of para G.(C) of Busra had been overlooked. It is now clear that in British Ports route signals and Vescas will be sent in British Code only. 2. It is, however, observed that Trinidad and Georgetown, British Guiana, are listed as U.S. routing offices, vide B.A.D. 2131/20. This is not understood. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2232P/26. to Admty. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.I. Jamaica).

K.N.104. Convoy K.N. 104 will proceed from Key West North Anchorage at 1100 G.M.T./27. S. of A. 10 knots, due Norfolk (Virginia) 31/5. Details. (B.R.O. Key West. 2239X/26. to C. in C.A.W.I. (R) Admty. etc).

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 22557/26th May.
MOST SECRET

I N.

78H A

From J.S.M. Washington.

Date. 27.5.42.

Recd. 0455.

Addressed Chiefs of Staff, London.

IZ 390. J.S.M. 244.

At a meeting of the Military Representatives of Associated Pacific Powers held today at which, in addition to Combined Chiefs of Staff, there were present representatives of Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands and China, Lieutenant General Hsiung Shih-Fei, representing Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, tabled a memorandum of which the following is a summary. Begins:-

1. In order to ensure unity of action, as opposed to friendly cooperation among the forces of the United Nations, it is necessary to have a supreme organisation for direction of the war similar to the Supreme War Council in 1917. Such an organisation should not be merely an advisory body, but should be endowed with the power to formulate co-ordinated plans, and enforce their execution. It should be organised into sections, each assigned a definite duty, i.e., operations, intelligence, supply, etc.
2. The doctrine of the offensive is the only doctrine which will bring about final success. In assuming the offensive, it is best to hit hardest and first against the weaker enemy. Japan is still weaker than Germany, and therefore presents the logical target. Japan must be checked immediately, or she will become as great a threat as Germany. Japan is bending all her efforts to knock out China once and for all, just as Germany knocked out Poland, and was then able to concentrate all her strength on the Western Front. China has caused Japanese casualties of over 2,000,000 and is now containing 1,000,000 Japanese troops. It is therefore imperative that effective aid be given immediately to China. Japan must not be permitted a breathing spell in which to develop the natural resources of the areas she has conquered. China is the only convenient base for an offensive against Japan.
3. The Chinese people are keenly disappointed at adequate emphasis laid on Far Eastern theatre. After 5 years of hard struggle, in which they have given their best to common cause, Chinese people cannot any longer shoulder this heavy burden alone in that theatre. Ends.

MOST SECRET

4. Admiral King, as chairman of C.C.O.S. in absence of General Marshall, said U.S. Chiefs of Staff would take careful note of General Hsiung Shih-Fei's statement, and requested that we should forward it to you for your consideration. Question may be raised again at next C.C.O.S. Meeting, so you may wish to send us comments for our guidance. See also J.S.M. 245.

2255Z/26

Air Ministry Circulation:

Col. Jacob.
 Foreign Secretary.
 Head of Watch, War Registry, Admiralty.
 Head of Watch, C.6. Telegrams, War Office.
 C.A.S.

Recd. from Air Ministry.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L. (2)
 Soc.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (W)
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 N.A. to 1st S.L.
 P.A.S. (S)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 D. of P. (2)
 D.N.I. (4)
 E.P.S.
 Hd. of M. (2)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.C. (2)
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 Admiral Blako.
 Admiral Cunningham.
 Admiral Bellairs.

MMC.

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26.5.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival *Vita* LEANDER and U.S. Destroyer BULMER. (N.Z.N.B. 0631Z/26 to Admty.)

Situation. Serial number 124 from C.W.R. 25/5. 8 B.25 attacked Lae Aerodrome 0445Z/25. Results not observed owing to intense A/A fire and intercepted by 15 Zero fighters. 2 Zeros seen on fire. 5 B. 25 missing.
 (2) 6 B.17 attacked Vunakanau Aerodrome at 0415Z/25. Large fires observed among buildings. Runways and grounded aircraft believed damaged. 5 Zero fighters intercepted, 2 probably shot down.
 (3) Ref. Serial number 123 para. 2, photographs show 5 float planes 10 T.97 Kawanisi flying boats 7 bombers 17 fighters in Rabaul area, also 5 new buildings and possibly jetties and wharves under construction.
 (4) One medium transport 3 cargo vessels observed off Kavieng by air R/C. 25/5. Photographs taken over Kavieng 24/5 show craters on runways filled in.
 (5) 3 Kawanisi 4 engined flying boats attacked 7 miles aerodrome Port Moresby at 0925Z/25. No damage. One enemy aircraft possibly damaged by accurate A/A fire. (A.C.N.B., 1248Z/26, to Admty. etc.)

U.S. Forces. A.M.1655/19. Changes in disposition of U.S. Forces.
Battleships - NEVADA ready for service about 1/10.

Aircraft Carriers - SARATOGA at San Diego. LEXINGTON, YORKTOWN, ENTERPRISE, HORNET in Central Pacific Area.
8" Cruisers - PENSACOLA, ASTORIA, NORTHAMPTON, PORTLAND, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, VINCENNES en route to Pearl Harbour. INDIANAPOLIS left Tonga Is. 22/5 for Pearl Harbour.
6" Cruisers - DETROIT Left San Francisco 22/5 for Pearl Harbour. ATLANTA En route to Pearl Harbour. ST. LOUIS Left Pearl Harbour 23/5. HONOLULU Due Pearl Harbour 27/5. BOISE Refitting at San Francisco till 21/6. NASHVILLE In North Pacific Area. (D.O.D.(F) 1939B/26, to C.in C.E.F., N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B. N.S.H.Q.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
 (D.D.I.C. 1411B/26 1420B/26).

War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Attacks on
P.Q. 16.
6 ships sunk
GARLAND and
several ships
damaged.

At 1532B today ASHANTI in 73° 35' N. 23° 0' E. reported that Convoy P.Q. 16 had been bombed heavily and continuously for the last 24 hours. SS. EMPIRE LAWRENCE (C.A.M. ship) and 2 other ships were sunk by bombs and one ship by U-Boat. SS. SYROS was in tow of NORTHERN SPRAY for Iceland. The Polish destroyer GARLAND was damaged and had a large number of casualties including 21 killed but was keeping with the convoy; she was later sent on ahead to Murmansk. Heavy air attacks continued and at 2029B ASHANTI reported that 2 more ships had been sunk and several damaged; one of the latter, CITY OF JOLIET had subsequently to be abandoned in a sinking condition. At 2001B C.S.10 was in 70° 46' N. 2° 9' E. steering 220° at 19 knots. 3 Soviet destroyers sailed at 1800B to meet P.Q. 16.

Visual R/C of Narvik at 1320 showed two battle-ships and 4 destroyers present. A large unit, probably TIRPITZ was at Trondheim.

British Air Operations.

11 Russian bombers escorted by fighters attacked Luostari (Petsamo) aerodrome today. 6 bombers attacked Banak aerodrome. Attacks on the other aerodromes failed owing to poor visibility.

Enemy Air Operations.

ARCTIC PIONEER (A/S Trawler) was bombed and sunk this afternoon off St. Helens Fort, Spithead. One of the attacking aircraft was shot down and the pilot captured.

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War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

FITZROY (Fleet minesweeper) was mined and sunk today about 40 miles E.N.E. of Yarmouth.

South Atlantic.

Pernambuco reports a U-Boat believed sunk by aircraft this afternoon 460 miles north of Pernambuco.

Brazilian Govt. are willing to receive MILFORD for docking and refit.

Mediterranean.

E-Boats off
Malta.

At 2259 a Beaufighter sighted and attacked approximately 18 E-Boats 20 miles south of Malta, causing explosions in 3 of them.

6 Wellingtons bombed Messina last night. 6 others laid 11 mines off Benghazi, bombs being dropped as cover.

M.T.Bs 309 and 312 attacked F-Boats escorted by E-Boats off Bomba at 0300. 1 F-Boat was damaged and possibly sunk.

Convoy A.T. 47 was unsuccessfully attacked by U-Boat at 1355 in 32.05 N. 24.40 E.

A U-Boat was believed destroyed last night by 4 direct hits with bombs and D/Cs from a Sunderland about 60 miles N.E. of Tobruk.

War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

6 U.S. heavy bombers attacked Rabaul this afternoon and 5 U.S. medium bombers attacked Lae aerodrome this evening. Zero fighters attacked Port Moresby this evening.

War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of V.A.2. Cancel my 2129B/26. V.A.2 has given instructions to transfer his Flag from NELSON to RODNEY at Colours today.
(A.C.O.S., 0045B/27).

British S/M dispositions. Your 2341Z/11. After carefully examining the position as regards training submarines I find it would be extremely difficult to release Admiral King from his undertaking to turn over 4 "S" Class submarines to us. We need them to enable us to meet our minimum commitments and I shall be grateful if you will explain the position to him using the following arguments at your discretion.

2. Dispositions of British submarines are as follows:-
(a) Operational: North Sea 5, Mediterranean 17, Far East 2, Refitting 13, Working up (all allocated to Med), 7, Total 44.
(b) Training. Submarine training 3, A/S training Home Waters 11, Mediterranean 1, Canada 2, Refitting 4, Total 21.

3. You will observe that all British submarines available for operational work are employed offensively in enemy waters. In emergency training submarines are also used temporarily for operational service.

4. Would it not be possible for the Americans to use some of their submarines now employed operationally in the Atlantic in this way i.e. normally for training, but operationally in emergency.
(1st S.L., 0110B/27 to B.A.D. Washington).

Scapa Patrols. A.M. 1623B/25. Can the withdrawal of these M.Ls. be taken to indicate that need for additional precautionary measure at Scapa has become less urgent. A.M. 2252B/15. refers. Without these M.Ls. it will not be possible to maintain additional seaward patrols which have been instructed particularly in view of the withdrawal of northernmost patrol trawlers to comply with C. in C. Home Fleet's 1628B/21.
(A.C.O.S., 1144B/27 to Admty).

Movements.

Convoys P.Q.16 and Q.P.12. Movements of Covering Forces. See Shipping.

CAIRO, DELHI. It is requested that you will sail CAIRO for Gibraltar to arrive by a.m./7th June. She will be replaced by DELHI for the escort of A.T. 15 Z and W.S. 19 Y.
(D.O.D.(H), 0022B/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

ARGUS. My 2032/21. ARGUS is to leave Clyde with Convoy W.S.19 P on 31/5.
2. She will part company with the Convoy in position XX 44.10 N., 23.30 W., proceeding to Gibraltar in accordance with my 1855/26.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail one destroyer of the Escort of W.S.19 P to part company at XX and provide onward escort to Gibraltar.
4. WILD SWAN after fuelling at Ponta Delgada will R/V with ARGUS in position XX at daylight 5th or as otherwise directed by S.O. of Escort of W.S.19 P and provide onward escort to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1120B/27).

WELSHMAN Intend to sail WELSHMAN passing Clyde boom 2030B/28 May routed as in C. in C. W.A. 1059B/26. May. S. of A. as follows, to arrive boom 2359B/1 June.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1156B/27).

M/S Trawlers "Consular" Trawler Movements.
for Tilbury. (C. in C. W.A., 1201B/27, N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1618B/27, F.O.I.C. Belfast 1805B/27, F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2222B/27).
A.M. 1201/27. A.L. M/MS 0281/42 dated 18/5, and my 1618B/27. It will not be possible for Oerlikon guns to be fitted in POWIS CASTLE and WALWYNS CASTLE before sailing.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1624B/27 to Admty).

RUBIS. ^{/NT. in W.D.} My 1629/25. RUBIS and LOCH MONTEITH sailed. (Capt. S. 9., 2201B/27 and 2203B/27). ^(Dundee)

Operations.

N.W. Norway At 0600 tomorrow 0.10, P.614, UREDD, P.37, P.46
S/M Patrol. are to leave their patrol zone and return to Lerwick as ordered by Capt. (S) 9.
(F.O.S., 1136B/27).
1. Leave patrol at 0600B/28 for 088° Out Skerries 6 miles, thence Lerwick routed as follows.
(i) 0.10 and P.614 direct. (ii) UREDD through 70° 02' N., 008° 25' E. (iii) P.37 through 069° 24' N., 008° 30' W.
(iv) P.46 through 069° 15' N., 008° 10' W.
2. S/Ms are to proceed on the surface at C.Os. discretion and are to adjust speed so as to arrive at Lerwick as follows.
0.10 1500B/31. P.614 2000B/31. UREDD 0400B/1. P.37 1100B/1.
P.46 1800B/1.
(Capt. S. 9., 1741B/27).

Air/Sea My 1619/25 and A.L.M. 051070/42. Codeword
Rescue "Knocker" has been allocated to these operations
operations. and should be used to preface all signals
"Knocker". concerning them.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1149B/27).

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

CUMBERLAND on Patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C., 1507B/27).

Exercises.

H.34

Cancel my 1911/26 and 2218/26.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1012B/27).

British Air Activity.

Norway
coastal
Patrols.

Patrol "Lotus III" is being flown by two A/C
simultaneously from 0830/26 to 0300/27.
2. It is intended to fly an extended "Lotus III"
patrol along Norwegian coast outside detection
range to 67° N., 11° E., thence to 71° N., 19°
E., thence to 71° N., 23° E., and returning over Vestfiord.
3. If practicable this will be covered continuously for enemy
speeds up to 25 knots from 0400/27 until further notice.
(D.O.D.(H.), 0122B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

Communication
with Russian
Fighter A/C.

North Russia's 2030B/21. Russians have agreed
to retain 6440 kc/s as fighter direction wave
and will change W/T receivers in P.E.3 aircraft
where necessary.
(Ad. Miles, 1334C/27 to Admty).

A/C for
ARGUS.

My 1818/24. 6 Albatrosses of 822 Squadron are not
now required to embark in ARGUS.
(D.N.A.D., 1814B/27 to R.A. N.A.S.).

Enemy Air Activity.

NORTHERN
SPRAY,
attacked.

1 AP. 69° 56' N., 8° 10' W.
(NORTHERN SPRAY. 1040Z/27 to Iceland)
Help. 69.56 N. 8.10' W. (NORTHERN SPRAY 1120Z/27).

Convoy P.Q.
16 Attacked.

See Shipping.

ARCTIC
PIONEER,
(A/S Trawler
sunk).

At 1501 ARCTIC PIONEER in 095° St. Helens Fort
9 cables was attacked by 3 fighter bombers
flying from N.E. Four bombs dropped in all.
ARCTIC PIONEER appeared to receive direct hit and
sank within 2 minutes. At present 13 survivors
and 1 body have been picked up. Mast and top
of funnel now showing. 527 Coast Artillery hold German pilot
who baled out 1 mile S.W. Fort Bembridge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1857B/27 to Admty).

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Convoys. Fighters are being sent to assistance of Code-words "Paddle" and "Rusty".
(Rosyth, W/T, 2250/27).

Mining.

S.N.72 My 0900/23. BRIGHTON is not now available for SALADIN. I should be most grateful if you could lend me a destroyer for this operation, she would return to Londonderry by about midnight 4/5th. If available request ship may arrive at Sound of Sleat boom by 1800/29.
(R.A.M., 1120/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
Request you will sail SALADIN to comply with R.A.M's 1120/27.
(C. in C. W.A., 1742B/27 to Comdre. Londonderry).

Q.S.6 Following from M.S. 9. Repeats M.S.9., 1730B/26.
(C. in C. Nore, 1220B/27 to Admty).

FITZROY Report loss by mining of FITZROY at approx. (Minesweeper) twelve ten today in 052° 39' N., 2° 46' E. sunk. Survivors 7 officers 97 ratings returning to Yarmouth in LYDD.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1508?/27).

My 2109/27. Ship sank in about 15 minutes. Majority of missing were in engine room and it is not at present clear how they died. As far as is known all men in the water were rescued.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2130B/27).

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1420 in 310° 57 Buoy 1 mile..
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1515B/27).

Enemy Intelligence.

Narvik and Visual R/C of Narvik shows two battleships and Trondheim four destroyers present at 1320/27. TIRPITZ. P.R.U. Trondheim at 1130/27 shows one large unit probably TIRPITZ in usual berth, remainder of area not effectively covered.
(D.D.I.C., 1853B/27).

U-Boats.

U-boat By D/F at 0059Z/27, a U-boat in approx. 54° N., reported. 17° W.
(D.D.I.C., 0644B/27).

Possible RENONCULE has attacked contact in 055° 47', 007° U-boat 52'. Have joined him and (incomplete group). attacked. My contact doubtful consider non sub as wreck RENONCULE. chart shows 4 wrecks near.

War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Possible
U-boat
attacked
RENONCULE.
Contd.

Quantity of oil on surface sample taken both
ships rejoining convoy.
(HARVESTER, 1913B/27).

Convoy
P.Q. 16.

One M/V sunk by U-boat. See Shipping.

Navigational.

Poole
Harbour.
(Bombed
night 24/25)

N.O.I.C. Poole's 1045/25 and 1230/25. Part of
Poole can be opened as from 0600/28.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1655B/27 to N.O.I.C. Poole).

Ice.
Gulf of
Bothnia. Jan
Mayen.

Ice report 26/5. Gulf of Bothnia. (1) Lulea
and other northern Bothnian now open for ice-
strengthened vessels. These ports should be
free to all shipping in a very few days.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1707/27).

Jan Mayen reports pack ice and broken new frozen
winter ice cover blocking East Coast, in the vicinity line
drawn north end westwards. T.O.O. 1600/27.
(A.C.I.C., 2317B/27).

Yarmouth.

3 C reported extinguished.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1847B/27).

Casualties & Defects.

GREY MIST.

N.A.B. GREY MIST delayed at Grimsby with dynamos
burnt out. Probable time of delay 14 days.
(F.O. Humber, 1149B/27).

BRADFORD.

Shrouding in starboard L.P. turbine has carried
away and starboard engine cannot be used except
in emergency. Turbine will require lifting
to effect repairs. My P.C.S. 050° 42' N., 019° 16' W., 034°
10.
(BRADFORD, 1701B/27).
Your 1701B/27. Return to base.
(C. in C. W.A., 1924B/27 to BRADFORD).

ARUNDEL
CASTLE.

ARUNDEL CASTLE refloated and proceeding to Newport
accompanied by tugs.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1845B/27).

War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy Admiralty 1930/25. New patrol zone 12 B occupied
P.Q.16. by U.S.S.R. S/M ?K One bounded by 72° 28', 72°
EMPIRE 58', 24° 20' E, 27° 50' E.
LAWRENCE (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0333B/27 to P.Q.16).
(British, D/F Bearings at 2347Z/26 and 0040Z/27 indicate
7457 tons) P.Q.16 is being shadowed and reported by U-boats.
and 4 other (D.D.I.C., 0357B/27 to P.Q.16, A.I.G.47).
M/Vs sunk. At 0900/27 my P.C.S. are 070° 52' N., 000° 10' E.
SYROS (U.S.A., 245° 17 knots, to pass position (C) 066° 50' N.
6191 tons) 011° 025' W., at 0700B/28.
damaged. 2. VICTORIOUS, FAULKNER, FURY and ECLIPSE will
GARLAND be detached to Hvalfjord from position (C)
damaged. 3. BLANKNEY, LAMERTON, MIDDLETON, WHEATLAND
meet me in position (C).
4. Force "Q" leave position (Y) at 1900/28

unless otherwise ordered by F.O.10 C.S.

(C. in C. H.F., 0952B/27).

My 1554C/26 para. 1. Understand 3 submarines are being sent out.
(Ad. Miles, 1328C/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F., C.S.10).

Convoy P.Q.16. Heavy and continuous bombing for last 24 hours.
Casualties to date 3 ships including EMPIRE LAWRENCE sunk by
bombs, one ship by U-boat. SYROS in tow of NORTHERN SPRAY for
Iceland from position (?L).

→ GARLAND damaged with 8 killed and 40 wounded but can keep with
convoy. Position at 1530B/27 073° 35' N., 023° E., steaming
060° at 8 knots to open distance from land.

(ASHANTI, 1532B/27 to Admty. S.B.N.O. North Russia).

ASHANTI signal rebroadcast by me stopped with 30 groups still
outstanding. My P.C.S. 070° 46', 002° 09' E., 220° 19 knots.
(C.S.10, 2001B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

KENT is short of following ammunition:- 8 inch H.E. 32%,
4 inch H.E. 37%, 2 pounder mark 8 H.Y. 11%, Oerlikon 18%,
.5 machine gun 10%. She will be detached for Hvalfjord at 0500B
/28.

(C.S.10, 2010B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

My 1532B/27. Heavy air attacks continue. 2 more ships sunk
several damaged. At least 15 attacks by groups of 6 Ju.88
and 3 torpedo bombers. Attacks since 0200 this morning.
(?ASHANTI, 2029B/27 to Admty).

C. in C. H.F., 0952B/27. Force Q proceed Scapa now.

(C.S. 10 2101B/27 to LEDBURY).

→ My 0952B/27. 2 hours late at position C.

(C. in C. H.F., 2217/27 to BLANKNEY).

P.Q.16. Soviet intelligence inform me German A/C claim one
ship sunk, two damaged by attack about 1700B/27. 20 Soviet
bombers attacked Banak, Kirkeness, and Luostari (Petsamo)
aerodromes this evening, results not yet reported. 3 Soviet
destroyers sailed 1800B to meet P.Q.16.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2217B/27 to Ad. Miles, (R) C. in C. H.F.,
C.S.10).

Convoy P.Q.16 was four hours ahead of time at 1630/27.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2259B/27 to GARLAND, (R) ASHANTI).

→ Have detached GARLAND to Murmansk (?since) she can steam 24 knots
but no serviceable armament and only Jury aerial.

2. If ice permits, convoy will cross 74° 30' N., 28° 40' E.
at 0500B/28 thence position O.

3. (?8) aircraft attacked convoy today.

(ASHANTI, 2350B/27 to Admty. S.B.N.O. North Russia).

795

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- S.L.110 FOWEY. S.L.110. Cancel my 2238/25. FOWEY is to leave O.S. 29 in time to R/V S.L.110 before dark 29th. Estimated P.C.S. of S.L.110 at 2000B/29 046° 3' N., 021° 07' W., 004° 7 knots. (C. in C. W.A., 1235B/27 to LEITH, FOWEY).
/N.T. & W.D.
- W.S.19 P. My 1130B/24. Intend sailing (four ships) 2000B /28 escorted by BUXTON. E.T.A. Greenock, 1300B/29. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1250B/27).
Sailing date of W.S.19 P postponed by one day. Embarkation programme will be adhered to. (D.S.T., 1650B/27).
Escorts and programme. (C. in C. W.A., 1847B/27) See Lion Copy.
- W.S.20 W.S.20 is expected to leave U.K. about 20/6.
2. No cruiser will be available as through escort.
3. Ocean escort will be provided as follows:-
A. U.K. to Azores - None. B. Azores to Freetown - MALAYA.
C. Freetown to Cape - SHROPSHIRE.
(D.O.D. (F), 1744B/27).
- Insecure coding Tables. My 1849/4 Para. 5. An instance has already occurred of a ship reporting position by latitude and longitude using an insecure recoding table. The danger of such action is to be stressed to every Master of an independently routed ship. (D.T.D., 1855B/27 to A.I.G. 19).
- B.A.M.S. Messages and Areas. A new system of broadcasting messages to merchant ships will be commenced at 0001 G.M.T. on Monday 1st June to replace present G.B.M.S. organisation. Call sign B.A.M.S., standing for Broadcasts to Allied Merchant Ships, will be used instead of call sign G.B.M.S. which will be discontinued. Fundamental principles of B.A.M.S. and G.B.M.S. are similar, but with B.A.M.S. the number of stations transmitting at routine periods is reduced in each area to a minimum. This will eliminate doubt as to what stations to read; will stop ships from reading unnecessary routines; and will allow them to keep efficient watch on 500 k/cs (600 metres) for maximum time. Details. (D.S.D. 2110Z/27).

MOST SECRET

795A

~~1847B/27th May~~

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 28.5.42.
Recd. 0547

Naval Cypher C.T.T. by T/P.

Addressed N.O.I.C.Greenock, N.O.I.C.Liverpool, R.A.(M),
N.O.I.C.Londonderry, Rept. Admiralty, H.M.S.SALISBURY,
N.O.I.C.Belfast, C. in C. Home Fleet, F.C.C.N.A., H.M.S.
BEAGLE, H.M.S.DOUGLAS, R.A.West Africa 132, H.M.Ships
LEAMINGTON, KEPPEL, ARGUS, NELSON, WELLS, CHARLESTOWN,
N.C.S.O's Mersey, Clyde, Capt.(D) Greenock, Capt. (D)
Liverpool, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C., 15 Group, C. in C. U.S.Fleet,
B.A.D.Washington, H.M.Ships DERWENT, BLACKMORE, MANSFIELD,
BUXTON, A.O.C. 15 Group, R.A.D.Home Fleet,

308. W.S.19 P. Admiralty 2032/21st, 1855/26th and 1120/27th
none to all addresses.

(1) H.M.S.KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, LEAMINGTON, BUXTON are to proceed
Greenock for convoy conference at 1045/31st. All other
available C.O's to attend conference.

(2) Ocean escort H.M.S.NELSON. *See p 797*

(3) A/S escort. S.O. H.M.S.KEPPEL.

(A) H.M.S.MANSFIELD from Liverpool escorting Liverpool
portion. H.M.S.MANSFIELD is to top up with fuel at Moville.

(B) After completion with fuel. and attending conference
H.M.S.BUXTON is to be sailed to act as additional escort to
Liverpool portion as requested by N.O.I.C.Liverpool.

(C) H.M.Ships KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, LEAMINGTON, CHARLESTOWN
and WELLS join convoy at position "A" after fuelling
Moville.

(D) H.M.Ships BEAGLE, SALISBURY, DERWENT and BLACKMORE
from Clyde

(4) H.M.S.KEPPEL, LEAMINGTON, MANSFIELD, SALISBURY, CHARLESTOWN
and WELLS are to remain with convoy till prudent limit of
endurance and then return to their respective bases.

(5) H.M.S.BUXTON is to escort H.M.S.*ARGUS from position X X to
Gibraltar and after fuelling is to proceed to Argentia repeat
Argentia to rejoin escort unit B.6. **See p 797*

(6) H.M.S.DOUGLAS and H.M.S.BEAGLE are to remain with convoy
while H.M.S.BLACKMORE and H.M.S.DERWENT refuel in the Azores.
When H.M.S.BLACKMORE and H.M.S.DERWENT have rejoined H.M.S.
H.M.S.BEAGLE and H.M.S.DOUGLAS are to proceed to Ponta Delgada
refuel and return to U.K. in company.

(7) N.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to order fuel at Ponta
Delgada.

(8) Request you will sail ships accordingly.

(9) B.A.D.Washington please pass plain language copy to
C. in C. U.S.Fleet.

1847B/27.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(H), D.T.D.

Originated by D.O.D.(H) sailing of W.S.19 P.

1st S.L.	A.C.N.S.(T)	D. of P.(2)	W.D.	D.O.D.(M)
4th S.L.	N.A.1st S.L.	D. of S.T.	D.N.I.(4)	D.A/S.W.
5th S.L.	D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.T.D.(3)	D.C.(2)	
V.C.H.S.	D.O.D.(H)(2)	D.T.D.(M)	Jd.Blake	
A.C.H.S.(F)(2)	Hd. of M.(13)	D.T.D.(C)	D.N.A.D.	
A.C.H.S.(H)	D.D.I.C.(2)	I.F.(2)	Hd. of Air	

RMB

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War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/Bs. Bearings of Italian U-Boat 97D at 2321Z/26.
(D.D.I.C. 0200B/27, to F.O.C.N.A.).
Bearings of Italian U-Boat 19M at 2358Z/26.
(D.D.I.C. 0234B/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).

ENSEIGNE MAURICE PRECHAC, ENSEIGNE MAURICE PRECHAC foundering. Entire crew safe. HARTLAND rejoining convoy.
(HARTLAND. 0344Z/27, to F.O.C.N.A.(R) Admty. etc).
Following is a repetition of HARTLAND's 0344Z/27.
(quoted) In view of above signal cancel my 2232/26.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0746B/27 to N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada, N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty. etc.).

EAGLE CHARYBDIS. Intend to sail EAGLE escorted by CHARYBDIS and 4 destroyers on 29/5 for exercise.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1132B/27, to Admty.).
Cancelled, See, 1830/28.

WELSHMAN. C.in C. W.A. 1059/26. Cancel position C. and D. From (B) pass through position E. 040° 01' N. 013° 59' W. F. 036° 30' N. 009° 45' W. thence Gibraltar. N.O.I.C. Greenock pass to WELSHMAN. Admty. pass to R.A.(M) by I/T.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1202B/27, to N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C., Glasgow).

TORBAY. Intend sailing TORBAY painted dark blue P.M./29 for U.K. crossing 043° N. in 012° 59' at 0830B/1/6, shift wireless watch at that time. F.O.C.(S) is requested to arrange onward route.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1506B/27, to Admty.(R) F.O.(S) etc.

M/Ls. My 1941/26. Request you will also prepare 2 M/Ls of 29th Flotilla.
(D.O.D.(F) 1856B/27 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) V.A. Malta, etc.).

Portuguese Fishing Fuel. Your 1603B/11. Considerations advanced by you are appreciated. Stocks at Halifax which are at present extremely short are commercial not Admty. stocks. Every assistance will be given by Admty. in cases of difficulty of supply.
You should request Portuguese, in order to minimise difficulties and delays, to give longest possible notice of intended calls for fuel and requirements.
(Head of M. Approved 4th S.L. 2028B/27 to N.A. Lisbon).

Casablanca. Photo R/C Casablanca 1113/27 Major units, no change.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2202B/27, to Admty. etc.).

/Use

797

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Use of Fulmars. Your 1200B/26. No suitable relief for Fraser-Harris can be readily provided. Request he may be informed, (1) that his views regarding Fulmars have been considered at Admty. and are understood and fully appreciated, (2) that more efficient aircraft cannot at present be provided, (3) that under these circumstances T.L. feel that 807 Sqn. under command of Lt. Fraser-Harris will make the best use of their present aircraft and give a good account of themselves whenever required to do so. (Admty. Rex House 61 2240B/27, to F.O.C.N.A.).

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 37. 38 N, 2.05 E. Enemy on surface. Attacked with depth charges, estimate no hits. S/M Course 040°, speed 10 knots. (A/C using call sign 7XMC 2345/27 2359/27 to Gib. W/T).

South Atlantic.

CARLISLE. Departure 1730B/26 CARLISLE for Freetown Via Pointe Noire. Ex.T.A. Pointe Noire 0900B/1/16. Shift to W/T organization for Area P at 1400B/30. (C in C.S.A., 1057B/27, to Admty.(R) B.N.L.O., W.Africa R.A.W.A.).
C.in C. S.A's 1145/26*. Conservation of fuel stocks at Ponta Delgada is still necessary. CARLISLE should be routed via Gibraltar. 2. My 1131/11/3 refers. (D.O.D.(F) 1746B/27 to C.in C.S.A., R.A.W.A.).
* Treated as Most Secret.

WILD SWAN MALAYA ARGUS. NELSON. WILD SWAN sails Bathurst P.M./29 for Ponta Delgada and Gibraltar with stores for MALAYA. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail WILD SWAN for U.K. for refit at Portsmouth. (R.A.W.Af. 1103Z/27, to F.O.C.N.A.(R) Admty. etc). Cancel my 1239Z/25 to WILD SWAN only, WILD SWAN is to be detached to arrive Bathurst a.m./29. After fuelling WILD SWAN is to proceed Ponta Delgada for fuelling through position (A) 014° 01' N. 018° 58' W. to arrive p.m. 3/6. WILD SWAN is to leave Ponta Delgada daylight 4/6 to R/V with ARGUS in position (?XX) 044° 10' N. 023° 30' W. at daylight 5/6 and escort to Gibraltar through position Y Y 037° 05' N. 011° 15' W. ARGUS with convoy W S 19 P is routed D, 047° 10' N. 024° 01' W. E.039° 35' N. 022° 38' W. S.O.A.13 knots, escort NELSON and destroyers. (R.A.W.A., 1205Z/27, to WILD SWAN, COLOMBO, (R) ARGUS, NELSON, Admty. F.O.C. N.A.).

/W.S.19 P.....

War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. contd.

W.S.19 P. A.M.2032B/21 and 1853B/26. W.S.19 P. First 2 letters of convoy W/T call sign are M Z. Out con 242. Commodore's R/V noon M.S.T. 1/6 in 055° 31' N. 008° 42' W. R/V 1. Noon M.S.T. 2nd in 054° 14' 016° 38' R/V 2 Ex. T.A. Freetown 14/6.

(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1215B/27, to N.C.S.O. Clyde. (R) R.A.(M), NELSON, DERWENT, BLACKMORE, Admty, F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. W.A. N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, C.in C. H.F. C.in C. S.A. R.A. West Africa, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.

→ MILFORD, No. 546. Your telegram No. 478. Brazilian Refit, Govt. are willing to receive MILFORD for Brazil. docking and refit. Other points are being discussed and I will telegraph again as soon as possible. (Rio de Janeiro 1228/27 to F.O.(R) Washington).

Saldanha My 1648/24, para. 6. Bay. 1. 9.2" or 6" 45° equipments cannot be made available. 2. Port Defence Committee consider an extra battery of 6" Naval guns should prove a reasonable deterrent to deliberate bombardment if sited well in advance of the objective on N. or S. Head, and if equipped with D.R.F. rangefinder. S.Head appears better tactical position but realised that administrative and communication difficulties may prove too great. 3. Committee therefore approve allocation of 2 additional 6" Naval guns to be shipped from this country in about 2 months time. (D.of L.D. 1331B/27 to C.in C.S.A.).

Situation. 2000/27. R.A.W.A.,1445Z/27, C.in C.S.A.1621B/27. See Lion Copy.

Italian Italian ships SATURNIA, VULCANIA, arrived Port Repatriations. Elizabeth 0830Z/27. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1543B/27, to N.O.I.C. Freetown, Admty.).

W.S.19. Ref. 1818Z/26 from N.C.S.O.Freetown. Convoy W.S.19 escorts MAURITIUS, BELVOIR, HURSLEY, → MILFORD, ALCANTARA, BOREAS, and VELOX. VELOX to be detached p.m./28, BOREAS to be detached with HIGHLAND BRIGADE for Takoradi and Lagos p.m./28, ALCANTARA in about 020° S. after assisting with (?fuelling) of escort and depending upon sailing of W.S.19 W. (R.A.W.Africa, 1605Z/27, to C.in C.S.A.(R) Admty.).

Freetown, In order to cut down bunkering at the Cape bunkers. Masters of coal burning ships should be advised that if proceeding to Freetown for onward routeing or convoy to the U.K. they may now and until further notice obtain up to 750 tons bunkers at Freetown. While such ships must have on board on leaving Freetown 30 days bunkers at convoy speed they may disregard the 5500 mile bunkering rule from the Cape. (D.T.D.,1701B/27 to C.in C.S.A.(R) R.A.W.A.).

/M.A.R.I. ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1445Z/27th May

IN

From R.A. West Africa.

Date 27.5.42.
Recd. 1850.NAVAL CYPHER 'M' BY W/T

Addressed Ships in Area 'P' of South Atlantic Station North of
8 degs. North, C. in C. South Atlantic N.O.I/C.
Takoradi, R.N.O. Legos, Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2000/27th All positions North and West unless
otherwise stated.

LAERTES off Freetown ~~H.M.S.~~ CARNARVON CASTLE. 007 degs 40'
014 degs 45' to H 34 D 17½

~~H.M.S.~~ BRIDGEWATER, 007 degs 40' 014 degs 30' to Freetown 12.

CANNA, 007 degs 45' 014 degs 05' 205 degs 6½.

~~H.M.S.~~ PICT ~~H.M.S.~~ BENGALI patrolling sector T

~~H.M.S.~~ MAURITIUS ~~H.M.S.~~ ALCANTARA 5 escorts with
W 8 19, 003 degs 20' 015 degs 10' to 000 degs 30' 014 degs 30'
thence 154 degs 14

~~H.M.S.~~ SPANIARD ~~H.M.S.~~ PHYLLISIA about 004 degs 15' 010 degs
45' to Freetown, 6.

~~H.M.S.~~ FANDANGO 001 degs. 30' 008 degs. 30' ~~H.M.S.~~ HYDRANGEA
5 escorting 001 degs. 05' 006 degs. 30' 272 degs. 7½.

~~H.M.S.~~ RUMBA 003 degs 15' 006 degs 01' to Legos (Nigeria) 5.

BRITTANY 2 Boom Vessel 003 degs. 30' South 009 degs. 15'
East to Pointe Noire, 7½.

(R.A.W. Africa, 1445Z/27.5.42)

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
E. to Legos S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C. (2)
Duty Capt. (2)

I.P. (2)
Head of M.
W.D.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET ~~MESSAGE~~ 1621B/27th May IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 27.5.42.

Recd 1728.

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T

~~Addressed South Atlantic Station Squadron,
repeated Admiralty.~~~~IMPORTANT.~~~~314~~

Ships in area Q as at 2000Z/27th May 1942.
 H.M.S. CILICIA off (? Tristan da Cunha).
 PLADDA (HILDA² corrupt group) SLUN/A, (?S) HAPINSAY,
 034° 37' South 025° 20' East to Durban 6½ knots.
 H.M.S. CARLISLE 029° 30' South 014° 40' East to
 Pointe Noire, 14 knots.

(Acba, 1621B/27, 5 SA. 82)

~~Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) & D.D.I.C.~~

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)
 Duty Captain (2)
 D.A/S.W.
 Hd. of M.
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.M.S.

MOST SECRET

799

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

M.A.R.I. Ref: Admty. 1636B/20, amendment No.12 to M.A.R.I. Routes for ships to and from Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. (R.A.W.A., 1831Z/27 to N.C.S.O's etc.) See Lion Copy.

VAN GALEN. Sailed VAN GALEN. Ex.T.A.Mombasa 1200Z/31. S.of A. 20 knots, (Route). (N.O.I.C.Durban 1845Z/27, to Admty. etc.)

O.S.28. Departure 27/5 ROCKROSE, VIOLET, to R/V with O S 28. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2046Z/27, to Admty).

OESTELOIDE. Your 1223R/25. OESTELOIDE arrived Rio De Janeiro today, 27th. (S.O.I.Montevideo, 2219Z/27, to S.O.I.Jamaica (R) Admty. etc.).

CUYABA. C.in C. U.S. Fleet's 1353/22 and C.in C. S.A. 1315/26 (?1415/26 intended) H.M.G. have not granted safe conduct to S.S.CUYABA. Further instructions follow. (Head of M.2353B/27 to C.in C.S.A.(R) R.A.W.A. C.in C. A.W.I.).

Mediterranean.

Bi-weekly Opsum No.24. Night 22/23. 4 Wellingtons mined approaches to Benghazi Harbour, bombs dropped to disguise operation. 23/5 2 Beaufighters on shipping sweep along Coast Cyrenaica attacked M/V 2,500 tons 12 miles west (?Tolmeta). Ship stopped with smoke issuing. 20 Martlets 28 Hurricanes 4 Beaufighters 4 Fulmars shipping protection along Egyptian Coast. A Swordfish attacked submarine 30 miles N.E.Daba with 3 d/c's all within 5 yards. Stern rose 40 feet out of water then disappeared rapidly. Presumed destroyed.

Night 23/24. 2 Albacores laid 2 mines in entrance to Derna Harbour. A single enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs on Haifa. No damage. 24/5. 6 Kittyhawks with escort 6 Kittyhawks bombed small vessel near coast North of Bomba, no hits. 6 Martlets 60 Hurricanes 2 Fulmars shipping protection. A Blenheim attacked submarine 50 miles N of Sidi Barrani with 4 A/S bombs. Patch of oil seen after attack. 2 enemy aircraft attacked ship off Rosetta. No damage.

Night 24/25. 7 Wellingtons laid 10 mines off Benghazi. Bombs also dropped to conceal operation.

/2 torpedo ...

SECRET.

M E S S A G E 1831Z/27th May.

IN

799A

From: R.A. West Africa.

Date: 28.5.42.

Recd: 0735.

NAVAL SHORE CODE (N.2.) SECRET BY W/T.

Addressed: N.C.S.O. Para, N.C.S.O. Bahia, N.C.S.O. Pernambuco,
N.C.S.O. Santos, N.C.S.O. Montevideo, N.C.S.O.
Buenos Aires. B.A.N.A. Rio.

IMPORTANT.

Reference A.M. 1636B/20th May amendment number
12 to MARI begins "Section 11 paragraph 14 and substitute

(1) Shipping proceeding direct from one port to another on the U.S. and Canadian East Coast is to be routed coastwise and, where it is applicable, in conformity with MACRI. (All such shipping of the requisite speed is to proceed in appropriate coastal convoy)!"

(2) Ships proceeding to and from Caribbean Sea Ports east of 007 degs. west are to be routed as follows.

(A) Ships from and to U.S.A. east coast ports in conformity with MACRI.

(B) All ships from and to Canadian East Coast ports and independent ship from and to U.K. ports.

(1) Wither side of Bermuda.

(2) Interior leave by any of the passages between Cuba and Trinidad, such passage to be traversed in daylight.

(C) Tankers dispersed from O N (South) and O S Convoy and from South America, South and West African Ports and Gibraltar, to be routed diverse to guard for onward convoy, approach to be made from varying directions including from northward and westward, any passage in Lesser Antilles Chain.

(D) Eastbound tankers from Aruba and Curacao to proceed in convoy to disperse at point outside Caribbean Sea.

(3) Ships proceeding to and from Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea Ports west of 079 degs. west are to be routed as follows.

(A) Ships of 15 knots and over from Canadian east coast and U.K. Ports sailing independently to be routed either side of Bermuda but not within 030 degs. North and Nantucket Island enter or leave by Florida Strait.

(B) Ships sailing in O N and O N (S) convoys remain in convoy to Boston thence independently via Cape Cod Canal and Long Island Sound to Hampton Roads in accordance with MACRI 101 in convoy to Key West for onward routing.

(C) Ships.....

799^B

- 2 -

(C) Ships of under 15 knots bound Canadian East Coast and U.K. Port proceed Key West for convoy or onward routing to Hampton Roads thence to be onward routed independently in accordance with MACRI via Long Island Sound and Cape Cod Canal to Boston thence in convoy to Canadian destination or to Halifax for convoy to U.K.

(2) Sub paragraph four after ship insert to and from Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Cancel words "Paragraph 11" at end of paragraph.

(3) Sub paragraph five
(A) omit reference Providence Channel. (B) A G D Tankers to be routed via (2) (C) and (D) above.

Regret delay due to check and repeat.

1851Z/27.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (3)
C.I.C. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (H)
D.T.D. (C)
~~W.D.~~
O.D. (5)
I.P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
A.E. (3)
D. of P. (3)
N.S.

P

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. conts:-

Bi-weekly 2 torpedo Wellingtons attacked convoy 2 M/V
Opsum No.24. 5000 tons, 2 destroyers escorted by A.S.V.
Contd. Wellington, 180 miles W.N.W. Benghazi 1 hit
caused explosion. Night 25/26. 1 torpedo
Wellington attacked convoy 1 large 1 small
merchant vessel 2 destroyers located by A.S.V. Wellington
40 miles N.W. Benghazi, results unobserved. Second torpedo
Wellington prevented from attacking by smoke screen.
26/5. 8 Martlets 32 Hurricanes 6 Fulmars ship protection.
A Blenheim attacked submarine 60 miles N.E. Tobruk with 4 A/S
bombs. No effect observed. Enemy aircraft active on sea R/C
between Matruh and Alexandria, no attacks on shipping reported.
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1054/27, 1107/27, 1121/27, 1139/27, 1158/27,
1216/27).

CENTURION. Sail CENTURION for Suez.
(C.in C.Med. 1057C/27, to N.O.I.C. Aden.(R)
C.in C. E.F. Admty, C.in C. E.I. N.O.I.C.Suez,
F.O.R.S.).

PORPOISE Your 1508/23 PORPOISE sailed Malta 23rd.
Intend her to continue provided V.A.Malta can
accept her.
(C.in C.Med. 1057C/27 to Admty, (R) V.A.Malta
Capt. (S) 1).

Your 1057/27. We hope that Marsaxlokk has not been fouled.
2. PORPOISE will not be accepted unless she can be swept and
escorted into Marsaxlokk. 3. At the moment our minesweeping
situation is acute but I hope to be able to do this although
it may entail holding PORPOISE off for 1 or 2 days. 4. With
our present local air superiority I am not unduly anxious
about her being attacked in moonlight.
(V.A.Malta, 1305B/27, to C.in C.Med.(R) Admty.Capt.S.1).

L.L.Vessels, Your 2012/26 (loss of EDDY) Have you any "LL"
Malta. vessels left in action or are "LL" reinforce-
ments essential?
(D.M.S.1154B/27, to V.A.Malta (R) C.in C.Med.).

Axis (1) My 1558C/19 CELENO and ALBARO sailed P.M.
Shipping. for Constanza. N.L.O.Black Sea kept fully
informed. (2) Greek Auxiliary sailing vessel
PANAGHIA THIMIANI 90 G.T., arrived from
Mitylene (Les Vos) 27/5.
(S.O.(I.) Istanbul, 1255C/27, to S.O.I.Med.
(R) Admty).

Malta I.329 C.S.R.27/5. 26th. 1719 hours, 6 Me.
Air Report. 109s bombed Luqa (casualties).
Night 26/27. 0204 hours, 3 raiders, bombs sea,
27th, 3 alerts.
(H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 1545/27).
Night 26/27. 7 Mark 2 Wellingtons target
Messina 2020 to 0100 hours. 1 returned engine
trouble. Bombs and incendiaries dropped from

/8000 feet ...

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27.5.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. conts.Malta
Air Report.
Contd.8000 feet on terminus, railway yards, and battleships. Fires in railway yards and ferry slipway. 1 visible 35 miles. Smoke screen and probable balloons.
(H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 1551/27).POOLE
CROMER
CROMARTY
ROMNEY.C.in C. E.F.1156/25 being passed (?to) F.O.C. Red Sea Force and Cdre. Aden. Request you will inspect POOLE, (?on arrival) with a view of completing dock repairs at Aden, which should be done if possible. If not possible, she is to be sailed for Alexandria. CROMER, CROMARTY, and ROMNEY, are to be sailed to Alexandria on arrival.
(C.in C. Med. 1835C/27, to Cdre. Aden.)

THORN

THORN leaves Alexandria at 1900 C/27 and proceeds from end of Searched Channel through 032° 14' 028° 52', 033° 35' 022° 57' and 033° 01' 020° 01' to patrol in area C south of 035° N. between 014° and 020° 30' E arriving p.m./31.
(Capt.S.1, 1845C/27, to C.in C. Med.(R) V.A.Malta R.A.Alex.etc)THORN
THRASHER.THORN left Alexandria at 1900, ^{Proceeding} proceeding from searched channel through 032° 14' 028° 52'. 1 destroyer and 2 trawlers on patrol in sanctuary. 1 German U-boat has been reported in vicinity of Alexandria. You may enter harbour as convenient after sunrise.
(Capt.S.1. 2001C/27, to THRASHER).

A/C Targets.

Request whether high speed target-towing A/C and targets are being supplied to Mediterranean. Training is being seriously handicapped for lack of both. Requirements now include target tow for D.E.M.S. at Suez and Port Said for which existing Rocs are suitable but number required increases.
(C.in C. Med., 2007C/27, to Admty, (R) C.O.N.A.).Enemy Units
TURBULENT —
TAKU.At 1901C/27 P.C. and S. 2 merchant ships, 2 destroyers, 038° 46' 018° 20', 175° 11 knots.
(Capt.S.1, 2335C/27, to TURBULENT, TAKU).

802

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Air Report. Intelligence Summary No. 72. On information received up to 1800 hours 26/5.
Burma. 3 Hudsons bombed paddle steamers Buthidaung on Maqu River 25/5. Sampans Mouth of river machine-gunned. 4 Blenheims attacked 3 steamers in Sittaung Mawlaik area 25/5 with bombs, and smaller craft with machine gunfire. A/C evaded attack by enemy fighter. Sampans reported at Taungu and Buwag. 3 Blenheims anti-infiltration bombed barges Kalewa 25/5. 1 large steamer machine gunned near Nanzalein. No personnel seen.
(A.H.Q. India, 0045/27.)

Cocos Island. Re civilian shore W/T service operator detailed as relief for Cocos Island D/F Station declining to proceed.
Request authority to exercise compulsory powers and inflict heavy penalty in case of refusal.
(C. in C. Ceylon, 0527Z/27 to Admty.) *see 5/6/42 p-109A*

FOXHOUND. Request you will sail FOXHOUND for Kilindini at best speed.
(C. in C. E.F., 0725Z/27 to C.S. Durban.)

Base Defences. Your 1345Z/25/5 (N.T. in W.D.)
(1) Intend that Deputy C. in C. E.F. shall take over policy and planning for installation of all base defences on 1/6.
(2) Cdr. Currey is to be sent to Kilindini as in your para. 5.
(3) Lieut. Ponsonby is to remain in Ceylon for the present as he will be required to embark in place of FG/SO who is remaining in Kilindini.
(4) Administration of bases will be responsibility of Flag Officers as in my 1632/17 but I intend to discuss this question with you.
(5) Request you will signal any information that will be required by Deputy C. in C. before arrive of Cdr. Currey.
(C. in C. E.F., 0741Z/27 to C. in C. E.I., (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., Admty., F.O. E.A.)

Kilindini Harbour Craft. 2 examination vessels with full crews and suitable boarding launches are urgently required at Kilindini. A/S Yacht would be most suitable if available in order to conduct examination and A/S patrol duties. Request they may be provided as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.F., 1022Z/27 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O. E.A.)

/CORNWALL

803

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.CORNWALL,
DORSETSHIRE,
HERMES,
VAMPIRE.Details of attacks by aircraft which resulted in sinking.
(C. in C. E.F., 1027Z/27 to Admty., C. in C. E.I.)
See Lion Copy.

RANCHI.

My 0543/24. 1. RANCHI left Colombo 25/5 direct for Suez, E.T.A. 1700Z/3/6.
2. Has on board 8 Oerlikon equipment complete except loading handles loading (corrupt group) and shoulder rests. 3. Requirements on arrival Suez.
(C. in C. E.I., 1225Z/27 to C. in C. Med.)

Movements.

Summary No. 42, 27/5.
(C. in C. E.I., 1234Z/27 to E.I., Stn.)
See Lion Copy.Madagascar
Wreck.Madagascar, Ambararata Bay.
(1) Wrecked Corvette in 012° 14'55" S. 049° 04'12" E.
(2) Depth over wreckage approx. 24 feet.
(3) Marked by dan buoy with red flag.
(S.O.(I), Colombo, 1336Z/27 to Alexandria QCA. 491)Seychelles,
Guns.A.M. 1244/24 (N.T. in W.D. - Requesting reasons for alteration of allocation of guns.)
Alteration in allocation of these guns was proposed having regard to following factors:
(A) Extreme importance of providing Seychelles with coast defence at an early date.
(B) Armindia informs me no guns at present available in India.
(C) M.N.B.D.O. are about to start Seychelles operation and they will be seriously delayed if guns are not immediately available.
(D) R/C party have recommended that proposed Coast Defences are inadequate even under scale of attack envisaged previous to A.M. 1943/19.
(ii) In my 1434Z/29/3 I stated my intention of employing 4 guns ex HECTOR at Addu. As no objection was raised to this intention it appeared advisable to re-allocate these guns to Seychelles, observing that this base has now been given first priority in place of Addu.
(C. in C. E.I., 1341Z/27 to Admty.)

Enemy Unit.

At 1315Z/27 bearing Bombay Fort 238° (C), frequency vague, 40 Kc/s, Japanese unit W I M 242 probably S/M.
(C.O.I.S. Colombo, 1506Z/27, amended 0102Z/28 to E.I. Stn., Admty., C.O.I.S. Kilindini.)

/EMERALD ...

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1027Z/27th May.
IN

803 A

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date 28.5.42.
Recd. 1341.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. East Indies.

225. A.M. 1344/25 April. Para. one. Attack on CORNWALL and DORSETSHIRE by about 50 to 60 aircraft some of which may have been escort fighters.

A. Gun opposition slight as aircraft not sighted till in attacking dive and first salvos hit. Attack executed with skill and pressed home. Both ships attacked simultaneously.

B. Attack developed from general direction of sun which was ahead. Aircraft continued to attack from ahead as ships altered course.

C. Aircraft organised in sub flights of three attacked in quick succession with slightly longer interval between sub flights.

D. Approach was at 10000 feet or higher. Dive at between 60 and 80 degrees to release bombs at about 500 feet.

Para. two. Attack on HERMES and VAMPIRE by 60 to 70 aircraft some of which may have been escort fighters.

A. Aircraft sighted outside gun range shortly after Japanese R/T had been heard fairly close. Attack carried out with precision and determination in spite of maximum gun opposition HERMES could put up.

B. Attack developed from general direction of sun and generally similar to that on cruisers.

/ C

803^B

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C. VAMPIRE not attacked till HERMES was clearly sinking.

Para three. C. in C. East Indies pass to H.Q. 222 group re his 1110/15 April.

1027Z/27.

✓ Ro : Report on Jap. dive bombers -
circulated to A.C.N.S.(W) & D.G.D.(2) only.

* Not received in W.R.

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

MG

MOST SECRET

8038

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1234Z/27 May

IN

From C.in C. East Indies.

Date 27.5.42

Recd. 1834.

NAVAL CYPHER C by W/T.

Addressed Ships and Authorities East Indies Station, (negative
Commodore Burma Coast), Commodore i/c Durban,
Admiralty, C.in C. South Atlantic, A.C.N.B.,
F.O.C.R.S.F.

IMPORTANT AIDAC

820. Movements summary number 42 27th May 1942.

H.M.S. ASTER arrived Colombo 27th from Trincomalee,
reference summary number 41 14

H.M.S. RESOLUTION due Kilindini 30th. H.M.S. FROBISHER
escorting LLANDAFF CASTLE to Diego Suarez

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(1)	Belgian ship PRINCE DE LIEGE and Belgian ship GRAAF VAN VLANDEREN	Seychelles 28th	Aden 6th June	
(2)	(H.M.S. JASMINE and H.M.S. FRITILLARY	Diego Suarez 22nd	Durban 28th	
(3)	H.M.S. WHITEHAVEN	Mombasa 24th	Aden	Thence Suez
(4)	H.M.S. RANCHI	Colombo 25th	Suez 3rd June	
(5)	H.M.S. FALMOUTH	Trincomalee 25th	Addu	Escorting PEARLEAF and ATHELMONARCH to Q719. East.
(6)	BARONIA, BARSTOKE.	Addu 25th	Seychelles 4th June	
(7)	(H.M.S. SHOREHAM, and H.M.S. TULIP	Bombay 24th	Colombo	Neighbourhood escorting 4 ships.
(8)	H.M.I.S. SUPLEJ	Colombo (?25th)	Bombay 30th	escorting one ship.
(9)	H.M.S. TRUSTY.	Colombo 28th	Malacca	Strait's patrol
(10)	BARLANE.	Bombay (?26th)	(?Karachi) 30th	
(11)	H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY, and JAY	Mauritius 27th	Diego Suarez (?30th)	
(12)	(H.M.S. BATHURST H.M.S. MARGUERITE	Bombay	Colombo	
(13)	H.M.S. ENTERPRISE	Mombasa 28th	Bombay	escorting W.S. 18 B.
(14)	H.M.S. EMERALD	Mombasa 27th	Northbound	escorting W.S. 18 A till relieved by H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE.

803^D

(2)

(15) H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE vicinity Berbera 000
degrees (?30') North escorting W.S.18 A to
Aden. 1234Z/27

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

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (2)
- 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.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.

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War Diary.

27.5.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

EMERALD, My 1501/23.
ENTERPRISE, Amend R/V para. 1 to read 003° 44' S.
WORCESTERSHIRE. 041° 36' E. at 1100Z/30.
2. Amend R/V para. 2 to read 000° 40' S. 044°
30' E. at 0700Z/31.
(C. in C.E.F., 1821Z/27 to EMERALD, ENTERPRISE,
(? WORCESTERSHIRE), (R) F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. 3rd
B.S., C. in C. E.I., RESOLUTION, Cdre. R.I.N.,
N.O.I.C. Aden.)

805

27.5.1942.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B
BURNHAM. C.in C.U.S.Fleet 1713/26, estimated S/M
036° 30' N. 065° 00' W.
(N.S.H.Q., 0033Z/27, to BURNHAM (R) Admty. etc.).
C.in C.U.S.Fleet 0348/27 indicate submarine
by D/F in vicinity of 038° 00' N. 065° 30' W. at 2355 Z/26.
(N.S.H.Q., 1323Z/27, to BURNHAM (R) Admty. etc.).

U.S. Request Personal for Adm. Little from 1st S.L.
for Escort A. I have now received a reply from King
Vessels. regarding my 2305B/21 to effect that he
considers it unwise further to reduce ships
available in ocean escorts and will therefore
seek other means for solution of Gulf of Mexico problem.
B. I do not know what he means by "other means," but I am sure
that nothing but surface escorts will do the trick.
C. My proposal was not to reduce number of vessels in each
escort group.
D. I understand a representative of C.N.S. Ottawa is coming to
see you and I hope it will be possible to arrange something
with Canadians, after which you might see King again as it
does seem quite unjustifiable to allow present sinkings in
Caribbean and Gulf to go on unhindered.
E. My offer still remains open.
(1st S.L. 0205B/27, to B.A.D.) *Reply: B.A.D. 1755Z/30, para 878.*

T.O.2. Sailed JAN VAN BRAKEL and GODETIA escorting
T.O.2. Final Ex.T.A. Curacao 0400Z/30.
(F.O. Trinidad, 0832Q/27, to ? C.A.F.A.G.)
Sailing telegram and route (B.R.O. Trinidad,
0843Q/27 to Admty.).

Curacao, Considered very important to have latest
U/B Reports. Submarine reports, viz Admty 1439B/22 Series,
in order that positions given may be taken
into consideration when routeing shipping.

Adm. Oldendorf concurs. These are not at present received
here.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1101QR/27 to C.in C.A.W.I. (R) Admty.)

C.T.
24.18.3. P.C. and S. at 1100Z, 046° 20' N. 052° 46' W.
058° 6½. Stragglers EMPIRE FLAMINGO, and
MEIGLE. Weather report.
(C.T. 24.18.3, 1150Z/27, to Opnav (R) C.T. 24,
Admty. etc.).

RESTIGOUCHE N.O.I.C. Cardiff's 1608B/26. If impracticable
for RESTIGOUCHE to overtake O.N. 100 request
ship may be sailed with Task Unit 24.1.12
escorting O.N. 103.
(F.O.N.F., 1247Z/27 to C.T.G. 24.7.).

/S.C. 85

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27.5.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.

S.C. 85. (i) Ocean escort Task Unit No.24.1.14. OTTAWA, (S.O.) CHAMBLY, BITTERSWEET, ST.FRANCIS, EYEBRIGHT, ARVIDA, joining in Westomp.
(ii) LETHBRIDGE, and PRESCOTT sail to overtake, and when joined, CHAMBLY and BITTERSWEET will detach for St.John's N.F.
(iii) W.S.C. 85. 3 ships. Junction 047° 14' N. 051° 24' W. at 1900Z/31. Escort MINAS.
(F.O.N.F., 1257Z/27, to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty.etc.)

KOENJIT Administrator, Dominica, reports Dutch ship (torpedoed 12/5). KOENJIT from Halifax to Alexandria via Capetown torpedoed on 12/5 at 2235 hours. Position from Barbados 251°, 425 miles. 1 motor life-boat arrived Dominica 19/5 with 24 survivors including Captain. 1 life-boat without motor with 13 men on board missing. Capt. reports "seeing large white buoy close to position in which he was torpedoed, visible from bridge for about 7 miles. German S/M told him that he would tell a tanker to look after him and his crew on their way to Barbados. He thinks that the buoy is used for fuelling."
(Govr. Sir A Grimble, Windward Islands, No T.O.O./20 Recd.from Colonial Office 1345/27).

O.T. My 1712/25. All tankers sailing in or joining Convoys. O.T.Convoys and bound to Freetown should be given an alternative route to Gibraltar. Masters should be warned to expect diversion signals.
(D.T.D. 1350B/27 to C.in C.A.W.I.).

U/B Submarine estimated by dead reckoning include DUCHESS OF 2 eastbound in 031° 00' N. 060° 00' W. 033° YORK. 30' N. 062° 30' W. at 1200Z/26.
(Naval Ottawa 1353/27, to DUCHESS OF YORK).

NORLANTIC NORLANTIC U.S. torpedoed 0130 G.M.T.13/5 12.30N (torpedoed 66.00 W. 2 survivors landed Trinidad 25/5, 13/5). 2 life-boats 1 raft missing.
(S.O(I) Jamaica 1423R/27 to Admty. etc.).

U.S. Shipping Instructions in force from 0001 G.M.T. 1/6 on Control. assumption by U.S. of responsibility for routeing and reporting ships in Panama, Central America, West Indies, Bermuda and Continental

U.S. areas.
(C.in C.A.W.I., 1502P/27, (amended 1052P/29) 2244P/27 to N.C.S.O's. C.S.A.I's. etc.).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1628Z/27 to N.C.S.O's, C.S.A's etc.)
See Lion Copy.

W.D. Note:- 1502/27 amended by his 1704/28 and B.A.D. 1801Z/28. q.v.

/C.in C.

806A

M E S S A G E

SECRET

1502P/27th May
2244P/27th May

From C.in C. America and West
Indies.

Date 28.5.42.
Recd. 1210

IN

Naval Shore Code N.2 SECRET by Cable.

Addressed - N.C.S.O.s, C.S.A.s and Reporting Officers in
Jamaica Intelligence Area at Atlantic Port, ~~only~~,
Repeated Admiralty, B.A.D. Washington, N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa, S.O. (I) Jamaica.

IMPORTANT.

182. It is anticipated that on 1st June U.S. Authorities will assume responsibility for routeing and for reporting route and arrival and departure of all ships of United Nations in following areas. Panama, Central America, West Indies and Bermuda and Continental U.S. Unless otherwise ordered the following instructions are to be considered in force as from 0001 G.M.T. 1st June.

2. Routeing. (A) In U.S. and Neutral ports U.S. Routeing Officer will be responsible for the correctness and suitability of route and orders given to all ships. British Routeing Officer will act in accordance with B U S R A paragraph D (D) and E (E). (My 1242/16th April refers).

(B) In British Ports the British Naval Control Organizations will continue to function for routeing all independent ships. British Routeing Officers will be regarded as agents of the U.S. and are to follow all instructions issued by Navy Departments.

3. Reporting. (A) In U.S. and Neutral Ports route messages and arrivals and departures will be reported by U.S. routeing Officers in U.S. Code (Morco system).

Until further orders however and regardless of the above, British Routeing Officers and Reporting Officers are to continue to send route signals and VESCAS in British Code to same addressees as hitherto. This is MOST IMPORTANT.

(B) In British Ports British Routeing Officers are to send route signals and VESCAS in British Code as at present but addressed as follows.

Route Signals to Admiralty, C.in C. America and West Indies, S.O. (I) Kingston, ^{Connar *} ~~OPNAV~~, Washington and Commandants of Sea Frontiers through which ships will pass.

VESCAS to FAIRMISS, S.O. (I) Kingston ^{Connar *} ~~OPNAV~~ Washington and Commandants of Sea Frontiers through which ships will pass.

B.R.O. Bermuda should also include N.S.H.Q. Ottawa in address of these signals. Charts showing U.S. Sea Frontiers are being supplied, but until these arrive B.R.O.s should obtain necessary information from U.S. Liaison Officers.

4. /

(* ~~Connar~~ 1052P/29)

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-2-

4. At any Port where a U.S. Routing or Reporting Officer has not been appointed or has not arrived, the British Routing or Reporting Officer is to act as in paragraph 2(B) and 3(B) above.

5. The importance of maintaining close co-operation U.S. Officers during this turn-over period cannot be too strongly emphasized.

1502P/27

2244P/27th May

From C. in C. America and West Indies.

Date 28.5.42.
Recd. 0735

Naval Cypher 3.M by W/T.

Addressed - N.O. 1/c Trinidad, Reported Admiralty, N.S.H. Q. Office
S.O. (I) Kingston Jamaica, B.A.D. Washington.

IMPORTANT.

188. CONNAV 1954/26th being passed to you. Instructions in my 1502/27th are to be observed.

2244P/27

Advance copies Ops., O.D., Trade.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T).
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (3).
O.D. (5).
O.I.C. (2).
I.P. (3).
N.I.D. 10.
W.D.
D.S.D. (2).
H.W.R. (2).
A.E. (3).
Admiral Bellairs.
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
D. of P. (3).
D. of S.T. (2).
E.P.S.
D.N.I. (5).
M. (3).

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27.5.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. con. T5.-

U.S. Shipping C.in C. A.W.I. 1922/25. From 0001 on 1/6 Navy
Control. Dept. intend to regard Busra sec.E and Sec.G
Contd. sub sec. (C) as being in effect in the Panama,
Central America, Bermuda and Continental U.S.
Areas.

2. Navy Dept. understand that Vescas and British route signals
from British ports in the areas in Para. 2 will be despatched
and addressed as in Busra sect. G(B) amended as in B.A.D.
2015/25. U.S. Liaison Officers in British ports will not be
required to send route messages in U.S. Code. As an exception
N.O.B. Trinidad is being directed to send certain additional
route signals in U.S. Code to enable C.C.S.F. to get routes
quickly.

(B.A.D. 2027Z/27, to Admty. as amended 1801Z/28).

EMMY Greek EMMY stranded in Morien Bay Cape Breton,
25/5. Salvage operations unsuccessful and
vessels back now broken. Removing crew today.
No loss of life to date.
(N.C.S.O.Sydney. 1518Z/27, to Admty.).

E.P.THERIAULT Cancel my 1446/26, ship drifted ashore
Cardenas.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1525R/27 to Admty. etc.).

QUAKER CITY Harbour Master, Barbados, 1515/24 and 1530/24
(torpedoed and F.O.I.C.Trinidad 1622/23 Dominica reports
18/5). Chief Officer and 7 other survivors have
arrived Roseau. U-Boat surfaced near Captain's
boat and gave course and distance to Barbados.
(C.in C.A.W.I., 1549P/27, to Admty.(R)
F.O.I.C. Trinidad).

Route Your 1922/25 para.1 concur. This is in
Signals, accordance with Busra Sect. J 2nd.Sub.para.
Codes. When it is agreed that Merco and U.S. route
signals are being received satisfactorily, you
will be requested to instruct B.R.Os. to send
Vesca and route signals only to you and to N.S.H.Q. if he so
desires. 2. Your para.3, concur. These signals can be
decoded by Navy Dept. B.A.D's 2015/25 and 2023/25 are being
repeated to you. 3. Your 2232/26 para. 2, B.A.D.is requested
to raise this matter with Navy Dept.
(D.T.D. 1551B/27 to C.in C.A.W.I. B.A.D.).

TORONDOC S.O.(I) Jamaica's 1813R/24, TORONDOC arrived
Trinidad 13/5 sailed 14/5 arrived St.Thomas 17/5
sailed St.Thomas 18/5 due Key West 21/5.
2. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to confirm if vessel is
overdue Key West.
(D.T.D.,1553B/27 to C.in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q. (R) S.O.(I)
Jamaica B.A.D.) Replies 1621/28 1046/29.

/DURBAN ...

808

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.

- DURBAN. When ready DURBAN is to be sailed for U.K. in accordance with my 2217/3/10 and B.A.D.'s 2152/21.
2. She will be taken in hand at Portsmouth for completion of outstanding A.& As. 3. 21 days' leave may be granted to men who remained in ship.
(D.O.D.(F) 1557B/27 to B.A.D. B.A.R.M., C.in C.A.W.I., DURBAN).
- Bunkers,
Panama Your 2030/14/4. Owing to increasing cost of bunkering in Canal Zone and as all coastal traffic now calls at Hampton Roads propose that restrictions on bunkering at Hampton Roads should be lifted and M.A.R.I. be amended as necessary.
(Bermuda 1633P/27 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. as amended 1228P/30)
- K.N. 102. Convoy K N 102 expected Lysefjord arrived 1400Z/26.
(B.R.O.Norfolk, 1633Z/27, to Admty.(R) N.S.H.Q. C.S.A. Key West).
- KYMA Overdue Ciudad Trujillo, KYMA.
(or ? MEDEA). (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1636R/27, to Admty. etc.).
? MEDEA intended, see Admty. 1205B/31.
- U.S. Request for Escort Vessels. Your 2305B/21 and 2312B/21. Allocation of Canadian Corvettes, etc.
C.N.S.Ottawa, 1650Z/27 to Admty. B.A.D.)
See Lion Copy.
- DARINA Master and 17 other survivors of merchant ship (sunk 20/5). DARINA landed Charleston 27th. Ship sunk by 2 torpedoes and shell fire in 029° 17' N. 054° 25' W. at 2115Z/20. My 1710Z/27 with list of survivors follows. 2 other life-boats with 34 other survivors were last seen in approx. position of sinking.
(B.R.O.Charleston. 1650Z/27, to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.).
- U/B. 27/5 S/M estimate.
(C.in C.U.S.Fleet 1700/27 1704/27, 1709/27, 1715/27, 1721/27 to Admty.).
- EMPIRE FULMAR. EMPIRE FULMAR arrived. Has 1700 tons space for oil cargo. Destination Baltimore. Should ship load diesel oil or Admiralty fuel? Ship also has 1700 tons cargo space; should sugar be loaded in ship for U.S.A.?
(F.O.I.C.Trinidad 1722Q/27 to Admty.).
- OESTELOIDE My 1223R/25. No information.
(S.O.I.Jamaica, 1746R/27, amended 1719R/28, to S.O.(I) Montevideo, (R) Admty, C.in C.A.W.I.).

/FORT YORK

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: N.S.H.Q. Ottawa

1628Z/27 May
Date 28.5.42
Recd. 0403

808A

Naval Shore Code N1 by Cable

ADDRESSED. All N.C.S.O's and C.S.A's Ottawa
Intelligence Area. No. 37 repeated C. in C.
America and West Indies Admiralty S.O. (I)
Jamaica B.A.D. Washington Canadian N.A.
Washington.

491 U.S. Giro general instructions
for routing officers Giro will come into force at
0001 June 1st. The following procedure will then be
carried out.

- (A) U.S.R O's assume responsibility for routing of
all merchant ships of United Nations in U.S. ports.
- (B) B.R O's will be required to supply U.S.R O's
with all information re British managed ships necessary
for compiling of Merco's and U.S. route messages.
- (C) B R O's must however continue to send VESCA and
route signals to all addressees to whom previously
sent until ordered to stop by signal.
- (D) Charleston, Jacksonville if operated, Key West,
Tampa New Orleans, Galveston Port Arthur when manned
and also Norfolk will repeat route signals convoy arrival
and sailing telegrams to C. in C. America and West Indies
and S.O. (I), Jamaica and VESCA to S.O. (I) Jamaica
only in Naval Shore code recyphered. This routine is
to continue after stop signal in (C) above is made.

Amend O R S (6) article 705 (A) (2) and 706 (B)
(2) in accordance with (D) above.

1628Z/27

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1 S.L.
Ops. (3)
O.I.C. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.I./S.W.
O.D. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D. of S.T. (2)
M (2)
D.S.D. (2)
N.I.D. 10 (2)
H.W.R. (2)
D.N.I. (5)
A.E. (3)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
File X

MOST SECRET

1650Z/27th May

608B

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C.N.S. Ottawa.

Date 28.5.42.

Recd. 0205.

NAVAL CYTHER (D) BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty, B.A.D. Washington.

IMMEDIATE

492.

Personal for First Sea Lord and Admiral Little.

Your 2305B/21 and 2312B/21.

Canadian corvettes are allocated as follows:-

Mid-ocean escort force	34
At local escort force	23
Tanker convoy	4
(?Group omitted) coast	7
Not completed or under training	9
Total	<u>77</u>

2. 20 R.C.N. BANGOR Minesweepers are in service on Atlantic coast. These are employed in escorting St. Lawrence, Halifax to Sydney and Halifax to St. John's N.F. convoys and in minesweeping at St. John's N.F. Sydney and Halifax. This number is still inadequate and these ships are doing approximately 70% sea time. All new constructions of BANGOR and FAIRMILE completing this year are required to reinforce these local forces.

3. It is not considered that Western local escort can be reduced from its present number of 18 destroyers and 23 corvettes organized in 7 groups. These groups do 18 days at sea in cycles of 24 days including approximately two days waiting at both St. John's N.F. and Boston due to irregularities of O N convoys.

4. Paragraph B. Your 2305B (?21st) gives total 115 corvettes allocated to trans-Atlantic escort. Deducing 2 groups of 6 corvettes allocated U.S. coastal escort, 23 to western local and 4 to tanker convoys leaves 76 corvettes remaining in 11 (?mid) ocean groups.

5. Additional corvettes requested by COMINCH could only be allocated at expense of trans-Atlantic convoys. This would mean either reduction in number of groups at expense of any training time or reduction in number of corvettes in each group at expense of security of convoys. I do not (?consider) either alternative desirable.

1650Z/27

Advance copy sent 1st S.L. with Note 0600/28.

1st Lord	Nav. Sec.	D.A/S.W.	Ad. Bellairs
1st S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (3)	Ad. Osborne
V.C.H. S.	D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.T.D. (H)	Hd. of M.
A.C.H.S. (H)	D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.T.D. (C)	D.D.I.C. (2)
A.C.H.S. (F) (2)	D.C. (2)	Ad. Blako	E.P.S.
A.C.H.S. (T)	D.N.I. (1)	Ad. Cunningham	I.P. (2)
A.C.H.S. (V)	F.O.P. (2)	64 O.B.L.	W.D.

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.FORT YORK
TADOUSACYour 1825B/19. FORT YORK and TADOUSAC arrived
1700 B.
(A.C.I.C., 1750B/27, to F.C.N.F.(R) Admty. etc.).

BRUXELLES

Your 1249/26, BRUXELLES Admty. has no information
Request position and T.O.O. of intercept if
known.
(D.T.D. 1809B/27. to C. in C.A.W.I.)

M.A.R.I.

Amendment No. 15 to M.A.R.I. (D.T.D., 1837B/27
to C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., etc.) See Lion Copy.
Amended by Admty. 1524B/28 q.v.

O.S. 28.

9 ships for Trinidad are at present routed
through a position E, 18° N. 60° W. In view of
diversive re-routeing through the islands
Admty. will retain control to destinations.
(D.T.D. 1932B/27 to C. in C.A.W.I. (R) N.O.I.C.
Trinidad).Sub Attack
and Sighting
Summary.ATENAS shelled 2550 N. 89-05 W. 0310Z/26.
COMMANDANTE LYRA also shelled 19 hits.
CALGAROLITE 3 torpedoes 30 shells U88 type.
TC.MC COBB 30 rounds. HARRY GEORGE SEIDEL, U88
type, FEDERAL Number 11 on hull starboard
below conning tower. 30 rounds. VIRGINIA 3 torpedoes.
AURORA 20 shells. EASTERN SUN 3 torpedo misses possibly U45
type. BALKIS possibly U45 type. CLAN SKENE 2 torpedoes.
HEINRICH VON RIEDERMANN possibly U 45 type. OSANDAR U 88 type.
Sub attacked by plane 14-45 N. 61-25 W. 0404Z/27. 2 attacks
on sound contact 35-07 N. 88-09 W. 1500Z/27. B.A.D. and Opanav
informed.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 2137/27, to Admty. for O.I.C.).T.U.
18.1.13.Not met, 2300 GMT. 047° 05' N. 050° 53' W. (C)
050° 7 knots. weather.
(C.T.U. 18.1.13, 2313Z/27 to Opanav (R) C.T.U.
24.18.3. etc.).

AWI

809A.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1837B/27th. May

OUT

To C. in C. America & West Indies, 227 Date 27.5.42.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 899
 C.O.A.C. Halifax.
 F.O.C.N.A. 453
 C. in C. South Atlantic 854
 R.A. West Africa 130
 A.C.I.C. 736
 S.O. (I) Jamaica.
 Repeated CONNAV.
 B.A.D. Washington, 787.

NAVAL CYPIER (X)

From Admiralty pass to F.O.'S I/C and N.C.S.O.'s.

Amendment No. 15 to M.A.R.I.

* (A) Section II. para 2. Cancel and substitute

"O.N. and O.N. (S) convoys run from U.K. to Boston, Mass., and ships in these convoys should not be routed beyond that port. Ships for Canadian ports will be detached by order of Commodore.

2. All ships in O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys are to be provided with an approach route to Halifax (N.S.)

3. O.N. (south) convoys are dispersed by order of Admiralty or other British or U.S.A. Naval Authority.

4. O.S. convoys run from U.K. to Freetown.

(B) Section II para 10. Add "O.N.(south)" to convoys enumerated in heading.

(C) Cancel Section IV para. 5 (4)

(D) Section II para. 9 add final paragraph.

"N.B. The above instructions do not apply to ships sailed in O.N. and O.N. (S) convoys and are temporarily suspended for all other shipping."

(E) Section IV para. 12 add final paragraph

"N.B. The above instructions are temporarily suspended."

1837B/27

for D.T.D. (983)

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

* Amended by Adm 1524B/28 9.4.

D.T.D. (25 copies)

810

War Diary.27.5.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

MUGFORD. Arrival Brisbane 0101Z/26. U.S. Dest. MUGFORD.
(A.C.N.B. 0504Z/27th to C. in C.E.I. etc).

ASCANIA
LAMSON. Following is a repetition of my 1858Z/25. (Begins)-
Departure Suva 1918Z/25, ASCANIA escorting
WAHINE E.T.A. Auckland 1600Z/29. 1858/25, U.S.S.
LAMSON for Pago. ~~Page 1858Z/25.~~ (End).
(N.Z.N.B. 0832M/27 to Admty (R) C. in C.Pacific
Comsowpac).

Controlled
Mining
Stns. My 0924/5 para.(5), explosive stores and mines
will be stored at Saan Island, remaining
equipment will be stored at Sydney (N.S.W.).
(A.C.N.B. 1040Z/27 to Admty, (R) Cominch,
B.A.D.C. in C.Pacific, Cdr. S.W.Pacific Force,
N.Z.N.B.)

Situation. Serial 125 from C.W.R. 26/5. Military Camp
near Port Moresby bombed by 2 Kawanisi 4
engined flying boats at 1019Z/26, no damage.
(2) 4 P.39's and 3 P.40s were in combat with 16 Zero fighters
over Mount Lawson. (60 miles S.S.W. of Lae) at 0120Z/26. 2
Zeros certainly 1 probably shot down. 1 P.39 lost.
(3) Allied air R/C 25/5 reports small motor vessel equipped with
radio anchored in river 20 miles N.W. of Abau. (119 miles W.
of Samarai).
(4). Ref. Serial No.118, para. 4 same area reconnoitred by 1
Kawanisi 4 engined flying boat on 25/5.
(5). Report on 25/5 indicates enemy in Tulagi area are
concentrated at Gavutu and Port Purvis 8 miles S.E. of Tulagi.
(A.C.N.B. 1136Z/27 to Admty etc).

WRIGHT
TUCKER. Departure from Sydney (N.S.W.) 0140Z/27 for
Noumea, U.S. A/C Tender WRIGHT with U.S. Destroyer.
TUCKER in company.
(A.C.N.B. 2011Z/27 to Admty etc).

U/Boat Campaign.S/MS Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1455B/27, 1446B/27).

War Diary.

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

A message from the Chiefs of Staff today deals with our naval and mercantile shipping position. Against a full output of $1\frac{1}{4}$ million tons we expect a loss of $3\text{-}1\frac{1}{3}$ million tons of non-tankers annually. There is an acute shortage of corvettes, and the strength in larger ships is decreasing owing to the rising casualty rate. Naval and mercantile shipbuilding has now received priority above other munitions, and labour is being drafted from other supply departments.

Home Commands.

Persisting gales since 26/5 are causing dislocation of coastal convoys and small shipping.

At 0900B C. in C. H.F. was in $66^{\circ} 50' N.$, $11^{\circ} 20' W.$ steering 145° at 17 knots and proceeding to Scapa.

3 Soviet destroyers joined Convoy P.Q.16 at 1150B today. There had been no further air attacks up to 2030B, though the convoy was continuously shadowed by aircraft.

WELSHMAN left Greenock this evening with stores for Malta.

Commencing with W.N.90 it has been decided to sail 7, $7\frac{1}{2}$, 8, $8\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 knot W.N. convoys (S. of A $\frac{1}{2}$ knot less) in lieu of the present slow, medium and fast convoys.

British Air Operations.

20 Russian bombers have arrived at Vaenga Bay.

21 Hudsons of Coastal Command this evening carried out a successful attack on a convoy of 10 merchant ships off Terschelling. Four of the ships were seen on fire.

War Diary.

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Aircraft attacks on Murmansk and Kola Inlet have been frequent but have caused little damage and few casualties. The attacking aircraft have varied in number from 8 to 57.

Mining.

Minelaying by a considerable number of enemy aircraft about midnight last night is suspected between Saltburn and the Humber, particularly off Flamborough Head.

North Atlantic.

A Catalina returning to Gibraltar at 2345/27 sighted and attacked a U-boat in 37° 38' N., 2° 5' E. At 1645 today a Sunderland attacked a U-boat in 38° 4' N., 2° 22' E., and apparently damaged it. The U-boat was on the Surface with the crew crowding on the conning tower. CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT and WRESTLER were sent to try to destroy the U-boat. (The ships returned on the evening of 30th, having failed to find the U-boat).

South Atlantic.

Brazil.

The Brazilian C.N.S. has informed N.A., Rio, that British men of war will receive exactly the same facilities as Americans. Docking will be arranged etc., and officers and men may wear uniform and come ashore freely.

War Diary.

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

U.568
(As. *Probstham's*
list 4 ca. 6843) A German U-boat was destroyed today by ERIDGE,
HURWORTH and HERO, 100 miles N.E. of Tobruk. 42
survivors were picked up.

Six Wellingtons attacked Catania Aerodrome tonight causing damage.

Operation "Manual" is in force off the Western Desert with light craft and aircraft patrolling night to counter a possible enemy landing in the Tobruk area. There is increased enemy air activity at Tobruk, but the scale of attack is not yet heavy.

2 Greek destroyers are joining the Levant Escort Force to release corvettes for Western Desert service.

East Indies.

Diego Suarez is at present to be used as a refuelling base for naval forces and flying boats and may be used for naval repairs. It is not intended to undertake offensive operations against the remainder of the island at present. The Diego Suarez area will come under the command of G.O.C. in C. East Africa on a date to be agreed with General Sturges.

America & West Indies.

Two Japanese submarines have been sighted in Alaskan waters. A Japanese seaplane has been sighted over Kiska Naval Station and is believed to have come from a converted seaplane tender.

Six ships were attacked by U-boats in the Western Atlantic today, and 4 are known to have sunk.

814

28.5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.M.Ls. at
Scapa.Your 1144/27. Yes.
(D.D.O.D. (C), 1137B/28 to A.C.O.S.)LEOPARD
torpedoes.

Your 1712B/26. (1) Risk of loss for practice running can be accepted up to two torpedoes. (2) This combination of torpedoes and heads must be used as no French heads available. If in any doubt about correct torpedo settings Commander (W) should be consulted. (D.T.M., 1147B/28 to Capt. D. Greenock, (R) LEOPARD, Cdr. (W) Alexandria, SANDHURST.)

Movements.

GLENGYLE.

Intend sailing GLENGYLE passing Clyde Boom 1500B/29. E.T.A. Needles 0600B/31. Ship will pass through 270° Longships 04' at 1730B/30.

C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide surface escort onward to destination if considered necessary. Ship has no L.A. armament and only close range H.A.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1058B/28.)

N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1058/28.

Owing to convoy commitments regret no surface escort available. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1706B/28.)

SIRIUS,
CALPE,
FERNIE.^{/N.T. & W.D.}
My 1103B/28. Revised time table. E.T.D. Needles 1000/29, speed 18 knots, expected to pass Longships 2000/29. Surface escort will be provided by CALPE and FERNIE till darkness, returning to Portsmouth on completion. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1303/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

NEPAL.

^{/N.T. & W.D.}
Admty. 1517B/28. Intend sailing NEPAL from Needles 1030/29th for full power acceptance trials weather permitting on passage to Plymouth. E.T.A. approx. 1545/29. Route. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1553B/28.)

ARGUS.

Clyde arrivals ARGUS and BEAGLE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1628B/28.)

NELSON,
CARADOC.

Clyde arrival NELSON escorted by PATHFINDER and PENN. Also CARADOC. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1658B/28.)

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Combined Reference 2018B/23. The following possible
Operation. localities are given in what is considered their
order suitable. Names.
(C. in C. W.A., 0922B/28 to Admty).
Request you will arrange for M.Ls. 291, 292, 343, and 344 of
the 23rd M.L. Flotilla to be available at Portsmouth for
special operation by 10/6. Duration about 3 weeks.
R.A.C.F. is requested to arrange for each of these M.Ls. to be
fitted with one set C.S.A. gear and 6 smoke floats by 10/6.
(D.D.O.D.C., 1428B/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Request you will arrange for 4 S.G.Bs. to be sailed to arrive
Portsmouth for special operation by 10/6. Duration about 3
weeks. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to make arrangements
for providing special Diesel fuel and distilled water for
these boats.
R.A.C.F. is requested to arrange for 2 sets C.S.A. gear,
6 smoke floats, and 2 depth charges to be fitted before boats
leave Newhaven.
(D.D.O.D.C., 1429B/28 to V.A. Dover).
Request you will arrange for the 11th M.L. Flotilla to arrive
Portsmouth for special operation by 10/6. Duration about 3
weeks. Each M.L. of this flotilla should have Oerlikon, one
set C.S.A. gear, and 6 smoke floats fitted before sailing.
The 24th M.L. Flotilla should be used to relieve the 11th
Flotilla as required by you, deficiency in Air/Sea Rescue
operations being accepted.
(D.D.O.D.C., 1431B/28 to C. in C. Nore).
Request you will arrange for 2 M.G.Bs. of the 4th Flotilla to be
available at Portsmouth by 4/6 for special operation. Duration
about 3 weeks. These boats to be fitted with normal equipment
of one set C.S.A. gear and minimum of 2 depth charges.
(D.D.O.D.C.), 1434B/28 and 2101B/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Iceland- KENYA is to leave Patrol "Black" at 2000B/30 and
Faeroes return to Scapa.
Patrol. (C. in C. H.F., 1931/28) See Mining.

Exercises.

H.34 H.34 will be exercising in areas D and C off
Plymouth from 1015/29 till 1730/30.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2302B/28 and 1210/30).

British Air Activity.

A/Cs for (ARGUS, 0713B/28, 1433B/28) (D.N.A.D., 1242B/28)
ARGUS. (V.A.N.A.S 1413B/28) (C.D.B., 2233/28).

EMPIRE MORN Please convey to the Master and ships company of
EMPIRE MORN my heartiest congratulations on their
successful destruction of a Focke Wulf A/C.
(C. in C. W.A., 1147B/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

/Escort...

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. - Contd.

Escort for H.F. Your 0937/28. Expect long range fighter escort sorties of 73 Beaufighters 0315B/29 until relieved by single-engine fighters, and A/S escort of one Catalina from 0315B/29 until arrival Scapa.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1831B/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Petsamo and Banak bombed. 20 Russian bombers have arrived Vaenga Bay. On 27/5 11 bombers escorted by fighters attacked Luostari (Petsamo) aerodrome and started a fire. 6 bombers attacked Banak Aerodrome, result not observed. Other attacks failed to develop owing to poor visibility.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2256B/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Murmansk and Kola Inlet Attacks on steamers in roads continue but no further damage reported.
(2) (KDDF) YAKA small hole unable to repair without docking. YAKA will not occupy dock more than 3 days.
(Cormack 1755B/28).

A/C attacks on Murmansk and Kola Inlet have been frequent but caused little damage, or casualties as follows:- 26 May 3, 27 May 4, 28 May 4. Attacking A/C Ju.88, Ju.87, Me. 109, Me.110 varying in number from 8 to 57.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2256B/28).

Convoy F.N.720 bombed. Enemy Aircraft bombing Convoy "Agent" in 52° 58' N., 1° 52' E.
(VANITY 2332/28).

Mining.

Minelaying off Humber. Between 2345/27 and 0100/28 about 30 enemy A/C operated in the Humber area. Minelaying off Flamboro Head by several planes, the remainder indulged in scattered minelaying down to 62D. buoy. One or two planes over the Humber Estuary.
(F.O. Humber, 0120B/28).

Minelaying suspected by considerable number of enemy A/C about midnight between Saltburn and Humber, with greatest concentration south of Flamborough Head.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0123B/28 to VERDUN, LIDDESDALE).

Q.S.8 Request proposals in due course for continuing operation Q.S.8. As you have no ships available fitted taut wire, one or two ships so fitted from 9th and 13th M.S.Fs. can be attached to you for refixing positions.
(C. in C. Nore, 1204B/28 to M.S.4).

Cancelled 31/5. See p. 889

/FITZROY...

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

FITZROY My 2130/27. Ship sank in 9 minutes. Engine
(sunk 27/5) room ratings were in boiler rooms and thought to
have been killed instantaneously. Signalmen
and R.D.F. rating were on the Flag Deck and
were either killed instantaneously or were blown over the side
and drowned. Very careful search was made by rescue boats from
flotilla in company and it seems certain all men in the water
were rescued.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1232B/28).

S.N.72 Your 0900/23. Concur.
MANCHESTER. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1340B/28 to R.A.M.)
R.A.(M) 0900/23. Concur but para (J) outward
passage is to be west of Iceland as well as
(?return) passage.
(2) MANCHESTER is to R/V, as ordered by RA.(M), and provide es-
cort to 20° W., proceeding thence patrol "Black".
(3) Cruiser on patrol "White" and ships at Hvalfiord are to be
prepared to support R.A.(M) during operation.
(4) On return passage, MANCHESTER is to R/V South of Vestmann
Islands, as arranged by R.A.(M) and provide escort to vicinity
Butt of Lewis, thence returning to patrol "Black".
(5) KENYA is to leave patrol "Black" at 2000B/30 and return to
Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 1931/28 to R.A.M.)

Enemy Intelligence.

North Russians report. 26/5 Convoy in Varanger Fiord.
Norway. U-boats in 73° 25' N., 17° 13' E., and 73° 53' N.,
15° 45' E., On 27/5, U-boats in 73° 37' N.,
17° 53' E., 73° 22' N., 17° 53' E., 72° 33' N.,
24° 10' E., 71° 31' N., 26° 50' E., and 69° 58' N., 30° 20' E.
(Ad. Miles, 1719C/28).

U-boats.

U-boat Attacking enemy S/M in 57° 48' N., 12° (?19') W.
attacked. (CHARLESTOWN, 1320A/28).
My 1320A. Contact lost. Rejoined convoy
(CHARLESTOWN, 1435A/28).

U-boats D/F bearings at 1037Z indicate U-boat in your
reported. vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1324B/28 to Escorts O.G.84).
At 1442/28 by D/F one U-boat in 73° 48' N.,
32° 40' E. Unreliable fix.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1718B/28 to P.Q.16).
See also Enemy Intelligence.

Navigational.

Poole. Cancel my 1655B/27. Port of Poole is to remain
closed till 0600/29.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1601B/29).

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational. - Contd.

Breaksea Light Vessel. Breaksea light vessel reported 090° 3 cables from charted position.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 1834B/28).

Miscellaneous.

A.A. ammunition for N. Russia. My 1741B/19/4 para. 4 and S.B.N.O. North Russia 0823B/15. In view of increasing scale of air attack request reserve A/A ammunition 4.7", 4", 3", 12 pdr. and pom-pom guns for convoy escorts be established in North Russia at places selected by S.B.N.O. North Russia.
(C. in C. H.F., 1954B/28 to Admty)
See also C. in C. H.F., 1303B/30 to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.16 CITY OF JOLIET (U.S.A.6167 tons) abandoned. Following received from NORTHERN SPRAY begins CARLTON proceeding under her own steam.
My P.C.S. 066° 00' 42" N., (021°) 00' 26" W., 239° 10 knots. 1705/28, ends.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2038B/28 to Admty, C. in C. H.F., C.S.10).
My P.C.S. at 0900B/28 066° 50' N., 011° 20' W., 145°, 17 knots. WASHINGTON, LONDON, WICHITA and 10 destroyers in company proceeding Scapa position 62° 25', 04° 40' W.
2. NORTHERN SPRAY and CARLTON not located.
3. Request fighter and A/S air escorts.
(C. in C. H.F., 0937/28).
E.T.A. 0745Z/29, FAULKNER, FURY, ECLIPSE in company.
(VICTORIOUS 1841B/28 to A.C.I.C.)
Convoy P.Q.16 passed through position O at 2015B. 3 Soviet destroyers joined at 1150B today. No further air attack-touch wood; but CITY OF JOLIET previously damaged had to be abandoned in sinking condition. The shadowers, like poor, are always with us.
(ASHANTI, 2030B/28 to Admty).

W.S.19 P. Your 2359B/26. Arrived Barry Roads.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 0725B/28 to WESTERN ISLES).
Sailed 2020B first part of Liverpool Section
W.S.19 P. escorted by BUXTON. BUXTON returning to Liverpool on completion.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2103B/28).

P.W.162 Your 0730. ^{/N.T.A.W.D.} Continue to Falmouth if weather permits. P.W.162 sailing delayed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0802B/28 to BROCKLESBY)..

War Diary.

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Q.P.12 E.T.A. in INGLEFIELD with ESCAPADE, ST. ALBANS, BOADICEA, HARRIER, 4 Trawlers, and Q.P.12 consisting of 11 ships at 2300Z. Request Hvalfiord Gate 2330Z. All destroyers are very short of provisions and canteen stores.
(Capt. D.3., 0854B/28 to A.C.I.C.)

C.E.82 My 1533B/27. C.E.82 and "Consular" Group
C.W.84 postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0923B/28 to C. in C. Nore).
C.W.84 and C.E.82 are cancelled owing to lack of shipping and persisting gales.
Next Channel convoy sailings will be C.W.85 and C.E.83 30/5.
(C. in C. Nore, 1022B/28).

ZAAFARAN, 1. Rescue ships ZAAFARAN and ZAMALEK oil fuel
ZAMALEK and two coal burners names to be advised later
(Rescue ships are being allocated to P.Q. and Q.P. convoys during the summer months.
Convoys). 2. Rescue ships are specially selected and fitted out for their work having a minimum speed of 11 knots which enables them to maintain convoy speed and overtake convoys after rescues. They have accommodation for about 100 survivors, spare sets of clothing, a hospital and medical officers, extra galleys and stores, also motor boats and boarding nets to facilitate rescue work. Ships are small and may suffer weather damage.
3. Owing to limited range it will be necessary to bunker coal burners at Reykjavik on outward and possibly on homeward voyages if no coal bunkers are available at destination ports. Will D.S.T.O. Iceland arrange for any necessary priority.
5. British Sailors Society are arranging for 200 sets of survivors clothing to be sent on the first Rescue ship.
(D.S.T., 1504B/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

W.N. Commencing with W.N.90 it has been decided to
Convoys. sail 7, 7½, 8, 8½, and 9 knot W.N. convoys (speed of advance ½ knot less) in lieu of the present slow, medium and fast convoys. My N.C.U. 319 of 7/4/42 should be amended as follows.
Details.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1510B/28).

Repairs at Your 1016/24 and Millar's 2005/19. Are delays
Murmansk. in repairing Merchant ships due merely to a clash of priorities with British Naval Vessels or are improvements required in Soviet arrangements either as regards priority with their own ships or as regards administration of repair organisation. Before we can approach Moscow we must be clear that difficulty is not purely between two British interests and must have a convincing case to put forward. Please agree reply to this with S.B.N.O. and Millar. Ends.
(D.S.T., 1945B/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

War Diary.28.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

PARTRIDGE, My P.C. and S. are 037° 58' N., 011° 48' W.,
 ITHURIEL. 125° 20' ITHURIEL in company. E.T.A. at Gate
 2230.
 (PARTRIDGE, 0520B/28 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt.
 D.13).

My 0520B/28 amended E.T.A. ITHURIEL 1930, PARTRIDGE 2130.
 PARTRIDGE has serious brickwork defect in both boilers requiring
 Dockyard assistance.
 (PARTRIDGE, 1256B/28 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. D.13 A.S. Gibraltar)
 Arrival PARTRIDGE, ITHURIEL.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 2042B/28 to Admty, C. in C. W.A.)

S.L.110 At 0708 G.M.T. German submarine made (second?)
 U/B. bearing approx. 290° from Gibraltar. This
 may be a sighting report.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 0926B/28 to Escort of S.L.110 (R)
 Admty, C. in C. W.A.)

F.O.C.N.A. 0926B/28. Other bearings indicate unit not South
 of 50° N.
 (D.D.I.C., 1213B/28 to Escort S.L.110 (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.
 W.A.)

CASTILLO, Your 1700/27. Las Palmas reported Spanish
 CAMPANARIO. CASTILLO CAMPANARIO left Las Palmas for Caripito
 20/5.
 Request you will ascertain and (2 corrupt groups)
 Admty. of her movements between 20th and her
 arrival at Tenerife on 26th.
 (S.O.(I) Gib. 1015/28 to B.C. Tenerife (R)
 Admty. B.C. Las Palmas) Reply: 1055/29.

TORBAY. Your 1506/27. Onward route for TORBAY.
 (F.O.S., 1214B/28 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty etc).
 See Lion Copy.

TORBAY sails p.m./29 for U.K. on surface at 10 knots through
 G.038° 05', 011° 10' at 0130 L. and H. 043° 00', 012° 59' at
 0830/1/6 thence as in F.O.(S) 1214/28.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1536B/28 to UNBEATEN (R) TORBAY).

Casablanca. Your 1112B/22. Until further orders only
 occasional R/C of Casablanca is necessary.
 (V.C.N.S. 1239B/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B attacked Following has been read:- Am over enemy sub-
 by A/C. marine in 37.42 N., 2° 00' E. on surface.
 (A/C 7 XMR No T.O.O. Recd. 1424/28).
 Following read from A/C R of - Sqdn. Malta Com-
 mand. Staying on surface, attacking us with gunfire.
 (Gib. 1405/28).
 Have attacked enemy Submarine with D/Cs, no hits, still on
 surface, half my bomb circuit U/S enemy course 050° speed
 8 knots.
 (Med. A/C, 1440/28 to Gibraltar).
 Amended position 38.04 N., 02.22 E., now.
 (A/C R Sqdn. 1540/28 to Gibraltar).

/Following...

MOST SECRET

820A

MOST SECRET

~~M E S S A G E~~

1214/28th May

IN

From F.O.S.

Date 28/5/42
Time 1330

NAVAL CODE O SECRET BY T/P

Addressed F.O.C.N.A. Repeated Admiralty S. 3, C. in C.
Plymouth, S. 3, H.M.S. TORBAY, S. 5, H.Q.C.C.
H.M.S. UNBEATEN, C. in C. Western Approaches.

644. 1. Your 1506 27th not to H.Q.C.C. And H.M.S.
UNBEATEN. Onward route for H.M.S. TORBAY expected to
arrive position

- O. 043 degs. 012 degs. 59' at 0830 1st June thence
diving by day through
- P. 045 degs. 59' 012 degs. 50'
- Q. 049 degs. 10' 012 degs. 40'
- R. 050 degs. 009 degs. to R/V as ordered by S.5
vicinity Lizard Head on 7th June.

Cancel bombing restrictions as requested
in paragraph (2) of my 2131 24th not to H.M.S. TORBAY.
H.Q.C.C. is request to institute following submerged
bombing restrictions to cover H.M.S. UNBEATEN and
H.M.S. TORBAY.

- (A) In area bounded by 043 degs North and 046 degs North,
and 011 degs 30' West and 013 degs 30' West from
0100 1st to 0600 3rd.
- (B) In area bound by 046 degs North and 049 degs 30' North,
and 011 degs 30' West and 013 degs 30' West from 2000
2nd to 0400 5th.
- (C) 40 miles either side of line joining positions
049 degs 013 degs and 049 degs 46' 008 degs from
2000 4th to 2359 6th.
- (D) 30 miles either side of line between 049 degs 46'
008 degs and r/v from 0100 6th to 0600 8th.

F.O.C.N.A. pass to H.M.S. TORBAY.

1214B/28.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.B. (H) D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.C. (2)
D. of Plans. (2)
D.A/S V.
Head of M.
V.D.
I.P. (2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
D.D.I.C. (2)

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28.5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - conts. -

U/B attacked by A/C. Contd. Command. (Group missing). Arrmady attacked 2300 from guns, hope able attack again soon with D/C Flak very heavy but no damage to us.

His (?conning) tower now overcrowded.
(Gib. 1555/28).

Following has been read. Am about to attack again with remaining D/Cs.

(Med., A/C R/Sqdn. 1613/28, to Gibraltar).

Following has been read: Have attacked with D/Cs and straddled.
(Med. A/C R - Sqdn. 1645/28).

My 1645. Enemy has made a large decrease of speed.

(Med., A/C, R., 1655/28 to Gibraltar).

At 2345 returning Catalina sighted and attacked a U-boat in 37° 38' N., 02° 05' E. At 1645/28 Sunderland attacked U-boat in Position 38° 04' N., 02° 22' E. U-boat apparently damaged on surface, crew on conning tower.

2. Am sending CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER forthwith to destroy U-boat. My 1132B/27 to Admty only cancelled.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1830B/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

My 1830B/28, sailed CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2202B/28 to Admty).

Spanish Shipping.

My 2032/23. Following Spanish ships of over 1,000 tons gross engaged in oversea traffic will be in waters north of Vigo from 31/5 to 2/6 inclusive (list).

(N.A. Madrid, 1701/28 1702/28 to Admty (R)
F.O.C.N.A., NA. Lisbon) Reply: 1649/29.

Polish S/MS.

Capt. (S) 8 has represented to me that C.O. O.R.P. SOKOL is in need of well earned rest and Chief of Polish Navy whom I have consulted tells me that crew of S/M are suffering from mental

exhaustion and overstrain consequent upon their recent experiences and lack of contact with Polish Navy and company of their contrymen in U.K. The paying off of O.R.P. WILK and loss of O.R.P. JASTRZAB* has also had an unsettling effect upon crews. Chief of Polish Navy considers that SOKOL on completion of defects at Gibraltar about 11/6 should proceed to U.K. where arrangements will be made to take her in hand for refit which in any case is shortly due. I fully agree. Propose therefore F.O.C.N.A. be instructed to sail SOKOL when ready U.K., reason given being to refit.

(F.O.S., 1716B/28 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A. Capt. S.8).

* P.551.

CLYDE.

C. in C. Med., 1322/28. Intend sailing CLYDE p.m./30 for Malta with cargo as in my 1042/19 but with diesel oil and smoke instead of kerosene and 4" ammunition, crossing 009° E., in 038° at 2330B/4/6.

S. of A. diving 130 miles per day. V.A. Malta is requested to signal onward route. C. in C. Med., pass to Capt. (S) 1.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1838B/28 to V.A. Malta (R) Admty. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, Malta, S.O. Sub).

War Diary.28.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

MONBALDO.

Arrival 25th MONBALDO Italian.
(Consul Bilbao, 1912/26 to M.W.T.)Air Report,
attacks on
U/B.Ops. 561, resume for 28/5.
1 Sunderland A/S Search to 0300 W 1040-2130 sighted U-boat on surface 37° 42' N., 2° 00' E., 1355B attacked 1440B no hits. U-boat still on surface C Deg. 050 8 knots and attacking Aircraft with gunfire. Attacked with remaining D/C's straddled U-boat and speed decreased, still on surface. 3 Hudsons strike U-boat attack 1521-2215.
(R.A.F., Gibraltar, 1915/28).LOCH OSKAIG
A/C.1 A/C Fokker Wolfe bearing unknown distant 3 miles, course 180° My position 38.37 N., 9° 27' W.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 2123B/28, 2134B/28 to Gibraltar).
One A/C Fokker Wolfe bearing 090° distant 3 miles course 000° My position 38.37 N., 9.27 W.
(LOCH OSKAG, 2208B/28 to Gibraltar)South Atlantic.

ARCHER.

Departure ARCHER S. of A knots 12½ transfers to W/T organisation V at 0100Z/5/6, E.T.A. Mombasa 1600Z/6/6.

(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0759Z/28 to Admtly etc).

Your 1002 not to Comnas. (N.T. in W.D. ARCHER is not to proceed to Mediterranean. C. in C. S.A. is requested to divert her to Capetown or convenient port in South Africa to carry out temporary repairs and sail her for U.K. Report expected date of sailing.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 2114B/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

Vichy
Convoy.At 0701Z/28 met Vichy French Sloop ANNAMITE in 006° 40' N., 016° 50' W., course 300° speed about 7 knots escorting Vichy SS. VILLE D'ORAN ROURS, TORT DE SOUVILLE and CHELMA.
(CARNARVON CASTLE, 0950Z/28 to R.A.W.A.)Navigation,
Takoradi.Q.G.B.108. Takoradi. L.Searched Channel . Instructions for entering. Cancel S.C.G.9 and Q.G.Bs. 15, 74 and 93.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1103Z/28).

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- W.S.19 W. Your 2304B/22. Request you will confirm E.T.A. of W.S.19 W is 0800N/30 and that ship has been informed that she should arrive at Fairway Buoy 1 hour after high water at Freetown in daylight.
(R.A.W.A., 1115Z/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock (R) W.S.19 W).
Your 1115Z/28. Confirmed.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1524B/28 to R.A.W.A.)
- PANTHER. A.M.1556/24. Destination of PANTHER is Clyde for repairs to turbines.
(D.O.D. (F) 1234B/28 to C. in C. S.A.)
Sailed PANTHER route R.9., 18 knots, E.T.A. Simonstown 0600Z/30.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1238/28, to Admty etc).
- R.N.A.S. Re medical facilities.
Komenda. (R.A.W.A., 1245Z/28 to Admty).
- GREENE Arrival 27/5 U.S. ^{Ex} Destroyer GREENE. ^(Convoy 129 15) ^(Scaplane Tender) ^(C.B. 1815) ^(Apr 1942)
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1415Z/28 to Admty).
- C. LYRA My 1742Z/19. COMMANDANTE LYRA taken in tow (torpedoed 18/5). and arrived Saba 25th. Ship still smouldering and cargo being discharged.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1448Z/28 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A., R.A.W.A. S.O.(I) Jamaica).
- Italian Repatriations. Italian ships SATURNIA, VULCANIA, DUILIO, GIULIO CESARE are routed as follows. (Route, description) These ships are not to be interfered with if on prescribed route. SATURNIA, VULCANIA arrived Port Elizabeth 27/5. DUILIO, GIULIO CESARE E.T.A. Port Elizabeth about 4/6.
(C. in C. S.A., 1510B/28 to S.A. Sqdn.)
- S.T.24 Departure 28/5 AUBRETIA, COWSLIP M/L 261, 274 ^{at Portland} ^(Red List) (7116) S.T.24.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1805Z/28 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos).
- Brazil, facilities to H.M. Ships. My tel. No. 645. (MILFORD docking and refit in Brazil). C.N.S. informs N.A. that British men of war will receive exactly the same facilities as Americans. 1. Docking will be arranged. 2. Degaussing can be arranged but all necessary equipment must be supplied as none is available here. 4. Lloyds agent will co-operate with Naval Attache. 6. If Admiralty will cable list of repairs necessary these will be passed to Adm. Bittencourt, Eng. Adm. in charge of Naval Dockyard, Rio, who will render every assistance and help to assess cost. Your stipulation regarding payment in sterling is noted. 7. Officers and men may wear uniform and come ashore freely.
(Rio De Janeiro (Sir N. Charles) 2042/28 to F.O. (R) Washington)

War Diary.

29.5.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

WILD SWAN

WILD SWAN will arrive Ponta Delgada p.m. 3/6 and will require 320 tons oil fuel. (R.A.W.A., 2217Z/28 to N.C.S.O. P. Delgada).

W.S.19

Convoy W.S.19 sailed 26th. First 8 ships Capetown remainder Durban (List fuel and water taken etc). (S.S.T.O. Freetown, 2359Z/28 to P.S.T.O. Capetown N.L.O. Durban).

War Diary28.5.42
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Enemy Units P.C. and S. of enemy at 0045/28th 037° 52'
TURBULENT 018° 40' 160° 12.
TAKU (Capt. S.1. 02410/28 to TURBULENT, TAKU)
My 0241C/28th Aircraft will co-operate tonight
from 2300 to 0500. Set wireless watch in
accordance "Pigeon" at 2300. "Rooster" to be used between the
following times only - TAKU 2300 to 0130. TURBULENT 0130 to
0330. Flares will not be dropped. Torpedo aircraft expected
to attack about 0201.
(Capt. S.1. 1151C/28 to TURBULENT, TAKU)

U/B's A German U-Boat was suspected off Benghazi at
2100C/27 and 0300C/28. A reported submarine
was sighted in your area about 20150/27.
(Capt. S.1. 0655C/28 to S/Ms on Patrol)

Enemy Units From aircraft sighting anticipate enemy P.C. and
PROTEUS S. about 0300C/29 will be 033° 40' 018° 54' 160°
10 knots. Endeavour to intercept South of this
position. Decypher my 1921/26 My 2335/27 and
my 0241/28.
(Capt. S.1. 1045C/28 to PROTEUS (R) S/Ms on Patrol)

EOCENE EOCENE sunk at sea by enemy action 20/5/1942
(Alexandria 1531C/28 to Admiralty)

Malta Air I.349 28/5. C.S.R. Malta.
Report 1724 hours 12 M.E.109's 6 bombed Luqa no damage.
Night 27/28
1848 hours 5 Raiders - bombs - land. No damage
2259 hours, 4 Raiders. Luqa, 1 Ambulance destroyed. Beaufighter
sighted approx. 18 E.Boats south Malta 20 miles, attacked from
200 feet - strikes on three causing explosions. Second
Beaufighter did not find. 28th 2 alerts. Night 27/28
Wellington 8 shipping sweep 2147 hours 2 Medium M/Vs 4 D.S.R's
128° Point Stilo 37 miles course 090° 10 knots. Bombs from
1700 feet near misses M/V. Also machine gunned. Second
Wellington 8 shipping sweep 2241 hours 2 M/Vs 3000 and 5000 tons,
2 D/Rs, 090° Cape Spartivento 120 miles course 160° 12 knots.
Bombs dropped from 2008 feet, near misses large M/V.
Wellingtons raided Messina and Augusta. Augusta harbour results
unobserved. Bombs and incendiaries from 7000 feet on ferry
terminus Messina. Bursts on jetty. Red glow and fires from
target visible 20 miles.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1710/28)

/Enemy ...

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28.5.42.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.

Enemy Units. My 0241/28. At 1605 C, P.C. and Sp. of enemy
035° 33' 019° 14' 180°, 10 knots.
(Capt.S.1. 1717C/28, to S/Ms on Patrol).
At 1601C, P.C. and Sp. of 3 large merchant ships,
4 destroyers, 032° 23' 019° 57' 330° 15 knots.
(Capt.S. 1. 1911C/28, to S/Ms on Patrol).

Situation Western Desert. Operation "Manual" in force. Hunt
report 216. destroyers, 8 craft and aircraft patrolling
nightly to counter possible enemy landing in
Tobruk area. Normal convoys continuing at
present. Increased enemy air activity at Tobruk but Scale of
attack not yet heavy.

2. MTB 309 and 312 attacked ^(only) F-boats ^(F.149) escorted by ~~E-boats~~ ^(no E-boats present) off
Bomba at 0300/27. F-boat damaged, possibly sunk. ^(hit mark) No damage
or casualties in MTB's.
3. Convoy A.T.47 was unsuccessfully attacked by U-boat in
32 05 N. 24 40 E. at 1355/27 ? (Portion deleted).
4. Aircraft reports 4 hits with bombs on U-boat at 2307/26 in
32 29 N. 24 43 E.
5. Central Mediterranean. H.M. drifter EDDY mined and sunk at
1630/26 off Malta Grand Harbour. Southbound convoy 2 MV and
destroyers intercepted 135 miles north west of Benghazi night
24/25 by TURBULENT and Wellington aircraft. Wellingtons
attacked with torpedoes and bombs result unknown.
6. Levant. Minor enemy air activity on Alexandria Port Said
shipping route. Report of enemy landing at Banias night 24/25
not confirmed. Reports also unconfirmed of ?U-boats
operating on Levant coastal route.
7. 2 Greek destroyers joining Levant escort force to release
corvettes for Western Desert service. M.T.B.s operating from
Haifa and Famagusta.
8. Red Sea. All 4 Italian repatriation ships have arrived and
left Berbera.
(C.in C.Med. 2310C/28 to Admty.).
Note by War Reg.:— Deleted portion has been given a restricted
distribution.

U/B. A submarine was sighted in Gulf of Sirte at
1445 today.
(Capt.S.1. 2357C/28, to S/Ms on Patrol).

Movements. 28/5. Arrivals. HERO, HURWORTH, ERIDGE *
Departure. HERO, HURWORTH, ERIDGE, DELPHINIUM,
PRIMULA, KLO.
(C. & C.O. Tobruk, 2358C/28 to Admty.)
* W.D. Note:— Destruction of U/B by these
ships, see Admty. 0231/31. (U.568)

827

28.5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Diego Suarez. Directive to G.O.C.in C, E.Africa from Chiefs of Staff.
(W.O. 0630/28 to G.O.C.in C) See Lion Copy.

TANJORE (grounded) 25/5. N.O.I.C.Karachi's 0445/25. TANJORE must be considered total loss. No casualties.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0348Z/28 to C. in C.E.I.(R) Admty, Com.R.I.N.)

B.M.18. Convoy B.M.18 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo. 1109Z/28 to Admty.).

Convoy K.M.1. Your 1745A/5/1(1545A/5 intended). Kilindini Diego Suarez convoy sailing shortly propose designating KM.1.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 1115Z/28, to Admty (R) C. in C.E.I.). *Concur. (DSD, 1341 0/5)*

TRUSTY. TRUSTY sailed 1230Z/28 routed through 005° 40' N. 082° 10' E. and 006° 20' N. 093° (35' or 26'?) E. to arrive in waiting position 008° 16' N. 097° 50' E. p.m/2/6.
(S.O. Subs.Colombo, 1247Z/28 to TRUANT (R) K.15).

DAUNTLESS RAMILLIES. Intend following movements (1) DAUNTLESS relieve RAMILLIES as S.N.O. and Guard Ship Diego Suarez 5/6. (ii) RAMILLIES proceed Durban with Adm. Syfret thence return (?Kilindini) after escorting W.S.19.
(C. in C.E.F. 1323Z/28 to Admty (R) C. in C.E.F., V.A.3. S.O. Force F).

TEVIOTC BANK. No reports of minelaying operations have been received from TEVIOTC BANK since her departure from U.K. (2) Important that essential details should be on record at Admty.
(3) Request you consider transmission by cable of reports in accordance with O.U. 5302/28 para 78(1) as was done in case of ABDIEL's operations.
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1334B/28 to C. in C.E.F.(R) C. in C.E.I., TEVIOTC BANK).

FROBISHER. *(Diego Suarez)*
E.T.A. 1900Z/29. Request light.
(FROBISHER. 1716Z/28 to S.O.Force "F" S.H.A.No.66 (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A.)

/Air.....

MOST SECRET

827A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 0630/28th May

III

From The War Office.

Date 28.5.42.

CIPHER

Addressed G.O.C. in C. East Africa Repeated 121 Force A.O.C.
in C. Middle East C.G.S. South Africa, Flag Officer
East Africa.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Diego Suarez - Directive

91289.

Cipher (M.O.5.) 28/5.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

1. Diego Suarez area will come under your command with effect from date which will be notified on receipt of agreed recommendation by you and General Sturges.
2. You will assume full administrative control of all British and Dominion land forces in the area.
3. Your special responsibilities will be:-
 - (a) Preparation of plans for the security of Diego Suarez against Japanese seaborne or air attack.
 - (b) Preparation of plans for the security of Diego Suarez against any attack from the South.
4. Diego Suarez is at present to be used as a refuelling base for naval forces and flying boats and may be used for naval repairs. It is not intended to undertake offensive operations against remainder of island at present but you should consider plans for occupation of Tomatave and Majunga and Tananarive should this be required later. Possibility of a coup d'etat to bring over remainder of island is being considered.
5. Scale of Japanese attack for planning purposes is one brigade group supported by three or four aircraft carriers (150-200 aircraft) and Naval bombardment by capital ships.
6. Submit recommendations for garrison of Diego Suarez area on basis of three infantry brigades plus necessary supporting and artillery units also for H.Q. required. It is realised that further forces will probably be required if offensive action as in paragraph 4 is called for.
7. Civil administration while control is limited to Diego Suarez area will remain military responsibility under Fortress Commander. He will be advised by his political officer and will communicate on such matters with War Office through you. The Political Officer will have the right to report on political matters to the Foreign Secretary through the Fortress Commander and the War Office.
8. Local command of all forces will be vested in Fortress Commander whose appointment will be dealt with in a separate telegram.

827^B

- 2 -

9. Higher Command. Joint command with Naval forces under flag Officer East Africa, military forces under you, air forces under A.O.C., Middle East through A.O.C. 207 Group.

0630/28.

Advance Copy D.C.(2), D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
Sec.
Nav.Sec.
N.A.1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.of P.(2)
E.P.S.
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.C.(2)
C.C.O.(2)
D.S.D.
Hd.of M.
Ad.Bloke
D.P.D.
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.M.A.D.
D.A/S.W.

Recd. from War Office 0705/28.

War Office Distribution

S. of S.
C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S.
D.M.O.& P.
D.P.(2)
M.O.1.5.11.
D.D.M.C.(0)
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I.(I)
M.I.3.
C.N.S. Admiralty
D. of Plans Admiralty
Hd. of War Reg. Admiralty
C.A.S. Air Min.
D. of Plans Air Min.
Col. Jacob, Cabinet Offices
Foreign Secretary.
Major Morton 10 Downing St.

War Diary.

28.5.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Air Report. A.961. Intelligence Summary No. 74 on information up to 1800 hours 28/5. Burma. 2 Hudsons attacked craft on Mayu River 27/5. Direct hit on sampans, Kwazon, near miss on ferry steamer, sampans machine gunned, no troop movement seen. 1 Blenheim made bombing and machine gun attack on paddle steamers Kalewa 27/5. Near misses. Steamer at Sittaung machine gunned and fire started, no troop movement. Blenheim R/C 26/5 reports Wierass 28 camouflaged river craft north of Homalin.
(1) Night 25/26. 4 B.17s bombed Rangoon area 1900-2000 hours. Bombs dropped on barges in river 15 miles from town, a power station 150 miles NW of town, and in vicinity of Mingaladon, results unobserved. No enemy pursuit or A.A.
(A.H.Q. India, 1920/28)

Eastern Fleet Cruisers. Your 1243/9. One Cruiser of each E, D and C Class can be spared at a time. Proposed first 3 to be taken in hand be EMERALD, DANAE, and CALEDON.
(2) Subsequently ENTERPRISE, DRAGON, CERES, DAUNTLESS and CAPETOWN in that order.
(3) It may be possible to release ships in para.2 before those in Para.1 return if reinforcements arrive on Station. (4) Request destinations of ships and probable (?time) in hand for modernisation. (5) Ships could be sailed, EMERALD now, DANAE on arrival of MAURITIUS about third week June, CALEDON on arrival CARADOC about mid-July.
(C.in C.E.F., 1924Z/28, to Admiralty (R) C.in C.E.F.)

Madagascar. Your 1157/26. Further operations are not intended. My 1949/25 and 1824/18 refer to disposal of forces. (1st S.L., 2029B/28, to C.in.C.E.F., (R) S.O. Force F, C. in C. S.A., V.A.3)

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War Diary.28.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- U/B
DUCHESS OF
YORK C.in C. U.S. Fleet's 1704/27 indicates submarine 035° N. 058° W. homeward bound. (N.S.H.Q., 0103 GMT/28 to Admty. DUCHESS OF YORK)
- U/Bs.
BURNHAM C.in C.U.S.Fleet's 1721/27. Estimated one submarine 042° N. 067° W. 1709/27. One Halifax area. One homeward bound 042° 30' N. 060°W. (N.S.H.Q. 0143Z/28, to BURNHAM (R) Admty.etc.).
- U/B
attacked. Patrol "Robust" attacked S/M 19.47 N. 73.57 W. Dropped 4 D/Cs. S/M engaged with machine guns, then submerged, 0254Z/28. This is C.C.S.F. 0509Z/28 to C.in C. U.S. Fleet. (C.in C.U.S.Fleet, 0806/28, to C.in C.Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q.,Admty. etc.).
- O.N.95. Owing to impracticability of turning convoy through 100° in position (V) in fog and dark convoy is being (? turned from) (U) to (W). E.T.A. position (U) 1600Z/28. Am detaching HAMILTON to escort St. John N.B. portion to (V) and to rejoin convoy with all despatch. All 4 escorts now present. (C.T.U.24.18.2. 1030Z/28. to C.O.A.C.Halifax (R) Opnav, Admty. etc.).
- S/M
? R.O. Orders to U.S. S/M R.O. to leave Bermuda at 2330Z/28 to patrol area 45 miles radius from point 280 miles due N. of Bermuda. (C.in C. U.S. Fleet 1220/28 to Admiralty). See Lion Copy.
- O.T. 4. O.T. convoy number 4 29/5 16 G.M.T. (list) HAVELOCK, U.S. P.C.453,knots 9.(Route) (S.B.N.O.,Curacao, 1221QR/28, to C.in C. A.W.I. (R) Admty etc.). ANNA MAZARAKI grounded on Sable Island 24/5 abandoned as total loss 26/5, all crew, 2 passengers, and C.B's landed at Halifax by WEYBURN 27/5. (C.O.A.C. 1311Z/28, 1739Z/28, to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Connav).
- Explosions. Cayman Brac reports explosions and columns smoke about 20 miles south of Little Cojtan between 1900R and 2100/25. (S.O.I.) Jamaica 1458R/28, to Admty. etc.).
- Shipping
Routes. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Cancel A.M.2120B/25,(N.T. in W.D.) and substitute 'Ships for U.S.A.ports sailed in ON and ON (S) convoys should be routed to Boston and given instructions for proceeding thence to New York via Cape Cod Canal and Long Island Sound in conformity with M.A.C.R.I.and M.A.R.I.

/Section ...

MOST SECRET

829A

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1220/28th May

From C. in C. U.S. Fleet.

Date 28/5/42
Recd. 1705

U.S. "X" by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

This message is a re-encipherment of Cominch
0604/28 / repeat 0604/28.

This is N.O.B. Bermuda 0240/28. Passed by C. in C.
U.S. Fleet to C.T.F.21 22 24 28 29, C.E.S.F., Admiralty,
C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. and U.S.S. MONTICELLO.
Begins - Addressed C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Lant.,
C.T.F.25, N.O.B. Bermuda.

U.S. submarine notice R-0 departs from Bermuda at
2330Z/28 May. Course 000, speed of advance 90 miles per
day, submerged during daylight, surfaced or submerged at
night, proceeding to patrol a station of 45 miles radius
centered at point 280 miles due North of Bermuda.
Request total bombing restrictions along this route 15
miles on each side and 50 miles ahead and astern of
submarine estimated position and in patrol area until
further notice. Bombing restrictions have been
established with local forces.

1220/28.

/ Originally received undecypherable
in War Registry.

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.C.(2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
W.D.

I.P.(2)
D.D.O.D.(M)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
A.E.(3)
W.R. File (T.O.O. 0604/28).
W.R. File (Under N.O.B. Bermuda
0240B/28).

MOST SECRET

12247/28 May.
MESSAGE
MOST SECRET

IN.

829 B

From Air Ministry.

5333. 42.

CYBER.

Addressed Britman Washington.

OZ. 297 28/5/42.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 188.

Reference J.S.M.233. (T.O.O.2309/18).

Our accelerated production of landing craft is shown in Schedule Four of J.P.(42) 488. To achieve this we have increased T.L.C. production to 20 a month and have arranged construction of 50 modified Giant "R" craft of half troop-carrying capacity by end April 1943 through the Fairmile organisation.

2. In addition to meet requirement of Eureka type craft we are constructing 200 28 feet. landing boats.

3. Requirements of landing craft from U.S. have been examined by C.C.O. with Capt. Grindle. A firm statement will be signalled shortly.

4. Completion of A.L.C. semi-Giant "R" craft and landing boats in U.K. is dependent on supply of Hall Scott, Scripps, and Chrysler engines from U.S.A. being improved.

5. Your para 3. Difficulties of winter crossing fully appreciated. Presume consideration will be given to all devices which might improve seaworthiness for passage such as detachable keels, false bottoms and sails and that provision for heaving to and towing will be made.

6. After 2½ years of war our productive capacity although expanding, is in the final stage of crystallising to the organisation required to produce target programme of essential munitions. We have almost nothing left to allocate to additional new production.

7. Engine capacity is devoted to aircraft and tanks. To divert any of it to landing craft would mean dislocation of aircraft and tank production.

8. The facts regarding construction of landing craft in shipyards given in C.O.S.(41)726 are confirmed. We could not get any considerable increase in the number of

landing/.....

MOST SECRET

landing craft from shipyards by April 1943 and flow of merchant shipping now fully in spate would fall out of all proportion. Our merchant ship situation is still serious. Against full output of 1½ million tons we expect a loss of 3¼ million tons of non-tankers annually. U.S.A. will provide no specific guarantee.

9. Naval ship building in similar case. Shortage of corvettes acute. Strength in larger ships decreasing owing to rising casualty rate. Situation is such that naval and mercantile building has now received priority above other munitions and we are drafting labour from other supply departments.

10. You should present a picture of U.K. production organised to produce munitions essential to continuation of war effort as a whole. Further diversion to providing equipment for Marshall plan would set back our effort at sea so severely that assuming Battle of the Atlantic will continue for an appreciable period after April 1943 we should be risking disaster.

11. We are examining whether anything further is possible in spite of these difficulties and will let you know if we can improve on the construction referred to in paras. 1 and 2.

1224Z/28.

Air Ministry circulation:-

Col. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
War Reg. Admiralty.
C.6 Telegrams War Office.
C.A.S.
C.C.O.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
Controller.
Vico Controller.
4th S.L.
SEC.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(W)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
E.P.S.
D.C.
Hd. of M.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
M.A.S.
Admiral Cunningham(Temp)
P.A.S.(S)
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Admiral Bellairs.
C.M.S.R.

D.A/S.W.
D.M.B.
C.C.O.(2)
D.N.E.(C.O)

DR.

830

28.5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATION.America and West Indies.

Shipping Routes Contd. Section II, para. 13 sub paras. (1) and (3). Such ships need not be routed beyond New York, and Masters should be instructed to obtain onward instructions at that port." (D.T.D. 1522B/28, to F.O.I.Cs).

Pass to F.O.I.C.'s and N.C.S.O.'s. A.M.1837B/27 para.(A), amend to read "O.N.and O.N.(S) Convoys run from U.K. to Boston, Mass. Ships for U.S.A. ports sailed in these convoys should be routed to Boston and given instructions for proceeding thence to New York via Cape Cod Canal and Long Island Sound in conformity with M.A.C.R.I. Such ships need not be routed beyond New York. Ships for Canadian ports will be detached by order of Commodore". (D.T.D. 1524B/28 to C.in C. A.W.I.,N.S.H.Q.,etc.).

U/Bs. 28/5, S/M estimate. (Cominch 1603/28, 1622/28, 1644/28, 1659/28, 1714/28 to Admty).

HAAKON HUAN Ref. SSSS from HAAKON HUAN, Norwegian, "torpedoed 0235/25", ship reported arrived New Orleans 25/5. (N.S.H.Q.,1609Z/28, to Admty.(R) C.in C.A.W.I. S.O.(I) Kingston, Connav, C.O.A.C.Halifax).

TORONDOC Your 1553/27,TORONDOC is overdue Trinidad not Key West. (N.S.H.Q.1621Z/28, to Admty (R) C.in C.A.W.I. S.O.(I) Kingston, B.A.D.).

Washops 83. Alaska. 2 Japanese S/Ms sighted in Alaskan waters. Aleutians. 1 Japanese seaplane sighted over Kiska Naval Station believed to be from converted seaplane tender. (J.S.M.,1621Z/28, to Admty. etc.).

EMPIRE FLINT Your 1516/21. EMPIRE FLINT sailed Trinidad 15/5 due Freetown 29/5. Trinidad's 1151/5 refers. (N.S.H.Q.,1627Z/28, to S.O.I. Jamaica).

K.S. 504. Following ships sailed 1030Z from Charleston sea buoy for R/V with K.S.504 at 1200Z. (C.S.A.Charleston, 1636Z/28, to Admty.).

B.X. Convoys. Propose a regular B.X. convoy leaves Cape Cod Canal every Wednesday. This would require 2 extra groups on a shuttle service between Boston and Halifax. (N.S.H.Q.,1655Z/28 to C.in C.U.S.Fleet (R) Admty.etc.) See Lion Copy.

/U.S.Shipping

830A AWL

SECRET

MESSAGE

1655Z/28th. May IN

From N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

Date 28.5.42.

Recd. 2345

NAVAL CYPHER 3(M) by W/T

Addressed C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Repeated Admiralty,
C.O.A.C. F.O. Newfoundland, C. in C. Atlantic
Fleet, (U.S.) C.E.S.F. Com I B.A.D. Com. 3.

IMPORTANT

519 Following is a result of prime conference between representatives of C. E.S.F., C.O.A.C., and N.S.H.Q. Irregularity of arrivals at Boston of O N convoys make it impossible to sail B X convoys with the requisite regularity to ensure ship catching the regular H X and S C convoys without serious delay.

(2) It is therefore proposed that a regular B X convoy should leave Cape Cod Canal every Wednesday so as to ensure connecting with the next H X convoy which sails from Halifax on Sunday and the S C convoy which sails from Sydney on the following Friday. This would require 2 extra groups on a Shuttle service between Boston and Halifax.

(3) The above could be arranged by C.O.A.C. with the present Western local escort force working in 8 groups of which 6 would operate with O N convoys and 2 would operate the Shuttle service.

(4) To preserve an equitable Seatetime/Harbourtime ratio, group with O N convoys after dispersal would fuel at Boston and return to Halifax without delay escorting only ships capable of doing 12 knots or more.

(5) C.O.A.C. would inform all necessary authorities of the expected time of dispersal of O N convoys at Cape Cod. Escort groups from these would then be sailed by Com one with ships in paragraph 4 above. It is anticipated the the time required would be from 12 to 24 hours.

(6) Request your early consent or acquiesce concur.
1655Z/28

1st. Lord.	Nav. Sec.	Advance Copy	O.D.	Trade.
1st. S.L.	N.A. 1st. S.L.	D.T.D. (4)		
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I. (5)	O.D. (5)	D.T.D. (M)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D. of P. (3)	O.I.C. (3)	D.T.D. (C)	A.E. (3)
A.C.N.S. (T)	Ops (3)	M (2)	I.P. (3)	

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28.5.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.

U.S. Shipping Control. Amend my 1502/27 para. 3B by addition of following sentences between words "Address of these signals" and "Charts showing" "As a temporary measure B.R.Os. at Bermuda, Trinidad, and Jamaica are to omit Commandants of Sea Frontiers from the address of Vesca and route signals. These U.S. authorities are at present supplied with naval shore code only."
(C.in C.A.W.I., 1704P/28, to B.R.Os. Bermuda, Trinidad, Jamaica. (R) Admty. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.I., Jamaica).
My 2027/27 para. 1.
Amend areas to read "Panama, Central America, Bermuda, and Continental U.S. Areas."
2. C.in C. A.W.I. 1502/27 para. 3 (B). Telegraphic address of Cominch (Convoy and Routeing Section) is Connav, Washington.
3. Request C.in C. A.W.I. 1502/27 may be amended to conform with my 2015/25 in respect of address of Vesca and route messages to Commanders of sea frontiers.
(B.A.D., 1801Z/28, to Admty. (R) C.in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. etc.)
Add Caribbean to areas quoted (B.A.D. 1935Z/29).
At 0001/1/6. Busra Sect. E and Sect. G sub section (c) will come into effect in the Panama, Central America, Bermuda and Continental U.S. Areas.
2. Special attention is invited to Sect. J 2nd Sub para.
3. Request that necessary information is passed to N.C.S.O.'s concerned.
(D.T.D., 1707B/28 as amended 1213B/29, 1058B/30 to C.in C. A.W.I. C.in C.S.A. N.S.H.Q. R.A. West Africa. A.C.I.C. (R) S.O. (I) Jamaica. S.O. (I) Montevideo. S.A.D. Cominch).
1707B/28 not strictly correct. See B.A.D. 1935Z/29.

A.T.16. A.M.1857B/25. para. 3. Destination of SIBONEY will be Clyde.
(D.O.D.(H) 1923B/28 to C.T.F.35 C.O.A.C.).

ATENAS (torpedoed 27/5) Following received through Camperdown (begins)- 0313 G.M.T. intercept "SSSS.ATENAS (U.S.) S.O.S. 025° 50' N. 089° 05' N (? W) are (corrupt group) ship torpedoed 0310". Bearing Camperdown 239 approx. (ends) Dated 27/5.
(N.S.H.Q. 2004Z/28 to Admty. Connav, C.in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Shipping Signals. Your 1752/20 (? April) It has been (? ascertained (corrupt group) that Washington feels that discontinuance of shipping movement reports to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and from U.S. consuls and observers cannot yet be accepted. Following reasons are given.
(1) Vesca signals are not being addressed efficiently to Navy, Washington, vide Cominch 2015/14.
(2) All N.C.S.O.'s concerned are not reporting.
(3) Desirable that Vesca signals addressed Connav should carry prefix Vesca either in P.L. or in code.
(N.S.H.Q., 2009Z/28, to Admty. (R) C.in C.E.I. C.in C. Med., Connav) See Admty. 2149/29 to East Indies, Med. etc.

/Independent ...

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War Diary.28.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.

Independent Ships. Re policy of limiting speed. (B.A.D.2023Z/28 to Admty). See Lion Copy. Reply. Admty. 1959B/30.

S/M attack and Sighting Summary. HAMLET torpedoed and sunk 28. 32 N.91. 30 W. 0940Z/27. EXHIBITOR I torpedo miss 38.48 N. 68. 35 W.2348Z/27. NEW JERSEY attacked 19.10 N. 81.50 W. 0950Z/28. AMAPALA, 9 heavy shells U-88 type, Red Deck. MC'TARNAHAN 2 Torpedoes 3 rounds. SICILIEN, U-88. CARRABULLE, 2 Torpedoes. LISE, U-88. S/M attacked by Destroyer 14 - 02 N. 61 - 07 W. 2200Z/27. Planes attack Submarines on surface 1, 19° 47 N. 73 - 57 W. 0254Z/28. Submarine fired machine gun 31 - 03 N. 71 - 21 W. 1137Z/28. Reported in My Submarine Estimate today as 38 - 15 N. 72 - 05 W. 104 - 14 S. 36 - 38 W. 1430Z/27. Reported sunk no confirmation. Submarine reported sighted 29 N. 89 - 30 W. 0445Z/28 B.A.D. and Opnav informed. (C,in C.U.S.Fleet, 2034/28, to Admty for O.I.C.) Correction, 1536/29. Connav Serial 28. HECTOR Dutch torpedoed sunk 24/5 p.m. in 020° 03' N. 081° 50' W. 29 Survivors landed Kingston (Jam) 26/5. 2 casualties. HAMLET Norwegian torpedoed sunk 0900 G.M.T./27 in 028° 32' N. 091° 30' W. 30 Survivors. BARRDALE British 52 survivors all British landed Pernambuco, Picked up 18/5 380 miles east of Barbados. No information yet on cause of abandoning ship. Request information on GRIPFONTENOL and SHAFTSBURY reported casualties. (? previously reported) PERSEPHONE Panamanian sunk 1510Q/25 039° 44' N.073° 53' W. (Connav, 2100/28 to Comnav (R) N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F.)

O.T. and T.O. Convoys. Your 1836B/26. The controlling routing and diverting of O.T. and T.O. convoys is being handled by C.C.S.F. For the present T.O. convoys are being handled through F.O.I.C. Trinidad until our organisation is set up after which we will gradually take over. (Connav, 2050Z/28, to Admty.)

HT.and TH. Convoys. N.S.H.Q. 2015/19.* Cancel para.IV and substitute IV. N.S.H.Q. will inform C.O.A.C., F.O.I.C. Trinidad, and necessary authorities, approx. date on which HT and TH Convoys are to sail and suggest or designate tankers for inclusion. (N.S.H.Q.,2135Z/28 to Admty (R) C.O.A.C.etc.) * Corvettes available as Escorts for HT and TH Convoys.

U/B DUCHESS OF YORK. By D/F S/m within a radius of 50 miles 041° 00' N. 063° 30' W., at 1630 G.M.T./28. (N.S.H.Q. 2135 G.M.T./28, to DUCHESS OF YORK, (R) Admty.) C.in C.U.S.Fleet 1659 G.M.T./28 estimate one S/M off Cape Sable, one S/M homeward bound 043° N. 056 W. (N.S.H.Q.,2355 G.M.T./28 to DUCHESS OF YORK (R) Admty.)

/BRUXELLES

AWL
832A

2023Z/28th May.

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN.

From: B.A.D. Washington

Date: 29.5.42.
Recd: 0400.

Naval Cypher (X) by Direct Cable

Addressed: Admiralty.

253. Policy of limiting speed for independently routed ships is not clear though decision in A.M.1635/1 was stated to be a special case MASTA 2289 shows M.O.V.T. to be under impression Admiralty is sailing fourteen knot cargo vessels independently. Further, MASTA 2508 para.2 states Admiralty already routeing vessels of 14½ knots independently.

2. Request confirmation and information whether this applies to cargo vessels and tankers. Should agreement of Navy Department to reduction of limiting speed for independently routed ships, laid down in M.O.R.I. Sect. 1 para.6 be sought by B.A.D. either in application to all ships or exceptionally to ships in MASTA 2508 para 2.

2023Z/28.

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)
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A.1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.N.I.(5)
O.D.(5)
Ops.(3)
M.(2)

D. of P.(3)
O.I.C.(2)
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D.T.D.(4) for action
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
D. of S.T.(2)
D. of S.(2)
D.A/S.V.

833

War Diary.28.5.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.

BRUXELLES. Your 1508/22. Admty. have no information that BRUXELLES is casualty, and would like details of intercepted signal giving position and T.O.O.
(C.in C.A.W.I. 2222P/28 to C.in C.U.S.Fleet (R) Admty.).

Trinidad Tanker Convoys. My 1652/14. Numbers to be included. Plans (N.S.H.Q. 2223Z/28 to Cominch (R) Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.

Piarco Re restrictions on flying training by Americans turning Trinidad into a defended area. (Hd. of Air Branch, 2241B/28 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

CHURCHILL. When ready for sea at 2200Z/28 CHURCHILL proceed to Trinidad via Bermuda at 15 knots via direct route. Upon arrival at Bermuda report by signal to C.T.G. 26.3 for duties. Guard normal British communications channel.
(C.T.F.24 2245/28 to CHURCHILL(R) C.in C. U.S. Fleet. C.in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) C.T.G. 26.3 C.in C. W.A. C.in C.A.W.I. (? C.T.G.) 27.2 HAVELOCK Admty.).

U/B BURNHAM. Cominch's 1659/28 estimate one submarine off Cape Sable. One homeward bound 043° N. 056° W. (N.S.H.Q. 2353Z/28 to BURNHAM (R) Admty. etc.).

See p. 829

MOST SECRET

833A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

2223Z/28th May.

From: N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

Date. 30. 5. 42.

Time. 0135.

Naval Cypher M by W/T & T/P.

Addressed Coninch. Repeated Admiralty, C. in C.
America & West Indies, C. in C. Lant,
OPNAV, Comeastseafreight, Com. Caribbean
Sea Frontier, F.O.i/c Trinidad, S.O.I.
Kingston, B.A.D. Washington, C.O.A.C.
Halifax 383.

527. My 1652/14th. Now indicated it will be desirable for about 12 of the Canadian oil controller tankers loading at Western Caribbean ports and discharging at Portland to proceed in your East coast coastal convoys. 3 or 4 a month will have to load at Columbia (corrupt group) at Carthagena and oil controller objects to ship proceeding without protection being assured. To enable tentative plans to be made for the operation of these tankers request information whether any arrangements are contemplated for Panama - Guantanamo convoys to connect with your proposed Guantanamo - New York schedule.

2. About 12 tankers will be allocated to Halifax - Trinidad convoy and it is assumed that ships ex B 5 groups Admiralty's 1551/6th refers will be available to escort Canadian tankers between Trinidad and loading port as far West as Aruba. It is most desirable that Canadian escort with H T convoys turn around at Trinidad as soon as possible with tankers waiting for T H convoys.

2223Z/28.

Advance copies Duty Captain,
D.O.D.(H),
D.T.D.

1st Lord	D.C.(2)
1st S.L.	D.D.I.C.(2)
4th S.L.	D.A./S.W.
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D.(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.T.D.(M)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.T.D.(C)
A.C.N.S.(T)	D. of S2A
Naval Sec.	D.N.I.(5)
N.A. 1st S.L.	U.S.N.(3)
D. of P.(2)	D.S.D.
D.O.D.(H)(2)	Head of M.
D.O.D.(F)(2)	I.P.(2)

D. of S.T.
~~W.P.~~
D.T.S.D.
E.P.S.

833B

SECRET

MESSAGE

2241B/28th May

OUT

To:- B.A.D. Washington. 834.
Repeated. N.O.I.C. Trinidad.
C. in C. America & West Indies. 249.
N.A.S. Piarco.
R.A.N.A.S. 761.

Date. 28/5/42.

P/L.

From:- Admiralty.

Following are extracts from two messages from N.O.I.C. Trinidad in response to Admiralty enquiry whether scale of operational assistance being rendered by Piarco to Americans would permit Piarco to receive the number of pupils earmarked for the next two courses.

First Begins. Owing to American policy of turning Trinidad into highly defended area and regarding it as in war zone the question of R.N.A.S. Piarco and its continued use as a training centre becomes a matter for serious consideration. At present flying restrictions exercised at my request in the case of training aircraft, to exercises which the Commanding General is prepared to go, do permit of present programme of training, but with final scale of defence already planned and approved including additional A/A batteries, military A/C and aerodrome, I foresee a situation where increased restrictions congested traffic lanes and air generally may render any form of training extremely difficult. The increasing use of R.N.A.S. Piarco in co-operation with civil and ferry aircraft is an additional difficulty. In view of above, any increase in number under training appears inadvisable unless whole question is reviewed by higher authorities. Ends.

Second. Begins. Need of operational assistance to Americans should disappear as they receive more planes. It is the anticipated increase of suggested restrictions and congestion at R.N.A.S. Piarco which makes addition to number of pupils appear inadvisable. I have discussed this matter with Commanding General. It is concurred that as far as can be foreseen training will become increasingly difficult. Ends.

2. As restrictions and congestion caused by U.S. defence measures are hampering vital training, request an assurance be sought from Navy Department that no encroachment on present facilities, including training areas, will be made, and also that use of R.N. Air Station, Piarco, by Civil and Ferry aircraft will be restricted to an extent that will not interfere with training.

3. My 1721/25th May also refers.

2241B/28

for Head of Air Branch

Dolland House Ext. 303

1st Lord	Naval Sec.	E.P.S.	
1st S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of L.D. (2)	Sec. D. Contr (3)
2nd S.L.	N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)	D.N.A.D.	D. of D. (4) B
3rd S.L.	P.A.S. (S)	Air Br. (4) A0707/42	Hd. of A
Vice Controller	D.N.I. (4)	D.E.W.D.	S.W.R. T
4th S.L.	O.D. (5)	Ad. Bellairs	Sec. H
5th S.L.	Ops. (3)	D.M.S.	D.C. (2)
V.C.N.S.	Head of M. (30)	D.B.D.	D.T.D. (M)
A.C.N.S. (T)	O.I.C. (2)	C.W. (2)	D.T.D. (C)
A.C.N.S. (H)	I.P. (2)	Hydrog. (2)	D.S.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	W.D.	D.A/S.W.	
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.T.D. (4)	N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	

War Diary.

23.5.1942.
Thursday.

• FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Noumea 2035Z/26. U.S.S. MEREDITH destination undisclosed. Departure*(?) Vila 1037Z/27. LEANDER and PAUL JONES for Santo. (N.Z.N.B. 0400Z/28 to Admty. (R) Cincpac Comsopac.).

Departure Fremantle 0039Z/27 U.S. Aircraft Tender HERON for Exmouth Gulf.

(A.C.N.B. 0729Z/28 to Admty. etc).

* See p. 785

Situation.

Serial 126 from C.W.R. 27/5.

Port Moresby attacked at 0100Z/27 by 15 Zero fighters. 1 probably shot down, 6 others hit. 28.P.39s intercepted, 1 missing, 1 force-landed

no others damaged.

(2) Unknown number of unidentified aircraft bombed 7 mile aerodrome Port Moresby at 1130Z/27, damage negligible.

(3) 1 enemy aircraft reconnoitred Nauru 27/5

(4) 4 unidentified aircraft reported over aerodrome at Drysdale Mission (120 miles N.W. of Wyndham) at 0230Z/27.

(A.C.N.B. 1001Z/28 to Admty etc).

U/Boat Campaign.

S/MS Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1420B/28, 1436B/28).

War Diary.

29.5.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The Iceland portion and escorts of Convoy Q.P.12 arrived today.

GARLAND arrived at Murmansk this morning.

C.S.10 arrived at Scapa early this afternoon in NIGERIA with NORFOLK, LIVERPOOL and 3 destroyers from covering P.Q. 16 and Q.P. 12.

VICTORIOUS and 3 destroyers arrived at Hvalfiord this forenoon, having been detached by C. in C. H.F. who arrived at Scapa with the remainder of his force this afternoon.

The Russians report that a Soviet destroyer with P.Q. 16 shot down 4 aircraft today, using barrage with a new type of shell.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Coastal Command last night attacked an enemy convoy off the Frisian Islands and report direct hits on 8 ships.

Enemy Air Operations.

From 2345B/28 to 0500B/29 some 25 aircraft approached the coast between Flamborough Head and Skegness. F.O. Humber reports that there was no evidence of minelaying in spite of good visibility. He suggests that the enemy are short of mines or bombs and that these repeated raids are in the nature either of bluff or navigational exercises.

Two coastal convoys were bombed in the early hours of this morning off East Anglia, but no damage is reported.

836

War Diary.

29.5.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
S.N. 72.

R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE sailed today from Port ZA with AGAMEMNON, ADVENTURE, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, escorted by ST. MARYS, NEWARK and SALADIN to lay mines N.W. of Iceland. WILTON is to join him tomorrow morning, and also MANCHESTER to provide escort.

Enemy
minefield
off Cromer.

Sweepers detonated 9 magnetic mines today in approx. 52° 58' N. 1° 53' E.

Mines off
Orfordness.

4 ground mines were detonated today in approx. 52° 5' N. 1° 50' E.

From 2350/28 a force of about 20 enemy aircraft was active off shore between Scarborough and Yarmouth, The Air Ministry state that they were mainly engaged in minelaying in the Humber.

South Atlantic.

The Japanese raids on Ceylon and the Bay of Bengal early last month were thought to be a possible prelude to the establishment of the Japanese in force in the Indian Ocean. Had this occurred raids on South African ports by battle cruisers and up to 150 carrier-borne aircraft, would have been possible. This danger has temporarily receded, but all necessary steps are to be taken to meet the threat, in case the Japanese should establish themselves in the Indian Ocean at a later date.

Mediterranean.

A Sunderland attacked a U-Boat last night 40 miles N.E. of Tobruk with unknown results.

/V.A. Malta ...

837

War Diary.

29.5.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

V.A. Malta says it is essential that the maximum quantity of main planes for Albacore and Swordfish aircraft be shipped at next opportunity. All repairable stock is destroyed, and serviceable stock is nil.

East Indies.

Flag of R.A.A. was transferred today from INDOMITABLE to ILLUSTRIOUS.

An unidentified twin float monoplane flew over Diego Suarez harbour at 2215 today.

Australia.

2 B.17s attacked the docks at Rabaul. Zero fighters attempted to raid Port Moresby today and were intercepted by Aircobras who shot down and damaged several.

SS. ANGLO MAERSK reported a suspicious ship following her at 0238Z in 30.10 S., 89.31 E.

838

29.5.1942.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Harwich
L.D.F.
formed.Harwich local defence flotilla (H.L.D.F.) has been formed today consisting of ships of 12th M.S.F., EMPEROR OF INDIA and temporarily BALMORAL (Senior Officer).
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1108B/29.)Movements.

CHARLESTOWN.

Proceed forthwith to assist Whitley aircraft reported in sea in 055° 20' N. 008° 26' W. at 0634B/29th. Aircraft are co-operating.
(C. in C. W.A., 0650B/29, 0801B/29, 0929B/29.)Have defective main feed pump. Consider inadvisable to proceed to sea in this condition. Estimated time for repairs with dockyard assistance 16 hours.
(CHARLESTOWN, 1231B/29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, (R) C. in C. W.A., etc.)On completion of duties with W.S.19P return to Port ZA.
(R.A.(M), 1438/29 to CHARLESTOWN, WELLS.)Arrived CHARLESTOWN with 7 R.A.F. survivors from Whitley aircraft
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2115B/29.)C. in C. H.F. E.T.A. 1630B, WASHINGTON, WICHITA, LONDON and 8 destroyers in company. Gate 1730B. Intend passing through 059° 22' N. 004° 27' W. at 1300B course 170°. Request aircraft and (corrupt group) at 1300B carry out passing runs followed by L.L.B runs during passage down searched channel D.
(C. in C. H.F., 0824B/29 to A.C.O.S.)

CARADOC.

Reference A.M. 1159/29. Request you sail CARADOC to comply routed as follows: Irish Sea and Q.Z.F. 18 to (P) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles. (Q) 049° 02' N. 015° 01' W. (R) 043° 01' 014° 59' thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar.

(C. in C. W.A., 1504B/29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail CARADOC on 30/5 for Gibraltar, Freetown, the Cape and thence to join E. Fleet.
(D.O.D.(F), 1159B/29.)A.M. 1159B/29. Intend sailing CARADOC passing Clyde Boom 1000B/30, routed as in C. in C. W.A. 1504B/29. S. of A. 20 knots to position (P) thence 18½ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0700A/3 June. Codeword "Crown".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1804B/29.)

S. 3.

My 1459/26 add 3 hours to all times.
(S.3, 1902B/29.)

INTREPID.

Intend sailing INTREPID p.m./30. to Hvalfjord to relieve SOMALI.

(R.A.(D).H.F., 2227B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

839

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation My 1206B/8/5. Weather permitting operation
Q.Q. 2. Q.Q. 2 will leave Tilbury on 1/6. Time table
Sunk Head 0600B/2. Sink at 1016B/2.
(C. in C. Nore, 1442B/29.)

British Air Operations.

Bombing (1) Bombing restrictions arranged as follows:
restrictions. (a) For 40 miles on either side of a line
joining 065° 10' N. 003° 20' E. and 062° 45'
N. 001° 10' E. from 1000B/29 until 2200B/1/6.
(b) For 30 miles on either side of a line joining 062° 45' N.
001° 10' E. and 060° 01' N. 001° 02' W. from 0400B/30 until
further notice.
(2) C.C. aircraft will be carrying out A/S sweep up to 062°
30' N. from now until 0200B/30.
(Capt. (S) 9, 1041B/29 to S/Ms operating North of 51° N.)
Cancel forthwith total bombing restrictions 30 miles either
side line joining 068° 10' N. 002° E. and 072° 28' N. 016°
50' E.
(F.O.S., 1712B/29 to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. H.F., (R) Capt. (S)
9, S.O. S/Ms Lerwick.)
Institute submerged bombing restrictions A. In area G.15 from
1300/30 until 2130/30. B. In area G.16 from 2000/30 until
1630/31.
(H.Q.C.C., 1814/29 to 15, 16, 18, 19 Groups, A.C.O.S.)

Attacks on In 47° 48' N. 10° 18' W., one hit with D/C
U-Boats. estimated.
(A/C 6GKD, 1158/29, 1205/29.)
In 46° 28' N. 9° 57' W. Hit doubtful.
(A/C 7LSZ, 1420/29, 1450/29.)

Air sea Admty. 1431/28.
rescue As from 30/5 it will not be possible to
patrol. maintain the nightly air sea rescue patrol by
M.Ls due to other commitments.
Further signal will be made when it is possible
to resume patrol or when the 60th R.M.L.
Flotilla take over.
(C. in C. Nore, 1220B/29.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy Ref. 332A/41/P of 3/10/41.
A/Cs off From 2345B/28 - 0050B/29 approx. 25 aircraft
Humber. approached the coast between Flamborough head and
Skegness. No effort was made to concentrate
on the river mouth and there was no evidence of
minelaying in spite of good visibility. Suggest enemy have
shortage of mines or bombs and these raids are in the nature
of bluff or navigational exercise.
(F.O. Humber, 0105B/29 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Convoy ...

839A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1948B/29th May

OUT

To B.A.D. Washington. 857.

Date 29.5.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (O.T.T.)

From Admiralty.

Reference C.O.S.(W) 188 Paragraph 3.

Requirements of Landing Craft from America in order to carry out Operation ROUND-UP are as follows:-

200 A.T.L., 300 A.P.Y., 340 Y.T.L., 150 T.L.H.M., 600 T.L.M. or T.L.H.M. preferably latter in view of B.A.D. 1341/26, 557 L.B.P. 54 of which are already being shipped to British order and 503 are on U.S. Army order, 400 L.B.V., 200 28 ft. R. Craft. All to be ready for operations in U.K. by 1 April, 1943.

2. U.K. production expects to provide by the same date for-ROUND UP 286 T.L.C. Mark I - IV, 12 B.P.C., 212 M.L.C. Mark I, 425 A.L.C., 47 L.S.C., 5 H.S.C. 35 small Giant R Craft, 200 Light R Craft in addition to craft already overseas.

3. The implications and possibilities of building some A.P.Y. craft in U.K. are still being examined thoroughly as the difficulties of a winter crossing are fully appreciated but for reasons given in C.O.S.(W) 188 Paragraph 6 little hope is entertained of being able to produce anything worthwhile in comparison with the number of destroyers that we shall displace.

4. In addition to craft in Paragraph 1 a further 100 A.T.L. and 60 Y.T.L. are required to be delivered in U.K. subsequently preferably by 1 October, 1943.

5. Proportion of L.B.P. to L.B.V. has been adjusted to absorb part of excess of latter type and avoid new orders for former.

6. U.S. training in U.K. is repeat is allowed for in requirements of all types.

1948B/29.

A.D. of P. (E.P.S.) (434)

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
Controller
Vice Controller
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (W)
Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D. of P. (2)
E.P.S.
D.C. (2)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
M.A.S.
Ad. Cunningham 64 O.B.I.
C.C.O.
D.T.S.D. (CO)
D.N.E. (CO)
Ad. Blake.

MOST SECRET

839B

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

No.T.O.O. /29th May.

From: Sullom Voe.

Date. 30. 5.42.

Int. Gen. X by T/P.

Addressed: 18 Group, repeated O.I.C. Admiralty H.C.C.C.

IMMEDIATE.

A.(1) SUL/02/29/5.

(2) By telephone.

(3) Catalina P/210 sea camouflage Captain F/L Healy Navigator P/O Schofield.

(4) Load of supplies medical equipment and arms. List follows.

B. 1642/28 airborne Sullom Voe on special mission
 1643 S/C for north Unst 1656 S/C for Ice Fiord 1957
 saw mines at QKGM 0055 2029 saw mines at QKBR 4531
 2043 saw mines at NPBR 0342 2110 saw mines at NPAN 5113
 2112 saw mines at NPAN 5315 0455 landfall at Kapp
 Borthern. Saw wrecked Mv reported in SUL/02/28/5
 photographs taken 0530 at Kapp Linne 0540 at Gron Fiord.
 A/c completed circuits exchanging messages with
 survivors by V/s and dropping supplies. Questions
 asked by A/c and answers are as follows - Q. If I am
 able to land shall I be safe from enemy action. A. Yes.
 Q. Can you estimate the enemy's strength. A. 40.
 Q. Are you in immediate need of arms and ammunition.
 A. Yes. Q. What are your numbers. A. 10. Q. How many
 wounded. A. 6. Q. Are you in immediate danger from
 enemy in locality. A. Yes. Q. Is enemy doing air
 reconnaissance. A. Yes, every day four Condors at
 0300 to 0400 hours. Q. Do you need additional food.
 A. No. The following questions did not receive answers
 due to inexperience of signaller on the ground and
 survivors apparent excitement. For the same reasons it
 was most difficult to obtain those answers received.
 Unanswered questions - Do you need additional clothes. -
 Have you a doctor. - When is the best time to land on
 future sorties. 0640 S/c from Gron Fiord visually
 for South Cape. 0642 South Cape S/c for base. 1655/29
 waterborne Sullom Voe SE carried and efficient. H. 1.
 7320 N 14 E 2. 0642 3. Unlimited 4. 8/10ths SC 1800 ft
 5. 100 degs. 7 knots 300 ft. 6. Calm. 7. Fair. 8. Fog
 patches with occasional snow showers at 74 N. Extensive
 belt of heavy rain with poor visibility at 66 N. In
 latitude 69 N on track wind velocity 50 Kts encountered
 from 022 degs. Only very light icing north of patrol
 experienced.

No. T.O.O./29

1st Lord.	N.A.1st S.L.	D.T.D. (3)	Adml. Blake.
1st S.L. (2)	D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.T.D. (M)	I.P. (2)
5th S.L.	D.C. (2)	D.T.D. (C)	V.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.P.I.C. (1)	D.H.M.S.	of P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.I. (4)	Clr. Holbrook.	
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.S.D. 9.	D.P.D.	

840

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Operations - Contd.

Convoy F.S.813 bombed. Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Booty" in 52° 52' N. 1° 40' E. (LIDDESDALE, 0117/29.)
 Enemy aircraft are bombing Convoy "Booty". My position 52° 38' N. 2° 1' E. (VERDUN, 0257/29.)

Convoy F.N.720 bombed. Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Agent". My position 53° 13' N. 1° 14' E. (VANITY, 0244/29.)

UNBEATEN. There are indications that UNBEATEN was reported by a F.W. aircraft at 1145B/28. (D.D.I.C., 1153B/29 to UNBEATEN.)

A/C hit by CHASSEURS 14 and 5 have been in action with two Me.109s at 2130 one hit and last seen on fire. No damage to Chasseurs. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2235B/29.)

Mining.

Operation S.N. 72. C. in C. H.F. 1931/28 amends my 0900/23 as follows. (G) 2300/29. (J) through position (i) 050° Butt of Lewis 7 miles. (ii) Reykjanes passage. (iii) thence coastwise direct to

position of lay.

Insert item (H) MANCHESTER R/V with squadron in position J (i) above at 0530/30. (R.A.(M), 1038/29.)

Scapa departure MANCHESTER for exercises thence leaving Pentland Firth 0100/30th. (A.C.O.S., 1607/29.)

CASTLETON has contaminated feed water. Cause at present unknown. She should be ready for service by noon/30. Request if possible one destroyer may be sailed with MANCHESTER to take her place. CASTLETON is at your service from time of completion if required.

(R.A.(M), 1950/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

WILTON on completion of serial 115 proceed to join R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE in position (J) 050° Butt of Lewis 7 miles at 0530B/30.

(2) SOUTHERN PRINCE with ADVENTURE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS escorted by 3 destroyers is proceeding from Port ZA to (J) thence 066° 31'30" N. 023° 11'48" W. and as necessary to carry out S.N. 72. When met provide additional escort.

(3) MANCHESTER from Scapa will R/V in position (J).

(4) When released return to Scapa.

(5) WILTON has no further signals. WILTON acknowledge forthwith.

(R.A.(D).H.F., 2110B/29 to R.A.(M), WILTON.)

/R.A.(M)'s ...

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation S.N. 72. (Contd.) R.A.(M)'s 1950/29. Request you will sail one destroyer to R/V with R.A.(M). (C. in C. H.F., 2125B/29 to R.A.(D).H.F.) Sailed R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, AGAMEMNON, ADVENTURE, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, ST. MARYS, NEWARK and SALADIN. (N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 2232/29.)

S.N. 90, 86, 89. R.A.(M)'s 1118/28th. Consider S.N. 90 should be laid after S.N. 89 but S.N. 86 should also be laid without too long delay. (C. in C. H.F., 1222B/29 to Admt.)

Minefield off Cromer. Positions of 9 red magnetic mines detonated E. of Cromer 29/5. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1602/29, 1620/29, 1715B/19, 1745B/29, 1830/29, 0830B/31, 1936B/31.)

Mines off Orfordness. Details of 4 ground mines detonated by M.M/S 29/5. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1634B/29, 2326B/29.)

Zones prohibited by Germans. A report graded B.3 states that the following three zones are forbidden to German ships and to all fishing boats.
A. 51° 12' 30" N. 2° 36' E. 51° 11' 30" N. 2° 38' E. 51° 10' N. 2° 38' 30" E. 51° 10' N. 2° 36' 30" E.
B. 51° 14' 30" N. 2° 44' E. 51° 13' N. 2° 43' 30" E. 51° 14' 30" N. 2° 47' E. 51° 13' 30" N. 2° 48' 30" E. 51° 13' N. 2° 47' 30" E.
C. 51° 24' N. 3° 05' E. 51° 22' N. 3° 06' E. 51° 25' N. 3° 07' E. 51° 24' N. 3° 10' E.
(D.D.I.C., 1738B/29 to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover.)

Mines on Fro Havet. A report graded B.3 states that large Nos. of mines have been laid to the westward of 64° 15.5' N, 10° 02.5' E. (Top of Fro Havet). (D.D.I.C., 1739B/29 to C. in C. H.F., F.O.S., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, R.A.(D), C.S.1, C.S.10)

? FITZROY. Board of Enquiry have not considered the written minutes yet, but their present tentative conclusion is that mine was probably British. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2310B/28 ?29.)

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ,
HIPPER. Photo R/C 1130/29, shows TIRPITZ in Aas Fiord stopped in 63° 32' N. 10° 46' E. HIPPER in usual berth in Lo Fiord. (D.D.I.C., 1628B/29.)

NORDVARD. A report dated 27/5 states that the ex Norwegian Motor Ship NORDVARD is about to sail from Bordeaux carrying torpedoes and supplies for U-Boats in the West Atlantic. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C., 2223B/29.)

U-Boats.

D/F report. By D/F at 1417Z/29. A U-Boat within 90 miles of 43° 30' N. 17° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 1748B/29 to Escorts of O.G. 84.)

Attack by
KENYA. KENYA reports at 1617B dropped D/Cs on reported P.S. in 063° 03' N. 019° 45' W. No result seen reliability of sighting report doubtful 1733/29. Ends. (A.C.I.C., 1921B/29 to INGLEFIELD, ESCAPADE.) See also KENYA 1107B/31.

Navigational.

Ice. Ice R/C 28/5. (A.C.I.C., 0141/29 to R.A.(M))

Firth of
Forth. Latest searched channel. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1704/29 to Ships proceeding to Rosyth during next 24 hours.)

White Sea. It is reported that ice conditions in Gorlo have considerably improved. Russian minesweepers commenced sweeping channel from Iokanka to area of Ostriya Ludki (10 miles north of Tersky Orlov) yesterday. Report that sweep completed is now awaited. STALIN sails for Tersky Orlov 2200/29. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1851B/29.)

Miscellaneous.

A.A.
ammunition
for Murmansk. Recent despatched of Oerlikon ammunition to form a reserve at Murmansk have been seriously delayed by freight vessels being turned back. There are also likely to be losses.
2. Request you will arrange to send 20,000 rounds additional to outfit in vessels escorting next P.Q. convoy. Additional ammunition is being sent at once to Scapa to meet this requirement. Ammunition should be transferred to S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (A.C.N.S. (W), 1034B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

843

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

GARLAND. (?O.R.P. GARLAND) arrived. Casualties 21 killed
36 hospital cases. Details will follow as soon
as known.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0751B/29.)

CHARLESTOWN. Defect.
(CHARLESTOWN, 1231B/29.)
See Movements.

BRADFORD. A.M. 1212B/29 intend sailing BRADFORD from Lough
Foyle 0001B/30 northbound to Grimsby arriving
a.m./1/6. Ship has only one serviceable engine.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1703B/29.)

CARLTON. P.Q. 16. NORTHERN SPRAY and ~~U.S.~~ U.S. CARLTON
arrived Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C., 1722B/29.)

Survivors at Gronfiorden. Summary of supplies and arms dropped to survivors
(Located 26/5) at Spitzbergen on 29/5. Details.
(R.A.F. Sullom Voe, 1950/29 to 18 Group.)
Questions asked by A/C, and answers received
from survivors.
(Sullom Voe, No T.O.O./29.)
See Lion Copy.

Shipping and Convoys.

Q.P. 12 & Arrived Q.P. 12 Iceland portion and escorts.
P.Q. 16. (A.C.I.C., 0445B/29.)
Your 1156B/28. After consultation with Soviet
Naval Staff (? consider that) risks from possible
mines and present ice conditions in Gorlo are less than having
30 ships in Murmansk. Suggest (? therefore) that some ships
be sent to Archangel now.
(Admiral Miles, 1254C/29 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Your 1831B/6. Q.P. 12. No incidents of interest to report.
(A.C.I.C., 1435B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)
Scapa arrival. F.O. 10th C.S. in NIGERIA with NORFOLK,
LIVERPOOL, ONSLOW, ORIBI, MARNE.
(A.C.O.S., 1251B/29.)
Proceed with BLACK RANGER to Sullom Voe to discharge oil fuel
thence Lerwick to discharge diesel oil as ordered by N.O.I.C.
Lerwick. On completion Force Q will be sailed by N.O.I.C.
Lerwick for Scapa. Fighter protection will be arranged until
arrival Scapa when your E.T.A. Sullom Voe is known code word
"Deputy".
(A.C.O.S., 1447B/29 to LEDBURY.)

/As ...

War Diary.

29.5.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Q.P. 12 &
P.Q. 16.
(Contd.)

As soon as you can detach them send six ships of P.Q. 16 to Archangel with suitable escort selected as convenient from following.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1616B/29 to Escorts of P.Q. 16.)

My 1616/29th all escort vessels with exception of ALYNBANK are to return to Kola Inlet for fuel if endurance permits leaving Archangel Sect. when ice conditions are such as to cause risk of damage. Return route 50 miles coast.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1629B/29 to ASHANTI.)

W.S. 19P.

Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by NELSON, ARGUS, BEAGLE and SALISBURY passing Clyde boom 1900B/31 to R/V with Liverpool portion and escort from Londonderry at 0600B/1 June in 270° Oversay 6 miles thence in accordance with A.M. 1855B/26. Code word "Plague".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1514B/29.)

845

War Diary29.5.1942.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

→ U/B

Transit aircraft report U-boat in 037° 09' N. 000° 47' E. at 0733B/29 (? course) unknown. This is not considered to be the damaged U-boat. (F.O.C.N.A. 0816B/29 to CHARYBDIS, WRESTLER, WESTCOTT, (R) Admty, C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta)

CASTILLO
CAMPANARIO

Your 1015/28 I am informed ship named received W/T Signal from owner to return to Tereriffe for orders when she had already proceeded for 3 days on her voyage to Caripito. Reason not known here. (Consul, Teneriffe 1055/29 to S.O.I.Gib. (R) Admty)

Situation

2001B/29 (F.O.C.N.A. 1302B/29, 1330B/29, 1858B/29 to N.A.Stn.)
See Lion Copy.

P.44

Leave patrol P.M./30 and return to Gibraltar by reverse outward route passing Q at 2000B/30 P at 0830B/31 and arrive 1030B/31. If unable to comply within 2 hours you should report. Total bombing restrictions arranged on 31st. (F.O.C.N.A. 1306B/29 to S/M P.44)

CLYDE

CLYDE sails p.m./30 passes 036° 10' 005° 00' W. at 2100B thence 180° Cape de Gata 12 miles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1506B/29 to S/M P.44)

CHARYBDIS
WESTCOTT
WRESTLER

→

Search for
damaged U-boat

If nothing sighted by 1700 CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT and WRESTLER are to return to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1518B/29 to CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER, Adm. C. in C.Med. V.A. Malta)
You may have been sighted by an Italian submarine at 1230Z. (F.O.C.N.A. 1542B/29 to CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER (R) Admty.)

My 1542B/29 Further sighting report by possibly same S/M on approx. same (groups omitted) bearing 073° Gibraltar given. Time sighted 1445 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 1728B/29 to CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

At 1813 G.M.T. Aircraft made a sighting report of a Naval Unit consisting of 1 Cruiser and 2 Destroyers. (F.O.C.N.A. 2130B/29 to CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER (R) Admty C. in C. Med.)

/Spanish...

MOST SECRET

845A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1302B/29 May
IN

From F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 29.5.42

Recd. 1709.

NAVAL CYPHER A.1 by W/T.

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2001B/29th Area X.

(1) H.M.S. UNBEATEN 038 degrees 35' (010 degrees) 45' 347 degrees diving by day 8 1/2 knots on the surface 2 knots diving.

(2) H.M.S. TORBAY escorting H.M.S. MINNA sailing 1700 29th through 36 00 06 00 at 2100 29th and 225 Cape St. Vincent 20 at 1330. On the surface ~~A~~ 10 knots.

(3) O.G. 34 44 38 17 40 through 41 00 17 55 thence 124 degrees 6 S.O. H.M.S. STORK. *Sailed 3. p. 846*

(4) (?H.M.S. VIDETTE) 036 degrees 01' 009 degrees 03' through 36 01 10 01 thence 263 15 1/2.

H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG patrolling off Lisbon.

(6) H.M.S. ALCUIETTE, H.M.S. LADY HOGARTH, 4 merchant ships off Huelva coastwise to Gibraltar 8.

(7) Tanker IBJA (ARCOLA) 026 degrees 12' 020 degrees 01' 068 degrees 3 safe passage Las Palmas. *3 p. 845*

(8) ROTHER, ARMERIA, one merchant ship 47 (?13) 15 23 199 8.

1302B/29

See 1858 0/29

* As received (?by day).

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
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.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (H)
D.T.D. (C)
D.A/S.V.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
D.C. (2)
Hd. of M.
W.D.

MOST SECRET

845B

MOST SECRET

1858B/29th May.
MESSAGE

IN

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 29.5.42.

Recd. 1956

~~Naval Cypher A. W.W.T.~~

Addressed A.I.G.63.

IMPORTANT.

My 1302B/29th ^x add new paragraph 9.
IMPERIALIST sails A.M. 30th to patrol off Cape Roca.

1858B/29.

x Situation at 2001B/29 area X.

Advance copy Ops, O.D. & Trade.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- 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.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- Hq. of M.
- ~~W.D.~~

d.

MOST SECRET

845C.

1330B/29th May

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 29.5.42.

Recd. 1510.

NAVAL CYPHER (A.1) BYWW/T

Addressed North Atlantic Station Area Z.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2001B/29 Convoy H.M.S. COLOMBO, LARGS, 023 degs.
22' 021 degs. 54' 345 degs. 14.

(2) Italian tanker ARCOLA 026 degs. 12' 020 degs. 01' 068 degs.
8. Safe passage to Las Palmas. *p. 845 A, 7846*

1330B/29

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T).
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.T.D. (3).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C. (2).
Duty Captain (2).
I.P. (2).
Head of M.
W.D.

abd

War Diary29.5.1942
FridayFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Spanish Shipping, Blockade Information contained in your 1701/28 although of some value is of a very general nature and does not greatly ease the task of Coastal Command in identifying ships as was intended if information outlined in para. 4 and 5 of Adm. 1314/11 was made available. It is appreciated that with present limit of 1000 tons this is probably impracticable. Tonnage limit will probably be raised if favourable reply is received to A.M. 1300/26. It is hoped that it will then be possible for you to signal full information. We attach utmost importance to this being obtained.

(D.O.D.(H) 1649/29 to N.A. Madrid)

TORBAY

My 1506/27.
Sailed TORBAY. Only such Q Messages affecting passage held. Local escort to position 38(905)N. 11.10 W. ~~MINNA~~
(F.O.C.N.A. 1722/29 to Admty.) *see p. 845^A*

ARMERIA

You were probably reported by an enemy aircraft at 0845 today.
(D.D.I.C. 1810B/29 to ARMERIA (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

EGYPTIAN
German a/c

Master of ss. EGYPTIAN reports engaging German aircraft 2230/28 3 miles from land S.E. Cape Espichel which was seen flying north very low. No report received from coast watchers Espichel but German aircraft sighted 2050 flying south of Feniche.
(N.A.Lisbon 1835B/29 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Adm.)

Italian
Repatriations.

1. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to signal route of Italian Tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE from Las Palmas to Western limit of N.A. Station. 2. Opanav is requested to signal onward route to Curacao
3. Ships should not be sailed until further instructions are received.

(D.O.D.(F) 1950B/29 to F.O.C.N.A., Opanav. (R) R.A.W.A.)

LOCH OSKAIG
A/G.

One F.W. Aircraft 270° 2 miles steering 180° position 38.27 N., 9.17 W.
(LOCH OSKAIG 2134B/29 to Gib. W/T)
One aeroplane F/W bearing unknown distant 3 miles steering 180° Position 38.27 N. 9.17 W.
(LOCH OSKAIG 2143B/29 to Gibraltar W/T, ALOUETTE, LADY HOGARTH)

War Diary29.5.1942.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

BAARN Overdue shipping, BAARN due Beira 20th from Mombasa not arrived.
(S.O.I Capetown 0820Z/29 to Adm. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I. (R) N.C.S.O. Beira)

Situation Report 2000/29. (R.A.W.A. 1142Z/29) See Lion Copy. Area O. (C. in C. S.A. 1403B/29, 1845B/29) See Lion Copy.

Troop Your 0256/20 EMPIRE TROOPER cannot be ready
Transport (? until) 10/6. PRESIDENT DOUMER (defect)
C.M.28 will require 2½ months to repair. These ships
Madagascar will therefore be unable to accompany convoy
C.M.28 consisting of ARONDA, WESTERNLAND with
troops for India and ASCANIUS with details for Mombasa leaving Durban about 30/5.
2. Now understand despatch of South Africa Bde. to Madagascar is temporarily in abeyance pending discussion between Dep. of Defence Union of South Africa and W.O.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1145B/29 to D.S.T.)

DUCHESS OF Sailed 28th. E.T.A. Trinidad 13/6.
BEDFORD Passengers etc.
(D.S.T.O. Capetown 1445Z/29)

FOXHOUND Your 0725/27 and my 2053/27* Ship is delayed undocking on account of "A" frame bush. Anticipate will be ready to sail p.m./30 (N.C.I.C. Durban 1547Z/29 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, etc.)
*N.T. in W.R.

W.S.19 War Office request following be passed to ships in W.S.19 (re Troops prepared disembark at port earliest after arrival)
(D.O.D.(F) 1702B/29 to MAURITIUS)

A/C Lost American Douglas A/C with 9 occupants forced near Conakry landed in 9.25 N., 13,27 W.
2. Arrangements made for Hudson A/C to drop rubber dinghies at daylight/29 and for (?M.1278) to be off coast at that time to embark occupants of aircraft.
3. Operation successfully carried out and all occupants embarked and aircraft burnt in accordance with orders dropped by Hudson.
4. During operation M.L. approached to within half a mile of coast which is sparsely inhabited. No craft other than native canoes sighted and no white person seen.
(R.A. W.Africa 1927Z/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

/Corvettes...

MOST SECRET

847A

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1142Z/29th May IN

From R.A. West Africa.

Date 29.5.42.

Recd 1612.

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T

Addressed Authorities Concerned*

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report 2000/29.

H.M.S. WILD SWAN off (? Pernambuco) to
Ponta Delgada 15.

H.M.S. PELICAN 4 escorts (? with) S L 111
015° 30' 026° 50' 005° 7½

W S 19 W 009° (?25') 018° 15' to Freetown 25.

H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE 009° 40' 019° 35'
255° 13.

(? H.M.S. WIVERN) 7 escorts with O S 28 009°
45' 016° 50' to Freetown 8¼.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, H.M.S. VIOLET, with O S S 28
008° 50' 017° 59' (? 170°) 8¼.

H.M.S. MORRIS DANCE 008° 55' 015° 30' to
Freetown 9.

H.M.S. KELT 009° 10' 016° 50' to Freetown 9.

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER one M/L 008° 45' 014° 10'
to Bathurst 9.

1142Z/29.

* Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic,
N.O.I.C. Bathurst.

Advance copy sent. Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) & D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)

jf

MOST SECRET

847B

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1403B/29th May.

From: C. in C. S.A.

Date. 29.5.42.
Time. 1655.

Naval Cypher M by W/T.

Addressed: S.A. Station Squadron, repeated Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

351. Area O. H.M.S. CILICIA off Tristan da Cunha.
HILNDASAY, ~~EL~~ SILUNNA, PLADDA, SHAPINSAY, from Simonstown
expected time of arrival Durban 1000Z 30th. H.M.S.
CARLISLE 013 degs. 45' south 011 degs. 10' east to
Pointe Noire 14. H.M.S. ASTURIAS about 031 degs. 00'
south 008 degs. 30' east to K 36 B 16. H.M.S. *PANTHER
035 degs. 05' south 021 degs. 30' east 18 knots
expected time of arrival Simonstown 0600Z 30th. ISAAC
SWIERS 035 degs. 05' south 023 degs. 10' east 20 knots
expected time of arrival Simonstown 0900Z 30th. All
positions are at 2000Z 29th. ARCHER from south expected
time of arrival Capetown 30th May.

1403B/29.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

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.C.(2)
D.A./C.H.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.B.
D.N.A.D.

*Correction, see 1445B/29.

MOST SECRET

8447C

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1845B/29th May.

Date. 29.5.42.

From: C. in C. South Atlantic. Time. 1936.

Naval Cypher M by W/T & T/P.

Addressed: S.A. Stn. Squadron, repeated Admiralty,
H.M.S. WELSHMAN.

IMPORTANT.

Following is a correction to P.M. 1403B 29th.
H.M.S. PANTHER 031 degs. 03' south 023 degs. 50'
east 17 knots expected time of arrival Simonstown
1400B 30th.

1845B/29

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

positions at 2000/29.

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.C.(2)
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.N.A.D.

War Diary

29.5.1942.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - contd.

Corvettes C. in C. W.A. 1445B/25/5. Good facilities for
Freetown training in fair weather conditions and for
maintenance are now provided at Freetown. 18
months' service in a ship on the West Coast is
not considered detrimental to health, and knowledge of local
conditions is a valuable asset. There have been 22 changes of
Corvettes in the last 6 months. Though unavoidable this does
not tend towards continuity of training or efficiency and
changes should be kept to a minimum. As long as ships refit
annually in U.K. it is considered that they should return to the
station. When Freetown is able to undertake the refitting of
ships it will then be desirable for Corvettes to return to U.K.
for recommissioning every 18 months.
(R.A.W.A. 2033Z/29 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.
Capt. D. 18)

Japanese Your 1005/21. When Japanese made their raids on
Threat to Ceylon and Bay of Bengal in early April the
South Africa possibility had to be considered that this was
prelude to their establishment in force in Indian
Ocean. Should this have occurred raids on
South African ports, which were assessed as being on a scale of
up to bombardment by battlecruisers and raids by up to 150
carrier-borne aircraft, would have been possible.
2. This danger has temporarily receded, but in event of
Japanese establishing themselves in Indian Ocean at a later date
it would return. For this reason it is considered that all
necessary steps should be taken to meet this threat.
(Head of M. 2321B/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

Operation
"Harpoon"

Admty. 0032B/29. (See Hush Series)

Mediterranean

Enemy Unit

A/C report at 0118 P.C. and S. of enemy 033° 54'
019° 14' 229° 6 knots.
(Capt. S.1 0201C/29 to S/Ms on Patrol)

Cyprus

Appreciation of enemy threat. (Mideast 0845/29
for Chiefs of Staff from Cs. in C.) See Lion Copy.

Suez Canal
Dangerous
Cargoes

Re responsibility to Suez Canal Co. for damage.
(C. in C. Med. 1053C/29 to Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.)

MOST SECRET

Med

848A

~~SECRET~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~

From: Mideast.

Date: 29.5.42.

Recd: 1535Z

CIPHER

~~Addressed: Air Ministry.~~

IZ.411 CC/54, 29.5.42. Reference Troopers 90985 M O 5
of 25/5. Following for Chiefs of Staff from ~~Commanders-in-~~
Chief.

~~Personal from General Auchinleck for C.I.G.S.~~

We have been keeping constant watch on Cyprus and our J.I.C. has threat under close review.

2. We are unaware of any movement of shipping or suggestion of requisite concentration of landing craft to indicate seaborne threat, nor is there evidence of preparation airborne attack.

3. Measures proposed in para. 7. of our CC/32 now in last stages completion except for actual basing of one fighter squadron on Island. For operational reasons this cannot be achieved as early as was anticipated but interim measures have been taken for quick reinforcement.

4. We consider present land garrison sufficient to meet a small scale attack and(?) in view of shortage of units and any definite evidence of impending attack consider we should accept risk of not augmenting land garrison further at present. There is however one Infantry Brigade at Haifa which could be sent if we get evidence of enemy intention to attack, but destroyer escort would have to be dispensed with during the next few weeks owing to another commitment. This Brigade is sole unallotted reserve at disposal of C. in C. MEF. for the time being.

(Mideast, 0845/29)

~~Copies circulated by Air Ministry to:-~~

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Lord | | Col. Jacob. | |
| 1st S.L.(2) | E.P.S. | C.I.G.S. | |
| 5th S.L. | Hd. of M. | War Registry, Admiralty. | |
| V.C.N.S. | I.F.(2) | C.A.S. | |
| A.C.N.S.(W) | N.I.D. 10. | Received in War Registry at | |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | W.D. | 1126/30th May. | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.N.I.(4) | | |
| P.A.S.(S) | D.C.(2) | D.N.A.D. | D. of P.(2) |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.D.I.C.(2) | D. of L.D. | Head of Air. |

War Diary

29.5.1942.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - contd.

WELSHMAN Following despatched in WELSHMAN.
(D.C.D.(F) 1229B/29 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C.Med.
F.O.C.N.A.) See Lion Copy.

PORPOISE Amend route as follows 035° 13' N. 013° 45' E.*035°
58' N. 014° 00' E. thence direct to R/V to arrive
0001B/1/6. * 035° 34' N. 013° 45' E.

(ii) (?E-Boat) patrol was sighted and attacked at 0010/28
near position 223° Delimara 23. Search on R/C aircraft 28th
held found nothing.

(iii) Friends will be searching the area during your approach.
(V.A. Malta 1235B/29 to PORPOISE).

Enemy E-Boat Activity (1) At 0010B/28 night fighter Beaufighter
PORPOISE fortuitously sighted a number of E-Boats, reported
as 18, in an area near position 223 Delimara 23
miles.
(2) E-Boats were moving at slow speed and appeared
to be patrolling. Depth of water does not suggest mining.
(3) Beaufighter attacked and saw strikes and explosion on at
least 5 boats. Return fire slight and inaccurate. Impression
that E-Boat retired to westward.
(4) Relief (?Beaufighters) failed to locate.
(5) Night 28/29 A S V Swordfish patrolled for 4 hours failing to
locate anything North or South of Malta.
(6) P R U R/C of Lampedusa and Pantellaria today.
(7) Intend (?postponing) PORPOISE's arrival for 24 hours (a)because
it is doubtful if we can sweep a clear channel round to
Marsaxlokk by Saturday night. (b) To allow PORPOISE to approach
R/V by a more westerly route as the enemy almost certainly know
and may be patrolling the route round Q B B 95.
(V.A. Malta 1310B/29 to C, in C. Med. (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.
Capt.(S)1. Capt.(S)8.)

Malta A/C Stocks Essential maximum quantity Mainplanes for
Albacore and Swordfish due Cosuplist be shipped
next opportunity certain. All repairable stock
destroyed. Serviceable stock nil.
(V.A.Malta 1552B/29 to A.S.Alexandria, (R) D. of S.)

Enemy Units At 1701C/29 P.C. and S. of 2 escorted merchant
ships 031° 35' 017° 44' 080° 8 knots.
(Capt. S.1. 1751C/29 to S/Ms on Patrol)

TURBULENT Return to Alexandria through 033° 06' 021° 10' and
032° 41' 027° 14'. Adjust your speed to be off
Derna about noon 1/6 and arrive Alexandria searched
channel 0500C/4.
(Capt. S.1. 1831C/29 to TURBULENT (R) S/Ms on
patrol)

849A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1229B/29th May
Date 29.5.42

OUT

To V.A. Malta, 751,
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean, 396,
F.O.C.N.A. 495.

Naval Cypher O.T.T.

From Admiralty

WELSHMAN.

Following despatched in WELSHMAN.

A. Personnel.

R.A.F. 14 officers, 3 warrant officers,
9 N.C.O.s and 88 airmen. Total 114.

B. Stores.

(i) for R.A.F. 20 Merlin Engines
40 Drums Glycol
1 case Oxygen Masks
150 boxes links, belt.
1668 boxes 20 m.m. ammunition.

(ii) for Army 500,000 rounds .303 Tracer G Mk.2
3,000,000 rounds .303 Mark 7 Carton

(iii) for R.N. 3,200 cases smoke generators
3 Motor Cycles

(iv) Mails 10 tons.

2. Please pass to Governor and C. in C. and A.O.C

1229B/29

D.O.D.(F)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
D.D.O.D.(M)
Hd. of I.
D. of L.D.
Admiral Blake
Vice Admiral Curteis Rm.40 O.B.I.
D.T.S.D.
I.P.(2)
W.D.

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Black Sea. Situation Report. Russians reported small local success at Sevastopol 27/5. Large scale attacks on Sevastopol may be expected shortly.

2. Increased anxiety is felt here about Turkey's future actions. 2 small Turkish vessels have recently been reported sunk by submarine of unknown nationality. This considered here to be German provocation.

3. German forces in Crimea spreading out over whole Crimea so an attempt to force Kerch Straits is unlikely for the present.

4. Enemy air activity along Caucasus coast recently slight. Probably proportion of enemy aircraft in Crimea are now operating on southern front.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 1907C/29 to Admty., Admiral Miles)

Malta Air Report. I. 532 29/5 C.S.R. Part 1.
28th. 15 16 hours. 26 Me.109s 4 bombed Luqa no damage. Night 28/29. Special Swordfish E-Boat search found nothing. 2020 hours, 3 raiders. Takali 1 Spitfire damaged. 2145 hrs. 2 raiders Gozo, slight damage convent. 0236 hours, 1 raider, bombs land, no damage. Beaufighters no interception. A.A. fired 2 Spitfires dawn E-Boat search found nothing.
29th. 2 alerts.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1940/29)

Palermo, Photographs a.m./29.
Pantellaria, (V.A. Malta, 2031B/29, to Admty., (R) C. in C.
Messina. Med., F.O.C. N.A., S.O. (I) Alexandria.
S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

LISBOA German steamer LISBOA expected to arrive Saturday 30th loading balance 44 tons steel plating for Genoa expected sailing Saturday night.
(Alicante, T.H.I.2045/29 to Admty.)

War Diary.

29.5.42.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

R.A.A. Flag of R.A.A. was transferred from INDOMITABLE to ILLUSTRIOUS at 0915Z/29.
(C. in.C.E.F., 0720Z/29, 0930Z/29 to Admiralty).

Burma Army Report. 25/5. Barges in Rangoon River and Power Station Promé area bombed by American aircraft. Results not observed.
27/5. Akvab aerodrome and shipping on Mayu River bombed and machine gunned. American aircraft bombed Mingaladon aerodrome starting several fires.
26/5. 28 river craft including 8 paddle steamers sighted by air R/C 5 miles. 27/5. Near misses on 4 Promé steamers Kalewa.
(C. in C. India, 0800/29, to Troopers, etc., as amplified 1140/30).

ATHENE
ENGADINE Cancel my 0916/20. ATHENE and ENGADINE will be administered and operated by C.in C., E.F., as from 1/6/1942.
(Dep. C. in C.E.F., 0854Z/29 to ATHENE. ENGADINE.
(R) C. In C. E.F. R.A. (A)., N.O.I.C., E.A. & Zanzibar. C. in C., S.A, Commas, Admlty.)

Fleet Oilers. My 0746 - 10 (0752/10 intended. Re Fleet Attendant Oilers) add SEPIA AND BELITA.
(C.in C.E.I., 1202Z/29, to E.I. Stn.)

Commands
Madagascar. 91556 Cipher (M.O.1) 29/5. 5 Commando will return to U.K., as soon as you feel you can spare it. Cable earliest date by which it can be ready to sail, giving particulars of strength and weight of baggage.
(W.O., 1315/29., to 121 Force).

Seychelles Reply to C. in C.E.1. 1341Z/27 re guns for Coast defence. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1717B/29 to C. in.C.E.1.)
See Lion Copy.

Burma Air Report. A.963 29/5 Intelligence Summary No.75. On information received up to 1800 hours 29/5.
Burma. 1 Blenheim attached targets Chindwin River 28/5 Jetty and 2 Motor Launches damaged
5 miles North of Kalewa and casualties inflicted Sampans Tatkon Thayaungand Launch 20 miles North of Kalewa also attacked Jetty and Warehouses Thaugdut machine gunned.
1 Hudson escorted Southbound M.V. for 3 hours Bay of Bengal 28/5.
(A.H.Q. India, 1721 G.M.T./29)

857A

1717B/29 May

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

Date 29.5.42.

To C. in C. East Indies 812

NAVAL CENTER (D ONE TIME TABLE)

From Admiralty,

Your 1341Z/27 Para.(A) Two 6" guns already exist in Seychelles. The requirement for extra guns is to cover gap of dead water of this 6" Battery from where oil tanks being installed on St. Anne's Island might be shelled.

Para.(B) 2 - 4" guns originally intended by the Admiralty for Hancock were installed at Galle on your suggestion and that they should be withdrawn if required elsewhere. Your 1237Z of 14th February refers. Para.(C) Re-allocation of 6" guns at the expense of New Zealand cannot be approved. Para.(D) Defence plan for Seychelles has been reviewed in the light of its new significance as a fuelling base for main fleet units, and it was considered that no increase in approved scale of coast defence was necessary. A.M. 1943/19 and 2321A/25 refer. Para.(D) (ii) No objection was raised to your 1434Z of 29th March as in your 1344Z of 14th April you reported that guns ex HECTOR would be shipped to New Zealand. Please report when these guns can be shipped.

2. Consider 2 - 4" guns at Galle should be withdrawn for Seychelles. War Office concur.

1717B/29
D. of L.D. (330)
Approved A.C.H.S.(F)

1st Lord
1st S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Contr.
4th S.L.
V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S.(T)
A.C.H.S.(W)
A.C.H.S.(F)
N.A. to A.C.H.S.(T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
O.I.C.(3)
D. of P.(3)
O.D.(5)
Ops.(3)
D.T.S.D.
D. of L.D.(3)
(L.D.03632/42)

D.C.(2)
D.A.S.(1)
M.(20) & for W.O.
R.P.S.
D.H.I.(4)
D.G.D.(2)
Ad.Bellairs
Ad.Bloke
I.P.(3)
W.D.
Dep. Contr.(3)
D.N.O.(4)
D.A.S.(4)
S.W.R.

Former given Most Secret distribution.

Bath

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.- Contd.

M.L.C.s. O.204 cipher 28th. Ref. Admlty., to S.O.F.
Diego Suarez. NO.165 (1248B/25) Urgently request 4 M.L.C.s
be left permanently at Diego Suarez to enable
me to send reinforcements rapidly by sea to
Diego Suarez North or Oranhea Point in case of
attack. These M.L.C.s will also be needed for
unloading ships drawing more than 27 feet and
unable to get alongside deep water quay.
(121 Force 2101/29 to W.O.)

Shipping N.S.H.G. Ottawa's 2009/28 (not to B.A.D.).
Signals. Request you will use utmost endeavour to improve
situation which is prolonging unnecessarily the
period of duplication of Vesca and route signals.
2. Prefix "Vesca" in p.l. or in code cannot be accepted on
security grounds. 3. To overcome difficulty suggest Navy Dept.,
should register a special telegraphic address for Vesca and
Route Signals. This was the origin of the telegraphic address
"Fairmiss" which is utilized solely for this type of signal.
(D.T.D. 2149B/29 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Med., B.A.D. (R)
N.S.H.Q.)

Diego Suarez Unidentified twin float monoplane flew over
A/C harbour at 2215.
(S.O. Force F., 2314C/29 to C. in C.E.I.,
C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A., Admlty.) Reply
Admty. 1634/30.

DAUNTLESS Intend to comply with your 1321/28. (Possibly
RAMILLIES. 1323/28, re intended movements of DAUNTLESS and
RAMILLIES.)
(S.O. Force F 2341C/29, to C.in C.E.F. (R)C.in.C.
S.A., N.O.I.C., etc.)

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

S.H.7 A. 2230Z/28. R/V from Q S 3 position (2) 045° 24' N. 060° 09' W. B. MAHONE. C. 0430Z/30 (Route) (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 0007Z/29, amended to 1217Z/29 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

U/B DUCHESS OF YORK. C. in C. U.S. Fleet estimated by D/F S/M at 1629G.M.T./28 near 040° 30' N, 062° 30' W. (Naval Ottawa, 0113G.M.T./29. to DUCHESS OF YORK.)

Movement Summary. 1800 G.M.T./29

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
D.S. VAN VAN BRAKEL, GODETIA. } CARNARVON	12½° N. 63° W.	270	8
CASTLE.	03° N 23° W	Patrol	Bank

(D.O.D.(F) 0815Z/29 to Opanav, (R)Comnav)

TORONDOC Your 1553B/27. Information at this centre ship sailed St. Thomas for Trinidad. St. Thomas route signal 703 18/5 refers. (S.O.L. Jamaica. 1046R/29. to Admty.(R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

U.S. Shipping Control Your 1801/28, Para.1, does not mention West Indies Area. Is this omission intentional, please? (C.in.C.A.W.1, (R) Admty.etc. 1102P/29 to B.A.D.)

Trinidad Food Shortage. N.O.I.C. Trinidad reports very serious situation regarding food supplies for British Naval units and merchant shipping. Grateful for any assistance which you could give by authorizing shipment of essential foodstuffs in ships carrying U.S. Naval supplies. (C.in C.A.W.I, 1112P/29, to C.C.S.F.,(R)Admty.,etc.)

Barbados Antigua A/T net Proposed discussion. (C.in.C.A.W.I., 1142P/29, to C.C.S.F.,(R) Admty.etc.)

U.S. Dispositions. Atlantic Fleet locations 24 .29/5 contained in Halifax C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.)'s 1835/28 reading as follows:- NORTH CAROLINA, WASP, AUGUSTA, BROOKLYN at Hampton Roads; NEW YORK at New York; SAVANNAH at Bermuda; RANGER in Narragansett Bay; PHILADELPHIA due Hampton Roads 30/5; Task Force No. 34 (TEXAS and 4 destroyers) departed Charleston 28/5 escorting AS 3. (Commander U.S. Naval Forces in Europe 1527/29 to Admty.)

CITY OF MELBOURNE CITY OF MELBOURNE due New York 22/5 from Capetown not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., 1527Z/29, to Admty.etc.,)

S/M....

War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.

S/M Attacks. In 2034/28, making the following correction. Submarine fired machine gun, 1 37 - 03 N. 71 - 21 W. 1137Z/28 reported in my Submarine estimate today as 38 - 15 N. 72 - 0.5 W. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1536/29 to Admty.)

K.N.103 Convoy K N 103 arrived less ships detached off Charleston and Port Everglades. (B.R.O. Norfolk 1556Z/39 to Admty.)

UNALAGA Arrival 28th U.S. C.G. Vessel UNALAGA. (B.R.O. St. Lucia 1601Q/29 to Admty.)

PARTHIAN If trials satisfactory leave Bermuda p.m./30 for Gibraltar through following positions.
R. 034° 30' N 053° 00' W S. 035° 30' N 038° 00' W
T. 034° 40' N 023° 00' W S.of A. 11 knots.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1603P/29, to PARTHIAN, (R) Admty. etc.)

U/Bs 29/5 S/M estimate.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1542/29, 1551/29, 1603/29, 1619/29, 1612/29 to Admty.)

Attacks on Shipping off Cuba. Havana reports tug TROJAN chased P.M./26 off Point Cabrera, Cuba. Same night unspecified tanker damaged same place, ship made Caimanera. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1554R/29 to Admty. etc.)

FOAM U/B Intelligence H.M.C.S. HALIFAX reports that their survivors of U.S. Trawler FOAM landed at Boston Mass., stated S/M which sank their ship by shell fire was dark grey colour, no camouflage, one gun forward of conning tower firing brass-cased shells thought to have some shrapnel, and S/M silhouette similar
U1 page 37 OU (corrupt) 118(6) which they examined.
S/M was small size. S/M crew took photographs.
(S.O.I., St.John's, N.F., 1626Z/29. to N.S.H.Q.)

Dakar Intelligence My Meter 1303/14/4. Navy Dept., request latest information of those 4 ships.
(B.A.D., 1719Z/29, to Admty.) Reply Admty.1143/30.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE Report of sinking 28/5. (Minister, Trujillo City, 1813/29 to Admty. etc) See Lion Copy.

NEWSCARRIER (U.S.) Your 1821/11. Have you any further news of NEWSCARRIER?
2. Request details of route.
(D.T.D. 1821B/29, N.S.H.Q., (R) Opnav, etc.)

WILLIAMSBERG...

854A

1813/29 May.

S E C R E T

M E S S A G E

I N

From: H.M. Minister Trujillo City

Date: 30.5.42.

Rocd. 0806

NAVAL SHORE CODE (N.2) & G.T.C. by Cable

Addressed: Admiralty, C. in C. America & West Indies,
S.O.(1) Jamaica.

19 survivors including Chief Officer ex British ship
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE landed Bergantin near Puerto Plata 1815
local time May 28th.

Ship was on voyage from New York May 5th to Perula and
was torpedoed without warning 1450 ship's time May 11th in
position about 023 degs. 00' North 053 degs. 30' West.
After abandonment by crew submarine came to surface and
shelled from about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile until cargo of explosives blew up.

All confidential books destroyed before abandoning.

After ship blew up submarine ordered boats alongside to
ask name of ship and if any injured but no other questions
and supplied bandages with German wrappings for man with
injured foot. Submarine seemed about one thousand tons and
very new but no number was seen. Crew seemed young and smart.
Some believed to be Italian. After advising boats to steer
south west 300 (?miles) for nearest land submarine proceeded
south easterly direction.

Crew left in two boats, Master and 17 in one Chief
Officer and 18 in other, both fully equipped and undamaged.
On May 13th seaplane believed to be U.S. came over and gave
course for San Juan and promise of early assistance. Boats
separated May 16th.

Following are in hospital Puerto Plata - Samuel Baker
injured foot, Nathaniel Barr general weakness. Others in
fair condition except for sunburn.

1813/29.

Advance copy sent 1st Lord, A.C.N.S.(F), N.A. 1st S.L.,
D.A./S.W., O.I.C., Ops., O.D. & Trade, & Cdr. Holbrook.

1st Lord	A.C.N.S.(T)	M.(2)	D.T.D.(C)	C.C.R.T.
1st S.L.	Nav. Sec.	D.N.L.(5)	Cdr. Holbrook	W.D.
4th S.L.	Parl. Sec.	Ops.(3)	D.T.M.	Press Div.(Ad.
V.C.N.S.	Fin. Sec.	O.D.(5)	D. of S.T.(2)	I.M.N.G.(Usborne.
A.C.N.S.(H)	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.D.(4)	O.I.C.(3)	N.I.D. 10
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.A./S.W.	D.T.D.(M)	I.P.(3)	D. of Salvage

29.5.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

WILLIAMSBERG Intercepted message on 2156 kc/s which had ? bogus message.C.T.U. 24.6.3. as originator addressed to U.S.S. WILLIAMSBERG for action, information C.T.G. 24.6. C.T.U. 24.6.2., C.T.U. 24.1.17. Date and T.O.O, 24/1700. No such message was released by C.T.U. 24.6.3. For information WILLIAMSBERG.
 (C.T.U. 24.6.3, 1900Z/29, to C. in.C.W.A., Opmav, etc.)

U/B A D C J submarine sighted at 1830Z/29 1 mile off Chambers Head 046° 53' N 055° 25' W course 177° W speed 8 knots.
 (C.O.A.C., 1912Z/29, to Admty.)

U.S.Shipping My 1801/28. Add Caribbean to areas quoted. Control. 2. Admty, 1707/28 is not strictly correct in that B.U.S.R.A., Sect. E will not come into effect world-wide, but only in areas quoted in my 1801/28 as amended by Para. 1 above.
 (B.A.D., 1935Z/29, to Admty. (R) C.in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q.,S.O.I., Jamaica)

Eenemy S/M Information received that enemy submarines were Signals using 275 KC in vicinity of convoy HX 176. Can you confirm?
 (Opmav, 2012/29 to Admty.)

Sub attack MARGOT torpedoed shelled and sunk 39°N 68°W sighting approx. 1530Z/22. 39 survivors landed New York, summary. 1 missing, confidentials destroyed.
 BARRDALE 2 torpedoes 15° 15' N 52° 27' W 1935Z/17. Sunk, 1 lost, 52 survivors, Confidentials destroyed. Sub attacking O.N.S 92 0021Z/13 painted white.
 EMPIRE PROGRESS, 2 torpedoes, sunk 40° N 53° 36' W 2130Z/13 /4.
 FLORENCE M DOUGLAS possibly U-88 type. Planes attack sub 03° S 38° 30' W 1700Z/27. Plane sights sub on surface 35° 12' N 74° 59' W approx.,1200Z/29. Subs reported 19° 02' N 78° 20' W 1415Z/29, 28° 39' N 89° 26' W 1710Z/29.
 (C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 2026/29, Connav 2040/29)

Las Piedras,A/T An anti-torpedo net has been installed in port of net. Las Piedras, Venezuela. Instructions for entry.
 (Hydro, 2040/29, to ? Conatlant)

U:S. Personal for 1st S.L. As result of S/Ms. representations made on lines of your 0110/27 Adm.King has informed me he will interpose no further objection to release of 4 "S" class S/Ms.
 (B.A.D., 2105Z/29, to Admty.)

Shipping (D.T.D., 2149B/29) See East Indies. Signals.

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War Diary.29.5.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Connav. Ref. A.M. 913AZ, 370AK, 66AE of 15/5, amend Cominch to read Connav. 2. C.A.F.O. 930/42 will be amended.
(D.T.D., 2150B/29 "A" Message.)
- K.N. 105. Convoy K.N. 105 will proceed Key West north anchorage at 1100 G.M.T./30 S. of A. 8 knots due Norfolk (Virginia) 4/6. (Details.)
(B.R.O. Key West, 2252Z/29 to C. in C. A.W.I., (R) Admty., etc.)
Deletions from list.
(B.R.O. Key West, 1721Z/1.)
- "S" Report. Following received from Georgetown Radio at 0100Z/29, SSSS, BLSX position 16.02 N. 65.43 W. sighted U-Boat.
(Bermuda, 2333P/29 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Intelligence. Maori Number 9. Following summary of sightings during past fortnight.
1. Unidentified vessels 15/5, 5 or 6 submarines 005° 56' S. 173° 32' W. stationary, sighted by three Catalinas. 18/5, vessel off Nonouti, course west. 19/5, large vessel Palmerton Is. and course north 24/5 2 mast tops only seen Nukufea, course south. 28/5 vessel about 10,000 tons, one high funnel amidships, two straight masts, high bridge, flush deck, counter stern straight bow, off Rakahanga course N.N.W. 1030Z/26, D/F fix placed possible submarine 34° S. 165° E. R.D.F. contact by R/C plane 31.45 S. 176.11 E. 2055Z/28 may have been this submarine.
 2. Aerial R/C of Gilbert and Ellice Islands by Japanese flying boat as follows. 14/5, 16/5, 20/5, Maiana. 17/5, 20/5 Kuria. 17/5 Nenumea, Tamana, Nonuti, 2 bombs dropped Nonuti 17/5, 17/5, 22/5, 24/5, 27/5 Ocean Island. 21/5, 27/5 Mauru. (N.Z.N.B., 0358Z/29 to C. in C. E.F., etc.)
- Situation. Digest serial 127 from C.W.R. 28/5. 2205Z/27, Lae attacked by 5 B.26s, result not observed. Interception by 6 Zero fighters of which 2 crashed 2 others hit. 1 B.26 lost, 3 damaged. Buildings on aerodrome apparently burnt out.
- (2) 2 transports 3 small ships at Kavieng, 1 large 3 small transports 4 small boats 9 flying boats at Rabaul reported by air R/C 27/5.
 - (3) 2210Z/27 Port Moresby attacked by 20 Zero fighters of which 1 destroyed, 2 possible destroyed. Interception by 8 P.39s of which 2 shot down, 1 possibly missing.
 - (4) 28/5, 1 medium merchant ship, 1 small hospital ship Dilli (Timor) area new runway under construction reported by allied /air ...

War Diary.

29.5.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation,
Contd.

air R/C. Unsuccessful attack on 1 vessel.
(5) 1315Z/27, Rabaul attacked by 6 B.17's which
caused 3 large fires. Slight and inaccurate A/A
fire.
(A.C.N.B., 1227Z/29, to Admty., etc.)

M.T.B.s.

Your 1341A/30/3. It is intended to fit out
mobile repair ships with (?accommodation for)
crew, and maintenance staff for 1 flotilla of

M.T.B. Request M.T.B.s allocated to Australia to be shipped
to Sydney (N.S.W.). Request also advice as to (?complement of)
tools and equipment that should be provided in mobile repair
ships.
(A.C.N.B., 1828Z/29 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1405B/29. 1418B/29).

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C. H.F. intends to arrive in London by air at 1630 tomorrow.

Photographs taken at 0730 today show TIRPITZ and HIPPER in their usual berths off Trondheim.

Of the 35 M/Vs which left Seidisfiord at 0100B/21 in Convoy P.Q.16, 21 arrived today at Kola Inlet and 6 are proceeding on to Archangel. Of the remaining 8 ships, the American SYROS, 6191 tons, was sunk by a U-boat, the British EMPIRE LAWRENCE, 7457 tons, EMPIRE PURCELL, 7049 tons, and LOWTHER CASTLE, 5171 tons, together with the American CITY OF JOLIET, 6167 tons, ALAMAR, 5689 tons, and MORMACSUL, 5481 tons, were sunk by A/C and the American CARLTON damaged by A/C, returned to Iceland under her own power yesterday, escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY.

British Air Activity.

Off the Frisian Islands near Ameland 13 aircraft of Coastal Command last night attacked an enemy convoy of 14 ships protected by 5 flakships, fighter aircraft and the coastal batteries. Eight ships were hit, four of them being set on fire.

Enemy Air Activity.

In the early hours of this morning about 20 enemy aircraft operated over the Humber estuary, their object apparently being indiscriminate bombing over a wide area. One aircraft was shot down by H.M.T. CAYRIAN.

Yarmouth was attacked last night and some damage was caused to the base ship and to the petrol compound.

/There...

War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the Dover area last night. A trawler group was attacked off Folkestone but no damage is reported. Slight damage from bombing was caused in Dover harbour and ashore.

Mining.

Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 86 mines last night in the Frisian Islands and N.W. Baltic areas.

North Atlantic.

The conversion of PARTHIAN and REGENT for store carrying duties after arrival at Gibraltar is under consideration.

LOCH OSKAIG engaged and is believed to have hit a F/W aircraft at 2134B in 38.45 N., 9.34 W.

Mediterranean.

The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs today informed N.A. Madrid that the damaged U/B at Cartagena had been granted 3 months for repairs from 1300/3/5.

aux: M/S

Tug ST. ANGELO was mined and sank at 1416B today $\frac{3}{4}$ mile off Malta Harbour entrance while sweeping. Sweeping the approach channel to the Grand Harbour is progressing very slowly with restricted resources.

/the enemy...

War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

The enemy forces in the Western Desert commenced a general withdrawal this afternoon through the gaps in our main minefields.

Cs. in C. M.E. forwards an appreciation of a possible enemy seaborne and airborne attack on Cyprus.

East Indies.

In a review, after a month's experience of the shipping situation on East Coast of India, F.O.C.R.I.N. finds it is impracticable to export via West Coast ports all commodities for U.K. and U.S.A. to maintain essential coal supplies ex Calcutta, and to maintain supply of salt to Eastern India. He therefore intends to increase the number of ships using Calcutta to about 50 a month, with a maximum of 18 ships at sea in Bay of Bengal at any one time.

America and West Indies.

Shipping.

With the development of U/B attacks in West Atlantic, and pending the introduction of convoy in this area, certain selected ships of less speed than 15 knots have been sailed independently from Panama direct to U.K. when this appeared safer than routing to Halifax for convoy. Three ships were sunk by U-Boats today, 45 miles W. by S. of Cape Sable, 15 miles West of Seal Island and in 30° 41' N. 62° 5' W. respectively.

/B.A.D. ...

War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

B.A.D. forwards a summary of present intentions for the development of a system of U.S. coastal convoys.

Information has been received that a powerful Japanese expedition sailed on 28/5, the objective of which is believed to be Alaska and/or Midway Island.

The U.S. force is not yet concentrated:

NASHVILLE has arrived in Alaskan waters and at least 6 U.S. submarines are in or en route to those waters. Aircraft have been asked for. No word has been received from U.S. station at Atka for 48 hours and it is thought the station may already have been captured.

War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

C. in C. H.F. C. in C. H.F. with the Captain of the Fleet and Flag Lieutenant arrives Hendon by air at 1630/31. (C. in C. H.F., 1536B/30 to Admty.)

R.M.Ls. Cancel my 1537/23/4.
(Air/Sea The First twenty "B" type M.Ls building for Air
Rescue and to be known as R.M.Ls are
Craft.) allocated as follows to Humber, Newhaven, and
Portland. Details.
(D.D.O.D. (C.), 2004B/30.)

My 2001/30. Request recommendations for staff and equipment assuming 100 A/S vessels to be worked up every six months. No base ship will be available. (V.C.N.S., 2006B/30 to WESTERN ISLES.)

Defence of U.K.

Yarmouth and Lowestoft As enemy has resumed attacks on East Coast ports, request consideration may be given to replacement of A.A. guns. Understand approved scale for Yarmouth and Lowestoft is 24 and that number at present deployed is 19. (C. in C. Nore, 2154B/30 to Admty.)

Movements.

INTREPID, INTREPID proceed to pass Switha 2130 today to
SOMALI. Hvalfjord routed through 058° 45' N. 007° 10' W., thence through Reykjanes passage. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail SOMALI for Scapa on arrival of INTREPID.

(R.A.D., 0959B/30.)

You are to sail in SOMALI for Scapa at 1600Z today passing through 058° 45' N. 008° 05' W.

(RENOWN, 1335B/30 to Capt. D.6.)

RENOWN 1335B/30. Sailed 1800. E.T.A. 1000/1.

(A.C.I.C., 1957B/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Sailed INTREPID for Reykjavik and Hvalfjord. E.T.A. Reykjavik 0900B/1.

(R.A.D., 2032B/30.)

CARADOC.

My 1804B/29. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004B/30.)

S. p. 864

SPEEDY,
HEBE.

Request you sail SPEEDY and HEBE to Greenock for onward routing to Gibraltar as soon as possible. Ships are to arrive Gibraltar p.m. 9th. (D.M.S., 1345B/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

SPEEDY with HEBE proceeds passing Swift 0001B tomorrow to Greenock.

(R.A.D., 2047B/30.)

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War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

P. 614, Intend to sail P. 614 and O.10 escorted by LA
O. 10. CAPRICIEUSE at 0900B/1 for Holy Loch routed
west of Orkneys and via Minches. E.T.A. 0600B/3.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1603B/30 and 1553B/31.)

VIENNA. When ready for sea request you will sail VIENNA
to the Clyde to work up under C. in C. W.A.
VIENNA is allocated to C. in C. Mediterranean.
(D.O.D. (H.), 2002B/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Patrols. Movements to 1200/31.
HAMBLEDON from Harwich for patrol C.
EGLINTON from Harwich to join F.N. 21 and patrol.
D. CAMPBELL from Sheerness p.m./30 for patrol M.
CATTISTOCK from Sheerness for patrol K.
(C. in C. Nore, 1200B/30.)
2200 Situation.
CUMBERLAND patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C., 1458B/30.)

N.W. Norway To provide more sea-room and earlier warning for
S/M Patrol. covering forces would you consider dispensing with
zones K.20 to K.23 inclusive zone K.34 and
moving the remaining zones to south-eastward.
(C. in C. H.F., 1809B/30 to F.O.S.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing Cancel my 1316B/20.
restrictions. (C. in C. H.F., 1039B/30.)

North Ops. 196 30/5. Cancel my Ops. 98 13/5. Resume
Sea R/C. Trade protection.
(H.Q.C.C., 2150B/30.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber area Between 0030 and 0230/30 about 20 enemy A/C
bombed. operated over Humber Estuary. Object appeared
indiscriminate bombing over wide area. A/C
reported as Do. 217 came in too low for C.H.L.

Stations to pick up. 1 A/C shot down off Spurn. Minelaying
not suspected.

(F.O. Humber, 0235B/30.)

(A) Some incendiaries in Immingham 0115/30 during widespread
raid by approx. 20 A/C while I M I was exhibiting Q L. 2
boiling fires lit I M I 0120.

/(B) ...

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War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Humber area (B) 80 Wing informed 0122.
bombed. (C) Some H.Es between Stallingborough and
(Contd.) Immingham 0130. 4 H.Es, believed 500 Kilo,
on I M I 0205. Several scattered incidents
causing some damage to civilian property but
no concentrated attack on targets in Humber area. 4 bombs
believed dropped in Humber off H.U. 3 while H.U. 3 exhibiting
Q L.
(F.O. Humber, 2254B/30.)

Convoy You were reported by 2 enemy A/C at 2350/29
P.Q. 16. approx.
(D.D.I.C., 0457B/30 to P.Q. 16.)

Yarmouth Great Yarmouth attacked night 29/30.
bombed. A, B, and C nil. D. MIRANDA buildings and
petrol compound damaged. 60,000 gallons petrol
saved but not known yet whether affected by water
and sand.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0951B/30.)

Dover area There was considerable enemy air activity over
and Trawlers the Dover Area last night 29/30. Consular
attacked. Group 20 was attacked off Folkestone. No damage
or casualties reported. One bomb fell in Dover
Harbour and one on West Pier submarine basin,
causing little damage and no casualties. Dover
to Folkestone Railway line damaged and closed to
traffic.
(V.A. Dover, 1022B/30.)

Mining.

S.N. 72. Keep steam at one hours notice from 2000Z today.
(RENOWN, 1127B/30 to Ships in Company H.F.,
TUSCALOOSA.)
S.O. M/S 1950/29. CASTLETON should remain at
Port ZA.
(C. in C. H.F., 1140B/30 to N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh.)

Ems Approaches to Delfzyl 22/5. Ems west Channel
Channel. closed to shipping owing to magnetic mining.
Shipping diverted to eastern Channel. Graded B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1737/30.)

War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ, My 1628/29. Photographic R/C 1740/29 confirms
HIPPER. TIRPITZ returned to her berth in Aasfiord.
(D.D.I.C., 0856B/30.)
Photographic R/C at 0730 shows TIRPITZ and
HIPPER in usual berths.
(D.D.I.C., 1412B/30.)

Russian Russians report 28/5. 70 North of Ingoy Island
report. one U-Boats. In 70° 32' N. 32° 08' E. one
U-Boats. In 72° 42' N. 25° 40' E. one U-Boats.
Convoy sailed Tromso for ports in Varanger Fiord.
(Ad. Miles, 1117C/30 to Adnty.)

TORDENSKJOLD. 1. Ex Norwegian TORDENSKJOLD passed through
Great Belt night of 10/11 May northward bound.
Vessel now armed with six heavy and a number of
light A/A guns and fitted with steel lattice tower about 2.5
metres in diameter in position of old main mast. Graded A.2
source D.I.S.
2. Seaplane depot ship GREIF or similar vessel sighted
proceeding S.W. in Gjedser Warnemunde Strait 17/5. Graded B.3.
3. Invasion Craft. See my 1321/17. Para. one should have
indicated a total of 21 T.L.C. up to 10/5. Total landing
craft observed to have passed through Great Belt up to 24/5
is 40. Of these 27 were T.L.C., remainder 150-ton self
propelled lighters with 20 millimetre gun on stern. Graded
A.2 source D.I.S.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1149/30.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats D/F bearings at 2348Z/30 indicate a U-Boat in
reported. approx. 49° 40' N. 6° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 0339B/30.)
U-Boats reported in 49° 40' N. 06° 30' W. at
0248/30. Join KUJAWIAK's convoy as part escort. Hudson A/C
proceeding from St. Eval to assist search.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0352B/30 to CALPE, FERNIE.)
My 0352B/30. Position U-Boat now considered unreliable.
Proceed to Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1002B/30 to CALPE, FERNIE.)
It is estimated there is a U-Boat north of Shetlands.
(F.O.S., 1529B/30 to S/Ms.)

Navigational.

Harwich. Port of Harwich closed from 1430 to 1556 today.
Testing new boom gate.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1351B/30, 1556B/30.)

/Thames ...

War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational - Contd.Thames
Estuary.A.3 buoy promulgated in F.N. to M. 855(T)/42
reported missing.
(C. in C. Nore, 1441B/30.)
(Hydrog, 1649B/30.)Ice.
White Sea.Ice report No. 27. Gorlo Gorodetsky to
Sosnovetz clear water. Zbnigorsky Intzi clear
water. Between Intzi and Sosnovetz large area
ice rapidly (corrupt group). Temperature 54° F.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2111B/30.)Miscellaneous.A/A
ammunition
for North
Russia.My 1954/28. After "escorts" insert "and convoys".
Add para. two. The above are required in addition
to reserve of Oerlikon and smaller ammunition
already requested.
(C. in C. H.F., 1303B/30. to Admty.)Casualties and Defects.

P. 551.

Your 1224/24 and Admiralty's 1827/29. ^{/H.T. W.D.} All
relevant messages were received and understood
in P. 551. Navigating Officer's records lost
and undesirable to interrogate him at present. D.R. plot
worked up by Commander (N) EDINBURGH from deck log, without
allowance for (? set), from 0700B/May 1st. Position reached
at 2025B/2nd, 70° 47' N. 12° 30' E. No sight obtained
throughout. Vessel estimated maximum set 12 miles per diem
N.N.E'ly. Speed estimated from revolutions read as follows.
Speed when dived (? two) knots. (? Consider) only explanation
is underestimated speed (? adjustment of) set. S.O. of P. 551
concurs and requests message be (? sent) to Chief of Polish
(? Navy).
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0922B/30 to F.O.S.)

MOONSHINE.

H.M. Trawler MOONSHINE developed engine defects.
Probable delay one week.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0943B/30.)

KITTIWAKE.

My 1000/29. ^{/H.T. W.D.} Owing to defects sailing postponed
24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1313/30.)Unknown
Vessel.Wick Radio from Sheighrah Radio. Bearing
distress 106° approx.
(Wick Radio, 1555/30 and 1610/30.)

MONTROSE.

Have abandoned trials due to choking of forced
lubricating filters. Am proceeding Harwich.
(MONTROSE, 1847/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/Survivors ...

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War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Survivors at Your 1956/30. Number of survivors is 30, with
Gronfiorden, 6 wounded.
Spitzbergen. (R.A.F. Sullom Voe, 2100/30 to Admty.)

BLACKMORE. My 1104/18. On completion of high speed trials
today following defects developed in BLACKMORE.
Details. Consider ship not fit for service in
present condition. Request F.O.I.C. Glasgow
make further investigation.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 2214B/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q. & Q.P. As it is probable P.Q. and Q.P. Convoys will now
Convoys. be split between Archangel and Murmansk Section,
request seagoing authority number and convoy
code word be allocated for (A) P.Q. (Murmansk)
(B) P.Q. (Archangel) (C) Q.P. (Murmansk) (D)
Q.P. (Archangel).
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0904B/30 to Admty.)

Convoy P.Q. 16 preliminary report. HAZARD arrived.
P.Q. 16. (2) Sunk by bombers: EMPIRE LAWRENCE, EMPIRE
PURCELL, LOWTHER CASTLE, CITY OF JOLIET, ALAMAR,
MORMACSUL.
(3) Sunk by submarine, SYROS.
(4) Detached to Archangel: WEST NILUS, EMPIRE ELGAR, MINOTAUR,
ALCOA BANNER, CHERNYSHERSKY, SHCHORES.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0946B/30 and 1609B/30.)
Kola Inlet arrivals.
ASHANTI, ACHATES, VOLUNTEER, HAZARD, NIGER, HUSSAR, SEAWOLF,
HONEYSUCKLE, STARWORT, HYDERBAD, ST. ELSTAN, LADY MADELINE,
ROSELYS, TRIDENT, Soviet ATHZNI, SOKRUSHITELNI, KUIBYSHEV, SS.
RICHARD H. LEE, CITY OF OMAHA, PETER DE HOOGH, REVOLUTSIONER,
ARCOS, JOHN RANDOLPH, AMERICAN PRESS, MAUNA KEA, EXTERMINATOR,
MICHIGAN, STARI BOLSHHEVIK, STEEL WORKER, ATLANTIC, EMPIRE SELWYN,
OCEAN VOICE, EMPIRE BAFFIN, HEFFRON, HYBERT, AMERICAN ROBIN,
MASSMAR, CALGCOYA. * Not seen
H.M. Trawler RETRIEVER has not arrived, it is reported she
returned to Iceland.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, ?1901B/30 to Admty.)
As soon as convenient request you will signal following
information concerning P.Q. 16. This is required to help
planning future convoy operations.
(a) Names of ships damaged. (b) Names of ships sunk.
(c) Route followed by convoy. (d) Weather conditions from 10° W.
until arrival of convoy. (e) Periods during which convoy was
shadowed. (f) Information regarding attacks by aircraft.
(g) Information regarding attacks by U-Boats. (h) Percentage
of H.A. ammunition of escorts and D.E.M.S. expended.
(i) Casualties to merchant navy and service personnel.
(j) Any suggestions S.O. of Escorts or Commodore of Convoy wish
to offer.
(V.C.N.S., 2348B/30 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk, S.B.N.O. Archangel,
(R) ASHANTI, Ad. Miles, C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

30.5.1942:
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

C.W. 86.
PYTCHLEY.

Destroyer escort for C.W. 86 on 1/6 will be provided by 21st Flotilla.
3. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange for destroyer detailed to return to Sheerness passing Sand Head Buoy at first light 3/6.
(C. in C. Nore, 1128B/30.)
Your 1128B/30.
PYTCHLEY detailed.
(Capt. D.21, 1803/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

O.G. 86,
EMPIRE
DARWIN.

C.A.M. Ship EMPIRE DARWIN has been allocated for inclusion in convoy O.G. 86.
(D.T.D., 1146B/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NORDVARD (?Report) dated 27/5 Grade B.2. states ex Norwegian NORDVARD, 4111 G.T., about to sail from Bordeaux carrying torpedoes and supplies for U-Boats in West Atlantic. (F.O.C.N.A., 1050B/30, to N.A.Stn.)

P.211 P.211 sailed 0800B/31^{30 (P.M.R. List)} (sic) for exercise with corvettes east of Ceuta. (F.O.C.N.A. 1106B/30 to P.44)

Italian Repatriations ARCOLA TAIGETE are not to be sailed until further orders. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1151B/30 to Consul Las Palmas, (R) Admty.)
Ref. Admty. 1950B/29. Onward route for ARCOLA and TAIGETE from Las Palmas to 40° West. (A) 27.40 N. 15.12 W. (B) 27. 07 17.48. (C) 25.28 24.48. (D) 23.29 31.48. (E) 21.00 40.01. (F.O.C.N.A. 1244B/30 to Admty. (R) Connav, R.A.W.A.)

Axis Shipping Vessels 55(SCHARLACHBERGER) and 56 (FIDELITAS) left harbour 29th. Vessel 51 (JOAO PESSOA) arrived 30th. (Consul, Bilbao, 1213/30, to Admty.)

U/B at Cartagena U.573. My 2202/23. In note verbale M.F. A. states vessel has been granted period for repairs 3 months as from 1300/3/5. (N.A.Madrid, 1252/30 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

CARADOC N.O.I/C Greenock 1804B/29 and C. in C. W.A., 1504B/29. Onward route from position (R) through (S) 38.01 N 12.01 W., and (T) 36.30 N 08.59 W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1322B/30, to CARADOC (R) Admty.)
See p. 862

PARTHIAN REGENT Conversion of PARTHIAN and REGENT for store carrying duties after arrival at Gibraltar in early June and early August respectively is under consideration. 2. Request report whether, by making use of additional temporary accommodation now under construction, the 112 cells from each of these submarines can be accommodated. (D.O.D.(F) 1728B/30 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) F.O.S., S.8)

French Shipping Gibraltar 1315 Armed Trawler VICTORIA, S.S.AISNE, laden deck cargo Producer gas lorries and carboys, OUED TIFLET, light five motor lorries one fire engine on deck, FOU DROYANT laden casks on deck, PARAMÉ laden, trawlers PES CAGEL, KEROMAN, westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1839B/30 to Admty., etc.)

CHARYBDIS, search for U/B Arrivals CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER. (F.O.C.N.A. 2034B/30 to Admty.(R) C.in C. Med., V.A. Malta)

My...

War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.CHARYBDIS,
search for
U/B.- Contd.

My 1830/28. Report and photographs taken by Sunderland when attacking leave little doubt that submarine was badly damaged. 2. Catalina, CHARYBDIS, and Destroyers failed to find U-Boat. 3. CHARYBDIS reports being shadowed by Cant. Z506B from 1320/29 to 1420 when about 30 miles southward of Majorca. From 1938 to 2325 when to S.E. of Majorca continually shadowed by 1 to 6 separate aircraft at least 3 of which were JU.88s. From sunset onward a number of aircraft maintained a complete circle about 60° apart 10 to 15 miles distant from Force. 4. Although moon was low and very bright no attack was made. Last aircraft was very large and broke off at 2320. 5. Asdic conditions poor and are now generally bad in Eastern Approaches to Gibraltar. 6. Admiralty pass to S.O. Force "T". (F.O.C.N.A., 2252B/30. to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med., V.A.M., S.O. "T")

LOCH OSKAIG

1 A/C Unknown bearing 270° height 1000 feet course 180°. My position 38.45 N., 9.34 W. (LOCH OSKAIG, 2134B/30 to Gib. W/T) My 2134B, twin engined F/W, believed hit, last seen losing height flying inland North of (Espichel) (LOCH OSKAIG 2145B/30., to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.BACHAQUERO
defect.

Admty. 2324/14 para.6. From Com. i/c. Durban. BACHAQUERO has urgent seagoing defect. Intend to take in hand forthwith and to sail on completion a.m. 6/6 for Simonstown. (A.S. Simonstown, 0902Z/30., to Admty.C. in C.S.A.)

HARPAGON

Overdue shipping. HARPAGON due Capetown 23rd from New York not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0933B/30., to Admty., etc.)

ARCHER
ATHENE

A.M. 1738 22. 6 Sea Hurricanes will be transferred from ARCHER to ATHENE for transport to Mombasa. Request details of other type of aircraft required to be loaded in ATHENE. My 1716/26 to Comnas only refers. (C. in C.S.A., 1056/30, to Comnas, Kilindini, (R) Admty., ARCHER ATHENE)

Prohibited
flying area

Boundaries of prohibited flying area established at Durban. (C. in C.S.A. 1101B/30., 1102B/30)

War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EMPIRE RIDLEY Master of EMPIRE RIDLEY which arrived 28th reports
? sabotage 3 separate fires in No. 3 Hold whilst on passage.
2 of these occurred in tween decks and 1 in lower
hold on 6/5. 15/5. and 26/5. respectively.

Sabotage is indicated. Master has no suspicion against any
member of crew. Cargo loaded under supervision of S.T.O. Newport.
D.S. T.O. is reporting on fire damage to cargo to D. of S.T.
(Cdre. i/c Durban. 1114Z/30 to S.O.(I) Capetown. (R) D. of S.T.)

Shipping Your 1016. Busra has been despatched to you and
Control. to R.A. West Africa and M.A.C.R.I. are being
despatched at first opportunity.
2. South Atlantic Station will not be affected
by partial implementation of Busra in certain areas on 1/6.
(D.T.D., 1115B/30 to C.in C.S.A., (R) R.A.W.A.)

ARCHER. ARCHER returned to Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1221Z/30 to Admty., etc.)

QUEEN MARY Arrival 30/5 W.S.19 W.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1411Z/30, to Admty., etc.)

BENAKAT, S.S. BENAKAT in entering harbour struck stern of
THYSVILLE causing fairly extensive above water
collision. damage to THYSVILLE. Improbable that there is any
below water damage. Damage is being surveyed.
(N.O.I.C., E. London, 1451Z/30, to P.S.T.O.
Simonstown, etc.)

ABDIEL. Ref. A.M. 1229B/12 addressed Cdre. I/C Durban.
Programme submitted as follows: Leave Durban 5/6
p.m. Capetown a.m./7 to p.m.7., Pointe Noire a.m./12 to p.m./12
Freetown a.m./16 to p.m./16, Gibraltar a.m./20 to a.m./21.
(Greenock) arrive a.m./25.
2. Date of departure from Capetown dependent upon time required
for embarkation of stores for passage.
3. Date after Freetown only approx., route necessary being
unknown.
(ABDIEL, 1500B/30, to C.in C.S.A.)

S.L.112. S L 112 sails A.M. 4/6
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1537Z/30 to Admty.)

CILICIA Your 1110/25/4. CILICIA will be taken in hand for
refit by Harland and Wolff at Liverpool on 30/6.
2. Request you will sail her accordingly informing
F.O.I.C. Liverpool of her E/T.
(D.O.D.(F). 1746B/30 to C.in C.S.A. (R) R.A.W.A., etc.)

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War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

FOXHOUND ~~Sail~~ FOXHOUND E.T.A. Mombasa 1600Z/3/6 S.O.A.
20 knots, routed as in my 1855/27.
(Cdre I/C Durban., 1753Z/30, to Admty., etc.)

KATTEGAT. KATTEGAT Norway due Montevideo 26/5 from Capetown
not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1949Z/30.)

Distress. Following has been read (S O S) SS. (WIPH)
(Call Sign unidentifiable) bearing and distance
from point (corrupt group) 310° 235 broken shaft,
require assistance (? and) protection at once,
reply quickly, notify Capetown.
(T.O.R., 2006/30.)

VULCANIA, Following has been read. Addressed C. in C. S.A.
Italian from S.B.N.O. VULCANIA. Sailed at 1540 on 29/5
Repatriations. proceeding at 18 knots.
(Freetown W/T, 2100/30.)

Mediterranean.

M.E. Air A. 662 30/5. Bi-Weekly Opsum. No. 25.
Report. Night 26/27. 6 Wellingtons laid 11 mines off
Benghazi. Bombs dropped to cover operations. A
Sunderland attacked S/M about 60 miles N.E. Tobruk
with 4 - 250 lb. A/S bombs four (corrupt group) 250 lbs. depth
charges. Submarine believed destroyed by 4 direct hits.
Night 28-29/5. A Sunderland attacked submarine 40 miles N.E.
Tobruk with 4 - 250 lb. A/S bombs, 4 - 250 lbs. D/Cs., damage
unknown.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1014/30, 1023/30, 1041/30, 1048/30.)

Enemy At 1103C/30 Aircraft report P.C. and S. of enemy
Convoy. convoy 036° 35' 018° 24' 200° 15 knots.
Anticipate this convoy will alter for Benghazi
tonight.
(Capt. S.1, 1221C/30 to S/Ms on Patrol.)
My 1221/30. A.S.V. aircraft will search in vicinity 035° 04'
017° 05' from 0100C to 0300C. Any S/M in this vicinity may
use "Rooster".
(Capt. S.1, 1645C/30 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

/Cyprus ...

War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cyprus.

Appreciation of possible enemy seaborne and air-borne attack.
(Mideast, 1330/30 for Chiefs of Staff.)
See Lion Copy.

Malta Air
Report.

I. 334, 30/5/42. C.S.R. Malta.
29th. 1544 hours, 15 Me.109s. 4 bombed Hal Far, no damage.
Night 29/30. Swordfish E-Boat search found nothing. 2226 hours, 5 raiders, bombs land sea, no damage.
1 Ju.87 damaged by Beaufighter.
30th. 4 Spitfires E-Boat Dawn Patrol saw nothing. 2 alerts.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1745/30.)

ST. ANGELO
mined.

ST. ANGELO struck a mine whilst sweeping and sank at 1416B today in position 076° St. Elmo 8 cables.
2. 4 Maltese ratings missing presumed killed.
3. Ship was turning at the end of a leg of the sweep in an area known to be mined.
(V.A. Malta, 1912B/30, 2201B/30 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET

Med.
873A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From:- Mideast

1330/30th May

Date. 30. 5.42.

Recd. 2145

C Y P H E R

Addressed:- Air Ministry Special Signal Office.

IZ 135. CC/32 30/4.

IMPORTANT

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 sea borne and airborne 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.(?) sqn. Half A.C. sqn.
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)/.....

873^B

- 2 -

- (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 H.T.Bs.

8. Following is position regarding reinforcement to full garrison vide para. 6.

- (a) Estimate 2 further fighter sqns. 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 warning to be expected of airborne threat sufficient to enable us to reinforce island in time.

1330/30

Recd. by hand from Air Ministry 1130/30 Ma

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
5th S.L.
V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S. (1)
A.N.S. (1)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (3)
D.O.D. (1)(2)
D. of P. (2)
F.P.S.
Ed. of M.
Hd. of Air
D.N.I. (4)
D.C. (2)
F.D.I.C. (2)
L.N.S.D.
D. of L.D.
V.D.
I.P. (2)
N.I.D. 10

Air Ministry circulation:

Col. Jacob,
S. of S. for For. Affairs
C.A.S.
C. 6 Telegrams, War Office
War Reg. Admiralty.

War Diary30.5.1942.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Movements Sailed Diego Suarez 1430Z/29 Capt. D.19 in LAFOREY with LIGHTNING and LOOKOUT E.T.A. Port Victoria 0400Z/31. Arrived 1630Z/29* FROBISHER, LLANDAFF CASTLE.
(S.O. Force F. 0017C/30 to Admty. C. in C.A.A. N.O.i/c Seychelles, N.O.i/c Durban, N.O.i/c East Indies).
** See next page*

Burma Report From D.M.I. 28/5. P.R.U. Akyab shows few small craft in harbour, no aircraft on aerodrome. Air R/V Pauk-Kan negative. Fact of only 6 barges seen Homalin suggest remainder of concentration seen there 26/5 moved up stream, but confirmation being expedited. 2 launches and jetties near Kalewa bombed. Damage and casualties inflicted. No enemy air activity since 25/5. (C. in C. India 0515/30 to W.O. etc.)

K.15 After position 005° N 080° E. proceed through 005° 44' N. 079° 25' E. thence by Q C A 390. Total bombing restrictions arranged North of equator (S.O.(S) Colombo 0621Z/30 to K.15 (R) TRUANT.

SPRINGTIDE A.M.2240B/5 your 1725Z/12 and F.O.C.R.I.N's 1031Z/14. As no inside berths are available for deperming consider it impossible in Bombay during S.W. monsoon. Submit further consideration be given to Admty 2240B/5 or alternatively that SPRINGTIDE return to Colombo southbound where deperming can be undertaken during S.W. monsoon rather than lying (?idle) for (?4) months here. Request instructions.
(SPRINGTIDE 0700Z/30 to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. etc.)

Shipping My 0612/23/4. In view of your 1509/21 and C. in C. E.Coast of India Ceylon's 1043/6 East Coast shipping situation has been reviewed. A month's experience shows that it is impracticable to export via West Coast ports all commodities for U.K. and U.S.A. (B) To maintain essential coal supplies ex Calcutta (C) to maintain supply of salt to Eastern India.
2. Increased use of West Coast ports for Military imports has aggravated these difficulties.
3. I therefore intend to increase number of ships using Calcutta to about 50 per month. This will mean a maximum of 18 ships at sea in Bay of Bengal at any one time. Embargo on use of valuable ships will be maintained.
4. In addition propose to utilise a few small and older vessels for coastal coal and salt trade.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0929/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I.)
Concur (D.T.D. 1900B/4)

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War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Messages for U.S. Mission. From War Registry - After discussion with Adm. Blake, as Liaison Officer with U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, it has been arranged that the abbreviation A.E., hitherto used to indicate that a message has been distributed to U.S. Mission, shall be replaced by the abbreviation U.S.N. This change is being brought into force at 0001/30. H.W.R.

U/B. S/M reported by shore watcher 3 miles N.W. Miscou Island 2330Z/29 proceeding west. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0107Z/30 to Admty).

Movement Summary. 1800 G.M.T./30.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
CARNARVON	03° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank.
CASTLE			

 (D.O.D.(F) 0818Z/30 to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).

O.N. 99. C.T.U. 24.1.18 in HIGHLANDER, plus WINCHELSEA, ASPHODEL, OXLIP, CLOVER, and U.S. SPRY *sailed O.N. 99. (C.T.G. 24.7, 0930B/30, to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, C. in C. W.A. Admty. etc.).
O.N. 99.

(1) 0600Z/30. (2) 0800Z/3/6. (3) HIGHLANDER, WINCHELSEA, ASPHODEL, PENNYWORT, OXLIP, CLOVER, BORAGE, SPRY. (D.T.D. 1204B/30 to Cominch /Connav). *London 24/5. (P.L.)

U/Bs. D/F indicates U-boats within 60 miles 041° N. 044° 30' W. at 0712Z/30. (N.S.H.Q. 0946Z/30 to Brit. Warships in Area 7, Admty. etc.).

U.S. Shipping Control. Cancel my 1213/29 and amend para. 1 of my 1707/28 to read:- At 0001/1/6 Busra Section E and Section G Sub Section (c) will come into effect in the Panama, Caribbean, Central America, Bermuda and Continental U.S. Areas. (D.T.D. 1058B/30 to C. in C. etc.).

Dakar intelligence. Your Meter 1719/29/5. All 4 ships sighted at 0701/28/5 by *H.M. Ship in 6° 40' N. 16° 50' W. course 300°, escorted by Vichy French Sloop ANNAMITE. (D.N.I. 1143B/30 to B.A.D.).

*CARNARVON CASTLE. 24/5. P. 822.

S.H. 7. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1330Z/30, to N.S.H.Q. Admty).

/O.N. 97.

3D. 5. 1942.

~~Monday~~. Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. cont'd:

Development
of Convoy
System.

My 2321/11. ?2345Z/11. Navy Dept's present intentions for development of convoy system as follows.

(2) Original proposal to run convoys between Guantanamo and New York is abandoned and there is no prospect of direct convoys between N.W.I. (Aruba and Curacao) and Halifax. Coastal convoys are to continue on three day cycle with speed limit of ten knots with every third convoy running slow. Speeds may be modified if experience shows this to be necessary but present intention is for slow convoys speed to be eight knots.

(3) It is hoped to start about 1st July convoys on three day cycle between Key West and N.W.I. picking up ships from Havana. This section is to be extended to Trinidad and Surinam, possibly on a six day cycle, but W.S.A. have asked for three day cycle to keep bauxite ships moving. It is hoped independent Canadian Tanker convoys and escorts will be absorbed.

(4) Navy Dept. asked if B.5 Group could be retained for institution of Section in Para 3 above. They also asked whether British Tankers sailing between N.W.I. and U.K. would use new section to Key West and coastal convoy to Halifax, or proceed by Trinidad to join S.L. Convoy. Provisional answer was given that as long as direct convoy to Halifax was out of the question we should welcome three day cycle to Key West to join coastal convoy, and Tanker traffic between N.W.I. and Trinidad would be reduced to small proportion.

Request confirmation. Navy (?Dept.) was asked for as long notice as possible of date of starting Key West - N.W.I. Convoys.

(5) No intention at present to start regular convoys between Key West and Panama. In Gulf intention is to rely on independent routing in shallow water close to coast with increased air patrol and a small number of small surface craft operating in harbour approaches.

(6) It is not considered possible to start subsidiary convoy through West Indies. It is expected air patrols watching passages between islands will provide some protection, and bauxite interests are being urged to increase transshipment at Trinidad as much as possible to reduce traffic to St. Thomas.

(7) Shipping between New York and Delaware and Chesapeake proceeding as in my 2321/11 para 3 is said to be fairly well escorted now. Average strength of escort for K.S. and K.N. convoys is two destroyers, one corvette, two trawlers and two P.C. Boats. (B.A.D. Washington 1541Z/30 to Admty.)

878

3D.5.1942.

~~3D.5.1942.~~ Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. conts:-

Development of Convoy System. *conts:-* Personal for First Sea Lord. Your 0205/27. We have enquired what 'other means' are to be employed for solution of Gulf of Mexico problems. Present intention is to route shipping independently in shallow waters close to the coast, covered by air patrols which have recently been strengthened. Small surface craft, of which there are about fifteen available will patrol harbour approaches as well as special occasional escort duties. Intended development of convoy system is given in B.A.D. 1541/30.

2. Para four of C.N.S. Ottawa's 1650/27 counts two groups of six corvettes allocated to U.S. Coastal escort as additional to Western local. I understand this is incorrect as corvettes of Two A groups withdrawn on reduction of Mid Ocean groups from fourteen to twelve were absorbed in Western local or other R.C.N. commitments.

3. Offer to reduce Mid Ocean escort groups to ten has not again been put to Admiral King pending your comment on C.N.S. Canada's 1650/27 which expresses disagreement with proposal to reduce the number of Mid Ocean groups below eleven. C.N.S. Ottawa is not sending a representative here at present but I will ask him to do so, or send an officer to Ottawa, if you wish matter re-opened there. This I could do in order to accelerate starting date of proposed developments reported in para three of B.A.D. 1541/30.

4. Rear Admiral Kauffman until recently U.S. Rear Admiral in Iceland (C) who is a vigorous and co-operative personality, is to take over the seventh naval district and the Gulf Sea Frontier with headquarters in Miami. This should prove to be a valuable appointment. (B.A.D. Washington 1755Z/30 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

878 A.

lion 30/5

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1032Z/31st May.
IN

From B.M.A.M.D. Washington.

Date 31.5.42.
Recd. 1425

Naval Code X. by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty,

IMPORTANT.

525. Your 0920B/31.

Correct time of origin of reference
quoted to read 2345Z/11.

1032Z/31.

* War Registry signal requesting verification
of reference quoted in B.A.D's 1541Z/30 re
convoys between N.W.I. (Aruba and Curacao)
and Halifax etc.

1st Lcd

1st S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

L.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (H)

L.C.N.S. (F) (2)

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.C.D. (H) (2)

D.C.D. (F) (2)

D.C. (2)

D.D.I.C.

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

D.A/S.W.

D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M.

D.N.I. (4)

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of Air

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Admiral Cunningham

Admiral Blake.

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30.5.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Contd.

- O.N. 97. Western local escort Task Unit No. 24.18.4. VERITY (S.O.) CHARLOTTETOWN, HALIFAX, COWICHAN, escorting W.O. (?N) 97 S.S. FORT AMHERST joining in 044° 44' N. 051° 03' W. at 1800Z/2/6. (F.O.N.F., 1435Z/30, to T.U. 24.1.16).
- T.O. 3. Sail) WARWICK escorting T.O.3 E.T.A. Curacao 1100Z/1/6. PIMPERNEL sailing to join Convoy 12 hours late. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1502Q/30, to C.A.F.A.C.(R) Comcarib, Admty. etc.).
- NORSEMAN Cable ship NORSEMAN expects to sail 10/6 has orders to proceed to position 20 miles S.E. Barbados to effect cable repairs. In view of present submarine situation should ship proceed? (B.R.O. Trinidad, 1534Q/30, to Admty). Reply, Admty. 1607/1.
- U.S. Coastal Convoys. My 2321/11. Present intentions for development of convoy system are follows. (B.A.D. 1541Z/30 to Admty amended 1032Z/31) See Lion Copy. Your 0205/27. U.S. proposals for solution of Gulf of Mexico problems. (B.A.D. 1755Z/30 to Admty). See Lion Copy.
- DARINA British ship DARINA sunk by torpedo and gunfire 500 miles east of Bermuda 1755 ship's time 20/5. C.Bs. sunk in steel box. My 1707/30th with nominal list of survivors follows. 36 missing last seen 21/5 in 2 lifeboats. (B.R.O. Norfolk. 1706Z/30, to Admty.(R) N.S.H.Q.).
- Halifax Situation Reports. Areas to be covered from 1/6. (N.S.H.Q. 1739Z/30 to Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.
- U/B Positions. 30/5 S/M. estimate. (C.in C. U.S.Fleet, 1815/30, 1833/30, 1845/30, 1859/30 to Admty.).
- Ice bulletin 30/5. (C.T.F. 24 1845/30 to Opanav etc.).
- Independent Ships. Your 2023/28, No. alteration made or intended to general rule that independent sailing of ships in N. Atlantic is limited to those of 15 knots and above. With development of U-Boat attacks in West Atlantic and pending introduction of convoy in this area, certain selected ships of slightly lesser speed have been sailed independently from Panama direct to U.K. when this appeared safer than routing to Halifax for convoy. Wording of Masta 2508 and 2289 was misleading. If INSELIN and BRACONDA are

/capable ...

SECRET

MESSAGE

1739Z/30 May

IN

FROM: N.S.H.Q. Ottawa

Date 31.5.42

Recd. 0214

879A AWI

Naval Cypher M by W/T

ADDRESSED. Admiralty C. in C. U.S. Fleet U.S.C.N.O.
Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches C.O.A.C.
Halifax 439 F.O.N.F. C. in C. America and
West Indies C.E.S. Commander Task Force 24
Com. Aircraft Atlantic Fleet (U.S)

IMPORTANT

556 Commencing first June C.O.A.C. Halifax's
2000Z daily situation report will cover following areas.
042 degs. north to 055 degs north and 047 degs west
to 070 degs west.

(2) In order to reduce decyphering by escort
vessels the above area will be divided into 3 sections
defined as follows. Section east. Area east of 059
degs west. Section south west. Area west 059 degs
west and south of 046 degs north. Section north west.
Area west of 059 degs west and north of 046 degs north.

(3) The 2000Z situation report for each above
section will be transmitted as separate signal. The
text of each will commence with name of section concerned.

(4) The above signals will be broadcast on broadcast
L and address will consist of "From C.O.A.C. Halifax"
only. These signals will also be passed by C.O.A.C.
Halifax to Admiralty C. in C. U.S. Fleet U.S. Chief of
Naval Operation N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C. in C. America and
West Indies C E S F. C.C.N.F. and COMTASK 24 to read
broadcast L.

(5) Admiralty is requested to promulgate as "A.E"
message stating that these messages are to be understood
as being situation reports at 2000 G.M.T. and that all
positions are north and west.

1739Z/30

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1 S.L.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5) for action
O.D. 8
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
U.S.N. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of P. (3)
File X

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War Diary.30.5.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. Com T's.Independent
Ships
Contd.

capable of $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots it is considered that they could be sailed independently as a special exception.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1959B/30 to B.A.D.) Reply: B.A.D. 1557/1.

Working Up
Base.

Your 2251/20. Approved to establish A/S working up base at Bermuda, and to carry out main proposals in para. 2 (a), (b) and (c).
(V.C.N.S., 2001B/30, to C.in C.A.W.I.(R) B.A.D. etc).
My 2001/30. Request U.S. Navy Dept. be informed of proposals with emphasis on para. 4 of C.in C. A.W.I. 2251/20.
(V.C.N.S. 2005B/30 to B.A.D.).

A.T. 16.

This is Port Director New York 1735/30.
1. 12.5. knots. 2. 2130 G.C.T/31. Western Track position code letter U. 3. No Momp. 4. U.S.S. NEW YORK, MAYO, NIBLACK, BENSON, ERICSSON, EBERLE, (note, EBERLE, ERICSSON attach Halifax) U.S.S. GLEAVES, LIVERMORE, KEARNY join at Halifax. 5. U.S.S. MUNARGO, U.S.A.T. SIBONEY, U.S.A.T. THOMAS, BARRY (note U.S.S. DELTA S.S. DUCHESS OF YORK, S.S. BATTERY, join at Halifax). 6. 1, U.S.S. DELTA. 7. E.T.A. Chebucto Head 1400 G.C.T. 2/6. 8. Estimated time of run between Halifax and Ocean Route position code letter J, 7 days 19 hours. (Cominch (C. and R) 2045Z/30 to Admty. etc.).

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

HALO sunk, 2 torpedoes near 29.45 N. 89.35 W. 0615Z/20. ALCOA CARRIER torpedoed shelled, presumed sunk 19° N. 80° W. 0115Z/26. ALCOA SHIPPER torpedoed 38.37 N. 67.20 W. 0831Z/30. WESTERN HEAD torpedoed 19.57 N. 74.18 W. 2325Z/28. TORNY possibly U-45 Type. Planes attack subs. 28.39 N. 89.26 W. 1710Z/29, 18.55 N. 77.42 W. 1828Z/29, 36.10 N. 75.06 W. 1900Z/29. Planes sight subs. 34.38 N. 75.45 W. approx. 1120Z/30, possibly damaged. 33.23 N. 79.04 W. 1415Z/30, possibly beached and damaged. Civilian plane sights sub. on surface 31.45 N. 80.53 W. 2210Z/29. Auxiliary vessel reports sub. contact 40.25 N. 73.47 W. 1150Z/30. M/V sights sub. 16.26 N. 78.34 W. 2140Z/29. Sub. reported 25.34 N. 80.03 W. 1008Z/30. Sub. sighted 18.43 N. 81.05 W. 1918Z/30.
(Cominch 2046/30, to Admty. for O.I.C.).

Shipping
Routes.

Modify C.E.S.F. 1541/28 (N.T. in W.R.) Ships sailing from E. Coast North of Chesapeake for Puerto Rico, Inchcolm, E. Coast South America, South and West Africa, shall utilize Coastal protection to Chesapeake and may proceed thence by diversified routes to destination in accordance with M.A.R.I. (?leaving) Chesapeake at Daylight. Ships from Ports South of Chesapeake may leave by diversified routes for above mentioned destination in accordance with M.A.R.I. departing at daylight.
(Connav 2052/30, to all Eastern Sea Frontiers etc).

/MARGOT

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War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. conts.-

MARGOT.

My 2126/23 MARGOT torpedoed 22/5.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2059Z/30).

PARTHIAN.

My 1603/29. PARTHIAN has returned to Bermuda with further defects.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2202P/30 to Admty., etc.)

U.S. Navy
Radio.

Request whether Admty. have been fully informed by N.D.R.C. Liaison in London of U.S. Navy's intended plan for covering North Atlantic by long range navigational system.

(2) Understood from Navy Dept. that the system is being developed by N.D.R.C. and planned for installation during this summer.

(3) To make the system complete Navy Dept. will require sending station at suitable places on West Coast of British Isles and have stated verbally that equipment for these stations would be available from U.S. resources.

(B.A.D., 2247Z/30 to Admty.)

Japanese
Threat to
Alaska.

Information received from 13th Naval District that Japanese Task Force consisting of 8 heavy cruisers with destroyer escort accompanied by 2 converted A/C carriers and supply train sailed 28/5, objective believed to be Alaska and/or Midway

Island. U.S. Force not yet concentrated, vide my 2304/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa only. U.S.S. NASHVILLE has arrived Alaska waters and hoisted flag of R.A. Theobald who (? arrived) in destroyer. Understood that Alaska may be placed under a military governor. At least 6 U.S. submarines are en route to Alaska Waters or present at this time. Gen. Buckner has requested R.C.A.F. send one bomber squadron and one fighter squadron immediately to Yakutat, and additional fighter squadron to be based at White Horse to reinforce as required if situation deteriorates. No word has been received from U.S. Station at Atka for 48 hours and anxiety is expressed regarding possibility that this station may already have been captured.

(C.O. Pacific Coast, 2345Z/30 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Arminto?, A.O.C. W.A.C., passed Admty. for info.)

War Diary.

30.5.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

3 ships aground. 29/5 SS. ROAMER. M.V. PANSCANDIA. Norwegian SS. BELTANA aground Central Banks, Moreton Bay. (D.N.O. Queensland, Brisbane, 0005Z/30.)

- Situation. Serial number 128 from C.W.R. 29/5.
3 Hudsons attacked Dilli 1615Z/28. Direct hits on Port Louis.
2. 2 B.17s attacked docks at Rabaul Harbour 1540Z. Bombs between coal jetty and new wharf, 2 fires started. Light inaccurate A/A fire. Impossible to assess shipping in harbour.
 3. Estimate 18 Zero fighters in 3 formations attempted raid on Port Moresby 29/5. Intercepted by 17 Aircobras over Hood Bay (50 miles S.E. of Port Moresby) 2350Z/28. 3 Zeros certain, 2 very probably destroyed, 3 others badly damaged. 1 Aircobra missing.
 4. Air R/C 29/5 report 28 unidentified (? amphibians) in vicinity of Ewab Island (70 miles W. of Aru Island.)
 5. British ship ANGLO MAERSK reported suspicious vessel followed her at 02(?)Z/29th in 030° 10' S. 089° 31' E.
 6. Enemy S/M sighted in 017° 52' S. 164° (708') E. at 2223Z/27 course southerly.
 7. Enemy report is Finschaffon Harbour as hideout for shipping but no landings (? yet) effected.
 8. Unidentified aircraft reported over Drysdale Mission at 1030Z/27.
 9. 7 heavy bombers reported Pemma (Papua) flying south 23(?)Z/28 and Wuwu (Papua) 0015Z/29, course N. Possibly intended attacking Port Moresby but stopped by weather. (A.C.N.B., 1430Z/30 to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1428B/30, 1430B/30.)

War Diary.

31.5.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

S.B.N.O. North Russia asks for a self-contained hospital ship to be sent if convoys to North Russia are to be continued on the present scale.

NELSON (to join the Eastern Fleet), ARGUS (with fighter aircraft for Malta) and 4 destroyers, escorting convoy W.S. 19P left the Clyde this evening.

British Air Operations.

Over 1000 aircraft of Bomber Command were despatched to attack Cologne last night. No signal with regard to returning friendly bombers was made to S.O.T.L.D.F. until 0357, and a number of our planes passing over the Thames Estuary were fired at.

Two minesweepers were damaged and driven ashore and an armed trawler was sunk today near Walcheren, by Spitfires of Fighter Command.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy aircraft were over the Thames Estuary last night; it is thought they were intercepting our returning bombers, but there may have been some minelaying.

War Diary.

31.5.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

6 Wellingtons made a damaging attack on Messina from 2030 to 2128; it is thought that the commercial oil tanks were hit.

East Indies.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet sends a message today regarding deficiencies in R.D/F in WARSPITE and ILLUSTRIOUS, owing to which it will be necessary to initiate standing fighter patrols when the presence of enemy aircraft may be expected. The fighter strength is already inadequate.

Australia.

Enemy midget submarines, probably ~~3~~ 4 in number attacked vessels in Sydney harbour at 1420Z today. H.M.A.S. KUTTABULL (Depot ship) was torpedoed and sunk. ~~4~~ Two of the enemy S/MS were sunk.

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

H.F. My 1130B/26 will come into force at 0900B/1st
 Destroyer June.
 organisation. (R.A.D., 1754/31 to Admty.)

Hospital Ship If convoys to North Russia are to be continued
 or Hospital on present scale number of casualties requiring
 for North hospital treatment must be expected to increase
 Russia. well beyond present high level. Russian
 Authorities give our men equal if not better
 treatment than their own, but their methods
 are below our standard and I feel that our men
 are enduring much greater suffering than should be necessary.
 A hospital ship equipped to deal with at least 100 cases is
 an unostentatious necessity, but if this cannot be provided
 a British or American hospital unit of similar capacity should
 be sent out at the first opportunity and a hospital established
 ashore at the convoy terminus.
 Supplies of hospital stores are very difficult to obtain in
 North Russia. Unit should therefore be self-contained both in
 personnel and all stores.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2046B/31 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Yarmouth and Your 2154B/30. Replacement of all A.A.
 Lowestoft previously in area not possible.
 A/A Guns. Fighter Command are giving consideration to
 partial replacement.
 (A.C.N.S. (H.), 1600B/31 to C. in C. Nore.)
 My 1600B/31. Instructions have been issued for
 move to Yarmouth of four 3" ex Norwich.
 (D.L.D., 1848B/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

Movements.

O. 9. Your 1012/30. ^{/N.T. & W.D.} Propose O.9 calls at Dundee for
 disembarkation of torpedoes and ammunition.
 (Capt. S.9, 0920/31 to Capt. S.7.)

MATCHLESS. Request you will sail MATCHLESS for Scapa
 forthwith.
 (R.A.D., 1005B/31 to A.C.I.C.)

LEDBURY, Scapa arrivals 0615 BLACK RANGER and LEDBURY.
 BLACK (A.C.O.S., 1028/31.)
 RANGER.

AURORA. When ready for sea AURORA should be sailed for
 Scapa to work up.
 (D.O.D. (H.), 1314B/31 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

P. 614. Arrival P. 614.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1413B/31.)

BRAMBLE, Kola Inlet arrival BRAMBLE, MARTIN, LEDA, SEAGULL,
MARTIN, LEDA, GOSSAMER.
SEAGULL, (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1445B/31.)
GOSSAMER.

SPEEDY, Request you will sail these vessels in accordance
HEBE. with Admiralty 1345/30. Route as follows:
(S) 270° Oversay 6 miles. (T) 055° 20' N.
010° 01' W. (U) 048° 58', 015° 30'. (V) 043°
02' 015° 20'. Thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(C. in C. W.A., 1445B/31 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
A.M. 1345/30. HEBE and SPEEDY are each to complete to 1500
R.P.G. Oerlikon ammunition on arrival at the Clyde.
(D.G.D., 1627B/31.)

CAIRO. A.M. 0022B/27. Request you sail CAIRO June 3rd
to comply. Route via Irish Sea and Q.Z.F. 18 to
(A) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles. (B) 048° 01' N.
015° 03' W. (C) 042° 58' N. 015° 05' W. Thence
as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(C. in C. W.A., 1502B/31 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

KENYA. Scapa arrival KENYA.
(A.C.O.S., 1519/31.)

URED. Adjust speed so as to arrive Lerwick 0800B/1st.
0.10. 0.10 will be east of Muckle Flugga about 2300B/31
bound for Lerwick.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1551B/31.)

O. 14. Intend sailing O.14 escorted by M.L. at 1930/1st
to R/V and onward passage to Dundee in accordance
with your 1057B/31. ^{HT. R. H.D.}
(A.C.O.S., 1640/31 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

PIORUN. My P.C.S. at 2000Z/31 054° 23' N. 015° 40' W.
(?) 332°, 18 knots.
(PIORUN, 1732Z/31.)

BEDOUI. Sailed my 1050B/29 at 1935. ^{/N.T.W.D.}
(F.O. Humber, 1945B/31.)

/RODNEY ...

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

RODNEY.

A.M. 1900/17. RODNEY is not to sail until further orders.
(D.O.D. (H.), 2033B/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

→ H. 34.

My 1255/31. H. 34 escorted by MANOR sailed 2110/31 for exercises. E.T.A. D.1 Buoy in Q.Z.S. 347 0830/1.
2. H.34 escorted by JAN VAN GELDER proceeding thence to Rothesay, E.T.A. 1500/3.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2110B/31.)

Operations.N.W. Norway
S/M Patrol.

Your 1809/30. Propose to cancel the existing K.20 to K.34 inclusive and substitute an area 25 miles either side of a line joining 069° 01' 007° 58' and 071° 40', 017° 20'. This area to be sub-divided into 10 patrol zones, each 25 miles long, numbered from southward to northward K.35 to K.44 inclusive.
(F.O.S., 1013B/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation
"Foxrock".

Operation "Foxrock". Destroyers May 31st CALPE, FERNIE, BERKELEY. 1st June CALPE, ALBRIGHTON, BERKELEY. Leaving Portsmouth Gate 1900.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1037B/31.)

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

Request you sail from Hvalfjord as necessary to relieve CUMBERLAND on patrol "White".
R/V in 065° 30' N. 024° 40' W. at 0500Z/2nd.
On relief CUMBERLAND returns to Hvalfjord.
(RENOWN, 1113B/31 to TUSCALOOSA.)

Exercises.

→ H. 34.

One submarine and A/S trawler will be exercising in area C off Plymouth between 2300/31 and 0500/1, proceeding thence to D.1 buoy. E.T.A. 0930/1.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1155B/31.)

British Air Activity.Fleet R/C
from 13/5.

S. 209/6. Following is repetition our Ops. 98 13/5 to 15, 16, 18, 19 Groups. Fleet R/C is to be in force from 1600/13/5. All A/C of 16 and 19 Groups and Hudsons of 15 Group will continue on trade protection or normal roles under group control.
(H.Q.C.C., 0100B/31 to Air Ministry, Admty.)

/Bombing ...

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - Contd.

- Bombing restrictions. From 0100/1 to 0600/3 institute submerged bombing restrictions in area bounded by 43° and 46° and 11° 30' and 13° 30'.
(H.Q.C.C., 1147/31 to R.A.F. Gibraltar.)
- Bombing operations. Day 30th May. No operations.
Night 30/31st May. For the first time in the history of aerial warfare, over 1000 A/C set out to attack a single target. Cologne was the objective and Bomber Command supplied the total force detailed. Weather was clear and bright when a force of 1091 A/C set out. Of this total 1,042 A/C, including 338 heavies, were detailed for Cologne. The remaining 49 A/C set out to attack several night-fighter aerodromes in the neighbourhood of the target. In addition, Fighter Command supplied 39 A/C for aerodromes en route. From reports so far received 859 A/C claim to have reached Cologne. Reports appear to confirm the general impression of crews that a large part of Cologne was devastated. 41 of our A/C failed to return. 34 Blenheims attacked night-fighter aerodromes and 2 of these are missing.
(H.Q.B.C., 1500/31.)
- Thames Estuary. During night 30/31 a large number of our own A/C were passing over the Thames Estuary, but no signal as to returning friendly Bombers was made until 0357 and a number of friendly planes appear to have been fired at.
(S.O. T.L.D.F., 1814B/31.)
- Enemy Air Activity.
- Shetlands. Junkers 88 flew from W. to E. over Sullom Voe at 15,000 feet at 0910/31. Visibility was good.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1207B/31.)
- Scapa Flow. At 1945 enemy A/C carried out R/C of Scapa Flow in good visibility from 25,000 feet.
(A.C.O.S., 2001/31.)
- Murmansk. Bombing town and docks continuing, but only important damage to timber wharf which is being rapidly repaired.
(Cormeck, 2015B/31.)
- Mining.
- S.N. 72. Your 1931B/28, para. 3. Intend ships at Hvalfjord to remain at one hour's notice for steam during operation.
(RENOWN, 1109B/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

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War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Q.S. 8. Cancel my 1204/28 (not to SALTASH.)
(C. in C. Nore, 1159B/31 to M.S.4.)

Thames Hostile A/C were over the Thames Estuary between
Estuary. 2350 and 0120. At 0054 ARISTOCRAT reports a
parachute mine as having fallen near B.6 buoy and
at 0035 and 0200 explosions resembling mines were
seen near the Shingles Area. Most patrol ships heavily engaged
planes which appear to have been hostile between about 0035 and
0100 and two are thought to have been hit near B.4 and B.6 buoys
respectively.

Reports from the gun operations room suggest that the group of
12 hostile planes operating over the Estuary are more likely to
have been intercepting than minelaying but reports from ships
tend to show that there may have been minelaying. Hostile
planes were generally at about 5000 feet though our own friendly
planes were often at a very low altitude.
(S.O. T.L.D.F., 1814B/31.)

Enemy Intelligence.

North Russians report one S/M in each of the following
Norway. positions, 28th May, 72° 42' 25° 40', 73° 25'
28° 30', 73° 07' 33° 40', 73° 48' 32° 40' one
S/M 40 miles north of Vetopachti (N.W. point of
Ribaemi Peninsula.) Unknown number of merchantmen left Kirkenes.
Fin region of Porsanger Fiord one 11,000-ton M/V with six escort
vessels, course 200°. On 29/5, one S/M in each of following
positions, 72° 00' 33° 41', 72° 04' 33° 10', 72° 30' 34° 30',
71° 56' 26° 08', 72° 42' 33° 36', 72° 36' 31° 59'. At 1100C/29
and 0115C/30 unknown number of M/Vs left Kirkenes to westward.
On 30/5, one S/M in 72° 14' 34° 20'.
(Ad. Miles, 1556C/31 to Admty.)

NORDVARD. A.M. 2223B/29. Appearance and dimensions of
NORDVARD same as Norwegian SS. FERNHILL but bow
may be slightly raked and topmasts cut down.
(D.D.I.C., 1645B/31.)

HIPPER. Photographic R/C Trondheim at 1210B/31.
Obliques show HIPPER in Lofjord. Other berths
obscured by cloud.
(D.D.I.C., 1821B/31.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy S/M in 58° 14' N. 13° 10' W.
reported. Enemy previously reported.
(A.O.C. 15 Group, 0715/31.)
See also Enemy Intelligence.

/U-Boat ...

War Diary.

31.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

U-Boat attacked. Am rejoining at 25 knots. U-Boat in 62° 21' N. 17° 54' W., probably damaged.
(NEWARK, 1759B/31.)
(C. in C. W.A., 2016B/31 to SARDONYX.)

My 1759. U-Boat was attacked 5 times submerged between 1420 and 1720. Result slight oil traces and 2 unexplained explosions. U-Boat used small turn circle and good evasive action speed up to 5 knots. Expect to be back in 62° 21' N. 17° 54' W. by 2240.
(NEWARK, 2141B/31.)
NEWARK's 2141B/31. Have searched in vicinity without result and am proceeding.
(INTREPID, 2359B/31 to A.C.I.C.)

Navigational.

Danger Area. Danger area exists until 7th June owing to depth charges in sunken aircraft within 200 yards radius of Buoy in N. 25° W. one mile from Maiden Island.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1000B/31.)

Technical.

Anglo-Soviet Recognition. At 0001 G.M.T. 1st July 1942 recommence S.Ps 02291J 02292J and 02297J, with July as first month as basis of Anglo-Soviet Recognition in Arctic Ocean between 15° E. and 100° E. Details.
(D.S.D., 1224B/31.)

Casualties and Defects.

BLACKMORE. Capt. D. Greenock's 2214/30. It is proposed to bring BLACKMORE up river as soon as ship has de-fuelled to 50%. Examination will be carried out on arrival and after ship has been placed in dry dock on 3 or 4/6.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0923B/31.)

OCEAN VOICE, OCEAN VOICE bombed at sea. One hold has hole 20 feet by 12 feet starboard above waterline.
EMPIRE Wind damaged number one derrick fason (sic) to
BAFFIN, bridge. No serious casualties.
EMPIRE EMPIRE BAFFIN bombed at sea. Bomb carried away
STARLIGHT. boats and davits but burst over side. Some
damage as result of concussion including tunnel and
number 2 winch. Docking not necessary.
EMPIRE STARLIGHT both number one and 2 holds now flooded also
forepeak.
(Cormack, 2015B/31 to Admt.)

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War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q. 16. We congratulate all concerned on their magnificent exploit in fighting Convoy P.Q. 16 through to North Russia in the face of all the enemy could do in the air and at sea.

2. Request this may be passed to the Commodore, Officers and Men of the Allied Merchant Navies and Allied Forces concerned. (1st S.L., 0234B/31 to C. in C. H.F., A.O.C. in C. C.C.)
Your 1017/30.

(1) Approximately 130 dive-bombers and bombing A/C and 36 torpedo A/C attacked P.Q. 16 between 25th and 30th May. 1 ship sunk by U-Boat. 6 ships sunk as result of air attack. Approx. 15 depth charge attacks carried out by own destroyers.

(2) Submarines were forced to remain on the surface during prolonged air attacks in order to keep with convoy. SEAWOLF had $1\frac{1}{2}$ knots in hand only on (? convoy).

(3) 3 deliberate dive-bombing attacks made on SEAWOLF. 1 salvo very close as submarines dived. No damage. No deliberate attack on TRIDENT. Consider this due to fact that TRIDENT had speed to remain close to convoy and was not therefore noticed.

(4) Consider submarine with surface speed less than 13 knots too slow for escort and too slow to be effective against main units.

(5) Position astern generally complicated by stragglers, and submarine very open to U-Boat and torpedo A/C attacks. Consider it essential submarine to be nearer head of convoy, preferably 1 on each beam.

(6) 6 Russian fighters escorted convoy for last 30 miles but 2 heavy dive-bomber attacks made during this period without aerial fight.

(7) Consider 1 A/C definitely destroyed, about 5 probable, and many damaged. TRIDENT fired 50 rounds 4-inch high explosive mostly barrage, 1 at least of which forced torpedo-bombers to drop torpedoes well out of range.

(8) TRIDENT sank ALAMAR damaged and abandoned by C.C.R. when set to (?) very weak contact.

(9) Co-operation of escort and convoy excellent and I consider their confidence in ability of submarines to deal with main units materially assisted morale.

(SEAWOLF, 0941B/31 to F.O.S.)

Ocean Escort P.Q.16. Following is percentage of outfit remaining and approx. requirements to complete. Details.

(2) Until these deficiencies can be made good these ships are ineffective as A/A escorts.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1444B/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Add to my 0941B/31. SEAWOLF expended 55% and TRIDENT 20% fuel.

(SEAWOLF, 1806B/31 to F.O.S.)

S.B.N.O. North Russia 1901/30. Has RETRIEVER arrived.

(D.O.D. (H.), 1921B/31 to A.C.I.C.)

Your 1921B/31. S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1903/30. RETRIEVER returned Iceland because unable to keep up with P.Q. 16.

(A.C.I.C., 2321B/31 to Admty.)

Everything possible being done by all concerned to meet difficulty of accommodation and feeding over 300 survivors.

(Cormack, Murmansk, 2015B/31 to Admty.)

War Diary.

31.5.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

F.N. 722.

F.N. 722 and destroyers on patrol have to keep one mile South-west of Centre Line of Channel between 57 and 56 Buoy.

2. Patrol Destroyers may disregard these instructions if in contact with the enemy.
(C. in C. Nore, 1106B/31.)

Q.P. 12.
ULSTER
QUEEN.

I congratulate ULSTER QUEEN on her excellent work in Northern Waters.

You took a great part in saving the high percentage of the Convoy which arrived safely at its destination. The shooting down of so many A/C was a fine achievement and reflects great credit on all concerned.

(C. in C. W.A., 1250B/31 to ULSTER QUEEN.)

W.S. 19P.

My 1514B/29 May sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2014B/31.)

War Diary31.5.1942.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticSpanish
Shipping,
Blockade

Your 1300B/26 and 1659B/29 (1649B intended).
If you raise tonnage to 2000 tons gross I can
promise daily signal containing desired information
for all oversea and coastal vessels North of Vigo
but cannot guarantee exact accuracy.

If tonnage to 2500 tons gross I believe daily signal will be
exactly accurate and in this case Spaniards are prepared to abide
by information supplied by them to me. In other words if Coastal
Command sink a ship not included they appreciate they cannot
complain. Information if practicable as outlined in para. 4 and 5
of your 1314/11.

(B.N.A. Madrid 1131/31 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A., B.N.A.Lisbon
as amended 1818/1)

German A/C
and British
Trawler

Engagement reported between German A/C and British
Trawler P.M. 30th off Cape Roca (B.2)
(B.N.A.Lisbon 1140B/31 to S.O.I. Gibraltar (R)Admty)

Situation
Report

Disposition of H.M. Ships 2001B/31
(F.O.C.N.A. 1250/31 to A.I.G.62)
See Lion Copy.

Vichy and
Italian
Shipping

Following extract from Fairmiss Telegram:
French ship COETLOGON, Italian ship MARO CROCE.
(Barcelona 1253/31 to D. of S.T.)

EAGLE,
CHARYBDIS
exercises

Intend sailing EAGLE escorted by CHARYBDIS and
4 destroyers on 1/6 for exercises.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1448B/31 to Admty. (R) EAGLE)

Bombing
restrictions

Ops. 201 31/5.
Serial number G103 following submerged bombing
restrictions are to be instituted.
(A) From 2100/31 to 2000/1 25miles either side of a
line joining Wolf Rock and 49° N. 06° W.
(B) From 0500/1 to 2100/2 25 miles either side of a line joining
49° N. 06° W. and 47° 46' N. 07° 50' W.
(C) From 0200/2 to 2200/3 25 miles either side of a line joining
47° 46' N. 07° 50' W. and 46° 36' N. 06° W.
(H.Q.C.C. 1542/31 to R.A.F. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.8)

DROTTNINGHOLM

Admiralty message 1803/5/5. DROTTNINGHOLM leaves
New York for Lisbon 3/6. Route and markings as
previously. Vessel should not be molested.
{Head of M. 1546B/31 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. A. & W.A
(R) H.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.

/LARGS....

MOST SECRET

893A.

~~MOST SECRET~~

MESSAGE 1250/31st May

IN

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 31.5.42
Recd. 1650

NAVAL CYBER (C) BY W/T

Addressed: ~~A.I.G. 63.~~

Situation 2001B/31.

~~IMPERIALIST~~

- (1) ~~H.M.S. UNBEATEN~~ 41° 48' 11" 48' 347° degs. Diving by day 8½ knots on surface 2 knots diving
- (2) ~~H.M.S. TORBAY~~ 41° 03' 12" 15' 344° degs. on surface at 10 knots.
- (3) MINNA off Cape St. Mary coastwise to Gibraltar 10.
- (4) ~~H.M.S. WELSHMAN~~ estimated 38° 28' 12" 08' through 36° 30' 09' 45' thence Gibraltar 16.
- (5) OG 84 (E) 38° 49' 13' 35' 123° degs. 8 ~~H.M.S. STORK.~~
- (6) ~~H.M.S. VIDETTE~~ expected escorting tanker KENTUCKY 35° 19' 17" 08' 082° degs. 15½.
- (7) One merchant ship ~~ROTHER~~, ~~H.M.S. ARMERIA~~ (E) 38° 04' 12" 34' through routed 30° 11' 31' thence ?(100° degs.) 11¼.
- (8) LOCH OSKAIG patrol off Lisbon.
- (9) IMPERIALIST patrol off Cape Roca.
- (10) Italian tanker ~~EGE~~ (~~TAIGETE~~) 25° 58' 17" 50' (?350° degs.) 9½ safe passage to Las Palmas.
- (11) ~~H.M.S. JONQUIL~~, ~~H.M.S. GERANIUM~~, ~~H.M.S. SPIREA~~ escorting 3 tanker sails 2200/31st through 180° degs. Carnero 5 miles and 35° 55' 06" thence 241° degs. 9 knots.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1250B/31 & A.I.G. 63)

~~Advance Copies D.C., D.O.D. (F), D.T.D.~~

A.C.H.S. (T)
A.C.H.S. (F) (2)
A.C.H.S. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C. (2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.D.C.D. (M)
D.D.L.C. (2)
D.T.D. (C)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (H)

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

LARGS (1) Part company in G and proceed to join convoy
O.S.29 O.S.29 during daylight 2/6 if possible.
(2) Estimated P.C. and S. of O.S.29 at 0800B/2/6
is 035° 40' N. 020° 27' W. 178° 8 knots routed
through position.
E. 027° 25' N. 020° 02' W.
F. 015° 00' 020° 30'
Y. 008° 45' 017° 32'
(3) From Y part company and proceed Freetown unless otherwise
ordered by R.A.W.Af.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1704B/31, as amended 2040B/31 to LARGS (R) Admty.,
R.A.W.Af., COLOMBO, Escorts of O.S.29)

R/C P.R.U. Gib. 1840Z/31.
Casablanca.

Fuelling. For G.S.A. Request arrangements may be made to
fuel the following ships: 5/6 DERWENT, amount
required 220 tons. 6/6 BEAGLE and DOUGLAS,
amount required 300 and 420 tons.
(F.O. Greenock 2018B/31 to British Consul, Ponta Delgada. (R)
C. in C.W.A., Admty., F.O.C.N.A. N.A. Lisbon)

NORDVARD Ex Norwegian NORDVARD expected to leave Bordeaux
U/B Supply shortly as U-Boat supply ship has same appearance
Ship. and dimensions as Norwegian steamship FERNHILL
see O U 6329 S number 149 but bow may be slightly
raked and top mast cut down.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2234B/31 to Ships and Authorities N.A.
Station, Negative West Patrol Trawlers and S.O.P.)

South Atlantic.

VITA Hospital ship VITA sailed 31/5 for Kilindini,
E/T/A 8/6 no personnel embarked.
(S.S.T.O. Durban, 1031Z/31, to D.S.T.O. Mombasa,
Admty., etc.)

Situation Dispositions of H.M. Ships 2000/31
Report. (R.A. West Africa 1115/31 to A.I.G.30) See
Lion Copy.

THYSVILLE 31st (?) BENAKAT ready 24 hours notice THYSVILLE(c)
(collision 15/6 if permanent repairs to collision damage are
30/5) made here. PULASKI (c) 20th.
(N.O.I.C. London 1152Z/31 to D.S.T., P.S.T.O.
Simonstown, etc.)

/My....

MOST SECRET

894A/

M E S S A G E.

1115/31st M.Y.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From R.A. West Africa.

Date. 31.5.42.

Recd. 1832.

Naval Cypher "M" by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 150.

IMPORTANT.

(Situation) 2000/31st all positions North and West, unless otherwise ordered.

W.S. 19 W. H.M.S. *WIVERN, H.M.S. VELOX off Freetown 005 degs. 03' 016 degs. 30' 148 degs. 25.

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, 3 escorts with L S 6 off Freetown.

H.M.S. PICT CANNA, on patrol sector T.

H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE about 004 degs. 55' 017 degs. 55' to (?004 degs.) 45' 016 degs. 50' thence (?148 degs.) 17.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, H.M.S. VIOLET with O S (S) 28 002 degs. 30' 016 degs. 45' to 001 degs. 01' 016 degs. 30' (?steering) thence to Freetown 12½.

H.M.S. HECLA, 3 escorts with S T 24 002 degs. 30' 008 degs. 10' to Takoradi 7½.

F S COMMANDANT DETROYAT about 003 degs. 30' 002 degs. 40' to west 8.

H.M.S. RUMBA 005 degs. 15' 001 degs. 55' East to Lagos (Nigeria) 5.

BUSHWOOD, 3 trawlers 003 degs. 01' 004 degs. 35' to Walvis Bay 7.

H.M.S. CARLISLE 007 degs. 30' 011 degs. 05' to Pointe Noire 14.

H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE about (?000 degs.) 25' South 019 degs. 15' to 003 degs. 38' South 011 degs. 38' 17.

1115/31

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D. (F) & D.M.D.

V.C.H.S.

A.C.N.S. (M)

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

N.A. to 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.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. (3)

D.T.D. (M)

D.N.I. (4)

D.G.D. (2)

C.

War Diary

31.5.1942.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic contd.:-

THYSVILLE (contd.) My 1451/30. Principal above water damage to THYSVILLE. Estimated time 14 days required to repair. Above water damage to BENAKAT. Estimated time required to repair 30 days. Underwater damage not examined by diver. Improbable any underwater damage to THYSVILLE but one propeller of BENAKAT may have struck boom defence float. (N.O.I/c E.London 1931Z/31 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown (R) D.S.T. etc.)

W.S. 19 P. BLACKMORE W.S.19 P. BLACKMORE delayed by defects. 2. Request you will sail 1 destroyer to fuel at Ponta Delgada and R/V convoy W.S.19 P. in E. at daylight on 6/6 and act as additional A/S escort to Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1155/31 to R.A.W.Af. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. NELSON)
A.M. 1155B/31 * WIVERN sailed 1418Z/31 Bathurst for fuel. Will arrive Ponta Delgada p.m.5/6 and then R/V with W.S.19 P. as ordered
WIVERN endurance 2200 miles when escorting a 13 knot convoy. (R.A. West Africa 1505Z/31 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A. NELSON) * See Medicine Rept.

CYCLAMEN Sailed CYCLAMEN for Diego Suarez routed through following positions: A 029° 15' S. (? 32° or 34° 20' E. B 016° 00' S. 042° 40' E. C 011° 45' S. 047° 48' E. S. of A. 8 knots till 0800/1 then 13 knots. E/T/A 0600C/6. Shifting to Group V W/T organisation at 1600Z/2 (N.O.I.C. Durban 1501Z/31 to Admty., S.O.Force F, C.in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, S.O.I. Kilindini, S.O.I. Colombo) See also p. 899A.

DIOMEDE My 1323/30 (N.T. in W.D.) Trials show no defects improvement. Considered advisable only to use this engine when essential. Have therefore cancelled patrol and am returning to harbour to await instructions. Work should be carried out by large and experienced firm. Capabilities of Rio de Janeiro not known but consider Montevideo facilities including docking which might be essential inadequate. (DIOMEDE 1620/31 to C.T.F.23. (R) C. in C. A. & W.A. U.S.C.N.O., S.O.I. Montevideo, A.L.U.S.N.A. Montevideo)

VOLENDAM VOLENDAM speed reduced to 12½ knots. Intend to sail her independently for U.K. 1/6. No escort available. Alternative is to retain her till S.L. sails on 4/6 and for her to be detached from convoy north of Verde (R.A.West Africa 1723Z/31 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. D. of S.T.)

ALCANTARA HURSLEY BELVOIR ALCANTARA with HURSLEY, BELVOIR rejoin W.S.19 after fuelling destroyers. Percentage fuel remaining 76 (ALCANTARA 2000Z/31 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. R.A.W.Af.)

/W.S.19 W....

War Diary

31.5.1942.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - contd.

W.S.19 W. Departure 31/5 W.S.19 W.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1934Z/31 to Admty, C. in C. S.A.)

Unidentified Ship Punta Arenas observer reports as follows:
(Begins) Ship probably tanker passed to Atlantic 30/5. (Ends)
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2057Z/31 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. S.O.I. Freetown, S.O.I. Kingston)

NEW BRUNSWICK sunk 21/5 Ref. N.C.S.I. 296.
(A) NEW BRUNSWICK
(B) 21/5 0029 36° 53' N. 22° 55' W.
(C) Thrown overboard
(D) As (C)
(E) Yes. 2200 fathoms.
(G) Master proceeding in O.S.28 sunk by 1 torpedo
All survivors landed Freetown.
(R.A.West Africa 2321Z/31 to Admty.)

?MONTENAL Sunk 21/5 Ref. N.C.S.I. 296.
(A) MONTREAL (?MONTENAL) 21/5 0027, 37° 41' N. 22° 45' W. (C) Thrown overboard. (D) as in (C)
(E) Yes. 2200 fathoms. (G) Master. Proceeding in Convoy O.S.28 sunk by 1 torpedo.
Survivors landed Freetown.
(R.A.West Africa 2322Z/31 to Admty.)

Mediterranean

U/B destroyed Their Lordships congratulate ERIDGE, HURWORTH and HERO on the destruction of a German U-Boat on 28/5/42.
U.565
(Capt. Rowbotham's list ref. 6843)
(D.A/S.W.* 0231B/31 to ships named) See p.813
* Approved by 1st S.L.

W.D.Note - No signal of this received in W.D. C. in C.Med. 2310C/28 para 3, portion deleted, possibly refers. ERIDGE, HURWORTH and HERO arrived Tobruk, 28/5 (C. & C.O.Tobruk 2358C/28)

Enemy Units P.C. and S. of 1 merchant ship, 1 destroyer at 0115C/31 033° 05' 017° 06' 115° 15 knots.
Capt. S.1. 0235C/31 to S/Ms on patrol)

/PROTEUS....

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

PROTEUS, By 2301C/1 established patrol as follows:
 TAKU, PROTEUS 035° 15' 020° 46',
 THORN. TAKU 035° 01', 020° 44',
 THORN 034° 38' 020° 45'.
 (Capt. S.I., 1221C/31 to S/Ms on patrol (R)
 201 N.C. Group). Cancelled See 1148C/1.

LISBOA Extract from a Fairmiss telegram:- German
 LISBOA to Marseilles.
 (Cartagena T.H.I., 1350/31).

Malta Sweeping up mines in approach channel to Grand
 Minesweeping Harbour and M.M. is progressing very slowly.
 WELSHMAN. From breakwater to distance of about one mile is
 thought to be fairly clear. More mines are
 known to be in channel further to seaward. They
 are laid in very shallow (about 4 feet) and sweep explosion
 obstructions are intermixed.

(2) My resources are now BERYL and 2 harbour launches with
 inadequate power and very little daytime sweeping gear.
 ROBUST unlikely to be ready before 6/6.

(3) Though I hope to clear some more water WELSHMAN must rely
 on P.Vs. for safe entry. Any helpful information will be
 signalled.

(4) BERYL is proceeding p.m. today close in shore to Marsaxlokk
 with LL Sweeper. TRUSTY STAR ahead and will sweep PORPOISE
 in there tonight, if all goes well.

(V.A. Malta, 1506B/31 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

Malta Air I. 336, 31/5. C.S.R. 30th 1500 hours. 6
 Report. Macchi 202s. 8 Spitfires up no combat.
 1612 hours (3?) Cant 1007 S.20 fighters. Luqa,
 small craters one Spitfire damaged, U.X.Bs. 1

Re. 2001 destroyed, 2 Cant 1007s 1 Re. 2001 damaged by 12
 Spitfires.

Night 30/31. 1 special Swordfish E-Boat search found nothing.
 2000 hours 6 raiders, damage, 1 Cant 1007 destroyed by Beaufighter
 2142 hours 2 raiders, 3 houses destroyed. 31st, 2 alerts.
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1845/31.)

Part 2.

Night 30/31. Wellington 8 shipping sweep 2157 hours. 1 M/V
 6000 tons, 2 D/Rs. 2333 hours, 1 M/V 6000 tons only 1 D/R
 077° Homs 166 miles course 135°, 15 knots. Bombs from 4000
 feet, near misses. 3 Albatrosses 2 Swordfish despatched to
 attack at extreme point of range did not find. 3 mark 2
 Wellingtons target Messina 2325 to 2345 hours, 1 returned
 engine trouble, other 2 bombed from 10,000 feet. 4000-lb bomb
 burst near oil tanks, other results unobserved owing smoke
 screen. 1 Hurricane did special task Sicily successfully.
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1858/31.)

/Possible ...

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Possible attack on Malta. Ref. V.A. Malta 2315/18. One of prisoners since his arrival in Egypt has mentioned that 1000 Italians and German troops now mustering Augusta for attack on Malta. They will be conveyed to within 3 miles of coast and then swim ashore in rubber suits if necessary underwater. Attack stated to be timed to take place at end of present moon.
(S.O.I. Med., 1850C/31 to S.O.I. Malta, (R) D.N.I.)
N.I.D. Comment. Considered that if the air attacks on Malta had succeeded in very materially reducing the Island's defences, a combined sea and air assault on the Island would have been carried out about this time.

→ THRASHER, C.A.F.O. 1278/41. (A) 16/5. (B) 5000 tons attacks on M/Vs. M/V possibly an A.M.C. escorted.
(J) Missed, flat calm sea, track seen and (? avoided) short ineffective counter attack.
(A) 19/5. (B) 3500 tons, heavily laden M/V. (J) 2 hits, sank instantly.
(Capt. S.1, 1903C/31 to Admty.)

SS. FRED. Admty. 1216/8/10/41 and my 1904/18/5/42. Greek SS. FRED at Port Said. Vessel patched and pumping commenced. Will probably be at anchor in present position until repair programme is arranged.
(Fleet Salvage Officer E. Med., 1915C/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH. Admty. 1216/8/10/41 and my 1800/13/4. American SS. SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH patched and pumped out. Awaiting weather moderating before towing to Suez.
(Supt. Salvage E.M., 1917C/31 to Admty.)

HAV. Admty. 1216/8/10/41 and my 1844/18/5/41. M/V HAV outside Port Said. About 1000 tons sound barley landed. Ship now flooded throughout and sinking in sand. Local committee M.W.T. considering position whether operations should be abandoned and reporting to London later.
(Fleet Salvage Officer E. Med., 1921C/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Situation Report 217. Western Desert. M.L. 5069 engaged 2 E-Boats off coast in 23° 40' E. at 2340/28. M.L. was reinforced by 2 M.C.Ps and enemy were driven off. Enemy tanks were reported trying to reach coast in longitude and attempt to fuel from sea may have been defeated.
2. Other patrols have been maintained nightly in Tobruk and Mersa Matruh areas. Considerable air activity in Tobruk area but no Naval damage.

3. Aircraft report bomb hit on U-Boat at 1800/31 in 32.23 N. 24.22 E. and also at 1845/29 in 32.08 N. 24.43 E.

4. Levant. Further minor T.B. attacks on shipping without (? results).

5. Central Med. ST. ANGELO mined and sunk at 1416/30 while minesweeping off Valetta Harbour.

→ 6. Submarines. THRASHER returned from patrol in Adriatic. At 0853/19 in 41° 01' N. 17° 16' E. heavily laden southbound unescorted ship of 3,500 tons was torpedoed and sunk. Many other targets seen but passed out of range. Publicity A.2.
(C. in C. Med., 2015C/31 to Admty.)

899

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

BM.19.

Sailing telegram.

(N.C.S.O. Bombay. 0455Z/31 to Admty.).

Departure 0307Z MARGUERITE with B.M.19. *See next page*0501Z. DEVONSHIRE. *See next page*

(S.O.I. Bombay 0506Z/31 to Admty etc).

Movements.

Summary No.43 (C. in C.E.I., 0545Z/31).

See Lion Copy.

ALBATROSS.

ALBATROSS with Walrus aircraft could be sent to you if urgently required but in view of your 1041Z/24 Part 2 do not intend to send her unless you so request.

(Dep.C. in C.E.F. 0827Z/31 to S.O. Force F. S.O. 3 B.S. C. in C.E.F., Admty.).

GUARDIAN.

GUARDIAN is embarking type B (1) indicator nets to capacity and will be sailing for Diego Suarez when ready. If you agree intend

that she shall lay nets in positions given for A/S boom in Admty. 1838B/24.

(Dep.C. in C.E.F. 0847Z/31, to S.O. Force F.(R) Admty. etc).

Martlets.

I should be grateful if special attention could be given to (a) ensuring supply of Martlets envisaged in your 1726 24th April. With

information at present available it appears unlikely this will be achieved (b) provision of Hurricane dive bombers. My 1047 29th April refers.

2. Need for improvement of R D/F is being dealt with separately.

(C. in C.E.F. 1511Z/31 to Admty.).

MANCHESTER.

CITY.

(Diego Suarez)

Your 1642Z/27. ^{/K.T.M.W.D.} Conditions wind and tide at entrance make your proposed minefield and Admty proposals impracticable. If survey shows depth, of water suitable it is intended to lay

minefield of 8 loops 5 cables inside proposed position of boom with guard loop 700 yards outside.

(MANCHESTER CITY 1535C/31, to C. in C.E.F.(R) D.T.M. Admty.).

BAARN.

Your 0820/29 BAARN.(D) arrived Basra.

(C. in C.E.F. 1705Z/31 to S.O.I Capetown (R) Admty. etc).

Air Attack
on Tananarive.

Force 121,945/31 (N.T. in W.D. see 1610/2/6).

/R.D.F....

SECRET.

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 31.5.42.
Time 1235

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed Ships and Authorities East Indies Station negative
C.B.C. Admiralty. C. in C. South Atlantic.
Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. F.O.C. Red Sea
Force. Cdre. i/c Durban.

IMPORTANT. AIDAC.

850. Movements summary Number 43 31st May.
Reference movements summary number 42. (i) E.S. PRINCE DE
LIEGE B.S. GRAAF VAN VLAANDEREN left Seychelles 30th May
sailing independently (iii) H.M.S. WHITEHAVEN arrived Aden
(x) BARLANE returned to Bombay (xii) H.M.A.S. BATHURST arrived
Colombo. H.M.S. *MARGUERITE leaves Bombay 31st May escorting
convoy to Colombo 13 and 14 H.M.S. ENTERPRISE and H.M.S.
EMERALD left Mombasa 30th May. Re movements summary number
41 15 H.M.S. CHITRAL arrived Mauritius. ** Sailed - See previous page.*

<u>Serial</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
(i)	H.M.S. FALMOUTH.	Addu Atoll 30/5	Colombo	-
(ii)	BARRIER, BARRICADE.	Addu Atoll 30/5	Seychelles 8/6.	-
(iii)	H.M.S. CYCLAMEN	Durban	Diego Suarez	- <i>Sup. 895</i>
(iv)	Du. ████ VAN GALEN	Durban 27/5	Diego Suarez	-
(v)	H.M.S. FOXHOUND	Durban 30/5	Mombasa 3/6	-
(vi)	H.M.S. FROBISHER	Diego Suarez 30/5	Durban 2/6	-
(vii)	H.M.S. ASTER	Colombo 31/5	Trincomalee 3/6	Escorting 3 ships
(viii)	H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE	Bombay 31/5	Mombasa 6/6	-
(ix)	Du. S/M K.15	Patrolling	Colombo 4/6.	-
(x)	H.M.S. CORFU	Bombay 28/5	Mombasa 2/6	-
(xi)	H.M.S. TRULANT	Malacca patrol 31/5	Colombo.	-

0545Z/31

Advance copies sent Ops. O.D. & Trade.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
Ops. (3)
O.D.8.
O.D. (5)
M. (2)
O.I.C.
Mails.
Movts.

I.P. (3)
W.D.
D. A/S W.
D.P.S.
D. of P. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
N.L.O: Australia House.
D.B.D.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
E.P.S.
FILE X.

900

31.5.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

R.D.F. Defects. My 1511Z/31 (N.T. in W.D.) para.2. During height calibration (?Test) with type 281 in WARSPITE and FORMIDABLE aircraft were lost between 75 and 40 miles at 15,000 feet and between 50 and 30 miles at 10,000 feet. Are these results normal, if not to what attributable?

(2) Lack of interrogator in WARSPITE and GAMBIA coupled with poor results when fitted seriously reduced value of R.D/F and efficiency of fighter direction. What action is being taken to improve matters in this respect?

(3) ILLUSTRIOUS type 281 receiving aerial has not been raised and her effective range does not exceed 30 to 40 miles

(4) Owing to above deficiencies in R D/F it will be necessary to initiate standing fighter patrols when presence of enemy aircraft may be expected. This is most wasteful and prevents already inadequate fighter strength being used to full advantage.

(5). Grateful if these matters are receiving very early attention.

(C. in C.E.F. 1945Z/31 to Admty (R) R.A.A. as amended 1001Z/5)

Eastern Fleet Your 1924/28. Request you will sail ships in Cruiser para 1 as proposed and indicate your intentions Refits. for ships in para.2 when you can. Destination of ships in para 1 will be signalled shortly and estimate of time for modernisation as soon as decision has been taken as to its extent.

(D.O.D.(F) 2314B/31 to C. in C.E.F.(R) C. in C.E.I.).

War Diary.31.5.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Convoy O.N.97. My 1435Z/30. Task Unit No.24.18.4 now joins in 044° 33' N. 052° 27' W. at 0900Z/2/6. (F.O.N.F., 0055Z/31, to T.U. No.24.1.16. (R) C. T.F.24, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C.U.S. Fleet, Admty., VERITY)

U/B U/Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 0410Z/1. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 0636/1, to S.O. Escort Units B.2., Task Unit 24.1.16, (R) Admty.)

EMPIRE FULMAR. Sailed EMPIRE FULMAR Baltimore arriving 6/6. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0852Q/31, to C.in C.A.W.I)

S. H. 8. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1200Z/31 to N.S.H.Q.,Admty.)

Overdue Ship. Your 1636R/27. Vessel received as KYMA. Is Dutch MEDEA intended. (D.T.D. 1205B/31 to S.O.I. Jamaica) Reply 1641/1.

WSC 85. Convoy sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 1221Z/31 to Admty.)

CALDWELL. Your 1658/30 (CALDWELL for Boston allocated Job NR.199 - N.T.in W.D.) Intend to sail CALDWELL escorting XB 23 1900Z/1/6.E/T/A Boston 2300Z/3/6. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1440Z/31, to B.A.R.M.).

O.T. and K.S. Convoys telegrams. C. in C. South Atlantic 1522/29 (N.T.in W.D.) Pass to C. in C. S.A., and S.O.I.'s of contiguous stations as required following items of O.T.Convoy sailing telegram, also extracts of K S Convoy dispersal signal as proposed in N.S.H.Q. 1709/30. to S.O.(I) Jamaica only..
(a) Reference number of Convoy.
(c) Names and destinations of ships sailed (to each station as required).
(g) Point of dispersal.
(h) Expected time of dispersal.
(C. in C,A.W.I., 1513P/31 to S.O.I. Jamaica (R) Admty., etc.)

U/Bs. 31/5 S/Ms estimated. (Cominch, 1705/31, 1915/31, to Admty.)

Algiers. Meter. Intelligence. (B.A.D., 1711Z/31 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

901^B

112 -

Your Meter 1536/12. 30/4 APPOLO (Italian)
 loading phosphates at Sousse. LUFA also there.
 Your Medal 100 Tunis 31/5 B.2. Correct.
 My Meter 1923/6. Docked at La Goulette NORDEST
 SUDEST CHAMPON and at Tunis NEROIT.

17112/31

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 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)

I.P. (3)
 D.M.S.
 D.H.S. Citadel
 D of P (3)
 U.S.N. (3)

902

31.5.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- T.F.34
U/Bs. D.F.fixes for past two days in general vicinity of your track as far as 23° N. 46°W indicate possible submarine concentration against you during next 3 or 4 days.
(Cominch, 1736/31, to C.T.F.34 (R) Admty, etc)
- T.F.35
U/B U.Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1614Z/31.
(Cin C.U.S.Fleet, 1743/31. to C.T.F.35 (R) Admty., etc.)
- H.X.192. VANQUISHER, GRANBY, WEYBURN, ARROWHEAD, FREDERICTON, sailed escorting H.X.192.
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1832Z/31 to Admty., etc.)
Sailing telegram (C.O.A.C., 1940Z/31)
- Halifax Situation Report. Area to be covered from 1/6. (D.S.D., 1834B/31, A.G.M.) See Lion Copy.
- S/M attack and sighting summary. NORMAN PRINCE torpedoed presumed sunk 14-40 N. 62-15 W.* OGONTZ, ATHEL EMPRESS U-88 type. AMSTERDAM, 2 torpedo hits. Master of PLOW CITY reports possible submarine repair or fuelling operations 18-10 N. 58-30 W. 0200Z/13. With Tender approx. 7000 tons with Submarine alongside seen heading West slowly plane sights Submarine 14-40 N. 66-20 W. 1905Z/30. Submarine reported 18-43 N. 81-05 W. 1918Z/30. Submarine on surface reported 27-30 N. 83-11W. 1738Z/31.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 2016/31, to Admty., for O.I.C.) * 2304Z/28.
- S.216,
U/B. Can Arlington radio report at 1800G of submarine sighted off Ambrose Light 1150 G.C.T./30 be considered reliable? If so in view of no surface escort being available do not consider justified carrying out practice 5 in A 4 - 3 3rd U.S.N.D. serial number 1681 dated 26/5 and item number 11 in my letter 551/01 dated 11/5.
(S.216 2132Z/31, to C. E.S.F., (R) B.A.R.M., etc.)
- T. JACK, survivor search. Modification U S Sub. NOTUS. At 1900Z/31 GRUNION, Area 17.36 N. 74.42 W., searching for survivors of U.S.A. T. JACK. Delayed 24 hours resuming original schedule.
(C. in.C.US.Fleet, 2345/31, to Admty., etc.)

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

1834B/31st May.

902A.

To Admiralty General Message,
Home. 936 AZ.
West Atlantic 79AE. Date. 31.5.42.

Naval Code (J) &
P/L BY T/P.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Commencing first June C.O.A.C. Halifax's
2000Z daily situation report will cover following
area. 42 degrees north to 55 degrees north and 47
degrees west to 70 degrees west.

2. In order to reduce decyphering by escort vessels
the above area will be divided into 3 sections defined as
follows. Section East. Area east of 59 degrees west. Section
South west. Area west 59 degrees west and south of 46
degrees north. Section north west. Area west of 59
degrees west and north of 46 degrees north.

3. The 2000Z situation report for each above
section will be transmitted as separate signal. The
text of each will commence with name of section concerned.

4. The above messages will be broadcast on broadcast
L and address will consist of "From C.O.A.C. Halifax" only.
It is to be understood that these messages are situation
reports to 2000 G.M.T. and that all positions are north
and west. These signals will also be passed by C.O.A.C.
Halifax to Admiralty C. in C. U.S. Fleet U.S. Chief of
Naval Operation N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C. in C. America and
West Indies C.E.S.F. C.C.N.F. and COMELSK 24 will receive
on broadcast L.

1834B/31.

D.S.D. (103)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D.D.
D.A/S.V.
W.D.
U.S.N. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of P. (3)
W/T Room.
H.W.R. (2)
M. (3)
D.S.O.
File X.

UCA.

903

War Diary.

31.5.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Serial No. 129 from C W R 30/5. 7 Catalinas attacked wharf fuel dump flying boats at Tulagi 1200Z/29. Large fires caused among buildings and fuel dumps, 1 flying boat set on fire, 2 A.A. positions silenced. Heavy A.A. from 4 guns and M/G encountered. Report not yet received from 3 Catalinas. (see 1644/3/6).
Following observations by reliable watches over 3 days, pear-shaped balloon which could hold one man reported 30/5 rising between Bulolo and Bulana (New Guinea).
3. Nauru reconnoitred 29/5 by one enemy aircraft.
4. One Zero fighter reported over Wau Bulolo 27/5.
(A.C.N.B., 0756Z/31 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Departure Vila LEANDER with Comdesdiv 58 in U.S.S. PAUL JONES and BULMER for Suva.
(N.Z.N.B., 1900Z/31, to Admty., etc)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B positions.
(D.D.I. C., 1425B/31, 1439B/31)